

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.



1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

Patrols cancelled.

Patrols and movements in the Channel last night were cancelled on account of bad weather. Minelaying operations have also been postponed.

BERWICK.

BERWICK sailed today for Gibraltar.

Trawlers shelled from French coast.

Six trawlers sweeping off Dover were heavily shelled today from the French coast, about 200 rounds being fired between 1147 and 1542. No damage or casualties were caused.

Dover shelled.

Shelling of Dover harbour, town and Dover area persisted until 1900, about 40 further rounds being fired. No naval casualties or damage resulted.

SCHELDE SEAMAN

These two rescue tugs which left Londonderry 1900/31 for Belfast, where they were due 0830/1, have not arrived.

ASHANTI

was docked at Sunderland today.

Redistribution of submarines.

In view of the effective results being obtained by submarines employed in Channel patrol a redistribution of submarines and depot ships is proposed, to allow of submarine patrols off Brest.

German hospital barge.

A German hospital towing barge was beached near Seaford Head today.

E.boats engaged.

About 2210 today armed trawler LADY SHIRLEY engaged one of two E.boats near Aldeburgh Float. The E.boats made off at high speed. It appears likely they were engaged in mine-laying. (p. 28)

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command.

Owing to adverse weather conditions, all operations last night were cancelled.

5 Wellingtons successfully bombed an oil refinery, and railway targets at Naples early this morning.

Enemy Air Activity.

PINTAIL damaged.

Convoy F.S. 23 was attacked this morning some 13 miles N. of Yarmouth. PINTAIL received direct hits but proceeded to Lowestoft on one engine.

S.S. BALTRADER attacked 24/10.

It is reported that S.S. BALTRADER (which was attacked yesterday) was unsuccessfully bombed and machine gunned 24/10 off N.W. Ireland. The W/T operator, in sending out S.O.S.



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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

S.S. BALTRADER
attacked 24/10.
(Contd.)

S.O.S. made a mistake in the position.

D.W.2 bombed
attack in
Thames Estuary.
S.S. LETCHWORTH
M/S Tr.
TILBURYNESS
E. Oaze L.V.
sunk.
ROYAL EAGLE
M.L.120
attacked.

For the first time for many weeks enemy dive bombers JU 87 and JU 88 attacked shipping. At least 20 dive bombers attacked shipping in Oaze Deep between 1430 and 1437 today. The following vessels are reported sunk: S.S. LETCHWORTH (1317 tons) in Convoy F.S.22 M/S Trawler TILBURYNESS, East Oaze Light Vessel. Mid Barrow Light Vessel was bombed and machine gunned without result. ROYAL EAGLE (A.A. vessel ~~S.S. 1539 tons~~) sustained slight superficial damage and casualties and claims to have shot down one enemy aircraft. M.L.120 was undamaged in attack and also claims one enemy aircraft shot down. One prisoner has been landed at Sheerness. Help messages were passed to H.Q. F.C. who replied that many squadrons of fighters were already in the neighbourhood. Later reports indicate that no fighters were seen by our vessels and it is thought they were perhaps too high to intercept the dive bombers.

TORBAY II
sunk (drifter)

Drifters proceeding on patrol from Dover were attacked this afternoon by about 15 dive bombers, and 5 bombs were also dropped in the town and harbour. TORBAY II was sunk by a near miss. (M.M. drifter)

Convoy F.S.24.

LONDONDERRY and Convoy F.S.24 were bombed this evening off the Humber. No damage resulted.

Attacks on
U.K.

Two attacks were made on the London docks today, and a very little damage was done to two warehouses. Portsmouth was unsuccessfully attacked. Damage was caused at King George Dock, Hull early this morning.

S.S. HOUSTON
CITY.

S.S. HOUSTON CITY (mined and beached 21/10 near Oaze Deep) was bombed and damaged today.

Mining.

SANTA LUCIA

Dutch M.V. SANTA LUCIA (379 tons) was mined and sunk off Belfast today.

BLACK SWAN

A mine exploded under the stern of BLACK SWAN near Inchkeith Light this morning, putting her main engines out of action.

HUNDVAAG sunk

S.S. HUNDVAAG (Norw. 690 tons) was sunk by an explosion, probably a mine, off Dover this evening.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mining. (Continued)

Ports affected. Avonmouth, Newport, Barry and Cardiff were reopened this evening. Sailings from Swansea to the Eastward are stopped. Milford Haven is open in daylight only. Humber was closed at 2247, Falmouth at 2000, Rosyth approach channel at 2155, Fowey at 2347.

Mines were found or exploded at Milford Haven, Tyne and Gunfleet Sands.

Four A/C mines were dropped today in the Hamoaze.

Enemy A/C minelaying

Minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary is suspected between 1800 and 2100 today. No minelaying aircraft were believed to have been operating last night in waters round Great Britain.

E.boat minelaying

See Home Commands.

Bay of Biscay mined area.

The limits of the Bay of Biscay mined area have been amended by the Admiralty.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Force H returned to Gibraltar today (See 31/10).

Mediterranean.

Corfu was heavily bombed this afternoon. Suda and Canea were also attacked today but little damage was done. (p. 43)

One Bombay aircraft attacked Bardia last night.

Forty bombs were dropped on Matruh today before our fighters intercepted the raiders. No damage resulted.

America and West Indies.

The U.S.A. Navy have established patrols off Port de France and whatever port JEANNE D'ARC may be in, with orders to maintain contact in case of movement. (p. 18)

6 Town class destroyers left Halifax today for the U.K. via St. John's N.F.



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Hatston
Proposed
withdrawal
of A/C.

Your 1347/30. I do not think we should withdraw anything from our insufficient A/S Forces covering the well established Northern U-Boat route. Furthermore the enemy may at any time switch his attack to the focal areas near Cape Wrath and the Moray Firth.

A further consideration is the unsuitability of aircraft of 821 and 823 squadrons to operate by day in areas where they are likely to be opposed by modern shore based aircraft.

I therefore recommend the retention of 821 and 823 squadrons at Hatston.
(C.in C. H.F. 1326/1 to Adty.)

Meetings as to
A/S measures.

My 1412/24. Will be held in future on every alternate Tuesday. Next meeting 12/11.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1629/1 to C.in C's)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 0200/1. (D.C. 0207/1) At 1400/1
(D.C. 1426/1).

Movements.

ALCANTARA.

My 2351/31. Route to Needles.
(C.in C. W.A. 0031/1 and 1057/1)

SANDWICH.

ETA. 1700 (?2200) (SANDWICH 0915/1 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 1/2. (V.A. Dover 1428/1 to Adty.)

SALVIA)
PEONY)
GLOXINIA)
HYACINTH)

Provisionally allocated to leave for Mediterranean about 8/11. Is their LL Gear complete? (D.O.D. H. 1518/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Orkneys.

Movements for Night 1/2. (A.C.O.S. 1531 and 1941/1).

Rosyth.

Command State 1/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 2001/1).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

CELTE.

French, 904 tons. Was intercepted 0009/31 in 45° 2' N. 25° 17' W. steering East at 8 knots. 7 days coal remaining and flying yellow triangular flag under ensign.

Ordered to Greenock for detention. (F.O.C.N.P. 1011/1 to Adty.)

Operation "Lucid".
10019.

Request operation may now be cancelled for following reasons. (C.in C. Nore 1150/1 to Adty.) Approved (1st S.L. 1634/1 to C.in C. Nore) Operation postponed indefinitely. All copies of Operation Orders to be destroyed by fire. (1st S.L. 1627/1 to C.in C. Nore)

Faroes.

Your 1647/31. Troops taking only small quantity of equipment all of which can be manhandled. Disembarkation to be by local craft. (D.O.D.(H) 1203/1 to N.O.I.C. Faroese)

VANOC)
VOLUNTEER)
LA MELPOMENE)

Patrol Eastward tonight as cover for Convoy C.E.15. They may proceed to Southward keeping clear of S/M Areas W.2 and S.3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1303 and 1640/1 to Adty.)

M/S Trawlers
shelled.

6 M/S Trawlers sweeping QZS.105 heavily shelled today between 1147 and 1542. About 200 rounds fired. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Dover 1929/1 to Adty.)

Dover
shelled.

Dover Harbour, Town, and Area shelled until 1900. Batteries at Wissant, Framzelle, Wimereux, and near Calais all fired. One civilian killed, 3 civilians and 3 military wounded. (V.A. Dover 1929/1 to Adty.)

Submarines.

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/2. (V.A.S. 1701/1).

Proposed
redistribution
of S/M's and
Depot Ships.

My 1392/S.M.105 of 13/10 to Adty. and my 1112/19/10 to Adty. In view of effective results obtained by S/M's on Channel Patrols and need for S/M Patrols off Brest, following redistribution of S/M's and Depot Ships is now proposed. (V.A.S. 1829/1 to Adty.)



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

<u>LETITIA</u>) Request A/S Air Escort from daylight
<u>EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA</u>	
<u>ANTONIA</u>	
<u>2 Destroyers.</u>	

2nd. Estimated in 59° 16' N.
7° 55' W. at 0800/2, proceeding to
Clyde via Minches.
(C.in C. H.F. 1417/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Enemy Air Activity.

PINTAIL.

(Corvette) My 0718. Direct hit on PINTAIL. Am standing by in 52° 51' N. 1° 43' E. (VERDUN 0725/1). Direct hit on bridge, but able steam on one boiler. Am taking wounded and standing by. Request Tug and Fighter Escort (VERDUN 0735/1 to Adty.) Tug G.F.G.D. proceeded help of PINTAIL (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0950/1 to Salvage Dept. Adty.) Unexploded Bomb embedded in bridge of PINTAIL (VERDUN 0920/1 to C.in C. Nore). Take PINTAIL to Lowestoft (C.in C. Nore 1027/1 to VERDUN) Damage as follows: 9 killed including Captain, 10 injured 6 seriously. Proceeding under own steam to Lowestoft escorted by VERDUN. (PINTAIL 1100/1 to N.O.I.C. Harwich) Arrangements should be made to tow PINTAIL to Yarmouth for repairs as soon as convenient. (C.in C. Nore 1114/1 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

Attack on Enemy A/C by M/V's in Convoy.

For N.C.S.O's. Masters are to be informed that, when to the Westward of 7° West in Area 1, merchant ships in convoy are not to open fire on aircraft at night unless they are attacked. With this exception any aircraft approaching within range should immediately be engaged as hitherto. A.M.S.I's 164 and 213, N.C.S.I. 124 and Trade Division memorandum N/2/413 are amended accordingly. (A.I.G. 1715/1) *See also 1248/2*

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LONDONDERRY.

My 1727. One A/C now disappeared. 2 Bombs, no hits. (LONDONDERRY 1733/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Dover Patrol.

Drifters proceeding on Patrol attacked 1629 by about 15 Dive Bombers and 5 Bombs also dropped in Town and Harbour. TORBAY II sunk by near mines, one killed, remainder saved. 1 Rating in SHIPMATES wounded. (V.A. Dover 1929/1 to Adty.)

Attack on Shipping in East Oaze.

LETCHWORTH

British, 1317 tons. Bombed and sunk at 1430/1 in East Oaze. 17 survivors out of 18, 6 injured. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.)

/ TILBURYNESS



MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

TILBURYNESS.

M/S Trawler. Bombed and sunk at 1430/1 in East Oaze. 10 missing, 7 landed of whom 2 injured. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.)

East Oaze
Light Vessel.

Bombed and sunk at 1430/1. No survivors. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.)

Mid Barrow
Light Vessel.

Bombed and machine-gunned at 1430/1. No casualties. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1 to Adty.)

ROYAL EAGLE.

British, 1539 tons. Attacked by A/C in East Oaze at 1430/1. Slight damage and 2 very slight casualties. (C.in C. Nore 2152/1).

M.L. 120.

Attacked by A/C in East Oaze at 1430/1. No damage or casualties. Claims shot down one A/C in Edinburgh Channel, and one Prisoner landed at Sheerness (C.in C. Nore 2152/1).

Mining.

PRINSESSE
RAGNHILD

(Norw. 1590 tons) stated by Norwegian Wireless to have struck a mine off Haugesund 25/10 and sunk (D.S. 423).

Unidentified ship. An unidentified ship was mined today close to westward of No.1 Buoy, Dover. (D.S.424)

Milford Haven.

Port closed owing to Magnetic Mines (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0724/1 to Adty.) Open in daylight only, using QZS which will shortly be promulgated. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1401/1 to Adty.) One Ground Mine self detonated close Eastward of Stack Rock at 1210. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/1 to Adty.)

Gorleston.

Two mines exploded near M.L. 111 today 028° South Gorleston Pier Light 1.7 miles (D.S. 424).

Barry, Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea.) Barry and ports to Eastward are closed. Incoming traffic being routed to Mumbles. Sailings from Swansea to Eastward stopped. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0800/1 to Adty.) Avonmouth, Newport, Barry, Cardiff now open. Traffic may proceed from Swansea to ports to Eastward. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1755/1 to Adty.)

Hamoaze.

Four A/C mines were dropped at 1930 today in the Hamoaze (D.S. 424)

Penlee Point.

Magnetic and Acoustic Mines suspected near Penlee Point. Channel will be swept by LL immediately before your arrival. (C.in C. W.A. 0958/1 to NIGERIA).

/ Operation W.S.4A.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

*misplaced.
WS. 4A is
a trap
country,
see page 11
G.H.*

Operation
W.S. 4A.

My 1420/30. BULLDOG is the other
H.P. Destroyer for W.S. 4A. (C.in C. W.A.
1050/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

SANTA LUCIA

Dutch Motor Vessel, 379 tons. At 0950/1
mined and sunk 044⁰ 3.6 miles from
Pile Light, Belfast. Was wiped.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1210/1 to Adty.)

Tyne.

One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated by
L.L. at 1105/1 in 083° Souter Point 2.7
miles (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1250/1 to Adty.)

Humber.

Closed suspected Minelaying. (F.O. Humber
2247/1 to Adty.)

BLACK SWAN.

At 1017 to-day a mine exploded under stern
of BLACK SWAN in position 035 degs.
Inchkeith light 1.3 miles. Main engines
put out of action. Ship was entering
harbour with wheel steady both engines
half speed 16 knots. No recent
alteration of course and speed.
BLACK SWAN was about 2 cables ahead of
H.M. Submarine H 28 also entering harbour,
and patrol boat JEANNIE MACKAY. Diesel
engine was on parallel course 7 to 8
knots about 3/4 cables South East of
BLACK SWAN.
Last occasion of suspected minelaying in
vicinity 28/10. EDINBURGH must have
passed very close to position when
sailing yesterday. (C.in C. Rosyth
1252/1 to Adty.)
Position was swept by LL for both
polarities today before the explosion.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1501/1 to Adty.)

Proposed Mining of
Nymphe, Little Sole,
and La Chapelle
Banks.

Your 1631/30. Presumed area will not
(? be) declared and that we will depart
from our observance of this rule of war.
This needs to be balanced against
problematical value of the proposed field.
Line C. would in any case interfere with
operations of our S/Ms and is unacceptable.
If lines (a) and (b) are laid I suggest
they be in same direction so that our
ships may know the safest course to steer
when crossing the 100 fathom line.
(C.in C. H.F. 1334/1 to Adty.)

Bay of Biscay
Mined Area.

My 1111/20/9 and 1212/21/9. Amend
limits of Bay of Biscay area as follows.
(D.M.S. 1800/1 to C's-in-C.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Explosions on
Gunfleet Sands.

Patrol H.R. reports two heavy Explosions S.W. of our position. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1914/1 to Adty.) Explosions occurred on Northern and Gunfleet Sands (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2202/1 to Adty.)

Falmouth.

Closed. Suspected Mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2000/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

→ Rosyth.

Approach Channel between 2° 52' W. and West Gate, Inchkeith is closed. Methil port and anchorage are open. (C.in C. Rosyth 2155/1 to Adty.)

Fowey.

Closed. Suspected Minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 2347/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Hospital
Towing Barge.

Beached 100 yards West of Hope Cape, East of Seaford Head. Description, and fuller details will follow. Propose tow Barge into Newhaven Harbour tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1440/1 and 1745/1 to Adty.) + 1300/2, p. 33

Lorient)
St. Malo)
Cherbourg)

Warships, S/M's, and Shipping. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2200/1 to H.Q.C.C.)

E.Boat.

Suspected at 2207 in 52° 5' N. 10° 55' E. (C.in C. Nore 2325/1 to GARTH, HOLDERNESS) E-Boat reported retiring South-Eastwards near Position Z. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 2325/1 to GARTH).

Miscellaneous.

→ Rosyth Command.
Exhibition of Lights.

C.in C. W.A. 1542/25/8. Intend to substitute following arrangements. (C.in C. Rosyth 1645/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

EREBUS.

To be taken in hand at Tilbury for rudder and engine repairs. She should be sailed accordingly. (D.O.D.(H). 1703/1 to C.in C. Nore.).

DOSINIA.

No trace in W.D.
My 1535/28/10. Has broken her back in heavy weather. Hope salvage forepart for scrap. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/1 to Adty.)

BELGIQUE.

(Belgian, 4606 tons) Sailed Milford Haven 18/9 due Bahia Blanca 21/10. Not arrived. (S.O.I). Freetown 1802/1 to Adty.)



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

GENTIAN
O.B. 236.
H.X. 82.

Whether or not you are in company with O.B. 236 expected to be at 1800/1, 00' N. 15° 50' W. you are to proceed at 2359 so as to meet H.X. 82 in position 55° 35' N. 14° 40' W. at 0800/2 steering towards 56° 00' N. 08° 00' speed 8 knots. (C.in C. W.A. 1743/1 to GENTIAN).

F.N. 24, 25.

F.N. 24 postponed 24 hours.
F.N. 25 (fast) VANITY WOLFHOUND sails 0800.
F.N. 24 (slow) WATCHMAN VERDUN, Code word "Agent" ~~AGENT~~ one until 20 C buoy then ~~LUNCH~~ one sails 0900. Both tomorrow Saturday. (C.in C. Rosyth 1317/1.)

H.X. 82.

LEITH to detach 2 destroyers to meet. Route (C.in C. W.A. 1205/1).

H.X. 82.

H.X. 82. My 1211/22/10. Twelve other ships are carrying special cargoes. Additional escort should be given if possible. (D.T.D. 1909/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.G. 45.

Escort broken down. Asking if SALOPIAN can act, subsequently being relieved by local escort from Gibraltar. (C.in C.W.A. to F.O.C.N.P. 1950/1). SALOPIAN available. (F.O.C.N.P. 2140/1).

F.N. 24.

Delayed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 2008/31).

F.S. 323.

Escort PINTAIL (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1719/31).

H.X. 83.

Route (D.T.D. 1345/1)

O.B. 240.

Route (D.T.D. 1347/1)

F.S. & F.N.

My 1103/26. Amend and continue (C.in C. Rosyth 1951/1).

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 4B.

Date of sailing and capacity of ships. (D. of S.T. 1343/1).

W.S. 4A.

My 1420/30 BULLDOG is the other H.F. destroyer for W.S. 4A (C.in C. W.A. 1050/1)

ADDA.

ADDA will be ready to leave Liverpool (date) 2. C.in C. W.A. to sail and route this ship with her escort to ~~FAROE~~ ~~FAROES~~.
3. N.O.i/c Faroes arrange return journey with as little delay as possible. C.in C. H.F. to provide Destroyer Escort both ways.
4. Fighter protection code word SOLLO. (D.O.D. (H) 1805/1.)

Re subsequent employment. (D. of S.T. 1940/1)

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Amended Routes. W.A.C.I. Section D, Part 1. As from Friday 8/11 the following amended routes are to come into force.

Route F. Westward through Pentland Firth,

Route G. Northward from the vicinity of Duncansby Head through South Fair Island Channel, thence through following positions

Route H. Northward from the vicinity of Duncansby Head through South Fair Island Channel, thence through following positions.

Route P. Through following positions thence through Pentland Firth, keeping south of a line. (C.in C. W.A.1151/1).

Operations Against Vichy French.

French S/M's arrived at Dakar. My 1151/31. (i) Further information obtained by DRAGON from French Officer at Bathurst as follows. Four S/Ms and tanker carrying Diesel oil not depot ship definitely arrived Dakar 28th October.

(ii) Following was hearsay only tanker and one S/M sailed repeatedly but remained in sight and returned before dark same day suspected of refuel German U Boat. Consider (ii) of little value and there is no evidence that the tanker has gone south.

(C.in C. S.A. 1105/1 to F.O.C. 1 C.S.)

S.S. SAVOIE

See A. and W.I.

CUBA
(intercepted
31/10)
see also A.& W.I.

Admty. 2302/31. If you are directed to take CUBA to Freetown you should pass West of Cape Verde Island. (C.in C. S.A. to MORETON BAY, 1121/1).

No further instructions received. CUBA in company has only four days fuel and food left. My position course and speed are now (? 023° 55' 028° 59' 062° 10. (MORETON BAY 1100Z/1.)

Your 2230N/31. Report in accordance with Admiralty 2302/31 if sailors are naval ratings or merchant seamen being repatriated and any other details. Also if enquiries apart from books not being produced suggest that any Gold may be on board.

(C.in C. S.A. 1507N/1, to MORETON BAY).

Your 1121/1 CUBA is to be taken to Freetown by circuitous route passing well to the westward of Cape Verde Islands.

(A.C.N.S.(F) 1636/1 to C.in C. S.A.).

Your 1636/1 and H.M.S. MORETON BAY 1100/1 Consider best means get ship in will be to proceed for Freetown to approximately 010° 40' N. 022° 00' W. where ship will be met by oiler with provisions if required. If unable to
/fuel ...

1.11.1940.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations against Vichy French. (Contd.)

fuel at sea ships is to be towed in.
DRAGON now at Bathurst can return, fuel and meet MORETON BAY and CUBA about position $011^{\circ} 00' N.$ $024^{\circ} 30' W.$ 1600/4. This will be arranged. Fuelling at sea unlikely owing to difference in hose connection.
(C.in C. S.A. 1907N/1 to Adty.)

Cruiser.

31/10 warships which appeared to be a cruiser went round island Saint Michael Azores at average distance of 16 miles being at 1340 G.M.T. in $37^{\circ} 42' N.$ $26^{\circ} 05' W.$ and at 1845 G.M.T. in $37^{\circ} 25' N.$ $25^{\circ} 17' W.$ disappearing towards east source (A) Zero. (Lisbon 1630/1 to Adty.)

DJENNE.
PROVIDENCE.

French authorities propose to send DJENNE and PROVIDENCE from Casablanca to U.K. to assist in repatriation of French personnel. French N.A. should be informed that they should follow same route as MASSILIA but that it is essential that Adty. should be informed when ships leave Morocco and their expected time of arrival in $52^{\circ} 00' N,$ $14^{\circ} 00' W.$
(Hd. of M. 1751/1 to N.A. Madrid)

Recognition
Signals.

Free French Authorities have issued allied aircraft recognition signals consisting of combination of coloured stars which resemble but do not conform to British recognition signals. Signals change every 10 days and thus liable to compromise. Only alternative to accepting this system is to communicate our own and supply key memorandum to N.C.S.O. Duala. Pending decision on this point intend to inform H.M. Ships in Duala area of French Signals.
(F.O.I.C.S. 1129A/1 to C.in C. S.A.).

North Atlantic.Force H.

E.T.A. Gate 1000. Fuel on arrival.
(S.O. Force H to F.O.C.N.A. 0753/1).

Explosive
Machines,
Gibraltar.

My 2352/30. Parts of another machine recovered. 2 more sets of shallow diving apparatus discovered on bottom, damaged by explosion, possibly indicating 2 men killed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1020/1).

ARK ROYAL.

Asking E.T.A. at Gibraltar (F.O.C. Force H 1523/1) Reply (A.C.N.S.(F) 1553/1)

HOTSPUR

V.A. Malta 1645/28. Request your intentions (re repairs). (C.in C. Med. to F.O.C. N.A., 1337/1)



MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Situation report. One French type reconnaissance aircraft flew over Rock at height 14,000 feet at 1220 hours today.

Dropped to 9,000 feet and disappeared eastwards on being engaged by heavy and light A.A. fire.

(Govr., Gib., 2110/1).

CANADA.

Your 1238/31/10 CANADA called Gibraltar 0830/1 and given routing instructions. E.T.A. at 052° 30' N. 014° 00' W. between 2200/4 and midnight 4th - 5th Nov. (F.O.C. N.A. 1025/1 to Adty.)

^NDENPARK:
suspicious vessel.

British ship ^NDENPARK communicated at 0950/31/10 that she was being pursued by a mysterious vessel in 28° 20' N. 30° W. was not heard any further source (a) zero. (Lisbon 1615/1).

South Atlantic.

Cape Verde Islands. Report that Governor thinks G.B. or U.S. will occupy on sign of Portugal becoming involved in war. Feared air attack from Dakar on office and fuel tanks. (D.N.I. to C.in C. S.A., 1036/1).

Suspicious Vessel. Your 1404/30. Vessel cannot be identified here. (D.D.I.C. to S.O.I., Freetown 1037/1)

Plans to
intercept
RIO GRANDE.

RIO GRANDE sailed 0112 G.M.T./1. ENTERPRISE will cover arc north of 80° from Rio Grande do Sul. ASTURIAS endeavour to cover arc from 95° to southward. QUEEN OF BERMUDA cover arc between 80° and 95° on passage to Buenos Aires. Maximum speed estimated now 12 knots. (R.A.S.A.D., to ASTURIAS, 0857Z/1)

W.S. 3C.

Left Capetown 1/11. E.T.A. Aden (date) (Capt. i/c. Simonstown 1130 Z/1).

BELGIQUE

due Bahia Blanca 21/10 from Milford Haven 18/9 has not arrived (S.O.(I) Freetown 1802/1)

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Cannot dock at Capetown. Proposing that repairs be postponed until voyage to Mombasa completed. Reasons. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1707 B/1 to C.in C. S.A.)



MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA.
retubing.

Your 1457/20. Possibility of Italians having 6 capital ships in near future. Proposals re MALAYA retubing. (1 S.L., to C.in C. Med., 0047/1) See Mediterranean Volume.

URSULA.

Request instructions for onward passage. (F.O.C. N.A. to C.in C. Med., 1120/1).

Air attacks on enemy landing grounds and bases.

Night 30/31 Oct. Tobruk attacked. R.C. of coast 31/10. [Remainder military] (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1430/1).

Enemy and Greek Intelligence.

Summary of aircraft reports (V.A. Malta 1859/1).

FORMIDABLE.

Proposals re (1st S.L. 1955/1 to C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Report.

Action off Matruh, Jerawla, Qasaba. 8 enemy A/C destroyed, 4 damaged; 5 British lost or damaged but 3 pilots safe. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1431/1, 1432/1).

Air Attack on Naples.

One probable hit in refinery area, one near miss railway junction. Proposals for renewed attacks (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1640/1)

Air R.C.

Malta Situation report to 1700/1 (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1840/1).

French Fleet.

Reply to Admty. 1649/28. My view whatever happens Adm. Godfroy will himself give no order for offensive action against us nor attempt to break out of harbour. Danger of an internal coup. (C.in C. Med., 2145/1).

Operation,
M.W.3,
BARHAM.

My 1315/30. Necessary to defer sailing of Fleet (date) to enable M.T. ships and oilers for Suda Bay to be included in M.W.3. Sailing of BARHAM should consequently be deferred by one day. (C.in C. Med., 1829/1).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

1.11.1940.

Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

Italian Campaign Against Greece.

British Mission. C.O.S. telegram 22 to Sir M. Palairret, Athens, proposing one Mission dealing with Naval, Military and Air Liaison, Rear Adm. Turle at its head. (D.C., 0041/1, to C.in C. Med.)

Help to Greece. Urging importance of in preference to help to Turkey in the spring. (Brit. Minister, Athens, 0346/1, and Mr. Campbell, no T.O.O. (1, both to F.O.))

Greek war plans. and assistance required now of British (N.A. Athens 1125/1, 1400/1) See Mediterranean Volume.

A/S. M/S.
A/P, etc.

In order to provide craft suitable for these duties N.A. Athens is requested to charter vessels in Greek ports (A.C.N.S.C.F.) 2029/1)

Situation.

From Military Attache to D.M.I. Presence of air units in Greece and operations against Italians in Albania essential if morale of civil population is to be kept up. Aid in Crete is considered inoffensive self-help, neither Staff nor population fear Italian invasion by sea while our fleet is afloat. (M.A. Athens 0200/1 to W.O.)

Operations
29/10-1/11

My 2159/28. Fleet left Alexandria at 0030/29. Period 30/10 to P.M./1 was spent in sweep on west coast of Greece as far as latitude 038° 30' N. Air reconnaissance as far as Corfu and Coast of Italy was carried out. Fleet went close to coast in order to be seen and two Tribals visited Navarin. No enemy ships seen at sea. Shore based reconnaissance reported Italian main units in harbour throughout and only one small Merchant ship seen in Straits of Otranto. Course was set for Alexandria at 1800/1.

During this time convoy reported in my 0853/31 established party and stores at Suda Bay and was joined on 1/11 AJAX transporting Yorks and Lancashire Regt. WRYNECK and FAREHAM, and Oiler OLNA now sailing for Piraeus.

No sighting of Fleet by aircraft took place till 1120/30 and even then report was very probably from a submarine. Fleet was reported on 31/10 and 1/11 and on latter day Fulmars shot down one Cant 506 and damaged another. (C.in C. Med., 2159/1, 2201/1).



1.11.1940.
Friday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CHAKDINA
Bombed

CHAKDINA was bombed while on Perim Patrol at 0540 G.M.T./31. No damage reported. (C.in C. E.I. 0242 Z/1).

MAURETANIA.

Asking whether D. of S.T. will sanction accommodation being offered to approx. 200 passengers (S.S.T.O. Colombo 0702/1) Reply, see 2015/3, p. 70.

W.S. Convoys.

Asking that he may be informed as early as possible of certain particulars. Complaint of insufficient information. Details. (C.in C. E.I. 0622Z/1 to D. of S.T.)

WARLABY)
WESTBURY)
PERSEUS)

At Suez, insufficient speed for convoy. Most undesirable they should be immobilized at Suez. Request you consider sailing them ahead of B.S. 8, time of sailing being adjusted so that maximum cover is provided in most dangerous area. (D.T.D. 1521/1 to C.in C. E.I.)

GNAT.

Cancel GNAT'S 1420/26/10. Programme now. GNAT and oiler SLAVOL left ~~Aden~~ 31/10, due Aden 0700Z/6, fuelling ~~Aden~~ *MORYA* Bay. (C.in C. E.I. 0624Z/1.)

Requisitioned
OLPENIA and
STEUA ROMANA

R.A. Malaya's 0509/27/10 and S.S.T.O. India's 1140/31/10. It appears Masters, some upper deck and all engineer officers will have to be provided from U.K. If this can be arranged request probable date of arrival so that despatch of available personnel from India can be timed. (C.in C. E.I. 0724Z/1).

Sinking of enemy
destroyer by
KIMBERLEY and
R.A.F. bombing
of destroyer
21/10.

My 1500/27/10.
(i) Photograph taken at 1245 G.M.T. 21/10 just after hitting bomb was released but before bomb struck shows the position of the bombed destroyer was 16° 31.5' N. 40° 11.3' E.
(ii) FRANCESCO NULLO was sunk by torpedo 0335 G.M.T. 21/10. Pilot of a reconnaissance aircraft saw this ship lying on her side beneath the water on 23/10.
(iii) KIMBERLEY reports that measurement of splinters indicates that shell which hit ship was approximately seven inches. Nosecap about five inches shell also found on board fired from shore. Position of battery 016° 31' N. 040° 11' E. Four fixed guns. Maximum range 15000 yds. (C.in C. E.I. 0946Z/1.)

1.11.1940.
Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

U.S.N.
Co-operation.

My 1844/21 and your 0817/22. Re Comdr. Wisden joining C.in C., Asiatic Fleet, and cypher and special table to be taken. Production of S.P.'s essential for co-operation of two fleets is in hand. (D.N.I. 1540/1 to C.in C. China).

Shanghai
Shipping.

Admty. 1133/24. List of ships due to depart Shanghai shortly. Considered most will be required for Government service. (C.in C. China, 0551/1).

Conference.

Telegraph summary of report has been sent to Adty. in C.in C's cypher. (C.in C. China 0623Z/1 for A.N.C.B.)

Discussion with Australia re military supplies. (G.O.C., Malaya to W.O. 1825/1).

De Schompre.
(Indo-China)

Re establishing basis of operations (C.in C. China 1021Z/1).

Dutch Co-operation.

Interchange of information agreed to by Dutch Govt. (1st S.L. 2152/1 to C.in C. China). Questionnaire (1st S.L. 2236/1 to C.in C. China). *Reaction of Dutch C.in C., 0315/7, p. 184*

Far East
Combined
Intelligence
Bureau.

Ref. 85980 cipher (M.O.2) 21/10. In para. 7 for War Office read Admiralty (W.O. 2015/1).

America and West Indies.

CAMERON
GEORGETOWN.

Your 1540/31, re sailing for U.K. Yes, provided you are satisfied as to their seagoing efficiency. They may be retained if necessary to sail with Group due to leave St. Johns N.F. on 3/11. (F.O. 3 B.S. 0314/1)

Martinique
JEANNE D'ARC.
U.S.A. Patrol.

Navy Dept. inform me that U.S. Naval observation has been established at Martinique off Fort de France, and what ever port JEANNE D'ARC may be in, consisting of one destroyer off each place with daylight patrols by aircraft. They have been directed to maintain contact in case of movement. (N.A. Washington 1219/1 to Adty.)

CUBA.
(see Vichy
French).

Navy Dept. inform me of information received from Martinique that 1200 French Naval reservists left there for Casablanca in French S.S. CUBA at 1700/24/10. (B.N.A. Washington 1224/1 to Adty.)



1.11.1940.
Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Continued)

S.S. SAVOIE

Navy Department informs me of report from Casablanca that S.S. SAVOIE with Senegalese soldiers and equipment leaves there today November 1st for Dakar.
(N.A. Washington 1230/1 to Adty.)

ARUBA
BONAIRE

My 1036/26/10 Curacao reports Dutch ship ARUBA expected ready for sea about 20/11 Dutch Ship BONAIRE not until new year.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 1252/1.)

Bermuda
C.C. Centre.

Your 1231/22/10. Concur. One Lieutenant Commander R.N.R. with Contraband experience will be sent from U.K. at first opportunity. Proceed with local organisation forthwith. Commencing today all communications will pass between Adty. and C.in C.
(D.E.W.D. 1916/1 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

H.X. 85.
Town class
destroyers.

~~Halifax~~ ^{Halifax} departures 1/11: ASSINBOINE local escort, RAJPUTANA ocean escort H.X. 85. 2nd group 4th Town Destroyer ~~LEWES, LEEDS, MONTGOMERY, STANLEY, CHURCHILL, SHERWOOD,~~ ^{Atollilla} United Kingdom via St. John's N.F.
(S.O.(I) Halifax 2031/1.)

Australia.

HOBART
PERTH
CANBERRA.

Intend to relieve HOBART by PERTH at Aden about 12/12. PERTH will escort U.S.7 to 020° N. in the Red Sea. Flag of F.O. Australia Squadron will be transferred temporarily to CANBERRA about 18/11 and subsequently to HOBART about 18/12.
(N.B. Melbourne 11512/1)

Dutch patrols.

Your 1218/28. View held here is that proposed use of mandated territorial waters by Dutch would not constitute establishment of naval base and would not therefore be infringement of mandate. On account of additional distance involved, use of Papua as alternative would be unsatisfactory. Request therefore that decision may be reconsidered in light of above.
(Hd. of M. 1639/1 to A.C.N.B.)



1.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RIO GRANDE.

Sailed from Rio Grande do Sul at 2210 local time 31/10. (C.in C. S.A. to S.A. Sqdn., 0509 N/1)(S.O.I., Montevideo 0146Z/1, 0230Z/1) Plans to intercept - see South Atlantic. To be reported by W/T if sighted. Description.(Freetown W/T 0754/1 to All British M.V's.).

CHIPKA

Bulgarian, under German charter, arrived Galatz from Istanbul 30/10 with general cargo for Germany (D.S. 423).

TRAPANI.

Reported put on the Genoa, Barcelona, Tarragona, Valencia run. Last reported at Genoa. (D.S. 424).

GALILEA.

At Palermo, requires inspection of shaft and bottom. (D.S. 424).



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1106.

D.F. probable U/B 56.20 N., 13.40 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1147/1).

0325 and 1044.

58° to 60° N., 18° to 20° W., position indefinite. (D.S., 423).

1206.

50 to 100 miles radius of 49° N., 11° W., position indefinite (D.S. 424).

1022.

F/48 reports on landing CALENDULA signalled 1022 that she had made contact by Asdic in position 54° 28' N. 5° 05' W. and was leaving convoy on bearing of 260° to investigate. A/C remained with her until 1140 when CALENDULA signalled that she had lost contact with supposed submarine. A/C then proceeded on patrol. (Aldergrove 1400/1).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - No news.

German - Probably 5 in N.W. Approaches and farther W. of which 1 was in about 56° 20' N. 13° 40' W. at 1103/1.

1 in Area 58° to 60° N: 18° to 20° West at 1044/1: a third may be somewhere about 55° N. and W. of 20° W. and a fourth possibly in area 56° N. 9° to 10° W; whereabouts of fifth unknown.

1 possibly between Faroes and Scotland homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1237/1).

Submarines Attacked.

U. ~~37~~³².
sunk 30/10.

Arrived HIGHLANDER with 4 U/B prisoners. Also arrived HARVESTER (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0145/1).

1610.

Suspected U/B attacked by A/C 57.50 N., 1.55 W. (B.4). (D.S. 424).

Your 1330 not to H.M.S. VERDUN. H.M.S. WATCHMAN's transmitter may be out of action. FS 23 estimated expected time of arrival at position Z 1400. 1401/1.



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Patrol

VANOC and VOLUNDEER last night patrolled to the east of Portsmouth as cover for Convoy C.E. 15.

ATTENDANT

(H.M. Yacht)

(~~Tug~~) is reported aground and a total loss on Canna Island, Hebrides.

Convoy C.E. 15 shelled

Convoy C.E. 15 was shelled off Dover this morning but no damage resulted.

U-Boat sunk

ANTELOPE sank a U-Boat this afternoon off the north west of Ireland.

German Tanker torpedoed

TAKU at 0230 today attacked a large home-ward bound tanker in the Bay of Biscay and estimates 3 hits for certain. The ship may possibly be the German GEDANIA.

British Air Activity

11 Blenheims of Coastal Command last night attacked gun positions between Calais and Ambleteuse. Results were not observed. One aircraft was lost.

In an air raid on Kiel between 0053 and 0157 one hit was made on the cruiser PRINZ EUGEN.

(G.D. 254)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

2.11.1940
Saturday

23

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

An unsuccessful attempt was made to bomb the Forth Bridge last night.

Both F.N. Convoys were unsuccessfully attacked several times this afternoon in the Thames Estuary.

**Tod Head.* SS STROGNVALD was attacked 4 miles east of ~~Todhead~~ early this afternoon.

Ships of Convoy W.N. 26 stranded off Rattray Head were bombed this evening, but no damage appears to have been caused.

4 bombs were dropped near the Nore Light Vessel at 0100 today.

SS HOUSTON CITY (mined and beached 21/10 near Oaze Deep) was bombed again today (see 1/11). Salvage operations have been abandoned.

M/S Trawler SICYON was machine-gunned 8 miles East of Scapa this afternoon.

Surrey Commercial +Docks were attacked this evening and a bomb fell near the centre of the yard.

Considerable damage to private property occurred in a raid on Ramsgate this morning. Other Coastal towns in Kent were also attacked.



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

24

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

INTREPID was mined off Hartlepool early this morning. Both engines were damaged, but she reached Hartlepool.

M/S Trawler RINOVIA was mined and sunk off Falmouth this morning.

P.L.A. Tugs DEANBROOK and LEA were sunk in Tilbury Basin this morning by a magnetic or acoustic mine.

M/S Trawler RADNOR CASTLE and Patrol vessel MEDOC were damaged by the detonation of a mine at Plymouth and were beached.

Another small wooden drifter with diesel engine was blown up off Inchkeith today. C. in C., Rosyth considers this appears to confirm that the sound or vibration of the ~~direct~~ *diesel* engine actuates the acoustic mine; and this may assist to solve the problem of sweeping these mines.

Rosyth was completely opened at 1743. Humber was opened at 0820.

Mines were found today at Belfast, Dover, Plymouth, Harwich and Humber. Cardiff, Avonmouth, Newport, Swansea and Barry were closed at 0700.

Between 2100/1 and 0100/2 mine laying raids by enemy aircraft were reported in the Firth of Forth and Firth of Tay. Minelaying aircraft were also active last night off the East Coast and Thames Estuary.

6 Hampdens last night laid mines in the Brest area.



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

25

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

C. in C. Meditn. reports troops and guns landed and net defence established at Suda Bay. The majority of his force has left for Alexandria.

Two air raids were made on Malta between 1130 and 1230 today, and some damage was done to Luqa aerodrome. Two enemy planes were destroyed (one by A/A fire) and probably a third, and two damaged.

Consul General, Salonika reports that great destruction and loss of life have been caused in the centre of Salonika by Italian bombing. After the latest raid 500 casualties, mostly women and children were treated. The hospitals are full and medical supplies almost exhausted.



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

2 Blenheims today attacked the main pier supply depot, and warehouses at Assab.

Enemy aircraft attacked Perim, no damage was caused.

KIMBERLEY was unsuccessfully bombed off Jebel Zukur Island (Red Sea) this morning.

China

C. in C., China reports that the situation in Indo China is gradually deteriorating as regards British interests

Exports to all countries are allowed ~~except~~ to the British Empire. No British ships are allowed in Indo China Ports. He suggest the time has come to retaliate.



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 0200/2. (D.C. 0201/2) At 1400/2
(D.C. 1406/2)

Movements

Nore Command

Movements for night 2/3. (C. in C., Nore, 0800/2 Movements to 1200/3. (C. in C., Nore 1200/2)

Dover

Patrols for night 2/3. (V.A. Dover 1426/2)

PEONY }
SALVIA }
GLOXINIA }
HYACINTH }

My 1518/1. PEONY and SALVIA should be sailed for Liverpool as soon as possible. Stores for all ships being sent to Liverpool. Ships to be ready to sail on 8/11 (D.O.D. H. 1617/2 to C. in C., Nore)

CURACOA

F.O.C.D.F. H.F. 1025/2. Can be berthed in basin, entering about 1700/4. (N. Supt. Rosyth 1808/2 to C. in C., H.F.)

NORTHERN SPRAY

Using Route P. (NORTHERN SPRAY 2300/2 to A.C.O.S.)

Operations

Convoy Shelled

C.E. 15 passed Dover. About 8 rounds from Calais Battery fell near No. 1. Buoy. No damage reported. (V.A. Dover 0645/2 to Adty.)

Operation "fruit"
~~FRUIT~~

My 1839/1. Operation cancelled for today owing to high visibility. (V.A. Dover 0843/2 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operation "white"
~~WHITE~~

Adty's 2231/31. Route for ARGUS and DESPATCH from Clyde to Gibraltar. Destroyer escort VESPER, VENOMOUS, WINDSOR remain in company as far West as endurance permits and then fuel at Londonderry and to Nore via Rosyth. (C. in C., W.A. 1651/2 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Your 1313/30. ARGUS proceeds to Greenock 1200/3, loading having been completed. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1734/2 to Adty)

/Adty. 2231/31.



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation "White"
~~WHITE~~-Contd.

Adty. 2231/31. Amend as follows. Para 1. DESPATCH and ARGUS to be sailed a.m./7 so as to enter Straits of Gibraltar after dark on 13/11. Para 2. Cancel reference to ~~Hurry~~. Both ships to join Force H. from arrival at Gibraltar until completion of Operation ~~WHITE~~: (A.C.N.S. F. 2325/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

2 E-Boats
off Aldeburgh

LADY SHIRLEY on patrol H.U. reports that last night at about 2210 sighted E boat stopped 2 miles S.S.E. from Aldeburgh Float. Opened fire at about 300 yards with 12 pdr. and Lewis gun. No reply from E. Boat who immediately made off at high speed to the S.E. A second E-Boat was seen disappearing at high speed just before fire was opened. It appears likely that mines had been laid to the south of Aldeburgh light float but to the eastward of 148 Q.Z.S. Failure to sink E-Boat was mainly due to lack of illuminants. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1229/2 to C. in C., Nore.)

Submarines

O, 24.

Reports attacked Northbound M/V 1200 tons off Holmengraa at 0900/29/10. Estimates not hit. Regular Air Patrols between Holmengraa and Kors Fiord. (V.A.S. 0957/2 to Adty.)

TRIDENT

Intend sail, escorted by SURPRISE, at 0800/3 from Clyde for Plymouth. E.T.A. 0900/5. (S. 2. 1023/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

H. 43.

In harbour (C. in C., W.A. 1600/2)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/3 (V.A.S. 1631/2)

L. 27.

In W. 2. and S. 3. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1747/2)

Proposed re-
distribution of
Submarines and
Depot Ships

Your 1829/1. Approved (V.C.N.S. 2111/2 to V.A.S.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

TAKU }
TUNA }

My 1902/28. For 40 miles read 20 miles.
Capt S. 2. 2154/2. to TUNA)

Provision of S/M's
for A/S Training
and Practices

C. in C., W.A.'s 1331/12. Decision as to
allocation of S/M's (V.C.N.S. 1143/2)

British Air Activity

Air
Reconnaissance

None possible on night 1/2. (C. in C., Nore
0639/2)

Patrol H.C.

A.C.O.S. 7818/19/9. Times from 4/11 to 10/11
(Hatston 0955/2)

Fighters for
Shetlands

F.O.C's 0910/31. Request F.O.C.S. be asked
to take up matter directly with A.O.C. 14
Group (Air Ministry 1114/2 to Adty.)
Your 0910/31. Air Ministry concur and re-
quest you arrange direct with 14 Group
R.A.F. (D. of L.D. 1206/2 to F.O.C.S.)

Patrol S.A. 2.

Cancelled this p.m. except 2 southern tracks
(C. in C., Rosyth 1344/2 to Adty.) A.M.
sortie cancelled by Coastal Command until
further notice. (C. in C., Rosyth 1508/2 to
Adty.)

Belfast.
Orders to Ships
to fire on A/C

Your 1737/31. Request that present
arrangements be allowed to stand. Reasons.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1446/2 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity

Nore L.V.

Danube 5 reports at 0100 Four whistling
bombs dropped from aircraft passing West
to East and exploded in approx. position
11 cables 078° from Nore L.V. (D.O.D. Sheer-
ness 0250/2 to C. in C., Nore) (S.O.T.L.D.F.
1115/2 to C. in C., Nore.)

Horsea Island

2 bombs dropped at 1200/1. Minor damage,
estimate £22. (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth, 1045/2
to C.E. in C.)

/Attack on.....

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SaturdayHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity-Contd.Attack on
Enemy Aircraft
at night by M/V's
in Convoy.

My 1715/1. Amend second sentence to read With this exception any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range should immediately be engaged as hitherto. (D.T.D. 1148/2 to A.I.G.)

-DEANBROOK
LEA

Tugs. Sunk by H.E. Bombs in Tilbury Basin at 1130. 5 dead, 4 missing, 3 wounded. No warning of aircraft. (F.O.I.C. London. 1325/2.

Now certain they were sunk by magnetic or acoustic mine, not bombs. (F.O.I.C. London 1250/3)

Convoy "Agent".
AGENT

Enemy bombing Convoy in 51° 41' N., 1° 20' E. 2 bombs, no hits. (WOLFHOUND 1325 and 1337/2) Bombing convoy (WOLFHOUND 1449/2) Many bombs, no hits (WOLFHOUND 1452/2) Bombs. No hits (WOLFHOUND 1505 and 1512/2)

SICYON

M/S Trawler. Gunned by aircraft at 1430/1 in 58° 52' N., 2° 37' W. (A.C.O.S. 1414/2 to Admty.)

Convoy F.N. 325

Aircraft bombing Convoy ^{"P.L.O.T."} ~~1111~~ in 58° N., 1° 48' E., (WOLFHOUND 1604/2)

Ramsgate

Attacked at 1125/2 by 10 to 30 Bombers with large Fighter Escort. At least 75 H.E. Bombs dropped. Damage. 6 civilians killed and 23 injured. No naval damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. 1630/2 to Adty.) Fu rther report. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1123/3)

Ratray Head

At 1818/2 Ratray Coastguards reported unidentified aircraft flying south at 1814 and then reported bombs dropping in vicinity of ships stranded in Strathbeg Bay. At 1825 Ratray reported planes had made off in a southerly direction. Ships do not appear to be damaged. Two salvos were dropped and owing to darkness cannot ascertain if any damage done. (C. in C., Rosyth 2259/2 to H.Q.F.C.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

HUNDVAAG Ship mined about 1 to 2 cables West of No 1
(Norwegian, 690 tons) Buoy formerly South Goodwin L.V. Not been possible to mark wreck. (V.A.Dover 0001/ and 0055/2 to FERNIE)
Sunk at 1950/1. 14 survivors and pilot arrived Dover in ship's boat. One missing and one injured. (V.A.Dover 0730/2 to Adty.)

INTREPID Mine exploded close to starboard quarter in 54° 39' N., 0° 53' W. Both engines out of action. Request Tug. (INTREPID 0243/2 to C. in C., Nore.) Am proceeding towards Hartlepool. Tug not now wanted. (INTREPID 0329/2 to C. in C., Nore)

Tyne Closed. Suspected Mining. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0745/2) Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1001/2)

Milford Haven Closed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0745/2) Open in daylight only, subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1226 and 1916/2) One Red Mine detonated by single LL in 260° No 4 buoy one cable. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1849/2)

Humber Open (F.O.Humber 0820/2) M/S Trawler MONIMIA and 19 Group begin sweeping at 2100/2 from Sheringham Light Buoy to 62.D.Buoy. (N.O.I.C. Humber 1720/2 to EGLINTON)

Self-detonated Mines exploded. At 0930/2 in 68° 1A Buoy 4 miles, at 1620/2 in 117° P.W.S.S. 2.25 miles, at 1650/2 in 117° P.W.S.S. 2.15 miles (F.O.Humber 1820/2 to Admty.)

Cardiff }
Avonmouth }
Newport }
Swansea }
Barry }

Closed at 0700/2. Suspected Mines. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0952/2)

Belfast LL detonated one small Red Mine 50° 3.8 miles from Pile Light (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0955/2)



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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

RINOVIA

(M/S Trawler) Mined and sunk 154½ St. Anthony Light 2.9 miles. 4 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1058/2)

Dover

1 mine cut by Oropesa Trawlers in QZS 105 1.2 miles 35° from No 4 Buoy. (V.A.Dover 1251/2)

DEANBROOK
LEA

See Air.

Plymouth

One Red Mine detonated by LL at 0825/2 in 189° 3.6 miles from Breakwater Light. (C. in C., W.A. 1536/2)

Owing to presence of mines in Hamoaze it has become necessary to stop all traffic above Flag Staff steps. H.M.S. REVENGE has been berthed in No 5 Basin and could not proceed out of harbour without considerable risk. (C. in C., W.A. 1942/2 to Admty.)

RADNOR CASTLE
MEDOC

1. My 0102/2. Oropesa trawler RADNOR CASTLE has detonated mine near number eight buoy Hamoaze. Several minor casualties to personnel. RADNOR CASTLE damaged and beached on Torpoint side. Slight damage also to F.S. MEDOC beached on Yoderberry Point Trot. Mine was detonated by manoeuvring engines of trawler and it seems certain that it was operated on the acoustic principle.

2. Mine with parachute attached is situated near Bull Point nearly vertical. Nearly three feet of mine above mud at low water. Mine is marked in Green D. 350. (C. in C., W.A. 1946/2 to Adty.) See also 448/7, page 176.

Firth of Forth
Drifter Mined

Another small wooden drifter with diesel 3 cylinder 66 H.P. engine blown up by a mine today in 072° Inchkeith Light 750 yards. Two similar motor drifters were in the vicinity. This would appear to confirm that the sound or vibration of a diesel engine provokes the acoustic mine and if these sounds or vibrations can be reproduced and projected the problem of sweeping the acoustic mine in Approach Channels can be largely solved. (C. in C., Rosyth 1603/2 to Adty.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Rosyth

Cancel my 2155/1. Rosyth Approach Channel between 2° 52' W., and West Gate Inchkeith is open. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1743/2 to Adty)

Harwich

3 Fleet Sweepers continued clearance. One Mine cut 51° 59.3' N., 1° 45.8' E., Two mines found in sweep near 54 A Buoy, exact position unknown. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1803/2 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence

3 Destroyers
off Ile Vierge

At 0802/2, course 250° speed 30 knots. Aircraft report (C. in C., W.A. 1019/2 to C.S. 19 and V.A.S. 1034/2 to submarines Area B)

Shetlands

One small slow vessel at 2042/1 bearing 158° 3 miles from Sumbrough, course 037°, speed 10½ knots. Unidentified. (A.C.O.S. 1203/2 to Adty.)

German Hospital
Towing Barge

My 1440/1. Amendment of description as to W/T equipment. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1300/2 to Admt.)

Brest

5 destroyers and 2 M/V's seen 2/11. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1335/2 to H.Q. 15 (C. in C., W.A. 1501/2 to C.S. 10)

Norwegian
Coast

Indications of southward movement from Trondheim to Skaggerak. Unit expected arrive S.W. Norwegian Area today. (V.A.S. 1612/2 to STURGEON)



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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

- WOLVES A/S Trawler. A/S gear out of action. (N.O.I.C. Oban 0106/2 to C. in C., W.A.)
- ST. CYRUS ~~Rescue~~ Tug. My 1535/21/10. Repairs completed 1200/1 and now ready for duty. (F.O.Humber 0955/2 to Adty.)
- GRANBY Refloated 1615/1. Expect dock p.m./2. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1001/2)
- GUNNY My 0945/B/31. Arrived Cape Town. (S.O.I. Capetown 1015/B/2)
- LORD MELCHETT My 1740/30. Expects sail p.m./4 (F.O.I.C. 1645/2)
^{NT. A W.D}
- WIDESTONE British, 3192 tons. At anchor Lough Goyle. Steering gear disabled. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2101/2)
- DANLIA British (5000 tons) carrying military stores went ashore about 0300 G.M.T. 31st October about 7 miles north of Mombasa. Cargo is being unloaded into lighter. Earliest possible date of refloating 15th November. Unlikely to refloat before 30th November. (C. in C., E. Indies 1202Z/2nd to Admty.)
- Boat Aircraft report boat had small sail and appeared to be making for coast. Boat may fire red flares and was given 4 flame floats. At 0815/3 be in position 090° Duncansby Head 20 miles to co-operate with air search from Wick. (R.A.D. H.F. 2345/2 to DOUGLAS)



HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

F.N. 25

Situation at 2000/2 (C. in C., W.A. 1440/2)

WOLFHOUND escorting. Code word Pilot. (C. in C., Nore, 1543/2)

H.X. 83

7 hours late. (ASCANIA, 1700/2) Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 1615/2 to ACTIVE, ACHATES, ANTELOPE, PICOTEE)

H.X. 86

Ocean escort VOLTAIRE, returning to Halifax (R.A. 3 B.S. 1037/2)

O.B. 238

O.B. 238 (non evasive) sailed 1250/2 8 ships 9 knots escort CASTLETON, WHITEHALL, VANQUISHER, FLEUR DE LYS. (N.S.C.O. Liverpool, 1501/2)

Intend sailing COIMBRA damaged gun platform and short 250 tons oil fuel also FLAMINIAN damaged topsides in company with Convoy O.B. 238 to R/V off Oversay after which Trawler WOLVES will escort these two ships to Greenock. (N.G.S.O. Oban, 1651/2)

O.B. 240

Details and routes (W.C.S.O. Liverpool 1802/2)

O.G. 45

Detach SALOPIAN at 1200/2 to join as ocean escort. (C. in C., W.A. re CORNWALL, 0122/2) Estimate SALOPIAN will join O.G. 45 before dark 3/11 to take over ocean escort. (C. in C., W.A. 1441/2 to WANDERER, CLARE, WILD SWAN) Sailing telegram (C. in C., W.A. 1941/2)

S.C. 9.

Amend route (C. in C., W.A. 1607/2, to DEPTFORD)

O.B.M.
Milford Haven

In the event of anchorage at Milford Haven becoming restricted through enemy mining, it is proposed to use Barry Roads as Assembly Port for O.B.M. Convoys. Request your remarks. (C. in C., W.A. 1909/2) Reply: 65

H.G. 46

Escort INGLEFIELD, WELLINGTON. Position (F.O.C.N.A., to ARK ROYAL 2220/2)

Air Escort

Your 1340/29, re Air escort for independently routed fast ships for U.K. is not clear. Ship of 14 knots arriving 010° West at 0600 would arrive Clyde or Belfast the same day as date in Vesca (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 1100/2 to Admty.)

W.N. 29

WOLVES failed to locate remainder. A/S gear out of action (N.O.I.C. Oban, 0106/2)

W.N. 30

1047/2. Trawlers NORTHERN WAVE, SAON. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1152/2)



War Diary

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Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

W.N. Lights

Your 1645/1, re exhibition of various lights Concur. W.A.C.I.'s will be amended. (C. in C. W.A. 1935/2)

PRINCE BAUDOUIN

PRINCE
Falmouth closed, intend sailing BAUDOUIN 1700/2, Portland unescorted to Milford Haven, for onward routing to Invergordon. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1058/2) Postponed, weather (1409/2)

Risks of Collision

Warning to Commodores always to keep to starboard side of centre line of swept channels, to reduce risk of collision in foggy weather and long nights. (D.T.D., 1612/2 to A.I.G. 47)

Troop Convoys

FRANCONIA
WINDSOR CASTLE

Admty. 1340/29 and 1509/31. Route and personnel (D.T.D., 1201/2, to C. in C., W.A)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

Due Clyde 3/11 with 71 officers and 2399 O.R. for disembarkation, Gourock (D.S.T. 1638/2)

ALMANZORA
HIGHLAND MONARCH
WARWICK CASTLE
CLAN LAMONT
CLAN CHATTAN

Sailed. Details of personnel (P.S.T.O. Clyde 2000/2)

W.S. 4 A

Sailed CORNWALL, CAIRO, SALOPIAN, OTTAWA, SKEENA, SAGUENAY, HESPERUS, BEAGLE, BULLDOG escorting Clyde portion of convoy W.S. 4 A in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1545/28. SALOPIAN to part company in accordance with F.O.C.N.P. 2220/30 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0206/2)

To avoid U-Boat reported in 56° 12' N. 10° 12' W. W.S. 4 A alter course forthwith to pass through 55° 00' N., 12° 00' W. then 54° 00' N., 25° 00' W then route previously ordered. (C. in C., W.A. 1415/2 to CORNWALL etc. +)

/ADDA.....



MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

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Troop Convoys
Contd.

Shipping

ADDA

(Faroers)

Admty. 1805/1. Owing to exposed anchorage Thorshaven and other local considerations it may be necessary to effect transfer military in Skaale Fiord. Request ADDA and escorts may be informed accordingly and warned of floating mines in Faroese Waters (N.O.I.C. Faores, 1549/2)

STRATHAIRD
ORCADES

STRATHAIRD is to be kept in company if possible. Route for STRATHAIRD and ORCADES from 52° 00' N., 21° 00' W., and thence to Clyde.

Instruct liners that, in order to minimise risk of air attack, they are to cross the meridian of 10° 00' W., at 0600 B.S.T. on day before arrival. (C. in C., W.A. 1945/2 to KENYA)

BERA,
Swedish Tanker

Swedish Admty informs me that representations are being made by their Minister at London to obtain permission for tanker BERA to bring fuel oil and petrol from Gulf of Mexico for use of Swedish Navy. German consent has been obtained and Sweden would be grateful if British Admiralty would also grant permission. (N.A. Stockholm 1542/2) *See also 1231/15, p 413*

Aircraft
W. of 7° W.

When to the Westward of 7° West, merchant ships in convoy have been instructed not to open fire on aircraft at night unless they are attacked. With this exception any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range of merchant ships' or fishing vessels' guns may be engaged immediately by day or night.

Admty. 1059/27/8 is cancelled.
(D.T.D. 1248/2)

Aircraft
at Night

My 1715, re merchant ships in convoy opening fire on aircraft at night, amend second sentence to read: With this exception any aircraft not recognised as friendly approaching within range should immediately be engaged as hitherto.
(D.T.D. 1148/2)



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

SAVOIE

Reported left Casablanca 1/11 for Dakar with Sengalese soldiers and equipment (D.D.I.C. 0748/2)

CANADA
SAN FRANCISCO
WINNIPEG }

Repatriation of Frenchmen, arrive home waters (dates (D.D.D. (H) 1522/2)

French Prisoners,
Dakar

55. Your 1809/25, re exchange of prisoners. French officer who crossed frontier from Dakar into Gambia 30/10 states he believes that Bois Lambert is still in hospital at Dakar, wounded and awaiting trial by special commission coming from France in about 14 days. Scaroni has been detained at Dakar. Soufflet, Gaillet, Pecunia, Sallerin, Joimassi and Moulènes have been removed to Koulikor. (C. in C., S.A., 1703/2 to Admty.)

French
Aircraft

Sighted French Vichy aircraft at 1700 in position 070° B 12 who kept well clear but afterwards circled PRESIDENT HOUDUCE more closely. Latter reported her as probably Glen Martin type but she did not approach close enough to DEVONSHIRE to confirm this with certainty. Aircraft last seen making for Libreville. (DEVONSHIRE 1841/2 to F.O.I.C.S.)

French M.V.

Report received from Master Belgian MOBEKA on arrival Takoradi of sighting Vichy French merchant vessel at 1600 G.M.T./26/10 in position 008° 30' N., 019° 40' W., course S.S.E. Description old passenger ship of about 8000 tons gross tonnage fully loaded. (C. in C., S.A. 1037/2)

Dakar
Troopships

My 1606/24 to D. of N.I., re arrival of troopships at Dakar. N.C.S.O. Para reports arrival 30/10 AFFONSO PENNA and ITAPE, latter with 8 German Seamen. (S.O.I.)
Freetown, 0802/2 to Admty.)

/CUBA.....



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

CUBA
Interception

You are to proceed at 1800/2 to R.V. with DRAGON and MORETON BAY in company with French ship CUBA in position 010° 40' N., 022° 00' W., at noon 5/11. After making contact you are to act as ordered by DRAGON and to be prepared to fuel CUBA at sea if possible. (C. in C., S.A. 1315/2*
to OLWEN.)

Your 1121/1 and Admty 1636/1 acknowledged. My position course and speed are Noon N/2 021° 05' 027° 19', 183° 12. CUBA in company Intend to pass through position 014° 27', 027° 35' at 2000 N/3 thence to rendezvous in your 1315N/2 (MORETON BAY to C. in C., S.A. 1800N/2)

My 1800N/2. Part two. Have placed Liaison Officer and one telegraphist on board. Relations amenable at present but absolute breakdown started last night with steering gear, now reports cannot do more than 12 knots.

- Following possibilities
- (1) A staged complete breakdown off Cape Verde Is.
 - (2) A prearranged rendezvous with Dakar ships. Despite denial have definite proof by bearings and ranges that ship was on south-east course when intercepted.

Some Naval ratings time expired but not clear why remainder being sent back. No confirmation of gold. Book not produced when all cargo manifest asked for. Have not asked direct questions in case steps should be taken to hide in the event of search at sea. (MORETON BAY, 1805N/2, to C. in C., S.A.)

MASSILIA
DJËNNE
VICTORIA

Your 1751/1. Following from French Admty. has crossed it (Begins)

- (1) MASSILIA will leave Casablanca 4/11 and will follow route instructed. Ordered DJËNNE leave Marseilles 1/11 and will make her arrival Gibraltar 4/11 by daylight. She has orders to follow same route as MASSILIA and will probably be at point D 9/11.
- (3) French N.A. will be informed immediately date VICTORIA can sail is known (ends)

As DJËNNE has sailed submit she be asked proposed time of arrival in 52° N., 14° W when passing Gibraltar, 2042/2)



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Saturday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD

Admty. 2211/29. Leave patrol to arrive Gibraltar a.m./5. (S.O. Force H., 0926/2) My 0926. Fuel permitting, for a.m./5 read a.m./6. (F.O. Force H., 2133/2)

Reported that on 31/10 a warship which appeared to be a cruiser went round island Saint Michael Azores at average distance of 16 miles being 1345 G.M.T. in 37° 25' N., 25° 17' W., disappearing towards East. If no reply is received from you it will be assumed that this ship was SHEFFIELD. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1345/2 to SHEFFIELD)

ARK ROYAL

Admty. 1553/1. Adjust speed to arrive northern entrance at 1700Z-1,5/11, WISHART and VIDETTE will sail to R.V. with you. (F.O.C.N.A., to ARK ROYAL, 1544/2) Amended orders (F.O.C.N.A., 1208/2)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Your 1723/29. Request you defer sailing from Freetown (date) (F.O.C.N.A. to C. in C., S.A., 1730/2) My 1730. Escort situation necessitates further delay of 24 hours. Request you sail ship accordingly (F.O.C.N.A. 2314/2)

Enemy Aircraft
Reconnaissance

Situation report. Usual Martin reconnaissance aircraft flew over rock between 1545 and 1549 hours today and was driven off to south east by A.A. fire. (Govr. Gib., 2145/2 to W.O.)



MOST SECRET

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Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Search For
RIO GRANDE

My 0857/1. Sector 050° to 095° has been covered for 12 and 13 knots. ASTURIAS now (3 groups missing) 080° for 12 knots. Do your best for lower speeds South of 090° on passage to Buenos Aires. (R.A.S.A.D. 1034/2)

W.S. 3 A
W.S. 3 B

My 1639/31. Last sentence should be omitted. (SSTO Capetown, 0928/B/2)

ALMKERK

Reply to Admty. 1541/1. requesting route. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1021/2)

CAPETOWN CASTLE

No trace in U.D.
Admty 1340/29. Asking if speed of CAPETOWN CASTLE should be adjusted to arrive Liverpool daylight. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1049B/2)

CARNARVON CASTLE

CARNARVON CASTLE's 1635/31 and your 1707/1 Ship is required to sail as soon as possible and repairs should not be taken in hand unless essential or can be completed while coaling. (C. in C., S.A. 1153N/2, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

BULOLO

Proceed through I 34 B and I 35 A. Remain in I 35 until further orders. (C. in C., S.A. to BULOLO, 1919N/2)

Unknown Tanker

MODASA reports tanker nationality unknown passing 6 miles east of position 004° 38' N 010° 42' W., at 1600/1 course-degrees 120. This might be NORVINN going at much slower speed than expected. (C. in C., S.A. 2019/2 to C.S.I)

GUNNY

Overdue shipping. My 0945B/31. GUNNY arrived Capetown (S.O.I. Capetown 1015B/2)

A.M.C.
Cargoes

Admty. 1226/19/10. Re arrangements with Elder Dempster Lines. To arrange and allow time for discharging and loading at both ends request date on which A.M.C. will be required back at Freetown may be communicated to me as early as possible with brief details of quantity and type of cargo being shipped to U.K. (V.A.N.P. 1024/2 to C. in C. S.A.)



War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

NARVAL

French submarine, arriving off Grand Harbour about 0001/3. (V.A., Malta. to RORQUAL, 0911/2)

RORQUAL

Your 0142/2. Instructions for arrival. (V.A. Malta to RORQUAL, 0942/2)

MALAYA
retubing

Admty. 0047/1. Tubes already ordered to Port Said. Repair resources. Proposals. (C. in C., Med., 1041/2, to Admty.)

Convoy
U.S. 5 A

With ULSTER PRINCE, arrived Suez a.m./2 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1144/2)

Reinforcements,
Operation
"Hurry"

Suggest BARHAM be put in charge, although BERWICK senior officer. (S.O. Force H. to C. in C., Med., 1240/2)
C. in C., Med., 1315/30. Propose leaving Gibraltar for Operation "Hurry" (date) To cover movements of ARGUS request her sailing may be adjusted (date) (S.O. Force H., to Admty., 1245/2)

BERWICK)
PASTEUR)

Guns, equipment and military personnel embarked in (D.O.D. (F) 1302/2)

TRITON

Orders for patrol. (Capt. S.1. 1345/2)

Operations,
Names

"Coat"

"White"

"Collar"

Propose following: (a) Forthcoming operations, "Coat" (b) Reinforcements, Force F. (c) Remainder, Force B. As sinking of HOSTILE appears to be explained by Q.B.B. 86, do you consider passage south of Skerki Bank now acceptable? (S.O. Force H to C. in C., Med. 1526/2)
Cancel A.T. 2344/10/10. Impending operation given following names. Reinforcement with BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, 3 destroyers and transport of personnel to Malta, Operation "Coat". Air reinforcement of Malta by ARGUS, operation "White". Passage of 2 M.T. ships to Malta, Operation "Collar" (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 2126/2)

/Air.....



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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air
Reconnaissance

Malta situation up to 1700/2. (H.Q. Malta, 1730/2) Result of A/Recco. today. (V.A., Malta, 1845/2)

Operation

In view of C. in C., Med. 1821/1, add 24 hours to all times in my 1245/2. (S.O. Force H. 2147/2)

Alexandria

Own forces are now in vicinity and will probably be entering harbour from dawn tomorrow. (Capt. S. 1. to OSIRIS, 2303/2)

Enemy
Intelligence

Prefer use of hospital ships TAIREA and (?FROUDPARA) unless pressed for extra accommodation. Hospital ships can be sailed to meet convoys at Imbros. (Movements, M.E. to Navy for A.C.N.B., 0949/2)

Italian Campaign Against Greece

Situation

My 0853/31. Troops and guns landed and net defence established Suda Bay. FAREHAM, WRYNECK and oiler OLNA left for Piraeus 0800/2. Remainder of force left for Alexandria via Kaso Straits at 0800/2. Suda and Canea raided by enemy aircraft yesterday only a few houses demolished and very few casualties. (C.O.I.C. Med., 0929/2 to Admty.)

Greek
Submarines

Are operating south and east of line 200° from Cape Linguetta 40° 25' N, 19° 18' E. Keep north of latitude 40° 30' N (Capt. S. 1. to TRITON, 1031/2)

Enemy
Air Attack

Re menace of Italian air bombing of civil population. Unless fighters sent, fear rapid collapse and we shall be utterly discredited. (Consul Gen., Salonika, telegrams 79 & 80 to F.O., 2245/2, 2250/2)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

DANLIA
Ashore

British ship DANLIA with military stores went ashore about 0300 G.M.T./31/10 about 7 miles north of Mombasa. Cargo being unloaded into lighter. Earliest possible date of refloating 15/11, unlikely to re-float before 30/11. (C. in C., E.I. 1202Z/2)

India, M/S
Construction

Your 0950/4/9. Admty. agree to Govt. of India proposals for building in India 2 "Banjoss" M/S and 10 "Bassetts" M/S. Details. (Hd. of M. to C. in C., E.I., 1727/2)

W.S. 3
C.M. 5

CARTHAGE to remain with W.S. 3 after junction of A and B groups and is to escort ERINPURA and KHEDIVE ISMAIL to Mombasa. C.M.5. escorted by COLOMBO is to rendezvous with W.S. 3 C in position C.W. 027° 50' S. 036° 10' E., at 0600Z/5. Request convoy C.M. 5 be sailed accordingly. (C. in C., E.I., 0622Z/2, to S.N.O. Simonstown, etc.) Further instructions (C. in C., E.I. 114Z/2 to DORSETSHIRE, etc., 1116/2 to Admty., 1122Z/2 to WOOLWICH, CARTHAGE, etc.)

KIMBERLEY
Bombed

Perim bombed

KIMBERLEY bombed at 0715. Four bombs no hits. Position 014° 14' N., 042° 47' E. SHOREHAM reports six bombs dropped close to Perim at 0755. Five in sea and one on land believed no damage. Times G.M.T./2. (C. in C., E.I., 0824Z/2 to Admty.) My 0824/2. Amend para 2tto read 13 bombs on or near Perim, confirmed no damage. (C. in C., E.I., 1214Z/2)

Suspicious
Ship

CITY OF JOHANNESBURG made a report of a suspicious vessel in position 005° 37' N., 084° 04' E., at 1315Z/2. It is assumed this is DANAE. (C. in C., E.I. 1340Z/2)

Ship has now cancelled distress message. (C. in C., E.I., 1414Z/2, 0514/3)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Singapore
Conference

My 0313/30 and Q453/30. Comdr. Thomas U.S.N. leaves Singapore a.m./4. Documents to take with him. (C. in C., China, 0203Z/2) Your 0203Z/2. For security reasons, undesirable that Comdr. Thomas should take with him documents mentioned. (1st S.L. to C. in C., China, 0609Z/2)

Indo-China

Situation deteriorating re British interests. Suggest time has come to retaliate and stop supply of gunny bags. (C. in C., China, 0609Z/2)

C. in C.,
Far East

Addition to duties of new C. in C., Far East, re Ceylon air forces and G.R. Sqdns. R.A.F. in Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. (W.O. to G.O.C's Malaya and Hong Kong, 2350/2)

America & West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN

My 1001/29. To leave patrol after sunset 2/11 for Kingston, Jamaica, await orders (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/2)

DIOMEDE

My 1001/29. Leave patrol as necessary to fuel at Tortola a.m./4. On completion establish patrol 20 miles north westward of Sombrero Light to intercept FORT RICHEPANSE due Guadeloupe from New York about 5/11. French sloop VILLE D'YS may be met proceeding to Martinique and is not to be interfered with. SAN ADOLFO is to proceed to Bermuda on completion of fuelling. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1052/2)

Greek
Shipping

Your 2005/28, Greek eastbound vessels to proceed to British port. Greek ELISAVET sailed Comox British Columbia 26/10 for Yokohama returned Esquimalt British Columbia 1/11. Request instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1154/2)

/BRAS-D'OR.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

BRAS-D'OR
Lost

H.M.C.S. BRAS-D'OR not reported since 19/10 and now presumed lost in recent gales (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1221/2) *Available newspaper, news of 20. Lost in Gulf of St. Lawrence. (The Times, from Ottawa, 31.10.40)*

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Date of leaving New York. (d. of S.T., 1314/2)

Shipping
Route

Your 1902/31. Cancel my 1508/14/9. to N.C.S.C. Trinidad. Shipping from Caribbean Sea to Gibraltar should be routed so as to pass within 100 miles N. of Madeira and thence direct to Gibraltar. (D.T.D. to C. in C., A.W.I., 1225/2)

Australia

BULYSSES

Re India's 1115/31 respecting Fremantle bunkering earliest available tanker BULYSSES due 19/11. Can programme be adjusted to this position or alternatively R.F.A. KURUMBA be made available. (D. of S.T., 1625/2 to A.C.N.B.)



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HELGOLAND

My 2345/28 Barranquilla passes local press report that pilot of Colombian military plane believed identified HELGOLAND near Boca Chica Cartagena 31/10 but Colombian destroyer CALDAS sent to investigate found no trace. (ends) Cartagena instructed to investigate.

Investigator employed by R.O. Barranquilla believes ship will hide some distance off Goajira being joined by Germans collected at Valledupar including aviators. Comment. Earlier rumours that Scadta employees sailed in the ship were denied by Colombian Authorities Barranquilla. (S.O.I., Kingston 0058/2)

My 0058/2. Cartagena states no truth in local press report re HELGOLAND. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1515/2)

SCHARNHORST

At Kobe. Broadcasts from Japan and Manila on 30/10 included a report that ship was armed and ready for sea. Singapore reports no previous information that ship was armed. (D.S. 425)

SESOSTRIS

My 2301/31. R.O. Puerto Cabello reports no sign of any activities. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0912/2)



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SOULIOTIS
(stopped 22/10)

Greek, SOULIOTIS reports stopping by Italian U-Boat at noon on 22/10 in approx. position 034° 00' N., 030° 30' W. Mate who boarded submarine saw no name or number but believes 2 officers German. Description. (C. in C., A.W.I., 0923/2 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported

1133

56.12 N., 10.12 W., (C. in C., W.A. 1343/2)

1524

58° to 60° N., 18° to 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 425)

1109

59° to 60° N., 18° to 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 424)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian: No news.

German : 1 probably proceeding northwards may now be W. of Valencia. Probably 4 in N.W. Approaches and farther W., of which 1 was in area 58° to 60° N., 18° to 20° at 1109/2. No recent news of others. 1 more may possibly be S. of Iceland between 60° and 62° N. Possibly 1 in northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1234/2)

Submarines Attacked

U-Boat Sunk by
ANTELOPE
(U.S.I.)

Am attacking firm contact. ACHATES assisting. My position 056° 12' N., 010° 12' W. ANTELOPE, 1133/2)

My 1133. Contact certain U-Boat. After second attack regained contact U-Boat used high speed and passed under me. (corrupt group) effective, have lost contact, searching. ACHATES asdic set broken so have told her to rejoin convoy. Request air co-operation. (ANTELOPE, 1255/2)

ANTELOPE's 1255. Am proceeding to join hunt. Expect to arrive 2000. (WANDERER, 1420/2)

/U-Boat.....



War Diary

2.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked.

U-Boat Sunk by
ANTELOPE-Contd.

(U 31)

U-Boat ~~Italian~~ sunk, most of crew rescued. Foremost Boiler Room damaged, oil fuel tank flooded in trying to board U-Boat. Am returning to Clyde. (ANTELOPE, 1515/2)

U-Boat Sunk. (ANTELOPE, 1518/2 to WANDERER)

Your 1518 and my 1420. Can I be of assistance in taking survivors into Londonderry. My position course and speed. (WANDERER 1540/2, to ANTELOPE)

Your 1540. No. Must return owing to damage. (ANTELOPE, 1610/2)

Well done ANTELOPE. (C. in C., W.A., 1553/2)

Position was near track of H.X. 82 Convoy in which MANCHESTER EXPORTER and CITY OF BARCELONA have particularly important cargoes. (D.S. 425)

My 1343. This U-Boat has now been sunk by ANTELOPE. (C. in C., W.A., 1601/2 to W. App. Command)

My 1515 U-Boat was German ~~probably~~ U.31 operating from Lorient. (ANTELOPE, 1705/2 to C. in C., W.A.)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.11.1940
Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

U-Boat Campaign

A.M.C's LAURENTIC and PATROCLUS were torpedoed about 145 and 160 miles west of Ireland respectively, between 2200 and 2300 today, and sank later.

SS CASAMARE was torpedoed in the same area earlier in the evening.

British Air Activity

Owing to adverse weather conditions all operations last night were cancelled.

Weather conditions today also forced most aircraft of Bomber Command to abandon their tasks.

Patrols in the southern North Sea and Channel were also abandoned.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.11.1940
Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

WINDSOR CASTLE (19141 tons) was bombed and machine-gunned this morning, about 180 miles W.S.W. of Bloody Foreland. Little damage is reported, but the ship is said to have U.X.B's lodged on board. BULLDOG was sent to escort her to the Clyde.

Convoy W.N. 29 was attacked off Rattray Head this evening. EROS was damaged and taken in tow by CHALLENGER to Aberdeen. KILDALE (3877 tons) was also hit and sank later.

It is reported that SS VICTORIA (Greek 4202 tons) was bombed and sunk about 100 miles N.W. of Ireland at 0630/30/10.



MOST SECRET

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3.11.1940
Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected in the Thames Estuary.

A.P. Vessel GEORGE AND ANNIE was mined and sunk off Hartlepool this morning, whilst engaged in sweeping.

Belgian Trawler 293 and motor boat LADY DRUSIE were mined in Milford Haven approach channel this morning.

Belfast is closed.

Port Talbot remains closed. Other Bristol Channel ports are to be opened this morning.

Mines were found today in Milford Haven, Firth of Forth, Tyne, off Hartlepool, Harwich, in Inverness Firth Approaches.

Mines exploded close to VIMIERA N.E. of the Swin and near R.A.F. H.S.L. 112 off Yarmouth.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.11.1940

Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

MILAN (light cruiser) passed Gibraltar westbound this morning. Sloop LA BATAILLEUSE escorting 4 French submarines and 2 French M.V's passed Gibraltar at 1700 today, eastbound.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD left patrol off the Azores at midnight 3/4 Nov. to return to Gibraltar.

An Italian U-Boat was apparently chased by our destroyers into Tangier at 1750 where the U-Boat secured alongside.

A patrol is being established. Consul General Tangier reports that its batteries are run down and are being charged. The duration of stay is not known.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

3.11.1940
Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Italian W/T communique states that two of their submarines are overdue.

East Indies

Three attacks were made today by Blenheims on underground oil tanks at Assab. All bombs fell in the Target area.

America & West Indies

U.S. Destroyers are patrolling off French West Indian ports to keep in touch with French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC.

3.11.40.
Sunday.



WAR DIARY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Deluge.

At 0200/3 (D.C.0207/3) At 1400/3
(D.C. 1418/3).

Nore.

Ships not required for duty today revert to 4 hours' notice until 2000. There will be no destroyer patrol tonight. (C.in C. Nore 0939/3).

Rosyth
Defence.

The value of Rosyth as a Fleet Base is being much prejudiced by enemy mine-laying in the searched channel. The absence of any long range A.A. gun defences covering the area to the Eastward of Inchkeith enables the enemy to carry out this work with impunity in that most vital part of the channel close to Inchkeith. Four mines have been exploded within four miles of Inchkeith within the last three days, one of which damaged BLACK SWAN. Request that the question of mounting long range A.A. guns to cover the searched channel to the Eastward of Inchkeith be taken up as a matter of urgency. (C.in C. H.F. 1027/3).

C.in C. Rosyth to make detailed recommendations in consultation with 3 A.A. Division, in case guns can be made available. (V.C.N.S. 1846/3).

Movements.

CANITO.

Orders. (F.O.C. N.P 0940/3).

ARGUS.

Left Glasgow for Tail of Bank. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1215/3). Intend putting ARGUS at 8 hours' notice for three days to make good defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1802/3).

Dover.

Patrols night 3/4 November. (V.A. Dover 1241/3).

BATH.

Your 0941, BATH again delayed due to port being closed. (C.in C. W.A. 1243/3).



WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

CAIRO.

On parting company with W.S.4A cover PATROCLUS and LAURENTIC during your return to Clyde. Estimated positions. (C.in C. W.A. 1301/3 to CAIRO).

Orkneys.

Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S.1531/3).

Portsmouth.

Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1603/3).

FLEUR DE LYS.

Proceeding at maximum speed of 3 knots towards Campbeltown to execute repairs. I.P. Crank bearings wiped. Position. (FLEUR DE LYS 1632/3).

FORMIDABLE.

My 1258/3. Request you will arrange A/S escort, asking C.in C. H.F. for assistance if necessary. (D.O.D.(H) 1657/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines.

TITANIA.

To proceed to Holy Loch after transfer Submarines to 5th and 6th Flotillas in accordance with my 1829/1 has been affected. (V.A.S. 1012/3).

TRIDENT.

Movements. (Capt: (S) 2 1434/3 to Submarines on patrol in Area B, negative Portsmouth area).

Positions and Movements.

0700/4 (V.A.(S) 1702/3, 1916/3).

My 1829/1. In view of the fact that Submarines of the 5th Flotilla will be operating, some in the Portsmouth command and some in the Western Approaches command, it is proposed in order to simplify operational control that this should be exercised by V.A.S. through Captain S.5 in a similar manner as is done by V.A.S. in the case of other submarine flotillas. (V.A.(S) 1013/3 to C.in C. Portsmouth, C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1013/3 concur. (C.in C.W.A.1321/3)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd).

Harwich
Submarine
Base.

Submarine Base at Harwich to be closed a.m./5. The submarine Base is being kept at one weeks notice in case of return of submarines.
(C.in C. Nore 1146/3).

Submarines to be
informed when our
own aircraft are
going to bomb French
or Dutch ports.

My 1126/10. In future this information will not normally be passed to submarines.
(V.A.(S) 1136/3).

British Air Activity.

Air Reconnaissance.

No air reconnaissance possible on night 2nd to 3rd November.
(C.in C. Nore 0551/3).

FORMIDABLE.

It is requested that Fighter protection may be given to FORMIDABLE whilst carrying out trials in the Northern half of the Irish Sea as far South as 53° 30'N. from approximately 21st. to 25th November.

C.in C. to arrange the necessary details when they are finally decided.
(D.O.D.(H) 1258/3 to Air Ministry).

Patrol.

A patrol to be known as A.N.S 1 will be flown a.m. daily by 3 Ansons from Thornaby within the limits 54N and 56 N and as far east as 4°. Aircraft will fly at visibility distance on parallel tracks of 090 degrees, returning on reciprocal: object to give pilots navigational experience and to locate enemy shipping.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2032/3).

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. STARSTONE
(bombed 31/10)

CAPE ARGONA arrive Belfast. STARSTONE not met. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0500/3).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday. 58

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

WINDSOR
CASTLE.

AAAA 5412 N 1318 W. WINDSOR CASTLE again attacked.
Malin Head Radio 1102/3).

AAAA WINDSOR CASTLE still bombed and damaged aeroplane still attacking.
(Base Ship Scapa T.O.R. 1142/3).

312. Detach one destroyer to assist WINDSOR CASTLE reported damaged by bomb position 54° 12'N., 13° 18'W at 1140 course 070.
(C.in C. W.A. 1151/3 to CORNWALL).

Have sent two destroyers to WINDSOR CASTLE. (CORNWALL 1155/3).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of WINDSOR CASTLE in position 54° 12'N 13° 18'W at 1142 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1157/3 to MARAUDER).

My 1155A; destroyers GARLAND and BULLDOG.
(CORNWALL 1225A/3).

GARLAND is to comply with my 1253. BULLDOG is to escort WINDSOR CASTLE to Cumbrae and then proceed to Liverpool.
(C.in C. W.A. 1753/3 to GARLAND, BULLDOG)

Position WINDSOR CASTLE at 1615 today 054° 48'N., 011° 57'W course 075° speed 15 knots. Make contact and stand by should further assistance be required.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1803/3 to DILIGENT, MARAUDER).

Report of N/502.
Close A/S patrol carried out from Pos. NLDE 1507 to NLDE 4435 no enemy forces sighted.
Sighted at 1510 hrs. MV - WINDSOR CASTLE pos. NLDE 1507 course 075 - 15 kts. - she was not badly damaged by bombing attack of ~~several~~ but was carrying five unexploded bombs and requested surface escort.
A/C received signal from base at 175 as follows:-

/Met



3.11.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

WINDSOR
CASTLE. (Contd.)

Met NLSB 4803 075, 15 kts. unexploded bombs on board surface escort required little damage no killed T.O.O.1615. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1920).

My 1753 position of GFMS (WINDSOR CASTLE) at 1615 course 075° speed 15 knots. 54° 48'N., 11° 57'W. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/3 to BULLDOG).

Please repeat your 1255. My position 054° 35' N., 010° W. BULLDOG and GARLAND not met WINDSOR CASTLE. (GARLAND 2000/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Iceland.

Enemy air activity over Iceland has increased recently. Three aircraft visited East coast 28/10 and Heinkel ~~111~~ ¹¹¹ visited Reykjavik early this morning presumably photographic reconnaissance. This machine passed over Kaldadarnes aerodrome made one circuit at 6,000 feet and reasonable assume whereabouts of this aerodrome now known to enemy. Am also investigating presence of what appears to be German rubber dinghy from aircraft 30 miles East of Vik on South coast. If air activity continues increase hope some Fighter Gladiator or Gauntlet plus one could be made available at short notice. Provision of some Bofors anti-aircraft guns would greatly increase protection of aerodrome which is very weak at present.

(Alabaster, Reykjavik 1212/3). *Reply, W.O., 0645/2, P. 147.*

NORTHERN
SPRAY.

Help Kinnaird Head. (NORTHERN SPRAY 1832/3).

S.O.S.

The following has been read. Help 045° Rattray 10 miles, my course 225° speed 6 knots. (Pentland Firth 1920/3).

EROS
KILDALE.

Standing by S.S. EROS 057° 48'N., 001° 54'W recovering boat with survivors investigating condition of ship. (CHALLENGER 1955/3).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EROS.
KILDALE.

My 1955/3. Survivors recovered. One wounded 2 believed missing. Am attempting to tow southwards request salvage tug(s) take over if available. (CHALLENGER 2044/3).

Your 2350/3 (no trace) ABEILLE 4 at sea in your vicinity. SABINE (tug) en route Peterhead to Methil ordered to return. KILDALE has also been bombed and it is hoped to salvage both ships. (C.in C. Rosyth 0032/4 to CHALLENGER).

My 0032/4. Believed ABEILLE 4 is now with KILDALE but has been ordered to proceed to assist you if no chance of salvage. (C.in C. Rosyth 0054/4 to CHALLENGER).

My 2350 (no trace). My position, course and speed $057^{\circ} 45' N.$, $001^{\circ} 52' W.$, 140⁰ 4 knots. S.S. EROS in tow. Request air escort at dawn. (CHALLENGER 0055/4 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Arriving Aberdeen 0815 to deliver EROS local Tug for berthing. Intend continuing voyage to Methil on completion. (CHALLENGER 0742/4).

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Convoy W.N.29 was attacked by A/C about 1930/11 in position 026° Rattray Head 7 miles. Steamers EROS and KILDALE both damaged and abandoned. EROS taken in tow by CHALLENGER for Aberdeen and Tug ABEILLE IV is searching for KILDALE whose survivors are on board PENTLAND FIRTH. Tug SABINE is also joining in search. Amplification follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 0753/4).

My 0753. EROS arrived Aberdeen in ^{two} ~~two~~ of CHALLENGER at 0815 and will proceed into harbour at 1500 today. 4 survivors of KILDALE including 1 dead landed at Peterhead by GREGORY:- (names). (C.in C. Rosyth 1015/4).

Following two survivors from S.S. KILDALE bombed and believed sunk at 1920/3 off Rattray Head have been landed at Methil. One each from S.S. MURRAYFIELD and S.S. FLUOR. 3 more survivors are believed to be in S.S. GLEN MAROON due Methil shortly. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1524/4).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EROS.
KILDALE.

S.S. KILDALE has apparently sunk in approx. position Rattray Head $025^{\circ} 7'$ miles R.A.F. machines have searched the vicinity.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1725/4).

My 1015/4. 27 survivors of S.S. KILDALE brought to Granton by A/S.T. PENTLAND FIRTH at 1400/4. 10 men missing including one naval gunner; 2 military gunners are safe. KILDALE hit by one - probably two - bombs. Engine room filling rapidly when ship abandoned.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2205/4).

Mining.

Bristol Channel.

Ports will be open at the following times:

Avonmouth 0900.
Newport 0900.
Cardiff 0900.
Barry 1000.
Swansea 0730.
Port Talbot, remains closed.

(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0703/3).

BATH.

R.V. with R.A.M.L. as early as possible after daylight. My position, course, speed 0800/4 (R.A.M.L. 0941/3 to BATH) BATH again delayed due to port being closed (C.in C. W.A. 1243/3).

Firth of Forth.

One blue mine. (C.in C. Rosyth 1125/3).

Tyne.

2 ground magnetic mines detonated.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1205/3).

Harwich.

Asking for fighter protection for 6 fleet minesweepers 4/11. $51^{\circ} 58'N$ to $52^{\circ} 10.5'N$, 0830 to 1730.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1618/3).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Belgian
Trawler 293.

Mined $262^{\circ} 4\frac{1}{2}$ cables from No.4 Buoy.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1214/3).

LADY
DRUSIE.

Motor Boat mined in Milford Haven
Approach Channel this morning. (D.S.426).

Harwich.

P. M/S LORNA DOONE reports having swept
up and sunk a black object approximately
5 feet long 2 feet in diameter. One
end pointed, the other rounded, this object
floated high in the water and sank end
first. Position $52^{\circ} 01' N.$, $01^{\circ} 47' E$
on 2. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1657/3).

Invergordon.

One red magnetic mine detonated by L.L.
sweepers Inverness Firth Approaches.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1735/3).

VIMIERA.

Mine exploded 20 yards astern of me in
position 150° North East ~~300~~ 100 yards.
No damage. Speed was 12 knots.
(VIMIERA 1014/3).

GEORGE
and
ANNIE.

A.P.V. ~~M/V~~ GEORGE and ANNIE while carrying out
Spar Sweep was blown up at 1123/3 in
position $150^{\circ} \frac{1}{2}$ mile Heugh P.W.S.S.
Regret no survivors. Lt.Cdr. Houghton
R.N.V.R. in charge.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1206/3).

Hartlepool.

Mine exploded spontaneously at 1143/3 in
approx. $54^{\circ} 40' 09'' N.$, $01^{\circ} 07' 24'' W.$
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1225/3).

Milford
Haven.

Three ground mines self-detonated.
Positions. Mines detonated between 2140
and 2240 2/11.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1830/3).

Belfast.

Port of Belfast is closed due to
suspected minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1845/3).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Yarmouth.

Ref. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 1550/27 and 1715/27. Description of mine. Great reliability cannot be placed on Cobbers report of positions. Ends. (C.in C. Nore 1919/3).

Operation
B.S.45.

ICARUS and IMPULSIVE are to act as escort. (C.in C. Nore 2306/3).

Enemy Intelligence.

Report received graded B.3. that 5 modern German destroyers arrived Oslo on 2/11 and berthed at Piperviken. (D.D.I.C. 0003/3).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ROSEMONDE.

L.L. Trawler ROSEMONDE sustained damage in collision with trawler SORANUS and will be delayed five days.
(F.O. Humber 1237/3).

LORD
COLLINGWOOD.

Enquiries have been made of all the naval ports between The Nore and Invergordon for drifter LORD COLLINGWOOD and no trace found. She is reported to have sailed from Thames in F N 16 for Methil for onward routeing to Greenock on 23/10.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1303/3).

46. Request report if anything has been seen of Drifter LORD COLLINGWOOD which sailed with F.N.16 on October 23rd.
(C.in C. Nore 2035/3 to F.O's i/c Humber, Harwich, Yarmouth. N.O's i/c Brightlingsea, Lowestoft, Grimsby.

OLYMPIA.

H.M.T. OLYMPIA and Norwegian destroyers SLEIPNER in collision Leith Roads 1930/2. No serious damage to OLYMPIA.
(N.O.i/c Leith 1307/3).

MARIA
STELLA.

Begins: Belgian Trawler MARIA STELLA broke adrift while in tow of LORD STANHOPE at 1600/2 and grounded at Robin Hood Cove. Total loss. Board of enquiry is being held at 1 00 tomorrow Monday. 0940/3. Ends.
(C.in C. W.A. 1444/3, 1832/3).

FLEUR DE LYS.

I.P. Crank Bearings wiped. Proceeding at maximum speed of 3 knots towards Campbeltown to execute repairs.
Position. (FLEUR DE LYS 1632/3).

My 2349/3. Position now given by master is 35 miles N.N.W. of Kinnaird Head altered on fix at 2100/30. Cause of explosion unascertained but torpedo or bombing improbable. Degaussing had failed the night before. Weather heavy S.E. Gale. Survivors boat was picked up close to mine barrier.
(A.C.O.S. 1947/4 to C.in C. H.F.)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

CONVOYS.

S.C.9.

GENTAIN to join. Route.
(C.in C. W.A. 0907/3). OTTAWA, HURRICANE
HARVESTER, HESPERUS, GARLAND, to meet
(C.in C. W.A. 1253/3). 1439/3.

H.G.46.

CAMITO to R.V. with (date) (F.O.C.N.P.
0940/3).

S.L.54.

ESPERANCE BAY to act as ocean escort.
(C.in C. S.A. 1159N/3).

H.X.83.

BEAGLE, BULLDOG, SAGUENAY and SKEENA
to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1253/3).
meet. Details. (C.in C. W.A. 1355/3).

O.B.238.

Cancel my 1651/2. GIMBRA and FLORIAN
did not sail (N.C.S.O. Oban 1305/3).

H.X.82B.

DERBY COUNTY to R.V. (C.in C. W.A. 1307
/3).

B.H.X.86.

Left, ocean escort MONTCLARE, returning
to Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1243/3).

Troop Convoys.

W.S.4A.

To keep clear of H.X.83, to alter
course at 1600/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1033/3).

" DELIUS.

Speed of advance 11 knots. Lame duck
DELIUS. (CORNWALL, 1230A/3). Propose
DELIUS proceed unescorted from dark
tomorrow if risk to personnel and stores
can be accepted. (C.in C. W.A. 1803/3).
Destroyers detailed to assist CASANARE
and LAURENTIC. (see U/Boat Campaign).

W.S.4B.

Dates and details of stores.
(D.S.T. 2335/3).

Barry Roads.

Your 1909/2, use of Barry Roads for
convoy assembly. This could be accepted
as temporary measure but is not considered
advisable. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1226/3 to
C.in C. W.A.)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

3.11.40.
Sunday.

66

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Arrivals in
Dark Hours.

My 1340/29. By crossing meridian of 10° West at 0600 vessels will frequently arrive at destinations in dark hours unless speed is reduced. To avoid such reduction of speed it is proposed to allow vessels concerned to enter Clyde, Belfast and Liverpool during dark hours, F.O.s. I.C. concerned being notified of times of arrival in sufficient time to warn local patrols and Examination Service. Request your concurrence. (D.T.D. 1904/3 to C.in C. W.A.)



MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

JEAN BART
RICHELIEU

Instructions if they attempt to proceed into Mediterranean or German occupied ports. (A.C.N.S.(F) to F.O.C. N.A., 0404/3, and reply of F.O.C. N.A. 1210/3)
See Operations Vol.

MILAN

Gibraltar 0830/3. French light cruiser MILAN returned westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1253/3).

CUBA Interception

Your 1315/2. ROYAL SOVEREIGN may be used to provide support if considered necessary, there being no immediate urgency for her arrival at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 1346/3 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUBA
interception

Admty. 1346/3. MORETON BAY escorting French ship CUBA with 1216 sailors from Martinique on board passes through (positions) about 0600/5. Ship may run out of fuel and have to be towed. Possible French forces from Dakar may attempt to interfere. DRAGON will join MORETON BAY before darkness 4/11 or at daylight 5/11. Oiler OLWEN from Freetown should pass through (position) at 0600/4 to meet MORETON BAY. Proceed Freetown at best speed, fuel and proceed to support. Possibility of submarines has to be considered. (C.in C. S.A., 1831/3, to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Libreville.

Report of interview with Leclerc. De Gaulle's decision re attack. (C.S.1 2017 A/3) See Operations Vol.

Food Supplies.

Your tel. 26/10 to C.in C. S.A. Decision has been given that all food supplies now in BELGRAVIAN are to be delivered free of all charges to Free French Cameroons at Manoka Anchorage. BELGRAVIAN will arrive Manoka Anchorage about (date). She cannot reach Duala. Request Leclerc may be asked to arrange for ship to be unloaded as rapidly as possible. (C.in C. S.A., 2023/3 to Govr., Nigeria).



MOST SECRET.

3.11.1940.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

Italian S/M
at Tangier.

See U/Boat Campaign, S/M's Reported.

URSULA

Not to be sailed until further notice.
(D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C. N.A. 0345/3).

SHEFFIELD.

Fuel permits further 24 hours patrol
arriving Gib. with 18% a.m. 7/11.
Intend to leave at 0001/4 unless further
orders. (SHEFFIELD, 1244/3).

Explosive Machine.

My 1020/1. Divers continue to recover
portions of a machine from northern entrance.
Description. (F.O.C.N.A. 1942/3).

South Atlantic.

DRAGON

Sailed 1200/3 from Freetown, to R.V. with
MORETON BAY. (C.in C. S.A., 1037/3,
S.O.I., Freetown, 1445 N/3).

PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE

To return to Duala forthwith, ascertaining
on passage if Corsico Island buoy is still
burning. (F.O.I.C.S. to DEVONSHIRE, 1617/3)

TURCOMAN

Left base buoy for position B at 1000/3 with
instructions to close position B at every
even hour until contact is made with DELHI.
(C.S.1, 2227 A/3, to DELHI).

Mediterranean.

Alexandria.

Important units arrive 0715 and 0745/3.
(R.A. Alexandria, 0050/3, to OSIRIS).

ILLUSTRIOUS

C.in C. H.F.'s No. 1429 H.F. of 1526/29/10.
Brief report on fighter communication during
2 months' operating in Mediterranean, in
which 13 enemy a/c (certain), either
shadowing or attacking Fleet, have been shot
down by Fulmars, 10 of which were destroyed
as a result of directions by ships.
(ILLUSTRIOUS, 1145/3, to Admty.)

Enemy Morale.

Following from N.A. Stockholm: Italian
just returned from Naval circles Rome has
confided to Swedish Officer depressing
effect on morale of Italian Navy due to
(a) Their inability to prevent British
convoys traversing Mediterranean and still
more
(b) Innumerable British fleets said to have
entered Malta with bands playing and then
refuelled without Italian hindrance. (B.3)
(D.N.I., 1257/3 to C. in C. Med.).

/ Taranto

'3.11.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Taranto.

Reconnaissance not carried out today.
 (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1359/3).

Malta,
A/C.

Situation Report to 1700/3 G.M.T.
 No military or naval items. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/3).

Operations.
Names.

Your 1526/2. Para. 1 and 2, Concur.
 Para. 3, consider risk of using Skerki Channel is not justifiable. (C.in C. Med., 1753/3 to Force H).

Reinforcements.
Operation "Hurry"

Your 1240/2, suggesting BARHAM vice BERWICK in charge. Do not think the question of seniority can be waived.
 (C.in C. Med., 1807/3, to S.O. Force H.)

Operation B.S.

Bring into force condition B. ^{See p. 42.} (Capt. S.1 to S/M's on Patrol, 1935/3).

Convoys.

Re publicity. (C.in C. M.E., to W.O., 1950/3).

^R
NAVAL.
^A

French s/m, returned 3/11, sea water in one battery. It appears probable that slow convoys from Tripoli (Africa) to West Sicily keep close to shoal eastward of Kerkenah Island. (V.A. Malta, 2005/3).

Assistance to Greece.

Suda Bay,
Landing,
Air Raids.

My 2201/1. Initial action at Suda Bay completed. Details of guns landed, nets laid by PROTECTOR, etc. One battalion disembarked from AJAX on 1/11. Heavy air raid by 25 aircraft on Suda Bay and Canea during disembarkation, little damage and few casualties. Further raids by 5 aircraft, a.m./2, diverted by gunfire of AJAX and bombed Canea. WRYNECK, FAREHAM and oiler OLNA sailed for Piraeus, remainder for Alexandria. Plans for aerodrome, A/A guns. (C.in C. Med., 0215/3).

Cable.

Eastern Tel. Co. now report cable between Alexandria and Salonika O.K. (C.O.I.S., Alexandria, 1825/3).

Small Craft.

Ref. Admty. 727 to C.in C. Request D.S.T.O. send information concerning rates and terms. As Col. Johnson and Lieut. Cdr. Ryder are coming, no officer from Admiralty will be necessary, especially as little material can be sent from Alexandria.
 With minimum speed seven knots doubtful if can obtain more than 20 of which many will be yachts. (N.A. Athens, 2053/3, to C.in C. Med.)

3.11.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

Aden Defences.

Urging reinforcement of Air and A/A defences at earliest possible date. Proposals. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1712/30/10, received 0145/4/11) Fully endorse S.N.O. Red Sea appreciation in his 1712/30. (C.in C. E.I., 1950 Z/3).

→ MAURETANIA.

Your 0702/1. No objection to use of accommodation for private passengers at usual rates. (D.S.T. 2015/3, to S.T.O. Colombo).

China.

Singapore Conference.

My 0203/2 and your 1940/2. N.A. Washington informs me that Admiral Stark anticipates Admiral Hart will wish to send his Chief of Staff back to Singapore with Thomas. Have been asked to arrange transport and have done so. (C.in C. China, 0403Z/3 to Admty.)

My 1427Z/3rd. Commander Misen left for Manila 0235 G H/4 with Commander Thomas. He has taken with him documents referred to in my 0203Z/2 and S.P's referred to in your 1540/1. He has been authorised to supply any information desired but not to commit H.M.G. in any way. (C.in C. China, 1941Z/3 to Admty.)

C.in C. Far East.

Admty. 2329/19. Amendment to directive to C.in C. Far East, re operational control and general direction of training of British Air forces in Ceylon, etc. (1 S.L., to C.in C. China, 1957/3).

Australia.

→ MAURETANIA

Your 0702 Z/1. Ports of call Fremantle and Melbourne where fitting out will take place. (A.C.N.B., to P.S.T.O. Colombo, 0231 Z/3).

3.11.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

EISENACH

Panama reports NOSADY MARU took orders to German ship EISENACH and Italian ship FELLA to proceed to sea. Both ships reported ready to sail (B.2) Former reported now has 10 days coal. Reporting Officer Port Limon investigating. Callao pass to PRINCE ROBERT.
(S.O.I., Jamaica, 1123/3).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FELLA

(see EISENACH, German).



3.11.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CASANARE.

British, 5376 tons. Following read:
SSSS 53.58 N., 14.13 W., CASANARE
torpedoed. (Scapa W/T. 2055/3).
Informing LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS and CAIRO
(C.in C. W.A. 2105/3): Detach one
destroyer to assistance of CASANARE torpedoed
in (position) at 2055. (C.in C. W.A. to
CORNWALL, (W.S.4A) 2117/3). Your 2117.
HURRICANE sent, left 2220. (CORNWALL,
2230/3). MARAUDER and DILIGENT to proceed
to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2250/3
amended 0552/4) Detached W.S.4A, proceeding
assistance of CASANARE and LAURENTIC.
(HURRICANE, 2310/3).

H.M.S. LAURENTIC. SSSS, torpedoed, 54.09 N., 13.44 W.,
2251. (LAURENTIC via Valentia Radio,
2107/3). Following read: S/M distress,
53.55 N., 14.30 W. Torpedoed engine room,
all fires out. (LAURENTIC, 2225/3)
Detach another destroyer to assistance of
LAURENTIC torpedoed in 53.55 N., 14.30 W.
at 2224. (C.in C. W.A. to CORNWALL, 2237/3).
Your 2237, HESPERUS sent LAURENTIC, left
2325. (CORNWALL, 2326/3).

H.M.S. PATROCLUS. Torpedoed 53.43 N., 14.41 W.
(PATROCLUS, 2222/3) keep clear of 53.55 N.,
14.30 W., where LAURENTIC torpedoed at 2224.
(C.in C. W.A., 2245/3, to PATROCLUS, CAIRO).
If not in contact proceed to assist
PATROCLUS and LAURENTIC, torpedoed
(position). Sunderland flying boat will be
co-operating. (C.in C. W.A. 2353/3, to
ACTIVE and ACHATES).

HILLFERN
(torpedoed
31/10).

12 Survivors including Master and Chief
Officer of HILLFERN have today been
rescued from ship's boat by DOUGLAS and
brought to Lyness. Ship was lost in
position 57° 57' N., 02° 25½' W. at
0530/31 while in Convoy. Master considers
ship was torpedoed. (A.C.O.S. 2349/3).

Submarines Reported.

Tangier.

Italian s/m entered Tangier Harbour 1750
today. (Gascoigne, Tangier, no T.O.O.
received 2002/3).
Italian U/B seen by (?) GREYHOUND at 1750
to enter Tangier. Was previously
reported by a/c in 80° Spartel steering E.
Patrol being established accordingly.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1836/3).
My tel. and your 1836/3. S/M apparently
chased into harbour by 3 British destroyers.
Reported not damaged, but batteries run
down and now being charged.

/ Duration

3.11.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Tangier.
(contd.)

Duration of stay unknown. (Consul-Gen.,
Tangier, 2345/3).

2055.

53.58 N., 14.13 W. (D.D.I.C. 2200/3)
(CASANARE torpedoed).

America and West Indies.

17/10.

Master ATHELVIKING reports 17/10 in
position 42.56 N., 40.18 W., sighted
vessel speed 9 knots believed to be
submarine. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1551/3).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian	1 was in 34° N. 30 degs. 31' W. 1200 on 22nd October. No subsequent news.
German	1 probably reaching N.W. Approaches from the Southward. Probably 3 in N.W. Approaches and farther west of which 1 was in area 58° to 60° N; 16° to 20° W. at 1524/2; no news of the others. 1 more may possibly be S. of Iceland between 60° and 62° N. (D.D.I.C. 1235/3).

Submarines Attacked.

By ANTELOPE.
2/10. (U.S.)

ANTELOPE arrived with 5 officers and
38 ratings from sunk U/B. (F.O.I.C.
Greenock, 0827/3).

By ACHATES
1623/3

Your 0537 (no trace in W.R.) Two attacks
in firm S/M contacts. Position 55.07 N.,
14.45 W. (ACHATES, 1623/3, to C.in C.W.A.)
1 Sunderland to maintain A/S search in
co-operation with ACHATES throughout night
of 3-4/11. Enemy may attempt to escape
on the surface during the night. A.S.V.
to be used and flares used to identify any
suspicious vessel or contact. (Plymouth
A.C.H.Q. 1855/3). Sunderland a/c will be
co-operating with you. Parachute flares
will be used. Report latest position of
contact and if in touch. (C.in C. W.A.,
to ACHATES, 1917/3) ACHATES 1623.
Unable to confirm contact, intend carrying
on search until 1000/4 and then both ships
to join H.X. 83. (ACTIVE, 1925/3)
Your 1917. Lost contact in 55° 08' 30" N.,
15° 05' W. Sunderland a/c is already in
company. (ACTIVE, 2042/3 to C.in C. W.A.)



War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

A.M.C's on
Western and
Northern Patrol.
Withdrawal
suggested.

C. in C., Home Fleet recommends that, unless proper A/S escorts can be provided for A.M.C's in U-Boat waters, these vessels should be withdrawn from Western Patrol and Northern Patrol and replaced by pairs of A/S trawlers.

Enemy
Heavy Ship
off May Island.

A heavy ship with screen passed the latitude of May Island at 1845 today, course 025°.

SLEIPNER

Norwegian destroyer SLEIPNER was damaged in collision with H.M.T. OLYMPIA at Rosyth today, on Nov. 2 (p. 64)

S/M L. 27.

was severely damaged by an underwater collision p.m. today, while on patrol off Cherbourg. She left patrol at midnight 4/5.

British Air Activity

R.A.F. last night attacked shipyards at Kiel and targets at Naples. Channel ports were also attacked.

Certain patrols, designated S.E.C. 1 and S.E.C. 2. have been designed for the protection of convoys by aircraft fitted with special equipment.

Mining

4/ M. A/S B 4 struck a mine this afternoon off Topruan and sank.

Rosyth, Port Talbot and Falmouth were opened this morning and Belfast early this afternoon.



War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

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SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Made fast
A second Italian submarine entered Tangier harbour at 1830 today and tied up alongside the submarine which entered yesterday. She was followed by two British destroyers as far as territorial waters.

Tangier

The Officer Commanding the Spanish Troops in Tangier today proclaimed himself Governor and Delegate of the High Commissioner of Spanish Morocco. He announced that the Committee of Central, the Assembly and the Mixed Bureau of Information will cease to function.

South Atlantic

N.C.S.O. Duala reports that French submarine PONCELET was bombed but not hit today.

Mediterranean

An Italian P.L. broadcast announces that waters surrounding Greek territory must be considered dangerous.

C. in C., Med. reports that two more Italian U-Boats have been destroyed. The hunt in one case was carried out in co-operation with the R.A.F.

R.A.F. bombed Naples last night.

It has been decided to give Greece the greatest possible material and moral support at the earliest possible moment. The Services Attaches at Athens report that the situation in Greece is extremely favourable for rapid action against Italy.

East Indies

LEANDER and Convoy B.N. 8 were bombed at 0640Z today in the Southern part of the Red Sea. No damage is reported. R.A.F. fighter drove off the enemy.



War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Use of
A.M.C's

Unless we can provide proper A/S escort for them in U-Boat Waters, which appears improbable, I am of opinion that A.M.C's should be withdrawn from Western Patrol and Northern Patrol being replaced if required by pairs of A/S Trawlers using some of those A/S Trawlers now used for anti-invasion duty to make up numbers. The A.M.C's either to be used for hunting down surface raiders or as Convoy escorts in non U-Boat Waters or as troop transports. (C. in C., H.F. 1047/4 to Adty.)

Free French
Warships and S/M's

W.A. Message 0824/6/9. and C. in C., Portsmouth 1617/26/10. Request confirmation of following action taken in bringing forward LE TRIOMPHANT, LA MOQUEUSE, LA CAPRICIEUSE and CHEVREUIL; and request directions for S/M's MIMERVE, JUNON, SURCOUF. All manned by Free French except CHEVREUIL. (C. in C., W.A. 2314/4 to Adty.) Reply: 1706/8.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 0200/4. (D.C. 0210/4) At 1400/4 (D.C. 1417/4)

Burning Oil
as Invasion
Defence

Your 1625/23. Admiralty policy is to instal this defence only in places where it is known that it can be efficient with present technique, and to press on with investigations to overcome certain difficulties such as deep water ignition and behavior in tideways and improve the weapon. For the present, intention is for this policy to be continued. (V.C.N.S. 1641/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Nore Command

My 1048/9/10. Ships which give Night Leave are to be at 4 hours notice for steam at 0830 (C. in C., Nore, 1907/40)



War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements

- CAIRO Return to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 0003/4 to CAIRO) Propose anchor at Lamash about midnight, returning Clyde after A/A Firing arranged for a.m./5. (CAIRO 1600/4 to A.C.W.A)
- Dartmouth Movements to Milford Haven and Bristol Channel Ports. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1101/4)
- BULLDOG Sailed as in C. in C. W.A's 1753/3. E.T.A. Liverpool 2100/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1201/4 to C. in C., W.A.)
- Dover Patrols for night 4/5. (V.A.Dover 1421/4)
- Orkneys Movements for night 4/5. (A.C.O.S. 1529/4)
- M.L. 135 a.m. 1121/3. Should be ready for sea on 7/11. Request information as to West Coast port to which she should be sailed. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1356/4 to C. in C., W.A.)
- Portsmouth Night Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1613/4)
- Rosyth Movements for night 4/5. (C. in C., Rosyth 1626/4 and 1736/4)
- EREBUS My 1715/2. W. entrance to Tilbury Docks is now available for EREBUS when required. (F.O.I.C. London, 1737/4 to C. in C., Nore)
- KENYA Proceed independently at best speed to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 1757/4 to KENYA) E.T.A. Clyde 1000/5 (KENYA 2100/4 to C. in C., W.A.)



War Diary

4.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

Yarmouth Area
A/P Patrols

Following alterations for winter months will operate from 7/11. (F.O.I.C. 1320/4 to Admty)

SALVIA }
PEONY }
GLOXINIA }
HYACINTH }

A.M. 1217/17. To proceed to Eastern Mediterranean and come under orders of C. in C., Mediterranean. When ready for sea, and complete with LLGear, C. in C., W.A. to sail them to arrive Gibraltar not later than 20/11. No escort likely to be available, and a close watch will therefore be necessary on Brest. (A.C.N.S.F. 1334/4

O. Patrol

Cancelled tonight owing to weather. (C. in C., Nore, 1353/4 to Adty)

Faroes

Adty. 1203/1. Vessels available for transfer of troops are 3 A/S trawlers. Request one vessel of outward escort may remain to cover disembarkation and embarkation. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1614/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

FURIOUS

Required to take Hurricanes to Takoradi, retaining 6 of 801 Squadron on board and disembarking rest of this Squadron at Hatston. Request you sail her to arrive Clyde not later than 10/11. Should be ready to sail by a.m./14. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2113/4 to C. in C., H.F.) *To help Gracks - p. 100. Sepus 6 handbook - p. 105.*

Submarines

5th S/M Flotilla
Operational
control, assumed
by V.A.S.

Your 1013/3. Concur. (C. in C., Portsmouth 0100/4 to V.A.S.)
My 1013/3. Intend to assume operational control of submarines of 5th Flotilla employed on patrol duties as from 0001/10. Intend that S.5 should keep submarines operating or on passage in C. in C., Portsmouth Command informed of movements of own and enemy forces that may effect them. Submarines operating or on passage in C. in C., Western Approaches Command to carry out their patrols in accordance with F.S.C. 2. (V.A.S. 1202/4)

/Brittany Coast.....



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Submarines-Contd.

Brittany Coast

Area between coast and following positions is known to have been mined by the French over a year ago. Submarines are to patrol to seaward of line joining these points and are only to proceed inshore if ordered or when in contact with enemy:- 048° North 005° West, 047° 56' North, 004° 58' West,* 047° 29' North, 004° 55' West, 047° 19' North, 004° 20' West 047° 20' North 003° 27' West 047° 37' North 003° 25' West. (Capt. S. 2. 1546/4 to TRIDENT)

* amended to 05° 48' W. (p. 103)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0700/5 (V.A.S. 1656/4)

STURGEON

Leave Patrol p.m./6 and return to Base by Route in P.O. 57 (Capt. S. 6. 1817/4 to STURGEON)

TAKU

At 0230/2 attacked large homeward bound tanker in 46° 54' N., 3° 50' W., Estimate 3 hits certain. (TAKU 1945/4 to V.A.S.)

Distribution of Submarines for A/S Training

Request that distribution of the 3 S/M's available for A/S Training, as result of a.m. 1143/2, may be reconsidered. Reasons. (C. in C., W.A. 1933/4 to Adty.)

British Air Activity

Air Reconnaissance

No air R/C has been made. (C. in C., Nore 0701/4 to Adty.)

Rosyth

C. in C. Rosyth's 1735/1 states that Night Artillery Zone has been temporarily re-introduced at Rosyth and lays down boundaries. This is not correct. Request that terms of S.D. 158 as amended be applied. (H.Q.F.C 1130/4 to Air Ministry)

S.A. 2 and S.A. 3

S.A. 3. and two Southern tracks of S.A. 2 cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth 1224/4 to Adty.)

/Bombing of.....



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British Air Activity-Contd.

Bombing of Coastal Batteries

Request bombing of batteries between Calais and Ambleteuse from 1930 to 2100/6 during passage of Convoy C.W. 16 through Straits of Dover. (C. in C., Nore, 1554/4 to Adty.)
See also Air Ministry 1630/5, p. 105.

Belfast. Proposed Restrictions on Aircraft

Following temporary additional restrictions proposed for Belfast Lough and Port Area
(a) No aircraft except fighters in pursuit of the enemy to fly over the specified zone at any time by night. (i.e. 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
(b) Any aircraft which inadvertently enters this zone will be entirely responsible for establishing its friendly character to the ground defences. It will be engaged as hostile unless definitely recognised as friendly.
(c) The limits of the zone are from ground level upwards within the area mentioned above.

Request R.A.F.N.I. will provide A.M. with detailed description of area to which above restrictions should apply. Request addressees will signal concurrence or comments immediately.

S. 4496 refers.

(Air Ministry 1603/4 to Air Commands etc.,)

See also 1700/5, p. 105, and 1640/7, p. 173.

Kites

Air Ministry agree that Kites may be flown up to 1500 feet by ships in Convoy on passage between Pentland Firth and Rattray Head, from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. (A.C.N.S. (T), 2127/4 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Enemy Air Activity

R.A.F. Station Ford

Attacked by aircraft at 1515. 4 Civilians employed in F.A.A. Workshops killed. N.O.I.C. Ford, 1900/4 to Adty.)



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Mining

Sheerness

Red mine detonated 230° Knob 1 (? cable) at 0300 by HERO. (Capt M/S Sheerness 0332/4 to C. in C., Nore)

B.S. 45

Intend sail from Spurn Point at 1500/5, arriving 21 Buoy at 0815/6, thence to initial position, and return to 21 D Buoy. Laying will begin at 1015/6. (S.O. Minelayers Immingham, 0939/4 to Adty.)

Rosyth

My 1743. Both sides of Channel between 2° 52' E and West Gate Inchkeith are open at 1859/2.11. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0939/4 to Admt.)

Port Talbot

Now open (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1132/4)

Falmouth

Now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1152/4) Explosion occurred in 247° St. Anthony 2 cables, probably Magnetic or Acoustic Mine. Red Mine exploded 270° St. Anthony 1½ cables. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1805/4 to Admt.)

Belfast

Port Open. No traffic to move North of Swept Channel. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1220/4)

BATH

Intend sail BATH at 1700/4 (C. in C., W.A. 1437/4 to R.A.M.L.) R.A.M.L. is anxious you arrive as quickly as possible. Act accordingly. (C. in C., W.A. 1937/4 to BATH)

Dover

No routine sweeps today owing to weather. QZS 105 swept between 1 and 4 Buoys by 3 Oropesa Trawlers. One Mine detonated 8 cables 306° from No 4 Buoy. (V.A. Dover, 1502/4 to Adty.)

ATREUS

Required for service abroad. So Clyde controlled Minefields will not be laid in immediate future. (D.T.M. 1814/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)



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Enemy Intelligence

Brest

7 Destroyers and 3 large vessels at 0915
(H.Q.C.C. 1050/4 to Adty.)

Fair Isle

1 medium slow vessel in 178° 9 miles from
Fair Isle, course 100°, speed 10 knots, at
2355/3. (A.C.O.S. 1121/4 to Adty.)

Sumburgh

1 small slow vessel in 202° 7½ miles from
Sumburgh, course 204°, speed 7 knots, at
0607/4 (A.C.O.S. 1121/4 to Adty.)

Heavy Ship

A heavy ship with screen passed latitude of
May Island at 1846, course 025°, speed 16
knots. exercising with searchlights and
star shells between 1915 and 2000 (Capt.
S. 9. 1953/4 to S/M 0.23)



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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CHESAPEAKE (British Tanker, 8955 tons) Ashore Scarweather Sands. Bombing. Require tug at once. (Burnham on Sea Radio 0319/4 to Adty.)

CITY OF DUNKIRK (British, 5861 tons) Dur Durban 30/10 from Milford Haven. Not arrived (S.O.I. Cape Town 0915/4 to Adty.)

SLEIPNER (Norwegian Destroyer) H.M.T. OLYMPIA collided with SLEIPNER while latter at anchor on 2/11 making deep dent in SLEIPNER's side and causing slight leaks. (C. in C., Rosyth 0942/ and 1719/4 to Adty.)

MARIA STELLA (Belgian Trawler) Broke adrift while in tow of LORD STANHOPE at 1500/2, grounded at Robin Hood Cove, and is a total loss. (C. in C., W.A. 1116/4 to Adty.)

WALNUT (M/S Trawler) Grounded on North Goodwin during passage of C.E. 15 Nowat Sheerness for docking and repair. Will not be ready to accompany next C.W. Convoy. (C in C., Nore, 1145/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

BELGIQUE My 1802/1. Arrived Bahia Blanca 3/11. (S.O.I. Freetown 1808/4 to Adty.)

? VIVIEN was detached on receipt of Humber Radio Signal and has picked up in position 053° 50' N., 000° 25' E., two bodies and a C.B. these are being sent into Humber in PUFFIN, no sign of other bodies. Only clue bit of wreckage floating (LONDONDERRY 1131/4)



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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys

- O.G. 45 Situation at 2000/4. (C. in C., W.A., 1421/4)

- O.G. 45 Not sighted. Request route from 51.00 N., 20.20 W. (SALOPIAN, 1014/4) Reply (C. in C., W.A. 1244/4) Position (GLENAFFARIC 1750/4) (C. in C., W.A., 1935/4)

- S.L. 54 Left 1100/4, escort ESPERANCE BAY (S.O.I. Freetown, 1125/4)

- H.X. 83 Position at 2000/4. (C. in C., W.A. to ACTIVE, ACHATES, HURRICANE, HESPERUS, 1540/4) → SKEENA and SAGUENAY to join S.C. 9. at 1545/5 (C. in C., W.A., 1950/4)

- S.C. 9. 7 hours late. Position at 0845/5 routed as in my 1439/3. Join Convoy as far to Westward as possible. (C. in C., W.A. 1420/4 to GARLAND)
 Sail H.M.C.S. ST LAURENT to join convoy S.C. 9. Details follow. (C. in C., W.A. 1751/4 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
 → Leave H.X. 83 in time to join S.C. 9 due 55° 18' N., 19° 00' W., at 1545/5 course 100°. 7 knots (Route) (C. in C., W.A. -1950/4, to SKEENA and SAGUENAY)

- O.B. 239 O.B.O. 239. Only available escort Trawler has defective steering gear. Intend sailing H.M.S. CAMELLIA with O.B. 239 to R.V. off Oversay then to escort 5 ships to Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1810/4)

- F.S. 27 F.S. Convoy 27 now in 2 parts as Tyne and Tees contingents were late in joining. WESTMINSTER and QUORN with 15 ships "BOOTY I" (position) WALLACE and AMETHYST with 16 ships "BOOTY II", 20 miles astern. (WESTMINSTER, 1201/4)

- C.W. 16 Intend to sail C.W. 16 (14 vessels) from Southend at 1100/6 (time table). Escort
 E/ Destroyers FERNIW, BERKELEY, A/S Trawlers AGATE, DEODAR, ASH, CHESTNUT, BAY, M.B.B. vessels GATINAIS (S.O.) PINGOUIN, RENE LE BESNARAI, FRATTON, MAMMOUTH, PINTADE, RAMIER. M.L's 116 (S.O) 114, 118, 119, 120 and 171 if ready. (C. in C., Nore, 1650/4)

- H.G. 46 CILICIA to R.V. (F.O.C.N.P. 1614/4)

/S.L. 53.....



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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys-Contd.

S.L. 53

DERBYSHIRE to R.V. (F.O.C.N.P., 1614/4)

Rescue Ships

(no trace on 11/8)
My 1714/11/8. Hoped special vessels will shortly be available as rescue ships. Meantime rear ships of columns to be detailed (D.D.D. 2108/4) *See also 1128/5, p. 109*

PRINCE BADOUIN etc.
Λ.

My 1058/2. Intend sailing these ships today (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1023/4)

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

Ready to sail. Request instructions (P.S.T.O Clyde, 1257/4)

ADDA

Route to Faroes. (C. in C., W.A. 1305/4)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 4 A.

and

W.S. 4 C.

Left 1/11 (Details) (D.S.T. to C. in C., Med., 2023/4) PRETORIA CASTLE to join W.S. 4 A and escort slow portion to be known as W.S. 4 C. CORNWALL to continue escorting W.S. 4 A to Suez. (D.O.D. (F) 1435 to C. in C., S.A.)

Your 1803/3. DELIUS (came back) is to remain with convoy. (D.D.D. (F) to C. in C. W.A., 1355/4)

W.S. 4 B.

My 2335/3. Position re ships in Clyde. Date of leaving. (D.S.T., 1955/4)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

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DJENNE
MASSILIA

*(repatriation
of beachmen)*

My 1522/2. Further arrivals DJENNE and MASSILIA in 55.35 N., 7.15 W. on 9/11 from Gibraltar by route as in my 1913/28 bound for Liverpool. (D.O.D. (H) 1615/4 to C.in C. W.A.) DJENNE passed Gibraltar 0900/4 (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1624/4) DJENNE weighed for Casablanca 1800. (Gascoigne, Tangier, 1900/4) My 2042/2. French N.A. states DJENNE will go to Casablanca to fuel after passing Gibraltar 4/11. He will inform me of sailing date from Casablanca. (N.A., Madrid, 1934/4 to Admty.)

S/M
PONCELET
Bombed.

French S/M PONCELET bombed, no hits. Under way after first attack. Appeared to be leaving after first attack. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 1717/4)

CUBA,
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Proceed and act in accordance with my 1831/3. If any French warships close or show signs of interfering with CUBA or escort they are to be told they cannot be allowed to do so and must leave the vicinity, force being used if necessary though hope this will be avoided. Otherwise act in accordance with my No.125. French warships not to be allowed to proceed south but may go to Dakar or Casablanca. A/S trawlers SPANIARD (Senior Officer) PICT and BENGALI leave Freetown at 0500/5 and proceed for position 009° 30' N. 017° 05' W. at 9 knots, may be used as required. (C.in C. S.A., 1745 N/4 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN.)

North Atlantic.

ARK ROYAL. F.O.C.N.A. 2308/2. WISHART, VIDETTE sailed 0800/4. (S.O.I., Gib., 0840/4).

Operation
Hats.

Please consider following possibilities for Repeat Operation Hats starting 7/11 (S.O. Force H to ARK ROYAL, 1225/4) See Med. Vol.

Italian
S/M at
Tangier.

See U-Boat Campaign, S/M's Reported.

Air Recco. Daily Summary Operations. (200 Group, 1715/4)

Unknown
Warship,
St.Michael's.

My 1630/1. Report same source dated 1230/2, same unknown warship continues going round island St. Michael's at average distance of 15 miles. Seen proceeding south following cargo vessel coming from east. (Consul-Gen., Lisbon, 1853/4, to Admty.)

Troop
Transport.
Op: "boat"

Transfers of troops to take place after dark 6/11, to BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, GREYHOUND, FAULKNER, GALLANT, GRIFFIN, FORTUNE, FURY. Not more than about 200 troops to be on deck from passing Tarifa until after dark 6/11. (S.O. Force H, to BERWICK, 2005/4).

/ Italian U/B's sunk. ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Italian
U/B's sunk.

My 2311/19. Following is being issued to Press. "2 more Italian U/Boats have been destroyed. The hunt in one case was carried out in co-operation with the R.A.F." (D.P.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 1950/4).

South Atlantic.

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

To escort slow ships of W.S.4A, to be known as W.S.4C. (D.O.D. (F) 1435/4).

CORNWALL.

To continue escorting W.S.4A to Suez. (D.O.D.(F) 1435/4).

Overdue Ships.
CITY OF DUNKIRK

CITY OF DUNKIRK due Durban 30/10 from Milford Haven not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0915/4).

BELGIQUE

My 1802/1. BELGIQUE arrived at Bahia Blanca 3/11. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1808/4).

ESPERANCE BAY

Left 1100/4 escorting S.L. 54, thence to Greenock. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1125/4).

RESOLUTION.

Your 0213/18. To be sailed for U.K. via Gibraltar when ready. (D.O.D.(F) 1519/4 to C.in C. S.A.)

WILLEM VAN
DER ZAAAN.

Dutch M/L. Not to call at St. Vincent and Lobito. Proceed direct from Ponta Delgada to Freetown, and on passage Freetown - Capetown use Wallis Bay as emergency port of call. (D.O.D. (F) to N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2052/4).

Freetown Dock
Facilities.

Suggesting R.E. dock operating officer be appointed to co-ordinate work and act for all departments. (S.O.C. West Africa to W.O., 1618/4).

Mediterranean.

Enemy
Intelligence.

A/C report 1 cruiser 5 merchant vessels, 39.40 N., 17.30 E., Course 220° speed 15 knots, at 1105 zone minus 2. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1047/4 to TRITON) (Capt. S.1 to TRITON, 1219/4).

Lights.

Delimara and St. E⁶lmo, to be exhibited on request. (Malta W/T, 1121/4).

Air Recco.

Malta Situation Report to 1700/4. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1730/4).

TRUJILLO
CARRIYA
CARANZA

Owners prepared to arrange for interception of JOSE TRUJILLO and CARRIYA, both in Barcelona loaded with food for Genoa. CARANZA will be treated in same way or / cargo

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

TRUJILLO
CARRIYA
CARANZA
(contd.)

cargo discharged in Barcelona.
(N.A. Madrid, 1919/4, to F.O.C.N.A.)

AJAX,
SYDNEY,
KINGSTON CRYSTAL

) Arrived Port Said 4/11. (S.B.N.O.
) Suez Canal, 2143/4).

Drafting,
Alexandria.

Re establishing of a local drafting
office at Alexandria. (C.in C. Med.
1647/4).

Bombing of
Naples.

Instructions contained in A.M. Signal
X.2 30/10 carried out night of 3/4 by
4 Wellingtons. 2 bombed O.11 from 9,000
feet - 1 bombed O.11 and railway
junction from 1,500 feet. Fourth
Wellington failed to locate target or
suitable alternative target and returned
with bombs. Naples well blacked out.
Outward and return route to target was
same as for previous attack. W/T silence
was broken by 2 aircraft on return
journey. In addition to the 4 aircraft
mentioned, 3 other aircraft took off
for the raid. 1 of these returned with
bombs soon after taking off being unable
to climb higher than 4,000 feet. The
other 2 crashed soon after taking off.
Cause as yet obscure. 1 Officer and
three airmen killed - 1 airman
seriously injured. 2 civilians were
killed. Owing uncertainty cause of
these accidents decided cancel departure
of further aircraft.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1000/4).

Corvettes

See HOME COMMANDS, operations A.C.N.S(F)

Assistance to Greece.

1324/4, p 78

Suda Bay.

Admty. 0137/31. Request a Captain R.N.
with experience of organising a base be
sent by quickest route to take charge
at Suda Bay. As interim measure request
Lt. Com. H.R.M. Nichols R.N., acting
N.O.I.C., be granted rank of Acting
Commander. (C.in C. Med. 1313/4).

Reported Naval
action off
Corfu.

Re report by Mil. Attache of Naval action
off Corfu. This was telegraphed 1400/3
although action stated to have taken
place at a distance of 15 miles at
2000/2. Four observation posts on W.
Coast of Corfu reported nothing.
Report considered extremely unlikely.
(N.A. Athens, 1321/4).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Assistance to Greece.(Continued)

Operations.
M.B.8.

Details of movements and operations planned, M.B.8 which includes Operation "Coat". (C.in C. Med., 1357/4)
See Med. Vol. p99

Operation "Coat".

Request you sail for operation as requisite, detaching Force F (date) to R.V. with me. Plans. (C.in C. Med., to S.O. Force H., 1335/4). *Hand Vol. p99*

Assistance to Greece.

Decided to give Greece greatest possible material and moral support at earliest possible moment. Details - Chiefs of Staff telegram No. 23. (1 S.L. 1918/4, to C.in C. Med.) See Med. Vol. p92

Situation.

Situation in Greece extremely favourable for rapid action against Italians. Details. (Services Attachés, Athens, 2106/4.)

East Indies.

U.S.6.

Convoy U.S.6 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0329 Z/4).

Enemy Aircraft.

Your 0938/24, locations of enemy aircraft. Height assumed same as during recent raid. Some check given by range at which minima occur. (S.N.O. Red Sea Force to S.O. Force H, 1244Z/25/10, received 1227/4)

LEANDER
B.N.8.
bombed.

LEANDER reports convoy B.N.8 bombed at 0640 Z/4. No damage reported. Position 14.25 N., 42.28 E. (C.in C. E.I., 1026/4).

Intelligence Summary No. 145 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/4. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron Fighter escort Convoy B.N.8 using advanced base Kamaran, 1 remaining Kamaran overnight. At 0650 position 14° 22' N. 42° 36' E. 1 S.79 attacked at 14000 feet dropping 6 bombs nearest 100 yards from convoy escort. Chased E.A. towards Yemeni Coast for 10 minutes closing from 4 miles to 75 yards. Enemy top rear engine silenced, gunner believed casualty and aircraft forced down to 50 feet last seen flying slightly west near Ras Mujamela, 14° 37' N. 42° 35' E.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Continued)

Combat broken off when front guns jammed. One bullet in petrol tank of escort. 1 Glenn Martin French Flight Photographic and visual reconnaissance 0900 to 1145 shipping in Assab area and possible troop concentrations coastal strip Assab-Thio. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1727/4).

B.N. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

HECTOR and RANCHI will form Force R for B.N.8 $\frac{1}{2}$. After making R.V. with Force Q, HECTOR to proceed Bombay and RANCHI to Colombo (C.in C. E.I., 0610 Z/4).

China.

Greek Shipping. Requesting position of all Greek shipping in Pacific. Urgently required by Greek Minister, Tokyo. (N.A. Tokyo, 1121/4) N.A. Tokyo's 1121/4. All available information has been passed to N.A. Tokyo. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1031 Z/4 to Admty.)

Instructions in A.M. 2005/28 are still generally in force modified in the Pacific as follows:
Greek shipping outside Mediterranean is under control of Greek Shipping Committee in London, whose intention is rather to avoid excessive concentration of ships in Japanese waters than to veto all voyages to Japan. Orders will be given individually to any ships which they decide can proceed to destinations in Japan. Seven ships have already received such orders. Shipping will be allowed to proceed to Japan more freely when it is seen that Japanese assurances not to detain are borne out in practice. (Head of M. 1919/4 to C.in C's China, A.W.I. etc.)

French Shipping, YALOU.

Following from Mauritius censorship (begins) Cable and radio intercept indicates ship possibly YALOU leaving Haiphong not before Tuesday with cargo of cement and rice latter to be on loaded (? after calls) Reunion then Tamatave possibly Majunga. Consignee finds difficulty to ensure against owners scuttling but Bank of Reunion appears to be able to through Vichy. (Ends). (Colombo 0947/4).

* YALOU last reported at Saigon - 7.9.40 p. 177

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S/M Report.
Panama.

Panama reports unidentified S/M reported off Cape Mala, U.S. authorities conducting search by sea and air. (S.O(I), Kingston, 0832/4).

DIOMEDE.

Your 1052/2. Tortola departure 4/11, oiler SAN ADOLFO for Bermuda, DIOMEDE for patrol. (DIOMEDE, 1231/4 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

WYOMING
OREGON

Admty. 1658/14/10. French ships WYOMING and OREGON sailed from New Orleans for Liverpool at 1400/1. Date of arrival (N.A., Washington, 1051/4).

CHARLES L.D.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1032/31. Desirable to intercept French ship CHARLES L.D. if possible and send her into British port. (D.E.W.D., to C.in C. A.W.I., 1737/4)

U.S. Destroyers.

Proposals for manning last 10. (1 S.L. to C.N.S., Ottawa, 1751/4).

Australia.

Greek Ships.

Admty. 2005/28. Greek Consul-General has received instructions that Greek ships are free to sail for China and Japan. Request confirmation (A.C.N.B., 0747/4 to Admty.)

KURUMBA

D.S.T. 1625/2, re bunkering at Fremantle. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA will be available. (A.C.N.B., 0641/4).

N.E.I.
Navy.

Your 1707/24. Arrangements will be made accordingly. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne, 1328 Z/4 to Admty.)

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LAHNECK.

Following received. [#]LAYNECK passed Sesskar Lt. Ho. at 7 a.m. Bessan, draft 17 ft., passengers 6, general cargo 1455 tons and 25-ton motor boat on starboard foredeck, pilot Roschdestensky. (Scapa W/T, no T.O.O. 4/11).

LAHNECK,
PATAGONIA,
SARDINIEN
PATRIA.

Evidence that larger ships are being employed in Baltic bringing timber from Russian ports to Germany. This trade has recently been confined to German ships of less than 1600 tons or to Finnish and Persian ships. (D.S. 426).

EISENACH

My 1123/3. Port Limon reports no evidence confirming report. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1115/4).

CERIGO.

Guayaquil reports has orders to provision and leave without papers. (S.O.I., Jamaica, 1529/4).

RIO GRANDE.

2200/31, German RIO GRANDE left Port Rio Grande. (F.O.C.N.A., 1835/4, to ships N.A. Stn.)

NORDERNEY.

Para reports commenced loading 250 tons coal from AFFONSO PENNA. Presume will take more but could leave at once. 1130/4. (S.O.I., Montevideo, 1716 2/4, S.O.I. Freetown, 1802/4).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FELLA.

My 1123/3. Port Limon reports ~~asks~~ evidence confirming report. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1115/4).

BURANO

1005/2. Has on board 5687 tons of fuel oil. (A.1). (Consul, Teneriffe, 1120/4).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

YALOU

See Foreign Stations, China.

WYOMING)
OREGON)
CHARLES)
L.D.)

See Foreign Stations, and W. Indies.

4.11.1940.

Monday.War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

LAURENTIC
(torpedoed 3/11)
PATROCLUS
(torpedoed 3/11)
CASSANARE
(torpedoed 3/11)

Later report from LAURENTIC gives position 54.09 N., 13.44 W. at 2251. (C.in C. W.A., 0121/4, to HESPERUS, HURRICANE, ACTIVE, ACHATES). Your 2353. Expect to arrive 0428. ACHATES in company. (ACTIVE, 0135/4, to C.in C. W.A.) Report situation (C. in C. W.A. to LAURENTIC, PATROCLUS, 0201/4). Informing KENYA to keep well to northward (C.in C. W.A. 0203/4). Third ship sank in vicinity at 0400. Am searching for S/M before picking up survivors of LAURENTIC. (ACHATES, 0504/4) See 0855/4. Search for S/M so far unsuccessful. Have found PATROCLUS crew. Both ships sunk. Key position 53.55 N., 14.40 W. Am picking up crew. (ACHATES, 0655/4) Have embarked survivors from motor boats of LAURENTIC in 53.53 N., 14.22 W. LAURENTIC has sunk. (HESPERUS, 0658/4). Officer of PATROCLUS informs me he sighted periscope about 0700. My 0504 was incorrect. Crew of PATROCLUS and LAURENTIC only been located. (ACHATES, 0855/4). Sailed tugs THAMES and ASSURANCE to assistance of LAURENTIC in 53.55 N., 14.30 W. Tugs MARAUDER and DILIGENT have been diverted to assistance of CASSANARE in 53.58 N., 14.13 W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0026/4). Continue hunt. Join H.X. 83 by dark tonight Monday, (C.in C. W.A. 1527/4 to ACTIVE, ACHATES, HESPERUS, etc.) Your 1455/4 and my 1527/4. Circumstances permitting you will be detached to return to harbour at daylight tomorrow. (C.in C. W.A. to ACTIVE, 1657/4)

ROSINA TOPIE,
escaped.

Following from Philadelphia:
Master Yugo-Slavia ship ROSINA TOPIE reports having been stopped and boarded by Italian S/M 13/10 in position 032° 56' N. 027° 10' W. S/M was of usual Italian type and carried two guns. After questioning ship was allowed to proceed on voyage. Action of Italian S/M which stopped ROSINA TOPIE would suggest that they are widely open to counter action by Q ships. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1841/4).

MEGGIE.

One lifeboat with 10 men from torpedoed Swedish vessel MEGGIE landed on North Coast this morning. (Consul, Ponta Delgada, 1551/4).

* BR 1337 states sunk by
your file from spm
Page 192.

4.11.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

- 0700 (see ACHATES 0855/4 - Ships Attacked)
Join ACHATES to hunt S/M in approx.
position 53.53 N., 14.40 W. at 0700/4.
(C.in C. W.A. 0951/4, to ACTIVE,
HESPERUS, HURRICANE).
1100. S/M reported 57.57 N., 06.05 W. at 1100/4.
(C.in C. W.A. to CLEMATIS, 1311/4).
S/M sighted from shore at 1100 in 57.47 N.,
06.05 W. (C.2). (A.C.O.S., 1419/4).
0333. 59° to 60° N., 19° to 21° W., position
indefinite. (D.S. 426)
1600. U/B reported by a/c 57.48 N., 06.05 W. at
1600. My position 57.33 N., 06.53 W.
Investigating. (CLEMATIS, 1620/4).
ST. ALBANS proceeding from Port ZA to
investigate. (R.A.M.L., 2222/4).
1750. Convoy O.G. 45 (position). S/M submerged
in 50.52 N., 20.14 W., approx. 6 miles
distant. (GLENAFFARIC, 1750/4).
1856. Attack U/B in 50.52 N. 20.14 W. at 1856
(C.in C. W.A. 1919/4 to OTTAWA, HARVESTER).
My 1919. Commodore reports Convoy O.G.45
(position) at 1650 G.M.T. U/B submerged
50.52 N., 20.14 W. approx. 6 miles
distant. (C.in C. W.A.1935/4 to OTTAWA).
My 1919. Keep clear of U/Boat and join
convoy later. (C.in C. W.A. 1943/4 to
SALOPIAN)

Off Panama.

See America and West Indies.

1922.

59° N. 20° W., position indefinite.
(D.S. 427).

2306.

55.40 N., 15.30 W., position indefinite.
(D.S. 427).

Tangier,
Italian S/M's.

No. 1245/4. My telegram unnumbered of
3/11 "ESPANA" this morning reports
Italian S/M's stem was damaged but I do
not put much reliability in this report.
It may have been inserted on purpose.
Am not taking any action regarding S/M
vis-a-vis new Spanish Authorities here
pending any instructions which you may
give me. We are doing all possible to
watch and report ships. (Consul-Gen.,
Tangier, 1310/4).

/ Captain Luizet,

4.11.1940.

Monday.

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Tangier,
Italian S/Ms.

(contd.)

Captain Luizet, now acting Administrator, tells me he has warned Colonel Yuste who in turn has warned Italians that submarine must leave within 24 hours, i.e. at 18 hours to-night. Italians however have asked Spaniards to secure opinion of a Spanish Naval engineer who will examine the vessel. Latter will presumably report damage, gravity of which will be in accordance with Italian requirements. Examination is to take place this evening. Luizet does not know whether vessel is genuinely damaged or not, but evidence which I have been able to collect indicates her powers of surface speed not impaired. Her faculties of submersion may, however, be affected.

(Consul, Tangier, 1700/4 to F.Q.C. N.A.)

Tangier,
2nd Italian
U/B.

My telegrams 3/11 and 4/11. A second Italian S/M entered Tangier Harbour at 1830. She is tied up alongside yesterday's. (Gascoigne, 1900/40). Second Italian U/B of different type from that reported in my 1836/3 entered Tangier at 1805. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty. 1918/4).

My 1900/4. Submarine which entered port this evening was followed two British destroyers but it was not going at same high surface speed as submarine of yesterday. As regards submarine which arrived yesterday new "Governor" Tangier zone tells me that local engineer who examined her today considers that damage will take two weeks to repair. This is to be confirmed by a Spanish Naval engineer. Action of British destroyer yesterday in refraining from firing on Italian submarine after latter had reached our territorial waters has been much admired by Spanish here.

(Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2230/4, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Admty. 1141/4. Details of Italian U-boat. Circumstances of visit were she was chased into Tangier Harbour by three British destroyers two of which stayed outside Tangier territorial waters while the third came in almost as far as our mole. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2235/4).

/Estimated U/B dispositions.

4.11.1940.
Monday.

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - No news.

German - 1 was in 53° 53' N. 14° 40' W.
at 2322/3 and will probably
move northwards.

Probably 3 in N.W. Approaches and
further west, of which 1 was
in area 58° to 60° N. 19° to
21° W. at 0333/4, another may
possibly have been in 55° 07' N.
14° 45' W. about 1600/3, no
news of the third.

1 more possibly in about 61° N.
8° W. homeward bound.

(D.D.I.C. 1242/4).

4.11.1940.
Monday.

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - No news.

German - 1 was in 53° 53' N. 14° 40' W.
at 2322/3 and will probably
move northwards.

Probably 3 in N.W. Approaches and
further west, of which 1 was
in area 58° to 60° N. 19° to
21° W. at 0333/4, another may
possibly have been in 55° 07' N.
14° 45' W. about 1600/3, no
news of the third.

1 more possibly in about 61° N.
8° W. homeward bound.

(D.D.I.C. 1242/4).



MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Home Fleet

The Home Fleet returned to Scapa today from Rosyth, *where it had been since mid-September.*

Harwich
Submarine Base

Harwich Submarine Base was closed today.

Convoy H.X. 84
Attacked by
ADMIRAL SCHEER

At 2006 today JERVIS BAY escorting H.X. 84 in mid-North Atlantic signalled that an enemy battleship (ADMIRAL SCHEER) was in sight and reports that the convoy was being attacked were received. RENOWN, BARHAM and destroyer escort were ordered to raise steam. AUSTRALIA was ordered to R.V. with F.O. 1st B.C.S. in HOOD with 2 ships of 15th C.S. and screening destroyers who proceeded to cover the approaches to Brest and Lorient against enemy's return. 5 Town class destroyers on passage to U.K. were ordered to spread to locate the ADMIRAL SCHEER, and three which were nearest the position of attack were ordered to close Convoy H.X. 84 to rescue survivors and to attack the raider by night if opportunity offered. REVENGE was ordered to the Clyde and ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Halifax.

Enemy Air Activity

VIMIERA escorting Convoy F.N. 27 was attacked this afternoon off Whitby by an aircraft which dropped one torpedo without hitting.

Trawler CASPIAN reports damage this morning 24 miles N.W. of Hoy by a small bomb lowered by an aircraft on a long wire which parted, the bomb burst on the water.

H.M. Drifter REIDS was attacked at 1650 off Brightlingsea and had some casualties, although no damage is reported.

The Irish Mail Steamer ARDMORE was machine-gunned this morning, .5 miles north of Strumbles Head. No damage is reported.

Bombs were dropped in Portland dockyard today but no damage resulted.



War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

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SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place off the East Coast last night.

Mines were detonated today at Sheerness, Tyne and Plymouth.

Milford Haven is open in daylight only.

North Atlantic

H.M. Govt. are pressing for the internment of the two Italian submarines in Tangier, if they have not left within 24 hours of their arrival. Both submarines are reported to be damaged. N.A. Madrid reports that the Spanish Govt. has assumed full responsibility for the strict application of international law in connection with the two submarines.

Mediterranean

Bombs were dropped in the Grand Harbour Malta today, but no damage resulted.

Enemy Air Activity against Greece increased today. Kastoria was bombed 11 times today.

5.11.1940.
Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

French
Warships.

My 2314/4. LA CAPRICIEUSE is manned by R.N. and CHEVREUIL by Free French. (C.in C. W.A. 1304/5 to Adty.)
C.in C. W.A. 2314/4. Entirely concur with proposals for LEOPARD. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1152/5 to Adty.)

ARISTOCRAT.

It is understood that on arrival of MONA's ISLE at Rosyth it was intended to allocate ARISTOCRAT to C.in C. Nore for Local Defence duties in the Thames Estuary. Of the 10 yachts belonging to this flotilla 5 are at present unfit for service. Remainder seriously depleted by casualties and long overdue refits. Nocturnal minelaying by enemy aircraft shows no sign of abating. Request consideration to allocation of ARISTOCRAT to Sheerness as soon as possible. (C.in C. Nore 2152/5 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
Division.

At 2330/4. (D.C. 0001/5) At 1130/5. (D.C. 1149/5).

Rosyth A/A
Defences.

C.in C. H.F. 1027/3/11 and Admiralty 1846/3/11. After discussion with G.O.C. 3rd A.A. Division it has been decided that best means of covering searched channel East of Inchkeith is to replace the four guns which were removed from the site R.N.G.(8) near Kinghorn. No guns could be surrendered from sites at present occupied without prejudicing the defence of other vital points. Required therefore that four additional guns may be made available for site R.N.G.(8) near Kinghorn at the earliest possible opportunity. Essential that these guns should be fitted with apparatus for engaging unseen targets. (C.in C. Rosyth 1637/5 to Adty.)

5.11.1940.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements..

LA MALOUINE

Arrived Londonderry. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0945/5).

CHALLENGER

Propose to sail in FS. 29 for Blackwall. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1047/5 to Adty.)

JERSEY
→ JUPITER

On completing exercises proceed to Dartmouth. Run 2-speed Destroyer Sweep if opportunity offers. (C.in C. W.A. 1141/5 and Capt. D. 5th D.F. 1405/5) Cancel my 1200. Return to Plymouth arriving after 1700. (C.in C. W.A. 1510/5 to JERSEY, JUPITER)

ETA. Eddystone 1800 (JERSEY 1725/5 to JAGUAR)

Scapa.

Arrivals. (A.C.O.S. 1143/5 to Adty.)

LEAMINGTON.
LEEDS, SHERWOOD,
MONTGOMERY,
CHURCHILL.

1458/1. Expected pass through Position C about 0400/9. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1156/5 to Adty.) *(See page 103)*

Nore Command.

Movements to 1200/6. (C.in C. Nore 1200/5 and 1826/5).

Western Approaches.

Situation at 2000/5. (C.in C. W.A. 1305/5).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 5/6. (V.A. Dover 1401/5).

→ JAGUAR
→ JUPITER

Proceed 1730 to join JUPITER. Both Ships patrol Eddystone to 3° West, returning Plymouth 0930/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1622/5 to JAGUAR)

Operations.

FURIOUS.

My 2113/4. This movement is in connection with help to Greeks. (1st. S.L. 0017/5 to C.in C. H.F.) Your 0017/5 and 0218/5. FURIOUS has rudder defect which requires 3 days docking as stated in my 1757/14/10, and defective regulating limits her speed to about 23 knots. New valve ready at Devonport 7/11 and would take Ship's staff 60 hours to fit. Consider both defects should be made good before sailing. FURIOUS available now. Request relief for docking and that new valve be sent by courier as soon as ready. (C.in C. H.F. 1119/5 to Adty.)

My 2113/4. Provisional stowage of Hurricanes described. FURIOUS will not / enter ...

5.11.1940.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations. (Continued)

FURIOUS
(contd.)

enter Takoradi but will fly off A/C in Bay. Expected that all 34 can be flown off in less than about 6 hours. (5th S.L. 1326/5 to FURIOUS). Arrangements have been made to dock FURIOUS at Liverpool. Request you sail her as soon as possible. (D.O.D.(H) 1644/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

Interception
of M/V.

Air reconnaissance reports a ship similar to S.S. BUESKOL of Elling Aarsed Line of Aalsund steaming North Westward from Trondjheim. This ship is expected to call at Jan Mayen Island and FRIDTJOF NANSEN is to proceed there with despatch to intercept her. Vessel is to be captured and considered as an enemy regardless of Flag or papers. Any documents or apparatus on board are to be recovered intact. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1735/5 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Operation 'Coat'
COAT


Proceed to Gibraltar with Ships in company at best possible speed. (1st S.L. 2226/5 to BERWICK).



Hx. 84

5.11.40

(from German documents)

<u>Ship sunk.</u>		<u>Position.</u>	
1.	?	52° 28' N.	32° 08' W.
2.	?	52 27	32 09
3.	?	52 18	32 28
4.	BEAVERFORD	52 05	32 18
5.	FRESNO CITY 	52 04	33 07
	JERVIS BAY	52 42	32 03

(Nos. 1-3 were MAIDAN, TREVELLARD & KENBANE HEAD, order unknown.)

MOPAN (Indep.) was sunk before convoy was attacked:

in 52° 59' N., 32° 12' W.



MOST SECRET.

5.11.1940.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

ADMIRAL SCHEER. (*Attack on Convoy HX 84*)

JERVIS BAY
Report

JERVIS BAY Enemy Report. Am leaving it to Adty. to divert Convoy as necessary. (C.in C. A. and W.I. 1632/5 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)

One Enemy Battleship bearing 328 distance 12 miles course 208, position 53° N. 32° W. 15 miles. (JERVIS BAY 1706/5 to Whitehall W/T)

RANGITIKI

52° 45' N. 32° 13' W. RANGITIKI gunned. GRAF SPEE class. (Recd. Scapa Base W/T. 2001/5)

CORNISH CITY.

52° 50' N. 32° 15' W. CORNISH CITY shelled. (Scapa Base W/T 2005/5)
Note. This was broadcast on Home Station Waves and passed to Bermuda and Ottawa.

Convoy S.C.10.

Enemy Raider GRAF SPEE Class attacking Convoy H.X. 84 in 52° 45' N. 32° 13' W. Steer to the Southward. (V.C.N.S. 2019/5 to FOLKESTONE). My 2019/5. Correct all before one. (H.W.R.2030/5 to FOLKESTONE)

Position.

Pocket Battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER is operating in North Atlantic. Last known position 52° 50' N. 32° 15' W. at 2003/5/11. (1st S.L. 2028/5. "A" Message Home and Abroad 517.A.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(Freetown)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN to proceed to Halifax at best possible speed, fuelling at Bermuda if time will be saved thereby. (V.C.N.S. 2125/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

RENOWN,
BARHAM.

RENOWN, BARHAM, and Destroyer Escort raise steam. (V.C.N.S. 2128/5 to F.O. Force H).

Convoy S.C.10.

My 2019/5. Cancel instructions to steer to Southward. (V.C.N.S. 2132/5 to FOLKESTONE).

Attack
continuing.

Received 2040 G.M.T. from s.s. SOVAC. Convoy still being leisurely attacked by Raider GRAF SPEE Class in 52° 50' N. 32° 15' W. (Portishead Radio 2140/5 to Adty.)

AUSTRALIA.

Raise steam and R/V with Battle Cruiser as ordered by F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. (C.in C. H.F. 2143/5 to AUSTRALIA) Raider apparently GRAF SPEE Class attacking Ships one by one leisurely about us. Position I have given is same as that of CORNISH CITY. It is going on hot around us now. (SOVAC 2145/5 to Portishead Radio)

/ BEAVERFORD

5.11.1940.

Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

ADMIRAL SCHEER. (Continued)

BEAVERFORD.

BEAVERFORD shelled in 52° 26' N. 32° 34' W.
(Valentia Radio 2147/5).

Town Class
Destroyers.

My 2028/5. Steer for Tory Island. Spread to twice visibility distance. If Battleship is located, shadow by day and attack by night. (V.C.N.S. 2219/5 to LEEDS, SHERWOOD, LEAMINGTON, MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL).
My 2028/5. Close Convoy H.X.84 attacked by Battleship in 52° 57' N. 32° 23' W. Rescue survivors. Attack Battleship by night if opportunity occurs. (V.C.N.S. 2225/5 to LEWES, LINCOLN, LUDLOW)

1 B.C.S.
(Hood etc.)

Intend pass through 58° 40' N. 7° 30' W. at 0830/6, thence through 55° N. 13° W. and South along 13° W. to 50° N. Speed 16 knots. Then to cover approach to Brest and Lorient against return of Pocket Battleship reported in 52° 45' N. 32° 13' W. at 1700/5. R/V in 57° 16' N. 9° 40' W. at 1500/6 or during daylight 7th. My Force will be addressed as Battle Cruiser Force. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 2230/5 to AUSTRALIA)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

If filled with fuel before leaving Freetown, proceed in accordance with Adty. 2125/5. Adty. 2028/5 refers. (C.in C. S.A. 2319/5 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN)

Submarines.

Brittany Coast.
Mined Area.

My 1546/4. Second position should read 47° 56' N. 5° 48' W. (Capt. S.2. 0719/5 to TRIDENT)

UNIQUE.

Propose to sail P.M./6 to replace L.27 in W.2 and S.3. (S.5. 0955/5 to V.A.S.) Approved, subject to concurrence of C.in C. Portsmouth (V.A.S. 1252/5 to S.5) Leaves Portsmouth 1500/6 to patrol in Areas W.2. and S.3. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1657/5 to Adty.) V.A.S. 1252. Concur (C.in C. Portsmouth 1914/5 to S.5)

CLYDE
SEVERN
WHITE BEAR.

My 1829/1.
(A) CLYDE, SEVERN, and WHITE BEAR are to be transferred to 3rd S/M Flotilla as mutually arranged by Captains S concerned, dates being reported.
(B) On arrival of TITANIA at Holy Loch S.3 is to take over from S.2, new construction submarines during their trials and working up period. (V.A.S. 1032/5).

5.11.1940.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Submarines (Contd.)

→ TRIUMPH.

TRIUMPH has completed working up period after long refit and is (?) thought fit for service but I do not consider she should carry out a prolonged or intensified patrol except in emergency until after arrival Malta. (V.A.S. 1248/5 to F.O.C.N.A)

S/M's for A/S training.

C.in C. W.A. 1933/4 and paragraph 7 of Admiralty 1143/2. H.28 is now the only submarine ex Harwich. The additional Submarine required by C.in C. W.A. at Holyhead can be met by H.28 on completion of A.S.V. Trials in Rosyth Area in about a fortnight's time.

The question of extra Submarines for A/S training should therefore not arise until the Dunoon commitment of 2 S/Ms in 1941. (V.A.S. 1249/5 to Adty.)

Your 1933/4. Concur with proposed area off Holyhead. H. 28 from Harwich will be joining 7th S/M Flotilla in about a fortnight and will be available for A/S practices in your command. (A.C.N.S. H. 1842/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

S/M. O.22.

Passes Bell Rock 1800/5. Route. (Capt. S.9. 1417/5 to S/M's Area A).

TRIDENT)
TUNA)

My 1427/5. Movements. (Capt. S.2. 1504/5 to TRIDENT)

→ TRIUMPH)
TIGRIS)

Off Bishops Rock 0130/8. Movements (Capt. S.2. 1524/5 to TRIDENT)

Greenock Area.

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1556/5)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/6. (V.A.S. 1644/5)

USK.

Movements. (Capt. S.5. 1645/5 to USK).

H.43.

Exercising in Plymouth S/M Area. (C.in C. W.A. 1651/5)

L.23
L.26

L. 23 in Area B and L.26 in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M./6. (A.C.O.S. 1725/5 to Adty.)

5.11.1940.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Air R/C.

No Air R/C during the night. S.A.9 will be flown at 0800. (C.in C. Nore 0749/5 to V.A. Dover).

Bombing of Coastal Batteries

Request Coastal Command supply A/C to bomb Batteries on 6/11 as in C.in C. Nore's 1554/4. (Air Ministry 1630/5 to Coastal Command)

Belfast Lough.

Area of temporary additional restrictions on A/C is defined as follows. (R.A.F.N.I. 1700/5 to Air Ministry).

Air Escorts.

For 6/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1948/5).

A/C from)
FURIOUS)

My 2113/4. 816 and 825 Squadrons are to disembark, one to Campbeltown and one to Lee-on-Solent with complete Squadron Personnel and mobile equipment. R.A.N.A.S. requested to arrange training for these Units while FURIOUS is abroad. (5th S.L. 1328/5 to FURIOUS).

Enemy Air Activity.

South Shipwash.

At 0359/5, 3 A/C plotted as circling near South Shipwash. Not reported by any Ship and no Flares seen. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0417/5 to C.in C. Nore)

ARDMORE.

(Irish Mail Steamer) Machine-gunned by A/C at 0630, 5 miles North of Strumbles Head. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1122/5 to Adty.)

Home Fleet.

There are indications that your position was reported by Enemy A/C at 1033. (D.D.I.C. 1228/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

VIMIERA.

Enemy dropped one Torpedo and disappeared Eastward. Not hit. My position 54° 30' N. 0° 30' W. (VIMIERA 1658/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

CASPIAN.

Trawler. Reports leak and damage by small Bomb from A/C 24 miles N.W. of Hoy at 1030/5. Bomb lowered on long wire which parted and Bomb burst on the water. (A.C.O.S. 1703/5 to Adty.) Details of attack (A.C.O.S. 1812/7).

REIDS.

H.M. Drifter. Attacked by A/C at 1650/5. 3 seriously injured, 1 slightly, landed at 2205. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 2331/5 to Adty.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sheerness.

Mine detonated at 01000 in 305° 3 cables from East Tongue Buoy. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 0245/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Milford Haven.

Port closed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0701/5)
Port open by Channel QZS. 183 in daylight only, subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0958/5 to Adty.)

Thurlestone.

German Mine washed ashore on 31/10 at Thurlestone, South Devon. Request its removal. (Ince 1035/5 to Adty.)

Tyne.

One Ground Magnetic Mine detonated at 1110/5 in 111° 2.2 miles from North Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1135/5 to D.M.S.)

Plymouth

Since my 1536/2, one Red Mine detonated single L. at 0924/5 20 yards East of Melampus Buoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1526/5 to Adty.)

Sweep of QZS. 148.

My 1806. Intend to sail 8 Fleet Sweepers S.O. NIGER at 0745 tomorrow to carry out high percentage searching sweep of 1½ miles on west side of centre line of QZS 148 from junction of 7 QZF to position 'Z' and back on eastern side down to north east Swin Light Vessel. Request Fighter protection from 0830 to 1730 between 52 degs 08 north 01 degs 53' east and 51 degs 48' north 01 degs 30' East. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1810/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat.

Suspicious craft, believed E-Boat, circled to S. of me near Sunk Light Vessel and made off to S.W. Report from Patrol H.R. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0421/5 to C.in C. Nore). Suspect E-Boat near our Patrol. Report from PAUL RYKENS. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0450/5 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Convoy.

A/C reports one Escort Vessel and 3 M/V's in 49° 48' N. 4° 15' W. at 0825, proceeding Westward. Investigate and report. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/5 to JERSEY, JUPITER)

Southern Scund.

(1) Falsterbo buoyed channel has been moved to westward so that vessels now follow five fathom line about four miles west of Falsterbo and pass between Lillegrund and Bredalisd.
(2) Progress on Falsterbo Canal indicates that it will open Spring 1941. (N.A. Stockholm 1220/5 to D.N.I.)



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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FURIOUS

See Operations.

One M/V.

In tow 5 miles S.E. of Girdleness at 0100/5. Proceeding to Methil at 5 knots. (C.in C. Rosyth 0040/5).

DURMITOR.

(Yugo-Slavian, 5623 tons). Due Batavia 17/10 from Lorenzo Marques. Not arrived. (S.O.I. Singapore 0209 Z/5 to C.in C. China).

MELROSE ABBEY)	Report collision in 51° N. 19° 25' W.
(British, 1908 tons))	at 0913. Investigate and report.
GARTBRATTAN)	(C.in C. W.A. 1000/5 to OTTAWA,
(British, 1811 tons))	HARVESTER)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

C.W.16.

My 1650/4. A/S trawlers delete AMETHYST, LADY PHILOMENA, substitute KINGSTON OLIVINE LORD PLENDER. (C.in C. Nore, 1643/5)

H.G.46.

Providing endurance of ships in convoy permit route for H.G. 46 amended as follows: (C.in C. W.A. 1421/5).

→ Convoy H.X. 83.

My 1950/4 and my 0031/5 escorts are not to leave convoy H.X. 83 until further orders. (C.in C. W.A. 0505/5 to SAGUENAY, SKEENA, ACTIVE). *Cancelled 6/11 (See S.C. 9)*

H.X. 83.

At 1015/5 H.X.83 was reported by enemy aircraft. (D.D.I.C. 1143/5).

H.X.83.

To avoid possible U-boat alter course forthwith to 090° until 09° 00' W. is reached thence to splitting position. (C.in C. W.A. 1125/5).

U-boat probably shadowing H.X.83 (D.D.I.C. 1513/5).

H.X. 84.

Attacked by raider GRAF SPEE class (see North Atlantic Raider)

O.B. 239.

LA MALOUINE has taken the place of ANEMONE in O.B. 239. She will rendezvous with convoy daylight 6/11. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1145/5).

O.B. 238.

Amended route to keep clear of S.C.9 (C.in C. W.A. 1153/5)

O.G.46.

F.O.I.C. Greenock 1255/31. Intend sailing HAARLEM and ERIN in convoy O.G.46. (C.in C. W.A. 1800/5).

→ S.C.9.

Cancel my 0505/5. Escorts with H.X.83. Act in accordance with my 1950/4 and my 0031/5. (C.in C. W.A. 0817/5 to SKEENA, etc).

O.G.45.

Following received from GLENAFFARIC (begins) Convoy dispersed during night rendezvous in position 046° 33' N. 020° 20' W. noon 6/11 thence route Gibraltar (ends.) Reference 0630 from authority indicated. (C.in C. W.A., 0819/5, to SALOPIAN).

S.L. 52.

Convoy S.L. 52 estimated to be in position 052° 46' N. 019°50' W. at 0800/5 steering to pass through 053° 50' N. 017° 35' W. thence through 054° 10' N. 015° 50' W. at 8½ knots. If not in contact join S.L.52 forthwith. (C.in C. W.A. 0837/5 to OTTAWA, HARVESTER).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Troop Convoys.

Shipping.

W.S.4A.

Admty. 1435/4. What is present position and route of W.S.4A? (FRETORIA CASTLE, 0619/5) Comply with Admty. 1435/4. W.S.4A is proceeding by following route. (C.in C. S.A. 0959 N/5)

PASTEUR

Your 2005/4. PASTEUR urgently required in U.K. for further troop movements. (D.O.D. (F) 1150/5 to F.O. Force H).

Greek Shipping.

My 2005/28. Movements of Greek vessels outside Mediterranean and Black Sea now controlled by Greek Shipping Committee, London. (D.T.D., 1152/5).

STRATHAIRD
ORCADES

STRATHAIRD and ORCADES arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1940/5).

FRANCONIA

Desired to sail to Jamaica with Gibraltarian refugees, and she should be provided with A/S and ocean escort. She should R.V. with the A.M.C. Escort of H.X.87 when she leaves the convoy, and be escorted to Halifax. She will afterwards proceed independently to Jamaica. C.in C. W.A. is requested to sail FRANCONIA with Convoy W.S.4(b) (date) and arrange for her to leave the convoy escorted by two of the destroyer escort so as to rendezvous with A.M.C. as necessary. (D.O.D.(H) 1528/5). [Cancelled 1741/8.]

Rescue Ships.

Admty. 2108/4. Presumed this refers to ocean convoys, as detailing rescue ships by name in coastal convoys not practicable owing ships joining and leaving at intermediate ports and changes in formations of convoy during voyage. Propose to continue present practice that rear ships of columns in coastal convoys are always rescue ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1228/5).

A.M.C. Cargo Space.

Admty. 1226/19/10 and C.in C.S.A.2052/30/10. Any space available in homeward bound Armed Merchant Cruisers after service requirements have been met should be used for commercial cargoes purchased by Ministry of Food or Ministry of Supply details of which are known to Elder Dempsters' Freetown House. You should arrange supply from local sources of any dunnage required to ensure efficient stowage of cargo. (D. of S.T. 1038/5 to D.S.T.O. Freetown).



War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Operations Against Vichy French

Oil Supplies
JEANNE D'ARC
BEARN

Navy Department have given me following received from their observer at Martinique. Tons of oil at Martinique and Guadeloupe. JEANNE D'ARC was recently refilled at Government tanks. Present supply sufficient to supply Merchant vessels for one month and Island two months. Naval vessels supply sufficient for two months except for BEARN which has supply for only one month. (N.A. Washington, 1021/5)

Petrol,
Madagascar

Shell Co. state their Agent in Madagascar has telegraphed that 36000 gallons Aviation Spirit originally supplied for use of R.A.F in April 1940 has been requisitioned on instructions of Vichy Government and that Military are enquiring for further 245000 litres from Shell Co. (S.O.I. Capetown 1023B/5)

Shipping,
Rio

French N.A. Rio de Janeiro whose sincerity is undoubted informs French Embassy Rio de Janeiro received 31/10 telegrams indicating that French Government propose shipping supplies from South America using in the first instance 4 French Ships now at Buenos Aires. Same source opines that Admiral Darlan whom he mistrusts may be contemplating recovery of prestige by attempting to run escorted French Convoys to and from South America. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1645/5)

French
Repatriation

My 1522/2. Following French ships are proceeding to U.K. from U.S.A. with Admiralty approval. WINNIPEG, SAN FRANCISCO, WYOMING and OREGON. (Route)
Possible these ships may endeavour to make Casablanca or other French port. If encountered off their route they should be sent in. (D.O.D. (F) 1706/5 to C. in C., S.A., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P.)

/Dakar.....



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Operations Against Vichy French

Dakar
Intelligence

My 1151/31 and 1105/1. Following obtained from Lt. Montezer escaped from Dakar; French Intelligence Officer of ten years experience.

1. Arrival four submarines and tanker 26-27/10, also departure of tanker and one submarine shortly after arrival and return same day. Rumoured from various sources including two submarine sailors that tanker on that day met South East of Cape Manuel at least seven submarines nationality unknown.
2. SS MARRAKECH is making six trips with munitions from Casablanca for replenishment of local defence requirements. Stated shells were French but fuses German.
3. Date of arrival commission for trial of Bois Lambert and others not known; expect trial would take one month. Belief expressed that he will be shot.
4. About a month ago, volunteers were called for from French Navy at Dakar for an expedition to "The South" Up to his departure, 29/10 only forty per cent of number required had been obtained.
5. Fleet controls Dakar. Pro-British airmen and military officers are being sent back to France and replaced by pro-Vichy.
6. When air plans are complete there will be 300 to 400 Glen Martins and Curtiss and fighters in Dakar area.
7. Estimated twenty Germans now in Dakar; three are members of disarmament commission and one controls shipping.

(C. in C., S.A. 2009/5)



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5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

Operation
"White"
→ ARGUS

Asking if Hurricanes can fly in full moonlight 2 hours before daylight etc., (S.O. Force H to ARGUS 1146/5) Reply. Yes, provided weather is clear. Position 40 miles further westward can be accepted provided upper air is not easterly. (ARGUS to S.O. Force H., 2031/5) Your 1905/4. Two Skuas have been embarked in ARGUS for this purpose. Air Ministry have arranged for 2 Sunderlands from Malta to be provided by H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O. Force 1512/5)

Destroyers

→ Re heavy commitments and shortage when S.O. Force H sails on operation "Coat". Request A/S escort for ARGUS to Gibraltar be provided by U.K. (F.O.C.N.A., 1240/5 to Adty.)

URSULA

Suggested leaving night of 7/11. (S.O. Force H 1601/5) Cancel my 1601 URSULA has developed defects which will probably require 10 days to complete. (S.O. Force H. 1935/5)

TRIUMPH

Your 2302/30. Route (F.O.C.N.A. to V.A.S. 1204/5)

→ ARGUS }
DESPATCH }

Intend sailing, escorted by VESPER, VENOMOUS, WINDSOR, at 1000/7 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1617/5)

Raider

Pocket battleship attacking convoy H.X.84 RENOWN, BARHAM etc., to raise steam (V.C.N.S. 2128/5) See North Atlantic Raider, HOME COMMANDS.)

Enemy Air
Reconnaissance

Situation report. Martin Recco. over Rock 1237/5 driven off by A.A. Fire. (Governor, 2107/5 to W.O.)

Italian S/M's
Tangier

Your 1836/3 and 1918/4. Consul General Tangier has been instructed to press for internment of Italian submarines in Tangier zone if they have not left zone within 24 hours of their arrival. Ambassador at Madrid has been instructed in similar terms and asked to enquire what steps the Spaniards propose to take to intern the submarines. (Hd. of M. 0121/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)



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North Atlantic

Italian S/M's
Tangier-Contd.

Second submarine which entered port last evening is reported as being of WOOLICHANI class (Janes Fighting Ships 1939 page 286) Both submarines are alongside jetty and both have their W/T rigged.
(Consul-General, Tangier. 1045/5)

"Governor" Tangier explained to me as follows.

Submarine "A" which arrived 3/11 has secretly now been reported to him by (one) a local engineer and (two) a Spanish Naval Engineer as suffering from damage to the stern. Gear starting machinery is broken, and the submarine cannot dive; electrical machinery is also out of order.

This only a provisional report, thought submarine has suffered further injuries. Diver was examining her this morning.

At expiry of 24 hours (i.e. at 1750/4) he had formally instructed Captain to leave the port but latter has pleaded that he could not do so owing to damage. Repairs to damage already assessed would take at least two weeks; probable that diver would find further damage.

If it was found repairs could not be effected in Tangier, submarine and crew would be interned.

As to submarine "B" which entered harbour p.m/4 its Captain would be instructed to sail within 24 hours (ie. by 1830/5 unless it was proved that damage was of sufficient seriousness to necessitate his vessel's further stay in Tangier.

(Consul-Gen., Tangier 1230/5, to F.O)

Spanish
Attitude

Chief Naval Staff informs me Spanish Government has assumed full responsibility for strict application of International Law in connexion with the 2 Italian S/M's now at Tangier. Minelayer JUPITER has been sent to Tangier to enforce compliance. Orders given for first S/M not to be allowed to leave. Same order will apply to second after 24 hours expires about 1800 today. First S/M has claimed damage rendering him unseaworthy. Bow obviously stove in at least 3 feet. Diver sent to inspect under water damage. It is not yet clear if second S/M has damage.

(N.A.Madrid, 1357/5)

/Asking....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic-Contd.

Asking Permission
to Attack.

If Italian U-Boat on leaving Tangier remains in Spanish territorial waters may she be attacked after a period of 24 hours from time to time of entering Tangier while still in territorial waters. (F.O.C.N.A 1616/5 to Admty.)

Your 1615/5. It is regretted that violation of international law governing territorial waters cannot be approved. (D.O.D. (F) 2133/5).

My 669. At 17 hours this evening Ministry received a note from "Governor" of Tangier informing me that as local diver was not available a telegraphic request had been made to Spanish Minister of Marine at Madrid that one should be sent to Tangier with all speed from Cadiz. There would therefore be a 48 hours delay before examination of submerged portions of submarine "A" could take place. Note further stated above did not alter the fact of "impossibility to navigate in which submarine now found itself", a certainty which had been confirmed by Spanish Naval Engineer.
(Consul Gen., Tangier, 1930/5)

No. 670. Discusses political aspect at length. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, T.O.D. 1522/5)

89. Tangier reports position unchanged. Depot ship still alongside both submarines See Consul General Tangier 670. to Foreign Office. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 2128/5)

Second S/M
Damage
Use of W/T

My 2040/5. My immediatly preceding telegram. "Governor" Tangier informs me as regards Submarine "B".
2. This vessel had had trouble on sea bottom and had bumped itself so that one propeller blade had been shorn off, and propeller shaft had also become bent, and this caused engine to overheat. In addition electrical apparatus was defective.

/Question.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic

Second Submarine
Damage,
Use of W/T-
Contd.

Question of Repairs.
Spanish Naval "Interventor" who is in charge of them while they are here admitted their W/T had been rigged all day but that this had now been taken down.

Two submarines were coming from Atlantic to Mediterranean, and had an extremely difficult time with currents in Straits. Captain of Submarine B told Colonel Yuste that he broke surface thinking that he was opposite Ceuta.
(Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2210/5.)

Hague Rules

Your 1357/5. Article 17 of the 13th Hague Convention must be interpreted to mean that a vessel is entitled to put itself in a condition to navigate safely having regard solely to conditions of sea and weather. Consequently a belligerent submarine in a neutral port is entitled only to effect such repairs as will allow it to navigate with safety upon the surface. Above contention may also be supported by reference to the provision in the same article that warships in neutral ports may not add in any manner to their fighting force.

Above interpretation of the rights of a submarine to effect repairs in a neutral port was accepted by H.M.G. when TRIAD was damaged earlier in the war and took refuge in Stavanger. (Head of M., 2250/5 to N.A. Madrid)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic

TROPIC STAR

My 0925B/4. TROPIC STAR arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 0935B/5)

Petrol,
Madagascar

Requisitioned by Vichy French. (See Operation
Against Vichy French) (1023B/5)

Suspected
Ship

My 1404/30, re cargo ship, suspected Italian
has been passed to you for information.
Admty, and S.O.I., Capetown, reports ship
cannot be identified. (S.O.I., Freetown,
1042/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Troop
Movement

My 2010/4 and C. in C., E.I. 0656/5.
Arrangements for ATHLONE CASTLE, LLANDAFF
CASTLE, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and SELANDIA,
transport of troops to Mombasa. (N.O.I.C.,
Simonstown, 1605B/5, to Adty.)

CUBA

C. in C., A.W.I. states report received
from St. Lucia that CUBA carries gold
packed in small box marked Rum Sugar. (C.
in C., S.A. to ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MORETON BAY
DRAGON, 2013/5)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

To proceed to Halifax at best possible
speed. (V.C.N.S. 2125/5 to C. in C., S.A.
C. in C., S.A., 2319/5) (See HOME COMMANDS
North Atlantic Raider)

ALMKERK

ALMKERK is estimated to be in position
009° S., 010° W., at noon/5 steering for
position 011° N., 019° W., speed 15 knots.
If encountered she should be instructed
to pass to westward of Cape Verde Isles
out of sight of land and to rejoin her
original route in latitude 037° N., (C. in
C., S.A. 1209N/5 to BULOLO)

BELGRAVIAN
Foodstuffs

My 2023/3 from Spears mission received 5/11
states foodstuffs in BELGRAVIAN not required
by Governor French Cameroons as there is an
adequate stock at Duala. In view of all
previous negotiations which finally re-
sulted in permission being obtained to hand
these over free of charge, please confirm
that situation has been misrepresented
and that food is not required. BELGRAVIAN
due to sail 6/11 for Manoka anchorage.
(C. in C., S.A., 1825/5 to Govr. Nigeria.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean

Operations

*Seignat much
abbreviated - for
full version see
A.C.N.S (F) Vol:28
p.384.*

Details of 3 operations.

- (1) NEWCASTLE, with R.A.F. personnel and stores, with "White"
- (2) MANCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON with R.A.F. and M.T. ship NEW ZEALAND with R.A.F. stores, with "Collar"
- (3) FURIOUS with Hurricanes for Takoradi. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C., Med., 0218/5)
See Mediterranean Volume
Your 1335/4. Recommend following route (for Operation "Coat") (V.A. Malta to C. in C., Med. 1037/5)
Admty. 0218/5. Date for R.V. Propose S.O. Force H should decide. (C. in C., Med., 1131/5 to Admty.) C. in C., Med. 1131/5. As (date) made no allowance for possible delays, propose SHEFFIELD take over M.T. ships in 41° N., 21° W. (S.O. Force H., 1412/5 to Admty.)

Controlled
Night Landings

Your 1205/9/10. Reply (D.N.A.D. to R.A. Med. A/C's 1327/5)

Motor Yachts

Available for shipment if required. (D.S.V.P., to C. in C., Med., 1542/5)
Reply: C. Med., 1925/8.

French Fleet

Letter from Adm. Godfroy denying reports of bases and warships being put at disposal of axis Powers. (C. in C. Med., 1749/5) *Reply, 1st S.L., 0046/9, p. 243.*

Submarines

Bring into force condition A. (Capt. S.1. 1915/5)

FORMIDABLE
EAGLE

Admty. 1955/1. Grateful for FORMIDABLE. EAGLE does not need refit before operating on trade route. Suggesting certain exchanges, and that FORMIDABLE might proceed through Mediterranean during Operation Collar (C. in C., Med., to Admty 2001/5)

Trujillo
Ships

Your 1919/4. Regret impossible to provide any forces at present. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1250/5 to N.A. Madrid)

/N.A. Madrid.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean

Trujillo
Ships-Contd.

N.A.Madrid 1919/4. As improbable that interception of ships could be arranged M.E.W. is warning Trujillo Line that cargoes must be unloaded. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1822/5)

REGENT

Leaves at 1600/6 for diving trials and patrol. (N.O.I.C., Malta 1701/5)

HOTSPUR

Your 1337/1. Date to complete repairs. Intended to sail HOTSPUR for Malta with Operation "Collar." (F.O.C.N.A. to C. in C., Med., 1120/5)

Fulmars

Re shortage of. Asking consideration to drafting from a carrier similar to "Hurry" (C. in C., Med., to Admty., 2017/5)

Italian S/M
GONDAR
(sunk 30/9)

F.O.C.N.A. 1020/1. (report of diving operations) GONDAR had tubular structure before conning tower, etc. Consider contained device similar to those employed at Gibraltar. (C. in C., Med, to Admty.) (1741/5)

Danube

Enemy Intelligence from Wiesbaden from representative summoned to discuss ex-French Danube lighters. (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1230/5, to D.N.I.)

Air Report

Reconnaissance of Taranto, Brindisi and Corfu did not take place 5/11. Large number of small Coasters at Argostoli. Bombing attacks carried out on oil patches in position 035° 40' N., 023° 37' E., 035° 44' N., 016° 24' E. Nil results. T.O.O. 1853/5 (V.A.Malta, 1857/5)

Huelva

Consul Huelva reports Spanish SS CABO ORAGATRY from Bilbao to Barcelona is reported to have a number of aircraft bombs for Italy. (D.3.)
(2) Italian SS GAETA still unloading. Cargo leaving by rail (true),
(3) Cork being sent by rail to Irun. (true)
(N.A.Madrid 2317/5)



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

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Suez Canal
Administration

Admty. 0027/9/7. Not altogether satisfied with Bonnet's visit. (Reasons) Definitely known that De Benoist is already receiving instructions from New Canal H.Q. at Chatel Guyon and Bonnet's visit may herald attempt at intensification of French control of Canal Affairs at expense of British Control.

Consider De Benoist is already placed in a most difficult position in receiving orders from both London and Chatel Guyon, and that following action is immediately necessary (Details)

Return or impending return of certain more highly placed officials, of whose attitude I am ignorant, has given me grave cause for concern.

Consider, unless strong British control of Canal Company is immediately imposed we risk a swing to control from France and local support of Vichy. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1129/5 to Admty.)

61. Request that no more Suez Canal Company's employees be allowed to return to Egypt until a reply has been received to my 1129/5 to Admty. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1132/5 to Ambassador, Cairo)

Air Attacks
on Sicily

Governor Malta's 1633/9/7 and your 1449/10/7 Now that offensive operations against Italy are being undertaken by R.A.F. Bomber aircraft operating from Malta, request you will consider use of naval Swordfish squadron at Malta offensively against some of the excellent targets in Sicily. (D. of P. 1726/5 to C. in C., Med.)

Aircraft
for Greece

A 690 5th Nov. Secret. Your (? 907) 1133 5th November. Bombays up to (?4) per day will be flying to or from Greece daily for approximately next 3 weeks. In addition Blenheim and Wellesleys will fly to or from Greece on days when weather suitable. (H.Q., M.E., to C. in C., Med. 1727/5)

French Fleet
Funds

Your 1425/31 re release of French Funds. French Fund in U.S.A. has not been released and 22,000 pounds Egyptian were supplied to French Fleet on 29/10. Para 2 has been answered by my 2141/1. (C. in C., Med 2021/5 to Admty.)



MOST SECRET

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Mediterranean

Assistance to Greece.

Minelaying
by Aircraft

Attacks, Athens, 2106/4. Suggesting Durazzo (D. of P. to C. in C., Med., 1322/5) See Mediterranean Volume)

East Indies

EL WAFI

Left Kamaran p.m./3 for patrol. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0613Z/5)

Seychells^e
Defence^a

Requesting reply to his 1058/24. Question being placed before Ceylon Govt. today (C. in C., E.I. 0734Z/5 to Admty.) Reply: 1541/8, p. 215

Whalers

My 0774/27. Re minesweeping equipment. (C. in C., E.I., 0744Z/5)

KIMBERLEY

Requesting new main steam pipe be sent to Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 1510Z/5)

Whalers

Proposed renaming., (C. in C., E.I., 1210Z/5)

Aden

Re improvement of handling facilities and power supply. (C. in C., E.I., 1940Z/5)

Air
Reconnaissance

My A. 728 4/11, Summary No 145. French flight reconnaissance and no changes observed or photographically revealed at Raheita, Markhama Bay, Eddi, Eilul, Eid, Thio, Meder since last reconnaissance and no apparent activities. No new shipping Assan and no south Red Sea dhow traffic observed. Slight A.A. from Assab. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1804/5)



War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

121

China

Greek Shipping

Your 1121/4. Control of Greek shipping outside Mediterranean placed in hands of Greek Minister, London, who is issuing sailing instructions. Following ordered to proceed to Japan. (list) (D.T.D. to N.A. Toyo, 0020/5) (C. in C., China, 0443Z/5)

DURMITOR

Yugoslav, due Batavia 17/10 from Lourenco Marques, not arrived. (S.O.I. Singapore, 0209Z/5)

Singapore Construction

Defence Conference ^{recommended} ~~rumoured~~ building of local defence craft at Singapore be exploited to maximum. Request approval to keep building berths full. (C. in C., China, to Admty, 0223Z/5)

Hong Kong Japanese A/C

3 Japanese bomber aircraft passed over Hong Kong at 0825 local time 4/11. Request you will protest. (C. in C., China 0241/3/5 to Ambassador, Tokyo.)

Shanghai Staff

F.O. tel. 1193 to Shanghai. Consider S.C.I and R.N.O. must remain for present and that if evacuation becomes necessary attempt be made to get them and staffs included in Consular list. (C. in C., China 0359Z/5 to Admty.)

Wei-Hai-Wei

Evacuation of stores, craft etc., complete. M.O.I.C. and 1 rating will proceed Shanghai shortly. (C. in C., China 0804Z/5)

Japanese Shipping

My 1047/30. Following sailings of Japanese merchant vessels also appear to have been cancelled: ASAMA MARU Kobe to Shanghai 6/11. HEKIAN MARU Yokohama to Seattle 6/12. ASAMA's departure for San Francisco 29/11 is still listed. (N.A. Tokyo, 1137/5)



War Diary

5.11.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

122

America & West Indies

Town
Destroyers

Your 1321/4. Retain STANLEY until further orders and report state of CHESTERFIELD. (R.A. 3 B.S. to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1032/5)

Your 1751/4. Glad to provide C. and M party for 7 destroyers. Consideration will be given to R.C.N. taking over one of 9 destroyers complete should you favour such action. (C.N.S., Canada, 1147/5 to Admty.)

Reply: Admty 2041/11, p. 314.

French
Shipping

Proposal to run French escorted convoys from S. America (See Operations Against Vichy French)

Raider
H.X. 84
Attacked

JERVIS BAY report C. in C., A.W.I., 1632/5 (See HOME COMMANDS, North Atlantic Raider)

SAKURA MARU

S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 2111/30. New York reports SAKURA MARU boarded before arrival by United States coast guards who are convinced no foundation in statement. (c. in C., A.W.I., 1844/5) (*See page 720 31.10.40.*)

Australia

U.S. 8.

My 0829/18. U.S. 8. N.Z.N.B. number now 5246 all ranks including 1500 to embark Lyttelton. Australian requirements 12700. Total 17046 all ranks. Also required if possible 300 naval for Mediterranean. (A.C.N.B., 0629Z/5, to D. of S.T.)



MOST SECRET

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Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

123

IDARWALD

Your 1723/29. Tampico reports ship was loading 200 tons coal and may sail soon. (S.O.I. Kingston 2102/5 to C. in C., A.W.I)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

GAETA

Consul Huelva reports still unloading. Cargo leaving by rail. (N.A. Madrid 2317/5)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CARAIBE (A.P.V.)

N.C.S. Officer Lourenco Marques reports Rennie and sons there received telegraphic request from Messageries Maritimes Mombasa and Madagascar for names of agents at Mozambique to handle CARAIBE. This ship believed to be at Diego Saurez. My 1823/21/10 Refers. (S.O.I. Capetown 1133A/5)



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Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

124

Ships Attacked

LAURENTIC
PATROCLUS
CASANARE
(Torpedoed 3/11)

My 1657/4 to ACTIVE. Two destroyers only are to be detached to proceed to Clyde with survivors. ACTIVE arranging any necessary transfer of survivors. When well clear of convoy, S.O. detached destroyers is to report names. (C. in C., W.A. 0031/5 to SAGUENAY, ACTIVE)

SCOTTISH MAIDEN

British, 6993 tons. Sunk by U-Boat in position 54.32 N., 14.38 W at 0155. Have 23 survivors (BEAGLE+ 0320/5) In Convoy H.X 83 (D.S. 427) Ship torpedoed in position 54.40 N., 14.16 W., (SAGUENAY 0230/5) Informing N.O.I.C. Greenock. (C. in C., W.A. 0523/5) Tugs ASSURANCE and THAMES ordered to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0757/5) THAMES and DUNMORE HEAD sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0857/5) MARAUDER to sail instead of ASSURANCE whose steering gear is defective. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0859/5) Your 0757. Believed ship in my 0230 was SCOTTISH MAIDEN (SAGUENAY, 0946/5, to N.O.I.C. Greenock) My 0757 Sailed MARAUDER in place of ASSURANCE (F.O.I.C. 1025/5) Your 0230/5 and BEAGLE 0320/5. When clear of convoy report in accordance 752 AZ with particular reference to any U-Boats sighting or contact. (C. in C., W.A. to SAGUENAY, 1102/5)

MELROSE ABBEY

British 1908 tons. SSSS 51.40 N., 17.08 W. Chased by submarine (MELROSE ABBEY, 0824/5 0836/5) Require immediate assistance 51.03N 19.35 W., (MELROSE ABBEY and GARTBRATTAN, 1041/5)

GARTBRATTAN

British 1811 tons (See MELROSE ABBEY)

MEGGIE

Swedish 1583 tons. According to report dated 27/10 an Italian submarine 60 miles southwest of Island Santa Maria sank Swedish ship MEGGIE. A lifeboat with Captain and 9 of men arrived San Miguel. Another life boat with chief officer and 9 men is missing. Portuguese destroyer LIMA has gone out to search for it. Source (A. Zero) (Lisbon, 1818/5 to Adty.)



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Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

125

Submarines Reported

- 0230 Submarine reported in 54.40 N., 14.16 W., at 0230/5. (C. in C., W.A. to ships in Area B. 0449/5)
- 0050 D.F. probably U-Boat 58.30 N., 15° W., unreliable fix. (D.N.I. 0120/5)
- 0106 D.F. probably U-Boat 58.20 N., 10.30 W., unereliable fix. (D.N.I. 0137/5)
- 0230 A.F. message 54.40 N., 14.16 W., at 0130/5 (D.D.I.C. 0515/5)
- 0940 Attack enemy submarine in reliable position at 48.55 N., 20° W 0940 (C. in C., W.A. to HARVESTER and OTTAWA 1022/5) Position given as 48.54 N., 20.09 W. (D.D.I.C., 1034 5) Your 1022/5 Since 1115 have searched around position and 25 miles to the southwards. My position 048° 59' N., 019° 12' W Intend proceeding to arrive in accordance with your 1000/5 at daylight tomorrow Wednesday. HARVESTER in company. (OTTAWA 1931/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian 1 in Azores Area
 German 1 in 54° 40' N., 14° 16' W., at 0230/5 may be following H.X. 83 if she has any torpedoes left. Otherwise homeward bound Northabout.
 3 more in N.W. Approaches and farther West of which 1 was in area 58° to 60° N., 19° to 21° W at 1922/4, another may have been in area around 58° 30' N., 15° W., at 0050/5 and the third in area around 58° 20' N., 10° 30' W., at 0106/5, apparently not yet homeward bound as suggested yesterday. (D.D.I.C. 1214/5)
 My 1214/5 add German 1 was in 48° 54' N., 20° 09' W at 0940/5 (D.D.I.C. 1534/5)

Submarines Attacked

- 0940 One submarine bearing 081 distance 5 miles position 48.54 N., 20.51 W., Am engaging (SALOPIAN, 0940/5) When sighted S/M was on surface steering 150° and submerged after SALOPIAN opened fire. (SALOPIAN 1002/5)



War Diary

6.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

126

Home Commands

Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

C. in C., H.F. in NELSON with RODNEY SOUTHAMPTON and 6 destroyers left Scapa at 0700 today to cover the Iceland-Faroes passage.

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. detached REPULSE, BONAVENTURE and 3 destroyers at 1100/6 to proceed direct towards the area of yesterday's attack.

REVENGE was ordered to proceed to the Clyde to provide escort for west bound convoys.

Orders were sent to stop or turn back convoys and to stop independent sailings in the danger area. Convoys H.G. 46 and S.L.F. 53 were ordered to proceed to position 37° 30' N., 20° 0' W and thence towards Gibraltar; RENOWN and 3 destroyers proceeded at 0400/6 to meet and escort them to the U.K.

BARHAM reverted to the usual notice for steam.

At 2107 the Admiralty ordered RODNEY to proceed towards Halifax to escort homeward bound convoys to the U.K.

A destroyer and corvettes were sent to round up the scattered ships of convoy H.X. 84.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN returned to Freetown with boiler defects.

Submarine and air watch on the French Atlantic ports have been arranged.

R.C.N. destroyers are covering Canadian Coastal waters and approaches, and aircraft of Canadian Air Force carried out a reconnaissance today from 600 miles towards the reported position of the raider, without result.

At 2208/6 the general indication by D/F was that ADMIRAL SCHEER had moved to the northward.

/Convoy C.W. 16....



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Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

127

Home Commands

Convoy C.W. 16
Shelled

Convoy C.W. 16 was shelled by enemy coast batteries at 2245 today while passing Dover. 14 rounds were fired but no damage is reported.

2 Enemy
Supply Ships
Sunk

STURGEON reports that she sank a 2000 ton supply ship 3/11 and a 1200^{1/2} ton supply ship 6/11 while on patrol off the south coast of Norway.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Wellingtons attacked the Railway Terminus and quays at Brindisi successfully.

Attacks, apparently very successful, were made on the Seebach Shipyards at Bremerhaven, Deutsche Shipyards at Bremen and Naval Docks at Emden, by 19 Wellingtons which dropped 16 tons of bombs last night.

Channel Ports were also successfully attacked last night.

During the day, merchant vessels in Cuxhaven harbour were bombed from a height of 50 ft., one burst being seen under the stern of a large M.V.

A Convoy of 8 or 9 M.V's was attacked off the Helder; results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Two Beauforts on offensive patrol attacked a convoy of 12 ships 18 miles S.W. of Terschelling. One torpedo hit a large heavily laden merchant ship, causing her to heel over and make for shore while other merchant vessels went to her assistance.



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SITUATION REPORT

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Enemy Air Activity

Pembroke Dock was bombed early this morning; military but no naval damage was caused.

No 4 Dry Dock, Southampton is unusable owing to a U.X.B. dropped at 1500 today. Another H.E. bomb dropped near the dock during this attack caused no damage.

Convoy W.N. 31
Attacked
CLAN MACKINLAY
HARBOROUGH

Convoy W.N. 31 was attacked this evening 30 miles S.E. of Duncansby Head. CLAN MACKINLAY (6365 tons) and HARBOROUGH (5415 tons) were set on fire and abandoned. The latter was taken in tow for Scapa. The former is believed to have sunk later. (p.142)

Convoy S.L.F.52
Attacked
NALON

Convoy S.L. 52 was attacked this morning 220 miles west of Blacksod Bay. NALON (7222 tons) was bombed and abandoned. Two tugs have been sent to bring the ship in; she carries a valuable cargo of copper.

OLGA S.

^{S.}
OLGA (British 2252 tons) a straggler from Convoy H.X. 83 was attacked 15 miles N.W. of Islay this afternoon, but no damage is reported.

Reconnaissance
of Faroes

An enemy aircraft is reported to have made a reconnaissance flight over the Faroe Islands this afternoon.

Mining

ELGIN
Damaged

M/S Trawler ELGIN was slightly damaged by a near mine explosion off Harwich p.m. today. Another mine was destroyed by fleet sweepers.

GIRL HELEN
Sunk
SEVRA
Sunk

Dan-laying drifter GIRL HELEN was mined and sunk off the Tyne 1030 today. M/S Trawler SEVRA was mined and sunk off Falmouth about noon today.

/Ports Affected..



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Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

129

Mining-Contd.

Ports Affected

Enemy aircraft were engaged in minelaying in the Humber last night, and were believed to be minelaying off the East Coast and North East Coast.

The original approach channel to Milford Haven was reopened today.

Four more mines were exploded off Plymouth.

Falmouth was closed early, and mines were later exploded.

Mines were exploded in Firth of Forth and Bristol Channel.

Operation
B.S. 45

Further mines were laid today in the East Coast mine barrier.

North Atlantic

ARK ROYAL, BERWICK, GLASGOW and accompanying destroyers arrived at Gibraltar p.m. today from the U.K. V.A. Force H transferred his flag to ARK ROYAL on arrival.

SHEFFIELD arrived at Gibraltar this morning from Azores patrol.

ENCOUNTER (screening RENOWN) and UTMOST (on passage to join Meditn. Fleet) were in collision about 140 miles west of Gibraltar at 1225 today. Both ships were slightly damaged but require docking. FORESTER escorted them to Gibraltar.



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Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

130

AJAX and SYDNEY arrived at Suda Bay p.m. today with Bofors batteries.

Operation
"Coat"

The Mediterranean Fleet sailed to cover the operations and meet Force F (BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW and 3 destroyers, for Medtn. Fleet)

Mines on
Yugoslav Coast

A broadcast from Budapest at 0216/6 states that on account of mines having been washed up on the Yugoslav coast navigation is prohibited in certain regions, and all navigation at night along the entire coast.

East Indies

SS BARON HERRIES reports that she sighted a U-Boat periscope about 330 miles E, of Madagascar this morning.

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE and VAN KINSBERGEN are proceeding to establish a patrol to the eastward of Martinique, to intercept French merchant vessel CHARLES L.D. which left Casablanca for Martinique 29/10.

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDS

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Defence of U.K.

At 2330/6 (D.C. 2336/6) At 2330/5 (D.C. 0012/6)

MovementsBULLDOGC. in C., H.F. 0059/6. Intend sailing BULLDOG for Skaale Fiord & Faroes at 1400/6 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/6) *See next page*Destroyer Escorts.

In addition to the sailing of ARGUS on 7/11 the following commitments for destroyer escorts have to be met in the near future:-

EDINBURGH

- A. 14/11. Ships specified in para A.2 and A. 3 of my 0218/5.
- B. 17/11. Convoy W.S.4.B consisting of liners carrying troops (numbers)

2. In order to assist with B, the three destroyers lent from the Nore are to remain under C. in C., W.A. for the present.

3. EDINBURGH will be required as ocean escort for W.S.4.B. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1059/6 to C. in C., W.A., C. in C., H.F.)

PRINCE BAUDOIN

Intend sailing at 1900/6, speed 16 knots, expected time of arrival Milford Haven 0800/7 for onward routing Invergordon. (N.C.S. Dartmouth, 1023/6)

REVENGEDetail 3 destroyers to relieve JACKAL, JUPITER, JAGUAR as escort to Clyde at 0800/7 in position 52° 43' N., 05° 18' W., Return Liverpool after escort duty. REVENGE to amend R.V. if necessary (C. in C., W.A. 1037/6 to Capt. D. Liverpool, WARWICK, WALKER and VANSITTART detailed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1540/6) *See also p. 135*Nore Command

Movements to 1200/7 (C. in C., Nore, 1200/6)

Dover

Patrols for night 6/7 (V.A. Dover, 1417/6)

/Orkneys.....



MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

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Movements-Contd.

Orkneys and
Shetlands

Movements for night 6/7, estimated position
2000 (A.C.O.S. 1527/6-1529/6)

HESTORIA

Sailed escorted by ERIN and HAARLEM in
accordance with my 1320/6 (F.O.I.C.
Greenock, 1544/6)

Portsmouth

Movements for night 6/7 (C. in C., Ports-
mouth, 1603@6)

Western Approaches

Movements for night 6/7 (C. in C., W.A.
1622/6.) My 1630/6 Amend as follows (C. in
C., W.A. 1900/6)

BULLDOG

Sailed for Faroes 0059/6. Expected time
of arrival Skaale Fiord 0900/8 (F.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1705/6 to N.O.I.C. Faroes)

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER

(attack on H.X. 84,
5.11.40)

A. NEWCASTLE is to carry out orders given
in my 0218/5.

B. REVENGE is to sail ~~tomorrow~~ 6th Nov.
for Clyde and will provide escort for
Westbound convoys. (V.C.N.S. 0008/6 to C.
in C., W.A.)

→ S.L. 53 to steer for 37° 30' N., 20° W
and thence towards Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. (T)
0010/6 to ARAWA)

Turn H.G. 46 round and steer for 37° 30' N
20° W., and thence towards Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 0011/6 to WELLINGTON)

Force H.

RENOWN proceed with despatch towards 37°
30' N., 20° W. Transfer your flag as
convenient, and subsequently to ARK ROYAL
or SHEFFIELD on arrival for Operation ~~SEA~~.
(V.C.N.S. 0018/6 to S.O. Force H)

Turn ships in company in S.L. 53 slow
to course 080° until further orders.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 0019/6 to NESTLEA)

/Convoys H.G. 46...



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HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

Convoys H.G. 46 and S.L.F. 53 have been instructed to proceed to position 37° 30' N., 20° 00' W., and thence towards Gibraltar. They will probably reach position named about 1900 7th November. Escort S.L.F. 53 is ARAWA.

Estimated positions of convoys at 0100/6
H.G. 46 42° 10' N., 19° 30' W. S.L.F. 53
32° 40' N., 25° 10' W.

Convoy S.L.538 unescorted has been ordered to steer 080, and its estimated position at 0100/6 is 36° 30' N., 26° 55' W. You should assemble convoys and proceed towards U.K. some ships of H.G. 46 may have to fuel in Irish ports.

(D.T.D. 0035/6 to RENOWN.)

Convoy B.H.X. 86 to return to Bermuda
(A.C.N.S. (T) 0053/6 to MONTCLARE)

Convoy H.X. 86 is to return to Halifax.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 0056/6 to VOLTAIRE)

Convoy S.C. 11 is not to sail till further orders. (A.C.N.S. (T) 0057/6) See also p. 150

CORNWALL with W.S. 4 A steer for 42° N., 23° W. RENOWN is proceeding to 37° 30' N., 20° W. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0101/6 to CORNWALL)

O.B. 240 is not to be sailed till further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 0103/6 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Your 2128/5. RENOWN, BARHAM, and Destroyer Escort ready to proceed 0115/6 (S.O. Force H. 0104/6 to Adty.)

My 1435/4 is to be held in abeyance for the time being. PRETORIA CASTLE to steer for 42° N., 23° W., (A.C.N.S. (F) 0117/6 to PRETORIA CASTLE, CORNWALL)

My 2125/5. Report intended track and speed (D.O.D. (F) 0123/6 to C. in C., S.A.)

My 2128/5. BARHAM revert to usual notice for steam. (V.C.N.S. 0120/6 to F.O. Force H)

/340. My 0001/6.....



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HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

340. My 0001/6 Detach REPULSE, one ship of 15 C.S. and three destroyers to proceed direct towards last known position of raider referred to in Admiralty's 2028/5 to destroy the enemy if he remains on the convoy route.

Admiralty is requested to communicate information regarding convoys in that area to REPULSE. Request A/S air escort for REPULSE. Ends. (C. in C., H.F. 0125/6 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

→ RENOWN sails 0400, speed 25 knots. Route towards 37° 30' N., 20° W., SHEFFIELD keep clear to North of Straits. (F.O.C.N.A. 0300/6 to SHEFFIELD)

Your 0057/6 and your 0056/6. Holding S.H.X. 86 and S.C. 11 until further orders (N.C.S.O. Sydney, Cape Breton 0308Z/6 to Adty)

B.C. 1's 2230/5. Request A/S Air Escort for AUSTRALIA. (C. in C., H.F. 0422/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

→ Adty's. 0018/6. Gibraltar departure 0400/6 RENOWN, FORESTER, ENCOUNTER, GALLANT. (S.O.I Gibraltar 0530/6 to Adty.)

H.X. 84

S.C. 10

W.S. 4A

C. in C. H.F.'s 0125/6. Convoy H.X. 84 originally 38 ships 8½ knots, escort JERVIS BAY, attacked in 52° 50' N., 32° 15' W., at 2000/5, now probably dispersed in mean position 53° N., 31° W., at 0800/6. Convoy S.C. 10, 14 ships 6½ knots, escort FOLKESTONE, estimated in 51° 40' N., 31° 30' W., at 0800/6, steering towards 53° 30' N., 25° 30' W. Convoy W.S. 4 A, 16 ships 11 knots, escort CORNWALL, estimated in 46° 40' N., 27° 10' W., at 0800/6, steering towards 42° N., 23° W., (D.T.D. 0550/6 to REPULSE)

Arrange a search at dawn Thursday from Butt of Lewis as far to westwards as possible in a direction 300° (C. in C., H.F. 0620/6 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/Prime Minister..



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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

Prime Minister has telephoned to say that as we consider it possible that the ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER, which is now attacking trade in the centre of the Atlantic may return to Brest, St. Nazaire or Le Verdun, it is essential to keep a close watch on those places from the earliest time at which she may arrive there and that arrangements must be made to bomb her intensively should she be located

We estimate that the earliest time at which ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER could arrive at above places is 1700 on 7th. (1st S.L. 0700/6 to Chief of Air Staff) *Reply: 1715/6, p. 137.*

Orders to USK and TRIDENT (V.A.(S) 1021/6 see Submarines.

If pocket battleship appears near Nova Scotia or Newfoundland I intend that F.O.C 3 B.S. should take charge of Ocean Operations using ex-American Destroyers and such ships as you may be able to assist with. Request air co-operation. (C. in C., A. and W.I. 1021/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

Expect to arrive position A 037° 30' N., 020° 00' W., at 1200/7. Then intend to sweep to south west and endeavour to locate Sugar London and Sugar London Freddie convoys before dark. After assembly of the three convoys intend steering for position B by 050° 00' N., 023° 00' W., Request convoys be constructed to steer 350° on reaching position A. (RENOWN 1100/6)

C. in C., H.F.'s 0125/6. REPULSE, BONAVENTURE MATEBELE, MASHONA, ELECTRA detached at 1100 Position 58° 18' N., 8° 36' W., course 248° speed 17 knots. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1101/6 to Admty.)

Escort for
REVENGE

Detail 3 Destroyers to relieve JACKAL, JUPITER, JAGUAR escorting REVENGE to Clyde at 0800/7 in position 53° 00' N., 05° 10' W.
2. Destroyers detailed return Liverpool on conclusion of escort duty.
3. REVENGE is to amend R/V if necessary. (C. in C., W.A. 1037/6 to Capt D. Liverpool)
See also p. 131.

Enemy aircraft has reported position of forces with you at 1032/6. (D.D.I.C. 1118/6 to F.O.C., B.C.S., REPULSE)



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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

ADMIRAL SCHEER may return to a French west coast port on or after tomorrow Thursday evening. Brest St. Nazaire or Gironde are likely ports. REPULSE and one cruiser are proceeding to last known position of raider. Battle cruiser force includes HOOD, AUSTRALIA from northward arriving vicinity of 057° N., 010° W., about 1500 today, thence 050° N., 013° W., thence covering approaches to Bay of Biscay ports. Battle fleet including NELSON, RODNEY are proceeding to cover Iceland Faroes passage. (V.A.S. 1106/6 to submarines on Patrol)

Cancel my 2032/5. H.X. 85 is to return to Sydney, Cape Breton. Ships which cannot be accomodated there should proceed to Halifax. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1135/6 to RAJPUTANA)

Enemy aircraft has reported your position, course and speed at about 1100/6th Nov. (D.D.I.C. 1138/6 to C. in U., H.F.)

Submarine O.23 proceed to 60° N., 3° 20' E and at 0700/7 patrol within 20 miles of 59° N., 3° 50' E., At 0700/7 submarine O. 22 to proceed to patrol Zone C. 1. about 18 miles off coast. (V.A.S. 1218/6)

*Independent Sailings
Suspended.*

Until further orders all independent sailings from U.K. and between U.K., North American Atlantic Ports, and Eastern Atlantic Ports north of and including Sierra Leone, are to be suspended. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1220/6) [*Cancelled, 1221/7, p. 170*]

Cancel my 0940/3 and my 1614/4. CILICIA leave patrol a.m./9 for Gibraltar for water and some fuel if available. DERBYSHIRE and CAMITO leave patrol to R/V in 37° 30' N., 20° W., at 1900/7, thence towards Gibraltar with H.G. 46 and S.L.53 until RENOWN is met, and thence with Convoy to Clyde. F.O.C.N.A. requested arrange A/S escort for CILICIA into Gibraltar if available. (F.O.C.N.P., 1330/6 to Western Patrol)

My 1011/6.....



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6.11.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER
Contd.

My 1011/6 and your 1220/6. Have instructed Jamaica to suspend loading and sailing of Fruit Ships and report situation. Loss of cargo anticipated if delayed more than 3 days. (C.in C., A and W.I., 1401/6 to Admty.)

Re return of convoy H.X. 85 to St. Johns. Only room for 2 ships there at present. Intend send STANLEY to meet Convoy about 60 miles out, and that 15 ships go to Trinity Harbour with STANLEY and 15 ships to southward of Bell Island. My 1234/6 BUXTON has further defect and must remain in harbour. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, Newfoundland 1446/6 to F.O.C. 3rd B.S.)

Your 0700/6. We are taking all action possible to locate and bomb ADMIRAL SCHEER. Coastal Command are arranging the necessary reconnaissance and have a striking force of three squadrons (of which one is a T.B. Squadron) standing by to attack. Bomber Command are also on top line to bomb the ship when located. Provided ADMIRAL SCHEER comes within our orbit I think you will find us prepared. (Chief of Air Staff, 1715/6. to 1st S.L.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN's 0120/6. Request early report of expected date when ROYAL SOVEREIGN will be fit for service. (A.C.N.S. F. 1721/6 to C. in C., S.A.)

C. in C., A & W.I., 1021/6 and my 1051/5: should sailing of these Destroyers be postponed for the present? (F.O.C. 3rd B.S 1739/6 to Adty.)

My 1510/6. Position of DUNOTTAR CASTLE and SAGUENAY convoys are doubtful. A/C report places them 25 miles and 20 miles to westward respectively. (C. in C., W.A. 1740/6 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

/H.X. 84.....

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WednesdayHOME COMMANDSOperations-ContdADMIRAL SCHEERCont:

H.X. 84 scattered by raider in position 52 45 N., 32 13 W., at 1830/5 and should pass through position 56. 00' N., 18.00 W between 1500/7 and 1500/7 and 1500/8 thence direct to Clyde. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail HAVELOCK, FLEUR DE LYS, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE forthwith to round up convoy. F.O.I.C. Greenock to sail HESPERUS to R/V with HAVELOCK as arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool. Destroyers to proceed independently of corvettes. All escorts to be given names of ships in convoy. (C. in C., W.A. 2103/6 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)
C. in C. W.A., 2107/6 - see page 151.

1. RODNEY is to proceed towards Halifax and will escort homeward bound convoys to United Kingdom meeting them in vicinity of 45° 20' N., 52° 00' W.,
2. She will not fuel until she returns to United Kingdom and subject to this should proceed westbound at best possible speed.
3. Further instructions follow.
(1st S.L. 2107/6 to C. in C., H.F.)

My 0101/6. After passing through position 42° N., 23° W., (estimated at about 1600/7 convoy W.S. 4 A is to steer for position 35° N., 23° W., thence to Freetown as routed by C. in C., South Atlantic.

PRETORIA CASTLE is to join CORNWALL
The whole convoy is to remain together until arrival in position 35° N., 23° W., when ships of Convoy W.S. 4 C escorted by PRETORIA CASTLE are to part company and proceed independently, in accordance with my 1435/4 not to RENOWN. (D.O.D. F. 2210/6 to CORNWALL, PRETORIA CASTLE)

D/F fix at 2208/6 is about 54° 30' N., 34° W., Fix very reliable but general indication is that ADMIRAL SCHEER has moved to the Northward. (D.D.I.C. 2309/6)

Ships in O.B. 239, 240 and 241 bound for South Atlantic ports will leave convoys in 25° W and are to be routed East of the Azores. (D.T.D. 2348/6 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool, Clyde, Oban, Belfast)

CHITRAL
FRIDTJOF NANSEN

Your 1735/5. Sailed at 1035 G.M.T. for Jan Mayen Island Speed 13 knots. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0948/6 to Adty.)

/FURIOUS.....



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Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

FURIOUS

Ship should arrive Bar Light Vessel not later than 1600/7 (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1235/6 to C. in C., H.F.)

Your 1326/5. Assume it is understood that FURIOUS has no facilities for hoisting Hurricanes with wings in position. Wings off O.K. (FURIOUS 1256/6 to Adty.)

My 2113/4 and 1644/5. Aircraft and personnel will be embarked at Birkenhead instead of Clyde. (D.N.A.D. 1257/6)

My 1256/6 Loading at Birkenhead will begin shortly after ship docks, aircraft arriving from Sealand with wings off. (D.N.A.D. 1303/6 to FURIOUS)

C. in C., H.F. 1119/5. Valve due arrive Liverpool 0630/7. (A.S.Devonport 1835/6 to Adty.)

Submarines

→ USK
TRIDENT

USK to patrol off Brest, TRIDENT south of Belle Isle to cover approach to St.Nazaire (V.A.S. 1021/6) USK position, proceeding to Plymouth (C. in C., W.A. 1120/6)

SEAWOLF

To be transferred from 3rd to 6th S/M Flotilla, being temporarily attached to 5th S/M Flotilla. (V.A.S. 1153/6 to S. 3, S. 5, S.6.,)

Attack on
Submarines
by
Surface Vessels

Request Admty.*1710/26/10 may be cancelled as from 2000/7/11. (V.A.S. 1217/6 to Admty.)
* Re surface vessels not to attack submarines unless identified as hostile.

0.22)
0.23)

See Operations (ADMIRAL SCHEER)

→ TRIDENT

My 1504/5 is cancelled by V.A.S. 1021/6 to TRIDENT. Alternative patrol position for TRIDENT in the vicinity of 047° 10' N. 006° 32' W., is also cancelled. (Capt.(S) 2 1429/6 to TRIDENT and TUNA)

/TAKU.....



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HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

TAKU

Reports at 0238/2/11 in position 46° 54' N., 03° 50' W., obtained 3 certain hits on large tanker steering 020° from 800 yard range. Eight minutes later nothing visible but pronounced smell of oil present. A/S patrol seen within 10 miles of Belle Island and Ile de Groix. (V.A.S. 1614/6 to Admty.)

SUNFISH

Escorted by THIRLMERE leaves 099° Muckle Flugga 7 miles at 1700/7/11 and proceeds to Rosyth. (A.C.O.S. 1616/6)

Greenock Area

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1623/6 to Admty.)

Positions and Movements

0700/7. (V.A.S. 1647/6)

WDLK

My 1011/3* To be transferred from 3rd to 9th submarine Flotilla (V.A.S. 1743/6)
* WILK and other S/M's transferred to 6th Flotilla.

5th S/M Flotilla

1202/4* for 10/11 read 7/11 (V.A.S. 1746/6)
* Date from which V.A.S. assumes operational control of 5th S/M Flotilla.

SWORDFISH

Intend sailing at 0800/7 for patrol off Ushant. Proceeding submerged by day. Routed via 045° 51' N., 005° 31' W., (Capt. (S.) 5. 1755/6 to V.A.S., Admty C. in C., Portsmouth) Leaves Portsmouth at 0800/7 to patrol off Brest, keeping W of a line 180° from Ushant and N. of 045° N. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1853/6 to Admty.)

UNIQUE

In W.2 and S.3 (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1853/6 to Admty.)



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6.11.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Air
Reconnaissance

No air reconnaissance during the night S.A. 9. will be flown at 0800. (C. in C., Nore, 0639/6)

A/S Escort
to 1st B.C. and
REPULSE
In search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

Cancel my 0342/6. F.O.C. 1st B.C. 2230/5 and 2235/5 and C. in C., H.F., 0125/6. Two Hudson aircraft proceeding to 08 30 position to give A/S escort to F.O.C. 1st B.C. Sqd. and REPULSE till relieved by Sunderland about 1000. (C. in C., Rosyth 0708/6 to F.O.C. 1 B.C.S., REPULSE)

S.16 B }
S.A. 2 }
S.A. 3 }

Cancelled this p.m. and S.A.I.E. this a.m. (C. in C., Rosyth 1332/6)

S.T.1. }
S.T.2. }

Commence at 0815 and 1430/7 respectively (R.N.A.S. Stornoway 1355/6)

M/V Attacked

At 1310/6 Aircraft gunned and fired Torpedoes at one 10,000 ton M.V. in 48° 19' N., 4° 52' W., Torpedoes passed 1/2 length astern of ship. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth, 1500/6 to Admty.)

Special Searches

For 7/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1508/6, 2016/6 and 2302/6)

S. 16 B

My 1332. Now being flown. (C. in C., Rosyth 1626/6)

Attack on Enemy
Aircraft by
H.M. Ships in
Harbour

Air Ministry 0930/6. Consider reasons in my 1925/16/10 for H.M. Ships opening fire on aircraft unless recognised as friendly still hold good, and that procedure proposed in A.M. 0009/25/10 is most necessary. Reasons. (C. in C., Rosyth 1717 and 2235/6 to Adty.)

Scapa

Admty. 1534/16/10 and Air Ministry 1905/19/10. Request consideration of return to Skitton of Flight of 232 Sqdn. mentioned in Air Ministry A.327/19/10 (A.C.N.S. H. 1850/6 to Air Ministry)

/Horns Reef.....



War Diary

6.11.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Rosyth

Air Escorts for 7/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1920/6)

Horns Reef
Offensive Patrol

As in my 0040/3/10, will be extended tomorrow into Skaggerak as far as 8° East if cloud cover permits. (C. in C., Rosyth 2240/6 to Adty.)

Convoy C.W. 16

Available aircraft of Nos 53 and 59 Squadrons to bomb coastal battery positions between Calais and Ambleteuse from 1930 to 2100 during passage of convoy C.W. 16 through Straits of Dover. (H.Q.C.C. 1140/6)

Enemy torpedo aircraft may operate against Convoy C.W. 16 which will be in 50° 35' N 0° 40' W., at 0800/7. Carry out CH/G2/24/10 (Torpedo) on 7/11 and 8/11. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1637/6)

At 1300 today two MAAS Class Destroyers and three Torpedo Boats were reported moving North from Calais. They may either enter a harbour on Dutch coast or else be returning to a German port. Despatch one aircraft 53 Squadron at First Light 7th November to look for these ships between Dunkirk and Texel providing cloud cover sufficient. Reports by W/T (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1740/6 to Detling)

6.11.1940.

Wednesday.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy SLF.52.

NALON
(*convoy*)

Enemy aircraft attacking convoy ^{"child"} ~~CHILD~~.
My position 54° 4' N. 16° 1' W.
(S.L. Convoy 1022/6)

NALON.

NALON bombed in 054° 00' N. 015° 38' W.
All hands rescued by VISCOUNT. May
possibly remain afloat with valuable cargo
of copper. Request instructions.
(DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 1145/6).

NALON.

British, 7222 tons. Your 1145/6.
VISCOUNT is to rejoin Convoy. Tugs are
being sent to NALON. (C.in C. W.A.
1511/6, to DUNNOTTAR CASTLE)

Sailed tugs ENGLISHMAN and THAMES to
assistance of NALON in position 54° 00' N.
15° 38' W. at 1146/6.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1557/6).

My 1545/6. H.M.S. MAN-O-WAR is to proceed
to stand by NALON bombed and abandoned
with valuable cargo in 054° 00' N.
015° 38' W. Tugs are being sent.
(C.in C. W.A. 1653/6 to STELLA CAPELLA, etc).

Pembroke
bombed.

Pembroke Dock bombed this morning, no
damage to Admiralty Personnel or property,
one unexploded bomb touching No. 30 tank
at Llanion, all precautions being taken
(N.O.I.C. Milford H., 1104/6)

My 1104/6 unexploded bomb on vicinity of
oil tank has been removed.
(F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1804/6).

TRANIO.

Harwich Departure Tug MURIA at 1405 to
assistance of H.M. Trawler TRANIO.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1417/6).

VANITY.

1 Aircraft 27° 10' N. 2° 35' W.
(VANITY 1435/6.)

My 1435 JU88. (VANITY 1453/6).

Faroes.

My 1324/6 (Sighting of unidentified a/c
over Faroes) Aircraft identified as German
twin engine monoplane. (N.O.I.C. Faroes,
1500/6).

VIMIARA.

Your 1658/5 (Torpedo attack on VIMIARA by
enemy. a/c) Request you will indicate
type of aircraft which made this attack.

/ SOUTHAMPTON

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

Southampton.

2 H.E. bombs one unexploded dropped by E/A 1500/6 30 feet from head of No.4 dry dock. No damage to ships or to dock so far ascertained. Dock unusable pending disposal of bomb which is in hand. Four civilians injured. Slight damage Pirelli's cable works by another H.E. but output not likely to be affected. (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 1650/6.)

OLGA S.
(OLGA S.)

British, 2252 tons. Position 55° 58' N. 0658' W. OLGA S. attacked by planes. (? 1708/6).

Convoy Agent.
(F.N. even)

1 Enemy A/c shadowing Convoy Agent bearing 090° 20,000 feet. My position 52.11 N., 1.54 E. (WALLACE, 1750/6).

BLACKFLY.

Help.
~~HELP~~, my position 230° Noss Head 10 miles. (BLACKFLY 1818/6)

Convoy W.N.31
CLAN MACKINLAY
HARBOROUGH

Help 'Rusty' (Odd No. WN Convoy) 58.37 N., 2.52 W. (HASTINGS, 1819/6)

Enemy A/C attacking with bombs. (HASTINGS 1820/6.)

Fighters left for "Rusty" (Odd No. WN Convoy). (Scapa W/T, 1824/6)

Tugs BUCCANEER and ABEILLE 21 are being sent to assist. (A.C.O.S. to HASTINGS, 1849/6)

Enemy Bombing, my position 58.37 N., 2.52 W. (HASTINGS, 1850/6).

2 ships hit and burning. (HASTINGS, 1856/6).

HARBOROUGH

British 5415 tons. My position latitude Noss Head 9.1 miles S.S. HARBOROUGH on fire and abandoned after bomb attack sinking very slowly. Have on board 29 survivors. Salvage probabilities good. (GLENER, 2032/6, to A.C.O.S., C.in C. Rosyth).

Tell tug to tow HARBOROUGH to Scapa and to report expected time of arrival Hoxa Gate. (A.C.O.S. 2341/6 to GLENER)

/ CLAN MC.KINLEY
HARBOROUGH

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Wednesday.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

CLAN MC.^AKINLAY
HARBOROUGH

Convoy W.N. 31 was attacked at 1816/6 in position 58° 35' N. 2° 53' W. by enemy aircraft. CLAN MC.KINLAY 6365 tons hit and now presumed sunk. Thirteen Lascars from crew landed at Wick. HARBOROUGH 5415 tons hit and one fire now in tow of tugs BUCCANEER, BANDIT, and ABEILLE 21 proceeding to Scapa. Attack carried out by three aircraft. The enemy apparently approached at very low altitude as no R.D.F. indication was given. Fighter aircraft in the immediate vicinity saw outline of ships in convoy but no enemy aircraft. (A.C.O.S. 1031/7 to Admty.)

Unknown Ship.

55° 58' N. 06° 58' W. attacked by plane. (T.O.R. 1825/6).

Campbeltown
Bombed.

Low level bombing and machine gun attack on Campbeltown carried out by 1 or 2 aircraft at 1830/6. 1 dead 2 seriously injured.. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 2135/6).



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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Dover

Routine sweeps to noon/6. Two mines exploded and 4 explosive cutters found 3-6 cables west of line joining Nos. 1 and 4 Buoys. (V.A.Dover 1211/6 to Admty.)

Milford Haven

Cancel my 1401/1. Port now open using original approach channel. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1220/6 to Admty.)

Minelaying

Propose to start A mark I minelaying operation with M.T.B's in near future. It is understood that proposal to mine channel on either side inner Ruytingen emanates from you. Request information as to whether this is still considered desirable and whether you have any other proposal. French and Belgian ports cannot be mined at present. (C. in C., Nore, 1314/6 to V.A.Dover) *Reply: V.A.Dover 1438/7, p. 175.*

Operation
B.S. 45

Completed (TEVIOT BANK, 1503/6 to Admty.)

ELGIN

ELGIN detonated a mine probably acoustic $\frac{1}{2}$ cable on her starboard beam $4\frac{1}{2}$ cables, 120° from Sunk Light Vessel. No serious damage reported. In tow of GOSSAMER. Tug KENIA to assist. NIGER and SPEEDWELL standing by. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1559/6 to C. in C., Nore.)

One mine destroyed 51° 55' N., 01° 40.5' E by fleet sweepers and ELGIN damaged by acoustic mine 51° 50.5' N., 01° 35.5' E. No casualties and ELGIN in harbour. (F.O.I.C Harwich 1921/6 to C. in C., Nore)

Plymouth

Since my 1526/5 four mines exploded. One in air 0636° 5 cables east end breakwater. Three spontaneous no ships near. 0910 132° 7.2 cables breakwater fort. ~~0910 132°~~ operating course 196° explosion abeam distant 14 cables. 1323 090° 80 yards east end breakwater. 1325 185° 1.9 miles breakwater light. (C. in C., W.A. 1718/6 to Admty.)

/Falmouth.....



War Diary

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Wednesday

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Falmouth

PETER
JUNIPER
JAGUAR

Mines suspected, do not enter port until signalled.

Port closed owing to suspected mines.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0710/6)

Red mine exploded, suspected acoustic 175° St. Anthony 5½ cables. Moored mine exploded in sweep 191½° St. Anthony 9 cables (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1827/6 to Admty.)

Firth of Forth

2 mines exploded today- one red 56° 01' 25" N., 03° 04' 12" W., and one by motor fishing boats 56° 12' N., 02° 41' 30" W., (approx) (C. in C., Rosyth 2200/6 to Admty)
also 1113/8, p. 201

Bristol Channel

Red mine exploded by sweep 250° distant 2.5 miles from Nash Point Lighthouse. (TRANSYLVANIA 2228/6 to Admty)
(Wreck ship - above sunk 5/40.)

GIRL HELEN
Sunk

Dan laying drifter GIRL HELEN exploded mine 036° 1600 yards from North Tyne Pier Light at 1026. Now sunk in position 017° 1750 yards North Tyne Pier Light. Casualties one missing, three injured. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1121/6)

My 1121/6. Amend position of wreck of Drifter GIRL HELEN 00 10.75 cables 349° from Tyne North Pier Light. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1107/7)

SEVRA
Sunk

H.M.T. SEVRA mined and sunk position 154° St. Anthony 5½ cables. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1231/6)



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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Brest

3 destroyers at 0755/6 (St. Eval 1045/6)
Convoy of 4 M/V's 3 miles North of Ile
Vierge at 0801/6. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth
1245/6)

Calais

5 Vessels, probably destroyers or T.B's
passed Calais eastwards at 1340 (V.A.Dover
1352/6 to Admty.) 2 MAAS class destroyers
and 3 T.B's. The 2 destroyers are believed
to have come from Brest. (D.D.I.C. 1547/6)

E-Boats

PEONY sailed in company with SALVIA reports
when five miles North of Z at 1940/1
sighted proper three star recognition
signal for British Submarines on surface
bearing red 120° followed by proper two
colour British Aircraft Recognition Signal
immediately above.
Enemy aircraft and probably E-Boats in
vicinity T.O.O. 1631/4/11. (C. in C., Nore
1730/6 to Admty.)

Eastern Skagerrak
Oslo Fiord
Zone C.1.

Your 1817/4. Report on Coastal Traffic.
Sank 2 M/V's (STURGEON 1811/6)

Obrestad

Sinking Ship observed off Obrestad.
(TUGELA, Recd. 1528/6)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Wednesday

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BUXTON

My 1234/6. Has developed further defect and must remain in harbour. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 1446/6 to F.O.C. 3rd B.S.)

ALFRED JONES

(British, 5013 tons) Arrived Clyde 29/10 with considerable damage forward. (C. in C. W.A. 1644/6 to C. in C., S.A.)

? M.G.B. 40

(Not in Pink or Red list)

Details of damage. (Belfort 1645/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

ENCOUNTER
UTMOST

FORESTER reports ENCOUNTER and UTMOST in collision at 1225/6 in 277° Spartel 137 miles. FORESTER escorting both ships to Gibraltar, E.T.A. 0800/7. ENCOUNTER has minor damage to stern. UTMOST casing damaged and pressure hull dented. Both require docking. No casualties reported. (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/6 to Admty.)

MELROSE ABBEY

My 1517/6. Ship out of sight. Have still not gained contact. (OTTAWA 1755/6 to C in C. W.A.) STELLA CAPELLA has been despatched to escort ship. (C. in C., W.A. 1953/6 to OTTAWA) *See U Boat Campaign.*

WIVERN

Serious damage to main turbine gear. Consider due to sabotage. (WIVERN 2322/6 to Adty.)

LEWANT

(Polish, 1942 tons) Received at 2140. LEWANT stranded on rock in Bangor Bay, send tugs. (Portpatrick Radio)

6.11.1940.

Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping.

- Convoys. Situation at 2000/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1510/6).
- H.X.85. Cancel my 2032/5. H.X. 85 to return to Sydney C.B. Ships which cannot be accommodated there should proceed to Halifax. (D.T.D. to RAJPUTANA, etc., 1135/6) BUXTON with H.X.85 (see America and West Indies).
- O.G.46. Whale oil carrier HECTORIA. A/C trawlers ERIN and HAARLEM to be included in O.G.46 for Gibraltar. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1320/6)
- S.C.9. MALLOW to join (C.in C. W.A. 1015/6). Your 1015/6. Position. Sent back ex French CAPO OLMO unescorted to Oban to meet S.C.9.
- C.W.16. Passed Dover 2245. Enemy coastal batteries fired about 14 rounds, some fell inland. No damage reported. (V.A. Dover, 2302/6)
- S.L.52. SALADIN and SHIKARI to join. Position. (C.in C. W.A. 1033/6).
- H.X.84. Position, escort JERVIS BAY)
S.C.10. " " FOLKESTONE)
W.S.4A. " " CORNWALL)
- (D.T.D. 0550/6, re C.in C. H.F. 0125/6)
- S.L.53 To steer for 37.30 N., 20° 00' W., and thence towards Gibraltar. (D.T.D., 0010/6 to ARAWA). (See also pages 132-3)
- S.L.53 Slow. To turn to course 080° until further orders. (D.T.D., 0019/6) (See also pages 132-3)
- S.H.X.86 } Your 0657/6 and 0056/6. Holding until
S.C.11. } further orders. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.,
 0308 Z/6).
- O.B. 239, Ships in O.B.239, 240, 241 bound for South
240, 241. Atlantic ports will leave convoys in 25° W.
 and are to be routed East of the Azores.
 (D.T.D., 2348/6).
- B.H.X.86. To return to Bermuda. (D.T.D. to MONTCLARE,
 0053/6).
- H.X.86. To return to Halifax. (D.T.D. to VOLTAIRE,
 0056/6).
- S.C.11. Not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D.,
 0057/6)
- O.B.240. Not to sail until further orders. (C.in C.
 W.A. 0103/6)

/ H.G.46 }
S.L.F. 53 }

6.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

H.G. 46) Informing RENOWN of their positions and
S.L.F. 53) routes. (D.T.D. 0035/6).

H.X.84. Ships in CORNISH CITY's Convoy attacked
p.m./5 to steer for position 200 miles
185° from last position given in standard
route. (C.in C. W.A., 2107/6, to G.B.M.S.1)
See also p.179.

Independent My 1340/29 re date of arrival in U.K. of
Ships, independently routed fast ships from abroad.
Dark Hours. Cancel words "before the date". Vesca
telegrams regarding these ships should
state date of arrival at Meridian of 10°
West and not at destination. Ships
concerned will now be allowed to enter
Clyde Belfast and Liverpool during dark hours.
2115/6 for D.T.D. (983).

Independent Until further orders all independent sailings
Sailings from U.K., and between U.K., North American
Suspended. Atlantic ports and Eastern Atlantic ports
north of and including Sierra Leone are to
be suspended. (D.T.D., 1220/6).

Rescue Ships. Your 1228/5. Concur. (D.T.D., 1056/6, to
N.C.S.O. Methil).

ADDA. C.in C. W.A. 1305/4 para 3. FYTCHLEY and
EXMOOR are now detailed for escort of
s.s. ADDA. Request BULLDOG may be sailed
independently for Skaale Fiord, Faroes now.
My 2322 not to C.in C. W.A. refers. *See p. 132.*
(C.in C. H.F. 0059/6 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Operations Against Vichy French.

Repatriations. French ships SOUTHLAND, SAN FRANCISCO,
WYOMING and OREGON are proceeding to U.K.
from U.S.A., and passing through 055° 35' N.
007° 00' W. It is possible that these
ships may endeavour to make for Casablanca
or other French ports and if encountered off
their route they are to be sent in.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1231/6).

VICTORIA. My 1055/28. Request reply concerning
German guarantee and destination of
VICTORIA. (Hd. of M., to N.A. Madrid,
1332/6)

CUBA. Asking if any armed guard is on board.
(C.in C. S.A. to DRAGON, MORETON BAY,
1643/6).
Your 1636/1 and subsequent signals.
DRAGON, MORETON BAY and French ship CUBA
expected arrive Freetown daylight 7/11.
Request instructions for disposal of 1216
sailors on board CUBA. No accommodation
/ on ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CUBA.
(contd.)

on shore at Sierra Leone at present.
(C.in C. S.A. to Admty. 1747/6)

French
Prisoners

My 1929/30. French N.A. states he has no official reply but that he has been informed there will be no reply as French Government will in no circumstances exchange French Emissaries. They will exchange all British F.A.A. and R.A.F. personnel captured.

I have urged him again re-open matter but he has refused. Submit H.M. Ambassador tries it on Pietri, new French Ambassador expected shortly. (N.A. Madrid, 1641/6 to Admty.)

INDO CHINOIS
interception

My 2017/22/10 and your 1104/29/10, Gov. Gold Coast has replied to effect that repatriation through Gold Coast is not practicable. (Reasons) Only alternative appears to be to send passengers by neutral ship to Port Bouet direct and this is considered much the best solution from all points. Following neutral ships capable of carrying these passengers will be passing Freetown southbound in the near future. Portuguese LOURENCO MARQUES, COLONIAL and CUBANGO, Spanish CABO BUENA ESPERANZA. Request arrangements be made for one to call at Freetown to take passengers (numbers). C.in C. S.A. 1707/6 to Adty.)

North Atlantic.

Casablanca.

Your 1915/5, re agent leaving for Casablanca. Details of information required. (D.N.I., 1259/6 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon)

SHEFFIELD.

Arrived Gibraltar a.m./6 from Azores Patrol. (D.O.R. 7/11)

ENCOUNTER)
UTMOST)

In collision 2770 Spartel 137 miles at 1225/6. FORESTER escorting to Gibraltar. Both require docking. (F.O.C.N.A. 1720/6)

ARGUS.

Operation 'Whit'

S.O. Force H. 1146/5 and ARGUS 2031/5. Pilots not had any previous carrier experience. Air Staff consider moonlight take-off should not be attempted. (Air Ministry to Admty. 1920/6)

RENOWN.

RENOWN, FORESTER, ENCOUNTER, GALLANT left 0400/6 in accordance with Admty. 0018/6, (S.O.I., Gib., 0530/6).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Destroyers.

Your 1240/5. Regretted your request cannot be conceded. Hoped revised movements of ROYAL SOVEREIGN will simplify your destroyer problem. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 1624/6).

SAVOIE

Your 0748/2. My information gives date of departure from Casablanca ss. SAVOIE as 27/10. (F.O.C.N.A. to Adty. 1056/6).

DESPATCH)
ARGUS)

Date of arrival at Gibraltar. (DESPATCH, 1542/6)

Force H.

ARK ROYAL, BERWICK, GLASGOW and destroyers, with PASTEUR, arrived Gibraltar p.m./6 from U.K. Flag of V.A. Force H transferred to ARK ROYAL on arrival (D.O.R. 7/11)

Italian S/M's
at Tangier.

Admty. to N.A. Madrid 2250/5. In conversations which I have held with "Governor" Tangier he has not contended that Italian submarines (a) and (b) have a right to stay in this port until they are in a position to navigate under water. (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 1334/6 to Admty.)

My 1357/5. Chief of Naval Staff states second S/M damaged extent not yet known. Minister of Marine unwilling to express opinion on exact interpretation of what degree of seaworthiness necessary but apparently agrees privately with us. He refused to guarantee me news of time granted, as matters for Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom Ambassador now dealing. First S/M apparently CALVI class or later. Second smaller. (N.A. Madrid, 1927/6).

My telegram 675. Andre tells me that (?crew of) submarine B were hastily buying provisions in town this morning. Intention may be to slip out of Tangier during night of 6th - 7th. Submarine "A" has been seriously damaged and several metres of her plates have been removed for repair purposes. Her Captain has asked to be allowed large ~~Titan~~ port crane. (Consul Gen. Tangier, 2015/6 to F.O.)

My 2015/6 to D.N.I. Have received further evidence submarine B will possibly leave
/ Tangier ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Continued)

Tangier during tonight, time unknown. Consider probability is sufficiently strong to warrant especially sharp watch being kept by your patrol in Straits. Current belief is that she may make for Cadiz using dry dock but also said Ceuta. (Consul Gen. Tangier, 2245/6 to Admiral, Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

HERMES

Admty. 1825/4. HERMES to remain Simonstown for present and may be used to intercept and bring in ships mentioned in my 1805/6 and Admty. 1002/5 and 1156/4 (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2025 N/6)

Shipping Routes.

Your 1337/6, re ships routed independently for U.K. from South American ports.
C.in C.

French Ships
Madagascar.

Interception orders. (C.in C. S.A., 1805/6)
See French Merchant Ships.

Troop Movement.

Your 1605/5 ATHLONE CASTLE is required back in U.K. urgently, but if used as proposed could not be available in time. Suggest alternatively that either STIRLING CASTLE or WARWICK CASTLE at present in W.S.4.A. be used. Agree that LLANDAFF CASTLE be ordered to return to Durban. (D.S.T. 2126/6, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Mediterranean.

Operation.

(*"Cerberus"*)

Your 1131/5. Concur that S.O. Force H decides date and conducts operation in Mediterranean. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. Med., 1055/6)

Your 1412/5. It is intended you should specify date and time of R.V. so that sailing date of M.T. ships from U.K. can be determined. (Provisional date). (D.O.D.(F) to S.O. Force H, 1656/6)
Your 1656/6. Time proposed. (V.A. Force H, 2231/6).

/Italian Hydrophones.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Italian Hydrophones.

C.in C. Med. 1741/5. Further interrogation of prisoner reveals object of Italian S/M GONDAR's mission was to lay hydrophones on submerged buoys 10 miles from harbour entrance of Alexandria with listening posts on Cyrenaica Coast. Information believed reliable. (Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 1251/6).

RORQUAL

On completion of 2nd operation ordered in my 1021/29, to establish patrol within 40 miles of Misurata. (Capt. S.1, 1427/6).

Fleet Positions.

Fleet will be operating in force in vicinity of Crete 7/11, Ionian Sea 8-9/11, south and west of Malta 10/11, and afterwards in Ionian Sea. (Capt. S.1, 1721/6, to S/M's on Patrol).

Air Reports.

H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1201/6, 1203/6.
No naval items.

Fulmers.

Asking when they leave Takoradi for Egypt. (5 S.L. to N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 1903/6)

Crete.

Proposal of Metaxas to withdraw Greek troops from Crete. Greek Navy could *convoy* but British naval assistance would be appreciated. (Brit. Mil. Mission, Athens, to W.O., 1210/6) *See Athens 0050/8, p. 211*

Situation Report to 0800/6. C.in C. worried at increased enemy air action yesterday. Kastoria bombed 11 times. (M.A. Athens, to W.O., 1825/6).
Re employment of military forces. (Brit. Mil. Mission, to C.in C. M.E., 1825/6).

Small Craft.
Greece.

Admty. 2029/1 Re provision of A/S, M/S and A/P craft. No hasty action should be taken except to provide small craft asked for in my 1209/5.
Neither crews equipment or armament are yet available for large number of auxiliary vessels and it is essential that both hulls and machinery are in good condition.
(C.in C. Med., 0945/6 to N.A. Athens)

/ Malta Air Report

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Malta Air Report.

Malta situation report from 1700/5 to 1700/6. All times G.M.T. 2105-2132, 1 raider S.79 approached island from North coast. 1 Hurricane up. Fighter engaged at 12000 ft. Bombs dropped on Sennia point and Grand harbour. No military damage - no casualties. Enemy rear gunner silenced and probably aircraft damaged. 0552, 1 CR42 machine gunned Sunderland (230 Squadron) in Marsaxlokk Bay and damaged port main plane and petrol tanks. No fighters up. No casualties. 0645-1520 Sunderland 230 Squadron reconnaissance Ionian Sea area - Malta. Nil report.

1000-1415 Blenheim reconnaissance gulf and harbour of Taranto to report enemy shipping. 3 cruisers 10 miles west of Gallipoli (Gulf of Taranto) appeared to be exercising. 1 M/V 5-6 miles out - 2,000 tons steering north for Cesareo. 3 M/V's of 4,000, 3,000, 1,000 tons 5 miles - steering 045 degs. making for same place. 1 destroyer 10 miles from Taranto - course 210 degs. - speed 30 knots. 2 M.T.B's leaving Taranto - speed 30 knots. Taranto Outer harbour - 3 battleships - 1 cruiser - 6 destroyers. Inner harbour - 6 cruisers - large number of destroyers and flying boats. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1720/6).

Informing Med. Fleet of air reconnaissance today. (V.A. Malta, 1755/6).

East Indies.

Raider Report.

Corrupt message received from Mombasa Radio at 2152Z/5, armed raider 2.26 N., 3.3 E., shelled. (Colombo, 0211Z/6). Informing C.in C. S.A. and C.S.1, (D.D.I.C., 0652/6).

Air Squadrons.

A.402 6/11. From Brooke Popham. Your X.724 5/11. Please amplify proposals for stationing general reconnaissance squadrons in Indian Ocean especially suggested bases. Desirable I should know at once in order to settle possible question of land protection of such bases with India before I leave Delhi early on 9/11. (A.H.Q., India, 1230/6).

/ S/M Report.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies. (Continued)

S/M Report.

SSSS 3.13 S., 55.14 E., BARON HERRIES sighted S/M periscope 0(05 G.M.T. (Admiral, Colombo, 0925Z/6, to Admty.)

Land Operations
"Canvas".

(Kisimayu)

My 1402/28/7. Discussion with forces Nairobi re plans for capture of a certain place, and date. Code name for operation is "Canvas". Details of naval co-operation (C.in C. E.I., 1834 Z/6, to Admty.) See Operations Vol.

China.

Free French,
Indo-China.

(M. de Schompré)

My 1021/1. To co-ordinate activities of Free French movements in Far East, early decisions on following points required. (a) to (h). (C.in C. China, 0413 Z/6)
(Reply: Admty. 2221/21, p. 593)

Gunboats.

Admty. 1859/22. CRICKET departed Singapore 6/11. TARANTULA has defects (date ready) (C.in C. China, 0433 Z/6).

LIVATHO.

Admty. 2005/28/10 and 1919/4/11. Consider advisable to permit Greek ship LIVATHO to continue trading between Singapore and Saigon. Request approval of Greek authorities. (C.in C. China 0441Z/6).

ILE DE FRANCE
Repatrioes

Your 0851/31. Proposal to book for Lourenco Marques approved. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China, 1052/6).

Ammunition.

My 1557/31/8. Intended to re-establish a Far Eastern Reserve of ammunition, approx. two-thirds at Trincomalee and one-third Singapore. Arrangements. (D.T.S.D. 1053/6).

Vichy French Ships,

Saigon

Admiral Terraux informs me that he has received permission from Vichy to send from Saigon two French ships to Hong Kong and one to Singapore. I have told him that I cannot sanction this until British ships are allowed to visit Saigon. (C.in C. China, 0453Z/6 to Admty.)

Japanese S/M.

Your 1012/26 Re loss of Japanese Submarine I.67. In view of date of loss and pro-Axis declaration, no further expression of sympathy is considered necessary. (Hd. of M. 1148/6 to N.A. Tokyo).

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America and West Indies.

S/M Report.
Panama.

My 0832/4. No further information but Colon reports Master of Dutch Ship MANTE^{PHANTO} claims nearly colliding with unidentified submarine on surface off Cape Mala 0300 R, 2/11. Submarine exhibited white light. No United States Submarine was in vicinity (C 2) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1140/6, to C. in C. A.W.I.)

BUXTON

Ready for sea 0001/7. As part of Convoy H.X.85 will be anchored off Bell Island. Proposal re trials (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1234/6).

CAMERONIAN
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

CAMERONIAN sailed from New York 0400 G.M.T., 5/11 prior to receipt of your 1220/6 (suspension of independent sailings) DUCHESS OF ATHOLL sailed from Montreal 3/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1728/6 to Admty.)

Your 1234/6. Trial approved. Convoy H.X. 85 now proceeding Sydney Cape Breton and Halifax. See also my 1726/6. (F.O. 3 B.S. 2136/6)

Shipping
Suspension.

My 1011/6 and your 1220/6, suspension of independent sailings between N. and E. Atlantic ports north of Sierra Leone. Have instructed Jamaica to suspend loading and sailing of fruit ships and report situation. Loss of cargo anticipated if sailing delayed more than 3 days. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1401/6 to Admty.)

U.S. Bases.

U.S. base, Bermuda, and Governor's telegram 272 of 4/11 to S. of S. for Colonies. Propose following 2 alternatives for getting over local and other objectives to permanent American flying boat base in Great Dump in addition to that in Castle Harbour. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/6).

Australia.

Officer for U.S.
Mission.

At request of Australian Minister Washington and with approval of Commonwealth Government Commander Burrell R.A.N. late Director of Plans is proceeding to Washington to be attached for a few weeks to Australian Legation Staff. (A.C.N.B., 1051Z/6, to Admty.)

New Zealand.

BATORY.

Arrived Wellington 2240/5. (S.O.I. Wellington, 0231Z/6).

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

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TOLTECA
ORINOCO
IDARWALD
RHEIN
PHRYGIA

Following information received from Navy Department: Mexican M.V. TOLTECA (German owned) sailed a.m. 5/11 from Vera Cruz for Villa Hermose and Frontera. Following German Merchant Vessels at Bret are carrying out all preparations for departure by loading extra supplies and restricting crews to ships:- ORINOCO, IDARWALD, RHEIN, PHRYGIA. ORINOCO in particular has large quantities of foodstuff on board. (N.A. Washington, 1010/6).

SCHARNHORST

At Kobe. Intercepted Commercial message Shanghai to Hamburg suggests ship will sail in January (D.S. 429)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE TAMATAVE
LINOIS
DALNY
VILLE DE ROUEN
LE CONTE DE LISLE

French ship VILLE de TAMATAVE likely to leave Madagascar 6th November for Dakar. LINOIS and DALNY to follow almost immediately and VILLE DE ROUEN and LE CONTE de LISLE later. Ships expected to pass at least 200 miles from Cape of Good Hope. If met, ships are to be sent in. Pass to all ships likely to be in vicinity and those leaving Cape during period which make it possible for them to meet.
(C.in C. S.A., 1805/6 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

LAURENTIC,
PATROCLUS.

Survivors from the torpedoed ships H.M.S. LAURENTIC and H.M.S. PATROCLUS were landed at a northern port 6/11. They number 631 - 52 officers and 316 ratings from the LAURENTIC, and 33 officers and 230 ratings from the PATROCLUS. (The Times 7/11).

False report.

Suspect ship torpedoed in position 055° , $32'$ N. 008° $28'$ W. BEAGLE in vicinity, request air co-operation, request planes forecast number of ships in portion bound for British West Coast ports who are now unescorted.

(ACTIVE, 0630/6, to C.in C. W.A.)

My 0630. Irish Sea Ships all present. Commodore reports there should be 14 Ships for West Coast Ports.
(ACTIVE, 0850/6).

My 0630. Plane reports all ships present. BEAGLE should rejoin convoy.
(ACTIVE 1005/6)

MELROSE ABBEY

British 1908 tons. SSSS, position 51° $40'$ N. 17° $08'$ W.
(Valentia Radio, 0728/6)

Intercept, 51° $12'$ N., 17° $08'$ W.
MELROSE ABBEY chased by submarine.
(Lands End Radio, 0742/6).

MELROSE ABBEY reported being chased by S/M in position 051° $12'$ N. 017° $08'$ W. at 0842/6. (C.in C. W.A. 0845/6 amended 0937/6).

SSSS 51° $05'$ N., 17° $32'$ W., MELROSE ABBEY, submarine appeared.
(Lands End Radio, 1116/6).

My 0845. MELROSE ABBEY reports submarine appeared against position 051° $05'$ N. 017° $32'$ W. at 1216.
(C.in C. W.A. 1231/6 to OTTAWA, HARVESTER).

Following in code from Landsend at 1315 (no indication of originator.) Still being chased by submarine, have GARTBRATTAN crew aboard and damaged badly forward myself require assistance immediately position 51° $00'$ N., 17° $47'$ W. 1155/6.

(C.in C. W.A., 1327/6 to Admty.) MELROSE ABBEY and GARTBRATTAN were in collision at 2113/5 about $360'$ W.S.W. of Slyne Head. (D.O.R. 6/11)

/ My 1231



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked. (Continued)

Hunting submarine seen on surface in position 050° 54' N. 017° 37' W. no contact yet. H.M.S. HARVESTER in company, MELROSE ABBEY in sight. Oil fuel remaining 38% (OTTAWA, 1517/6).

WELLARD is to escort convoy to Oban and await orders. STELLA CAPELLA and MAN-O-WAR proceed forthwith to assistance of MELROSE ABBEY in position 051° 05' N. 017° 32' W. at 1217/6. (C.in C. W.A. 1545/6).

CLAN MACKINLAY

British, 6365 tons. Have survivors of CLAN MACKINLAY on board. Rejoining convoy. (BLACKFLY 2115/6 to C.in C. Rosyth)

Analysis.

To enable a full analysis of all U-Boat attacks on Convoys to be completed, it is requested that all escort vessels in company with Convoys attacked may be ordered to forward a Track Chart, if available, of their movements from the time of the initial attack until completion of the subsequent search. (D. A/S.W. 1057/6)

Submarines Reported.

1400/5.

Local fishermen report (C.2) sighted submarine nationality unknown on surface about 1300 G.M.T. 5/11, 3 miles South Bugio (Desertas) proceeding East. (Consul, Funchal, 1012/6) Informing S. and A., North Atlantic Stn., (F.O.C.N.A. 1413/6).

2010.

56° N., 9.13 W., confirmed at 2010/6. (D.D.I.C. 2058/6)

2020.
2036.

By D/F at (a) 2020/6 and (b) 2036/6 Positions of two unknown units probable U-boats homeward bound to Lorient were approximately (a) 90 miles W. of Fastnet and (b) in about 50 degs 30' N. 10 degs. W. respectively. Both fixes unreliable. (D.D.I.C. 2140/6)

0106.

56° N., 9° to 13° W., position indefinite (D.S. 428)

0319.

58° to 59° N., 19° to 21° W., position indefinite (D.S. 428).

0826.

51.40 N., 17.8 W. (MELROSE ABBEY chased) (D.S. 428)

/ 1519-)
1915)

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Submarines Reported.

1519-)
1915)

58° N. - 61° N., 17° - 23° W.,
indefinite position. (D.S. 428)

2209.

About 49.30 N., 8° W., indefinite
position. (D.S. 429)

East Indies.

0925 Z.

3.13 S., 55.14 E. (Colombo 0925 Z/6).
See FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Panama.

S.O.I. Kingston 1140/6. See FOREIGN
STATIONS.

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian - 1 may still be in Azores Area.
German - 1 was in 48° 54' N. 20° 09' W.
at 0940/5.
1 was in 51° 40' N. 17° 08' W.
at 0826/6.
1 was in about 54° 50' N. 12° 20' W.
at 2027/5.
1 may be about 25 miles N. of
Bloody Foreland.
1 was in area 56° N. between 9°
and 13° W. at 0106/6.
1 was in area 58° to 60° N.
19° to 21° at 0319/6.
(D.D.I.C. 1309/6)

Reports, Cloud.

Any ship making a submarine distress
message in Area one should whenever
possible add the visibility and height
of cloud base for the benefit of aircraft
which may be sent out.
(Example). Message DH was not made by W/T.
(D.S.D. 1555/6 to G.B.M.S.)

Submarines Attacked.

1840.

Attacking firm contact in 50.57 N., 17.22 W.
since 1840. Still in contact. (OTTAWA,
2241/6).

/ 0850

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. (Continued)

0850.

By A/S.T. FANDANGO 54.51 N., 5.37 W.,
with d/c's (B.4) (D.S. 429)

By CLYDE 0800/17/10, about 540' W.N.W.
of Bloody Foreland, attacked with
3 torpedoes, no explosions heard,
A/S contact lost shortly afterwards.
Again at 1441/18, on same patrol,
sighted conning tower of U-boat
breaking surface, but lost contact
before attack could be carried out.
(D.O.R. 7/11)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

WIVERN

WIVERN reports damage to her engines; which she believed to have been caused by sabotage.

A.M.C's in Northern Patrol

Until suitable replacements for A.M.C's or additional trawlers are available F.O.C.N.P. intends to employ the remaining A.M.C's on Northern Patrol only.

Town Class Destroyers

GEORGETOWN and CAMERON arrived at Belfast this morning from Canada.

Operation "White"

ARGUS, DESPATCH and 3 destroyers sailed from the Clyde this morning.

FURIOUS and 3 destroyers arrived at Liverpool from Scapa this afternoon.

Channel Convoys

The 8 day cycle for Channel Convoys is not being maintained, principally on account of delay in loading and unloading of ships. Other factors tending to extend the cycle are delays due to weather and the limited number of escort vessels available.

Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

Independent sailings from U.K. and between U.K; North American Atlantic ports and Eastern Atlantic ports north of and including Sierra Leone were resumed today.

A.M.C's on Northern Patrol were this evening ordered to be redisposed to be under cover of forces with C. in C., H.F. or be otherwise given security.

AUSTRALIA is remaining in the Clyde at 2 hours notice for the present.



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Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

Special Patrols were flown throughout daylight today North and West of the Faroes to 21° W. A cross over patrol 300 miles S.W. of Lands End was flown. Battles from Iceland covered an area to northward and westward of Iceland.

A sweep into the Skagerrak and thence to Horns Reef was carried out this morning. Nothing of importance was sighted.

Attack on
Calais

Coastal Command aircraft last night bombed gun emplacements near Calais and the docks at Calais.

Wreckage

An Anson on A/S patrol observed an explosion in position 170° Harwich 10 miles at 1634 today. Wreckage of ship, two rafts, and one injured survivor were sighted. As the aircraft's signal to a naval unit was unsuccessful, a message was sent to base.

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on
Convoy F.S.28

F.S. 28 was attacked this morning in the Thames Estuary. Fighters shot down 4 (including one dive bomber) and 4 further probable enemy planes. The following casualties occurred:-

- EGRET
- SS ASTROLOGER
- SS DAGO II
- SS DRACO

EGRET slightly damaged by splinters.
SS ASTROLOGER (1673 tons) beached
SS DAGO II (1993 tons) Damaged. Beached at the Nore. SS DRACO reported "in tow of another ship of convoy"

SS OXFORD

SS OXFORD (1893 tons) Bombed at 1221 16' E.N.E. Harwich. Fate unknown.

SS MELROSE ABBEY

(In collision with GARTBRATTAN 5/11) was bombed about 130 miles S.W. of Ireland this morning. Result not known.

SS HARBOROUGH

(Bombed 6/11) Arrived at Scapa today in tow.

/Attack on.....



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SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Attack on
Convoy F.N.28

Convoy F.N. 28 escorted by WALLACE and WESTMINSTER was bombed this morning 13 miles N.N.E. of Cromer, but no ships were damaged, though trawler GREENFLY had 2 casualties and slight damage. ~~from WESTMINSTER (2nd page 170)~~

Faroos

There have been several reports recently of unidentified aircraft flying over Sydero. Today one was definitely identified as enemy

Mining

SS HERLAND
Sunk

SS HERLAND (2645 tons) of Convoy F.S. 28 (see Enemy Air Activity) was mined and sunk in the Thames Estuary (Daily Operations Report)

POULMIC
Sunk

POULMIC (Free French Mine-watching Vessel) was mined and sunk off Plymouth breakwater this evening.

REED
Sunk

H.M. Drifter REED was mined and sunk off the Thames Estuary this afternoon (~~Daily Operations Report~~)

WILLIAM WESNEY
Sunk

M/Strawler WILLIAM WESNEY was mined and sunk off Orfordness this morning.

Enemy
Minelaying

Enemy aircraft minelaying probably took place last night off East Anglia and in the Thames Estuary.

Mining of
Kiel Canal

The Air Ministry state that the successful mining of the Kiel Canal may be accepted. Reports are to the effect that owing to ships having been sunk in the Canal navigation is complicated and slow.



War Diary

7.11.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

After attack by gunfire from MILFORD and A/S bomb from DEVONSHIRE's Walrus, French submarine PONCELET surfaced and surrendered and then scuttled herself this evening on the west edge of the Gulf of Guinea. It appears from PONCELET's log that she fired two torpedoes, apparently at MILFORD who felt a shock; the second torpedo stuck in the tube.

MORETON BAY and DRAGON arrived at Freetown today with CUBA.

Mediterranean

Operation
"Coat"

Force H (ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and destroyers) in company with Force F (BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, GRIFFIN, GREYHOUND, GALLANT, to reinforce the Medtn. Fleet) left Gibraltar today for the central Mediterranean.

RAF Attack
Valona

R.A.F. machines working from Eleusis bombed Valona today and destroyed one and probably damaged other Italian aircraft. One ship in harbour was hit, another bomb falling very close.

Australia

SS CAMBRIDGE (10846 tons) was sunk by an explosion, probably a mine, 6 miles East of Wilson's Promontory, S.E. Australia, this afternoon.

Bass Strait,

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Northern
Patrol.

Until suitable replacements for A.M.C. or additional trawlers, are available I intend to employ remaining A.M.Cs on Northern Patrol only, proceeding to and from patrol via Minches if unescorted.

Ocean boarding vessels will be sailed to and from Western Patrol in convoy - those burning oil fuel replenishing at Gibraltar between alternate patrols.

Further proposals are being forwarded by letter.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1142/7 to Adty).

A.P. Trawlers
for
Nore Command.

To guard Channels against intensive E/Boat activities in Harwich Areas, 3 more A.P.Trawlers are required to replace those sunk by enemy action since August.
(C.in C. Nore 1204/7 to Adty). Request you distribute A.P.Trawlers as requisite within your Command, as no more are available from elsewhere.
(A.C.N.S.H 1832/7 to C.in C. Nore).

Converted
Fishing
Vessels.

Owing to enemy mining, fishing vessels with diesel motors that are being converted to relieve A/P Yachts are not to be manned and are not to leave their conversion ports until further orders.
(D.M.S.1339/7).

A/S Patrol
in Sound of
Mull.

Urgent representation having been made by N.O. i/c Oban that by night owing to temporary concentration of large numbers of merchant ships off Oban, Northern Approach via Sound Mull should be guarded, A/S patrol drawn from working-up vessels has been instituted.
(Western Isles 1524/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

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"Seluge".
DRIVER.

At 1130/7. (D.C.1205/7).

Movements.

KENYA.

To be sailed for Plymouth making best use of dark hours.
(A.C.N.S. 0058/7 to C.in C. W.A.)
Sail to arrive Hartland Point dawn 9/11
(C.in C. W.A. 0313/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Intend sailing KENYA 1600/8/11. Speed 22 knots. Expected time of arrival Plymouth 1500/9. Request fighter protection.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1455/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

Dover.

Patrols for night 7/8. (V.A. Dover, 1243/7).

Ex American
Destroyers.

Your 0836/7. Request you sail GEORGETOWN and CAMERON for Plymouth on 9/11 to pass Hartland Point at 0730/10.

Following are approximate dates of arrival at Belfast of other ex-American destroyers 9/11 - LEWES, LINCOLN, LUDLOW. 10/11 - LEEDS, MONTGOMERY, STANLEY, CHURCHILL, SHERWOOD. Request you will sail these to Plymouth after two nights in harbour. Inform me if berthing or fuelling difficulties necessitate their being diverted elsewhere.
(C.in C. W.A. 1322/7 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Operations.

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

My 0034/7 German unit made further transmission on same frequency at 0045/7 from approx. same position.
(D.D.I.C. 0151/7 to Ships and Authorities in Areas A. and B.)

My position course and speed are 052° 47'N., 013° 30'W., 240°16 knots. Shadower in sight for 20 minutes. Intend to operate near 048° N., 015° W during daylight 8/11 and then return to Scapa.
(F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.1131/7).



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WAR DIARY.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

ADMIRAL SCHEER cont.

NELSON and SOUTHAMPTON spread 10 miles apart are patrolling with four destroyers about a datum line drawn 135° and 315 through position 063° 30' N., 012° 25' W., at 0530 on course 045° and at 1000 on a course 225. Speed 12 knots north east 16 knots southwest.

DOUGLAS, VIMY, and BULLDOG after refuelling at Skaale Fjord, Faroes, have instructions to rendezvous with me in 063° 15' N., 013° 00' W., at 1200/9.

> RODNEY was detached at 2320/6 in position 060° 47' N., 009° 46' W., to proceed in accordance with Adty. 2107/6.

* Suggest re-opening Iceland D/F Station at once. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (C.in C. H.F. 1209/7). *Reply: 13/11, page 352*

Your position was reported to the enemy at 1140. (D.D.I.C. 1214/7 to V.A. 1 B.C.S.)

CORNWALL W S 4 A from northwards and PRETORIA CASTLE from southwards are steering for 042° 00' N., 023° 00' W due P.M/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 1220/7 to SALOPIAN, CILICIA).

Shipping.

Cancel my 1220/6. Sailings may be resumed. (D.T.D. 1221/7 to A.I.G., C.in C. America and West Indies., C.in C. South Atlantic., F.O.C. North Atlantic, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

You may expect three Hudson Aircraft at about 1600/7. (C.in C. W.A. 1330/7 to V.A. 1 B.C.S.)

Town Destroyers.

SHERWOOD arrived here 1100 G.M.T. today ~~with~~ ~~with~~ defective evaporators. Your 1739/6 only effective destroyer STANLEY now at one hours notice. (N.O.I.C. St.Johns, N.F. 1414/7 to B.S.3).

> RODNEY.

My 2309/6. Route should be adjusted at your discretion to provide chance of intercepting raider. (V.C.N.S. 1705/7 to RODNEY).

AUSTRALIA.

Your 1245/6 and my 1107/6 (re repair by ships staff). Ship will be at four hours notice for steam for full power from 2300/7. (AUSTRALIA 1905/7).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

REVENGE.

You will be required to sail on 12/11 to cover outward bound convoys thence proceeding to Halifax. You are to obtain from F.O.I.C. Greenock the routes of O.B.239, O.B.240 and O.B.241. (C.in C. W.A. 2031/7 to REVENGE).

→ CHITRAL
A.M.Cs.

CHITRAL should be withdrawn if necessary to harbour as she is exposed to attack should Raider return North of Iceland. Remainder of A.M.Cs on ~~Northern Patrol~~ should be redispersed to be under cover of forces with C.in C. H.F. or otherwise given security. (V.C.N.S. 2044/7 to V.A.N.P).

For ships in CORNISH CITY'S Convoy attacked p/m/6. Steer for position 200 miles 185° from last position given in standard route. (C.in C. W.A. 2107/6).

AUSTRALIA.

Your 1905/7. AUSTRALIA is to remain at the Clyde at 2 hours notice for the present. (Adty 2215/7 to AUSTRALIA).

FURIOUS.

My 1257/6. (Embarkation of A/C and Personnel) For Birkenhead read Liverpool. (D.N.A.D. 1043/7 and 1044/7 to FURIOUS).

Chamel Convoy
shelled.

FERNIE reports about 8 salvos fell near Convoy off Dover between 2109 and 2225/6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1857/7 to Adty).

JACKAL.)
JUPITER.)
JAGUAR.)

3 Destroyers may have left Brest. Proceed with despatch towards Roches Douvres and thence sweep Westward along French Coast. Return Plymouth at 0930/8. (C.in C. W.A. 1950/7 to JACKAL.)

→ Iceland.

CHITRAL proceed to Reykjavik forthwith. (F.O.C.N.P. 2144/7 to Northern Patrol.)

Submarines

STURGEON.

On 3/11 in 59° 1'N., 10° 20'E. sank one 2000 ton supply ship. on 6/11 in 58° 34'N., 5° 38'E. sank one 1200 tons supply ship. (V.A.S. 1158/7 to Adty).



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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Submarines.

STURGEON.

E.T.A. 1230 and enter Wallis Channel
0530/8.
(STURGEON 0111/7 to C.in C. Rosyth).

TIGRIS.

Starboard 4 pistons and breech-end
damaged. Cannot repair at sea.
Propose CUTTY SARK escort me Milford
Haven arriving 1230.
(TIGRIS 0756/7 to Capt: S.2) Approved.
(Capt: S.2 0943/7 to TIGRIS).

TRIUMPH.

Route from Bishop Rock to patrol near
47° 30'N., 8° W and thence as
previously ordered. (V.A.S.1303/7 to
TRIUMPH).

H.43.

Sails Plymouth 1630/7 for Holyhead.
(C.in C. W.A. 1627/7 to Adty).

H.28.

Adty 1842/5. Request H.28 may work
for Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A.
1639/7 to V.A.S.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/8.
(V.A.S.1646/7).

British Air Activity.

SA.IA.

Is being flown as early as possible
today instead of SA.IE.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0242/7 to Adty).

SA.9.

No Air R/C during the night. SA.9
will be flown at 0830. (C.in C. Nore
0629/7 to V.A. Dover).

Lorient.

Available A/C of 53, 59, 22, and 812
squadrons to destroy U/Boats and
Harbour facilities at Lorient during
night 7/8. (H.Q.C.C. 1120/7).



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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Belfast.

Reference your X.626 of 4/11 proposing temporary additional restrictions for Belfast area. This Command has no objection provided adequate warning is given before conditions take effect and that these are accepted by all concerned as temporary. Request opportunity to consider proposed boundary.
(H.Q.F.C. 1640/7 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Agent"
A-28.
(F.N.28).

Help. Position 53° 14' N., 1° 8' E.
(WESTMINSTER 0755/7).
Fighters being sent. (C.in C. Nore 0811/7 to WALLACE) A/C bombing in 53° 5' N., 1° 31' E. (WALLACE 0820/7)
Several delayed action bombs dropped. No hits. One killed, one wounded, and slight damage in Trawler GREEN FLY by own fire. (WESTMINSTER 0945/7 to C.IN C. Rosyth).

VIMIERA.

Your 1548/6. An H.E.115.
(VIMIERA 0927/7 to Adty).

MELROSE ABBEY.

(British, 1908 Tons) A/C attack in 51° 47' N., 14° 3' W. (Portishead Radio 1119/7) Still attacked (Valentia radio 1136/7).

Convoy.
F.S.28.
ASTROLOGER.
(British, 1673 Tons)
DAGO II.
(British, 1993 Tons)

One A/C, 2 bombs. No hits.
(WINCHESTER 1100/7). 3 A/C. 12 bombs. No hits. One A/C still shadowing.
(WINCHESTER 1155/7). Fighters have been sent (Nore W/T. 1243/7). Many Bombs dropped. One ship sunk. ASTROLOGER hit forward and is beaching herself in 51° 32' N., 1° 6' E. (EGRET 1250/7) DAGO II disabled off East Barrow Light Vessel. Require tug immediately. (Recd. 1151 G.M.T. North Foreland Radio 1303/7 to C.in C. Nore). 2 tugs and medical assistance being sent. (C.in C. Nore 1329/7 to EGRET). My 1250. No ships sunk. DAGO in tow of another ship of Convoy.

/ASTROLOGER.....



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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

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Convoy (Contd).
F.S.28.
ASTROLOGER.
(British 1673 Tons)
DAGO II.
(British 1993 Tons)

ASTROLOGER beached 70° West of Barrow Beacon 5 cables. EGRET damaged above water and 2 fuel tanks holed, 5 severe casualties and several minor cases. E.T.A. Sheerness 1515. (EGRET 1354/7 to Adty). Am standing by ASTROLOGER in distress near Knob Light Vessel (ST.MELLONS 1831/7 to O.I.C. Harwich). DAGO II beached at Nore. No casualties. Hoped to salve (C.in C. Nore 0041/8 to Adty).

OXFORD.

(British, 1893 Tons). In 52° 2'N., 1° 42'E. Off Shipwash. Bombed. (North Foreland Radio 1221/7. No report of arrival in Thames. (C.in C. Nore 0041/8 to Adty).

CASPIAN.

Your 1703/5. Early full report of air attack at 1030/5 requested. (D.D.I.C.1253/7).

Convoy.

FERNIE reports at 0609/7 three Bombs dropped near ships in Convoy 8 miles S.W. of Beachy Head. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1857/7 to Adty).

Mining.

Plymouth.

Port is closed owing to mines. (C.in C. W.A. 0729/7).
Port is open. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/7).
Port is closed. (C.in C. W.A. 1850/7).

WILLIAM WESNEY.
(M/S Trawler).

Mined and sunk 6 cables 322° from South Shipwash Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1035/7 to Admiralty).
Mined and sunk 0858/7, 51° 53' 48" N, 1° 35' 36" E. 4 ratings missing, 1 rating killed. Details. SHELDRAKE, passing at time. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1402/7 to C.in C. Nore).

Explosions.

Explosion seen and heard by A/S Trawler close to ship in position 5 cables 035° from sunk Lt.Vessel at 0505/7. Heavy explosion reported at 0938½ mile S.E. N.E. Swin Lt.Vessel, no ships in vicinity. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1137/7 to Admiralty).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

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Falmouth.

Port is open entrance by Q.Z.S.180.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1208/7). Port is
closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C.
Falmouth 2036/7).

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN. Route from Londonderry.

- (1) 55° 38'N., 07° 00'W.
- (2) 55° 38'N., 08° 00'W.
- (3) 54° 31'N., 14° 00'W.
- (4) 51° 00'N., 20° 00'W.

thence to Ponta Delgada Azores.
(C.in C. W.A. 1410/7).

Ruytingen.

Your 1314/6. Proposal to mine Channel
on either side of Inner Ruytingen did
not emanate from me. There is no
recent information that these channels
are in use or buoyed and it has
consequently been thought that vessels
use the inshore channels. Proposed
positions for minefields were contained
in my No. A 5/1462/40 of 9th October,
1940. (V.A.Dover, 1438/7 to C.in C.
Nore).

Dover.

Routine sweep to noon/7/11. Details.
(V.A. Dover 1514/7).

TEMPLE/MCAT.
(4427 Tons).

Reports enemy aircraft dropped round
black object probably a mine 5 cables
225° from buoy at 0745/7. No
parachute and no explosion.
(WALLACE 1530/7 to C.in C. Nore).

B.S.46.

Initial position 56° 01'N., 1° 12'W.
Direction 328° Length 9 miles.
Minelayers TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER
escorted by two destroyers. Details
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1601/7).

POULMIC.
(Free French).

Mined and sunk, probably acoustic at
1819/7, approximate position 200°
breakwater light 11 cables. 7 saved
including C.O. 10 believed missing.
(C.in C. W.A. 0218/8 to Admiralty).



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HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining.

Liverpool.

Cancel my 0950/25/10. (Re anchorage within 5 miles of Bar Light Vessel.) Whole area now considered clear. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1900/7 to Admiralty).

Mine at
Bull Point.

My 1946/2 para.2. Mine was magnetic. As recovery impossible has been destroyed. (C.in C. W.A. 1948/7 to Admiralty).

Milford Haven.

Port is closed owing to aircraft minelaying. (F.O.I.C. 2304/7 to Admiralty.)

Sheerness.

Mine detonated at 2145/7, 145° North East Spit buoy 5 cables well abaft sweep. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 2320/7 to C.in C. Nore).

M.T.B.68.

Harwich

About 1800/7 exploded 2 mines, believed acoustic, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile N.W. of West Rocks Buoy. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2357/7 to C.in C. Nore).

H.M. REED *sunk*
Harwich.

H.M. Drifter REED blown up by mine in approximately 51° 46' N., 1° 14.5' E at 1630 today sole survivor Lieut. Empson R.N.V.R. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2301/7).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Unit.

Probably Destroyer or larger to the E. of Fair Island at 2357/6. D/F fix. (D.D.I.C. 0034/7).

Brest.

At 0810/7, 4 Destroyers only seen. Visibility very bad. (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 0950/7 to Adty) R/C at 1535/7. (P.R.U. St. Eval 2045/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

M/V's.

On Dutch and Danish Coasts at 0800/7. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1145/7 to H.Q.C.C.) 13 M/V's at 0818/7 in 53° 23' N., 5° E, steering N.Ely at 6 knots. A/C report. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1155/7 to H.Q.C.C.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Skagerrak.
Oslo Fiord.

Report on Shipping and Convoys and
A/S Patrols by STURGEON.
(V.A.S.1157/7 to Adty).

Channel.

At 1210, 3 enemy M/V's with one
light Naval craft 30 miles south
of Needles. Medium speed. Course
310°. (V.A.S.1354/7 to S/M's Area
B).

German
Main Units.

Last Known positions. (Adty 1742/7
to A.I.G.)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Thursday.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

GREEN FLY.

(Trawler) one killed, one wounded, and slight damage by gunfire from WESTMINSTER during Air Attack on convoy "Agent".
~~AGENT~~. (See Enemy Air Activity)
(WESTMINSTER 0945/7 to C.in C. Rosyth)

TIGRIS.

Starboard 4 Pistons and breech-end badly damaged. Cannot repair at sea. Propose arrive Milford Haven 1230. Time required in harbour 14 hours. (TIGRIS 0756/7 to Capt: S.2).

MANCHESTER.

17 hours notice for sea can be accepted during fitting of Type 286.M. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1250/7 to C.S.18).



WAR DIARY.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
FN26.

My 1710/6. F.N. Convoy 28 delayed by weather. Position Outer Dowsing course and speed 315° 5 knots. (WESTMINSTER 1045/7).

WN.31.
WN.32.

As W.N.32 will pass through the exact position in which W.N.31 was attacked at dusk yesterday, propose they should be ordered to steer to the northward on passing Duncansby Head turning to the southward at dusk.
(A.C.O.S. 1354/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

W.N. and E.N.

W.A.C.I's Section A. As I presume that you assume responsibility for W.N. and E.N. convoys while passing through your command I suggest that you re-route them as necessary for this purpose.
(C.in C. W.A. 2029/7 to A.C.O.S. C.in C. Rosyth). *Reply: A Co S. 1203/9, p. 205*

O.B.239.
O.B.240-241.
H.X.84.

Time of sailing Oban. (C.in C. W.A. 1231/7 1324/7). Your 1231/7. Suggest sailing O.B.239 from Oban at dawn 0800 to avoid use of lights in blackout. (N.C.S.O. Oban to C.in C.W.A. 1930/7).

Times of sailing Bar L.V. (C.in C. W.A. 1231/7 1324/7, N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1331/7, 1425/7).
ABERDEEN to sail with O.B.240 leaving convoy in 20° W. and proceeding to Sydney C.B. (C.in C. W.A.1500/7).
D.T.D. 2140/7.

↓ To steer for position 200 miles 185° from last position given in standard route. (C.in C. W.A. 2107/6). Your 2107/6. As Master unlikely to understand term "standard route" suggest signal be amended to read "last position given in envelope "C". (N.O.I.C. Halifax to C.in C. W.A. 0941/7). Add to my 2107/6 "now". (C.in C. W.A. 1235/7).

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

O.G. 45.

Your 0819/5. Commodore was not at R.V. has not yet been sighted. Have sighted 5 ships of convoy still widely scattered. Expected position etc. at noon/8. (SALOPIAN to C.in C. W.A., 1526/7).

H.G. 46.

Position at 2000/6. Intend returning to Plymouth to refuel. (Capt. D.3, 0101/7)

H.X.85,
H.X.86, H.X.87
S.C.11.

Directions for. RODNEY can arrive about 12/11 and will act as ocean escort. Route. (D.T.D., 1237/7 to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. etc.) My 1237/7. B.H.X.86, H.X.87 and S.H.X.87 not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D. 1345/7).

S.C.9.

List. (C.in C. W.A. 2135/7 to Admty.)

Channel
Convoys,
Delays.

Admty. 2305/6. Reason for channel convoys not maintaining 8-day cycle is delay in loading and unloading. Recommendations (C.in C. Nore, 2148/7)

Faroes.

Admty. 1220/6. Asking if Faroes regarded as U.K. port, and what action intended for Finnish ships routed via Faroes and intercepted there. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1201/7 to F.O.C.O.S.)

ADDA.

Request you inform master ADDA of contents of N.O.I.C., Faroes signal (p. 37) 1549/2 Re: Transfer military in Skaale Fiord. (D.S.T., 2233/7 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
Reply: 1941/8, p. 204



7.11.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.PONCELET.
surrendered.

MILFORD is proceeding to attack French S/M on surface in 00.20' S., 08.50' E. (F.O. 1 C.S. to Admt. 1640 A/7).
My 1640. After attack by gunfire from MILFORD and A/S bomb from DEVONSHIRE's Walrus, French S/M PONCELET surfaced, surrendered and then scuttled herself. Survivors in MILFORD and DELHI. (F.O. 1 C.S., 1900/7).

French Ships.

One Vichy French destroyer and French ship CARIMARE sighted in 06.00 N., 14.34 W., course and speed, 135°, 9 knots, at 1300Z/6. (C.in C. S.A. to 1 S.C. 1315/7)
See also French Merchant Ships, p. 186.

SALOPIAN.

Sighted four-master topsail schooner flying Vichy French colours heading 320° becalmed in 45.32 N., 20.00' W. at 1915/6. (SALOPIAN, 1525/7 to V.A.N.P., F.O.C.N.A.)

INDOCHINOIS

Admt. 1104/29. Proper officer of the Crown, Sierra Leone, cannot find adequate legal grounds on which to ask court to condemn cargo of INDOCHINOIS. Request necessary instructions be issued through Govr., Sierra Leone. (C.in C. S.A. 1415/7, to Admt.)

CUBA.

Your 1707/6 and 1747/6. Asking if 1216 sailors in CUBA, to be transported in neutral ships for repatriation, could remain in CUBA till passages become available. (A.C.N.S. (F) to C.in C. S.A. 1632/7)

My 1747/6. Following preliminary information obtained from CUBA. Passengers, cargo, French sympathies, no evidence at present of gold. (C.in C. S.A., 1721 N/7).

DJENNE

My 1934/4. French N.A. states DJENNE left Casablanca 5/11 and will be in 55.35 N., 7.15 W. on 10/11. (N.A. Madrid 2026/7)

North Atlantic.Italian S/M's
at Tangier.

Commenting on 1927/6 and 1848/6 from N.A. Madrid, re Spanish diver, W/T installation, etc., (Consul-Gen., Tangier, 1830/7 to D.N.I.)
Re despatch of neutral expert. (Consul-Gen. Tangier, 1509/7, to N.A. Madrid and tel. No. 691 to Admt. 2310/7)

Operation
"Coat"

C.in C. Med. 1335/4. Vessels sailed less RENOWN and ENCOUNTER 1900/7. (F.O.C. N.A. 1901/7).

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Thursday 7.11.40



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

To complete with ammunition from RESOLUTION before leaving Freetown. (D.T.S.D., 1340/7).

WINCHESTER CASTLE.

My 1049/2. In view of sailing of WINCHESTER CASTLE, Clyde, request instructions whether safe to anchor Rothesay to await daylight. (N.C.S.O. Capetown to Admty., 1129/7).

Troop Transport.

Your 2126/6. Arrangements with Dept. of Defence, Union of S.A., re convoys (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1254 B/7 to D. of S.T.)

CITY OF DUNKIRK
SAWALOENTO

Overdue shipping, my 0915/4 and 1015/6. Both arrived Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1155/7).

Troop Transports
and Hospital
Ship.

Your 1304/29/10 and 2210/18/10, no ship already fitted as Hospital Ship can be made available as requested in your 1235/4/10 as all in service of fitting are urgently needed. Propose SELANDIA be fitted by you for the purpose as suggested in your 1615/19/8. Desirable also to release LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE from Trooping Service Durban/Mombasa in order to resume her normal service. Alternative shipping will be made available as soon as possible for your service. (D.S.T. 2231/7 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.

Hurricanes,
ARGUS

Operation 'White'

Repeating Air Ministry 1920/6 to S.O. Force H., re Hurricane pilots, ARGUS, having had no carrier experience, and Aid Staff consider moonlight take-off should not be attempted. (D.N.A.D.1110/7)

Greece.

Situation Report 1800 hours. Confused fighting in area Egoumenitsa. (M.A.Athens to C.in C. M.E., 0155/7).

Valona transports.

Papagos points out that reconnaissance by 30 Sqn. R.A.F. reported 16 ships in harbour at Valona indicating arrival extensive Italian reinforcements. Need for withdrawing regular division from Crete more pressing than ever. (Brit. Mil. Mission, Greece, to C.in C. M.E., 0155/7).

/ Air Recco.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Continued)Air Recco.

Ionian Isles air reconnaissance today cancelled. (H.O.I.C. Malta 0849/7).

Operation "White."

Choice of plan, (a), ARGUS (b) or (c), ARK ROYAL (S.O. Force H, 0901/7, to Admty.) See Med. Vol. Ref. 1114/6 from Admty. (arrival of NEWCASTLE at Gibraltar). Date. (F.O. Force H., to NEWCASTLE, 0903/7). Sailed ARGUS, DESPATCH, VESPER, VENOMOUS, and WINDSOR in accordance my 1617/5 and DESPATCH's 1542/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1052/7). Repeating N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1617/5 re sailing ARGUS, DESPATCH, etc., to F.O. Force H, (D.O.D. (F) 1744/7).

FORMIDABLE, EAGLE

Your 2001/5. For reasons (given) do not consider proposed change round should be made. (5 S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1153/7)

Fulmars.

To reduce immediate shortage Fulmars in E. Mediterranean, propose ARK ROYAL should fly 3 of 808 Sqdn. to Malta during current operation for embarkation in ILLUSTRIOUS as arranged by you. (D.N.A.D. to C.in C. Med., 1712/7).

Air Report.

H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., A. 449, 1207/7. No naval items.

Unidentified Ship.

Position course and speed unidentified hospital ship, 36.25 N., 16.07 E., 160°, 15. (REGENT, 1730/7).

Taranto.

Air Report a.m./7. (V.A. Malta 1205/7) See also H.Q. Malta 1755/7. Air Report p.m./7. (V.A. Malta, 1845/7).

Brindisi.

Air Report p.m./7. (V.A. Malta 1845/7).

Greece Minefields.

Your 2100/1. No objection to proposed areas seen in Admty. Subject to any remarks by C.in C. Med., request Greek authorities declare these areas. (Hd. of M. to N.A., Athens, 2025/7)

Air Report.

Malta situation report 1700/7 all times G.M.T. Recco. Ionian Sea North of lat. 37 N. by following aircraft 0525 to 1458 Sunderland 230 Sqdn. nil report; 0605 to 1115 Latecoere French seaplane, nil report. Recco. Taranto by 2 Glenn Martins 0515 to 0942 first Glenn Martin reported in outer harbour 4 battleships

/ 5 cruisers

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued).

Air Report.
(contd.)

5 cruisers 4 destroyers in inner harbour and 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers about 15 miles S.W. Taranto course 115 deg. convoy composed of 2 minesweepers 9 very small M/Vs 16 miles N.E. Furenica Point 2 M/Vs. about 3000 tons each in line ahead course 030 escorted by warship painted grey rather larger than a destroyer probably an auxiliary. 1135 to 1530 2nd, Glenn Martin Brindisi. Took photos of harbour and aerodromes. Attacked by 4 Macchis gunner claims seriously damaging 1 enemy aircraft. Inner harbour Brindisi 4 cruisers and number of destroyers. Battleship under construction moved to northern side of Basin approx. quarter mile from former position. Taranto 5 battleships 8 cruisers possibly 3 battleships 10 cruisers unknown number of destroyers. Convoy 4 M/Vs 30 to 40 miles out of Taranto. Course 170 degs. No enemy air activity over Malta today, no naval or military items.
(H.Q. Malta, 1755/7 to Air Ministry).

East Indies.

U/B Reports.

Re sighting of periscope by BARON HERRIES at 0905Z/6. Ship reported shortly after being sighted obscured by rain squall. N.O.I.C. Simonstown requested to arrange interview with Master on arrival Durban. (C.in C. E.I., 1906 Z/7).

B.N.8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Date of leaving Bombay. (F.O.C. R.I.N. 0901/7).

French Ships.

Interception of. See FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

Hospital Ships.

Your 0845/25 Armindia prefers hospital ships used Suez Bombay and states that if QUEEN MARY AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA are used for invalids from Bombay to Australia., Australia should be responsible for providing medical staff in these ships. (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1330Z/7 to A.C.N.B.)

Convoy
B.S.7 $\frac{3}{4}$

Sailing telegram. Escort, SHOREHAM. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1629/7).

China.

N.E.I. Navy.

Your 2152/1. Reaction of C.in C. Dutch E. Indies to proposals. (C.in C. China, to Admty. 0315Z/7).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

SHERWOOD
STANLEY

SHERWOOD arrived here 1100 G.M.T. today defective evaporators. Your 1739/6. Only effective destroyer STANLEY, now at one hour's notice. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F., 1414/7).

Town Destroyers.

Your 1021/6. (1) R.C.N. Destroyers will operate under command of S.O. Halifax Force while in Canadian coastal waters and approaches and work in conjunction with R.C.A.F. in area that can be covered by air search. Should you desire co-operation of R.C.N. vessels beyond this area, S.O. Halifax Force has authority to transfer command to you or R.A.3 B.S. (2) S.O. Halifax Force and N.O.I.C. Halifax have been instructed to keep in close touch with R.A. 3 B.S. in order to facilitate any operation that may involve vessels under his command. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1316/7 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

R.C.N.
Destroyers,
Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Your 1021/6, H.M.C. Ships ASSINIBOINE, RESTIGOUCHE, COLUMBIA and SAINT FRANCIS will be at (2 corrupt groups) by p.m./8 F.O.C. 3 B.S. is understood to have three Town class destroyers available which I am informed he intends to place under immediate orders of S.O. Halifax Force if the occasion arises. Air co-operation will be arranged. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1036/7, to C.in C. A. W.I.)

Air search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER.

3 Royal Canadian Air Force aircraft carried out special reconnaissance 6/11 from Newfoundland 600 miles towards reported position of enemy raider. Nothing sighted except 2 small merchant vessels. At 1800 G.M.T. in 050° N. 046° W. Finnish ship 2000 tons black hull superstructure and funnels, course 090°. 7 knots at 1910 in 049° N. 049° W. Merchant vessel 2500 tons black hull and funnels, course 245° 9 knots. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2131/7)

Air search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Your 1316. Re co-operation of R.C.N. Destroyers with R.C.A.F. What are limits of air searches at this time of year. (C.in C. A.W.I. 2321/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Reply: 1602/8, p. 216.



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

DELOS Arrived from Russia, 4000 tons of grain.
(Galatz 1142/7)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

LINOIS
DALNY
LE CONTE DE LISLE
VILLE DE ROUEN
VILLE DE TAMATAVE
BERNADIN DE ST.
PIERRE.

If French ships LINOIS, DALNY, LE CONTE DE LISLE, VILLE DE ROUEN, VILLE DE TAMATIVE, BERNADIN DE ST PIERRE are sent into British ports for examination a summary of manifest is to be telegraphed to Admty. repeated to C. in C., East Indies, and ships detained pending further instructions. (C. in C., E.I., 0908Z/7)

CANTAL
FORT RICHEPANSE

Following received from Navy Department French ship CANTAL arrived Fort de France Martinique from Casablanca 2/11. RICHEPANSE entered Point A Pitre Guadeloupe 5/11. (N.A. Washington 1120/7 to Admty.)

Interception
Simonstown

My 2025/6 (not to all addressees) and my 1805/6 (re intercepting of French ships) Ships sent in for examination, summaries of manifests to be reported and ships detained pending further instructions. Ships should not be sent into and port in Union of South Africa except Simonstown. (C. in C., S.A. 1159/7)

KILISSI
COMPEIGNE
ESPIQUETTE
LT. ST. LOUBERT

French ships are expected to leave Sebutal as follows KILISSI on evening of 8/11 destination unknown, possible Casablanca. COMPEIGNE, ESPIQUETTE, LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT B.I.E. in near future. Desirable to intercept these ships if unescorted and outside territorial waters and send them into Gibraltar under armed guard or escort them in. (F.O.C.N.A., 1605/7)



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 1511 D.F., 59°-60° N., 17°-20° W., (D.D.I.C. 1602/7 to C. in C., H.F. and RODNEY)
- 1052 D.F., probable U-Boat 57.10 N., 16.20 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1119/7)
- 1600 At 1600 aircraft sighted U-Boats in position 48.05 N., 07.22 W., course 135° (V.A.S. to submarines on patrol, 1931/7)
- 1630 Enemy submarine has dived in position 48.36 N., 08.36 W., (aircraft 100 Sqdn. 1632/7) Aircraft reported U-Boat dived in position 48.36 N., 08.36 W. at 1630 (C. in C., W.A. to V.A.S., 1641/7) Cancel my 1641/7) Cancel my 1641. Position of U-Boat, 48.05' N., 7.22' W., course 135° (C. in C., W.A., to V.A.S. 2000/7)
At 1625 in 48.36 N., 08.36 W., U-Boat forced to dive by British aircraft, probably homeward bound. (V.A.S. to S/M's on patrol Area B. 1721/7)

East Indies

0905Z/6

See FOREIGN STATIONS

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian one may still be in Azores area. German 1 about 49° N., 9° W. may arrive Lorient night of 8th.
1 which was in 50° 30' N., 10° W., at 2036/6 and 1 which was in 49° 30' N., 8° W at 2209/6 may be outward bound to N.W. Approaches or to attack naval force.
1 in 50° 57' N., 17° 22' W., at 1840/6. No news of the one reported at 0940/5 in 48° 54' N., 20° 09' W.,
1 about 56° N., 10°-12° W.
1 about 60° N., 19°-20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1310/7)

Attack of
Unidentified
Submarines

At 2000 today cancel Admiralty General Message 912 AZ of 1710/26/10 (Surface ships not to attack unidentified subs.) (D.O.D.H. 0950/7, Admty. General Message Home 933 A. Z.)



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

My 2241/6. Contact maintained until 0046, on completion 8th attack when directing ship suddenly lost contact at range 800 yards. 88 depth charges dropped. Only visible evidence of submarine destruction is large oil patch. Continuing search. HARVESTER in company. Percentage fuel remaining 30. (OTTAWA, 0915/7 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 0915/7. Sounds very promising, stick to it. (C. in C., W.A., 1122/7 to OTTAWA) Propose continuing search until one hour after sunset to-day, then proceeding Lough Foyle to refuel. (OTTAWA, 1631/7)



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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

3 destroyers from Plymouth carried out a sweep last night along the French coast from Rockes Douvres westward.

Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

LEWES, LINCOLN and LUDLOW searched the position of the attack on Convoy H.X. 84 for 3 hours ~~today~~ without finding any sign of wreckage, but the weather and visibility were very bad.

BONAVENTURE and MASHONA were detached by REPULSE at 0400 today and made a short search to leeward of the position of attack and at 1800 set course to R.V. with REPULSE. No trace of wreckage or boats was sighted.

HOOD and forces in company left their patrol area west of Lands End at 2000 today to refuel.

AUSTRALIA left the Clyde at 2100 today to relieve RENOWN in covering homeward bound convoys H.G. 46, S.L. 53S and S.L.F. 53.

On relief RENOWN is to join ARGUS and DESPATCH for operation "~~WHITE~~" *White*.

WORCESTERSHIRE of the Northern Patrol is ordered to join C. in C., H.F.

SOUTHAMPTON is being sent to fuel in Iceland, then to patrol Denmark Straits.

NELSON is patrolling N.E. by night and S.W. by day about position 63° 2' N., 11° 22' W., (Iceland-Faroes passage)

C. in C., H.F. has asked that air search should be redesigned with primary object of locating during daylight a raider endeavouring to pass through the Iceland-Faroes passage northabout during following night.



MOST SECRET

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War Diary

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SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

R.A.F. carried out special patrols North and West of the Faroes, between Faroes and Iceland, and a cross-over patrol 300 miles S.W. of Lands End.

Attacks

5 Blenheims last night attacked the Naval Base at Lorient. Single aircraft attacked the inland port of Duisburg-Ruhrort, locks on the Dortmund-Ems Canal at Herme, a large ship at Dunkirk, a gun position at Ouessant and other non-naval objectives.

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SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. ³ 29
Attacked

WINCHESTER
SS FIREGLOW
Damaged

SS AGAMEMNON
Sunk

CATTISTOCK
Slightly damaged

Convoy F.N. ³ 29 was attacked off the Thames Estuary at 1352. SS FIREGLOW (1261 tons) was damaged and taken in tow by SUNFIRE. One ship (?AGAMEMNON, Dutch 1930 tons) was sunk either by bomb or mine. Our fighters destroyed 15 enemy dive bombers during this attack, and in addition WINCHESTER destroyed 2 dive bombers and damaged three. Immediately after this attack, WINCHESTER was damaged by a mine and had to anchor, and whilst at anchor she was again attacked by enemy aircraft and damaged by near misses.

The convoy was again attacked by aircraft at 1615 and CATTISTOCK suffered superficial damage.

SS EMPIRE DORADO
Damaged

SS EMPIRE DORADO in convoy O.B. 239 was bombed and damaged about noon today, about 300 miles West of Bloody Foreland. Tugs have been sent to ^{her} assistance.

SS VINGALAND
(Swedish)

SS VINGALAND ex Convoy H.X. 84 was bombed and abandoned on fire this morning, 300 miles West of Ireland.



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SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected between Falmouth and Plymouth and in the Thames Estuary, Harwich, Humber, Flamborough Head, Solway Firth, Bristol Channel and Milford Haven.

Plymouth was closed this morning. Blyth was closed at 2321. Milford Haven was opened this afternoon. Mines were found off Harwich, South Foreland and Milford Haven.

C. in C., W.A. reports that minelaying occurs every night in the approaches to Plymouth and mines have been laid in the Hamoaze and Narrows, apparently from above the Balloon Barrage. Ships now berthed up harbour could not proceed to the Sound without considerable risk. He asks for additional A.A. guns or night fighting aircraft; the present effective military weapons ~~at~~ 2 Bofors guns.

WINCHESTER
Damaged

WINCHESTER was damaged by a mine off the Thames Estuary and had to anchor, immediately after the attack on her convoy (F.N.329) this afternoon by dive bombers.

Tug Sunk

A tug (? Rescue tug MURIA) was mined and sunk off Ramsgate this afternoon.

A.N. 2. Sunk

A.N.2. (Harbour Defence Patrol Craft) was sunk by mine off Falmouth this afternoon.

Operation
S.N. 44.

1st M.L.Sqdn. with ADVENTURE, escorted by 3 destroyers laid mines off the N.W. coast of Ireland p.m. today.

British A/C
Minelaying

One mine was laid off Lorient and one off Brest last night.

Danish Ferry
Mined

The Swedish Press reports that on 5/11 the ferry between Helsingborg and Elsinore was mined off Elsinore but was not badly damaged.



MOST SECRET

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SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

C.S.1. in DEVONSHIRE with DELHI and MILFORD are patrolling off the Cameroons in order to intercept Vichy shipping.

Attack on
Libreville

C.S.1. reports that Free French report small parties landed near Libreville and main force now landing.

Mediterranean

R.A.F. today bombed the foreshore at Tobruk, damaging the Naval Barracks. Derna barracks was also bombed.

Alexandria was bombed this evening. No damage or casualties resulted.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Barrow Deep
Light Vessels

Owing to heavy attacks on light vessels in the Barrow Deep and the desire of the light vessel crews to be evacuated it is considered that these light vessels should be removed and replaced by light buoys with shaded light visibility 2 miles.

Moreover if these light vessels are sunk in the channel they are liable to block it. (C.in C. Nore 1704/8 to Adty.)

Reply: Hydrographer, 1829/14.

French Warships.

Your 2314/4.

A. Concur with proposed action. F.S. LEOPARD is being sailed to join your command as soon as she is ready.

B. MINERVE refit is to proceed. JUNON is to be taken in hand on completion of refit of MINERVE. SURCOUF is to be taken in hand for docking and completion of small defects forthwith. (D.D.O.D. H. 1706/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Refugees from
Gibraltar.

Cancel my 1528/5. FRANCONIA is required for other duties (D.D.O.D. H. 1741/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Force P.

NIGERIA, KENYA, EMERALD will be referred to as the Plymouth Force with abbreviated title "Force P" and, when engaged in operations, will come under the orders of C.S.10. (C.in C. W.A. 1850/8 and 1857/8 to C.S.10. and Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 1130/8. (D.C. 1142/8)
At 2330/7 (D.C. 0015/8).

A/A Defences
of Plymouth

Minelaying occurs every night in Approaches to Plymouth and Mines have been laid recently in the Hamoaze and Narrows apparently from above Balloon Barrage. Ships now berthed up harbour could not proceed to Sound without considerable risk. Present effective military weapons are 2 Bofors Guns. Request immediate provision of additional A/A Guns or of night-fighting Fighter A/C. (C.in C. W.A. 0056/8 to Adty.) *Reply: Admty 1314/11, p. 286*

/ German Interest in Ireland. ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

German Interest
in Ireland.

Spanish newspaper correspondents in Germany all report German interest in Ireland and suggest British designs on Irish ports which probably means German designs. (N.A. Madrid, 2030/8 to Admty.)

Movements.

ROCHESTER.

Intend sailing for Gibraltar 1600/8. ETA. 16/11. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0830 and 1200/8 to Adty.)

CHEVREUIL.

ETA. 1600/8. (CHEVREUIL 1000/8 to S.N.O. Tobermory).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 8/9. (V.A. Dover 1429/8).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines for Night 8/9. (A.C.O.S. 1513/8).

Rosyth.

Movements for Night 8/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 1536/8 and 1902/8)

Portsmouth.

Night Movements (C.in C. Portsmouth 1633/8)

Nore and
Harwich

Movements. (N.O.I.C. 1810/8).

CALIFORNIA.

Expect pass through 58° 50' N. 6° 15' W. at 1200/9. Course Southerly through Minches, 14½ knots. (CALIFORNIA 1951/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Operations.

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

Keep outside Air R/C range from Biscay Ports with may be taken as 20° W. So long as fuel situation in Destroyers permits, remain between 45° N. and 50° N. and, if practicable, remain long enough to cover Convoys referred to in my 0106/8. Approximate position of Convoy at 1200/9 is 43° N. 21° W. Course of Convoys 350°, speed 8 knots (V.C.N.S. 0031/8 and 0332/8 to B.C.1.)

DESPATCH and ARGUS are proceeding through 50° N. 19° 30' W., 45° N. 19° 30' W., and 40° N. 15° W., and will pass second position about 1300/10. RENOWN is to leave Convoys so as to join DESPATCH and proceed in company to Gibraltar for Operation ~~WHITE~~ "White" (V.C.N.S. F. 0106/8 to RENOWN)

/ If there is ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

ADMIRAL
SCHEER (Contd.)

If there is any change of bringing this Raider to action, REPULSE must be used exclusively for that purpose. But position in which Convoy was attacked must be searched for survivors by one or more Ships of your Force. (1st S.L. 0125/8 to REPULSE).

Your 0031/8. Destroyers must fuel a.m. 11th November, HOOD and Cruiser a.m. 12th. There seem to be 2 alternatives (1) leave position 047° 30' N. 017° 00' W. at 2000/8 for Scapa which is my present intention. (11) To fuel Plymouth p.m. 9/11 returning to convoy about latitude 050° 00' N.

My position, course, and speed are 048° 57' N. 014° 04' W. 235° 15 knots. Spoke MASSILIA Casablanca to Liverpool. (B.C.S.1. 1030/8 to Adty.)

Join NELSON on T.R. line 35 during daylight. NELSON steer S.W. by day and N.E. by night. (C.in C. H.F. 1139/8 to WORCESTERSHIRE).

Reference 2044/7 from Admiralty. SOUTHAMPTON is being sent to fuel in Hvalfiord and then to patrol in Denmark Straits. NELSON patrolling as in my 1209/7 but position amended to read 063° 02' N. 011° 22' W. WORCESTERSHIRE is being ordered to join me. F.O.C.N.P. is to re-dispose available N P Trawlers to North West and South East of my patrol to watch flank of Iceland Faroes passage. Request air search be redesigned with primary object of locating during daylight a raider endeavouring to pass through above passage northabout during following night. Suggest a Sunderland be transferred temporarily to Reykjavik for this purpose if search of Western Approaches to Denmark Straits is also desirable. (C.in C. H.F. 1143/8 to Adty.)

My 1229/7. DOUGLAS, VIMY, and BULLDOG are to R/V with NELSON in 62° 46' N. 11° 58' W. at 1200/9. (C.in C. H.F. 1145/8 to DOUGLAS)

If not past 20° W., proceed through 56° N. 18° W. which is R/V for Convoy H.X. 84. (C.in C. W.A. 1211/8 to LEAMINGTON, LEEDS, MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL, LINCOLN, LEWES, LUDLOW, STANLEY)

/ Your 1030/8

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

ADMIRAL
SCHEER (cont:)

Your 20 5/26/7.

I ? N.P. Number two paragraph one (E). Present indications are that raider is still to Westward so ships N P are to steer North Eastwards by Night and South Westwards by day. Trawler Patrols are similarly to be reversed.

Have you told N P where I am.

(C.in C. H.F. 1304/7 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Your 1030/8. Concur with your intention to leave 47° 30' N. 17° W. at 2000/8 and return with your Force to Scapa. (D.D.O.D. (H) 1626/8 to B.C.I)

B.C.1's 1032/8 and Adty. 0031/8.

Request you sail AUSTRALIA to arrive at 48° N. 20° W. at 1200/10. She is required to cover Convoys H.G. 46, S.L. 535, and S.L.F. 53 after the departure of RENOWN for Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1629/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

My position, course, and speed are 36° 20' N. 23° 1' W., 180°, 12 knots. (CORNWALL 1801.N/8 to PRETORIA CASTLE) HOOD, 2 Cruisers, and 3 Destroyers operating between 45° and 50° N. and as far as 20° W. (V.A.S. 1939/8 to S/M's Area B).

BLUEBELL and HONEYSUCKLE in company will be in position ordered at 0001/9. (BLUEBELL 2150/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Request you detach SOUTHAMPTON to arrive Clyde P.M./13. (1st S.L. 2313/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

Unless good reasons for not breaking W/T silence, you should now report whether you have any evidence of attack on Convoy H.X. 84 by Raider on 5/11. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2321/8 to LEWES, LINCOLN, LUDLOW).

Convoys.

Admty. 1237/7. S.C.11 and H.X. 85. Positions and route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax to RODNEY, 2320/8).

Iceland.

Your 0.350/3/11. (1212/3) ^(see page 59) Regret owing to urgent demands of recent developments elsewhere it is not possible to send A/C requested or supply A/A Bofors Guns. (War Office 0645/8 to Alabaster, Reykjavik).



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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued).

Straits of Dover.

Reports from Dover by R.D.F. last night indicate presence of surface vessels possibly enemy rescue craft between East Varne and No. 2 Buoy. Two available M.T.B's carried out search between East Varne and 2A Buoy from 2240 till moonset without result. (V.A. Dover 1135/8 to Adty.)

Air Re-inforcements for Middle East.

(w FURIOUS)

Admiralty's 0218/5.
(a) Intend MANCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON to embark both aircraft before leaving United Kingdom. If necessary one aircraft from each ship will be disembarked temporarily at Gibraltar.
(b) My 1751/10/10. Request confirmation that excess R.A.F. personnel from Gibraltar will be embarked in NEW ZEALAND STAR or R.A.F. personnel ships observing that if number exceeds 600 reduction in fighting efficiency will be entailed.
(F.O.C. 18th C.S. 1231/8 to Adty.)

Operations P.T.1. and P.T.2.

Following two Operations are for trial as an anti-E-Boat measure. Details.
(C.in C. Nore 1700/8).

Submarines.

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/9.
(V.A.S. 1714/8, 1919/8).

2nd S/M Flotilla.

Following are estimated positions at 0800/9. (Capt. S.2. 2026/8 to S/M's Area B).

British Air Activity.

S.A. 1A.

Cancelled, owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0906/8)

Air Raids on Tromso on 5/9 and 10/10.

My 1834 October 29th. I have now obtained further particulars of air raids at Tromso from another member of crew ESTHER THORDEN as follows, begins:- September 5th 5 German aircraft destroyed. October 10th time bomb dropped subsequent explosion damaged slipway seaplane base and also oil tanks.
(Petsamo 1327/8 to D.N.I.)

/ Lorient)
Dunkirk)
Havre)



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British Air Activity. (Continued)

Lorient)
Dunkirk)
Havre.)

Attacked by A/C. Night 7/8 (H.Q.B.C. 1915/8)

Proposals for
Night Decoys.

In Orkneys (D. of L.D. 1922/8 to A.C.O.S.)
In Clyde Area. (D. of L.D. 1923/8 to
F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Rosyth Area.

Air Patrols in my 1908/7 will be flown to-
morrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2256/8 to Adty.)
Air Searches for 9/11. (C.in C. Rosyth
1808/8 and 0528/9).

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE DORADO
(Convoy O.B. 239)

Bombed in 55° 7' N. 16° 50' W.
Boats smashed, sinking slowly, some men
still aboard, some taken to rafts.
(Valentia W/T. 1209/8). Think ship can
be salvaged. Comparatively calm.
(Valentia Radio 1400/8)
If not with NALON, proceed to EMPIRE DORADO.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1403/8 to ENGLISHMAN,
THAMES) Sinking slowly. No means of
getting away, all lifeboats smashed.
Casualties aboard, 2 rafts still alongside.
Help urgently required. (Scapa W/T.
1455/8).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of
S.S. EMPIRE DORADO in 55° 07' N. 16° 50' W.
at 1245/8 MAN-O-WAR standing by.
Tug THAMES also despatched.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1030/9, to SCHELDE).

2 M/V's
attacked.

Enemy aircraft has reported successfully
attacking one 5,000 ton Merchant Vessel
accompanied by one Destroyer in 55° 32' N.
17° 45' W. at 1110/8 and one 4,000 ton
Merchant Vessel in 54° 33' N. 16° 45' W.
at 1145/8.
(D.D.I.C. 1332/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

Convoy "Pilot"
FLEET (FN329)

A/C attacking convoy. My position 51° 48' N.
1° 30' E. (WINCHESTER 1352/8) 34 Aircraft
5 miles from Convoy (WINCHESTER 1356/8)
Fighters being sent (Rosyth 1400/8)
One ship sunk. FIREGLOW damaged,
possibility of salvage. Position S.W. of
Swin. (WINCHESTER 1425/8 to C.in C. Nore)
Pilot Boat with injured arriving about 1800
(WINCHESTER 1450/8 to N.C.S.O. Southend)
SUNFIRE has FIREGLOW in tow (WINCHESTER
1520/8 to C.in C. Nore).

AGAMEMNON
(Dutch, 1930 tons)
sunk.

FIREGLOW
(British, 1261
tons) damaged.

WINCHESTER damaged by near misses, mines and
bombs. No casualties. Now anchored in
51° 42' N. 1° 30' E. Am rejoining convoy.
(CATTISTOCK 1639/8 to C.in C. Nore).

/ Dive-bombed

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

Dive-bombed by 15 A/C at 1615.
Superficial damage and 7 casualties.
(CATTISTOCK 2046/8 to C.in C. Nore)
30 survivors from AGAMEMNON landed Southend,
5 injured. Position of wreck 3 cables
220° from S.W. Swin L.V. 2 Tugs will
take FIREGLOW up river. (N.C.S.O. Thames
0145/9 to C.in C. Nore). [E-logs - see p. 202]

Report of Air
Attacks on Convoys
since 1/11.

Requested, under following headings.
(1st S.L. 1758/8 to A.C.O.S., C.in C.
Rosyth, Nore).

Orkneys.

One A/C dropped 4 Bombs 2½ miles North
of Roseness at 1913/8. No casualties
reported. (A.C.O.S. 2225/8 to Adty.)

Norwegian Coast.

There are indications of prolonged Enemy
Air Activity from Norwegian Coast starting
0400/9. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2237/8 to C.in C.H.F.)

Faroes.

Several reports recently of enemy aircraft
over Sydero but flying high angle and
nationality uncertain except in one case.
Yesterday however reports received from
Sydero Stromo Ostero Videro of a two engine
high speed monoplane flying at about 1000
feet and definite confirmation of enemy
aircraft. N.O.I.C. has informed A.C.O.S.
(O/C Troops, Faroe Islands. Rec. from W.O.
0902).

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

HERO reports detonating one Red Mine at
2310/7 in 226° 1 mile from N.E. Swin L.V.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0037/8 to C.in C. Nore)

Depth Charges.

No restriction on dropping Depth Charges in
QZH. 202 and QZH. 209, or in any further
Deep Field in N.W. Approaches.
(C.in C. W.A. 0046/8).

B.S. 46.

56° 1' N. 1° 12' W., direction 328°,
9 miles. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham
0921/8 to Adty.) Intend sail from Spurn
Point 1500/9. Laying will begin at
1045/10. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham
0931/8 to Adty.) Your 1046/8. Concur.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1331/8 to C.in C. Nore).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued).

VIOLET.

My 2200/6. Details of Mine exploded by VIOLET. (C.in C. Rosyth 1113/8 to Adty.)

KELLETT)
ALBURY)
PANGBOURNE)

To carry out a 50% search of Channel 2 miles each side of following line. Report date of commencement. (C.in C. Rosyth 1137/8 to KELLETT).

Milford Haven.

Port is open. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1446/8 to Adty.) One Ground Mine self detonated in 51° 40' 42" N. 5° 8' 10" W. One Red Mine detonated in 51° 41' 45" N. 5° 7' 30" W. during night sweeping. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1801/8 to Adty.) My 1322/7 and 1214/8. Operations on 9/11 cancelled owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1845/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

MURIA.

Tug, believed MURIA, sunk by Mine at 1425/8 one cable N.N.W. from Botany Buoy. No survivors. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1714/8 to Adty.) My 1714/8. 51° 26' 30" N., 1° 27' 30" E. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0220/9).

A.N.2.

(Harbour Defence Patrol Craft). Mined and sunk in 119° Pendennis 2950 yards at 1550/8. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1730/8 to Adty.)

Dover.

Routine sweeps to 1200/8. One Mine and 2 Explosive cutters found 2.3 miles 94° South Foreland. (V.A. Dover 1818/8 to Adty.)

Harwich.

4 Paddle Mine-Sweepers continuing search West of X cleared area. One German W-type Mine cut and sunk in 51° 44' 36" N. 1° 40' 48" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1838/8 to Adty.)

Stavanger.

German Minelaying A/C reported at Stavanger. This may indicate extended Minelaying on N. and N.E. coasts of Scotland. (D.D.I.C. 1845/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

Plymouth.

Closed, owing to enemy Minelaying. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/8 to Capt. D.3.)

Blyth.

Port closed until completion of sweeping about 1400 (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2321/8 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

S.N. 44.

Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1826/8 to Adty.)

(Deep minefield in N.W. Approaches)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Ship.

Iceland A/C sighted a 16,000 ton ship at 1435/7 steering East in 67° 33' N. 24° 52' W. Ship was not a Pocket Battleship. Report immediately if ship was not you. (V.C.N.S 0922/8 to CHITRAL) My position at 1435/7 was 66° 52' N. 25° 8' W. steering 070° at 15 knots. My position was 10 miles South of Ice Pack. (CHITRAL 1055/8 to Adty.)

Large Enemy Unit.

Indications that large Enemy Unit may be operating near Zone C.1. (V.A.S. 1814/8 to S/M's Area A.)
At 1306/8 B.S.T. Enemy Unit in 58° N. 5° E. May have been either HIPPER or SCHARNHORST.
At 1535/8 B.S.T. Enemy Unit in 57° 55' N. 6° 30' E. D/F unreliable fixes. (D.D.I.C. 1814/8) Indications are based on R.F.P. No R.F.P. of second transmission (D.D.I.C. 1818/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

E-Boats.

Indications point to possible presence of E-Boats astern of Convoy. (C.in C. Nore 2143/8 to CATTISTOCK). (FN. 29 - aa p. 199-200)

Flushing.

One large Ship at anchor S.E. of Flushing on Night 7/8 (H.Q.B.C. 1915/8).

Rotterdam.

8 vessels about 5000 tons and 3 or 5 about 1000 tons, at anchor without lights on Night 7/8 (H.Q.B.C. 1915/8).

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

IMPULSIVE.

Defective propeller shaft. Undesirable proceed to sea until defects remedied. (C.in C. Nore 1046/8 to Adty.)

SOUTHAMPTON.

Speed much reduced by foul bottom and A/S gear defective for last six months. Docking desirable before she goes abroad. (C.in C. H.F. 1157/8 to Adty.)

WIVERN.

WIVERN's 2322/6. Request you convene Board of Inquiry and keep Adty. informed. (C.in C. W.A. 1352/8 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

DIONI.

(Greek, 4227 tons) Stranded. All anchors lost. (Burnham-on-Sea Radio 2140 / 8 to Adty.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Routeing.

My 1922/27/10 and your 1616/4/11.
Consider that to provide for independently routed ships crossing estimated track of offensive reconnaissance planes at right angles, they should normally be routed to cross meridian 18° degs. West between 55° degs. North and 57° degs. North but that a proportion from West Atlantic ports should cross 18° degs. W. North of this and proceed thence North of Rockall.
(C.in C. W.A. 1837/8 to Admiralty.)

Faroes.

Faroes 1201/7. Re routeing of ships to Faroes. For this purpose I presume Faroes would be regarded as U.K. Port.
(A.C.O.S. 1941/8 to Adty.)

Convoys.

C.W.

Concur with C.in C. Nore's 2305/6.
Observations. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1835/8)

S.L.S. 53.

May be considerably to southward. Convoy ordered to steer 000 from 1600/7 which course should take them slightly to westward of position A. (D.T.D., 0035/8 to RENOWN)

S.L. 53.

If you have not met British Man of War turn ships in company in S.L. 53 slow forthwith to course crossing Latitude 50° degs. 00' N. thirty miles further West than your original route.
(D.T.D. 0140/8 to G.B.M.S. Area 1 for NESTLEA only)

H.G.)
S.L.)

On arrival at 37.30 N., 20.00 W. H.G. and S.L. convoys should steer 350°. (D.T.D. 0036/8 to WELLINGTON, ARAWA).

S.L. 54.

Route. (F.O.C. N.P., to SALOPIAN, CILICIA, MARSDALE, 1120/8).

H.X.84.
(Attacked by raider).

For ships in CORNISH CITY convoy attacked p.m./5. My message 2107/6. For "given in standard route" read "given in envelope C". (C.in C. W.A., 1005/8, addressed G.B.M.S.1) If not past 20° W., proceed through position 56.00 N., 18.00 W., which is R.V. for Convoy H.X.84. (C.in C. W.A. 1211/8 to LEAMINGTON, LEEDS, MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL, LINCOLN, LEWES, LUDLOW, STANLEY.) Asking for any evidence of attack by raider on 5/11. (D.O.D. (H) to LEWES, etc. 2321/8).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Commodore and 5 ships will pass through position 056° 00' N., 015° 00' W. about 0600/9. Intercept and escort them. (HAVELOCK, 0036/9 to BLUEBELL)

W.N.
E.N.

Your 2029/7. In future if it appears desirable through enemy action to re-route W.N. and E.N. convoys passing through my command will issue necessary orders to S.O. of escort direct repeating to authorities concerned. (A.C.O.S. 1203/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B. 239.

Your 1930/7 (Sailing of O.B. 239 from Oban) approved (C.in C. W.A. 1227/8 to N.C.S.O. Oban).

My 1231/7. Sailing of O.B. 239 Oban now 0800/10. (C.in C. W.A. 1243/8). Following message received from ALDERGROVE begins - To C.in C. W.A. from GARLAND MALLOW request instructions as to when she should be detached from Convoy, 1010/8 - ends. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1428/8 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.C. 9 B.

No trace of such a ship.

R/V S.C.9 B. in 053° 46' N., 005° 08' W. 0200/9 (C.in C. W.A. 1527/8 to CANADIAN PRINCE, LEEDS UNITED).

S.C.10.

Route. (D.T.D. 1214/8) Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to WALKER, etc., 2305/8).

F.N. 29.

2 M.L. to join at position Z. (F.O.C. Harwich Force 1735/8 to SHELDRAKE).

CISCAR.

When ready, to be sailed in first available O.B. Convoy for Clyde and thence in W.N. Convoy with instruction to break off independently for Reykjavik. (D.T.D. 1857/8)

Air Attacks on Convoys.

To assist review problem of protection to East Coast and North about convoys from air attack, request report for all such attacks in the area under your command since 1/10. (1 S.L. 1758/8, to A.C.O.S., C.in C. Rosyth and Nore.)



MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PONCELET
Sunk

Necessary we should be in possession of full information regarding circumstances in which French submarine PONCELET was sighted and attacked. (C.N.S. to C.S.1. 0001/8) Your 0001/8 MILFORD AND TURCOMAN were on patrol off Port Gentil, DEVONSHIRE and DELHI off Libreville. Am closing MILFORD at dawn to obtain rescued. 3 officers and 51 men rescued all in MILFORD. Casualties if any not yet known. (F.O.C. 1 C.S. to Admty., 0302/8) Your 0302/8. Presumed signal containing fuller information will be forwarded after meeting MILFORD. Particularly desired to know sequence of events from first sighting of submarine and what was known of movements of submarine before she was sighted. (V.C.N.S. to C.S. 1., 1032/8)

My 0302/8. Following report from MILFORD Submarine first sighted 1547, 013 degs. Cape Lopez 15 miles on surface 050 degs. 6½ miles steering north. Signalled her to stop which she continued to ignore. Opened fire at 1710 range 10900, with foremost gun, fire not returned. At 1720 submarine turned to westward and dived range then 8700. While manoeuvring submarine bombed by DEVONSHIRE Walrus. At 1733 submarine surfaced and was again engaged. Crew fell in on deck at 1735, distance of submarine the 2½ miles. Closed and again signalled her to stop, then steer 300 degs. 10 knots. She replied by semaphoring that she was French S/M PONCELET and unable to work her engines. Boat lowered with armed guard at 1815 but submarine scuttled herself before boat could leave ship. Part 3 follows.

My 0821, part 3. Log of French S/M PONCELET now discovered in MILFORD confirms firing torpedo and gives time as 1423. (C.S.1. 1014A/8)

My 0821 part 3 final. There is some evidence from survivors that S/M fired 1 or more torpedoes about 1500. MILFORD felt underwater explosion and TURCOMAN's asdic dome sustained damage ½ hour before. S/M was hit forward by MILFORD on diving shell passing through without exploding but caused water to enter main hull necessitating surfacing. Aircraft bombing ineffective. Captain or 1st Lt. lost. (C.S.1., 0821A/8 to Admiralty)

/Is there.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

PONCELET
Sunk, Contd.

Is there any objection to sending survivors to Lagos if transfer to DELHI can be effected 9/11. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 1514A/8 to Admiralty)

Request arrange 3 officers 51 men survivors French submarine to be received at Lagos arriving DELHI about 11/9 to be kept under guard (C. in C., S.A. 1745N/8 to Governor Nigeria)

Your 1514A/8 and my 1745N/8 refers. Given most secret distribution re French S/M. (C. in C., S.A. Station 1904/8 to F.O.C. 1st C.S.)

French N.A. on instructions from French Admiralty that 2 British seaplanes attacked submarine PONCELET escorted by BOUGAINVILLE in territorial waters off French Congo 4/11. What shall I reply. (N.A. Madrid, 1852/8 to Admiralty)

Attack on
Libreville

Free French report small parties landed at head of Tsini Creek in accordance with plan casualties small, main force all landing today in same place. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 1001/8 to Admiralty)

My 1001/8. Main landing now in progress. Action against BOUGAINVILLE by SAVORGHAN DE BRAZZA and CDT. DOMINE intended tomorrow. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 2112/8 to Admty.)

Repatriation
of CUBA's Sailors

Your 1632/7. Being investigated. Suggest chartering neutral ship and arranging with French Govt. for safe conduct. Presume should go to Casablanca (C. in C. S.A. 1815/8 to Admty.)

Interception
of CUBA

My 1721/7. Further information as follows details. Trouble in FORT DE FRANCE amongst crews of warships who wished demobilisation chief reason for repatriation. (C. in C., S.A. 1935/8 to Admty.)

/DJENNE.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

DJENNE

My 1615/4 (1) Did not sail in company with MASSILIA.
(2) Left Casablanca 5/11 and will be in 55° 35' N., 7° 15' W., on 10/11. (D.D.D. (H) 2020/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

RICHELIEU
JEAN BART

During absence of Force H from Gibraltar every endeavour to be made by submarine patrol to prevent RICHELIEU or JEAN BART passing through Straits. Details for stopping. (1st S.L. 2348/8 to F.O.C.N.A.) Your 1210/3 para 5. They should be stopped unless overwhelming force is brought against our naval forces. (1st S.L. 2351/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Dakar
Intelligence

From 2 French officers, Montezer and Bertrand, arrived from Dakar and desiring to join Free French Forces. (O.A.G. Sierra Leone to S of S for Colonies, 1940/8)

North Atlantic

→ RENOWN

Your 0901/7. As RENOWN will now be available, presumed this question does not arise. (D.O.D. (F) 1301/8 to S.O. Force H.)

Operation
"White"
ARGUS

Admty. 2325/2. Based on the assumption that your expected time of arrival is after dark 13/11 WISHART and WRESTLER will be sailed to R.V. with you during daylight on 12/11. Details of destroyers position and course. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132/8 to ARGUS)

Admty. 0106/8 and my 1132/8. Two destroyers only are available to send as escort for RENOWN, ARGUS, and DESPATCH. It is for consideration whether RENOWN should not return independently at high speed observing ARGUS will not be able to provide air escort. (F.O.C.N.A. 1240/8 to Admty. S.O. Force H., RENOWN)

Your 1240/8. It is at your discretion. (1st S.L. to F.O.C.N.A. 1043/9)

/CILICIA....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

CILICIA

F.O.C.N.P. 1330/6 re movements of CILICIA DERBYSHIRE, CAMITO, RENOWN. No escort available. Pass through following positions
(a) 036° 00' N., 013° 30' W.,
(b) 035° 30' N., 010° 00' W.,
(c) 035° 30' N., 007° 00' W.,
Leave patrol and adjust speed to arrive Northern entrance 0730/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1238/8 to CILICIA)

Operation
"Coat"
PASTEUR

Admiralty's 1150/5. In interest of secrecy for operation "Coat" disembarkation draft for Gibraltar has been delayed until a.m. Saturday 9th November. Intend sailing PASTEUR p.m./9 at best possible speed for U.K. No escort available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1328/8)

SERGEANT GOUARNE
CAP BLANC
CAUDEBEC

Gibraltar 1000/8 French Armed Trawler SERGEANT GOUARNE escorting CAP BLANC, CAUDEBEC passed from east to west. (S.O(I) Gib. 1317/8)

UPRIGHT

Your 1210 ARCTIC RANGER will R.V. with you in (position) at 1030/G.M.T./9. Information of own ships' movements affecting her. (F.O.C.N.A. 1702/8 to UPRIGHT)

VICTORIA

Your 1243/7. Not definitely known what ship B.B.G. referred to. Probably ship was Greek VICTORIA which was sunk in position 54° 48' N., 13° 28' W. As not possible to divert her at sea to Cadiz she was still on passage to England. (D.E.W.D. 2023/8 to N.A.Madrid)

Italian
Submarines
at Tangier

I feel that report contained in F.O. tel 1020/7 to Madrid thereon proves correct. 2. It looks as if an attempt might be afoot to exaggerate damage to submarine "B" so as to be able to claim a similar period of time for its repair to that which will be claimed for S/M "A" - which all along has been stated to be suffering from serious defect. (C-G. Tangier, THI 2330/8)

/Colonel Yuste.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Italian
Submarines
at Tangier
-Contd.

Colonel Yuste described situation as follows:

(a) Examination of S/M "A" not yet concluded.

(b) S/M "B" severely injured. Official report being established by Spanish naval authorities.

I terminated the interview by expressing my belief that Colonel Yuste and the Spanish Naval Authorities would take every possible precaution to see that the requirements of international law were fully adhered to. (Consul, Tangier 2205/8)

South Atlantic

Convoys
W.S.4.C.

Route. (C. in C., S.A. 1001N/8 to CORNWALL PRETORIA CASTLE) escorted by PRETORIA CASTLE. Route speed (C. in C., S.A. 1003N/8)

S.L. 54

Route Speed (C. in C., S.A. 1003N/8)

W.S.4.A.

Escort CORNWALL. Route, Speed (C. in C., S.A. 1003N/8)

PRETORIA
CASTLE

Position 2030Z+2/7. W.S.4.A. not met. Am turning round at daylight assuming convoy is still northwards of me. (PRETORIA CASTLE 1805/8)

Operation "Striba."
"SERIES"
FURIOUS
DIDO

Admty. 0218/5 para A.3. Orders for FURIOUS DIDO (A.C.N.S. (F) 1603/8) See Operations Volume.

Re shipment of certain material (A.C.N.S. (H) 2014/8 to C. in C., S.A.) See Operations Volume.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
RESOLUTION

Re transfer of ammunition. ROYAL SOVEREIGN may not complete with ammunition until 11/11 but could sail 10/11 with most of it on board (C. in C., S.A. 2051/8)

My 1340/7. Transfer is to be limited so as to bring both vessels to equal stowage. (V.C.N.S. 2200/8)

/CITY OF DUNKIRK...



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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CITY OF DUNKIRK
SAWALOENTO

Overdue shipping, my 0915/4 and 1015/6.
Both arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1817/8)

WINCHESTER CASTLE

Your 1129/7 vessels of this description may enter Clyde in dark hours vide my 2115/6 to C. in C., S.A. (D.T.D. 1642/8 to N.C.S.O. Capetown)

Personnel of
French M.V's
Disposal of

Request early information of decisions or proposals in connection with personnel on board French Merchant ships brought in and under Naval Control. (C. in C., S.A. 1955/8 to Adty.)

Mediterranean

Crete

Telegram sent to G.O.C., Middle East, Government consider it imperative to hold Crete, etc., Greek plans. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 0047/8)

Ref. Brit. Mil. Mission's 1210/6 to W.O. Please inform C. in C., Med. in due course of date etc., (1st S.L. to N.A.Athens, 0050/8)

Movement of Greek troops and submarines (N.A.Athens 1229/8)(See Mediterranean Volume)

Taranto
Reconnaissance

Morning reconnaissance of Taranto today unsuccessful owing to bad weather. Evening reconnaissance cancelled. T.O.O. 1151/8 (V.A.Malta 1203/8)

R.A.N.A.S. A.830
Squadron

Re maintenance. (V.A.Malta 1431/8)

Operation
"Collar"

Admty. 1733/28/10 and 0218/5. Following are Admty. proposals. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1633/8) See Mediterranean Volume.

Fulmars

Re supply of, via Takoradi. (D.N.A.D. 1045/8 to C. in C., Med., and FURIOUS, 1045/8)

NEWCASTLE

Admty. 1114/6 and S.O.Force H., 0903/7. Request sailing to arrive Gibraltar (date) (D.O.D. (H) 1243/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.MALAYA

Your 1041/2. In view of effect on essential maintenance in retubing MALAYA in Egypt now, considered work should be postponed until arrival of workmen from U.K. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med., 1251/8)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Probable date of leaving U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 1251/8).

Air Attack
on Enemy Bases

Operational summary No 152 up to 1200/9. Egypt 8/11. Following 2 attacks made on enemy bases in Cyrenaica. 1215 hours. 8 Blenheims 113 Sqn. bombed military barracks Derna from 17,000 feet direct hits starting a fire which was visible at a distance of 50 miles. 1410 hours. 9 Blenheims 55 Sqn. bombed Tobruk foreshore from 16,000 feet hits demolishing buildings in naval barracks. Results of reconnaissances. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1208/9)

Air Report

Greece. My A.684 8/11. para 4. The Wellingtons 70 Squadron attacking Valona 7/11 encountered enemy fighters on standing patrol. 2 Wellingtons shot down 1 out of control. 1 CR 42 shot down unconfirmed. Italian broadcast states 2 personnel of crew of lost Wellington captured 8/11. Blenheims 30 Squadron maintained Fighter patrol over Athens. 5 Blenheims 84 Squadron moved to Eleusis from Egypt. Cyprus. 8/11.1 S.82 landed at Paralimni the crew surrendering themselves. The aircraft was apparently en route for the Dodecanese from Italy with a load of aero engine lubricating oil and lost its way. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1209/9)

Mines

Adnty. 1352/5. Request mines may be shipped to Alexandria by first available freight. (C. in C., Med. 1239/8)

/Fulmars.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Fulmars

Admty's 1712/7. If you concur and consider operation feasible request you fly these aircraft to Malta to arrive in daylight 9th. Crews could return in Gibraltar Destroyers. (C. in C., Med. 1057/8 to S.O. Force H.)

Code Names
"Request"
"Action"

My 2541/25. Following code names allocated operations; "Request" to operation for conveying through to army at Mersa Matruh, "Action" to operation for transporting battalion from Egypt to ~~Gate~~ ^{Crete}. (C. in C., Med., 1353/8)

Suda Bay
Base

Your 1313/4. Capt. M.H.S. MacDonald, O.B.E., D.S.O., R.N. (retired) appointed approved to grant temporary acting rank of Commander to Lt. Com. H.R.M. Nichols. (N.A. 2 S.L. 1348/8 to C. in C., Med.)

Admty. 2029/1. Immediate requirements for Suda Bay are
(A) One sea-going and one harbour tug.
(B) One vessel for Boom Defence with winch and Derrick to lift 5 tons.
Sea Transport Advisor and Minesweeper Officer will arrive Athens shortly but if possible these craft should be sailed at once for Suda Bay. (C. in C., Med., 1209/5, recd. 1028/10)

Supply of
Small Craft

49. Add to my 1059 (0945 intended). Suda Bay represents another commitment for A/S craft. Requested that four A/S trawlers additional to those asked for my 1917/9/9 may be sent. (C. in C., Med. 1101/6)

Motor Yachts

Admty. 1542/5 (Motor yachts recently employed on patrol available) Should be glad of some of these craft preferably 50 feet, if crews can be sent. Request their characteristics. (C. in C., Med., 1835/8 to Admty.)

(i) Nil report from A/C on R.C.
(ii) Nil report by Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS T.O.O. 1909/8. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1913/8 to S/M's on Patrol)
Air raid 2000 to 2100. 5 machines, 6 bombs no casualties. (R.A. Alexandria, 2224/8)

Alexandria
Air Raid



MOST SECRET

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Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

YALOU

C. in C., E.I., 0638Z/8 see French Merchant Ships.

Troop Convoys
W.S. 4.C.

D. of S.T.'s 2231/7. No objection to transshipment of personnel at Durban subject to N.O.i/c Simonstown's concurrence. MANCHESTER CITY and NIEUW HOLLAND must proceed from South Africa with W.S. 4 C because they are too slow for W.S. 4.A. (D.T.D. 0745Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

C.M. 6.

My 0614/4 and your 1254/7. In order to economise on escorts, intend WESTERLAND shall sail from Durban with LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, LLANDAFF CASTLE and SELANDIA leaving Durban (date) The whole convoy will be called C.M. 6. (C. in C., E.I. 0800Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

CERES
C.M. 6.

C. in C., E.I. 0614/4 and N.O.i/c Durban 0943/5 and C. in C., E.I. 0800/9. On completion of defects H.M.S. CERES is to sail from Durban for Capetown. Report expected time of arrival. H.M.S. CERES will fuel at Capetown and sail with WESTERLAND for Durban where WESTERLAND will complete bunkers and H.M.S. CERES top up with fuel before sailing with convoy C.M.6. on (date) (N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

MAURETANIA
AQUITANIA
QUEEN MARY

My 1115/31/10. MAURETANIA sailed Bombay 8/11 for Colombo. Details of passengers. AQUITANIA sailed Bombay 8/11 for Fremantle QUEEN MARY sailed Bombay 9/11 for Fremantle (S.S.TO. India 1400Z/8)

Use of W/T
by Shipping

Following restrictions placed on use of W.T. BY Allied Merchant Shipping including Greek ships on E.I. Station.
(A) Wireless silence is to be maintained except for enemy reports or distress message and to reply to British Coast Stations when called.
(B) Private messages are not permitted.
(C) Essential messages from ships at sea from owners or agents are to be passed to C. in C., E.I. for onward transmission.
(D) Official messages will be transmitted at times given in E.I. 3027/1 2nd June 1940 and E.I. communications order 79.
Note (1) The above instructions also apply

/to Dutch.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies-Contd.

Use of W/T
by Shipping-Contd.

to Dutch ships subject to any instructions they may have received from Dutch E.I. Authorities. (C. in C., E.I. 1402Z/7)

FELCE
NORTHMOOR }

Arrived 8/11. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1506Z/')

Air
Reconnaissance

S.A.A.F. made coastal and escort patrols Mombasa and Dic Head. 2 Warships and 1 A.M.C. escorted in Mombasa No enemy sighted. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1209/9)

GNAT's
6" Guns
for Seychelles.

Your 0958Z/10 and 0734Z/5. Approved to use GNAT's 6" equipments to form Coast Defence Battery at Port Victoria. (D. of L.D. 1541/8 to C. in C., E.I.) [*Ceylon Govt. approval - see page 341*]

China

Japanese
Aircraft

Reliably reported 85 Japanese Bombers probably Naval type 96 heavy Bombers, 60 fighters probably improved naval type 96 and 20 other aircraft at Gialan. C.N.A.C. have reported Hankow evacuated by Japanese Air Force. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 0404Z/8 to Admty.)

Concentration of
Japanese Transports

Your 1859/6. Re reports of concentrations of Japanese transports at Haiphong, Taiping and Formosa. No confirmation, there have been reports of rumours of concentrations possibly reason for the peculiar report (S.O.(1) Hong Kong, 0159Z/8 to Admty.)

Your 1859/6 Concentration at Haiphong probably connected with withdrawal of Japanese troops ex Kwangsi Pearl river transport movements referred to in P.S.T.O. Hong Kongs number 8322/2/11 to W.O.

No information regarding concentration Formosa. Confirmation being sought. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 0646Z/8 to Admty.)

See also 0816/20, p. 566.

/LIVATHO....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd.

LIVATHO

Your 0441/8. As present policy is that Allied Ships should not proceed Indo-China ports request reason for exception in case of LIVATHO (D.T.D. 1307/8 to C. in C., China)

D'ENTRECASTEAUX

(M/V)

Intercepted letters indicate D'^{TR}ENCASTREAUX is on route for Indo-China and will be followed by MIN and CAP. PADARAN (Capt. on Staff Singapore 1503Z/8 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

Greek Shipping

Your 2032/6 and 1154/2. Policy for Greek shipping sailing for Japan is in my 1919/4 Instructions will be sent when these ships are allowed to sail. (D.T.D., 1207/8 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

Town Class Destroyers

Expect LANCASTER, MANSFIELD, STANLEY with CHESTERFIELD and SHERWOOD if defects completed to sail from St. John's Newfoundland on 12/11 (route) Further defects of BUXTON necessitates return to Halifax. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1129/8)

Air Search for ADMIRAL SCHEER

Your 2321/7. Search can if necessary be extended to 600 miles but as a working figure which can be guaranteed consider that these limits should be taken as 300 miles from coast. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1602/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Australia

STRATHEDEN

H.M. Transport, left Sydney 0714Z/7 for Melbourne (ACNB, 0348Z/8)

CITY OF RAYVILLE

American, 5883 tons. Press report, explosion off Cape Otway, 90 miles S.W. of Melbourne. (D.S. 431)

CAMBRIDGE Mined

SS CAMBRIDGE sank 1300Z/7 6 miles east of Wilsons Promotory as result of explosion possibly mine. Of total crew of 55 only one not accounted for. Cargo. Re Publicity. (A.C.N.B. 1315Z/8)



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SS DELFINUS

Sunk by STURGEON 6/11 see Home Commands, 9/11.
Submarines.

MANSRWALD?
IDARWALD

Admty. 2325/6. (1325/6? re German ship loading preparatory to sailing) Tampico latest report confirmed loading completed. My 2102/5/10 (2102/5/11?) refers. No signs of intention of ?MANSRWALD early departure although apparently ready to sail at short notice Tampico is watching other ships and has requested report immediately any activities. (N.S.O. (I) Jamaica 0853/8)

BALKAN
STORMARN

BALKAN, STORMARN left today 2100 hours destinations believed to be Bayonne. (Bilbao 1115/8, 2257/8)

ORINOCO

Admty. 1325/6. Tampico reports German ORINOCO receiving considerable quantity of provisions water but no signs of departure any German ships. (S.O. (I) Kingston Jamaica 1558/8)

KLAUS SCHOKE
LUISEBORNHOFEN

My 1145/9/10. KLAUS SCHOKE entered inner harbour 1600 G.M.T./7th and now at anchor and buoy between LUISEBORNHOFEN and Portuguese Destroyer DOURO. (V.C., Horta 1930/8)

ATLAS
BELLONA

At Barcelona. Neptune Company, Bremen, sent message 4/11 to Agents at Valencia saying preparations made to speed up docking. (D.S. 431)

SAVONA

At Palermo. Expected to dry dock on 4/11. (A.I.) (D.S. 431)

Ships at
Tampico

New York Italian paper of 6/11 persisted that the 4 German merchant ships at Tampico have fuelled and are preparing to sail. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa) (2231/8)



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Friday

War Diary

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA ODERO

Puerto Cabello reports TERESA ODERO taking fuel from BACININ PADRE. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1648/8)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

YALOU

Your 0718/7. (1) If possible request information of departure of YALOU from Saigon. If vessel reaches E.I. Station intend she should be sent into British Port for examination, if met. (C. in C., E.I. 0638Z/8 to Capt. O.S. Singapore)

KILISSI
COMPEIGNE
ESPIQUETTE
LIEUT. ST LOUBERT
BIE

Following French ships now at Setubal should be sent in if intercepted KILISSI, COMPEIGNE, ESPIQUETTE, LIEUTENANT ST LOUBERT BIE) (F.O.C.N.P. 1730/8 to Western Patrol)

COMPEIGNE

It is reported that Captain of COMPEIGNE about to leave Lisbon for Morocco or Algeria is anxious to be intercepted when he will surrender his ship. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2248/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)



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Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

S/M distress signal 55.57 N., 18.20 W., large explosion. (CORNISH CITY, 1022/8)

Submarines Reported

- 1125 Attack enemy submarine in 55.57 N., 18.21 W 1125 (C. in C., W.A., 1144/8, to HAVELOCK HESPERUS)
- 1421 Sighted U-Boat from position at 5 miles in position 56.01 N., 17.51 W., Am hunting. (HAVELOCK 1421/8) See Attacks.
- 1321 G.M.T. 56° N., 17° 50' W., (A.F. message) (D.D.I.C. 1628/8)
- 1544 56.30 to 58° N., 18 to 21° W., indefinite position (D.S. 431)

Italian S/M's at Tangier

See North Atlantic

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

Italian 1 may still be in Azores area. German 1 was in 48° 5' N., 7° 22' W., at 1600/7 and may reach Lorient today or tonight. 2 may reach N.W. Approaches today from southward, one about 10 hours after the other. No news of the one that was in 50° 57' N 17° 22' W., at 1840/6. 1 may be in area about 56° N., between 10° and 12° W. 1 in area 57.30 to 58.30 N., 18° to 20° W may be moving northwards. 1 in area 59° to 60° N., 17° to 20° W. (D.D.I.C. 1231/8)

Submarines Attacked

1446
Jt: COMMANDANTE
FAA DI BRUNO
(Sunk. cm). 6843, 1946)

Sighted U-Boat 56.01 N., 17.51 W., Am hunting. (HAVELOCK 1421/8) Have attacked firm contact 56.00 N., 17.50 W., Still in contact (HAVELOCK 1446/8)

/My 1421....



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U-Boat Campaign

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

COMMANDANTE
FAA DI BRUNO
Sunk.

My 1421 and my 1446. Have attacked twice and fired 18 charges. Contact regained after second attack and then lost. Large bubble of air after first attack and a large patch of oil. HESPERUS detached at 1630 to collect 4 merchant ships in sight and escort them to North Channel. Am remaining in vicinity attack for 24 hours. 56° 00' N., 17° 50' W. (HAVELOCK 1653/8)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Saturday

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

SS DELFINUS

STURGEON reports that on 6/11 she sank SS DELFINUS (Ex Norwegian 1293 tons) off Ekersund and on 3/11 a 2000 ton west bound enemy merchant vessel in the Skagerrak.

→ Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER 7/8/11

MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL

LEAMINGTON and LEEDS swept through the position of attack but found no signs of wreckage.

British Air Activity

Routine patrols were considerably curtailed on account of unfavourable weather and only those in the southern North Sea and Western Channel were flown.

→ Special searches were flown today for the ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Aircraft of Bomber Command last night attacked Channel Ports; no notable results were observed, except at Flushing where the docks were straddled and a very large explosion and fires caused.

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked submarines at Lorient. All bombs are considered to have dropped in the target area.

*In a raid on Kiel between 0100 and 0130
one hit was made on the pocket battleship LÜTZOW.
(A.D. 354)*



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SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS EMPRESS OF
JAPAN

SS EMPRESS OF JAPAN (26032 tons) was attacked twice this morning, 150 miles west of Ireland. One engine was disabled but the ship proceeded on one engine to Gourock (arrived 1420/10)

SHELLBRIT II
Damaged

Tanker SHELLBRIT II in Shoreham Harbour was damaged by a bomb at 1740 today.

Convoy F.S.30
Attacked

Convoy F.S.30 was attacked early this afternoon off Harwich, no damage is reported.

Four Attacks on
F.N.30.
VANITY Damaged

Enemy Aircraft

SS SCOTTISH
HEATHER
Damaged

Convoy F.N.30 was attacked off Harwich at 1248, 1316, 1357 and 1645. SCOTTISH HEATHER (Tanker on Government Charter) was damaged by near miss and put in to Methil. In the last attack the escorting Anson drove off the enemy, which appeared to be damaged. In the earlier attacks ships claim to have damaged one enemy aircraft and VANITY believes she shot one down.

LUDLOW Attacked

LUDLOW (Town class destroyer) returning from the search for survivors of Convoy H.X. 84 was bombed 17 miles from Fanad Head but no damage is reported.

C. in C. W.A. reports that the danger of air attacks on independently routed fast merchant ships has reached serious proportions. He considers these ships should have both long range and short range A.A. weapons. The aircraft mainly responsible for these attacks are available to the enemy only in small numbers and are costly and slow to build. C. in C., W.A. considers that their bases should be attacked. (p. 229)



MOST SECRET

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Saturday 223

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the Humber and Liverpool Bay and possibly also in the Thames Estuary. There were indications early this morning of a minelaying U-Boat off Cromarty Firth, but no A/S vessels available in the Rosyth Command to hunt and weather did not permit aircraft to take off.

Ports Affected:-

Blyth Opened 1244. Falmouth opened 1436.
Plymouth: Mine detonated and 5 mines exploded spontaneously; M/S Trawler ELK was damaged by explosion of another mine.
South Foreland: One mine and 2 cutters found.
Morecambe Bay: Ports of Fleetwood, Lancaster and Heysham closed 1750.

ELK Damaged

SS BEAL Damaged

SS BEAL was mined this evening, position not stated, and was brought by tug to Middlesborough.

SS BALTRADER
Sunk

SS BALTRADER (1699 tons) in convoy F.S. 30 was mined and sunk in Barrow Deep this afternoon.



MOST SECRET

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Saturday 224

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and M/S
COMMANDANT DOMINE entered Libreville this afternoon
and report BOURGAINVILLE set on fire and
abandoned.

North Atlantic

Submarines for
Mediterranean
Fleet

UPRIGHT arrived at Gibraltar this eveing
URSULA has defects and UTMOST is under-
going repair.



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9.11.1940
Saturday 225

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Port Said was bombed last night, but no damage occurred.

Blenheims maintained a fighter patrol over Athens today.

Operation
"Coat"

F.A.A.
Attack on
Cagliari
(Op: "Crack".)

Yesterday one S. 79 shadowing Forces H. and F. was shot down by fighters. At 1330 ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, GLASGOW and 6 destroyers proceeded ahead for the attack on Cagliari. The Striking force of 9 Swordfish flew off at 0430 and all returned by 0805. Several hits were obtained on Hangers and buildings, and a direct hit on the power station. At 0745 three Fulmars flew off for Malta. Forces F (reinforcements for Medtn. Fleet) and B (remainder of Force) concentrated at 0920. One shadowing Cant was shot down at 1005. At 1120 the force was bombed but no ship was hit. Fighters probably damaged one or more of the enemy. Force F parted company at 1915 in 37° 55' N 9° 10' E. The operation was handicapped by many changes in personnel in ARK ROYAL and by inexperienced pilots.



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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

3 Blenheims today attacked quays and the destroyer base at Massawa and scored hits on the former. Considerable damage is believed to have been inflicted.

China

As from 15/11 export licenses will be refused for all goods shipped to Indo-China from U.K. and colonial ports.

Australia

*CITY OF
RAYVILLE

A second ship has been sunk off S.E. Australia. SS* RAYVILLE sank off Cape Otway last night, minelaying being suspected. Bass Strait has been closed to shipping. (See P. 216)



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HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Deluge

At 2330/8 (D.C. 0004/9) At 1130/9 (D.C. 1206/9)
A 2330/9 (D.C. 2337/9)

Movements

FURIOUS
DIDO
NEW ZEALAND STAR
SOUTHAMPTON
FRANCONIA
CLAN FORBES
CLAN FRAZER
MANCHESTER
(op "Collan").

To sail in company. Dates. A/S escort.
Future employment of MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON
Code word "~~RIVAL~~" Rival".
(A.C.N.S. (H) 0012/9 to C. in C., W.A.,
C. in C., Rosyth) DIDO to sail for Clyde
on arrival of HOOD at Scapa 11/11.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1350/9 to A.C.O.S.)
SOUTHAMPTON, alteration in port of de-
parture (D.O.D.(H) 1456/9) SOUTHAMPTON
intended to sail for Clyde p.m./9
SOUTHAMPTON 1301/9)

JAGUAR

Proceed to Portland (C. CWA 0839/9)

Greenock

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1301/9)

FORMIDABLE

On completion of trials to proceed to
Eastern Meditn. via Cape. (5th S.L. 1329/9)

Northern Patrol

Trawler lines today (F.O.C.O.S. 1518/9)

EGLINTON

E.T.A. 20 C Buoy 2030/9 (EGLINTON 1530/9)

Western Channel

Night report (C. in C., W.A. 1537/9,
1915/9)

WILLEM VAN DE ZAAAN

Londonderry arrival 8/11 ^{WILLEM} VAN DE ZAAAN
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0900/9)

My 1410/7. Sail ^{WILLEM} VAN DE ZAAAN when ready.
(C. in C., W.A. 1700/9 to N.O.I.C. London-
derry)

AURORA and IMPULSIVE may revert to 4 hours
notice for steam and give night leave
tonight.

WORCESTER and other ships not required
for duty revert to 4 hours notice until
2000/9. My 1907/4 ships giving night
leave are to be at 2 and a half hours
notice by 0830. (C. in C., Nore 1049/9)

/Orkneys.....



War Diary

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Saturday

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Orkneys

Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1544/9)

ALYNBANK

E.T.A. 2300/9 (ALYNBANK 1550/9)

PEONY
SALVIA
GLOXINIA
HYACINTH

Admty. 1334/4 Route (C. in C., W.A. 1920/9)

→ HAVELOCK

My p.c.s. are 56° 7' N., 14° 55' W., 90°
12 knots (HAVELOCK 2101/9)

NEWCASTLE

Not to proceed out of harbour until it
is safe for her to do so. (1st S.L. 1628/9
to C. in C., W.A.)

CAMELLIA

To await further orders at Liverpool
after oiling (Capt. (D) Liverpool 2329/9)

WESTON

Keep steam at immediate notice for the
night and be prepared to slip the cable
and get under way if necessary to
engage enemy aircraft. (C.in C., Rosyth
1723/9)

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER

Your 2321/8 (Have you any evidence of
attack on Convoy H.X. 84 by Raider on
November 5th?) No. (LEWES 0230/9 to Admty)

Leave Denmark Strait patrol so as to
comply with Admiralty's 2313/8 routed
through (position) thence to Clyde via
Minches. (C. in C., H.F. 1211/9 to
SOUTHAMPTON)

> Have been unable to join HESPERUS due to
N.W. gale. Asdic set out of action.
DUCHESS OF ATHOLL in company, intend to
escort her to Liverpool. My position 55°
30' N., 7° 10' W., (HAVELOCK 1625/9)

/My present....



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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

My present intention is that the first battle cruiser to return to Scapa should relieve NELSON on patrol in the Iceland Faroes passage in company with an A.M.C. detailed by F.O.C.N.P. and that one DIDO class cruiser should patrol the Denmark Straits after fuelling at Hvalfiord. Unless further instructions are received the battle cruiser screened by four destroyers is to take over patrol at 1200 /13, the cruiser is to sail in company with the battle cruiser. (C. in C., H.F. 1246/9 to F.O.C. 1 B.C.S., F.O.C.N.P.)

ANTWERP
MALINES
ST HELIER
Special Service
Brigade

Re special duty. (D.O.D. (H) 1245/9) See Operations Volume. p. 50

Dover Patrols

Night 9/10 Nov. (V.A.Dover 1410/9)

Harwich

A/P Patrols. Amendment to his 0920/9 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/9)

R.A. (D)

The following messages have been passed to you for information:-
1633/8* 2237/8.e 2313/8 /
(D.S.O. 1330/9 to R.A.(D)
* Operation ~~COLLAR~~⁶⁸¹¹⁶⁷ - former Most Secret distribution.
e Air activity from Norwegian Coast
/ H.M.S. SOUTHAMPTON.

SS BUESKOL

Your 0001/9. (See Casualties) ¹³⁷ H.N.M.S. HONNINGVAAG and one guard and be instructed to proceed to Jan Mayen Island and there

(a) Capture or sink the ship referred to in my 1735/5.

(b) Investigate the stranding of FRIDTJOF NANSEN (A.C.N.S. (H) 2106/9 to F.O.1/c Iceland)



HOME COMMANDS.

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Submarines.

STURGEON's
report.
2000 ton
M.V. sunk.

STURGEON reports
(b) successful attacks as follows.
At 1010/3 on westbound 2000 ton M/V in
position 58° 59' N. 10° 21' E. range
4000 yds. 3 torpedoes fired and one
hit. Column of black smoke seen over
ship which settled bow first and sank
in 9 minutes.

S.S. DELFINUS
sunk.

At 1455/6 on S.S. DELFINUS 1293 tons
steering 150° in 58° 34' N. 05° 37' E.
range 1000 yds.
2 torpedoes fired and 1 hit. Ship sank
in 11 minutes.

(c) STURGEON deduced that all shipping
for Norway proceeds in convoy or singly
from Kattegat to Oslo Fiord. Ships
hugging the coast north of Koster Island
except during dark. Ships for West coast
of Norway appear to cross Soslo Fiord at
latitude 59 degs. 12' north and then
proceed through Skaggerak very close to
coast. (V.A.(S) 1459/9)

Positions and
movements.

At 0700/10. (V.A.(S) 1719/9)

British Air Activity.

Search for
ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

Your 1143/8. Following is summary of air
searches being arranged for today
Two Sunderlands from 60° 45' N. 14° 10' W.
to coast of Iceland in 16° 45' West.
Hudson aircraft to search area between
above patrol and Butt of Lewis.
Denmark Strait will be covered as far as
possible by Battle aircraft from Iceland.
If possible an additional Sunderland will
be sent to Reykjavik.
(D.C. 0238/9 to C.in C. H.F.)

Air Searches
for 9/11.

My 1808/8 and 0528/9. First Sunderland
is flying but will probably have to land
in Iceland second Sunderland unlikely to be
able to take off. Parallel track search
and W 2 postponed owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0808/9)

All S A patrols postponed owing to
weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0810/9).

My 0800/9 First Sunderland returning
Sollum Voe, Second Sunderland is flying
and has been ordered to land Reykjavik
in daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 1026/9).



HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

My 0800/9.
Parallel track search and W 2 cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1302/9.)

No anti-invasion patrols flown A.M. today
and those for P.M. now cancelled owing to
weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1346/9)

Patrol ^{"Hookos"}~~HOOKOS~~ will not be flown tonight.
(C.in C. Nore 1638/9).

S/M bombing
restrictions.

Ops. 914 9/11. Institute submarine bombing
restrictions Forth sanctuary from 0830/10
to 1530/10 area thirty from 0800 to 1800
daily commencing 10/11 area twenty five
miles of position 090° Eddystone four miles
from 0730/10 to 1700/10.
(H.Q.C.C. 1600/9).

Night
decoy

Your 1922/8. This idea was considered before
my proposals were forwarded but was not
thought practicable in view of the large
difference between the area of the flow and
that of wide firth.
I am however hampered by lack of technical
knowledge. I suggest A.M. representative
should visit Scapa to view the actual
position before details are worked out.
(A.C.O.S. 2003/9 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

NALON
(Bombed 6/11)

NALON with valuable cargo was bombed
abandoned at 1145/6. Estimated approx.
position at 1200/9 053° 50' N. 015° 00' W.
When returning to harbour endeavour locate
this vessel. (C.in C. W.A. 0140/9 to
VESPER, VENOMOUS, WINDOR.)

Convoy
"Arena"
(F.S.30)

Convoy "Arena" shadowed by one enemy aircraft.
52° 0' N. 1° 14' E. (LOWESTOFT 0953/9,
WIDGEON 0955/9).

Convoy ^{"Arena"}~~ARENA~~ is being attacked 51° 45' N.
1° 27' E. (LOWESTOFT 1239/9)

EMPRESS OF
JAPAN.

53° 58' N. 14° 01' W. EMPRESS OF JAPAN
aircraft returning. (Scapa W/T 1020/9
T.O.R. 1124)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of
S.S. EMPRESS OF JAPAN in 53° 51' N. 14° 28' W.
at 1008/9 bound for Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1040/9 to SEAMAN,
MARAUDER)

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Enemy Air Activity.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN
(continued)

Following has been received.
53° 54' N. 14° 14' W.
Bombed EMPRESS OF JAPAN one engine out of
commission 0945/9. (Valencia Radio 1050/9.)

54° 05' N. 13° 34' W. EMPRESS OF JAPAN
aircraft returned but now gone.
(EMPRESS OF JAPAN 1050/9)

→ Proceed with all despatch to assistance
of S.S. EMPRESS OF JAPAN in 53° 54' N.
14° 14' W. at 1044/9. Tug SEAMAN
despatched from Campbeltown tug MARAUDER
will also sail when ready for sea.
Acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1050/9 to
Tug ST. OLAVES)

My 1040/9 amend position given to read
53° 54' N. 14° 14' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1105/9 to SEAMAN,
MARAUDER).

B Report of Whitley T/502
C Search for M.V. NALON

Before reaching approx. position received
message at 115 from Group to proceed to
53° 51' N. 14° 58' W. to locate EMPRESS OF
JAPAN. Failed to locate her after searching
vicinity from 1340 to 1430.
At 1324 sighted French M.V. DJENNE
NLSB 2008 CO 330 12 kts.

→ Cancel my 1050/9 Proceed to Kirkwall.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1932/9 to Tug ST. OLAVES)

B Report of JGE/236
C Locate and escort EMPRESS OF JAPAN.
Proceeded to given position and searched
without result area within radius of 15 miles
in poor visibility. At 1529 sighted 1 empty
motor boat in position NLBY 0430 at 1612
sighted 2 dr 175 in position NLBY 1256 CO 100
30 kts at 1632 sighted 1 dr and 1 large MV
3 funnels 2 masts black hull buff super-
structure and funnels about 30000 ton
presumed to be EMPRESS OF JAPAN in position
NLDE 0030, CO approx 100 degs 15 to 18 kts.
In spite of continuous flashing by A/C of
correct recognition signals to both MV and
DR the EMPRESS opened fire on A/C ABD fired
at least five shots. Leading A/C of the
patrol then fired a Verrey light. At 1706
sighted 1 MV French about 20000 tons in
position NLGQ 0206 CO 080 degs 12 kts grey
hull, 3 buff funnels 2 masts.
(Plymouth A.C.H.Q., 1950/9).

Details of damage
by bombs and m.g.
bullets.

.....



HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

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Details of damage by bombs and m.g. bullets

EMPRESS OF JAPAN arrived Gourock 1420/10 no casualties. At 0920/9 attacked by bomber in 53° 54' N. 14° 28' W. 1020/9 aircraft returned 1050/9 Hull damage unknown. Vessels armament one 3" L.A. several rifles and rockets. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1530/10).

LUDLOW.

Following has been read. Enemy aircraft bombing 130 degrees Fanad Head 17. (LUDLOW 1125/9)

Convoy F.N. 330
S.S. SCOTTISH
HEATHER damaged.
VANITY damages
a/c.

Enemy A/C are bombing convoy ^{"Agent"} ~~AGENT~~ position 51° 48' N. 1° 31' E. (F.N. Convoy 1248/9).

My 1248 no hits 1 D0215 damaged by gunfire. (F.N. Convoy 1300/9)

Enemy A/C bombing convoy ^{"Agent"} ~~AGENT~~ in 51° 46' N. 1° 28' E. (F.N. Convoy 1316/9).

Further attack by 2 D O 215's at 1327 one believed shot down in 051° 50' North 001° 38' East. (VANITY 1357/9).

Convoy attacked by Dornier 215 at 1645 hours in 52° 18' N. 2° 0' E. Anson then at head of convoy immediately turned to attack enemy aircraft damage not known. No damage to Anson. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 2044/9.)

Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER arrived in F N 30 from Sheerness to Grangemouth reports following damage from near misses during bombing attack on 9/11.

Vessel on Admiralty Charter and Master considers repairs and possibly docking necessary before proceeding overseas. SCOTTISH HEATHER will proceed from Methil to Grangemouth A.M./12 (N.C.S.O. Methil 1529/11)

Convoy
"Material"

Convoy ^{"Material"} ~~MATERIAL~~ is being shadowed by one Enemy Aircraft in position. 57° 10' N. 1° 50' W. (FOWEY 1313/9).

VINGALAND
(attacked 8/11)

VINGALAND (Swedish 2734 tons) in convoy H.X. 84 was bombed 1022/8 and abandoned heavily on fire (HESPERUS 1106/9).

SOUTHERN GEM.

Shadowed by one enemy aircraft course my position 150 Aberdeen 8 miles 4 knots. (SOUTHERN GEM 1322/9).

SHELL BRIT II.

Oil tanker SHELL BRIT II struck by enemy bomb ...



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Enemy Air Activity. (Continued)

SHELA+BRIT II

bomb at 1740/9 when alongside Cleaveland Wharf Shoreham Harbour. Damage. Casualties. Ship unable to steam. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1522/11)

Note: Air Min. D.S. states tanker in harbour at Southwick, Sussex damaged by oil bomb at 1743/9. Presumably same as above.

Mining.

BLYTH. Blyth.

Blyth closed divert ships for Blyth to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 0155/9 to VEGA)

Blyth Open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1244/9)

Unexplained explosions.

Coastguard Clacton reports 0506 several white flashes and explosions south distant also heard by Walton and Naze lookout. 0510 Ends. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0513/9).

Minelaying U-boat*

** was fishing netter
see 0805/9,
page 236.*

Ship report plot from Cromarty R.A.F. C H L station indicates possible minelaying U-Boat* at 0610. 094 degs. 2.1/4 miles from South Sutor P W S S . Request daylight aircraft search and A/S craft be sent. None available locally. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0621/9 to C.in C. Rosyth) Passed to V.A. (S)

Your 0621/9 regret no A/S vessels available in Rosyth Command and that weather does not permit aircraft to take off. (C.in C. Rosyth 0816/9).

Thames Estuary.

Group Officer Ship HERO reports 1 red mine detonated by LL Trawler at 2305/8 040° S.W. Swin L.V. 1 mile. (Capt. M/S 0854/9)

S.S. BALTRADER.

(F. S. 30)

BALTRADER mined in 051° 40' 45" N. 001° 18' 20" E. SUN VIII standing by wreck. Survivors in EVENING PRIMROSE. Two missing. (WOOLSTON 1426/9).

S.S. BALTRADER in F S 30 sunk by mine approximately one and three quarter N.N.E. magnetic from East Barrow Light Vessel at about 1430/today. 27 Survivors landed at Southend by drifter EVENING PRIMROSE. Believed one dead and one injured are on board S.S. PITWINES also in F S 30 but arrival not yet reported. (C.in C. Nore 2235/9)

Falmouth.

Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1436/9).

/ Plymouth
ELK damaged.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

Plymouth
ELK damaged.

Since my 1718/6 mine detonated by F.S. ~~POULMIC~~ 200 degrees 11 cables breakwater light. Trawler ELK damaged 0840/9 by explosion 1/2 cable off in vicinity Western Gate vessel. Five mines exploded spontaneously 0015/7 Penlee Point 202 degrees 2½ cables. 0445/7 178 degrees Picklecombe Fort 2 miles. 1819/7 121 degrees Draystone Buoy 5.1 cables 1827/7 Rame Head 189 degrees 1.5 miles. 0842/9 Picklecombe 107 degrees 500 yards on impact 138 degrees Penlee Point 6 cables. Positions approximate. (C.in C. W.A. 1536/9.)

South Foreland.

Routine sweeps to noon Saturday. One mine and two cutters found 2 miles 114° South Foreland. (V.A. Dover 1553/9).

Operations S.N.43.
S.N.45.

Propose to sail at 1715/11 and lay as follows:- S N 43, S N 45 (Positions) starting S N 43 at 0930 and finishing S N 45 at 1615/12. (R.A.M.L. 1711/9).

Morecambe Bay.

Ports of Fleetwood, Lancaster and Heysham closed owing to suspected minelaying by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1750/9).

Rosyth.

My 1137/8. 50% Oropesa search will commence Sunday 10th. (C.in C. Rosyth 1821/9).

Milford Haven.

Two Ground Mines self detonated close together in approximate position 085° Great Castle Head 4-1/2 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1856/9).

S.S. BEAL.

S.S. BEAL reports having struck mine in position unknown. Tug has been sent. Vessel is entering Tees and Tyne Wharf. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2027/9).

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HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.BOYDS.

My 0621/9 (re vessel sighted) Vessel reported now found to be fishing drifter BOYDS. Have ordered her to Invergordon. Cancel request for aircraft and A/S assistance. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0805/9).

MINERVA.

Following received from Humber Radio intercepted at 1129 G.M.T. on 500 kc/s from Nord Dutch radio begins:- To MINERVA 2 tugs will leave for you at 1300 German summer time and will meet you during afternoon. Ends. (F.O. Humber 1240/9)

Intelligence of ships.

A Following from same source as my 1222/31/8. 1. At Kiel 25/10 one KOLN Cruiser, possibly other ships.

4/11 BISMARCK in harbour. This ship was referred to erroneously in paragraph one (c) of my 1622/17 as BLEUCHER Class.

At Bremerhaven 25/10 both BREMEN and EUROPA in harbour. Large guns now removed and possibly some A.A. guns. BREMEN had steam up.

On 3rd both vessels had left, one being sighted Brunsbuttel 4th.

At Vegesack Works 12 U-Boats on stocks and two alongside fitting out.

At Bremen construction of Cruiser continues but appears far from completion. Two destroyers on stocks and two at fitting out quay ahead of Cruiser. One Destroyer in floating dock and one ready but not delivered in free harbour (Crew aboard but no flag flying). (N.A. Stockholm 1541/9).

Unidentified vessel.

Following remains unidentified. From Sumburgh 1 small slow vessel bearing 203° 10 miles course 165° speed 10 knots at 2009. (A.C.O.S. 1604/9).

Surface unit. S.W. of Ekersund.

By D/F at 1720/9. Position of unknown enemy surface unit probably destroyer or larger vessel was 58° N. 4° 30' E. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1758/9).

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FRIDTJOF NANSEN
(see also Operations,
S.S. BUESKOL)

Norwegian Fishery Protection Vessel FRIDTJOF NANSEN reports she has run aground no position or details unable to amke further contact with her. Unless further information is received intend sending HONNINGSVAAG to investigate as soon as she returns to Reykjavik. (F.O. Iceland, 001/9). *See also p. 229.*

S.S. DIONI.

Received 0815 G.M.T. de DIONI timed 0800 G.M.T. begins, Now she lies on the dry mud and rocks in position 51° 42' 50" N. 5° 6' 15" W. extensive damage all along bottom and stern frame. Not yet any assistance offered. (Burnham-on-Sea, T.H.I. 0920/9).

^R
S.S. RIDLEY.

Following received. S.O.S. S/S RIDLEY 340 miles 3200 off St. Vincent on fire require immediate assistance. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0427/9)

HATSUSE
DUKE OF
ARGYLL

Collision reported between H.M.Trawler HATSUSE and S.S. DUKE OF ARGYLL damage slight. HATSUSE was displaying minesweeping signals. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1501/9).

WIVERN

Your 1352/8 Board of Enquiry already ordered and sitting today. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0920/9.)



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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

H.X. 87

Shipping

H.X. 87 including BHX.86, HX.88 and SC.12. Arrange to sail as follows, confirmation will follow. Route. HX.88 and SC.12 are to be sailed at such times as to be 20 miles astern and 225 miles ahead respectively of HX 87 when passing through position A. Cancel previous routes promulgated. (D.T.D. 1654/9.)

O.B. Convoys

O.B. Convoys are to be sailed as follows unless instructions to the contrary are received. O.B. 242 11th, O.B. 243, 12th, O.B. 244 17th, O.B. 245 and 246 18th, Convoy O.G. 46 to be sailed on 19th Nov. (D.T.D. 1827/9)

O.B. 242
O.B. 243

My 1827/9, O.B. 242 and 243 will disperse as usual and ships should be routed to destinations accordingly. Further signal will be made regarding O.B. 244, 245 and 246. (D.T.D., 2313/9) Orders to O.B. 242. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1615/9)

H.X. 84

Position, course and speed of Commodore and 5 ships of convoy H.X. 84 at 1130/9 056° 09' N., 014° 17' W., course 090° 6 knots. Convoy still widely scattered. Ship attacked at 1022/8 was Swedish ship VINGALAND which was bombed and abandoned heavily on fire. (HESPERUS, 1100/9) Raider attack. Reports by PACIFIC ENTERPRISE and CORDELIA (see America & West Indies) FLEUR DE LYS to join HESPERUS with H.X. 84 position (C. in C., W.A. 1715/9) not met. My position 56.07 N., 12.29 W. (FLEUR DE LYS) Unable to join HESPERUS due to N.W. gale Asdic set out of action. DUCHESS OF ATHOLL in company. Position. (HAVELOCK, 1625/9)

B.H.X. 86

To be sailed to Halifax independently and routed towards American Coast. (D.T.D. 1653/9) Suspicious behavior of certain ships. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1032/9) See America and West Indies.

B.H.X. 87

As ships of B.H.X. 87 were not issued with envelope C they have no route to follow in the event of losing convoy or scattering. Directions. (N.O.I.C. Halifax to LACONIA 1107/9)



MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

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Convoys-Contd.

Shipping .

O.G. 45

Escorted by VIDETTE. Route. SALOPIAN leaves O.G. 45 p.m/9 (F.O.C.N.A., 1200/9)

EKNAREN

Swedish, left O.B. 240 in suspicious circumstances. If met to be reported. (C. in C., W.A., 1917/9)

TORONTO CITY

Cancel my 1630/5. To be strengthened against ice before proceeding to St. John's. (D.N.M.S., 1303/9 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

PASTEUR

Sailed 1800/9 from Gibraltar for Liverpool. Route. (F.O.C.N.A., 1812/9)

S.C. 11.

Draft sailing telegram. Escort ENCHANTRESS (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1719/9)

H.X. 81.

36 hours late at R.V., scattered by heavy gales. (D.T.D. 1531/9)

Independent Ships

Danger of air attack. Recommending adequate A/A armament and trained guns crews. (C. in C., W.A., 1913/9 to Admty.) (p. 222)

Escort Groups

Order of sailing O.B. 242- O.B. 246 and O.G. 46. (C. in C., W.A., 2140/9)

Independent Routes

Homeward bound fast independent ships should be routed so as to cross 18° W., between 55° N and 57° N. A proportion of ships from West Atlantic ports should be routed further North and thence North of Rockall. (D.T.D. 1255/9 to C. in C's A.W.I., S.A., etc.)

Convoy Formation

Decided that columns in ocean convoys formed on a broad front are to be 5 cables apart on account of the much smaller percentage of hits that may be expected from the torpedoes of a U-Boat in the ideal firing position. N.C.S.Os at Assembly Ports to explain to Masters the reason and urge them not to give way to natural tendency to close in at night which is the time when the increased distance apart is most necessary. (D.T.D. 2311/9)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Operations Against Vichy French

Libreville
BOUGAINVILLE
Abandoned

French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA and DOMINE entered Libreville this afternoon after issue of ultimatum and report~~x~~ French sloop BOUGAINVILLE set on fire and abandoned. CAP DES PALMES assisting to rescue survivors. (C.S.1. 1841A/9)

Enemy Units

* MACHADO
Portuguese Trawler 316 tons.

At 1845/5 fishing steamer *MACHADO was boarded by a submarine of unknown nationality but whose crew spoke French in 37° 58' N., 9° 50' W. *

At 1800/8 a destroyer of unknown nationality passed Cape Saint Vincent proceeding south with a French Cargo vessel.

Source A.O (Consul-Gen., Lisbon 2032/9)

* S/M was UTMOST, see FOENA 0758/10, p. 272.

Sinking of
PONCELET

Your 1032/8 and my 0821A/8. French submarine PONCELET reported by DEVONSHIRE's Walrus anchored in Port Gentil at 0700/7. Log indicates submarine left harbour 0800/7 and remained submerged most of forenoon, sighted MILFORD, 1248, French Submarine PONCELET heard Asdic transmission 3 minutes before firing. Second torpedo was fired but stuck in tube. Submarine sank in position 00° 04' S. 009° 02' E. (C.S.1. 1126A/9 to Admty.)

At what distance was MILFORD from shore when an underwater explosion was heard at 1423? (C.N.S. to C.S.1., 2345/9)

North Atlantic

RENOWN)
ARGUS)
DESPATCH)
NEWCASTLE)

Route. E.T.A. Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1200/9)

TRIUMPH

Route to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9)

KINGSTON TOPAZ

Arrives Gibraltar 13/11 from patrol off Lisbon. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9)

CILICIA

Patrol area, to arrive Gibraltar 0730/12 (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9)

/DOMINE.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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North Atlantic-Contd.

DOMINE
Intercepted

Spanish, Ministry of Marine stated stopped by Brit. trawler 15 miles out of Cadiz 7/11 and mails for Canary Islands removed. Request instructions what to reply. (Madrid 1835/9 to Admty.) *Reply: no information (1837/10, p. 273)*
Further details from F.O.C.N.A., 1206/12, p. 334.

URSULA)
UTMOST)

Re defects, and dates of completion. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/9)

UPRIGHT

E.T.A. p.m/9 and will be sent on patrol when ready. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/9. Arrived 2030/9 escorted by ARCTIC RANGER. (S.O.I. Gib., 2054/9)

Tangier

All destroyers away on escort duties from 10/11 and watch on Tangier reduced to one trawler. Presumed Spanish territorial waters are still to be respected. (F.O.C.N.A., 1120/9)

Italian S/M's
Tangier

Report of interview with M. of Marine. Convinced neither Minister nor Spanish Navy will be party to any trick. He did not agree with our contention that to repair damage impeding diving would be to misuse fighting force. (Madrid, 1830/9)

Operation "Dike"

Your 0901/7 and my 1301/8. Admty and Air Ministry in agreement that course (a) must be employed. (D.N.A.D. to S.O. Force H 1759/9)

South Atlantic

I.C.S.

My 1544/8 and C. in C., S.A. 1745/8. E.T.A. 1130/10 (F.O.I.C.S. 1531A/9)

CORNWALL
PRETORIA CASTLE

PRETORIA CASTLE not seen. My position at noon/9. (CORNWALL 1112N/9) Your 1112N/9. My position course and speed, noon/9. (PRETORIA CASTLE 1550N/9)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

My 2125/5. Sailing to Halifax to be deferred. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., S.A., 2326/9)

/? CUBA.....



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

? CUBA

Your 2326/8 and my 1955/8. Should crew and Merchant Navy passengers be offered opportunity to serve in Allied ships in accordance with S.O.S. for Colonies Tel No 636 to Gov. Sierra Leone. It is possible that some of Naval or Army personnel may ask to serve with British but not directly under de Gaulle. Can this be accepted. Fear response will be small as men are threatened by Officers. (C.in C., S.A. 1929/9)

THURSO BANK
SOLOY

Due Capetown 4/11 from U.K. and Durban 4/11 from Gibraltar, both not arrived. (S.O.I.) Capetown, 0945B/9)

Mediterranean

Movements

Summary No 167 (C. in C., Med., 0303/9)

A.S. 5.

Convoy A.S. 5. leaves Piraeus p.m./10 for Port Said. Route. (C. in C., Med. 0303/9)

C.S. 18.
MANCHESTER

Pass Admty. 1633/8 addressed C. in C., Med and Force H., to C.S. 18 (D.O.D.(H) 1020/9 to MANCHESTER) Admty. 1633/8. The flag of C.S. 18 will be flown in MANCHESTER. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med and Force H 1906/9)

U-Boat Report

See U-Boat Campaign.

Convoys,
Malta

Situation re further convoys has become greatly complicated for several reasons. F.O.i/c Malta is sending you now copy of proposals I have made to D. of S.T. These proposals would solve present problem but are dependant on your approval to bring 3 ships with a minimum speed of 16 knots here during operation "Collar" If you are prepared to do this, request D. of S.T. may be informed immediately. (Govr. Malta to C. in C., Med. 1307/9 and to D. of S.T. 1820/9)

Trapani

Air reconnaissance on North Sicilian ports shows 3 destroyers in Trapani. (V.A.Malta, 1455/9)

/Aircraft Crews.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean-Contd.

Aircraft Crews

C. in C. Med's 1057/8. Please send any surplus Wellington crews to Gibraltar. We will arrange homeward passage from there. We would employ them to fly additional Wellingtons to M.E. (Air Min. to H.Q., Malta, 1720/9)

Suda Bay Defences

Requirements for (W.O. to C. in C., M.E. 2230/9)

Policy

Your 1749/5 paragraph 4. The denial from Vichy has been available to us for some time but our information from other sources does not support it entirely. No reply has been received by H.M.G. to specific enquiry as to where Vichy Government stands whilst we know Petain and Eval have publicly indicated their intention of concluding an agreement to collaborate with Hitler, thus doing injury to us, and aiming to support Hitler's plan of a "so-called" new order in Europe. H.M.G. must determine their action in the light of these facts. (1st S.L. 0046/9 to C. in C., Med.)

Greek Situation.

My 1229/8.

(c) Whole of coast North of Acheron river is clear of Greek troops, (d) and (e) Re suitable objectives for bombardment.

(f) British Air Commodore asks whether any co-operation from land based aircraft is possible if you bombard Italian right flank.

(g) Greeks worried at heavy movements between Italy and Albania. Urgency of doing everything possible to interfere Italian line of communications.

(h) Greek N.A. in Berlin reports that Italian N.A. Berlin has said that Italian scheme of operations envisages occupation of coast opposite Corfu as a first phase. Second phase will be occupation of Corfu and organization of a protected base in Straits to ensure supplies to Army. (N.A. Athens, 1623/9 to C. in C., Med.)

Air Reconnaissance

Air recon. of Sicilian ports. Palermo, eight destroyers one merchant vessels of 8,000 tons one merchant vessel of 2,000 tons. Messina, seven destroyers, three large submarines, four merchant vessels of 6,000 tons each, one liner believed to be REX. Augusta, two cruisers CONDOTTIERI class five destroyers. (V.A.Malta, 1753/9)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

244

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation
"Collar"

Your 1231/8. Realised that the number of personnel to be embarked is large but the urgency of these reinforcements is such that the difficulties must be accepted. None of the men can be embarked in NEW ZEALAND STAR.

F.O. Force (H) will be arranging the allocation of personnel ex FRANCONIA to ships going to Alexandria.

Admty. 1633/8 has been passed to you. (D.O.D. (F) 1859/9 amended 2358/9)

M.N.B.D.O.

M.N.B.D.O. is at present dispersed for coast defence in U.K. It could be re-assembled in about 5 weeks and might be made available in Middle East if you foresee any useful purpose for it. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. 1941/9 to C. in C., Med.) *Reply: 1055/13, p. 364.*

East Indies

Aden,
Policy

Your 0348/4. *(no trace in W/S)* Share your view, but resources do not permit further reduction for this purpose expense other theatres M.E., (Details of support given to Greece) View still held that major land threat Aden unlikely to materialise. (C. in C's., M.E., to C. in C., E.I., 1114/9)

Assab
Bombed

Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/9. 1 Blenheim 8 Sqdn. armed reconnaissance Assab attacked warehouses and store sheds, 0515 hours. Photographs show one bomb near miss small square building No fighters. 1 extra ship 6000 tons amongst islands total now 6. 2 Blenheim IV'B 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties 10/11. All times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden no T.O.O./9)

French Ships

My 0908/7, re French ships to be detained for examination. Add French ~~ships~~ *ships* D'ENCASTEAUX, MIN and CAP PADARAN. (C. in C., E.I. 0734Z/9)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

245

China

LIVATHO

Admty. 1307/8. LIVATHO will bring back cargo badly needed. French have guaranteed not to detain ship. Request decision as ship is being held up at Singapore. (C. in C., China, 0515Z/9 to Admty.)

Indo-China
Export Licenses
Refused
LIVATHO

As from 15/11 export license will be refused for all goods shipped to Indo-China from U.K. and Colonial ports. Request you ensure no British or Allied ships are in Indo-China ports on above date in view of likelihood of reprisals. Your 0441/6. In view of above, considered undesirable that LIVATHO should be allowed to proceed to Saigon. (Hd. of M. 2357/9)

Haiphong

Your 0756/8. No concentration of transports at Haiphong. Details of transport traffic (Vice Consul Haiphong, to C.O.I.C. Singapore, 0723Z/9) Passed to Admty. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 1639Z/9).

N.E.I. Navy

My 0315/7. Dutch Naval C. in C., takes instructions from Governor General and not from London. Suggest Dutch Govt. in London instruct Govr. Gen. to permit discussion provided no diplomatic commitments involved. (C. in C., China 1213/Z/9 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

Raider Attack
on H.X. 84

British ships PACIFIC ENTERPRISE and CORDELIA both from convoy H.X. 84 arrived here undamaged today. Former has now left for Halifax.

Master of PACIFIC ENTERPRISE convinced raider is German Armoured Ship ADMIRAL SCHEER Class but some officers and men say raider had funnel same as RESOLUTION and a few that there was a light cruiser in addition.

Master of CORDELIA admits possibility of two raiders in view of remarkably swift movement but definite about tripod raking and with large fore top.

Other special points. About 9 ships are thought to have been fired on. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 2230/9 to Admty)

/PRINCE ROBERT.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

246

America & West Indies-Contd.

PRINCE ROBERT

My 1731/30. Proceed into Talcahuano (date)
Orders for patrol, and instructions for
BISHOPDALE (C. in C., A.W.I., 1722/9)

Convoy
B.H.X. 86

Following ships forming port wing column
of B.H.X. parted company from convoy
during 180° turn at 0130 Q on 6th/11.
HOLMPARK, BUESTEN and SOENJIT. Ships have
been ordered by W/T to return to Bermuda
or Halifax, 4th ocean escort MONTCLARE re-
ports TASSO leading ship of column
behavior quite inexcusable. Visibility
two miles. Suggest investigation on
arrival of ships in harbour. (C. in C.,
A.W.I., 1032/9 to Admty, etc.,)

no further action necessary (2018/15, page 424)

Australia

CAMBRIDGE
CITY OF RAYVILLE
suspected
minelaying

CAMBRIDGE sank off Wilson's promontory
night 7-8/11 CITY OF RAYVILLE sank off
Cape Otway night 8-9/11. Minelaying
suspected. Bass Strait closed to shipping
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 0501Z/9 to C. in C.,
S.A.) A.C.N.B. 1315/8. Request
particulars regarding loss of CAMBRIDGE
be communicated Lloyd's, London.
(A.C.N.B., 1847/Z/9)

New Zealand

Greek Shipping

Your 1919/4 (re Greek ships in Japanese
Waters) Following received from Suva,
(begins) Telegram from Livanos New York
to Nauru quotes that London instructs
AXIOS (Greek) and EVINOS (Greek) are to
proceed towards Colombo (ends) Telegram is
being held pending your decision.
(S.O.I., Wellington, 0044/9 to Admty.)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

247

AEQUITAS

My 1806/26. H.M.G. having approved movement of AEQUITAS to Rio de Janeiro with Brazilian officer on board to prevent irregularities. I will report when vessel sails. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1535/9)

ANTARKTIS

2- 10 ton lorries arrived with provisions which are being loaded. (Acting consul, Vigo, 1846/9) (D.D.I.C. 0254/10 to F.O.C.N.A)

NORDERNEY

Following from Navy Dept. NORDERNEY loading 1,000 tons of coal at Para. Crew of 14 men seven officers includes five German Officers and eight men who came from Santos. Opinion in Brazil is that her departure may be soon. (N.A. Washington, 1255/9)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA ODERO

My 1648/8. Caracas reports fuel for harbour use only and all Italian ships at Puerto Cabello interned. (S.O.I., Kingston 2028/9)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

9.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

248

Ships Attacked

CYPRUS

SSSS Submarine or struck a mine 36.21 N., 7.38 W., CYPRUS. (Gibraltar W/T no T.O.00 recd. 0816/9) S/M on surface bearing 220° 6 miles steering S.E., My p.c.s. 36.21 N., 7.34 W., 052, 8 knots. (CYPRUS 0803/9) (C. in C., W.A. 0807/9) SSSS received addressed to all stations via Lands End 36.21 N., 7.38 W., CYPRUS (C. in C., W.A., to Admty. 0700/9, recd. 0848)

U-Boat Tactics

Admty 2027/14/10. Information now received confirms conclusion drawn. Emphasises necessity for (a) utmost vigilance of night look outs (b) Fitting of A.S.V. in escort ships. (c) Improving hydrophone performance of our asdics. Action re (b) and (c) being taken (D.A/S.W. to C. in C., W.A. 1516/9)

Escort vessels in convoys attacked by U-boats to forward a track chart to D.A/S.W. (C. in C., W.A., 1042/9)

Submarines Reported

- 0139 56° to 58° N., 17° to 21° W., position very indefinite (D.S. 431)
- 0218 W. of Ireland in about 52° N., Italian U/B position indefinite (D.S. 431)
- 1206 58° to 59° N., 25° W., very indefinite (D.S. 432)
- 1237 55.30 N., to 56.30 N., 17° to 21° W., position indefinite (D.S. 432)

Ushant

A/C X/812 now reports that at 1945/9/11. he observed a small vessel possibly a submarine 045/Ushant/15 miles. He flashed the letter of the period many times but received no reply. As A/C was outward bound for Lorient, pilot decided not to waste bombs on uncertain secondary target. (St. Eval, 1000/10 to 15 group)

Mediterranean

One enemy U-Boat on surface in 36.05 N., 13.44 E., dived on being sighted by A/C at 0934 zone minus 2. (V.A.Malta 1039/9)



War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

248

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Submarines Reported

0139

56° to 58° N., 17° to 21° W., position very indefinite (D.S. 431)

0218

W. of Ireland in about 52° N., Italian U/B position indefinite (D.S. 431)

1206

58° to 59° N., 25° W., very indefinite (D.S. 432)

1237

55.30 N., to 56.30 N., 17° to 21° W., position indefinite (D.S. 432)

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

249

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian 1 may be in area 50° to 51° N.,
15° to 17° West, proceeding to Bordeaux.
1 may still be in Azores area.

German 1 may be in area 53° to 54° N.,
16° to 18° W. proceeding to Lorient.

Italian (1) was in 56° N., 17° 50' W., at 1446/8.

1 was in area 56° to 58° N., 17° to 21° W
at 0139/9

2 more in N.W. Approached or farther W.
whereabouts unknown. (D.D.I.C. 1244/9)

Submarines Attacked.

By HAVELock.

8/11.

(COMMANDANTE
FAA DI BRUNO)

Your attack sounded most promising. Round
up what you can. You will probably be re-
quired for escort duties on 15/11. (C.C.W.A.,
(1922/9 to HAVELock)

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.



MOST SECRET 50

War Diary

10.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

REPULSE reported at 1800 that she had swept through 55° N., 30° W., 56° N., 32° W., 60° N., 27° W. Two destroyers are in company.

No sign of wreckage was seen, but the weather and visibility were very bad.

SOUTHAMPTON from Denmark Straits patrol, is proceeding to Belfast for Operation "~~SEA~~"

Home Fleet units are patrolling the Iceland Faroes passage

The Shetland Command was abolished today and Flag Officer Commanding, Orkney resumed the functions of Flag Officer Commanding Orkney and Shetland, (A.C.O.S.) Executive control of all defence operations in the Shetlands in event of hostile action will be exercised by the Army Officer in local command of Army units.

SEACGEM
Missing

Tug SEACGEM from Middleborough 30/10 due Dundee 31/10 has not arrived. All enquiries have failed to trace the ship.

MONIQUE

Lloyds state that the French tanker MONIQUE (7011 tons) which left Oran 6/6 homeward bound from Haifa is reported to have been sunk off the coast of France later in that month.



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10.11.1940
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

The submarine base at Lorient was attacked last night. Results were not observed.

Attacks were made today on Boulogne and Calais. At the former, bursts were seen on a concentration of barges and on Dock No. 6. At Calais Docks Nos 5 and 6 were hit.

Coastal Command

Aircraft of Coastal Command also attacked the submarine base at Lorient last night. The power station was straddled and a heavy calibre bomb appeared to fall on the dry dock and another on the T.B. Station or its oiling jetty.

Routine patrols were extended to the Norwegian and Danish coasts.



War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

This morning, a single enemy aircraft dropped 18 small H.E. bombs in Dover Harbour and at the same time another aircraft dropped a similar number in the sea north east of Dungeness. No damage or casualties occurred at either place. The attacks appeared deliberate and not mere jettisoning, and V.A. Dover suggests that these and similar occurrences previously may be attempts to countermine our land mine defences or locate them.

Portsmouth was bombed this evening. No naval damage occurred.

Bombs were dropped this morning on several S.E. Coast Towns. The Naval Hospital and R.N. Barracks at Yarmouth was slightly damaged.

ROYAL EAGLE was unsuccessfully bombed in the Thames Estuary this afternoon.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

253

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was evident last night in the Thames Estuary-Harwich-North Foreland and probably off the North-East coast of England. Mines were dropped in Penzance and Newlyn areas and these ports were closed at 1330.

Mines were found off Knob L.V., and in Fowey Channel (slightly damaging a Belgian fishing vessel)

Last night, more mines were dropped by enemy aircraft in the approaches to Plymouth, and C. in C., W.A. estimates there are at least 15 mines situated within one mile of the breakwater lighthouse.

M/Strawler ST MELANTE detonated one today and was damaged.

A/Strawler KINGSTON ALALITE was sunk in the searched channel this afternoon in a position which had been swept and passed over by several sweepers during the day.

ST MELANTE

KINGSTON ALALITE

NEWCASTLE, due to leave yesterday for an operation simultaneous with Operation "White" has not been sailed and no certain date can be given when it will be safe to do so. The port is closed.

MARCELLE
Sunk

Belgian Balloon trawler MARCELLE was sunk in the Bristol Channel today, believed mined (D.S. D.O.R.)

Fleetwood, Lancaster and Heysham were opened this afternoon. Humber and Milford Haven were closed this evening.



War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Libreville was occupied by Free French today.

North Atlantic

1/s RENOWN on relief p.m. today by AUSTRALIA in covering homeward bound Atlantic convoys left for Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

ROYAL SOVEREIGN left Freetown this afternoon to cover Convoys S.L.S54 and S.L. 54 as far as the latitude of Madeira, after which ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to proceed to Gibraltar.



War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Enemy aircraft last night bombed Matruh without result. Bombs were also dropped in the Alexandria area this evening but no damage or casualties were caused. A single plane, after a prolonged reconnaissance of the Canal Area dropped 10 bombs without causing any damage *yesterday evening.*

Convoy M.E. 3 escorted by RAMILLIES (arrived Malta p.m/9 with COVENTRY, 8 destroyers, a minesweeper and an oiler) left Malta p.m. today for Alexandria.

TERROR left Malta at 1400 today with VENDETTA for Suda Bay where she is to act as guard ship temporarily.

Operation
"Coat"

Force F (BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, GRIFFIN GREYHOUND, and GALLANT) joined C. in C., Meditn. at 1015 today and entered Malta 2 hours later to disembark troops and to fuel. During the outward passage of the Meditn. Fleet ILLUSTRIOUS shot down two Cants and 2 S.79's. All ships of the Meditn. Fleet cleared the Grand Harbour by 2020 for offensive operations in the Ionian Sea. During the stay of the Fleet at Malta the only enemy air operation was a reconnaissance by fighters, one of which dived and machine-gunned Hal Far, slightly damaging one Swordfish.

Bombardment of
Sidi Barrani

Last night, APHIS working with a flare dropping aircraft successfully bombarded enemy positions at Sidi Barrani. The Shore Batteries returned her fire, but caused no damage.

Air Attacks
Naples

5 Wellingtons bombed Naples successfully last night.

Sarande
Konispol Bay

3 Blenheims today attacked the harbour at Sarande on the Albanian coast and jetties at Konispol Bay (Greek Albanian frontier) At Sarande one bomb fell near a 7000-ton merchant vessel and other bombs damaged docks. At Konispol Bay a jetty was demolished and a road junction damaged.



MOST SECRET

256

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

At 1341Z today Norwegian SS OLE JACOB~~s~~ reported being shelled between Colombo and Penang. The message was then cancelled but C. in C., E.I. did not consider the cancellation genuine. At 1430Z an incomplete message of a disguised raider was received, near Comoro Is.

This report was cancelled at 1508Z, the cancellation being considered genuine. C. in C., E.I. ordered CAPETOWN (from Nancowry) CANBERRA, WESTRALIA, and DURBAN (at Penang) to search, these ships to be known as Force V. CRICKET is returning to Nancowry and H.Q. Far East have been asked to send a flying boat there.

CHAKDINA with BHIMA in tow and ~~was~~ Selang^{Tua} PROTECTOR in company has not been in W/T touch since 2022Z/9 when she was N.E. of Sokotra, in approximately the centre of a cyclonic storm reported by KANDAHAR about 1200Z/9. SHROPSHIRE has been sent to search for CHAKDINA and assist, and should arrive in the area a.m. tomorrow.



MOST SECRET

257

War Diary

10.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

Reports indicate the possibility that enemy merchant vessels in Mexican Gulf ports may attempt to sail in the near future. DIOMED and VAN KINSBERGEN are at the Eastern end of the Caribbean Sea. (See 6/11) and the latter is due for refit when CARADOC's Turbine defects are completed. C. in C., A.W.I. asks for the return of DESPATCH and DUNEDIN as soon as they can be spared.



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

258

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Shetland
Command
Abolished.

As from the 10/11, the Shetland Command will be abolished and Flag Officer Commanding, Orkney, will resume the functions of Flag Officer Commanding Orkney and Shetland (short title A.C.O.S.) as they were before the Shetland Command came into being.

The War Office are appointing an officer in local command of the Army units in the Shetlands who will take executive control of all defence operations in the Shetlands in event of hostile action.

The administrative channels of communication are under consideration by the War Office and will be promulgated.
(D. of L.D.1427/10).

KILISSI.

(French, 3723 Tons). My 1730/8. If escorted, KILISSI is not to be intercepted.
(F.O.C.N.P. 2150/10 to Western Patrol).

Defence of United Kingdom.

"Deluge".
DEFENCES.

At 1130/10 (D.C.1201/10). At 1800/10.
(D.C.1842/10). At 2330/10. (D.C.2355/10).

Rosyth A/A
Defences.

C.in C. Rosyth 1637/5. Request consideration to provision of Guns for Site R.N.G.8 if possible from December allocation. If Rosyth used by Main Units before R.N.G.8 permanently filled, request that Mobile Section fitted R.D.G. may be temporarily provided.
(D. of L.D.1617/10 to Air Ministry).

Scapa
Defences.

Progress Report on 10/11. (R.A.Scapa 2015/10 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

259

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

WINDSOR.)
VESPER.)
VENOMOUS.)

If EMPRESS OF JAPAN does not need assistance after passing Altacarry, you are then to leave her and proceed to Londonderry. (C.in C. W.A.0030/10 to WINDSOR).

RHODODENDRON.

On arrival at Bar Light Vessel, set ~~course~~ ^{watch} to Oiler WAR PATHAN at Buoy in 125° Rock Ferry Pier Head Light 6 cables and remain there after oiling. (Capt: D. Liverpool 0254/10 to RHODODENDRON).

SIKH)
SOMALI)
EXMOOR)
PYTCHLEY)
DOUGLAS)
VIMY.)

Unless other instructions received intend (a) SIKH relieve SOMALI in HOOD screen allowing SOMALI to boiler clean as arranged. (b) EXMOOR and PYTCHLEY proceed to Scapa on arrival Faroes. Return escort for ADDA to be provided by DOUGLAS and VIMY or other destroyers in the vicinity of Faroes as convenient. (F.O.C. D.F. H.F. 1115/10 to C.in C. H.F.)

Northern
Patrol
Lines.

Orders for alteration of Lines on 21/11. (F.O.C.N.P. 1510/9 to Northern Patrol).

Orkneys.

Estimated positions at 2000/10. (A.C.O.S. 1539/10).

CURACOA.

Leave Convoy on arrival in Pentland Firth and enter Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1604/10 to CURACOA).

Nore and
Harwich.

Movements Summary. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1704/10 to GUILLEMOT).

LETITIA.

C.in C. H.F. 1246/9. LETITIA ready to sail from Clyde when ordered. (F.O.C.N.P. 1930/10 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

260

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Mistaken Report
of Raider.

Warship Raider in 40° 10' N., 18° 20' W.
Unknown Ship. (Scapa W/T Recd. 0950/10)
SALOPIAN is in 40° 18' 30" N., 18° 19' W.
at 0950, approaching Merchant Ship.
(SALOPIAN 0950/10 to V.A.N.P) Estimate
this may be SALOPIAN. (F.O.C.N.A.
1034/10 to Adty). Chase Raider.
(D.C.1115/10 to RENOWN) Cancel 1115/10.
(V.C.N.S. 1133/10 to RENOWN) Cancel
RRRR 0950 (D.C.1142 and 1143/10).

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

MAORI, KEPPEL, BEAGLE sailed from
Skaale Fiord to R/V with C.in C. H.F.
in 62° 46' N., 11° 58' W., at 1200/11.
(MAORI 1600/10 to R.A.D).

[Attack on HX.84,
5/11/40]

Norwegian SOLFONN (9925 Tons) reports
that at 1730/5 Convoy was attacked by
German Raider ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER class in
52° 44' N., 32° 14' W., when Convoy
dispersed. It was noted that an unknown
M/V was continually in sight of Convoy
from 1200/5 until Raider appeared.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1756/10 to Adty).

My position 58° 32' N., 11° 25' W.,
course 80° , speed 15 knots. MATABELE
and ELECTRA in company.)

(BONAVENTURE and MASHONA detached to
search for survivors. REPULSE swept
through 55° N., 30' W., 56° N, 32° W,
60° N, 27° W. (REPULSE 1800/10 to C.in C.
H.F).

Further to my 1756. Convoy HX84, 36
ships approx; 9 columns of 4 ships.
SOLFONN was rear ship of Seventh
column number 74, following is brief
description of events. At 1700 dusk
falling commodore drew attention to
bearing 350°, course of convoy 067°.
At 1710 course of convoy was altered to
40° to starboard. During turn fire
was opened by raider hull down bearing
353°. Commodore and ships in port
column opened fire at once and smoke
screen was laid. Convoy scattered
by signal. S.S. BEAVERBROOK was in
company with SOLFONN until 2030 approx.
when she was fired on and altered
course. Six ships seen to be hit,

* BEAVERFORD intended

/none



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd).

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

none actually seen to sink. Firing continued in moonlight until 2300. No ships were in sight at daybreak of 6th November. The unknown merchant ship disappeared in direction of raider at approx: 1600. Details of this ship not known yet. Raider which remained hull down appeared to be ADMIRAL SCHEER or Nurnberg Class. No Aircraft seen or heard. No information of size of splashes owing to inexperience of 1st officer. Speed of SOLFONN 9 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2012/10 to Adty).

Convoy S.L.53 with ARAWA and H.G.46 with WELLINGTON now concentrated. At 2359/9 Convoys were in position 042° 23' N., 020° 56'W course 350 degrees 5 knots. RENOWN, DERBYSHIRE, CAMITO, covering. Have ordered these 2 convoys to remain concentrated unless otherwise and proceed in company to position D.050° 00'N., 023° 00'W thence to the rendezvous with H.G. escort in position 052° 30'N., 018° 00'W. S.L.53 is capable of a good 8 knots speed of advance, but H.G. only 5. Shortage of fuel in ships of H.G. may have to fuel at Irish port. 2 ships in S.L.F. 53 have fuel for 10 days remainder more. S.L.53 slow 4 ships only just located in position 041° 50' N., 021° 57'W., at 2359/9 course north, speed 7 knots. Will order CAMITO to join them tomorrow and then close them on H.G. Other 2 ships of convoy are in time. HAMLTA engine trouble, CREE gone on ahead. Intend leaving convoy at 1900/10 to R/V with ARGUS at 1000/11 in position 040° 39'N. 015° 33'W based on Admiralty's 0106/8 to RENOWN which appears to conflict with F.O.C.N.A. 1132/8 to ARGUS. All times B.S.T. (RENOVN). (0045/10).

*amended to 7,
see p. 289*



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

262

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Operation
"Collar".

Adty. 0012/9. FURIOUS and NEW ZEALAND STAR sail Bar Light Vessel 1230/15. Route to 54° 20'N., 5° W. where R/V with SOUTHAMPTON at 1800/15. Route thence to 58° 36'N., 9° 36'W. where R/V with C.S.18 in MANCHESTER from Rosyth and with DIDO, FRANCONIA, CLAN FORBES, and CLAN FRASER from Clyde at 0830/16. Route thence to 51° N., 20° W., whence FURIOUS and DIDO to 11° N., 20° W and Takoradi and rest routed to Gibraltar. (C.in C. W.A. 1217/10 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

CLAN FORBES to be known as M.T.1, CLAN FRASER as M.T.2, and NEW ZEALAND STAR as M.T.5. C.in C. Med. requested to arrange onward passage from Malta of Naval Personnel in M.T.1 and M.T.2. (D.O.D. F. 2248/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

NOTE: For route see FURIOUS above.

Iceland.

Adty 1632/10 and my 1440/9 and (?)0001/9. HONNINGSVAAG sailed 1530/9 G.M.T. and WISTARIA 1650/10 G.M.T. No further news of Norwegian F.P.Vessel FRIDTJOF NANSEN. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1618/10 to Adty).

My 2106/9 and your 1440/9. It is important that the 2 ships should proceed in company. Have you any further news of FRIDTJOF NANSEN? (A.C.N.S. H. 1632/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

TALISMAN
with Prize
Crew.

To sail for Patrol 16/11 to relieve TRIDENT, taking a Prize Crew of six for separate operation. See Operations Volume. (V.A.S. 1011/10 to S.2).

Submarines.

TALISMAN.

To sail for Patrol 16/11 to relieve TRIDENT off Lorient. See Operations. (V.A.S. 1011/10 to S.2).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

10.11.40.
Sunday. 263

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Cond.)

H.28, H.32.)
H.43, H.50.)

C.in C. W.A. 1639/7 and Adty 1842/5.
Request H.28 be sailed to join 7th S/M
Flotilla at Rothesay. H.32 will be
available to proceed Londonderry on
20/11. Intend to relieve H.43 at
Holyhead by H.50 about 25/11.
(Capt: S.7 1011/10 to V.A.S.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0700/11.
(V.A.S.1656/10).

CLYDE.

To be sailed for Devonport for refit as
soon as this can be conveniently
arranged. (V.A.S.1909/10 to S.2).

Lorient.

British Air Activity.

Attacked by 5 Swordfish till 0015/10
and by 3 Beauforts till 0120/10.
Details. (H.Q.C.C. 0500/10 to Air
Ministry).

Rosyth.

My 2012/9. Cancel para.2 and
substitute following parallel track
Search. (C.in C. Rosyth 0848/10).

One Anson A/C escorting Convoy E.N.21
will be visiting you periodically.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1030/10 to PYTCHLEY,
EXMOOR)

P.M. Sortie of Patrol S.A1A. is cancelled
today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth
1424/10 to Adty). My 1424. Southern
half only of SA.1. was eventually
flown. (C.in C. Rosyth 2028/10 to Adty).

Air Search for 11/11 as in paras 1 and 2
of my 2012/9. (C.in C. Rosyth 2042/10).

Bombing of
Coastal Batteries.

Requested between Calais and
Ambleteuse from 0415 to 0545 on 13/11
during passage of C.E.16 through Straits
of Dover. (C.in C. Nore 1026/10 to Adty)

At 1406/10 in 53° 33'N., 6° 39'E. A/C
attacked a stationary M/V 5000 Tons with
Torpedo. Presume missed.

At 1408/10 in same position A/C attacked
M/V, believed SAARLAND.* Torpedo missed.

At 1405/10 in same position A/C attacked
stationary M/V 5000 to 6000 tons.
Torpedo missed. (Chatham A.C.H.Q.1855/10)

* Incorrect. SAARLAND
in Far East.

10.11.40.

Sunday.

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Report of
Attack on
Convoys.

Your 1758/8. Only one such attack, since 1/10, namely on 6/11 on Convoy W.N.31. Particulars. Suggest that Blenheim aircraft fitted with I.F.F. should be used for these Escorts. (A.C.O.S. 1258/10 to Adty).

EMPIRE DORADO.
(British, 5595 Tons).

(Bombed and abandoned on 8/11). 34 of Crew landed Belfast p.m/9. 8 killed, 4 seriously wounded, 2 slightly. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1315/10 to Adty).

Yarmouth.

One bomb fell in R.N.B. grounds. Some damage to buildings. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1729/10 to Adty). Large Bomb landed near S.W. corner of New Hospital Buildings at Yarmouth at 1700. No material damage to walls, but £400 worth of Glass and Window-Frames gone. (O.C.W. Whotley 1815/10 to C.E. in C.)

Dover.

At 0956/10 one A/C dropped 18 small H.E. Bombs in Dover Harbour. No damage or casualties. May be attempt to locate or counter mine our land Mine Defences. (V.A. Dover 1941/10 to Adty).

Dungeness.

At 0956/10 one A/C dropped 18 small H.E. bombs in the sea N.N.E. of Dungeness. (V.A. Dover 1941/10 to Adty).

Mining.

Falmouth.

Port closed owing to mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0340/10 to C.in C. W.A.) Cancel my 0340/10. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 0535/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Penzance
and
Newlyn.

Mines have been dropped by enemy A/C in Penzance and Newlyn areas. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0705/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Ports of Penzance and Newlyn closed. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1330/10 to C.in C. W.A.)



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Sheerness.

Red mine detonated 049° Knob Light Vessel 5 cables far inside. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 0845/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy mine jettisoned.

Enemy mines jettisoned 045° 45'N., 004° 40'W. (V.A.S. 1144/10 to S/Ms on patrol in Area B).

Operation B.S.46.

Postponed another 24 hours on account of weather. (S.O. Minelayers Immingham 1215/10 to Admiralty).

S.N.43 and 45.

Your 1711/9 (re proposal to sail and course). Concur. (D.D.O.D.(M) 1249/10 to R.A(M.L))(C.in C. W.A. 1529/10 to R.A.(M.L))

Fleetwood)
Lancaster)
Heysham.)

Cancel my 1750/9 (ports closed). Ports are now open. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/10 to Admiralty).

Search.

Intend to sail of Fbet minesweepers S O NIGER 11/11 to carry out high percentage search East of Centre line of 148 QZS from N.W. Swin to Z and back to the junction of QZF. Request fighter protection from 0830 to 1730/11. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1658/10 to C.in C. Nore).

Fowey.

Cut one mine in Fowey Channel 50° 10' 16" N., 4° 47' 36" W., mine exploded astern Belgian fishing vessel 50° 7' 29" N., 5° 01' 00" W., presumed acoustic. Vessel slightly damaged but now moored in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1926/10 to Admiralty).

KINGSTON
ALALITE.

A/S trawler sunk by mine 242° 5.7 cables from Plymouth breakwater light. 15 survivors, including 11 casualties 8 missing. (C.in C. W.A. 1942/10 to Admiralty)

Your 1628/9 and 1706/9. Sunk in searched channel at 1723/10 outside breakwater which had been swept and passed over by several sweepers during the day. (C.in C. W.A. 2254/10 to Admiralty)



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

266

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Plymouth.

Port is closed, proceed to Brixham.
(C.in C. W.A. 2020/10 SASEBO).

Your 1628/9 and 1706/9. During night 9/10 mines dropped by enemy A/C in Approaches to Plymouth. Mines so placed that no advantage in instituting new channel. Positions searched by LL and by Trawler fitted with Kango Hammer, consider in present form not sufficiently powerful. NEWCASTLE has not been sailed. (C.in C. W.A. 2254/10 to Admiralty).

Your 1909/10. Owing to minelaying port is closed and it may not be possible to receive CLYDE for some days. (C.in C. W.A. 2356/10 to V.A.S).

Since my 1536/9 one mine detonated by depth charge Breakwater Light 221° 7.5 cables p.m. 9/10. Mine detonated by Kango Hammer in trawler ST. MELANTE Breakwater Light 225° 9.5 cables course S 25 W m.a.g. speed 8.5 knots helm amidships explosion 15 yards from bridge starboard side. My 1536/9 trawler ELK was proceeding slow ahead wheel hard to starboard.
(C.in C. W.A. 1946/10 to Admiralty).

Humber.

Port is closed. (F.O. Humber 2045/10 to Admiralty).

Milford Haven.

Port is closed, mines laid by A/C.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2113/10 to Admiralty).

LOWESTOFT
WOOLSTON.

Cancel my 1821/- re 50% Oropesa search
(C.in C. Rosyth 2228/9 to LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

267

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Trondheim.

At 1315/10, in Trondheim Bay, 2 Tankers at anchor. One 10 to 12,000 Tons, the other about 6000 Tons. A/C report. (C.in C. Rosyth 1700/10 to Adty).

Norwegian Coast.

M/V's seen from 1337/10 to 1415/10. (C.in C. Rosyth 1700/10 to Adty).

Havre, Caen,)
Ouireham,)
Fecamp, Dieppe.)

Shipping and Barges at 1045/10. (PIU 1810/10 to N.I.D.)

Borkum, Norderney.

M/V's seen 1410/10 to 1508/10. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1855/10).

TANNENBERG.

At 1433/10 in 53° 51'N., 7° 36'E., an M/V, believed TANNENBERG, camouflaged grey and black, steering N.E. at 15 knots. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1855/10).



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

268

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

RICHMOND CASTLE.

(British, 7798 Tons). In collision off Corsewall Point. Damaged bow seriously. Proceeding to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0540/10 to Adty).

ALEXIA.

(Torpedoed 2/8/40)

GREEN PASTURES.

(M/s Drifter).

NORTHCOATES.

(M/s Trawler).

N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1106/9. Intend sailing Tug FAIRPLAY I at 1300/10 for Kirkwall to assist towage of ALEXIA. ATLANTIC COCK will tow GREEN PASTURES to Buckie and then proceed to Oban. NORTHCOATES will remain at Scapa awaiting towage to Aberdeen. (A.C.O.S.1144/10 to Adty).

SEA GEM.

(Tug, 86 Tons, 8 knots) Passed South Gare W.S.S. at 0515/30/10. Expected time of arrival Dundee 1600/31/10, anchoring for night inside Farne Islands. N.C.S.O. Dundee's 1051/4/11 to me reports ship not arrived. All inquiries have failed to trace her. (N.C.S.O. Middlesborough 1629/10 to Adty).

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

269

Shipping.

Convoys.

F.N.32.)
F.S.33.)

Corvette escort SHEARWATER.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1031/10).

O.B.239.

Code word "Curly". (C.in C. W.A.
1111/10 to BROKE, MALCOLM, etc.)

O.B.241.

Code word "Siege" (C.in C. W.A.
1111/10 to BROKE, MALCOLM, Etc.)

HX84.

Convoy report having been missed by
torpedo in position 055° 44'N., 010° 00'
W., at 0905. I have 10 ships. Request
confirmation that all ships are to
proceed Clyde as ordered in your 2103/6.
(HESPERUS, 1051/10 to C.in C. W.A.)
Weather.

Not met. My position 56.07N., 09.32W
(FLEUR DE LYS, 0917/10). Request
reply to my 1051 as convoy is now at
splitting point. (HESPERUS 1605/10
to C.in C. W.A.) Your 1051/10.
Accompany ships to Clyde, escorts then
return to base. (C.in C. W.A. 1657/10
to HESPERUS) Asking for any information
about raider attack. (1 S.L. to
BONAVENTURE, 2218/10).

S.C.10.

Not met. (WALKER, 1030/10).

HX85.

Ships returned from Convoy H.X.85.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1130/10).

S.L.53.)
H.G.46.)

Position and routes. (RENOWN, 0045/10
amended 0843/10). See Operations,
Raider

General.

Before altering course for last position
of your ocean route continue on present
course for an additional 260 miles.
Then steer for last position of your
ocean route. (D.T.D., 1647/10 to all
British ships, Area 1).

E.N.23.

Escort HUGH WALPOLE, DRANSLEY, additional
escort GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1118/10)

O.B.M.242.

Escort DERBY COUNTY. (N.C.S.O. Milford
Haven, 0845/10).



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

270

Shipping. (Contd.)

HX. 87.
HX. 88.
SC. 12.

Your 1654/9. H.X.87, H.X.88 and S.C.12 sailing to be confirmed later. Route. It is anticipated B.H.X.86 will not be in time to bunker and store until H.X. 89. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1434/10, to Admiralty etc.)

H.X.88.

In view of your 1659/9, are arrangements in your 1829/4 for H.X.88 to be sailed to keep rendezvous (date) to be adhered to.

(C.in C. A. W.I. 1651/10 to Adty).

E.N.
Evading Air
Attack.

Times of departure of E.N. Convoys are to be adjusted to allow for the Convoy altering course 100° at 1 hour before sunset resuming their original course at sunset. The use of this manoeuvre to evade enemy air attacks must be dependent on weather conditions and the speed made good.

(C.in C. Rosyth, 1203/10).

U/Boat
Attacks.
use of
W/T.

Commodores and Masters to be informed that if a U/Boat attacks a convoy when an A/S escort is in company, ships attacked or in immediate vicinity may break W/T silence to report immediately any information indicating whereabouts of submarine which might be of value to the escort.

On no account must W/T silence be broken without definite evidence of an attack and silence should be resumed after the attack is finished. Instructions in A.M.S.I. 19 and Consigs. Article 4 to be amended accordingly. (D.T.D. 1058/10).

Troop Convoys.
LADY OF MAN.

To sail from Douglas. I.O.M. to Liverpool with 900 troops on 14/11. (D.O.D.(H) 1915/10).

LEOPOLDVILLE.

To sail from Liverpool with 900 personnel to R/V with REVENGE on 12/11 and proceed with that ship to Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. W.A. 2126/10 amended 1015/11).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

271

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Sinking of
PONCELET.

Adty. 2345/9. Reply direct via Freetown repeated C.S.1. (C.S.1. to MILFORD, 0346A/10). Your 2345/9. MILFORD was 20 miles (227°?) From Cape Lopez the nearest land when explosion was felt at 1425 on 7/11. (F.O.C.S.1. to Adty 0711A/10).

N.A. Madrid 1852/8. DEVONSHIRE's Walrus, the only British seaplane in the area, did not fly on 4/11. (C.S.1 to Adty 0807A/10). Add to my 0807A. French Submarine PONCELET at Port Gentil bombed by Free French Blenheims on this date. French sloop BOUGAINVILLE was also attacked on passage. (C.S.1 to Adty. 0821A/10). Was PONCELET attacked by any British Forces on any day except 7/11 when she scuttled herself? (1 S.L. to C.S.1 1939/10). Your 1939. No. (C.S.1. 2346/10).

Libreville
Occupied.

My 1841A/9. French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA reports Libreville has agreed to terms of French S.N.O. for cessation of hostilities. (C.S.1 to Adty. 0120A/10). Libreville occupied by Free French at 1100 today. Owing to lack of communications occupation of Port Gentil will be subject to special agreement entailing some delay. Free French request continuation of British covering operations. (F.O.I.C.S. to Admtty). (1421A/10).

D'ENTRECASTEAUX. (11/11)

Left Dakar 24/10 for Diego Suarez and Saigon. Speed last reported voyage 6 to 7 knots. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2001N/10).

COMMANDANT DELAGE.

Sloop minesweeper, escorting French ships P.L.M.12 and BOURGES, passing Gibraltar West to East 1300. (S.O.(I)Gib., 1643/10).



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

272

Operations against Vichy French.

Recognition Signals.

I.C.S. 1129A/1. Do not consider British recognition signals should be issued Free French aircraft for the present. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty, 1919N/10). *Concur (DSD, 1734/12) p 332.*

North Atlantic.

Operation White.

Admty. 1114/6 and F.O.C.N.A. 1200/9. NEWCASTLE not yet sailed due to enemy minelaying activity. (D.O.D.(F) 1235/10 to F.O.C.N.A. and F.O. Force H).

→ REINOWN
ARGUS
DESPATCH.

WISHART and WRESTLER to R/V. (F.O.C.N.A. 1144A/10 to REINOWN, ARGUS and DESPATCH.

* MACHADO.

Portuguese Trawler. 316 tons.

Consul-General Lisbon's 2032/9 ^(p 240) re boarding of fishing steamer* MACHADO by Submarine of unknown nationality. Submarine was UTMOST. (F.O.C.N.A. 0758/10 to Admiralty)

→ REINOWN.

My 1043/9. After leaving convoy p.m/10 return to Gibraltar endeavour arrive p.m./12. If possible 2 Destroyers will be sent to meet you daylight/12. Pass through 037° 00'N., 014° 00'W, 035° 30'N 010° 00'W., 035° 00'N, 007° 00'W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1142/10 to REINOWN).

FOXHOUND.

Provided 8th D.F. continues to be based at Gibraltar suggest FOXHOUND should join 8th D.F. which will consist entirely of F. class. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/10 to Admiralty).

Force H.
Aircraft Attack.

No aircraft lost in Force H. No casualties or damage. Two enemy shadowers certain, one bomber probable. Further report later. (F.O. Force H, 1639/10 to Admiralty). (See also 1920/10)

Italian Submarine.
prisoners.

^{N.T.N.W.D.}
Your 1612/31/10 and my 1220/10/11 ^{N.T.N.W.D.}
Italian prisoners on board are Lt. Birindelli and 2nd class diver ^{*} Pagannini of midget Submarine. Latter interrogated and has produced most information. Lt. Accardi 1st Lt. of LAFOLE, 8 members of crew of LAFOLE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1642/10 to Admiralty).

* amended to Pagannini, 1046/11, p. 307.



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

273

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Submarine
Patrol.

My 1120/9. No Submarine is available for this duty before 21/11 by date Force H will have returned to Gibraltar. Intend to establish Submarine patrol to eastward of Gibraltar after departure of Force H. on 14/11. (F.O.C.N.A. 1810/10 to Admiralty).

Force H.
F.A.A Aircraft attacks
Cagliari 9/11.
(Op: "Crack")

Observers in Fulmars were in unique position to observe results of A.A. fire on bombers during attacks on 9/11. They report except for stray shots A.A. bursts from Force H. formed level carpet 2 to 3 thousand feet below bombers who were at 14 thousand feet. This error in low judgment identical for both attacking and retiring run. Weather normal. Conditions very good. Plot prediction good. Firing ships ARK ROYAL, BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW, SHEFFIELD. This suggests that fuze and not height finder may be at fault. (S.O. Force H. 1920/10 to Admiralty).

Spanish
Interception.

Madrid 1835/9. Re Spanish S.S. DOMINE stopped by British Trawler. Admiralty has no information about this interception on 7/11. (D.E.W.D. 1837/10).

Italian
Submarines
Tangier.

My telegram No. 0705 8/11. Colonel Yuste states:- (a) Damage to submarines A and B had now been finally assessed and official statements would reach Madrid at noon/11 by air. (b) Colonel Yuste would neither give me details regarding damage done nor an estimate of time required to repair - those were questions for Ministry of Marine at Madrid. (c) He declared that in their present condition neither submarine was in a fit state to navigate on the surface. (d) It would be possible to repair damage in Tangier and Italians wish to obtain services of an Italian diver for this purposes. (e) Colonel Yuste had made Chief of Spanish Forces in Tangier responsible for proper observance of International Law and Submarines would be blocked by ships on all sides. He himself would see every possible precaution against escape had been taken (this does not fit in with his previous statement that they could not safely navigate). (Consul General, Tangier. 0300/10).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

274

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

To be sailed to cover convoys S.L.54 slow and Fast to latitude of Madeira, then to proceed Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. to report when A/S escort will be available. (V.C.N.S. to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. 1144/10).

Cancel my 2125/5. ROYAL SOVEREIGN will now proceed to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1155/10).

Orders to ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (C.in C. S.A. 1243N/10) 1243N passed to ESPERANCE BAY for information. (C.in C. S.A.1740/10).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN left 1430/10. (S.O.I) Freetown, 1501Z/10).

^{Solo}
~~HEIMEN.~~
THURSO BANK.

Overdue shipping. My 0945/9. ^{Solo}
~~HEIMEN~~ arrived Durban. (S.O.I) Capetown 1035B/10). My 0945/9. THURSO BANK arrived Capetown. (S.O.I) Capetown 1715/10).

Mediterranean.

^T
Taranto
Reconnaissance.

Morning reconnaissance. In harbour 5 battleships, 6 cruisers, large number of destroyers. (V.A. Malta, 1051/10). Aircraft reports 4 merchant vessels 38.14 N 17.40E, course 360° at 1104 B (V.A. Malta, 1055/10).

ILLUSTRIOUS.
Aircraft Operation.

(Taranto)

Re possibility of dawn attack by A/C's from ILLUSTRIOUS on Italians at Taranto. (C.N.S. 0041/10 to C.in C. Med.)

Reply: Fully considered and hope to carry it out on night of 11-12/11. Anchorage, however, heavily protected by balloons ashore and on lighters and also by nets. Complete success must therefore not be expected. (C.in C. Med. 1103/10).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

275

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal
Raids.

Enemy plane raiding canal area 10/11.
(~~99/11~~). 2021 to 2205, making
prolonged reconnaissance of canal with-
out interference between kilometre 12
and Deversoir, dropped 10 bombs near
latter place. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal
Area, 1142/10~~2~~, 1818/10)

Alexandria,
Raids.

Air raid 1930 to 2000. One machine
4 bombs; 2030 to 2100, four machines
18 bombs. No damage, no casualties.
(R.A., Alexandria, 1155/10).
Air Raid 2000 to 2030, bombs believed
jettisoned for seaward. 2220 to
2240, 2 bombs, one Egyptian and 50
sheep killed, one woman injured.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0840/11).

Convoy
Movements.
ILLUSTRIOUS.
BARHAM.

*Force F
(Operation "Cast")*

My 1357/4. Convoy movements to date
carried out according to plan.
ILLUSTRIOUS fighters shot down 2 Cants
and 2 S.79's during outward passage. No
Bombing. BARHAM and cruisers joined
at 1015/10, now entering Malta.
(C.in C. Med. 1215/10). See also
2317/10.

Greek
Situation.

My 1623/9. Military situation seems
to be taking an unexpected and quite
hopeful turn. If you decide to
bombard, following targets suggested
by Greeks. No indication of any
minelaying near Corfu. (N.A.Athens
1301/10, to C.in C. Med).

Attack on
Valona 7/11.

My A.886, 9/11. Further details
attacks by 6 Wellingtons 70 Squadron
on Valona 7/11. One ship in harbour
hit, another bomb falling very close.
2 Wellingtons shot down by fighters on
standing patrol and 2 others severely
damaged. One Breda 65 shot down
confirmed and second unconfirmed.
Wellingtons attacked formation of 3
Cant 506's 5 miles off Coast from
Valona on return journey, possibly
damaging one. On both outward and
return journeys our aircraft fired
on by Greek ground batteries Corinth
and ships in Patras. Four Wellingtons
reached their base safely.
(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. A.888, 1334/10).



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

276

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air
Report;
Alexandria
Raid.

1 Sunderland 230 Squadron searched for submarine in 31.57N., 27.57E, negative result. Night 9-10/11. 1936, enemy aircraft dropped 9 bombs on Matruh no damage. 1930 hours, enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Lake Mariut and near Ikingi Mariut in Alexandria area, no damage or casualties yet reported. 2046, 1 enemy aircraft dropped 8 H.E. and some incendiary bombs between aerodrome and railway at Helmar near Cairo. Slight R.A.F. damage no casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. A.888 1332/10).

Air
Reconnaissance.

Air reconnaissance today. E.I.A. Nil (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1649/10).²

Malta
Reinforcement.

C.in C. Med's 1215/10. Only air raid at Malta, reconnaissance by fighters, one of which dived and machine-gunned Hal Far, slightly damaging one Swordfish. Army reinforcement landed without incident. GLASGOW and BERWICK with Army detachments fallen in and band playing gave excellent fillip to local morale. All Med. Fleet Ships, including reinforcements, cleared Grand Harbour by 2020. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2317/10).

TERROR }
VENDETTA. }

Sailed for Suda Bay 1400, expects to arrive 1600/13. (N.O.I.C. Malta. 2317/10).

HERO. }
HEREWARD. }

Remaining at Malta for quick refit. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2317/10).

RAMILLIES.

Convoy^{M.E. 3} escorted by RAMILLIES and destroyers left Malta p.m./10 for Alexandria. (D.O.R. 11/11).

Middle East
Reinforcements.

Re publicity. (C.in C. M.E. to W.O. 0036/10).

TRITON. }
REGENT. }
OTUS. }

Movements of. (Capt: S.l. 1733/10).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

277

Mediterranean. (Contd.).

Submarine
Attacks
on Destroyers.

Reply to TRITON 1801/7 re circumstances in which submarines may attack a destroyer or T.B. (Capt: S.1 1131/10).

East Indies.

Massawa
Bombing.

1155/9. 3 Blenheims 14 Squadron attacked main quays and destroyer base Massawa from 4000 feet, bombs hitting 1 small and 1 large warehouse on quay. Considerable damage believed inflicted. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1333/10 to Air Ministry).

Reports of
Suspicious
vessels,
possible
raider.

Following reports of (?) suspicious vessels have been received 10/11 (a) at 1341Z Norwegian ship OLE JACOB in position 006° 29' North 090° 16' East. Ship said she was shelled. Message then cancelled. Not considered cancellation was genuine (b) At 1430Z an incompletely received message read by Aden W/T which gave no information except QQ QQ (c) At 1500Z British ship BRITISH DUCHESS in position 010° 50' South 044° 19' East. Report was cancelled at 1508Z. Cancellation considered genuine. (C.in C. East Indies. 1644Z/10 to East Indies Squadron.

CAPETOWN
CANBERRA
WESTRALIA
DURBAN
CRICKET.

My 1644/10 para.(a) (1). Dispositions ordered. (C.in C. East Indies, 1836Z/10 to East Indies Squadron)
My 1836/10. Patrols and movements of CANBERRA, WESTRALIA, CAPETOWN and DURBAN. (C.in C. East Indies, 2016Z/10 to Force V).

KANDAHAR.
CHAKDINA.
PROTECTOR.
(Storm).

KANDAHAR reported cyclonic storm at about 1200Z/9/11. CHAKDINA with BHIMA in tow and PROTECTOR in company reported her position at 1620Z/9/11, but has not been in W/T touch since 2022Z/9/11. SHROPSHIRE sent to search for. (C.in C. East Indies, 1838Z/10 to Admiralty).
My 1838/10. SHROPSHIRE heard CHAKDINA at 1800Z/10, W/T communication not established. A D/F bearing was obtained. (C.in C. E.I. 2044Z/10).

See p. 312, for further details.



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Operation "Rope".

*(Dante)
(Station Somaliland)
(done on 18/11).*

My 1834/6. DORSETSHIRE to bombard an enemy position on passage from Aden to Durban. Operation will be called "Rope". (C.in C. E.I., to S.N.O. Red Sea. 1916Z/10). See Operations Vol.

China.

Pearl River Traffic.

Reuter from Canton reports opening Pearl River and resumption of traffic Hong Kong and Macao. Early confirmation and details required. (Capt: O.S. Singapore to S.O.I. Hong Kong 0248Z/10).

America and West Indies.

REVENGE.

Leaving Liverpool 14/11, for Halifax. (D.O.D.(H) 2126/10).

Enemy M.V's request for DESPATCH DUNEDIN.

Report indicates possibility enemy merchant vessels in Mexican Gulf ports may attempt to sail. DIOMEDE and VAN KINSBERGEN fully occupied at eastern end of Caribbean Sea. Latter is due for refit when CARADCC's turbine defects completed. Would appreciate return of DESPATCH and DUNEDIN as soon as situation at Rome permits. If only one could be spared, would prefer DESPATCH. (C.in C. A. W.I. to Admty. 1122/10).

Australia.

Convoy U.S.8.

My 0629/5 New Zealand Government considered accommodation in BATTERY unsuitable for 187, which were intended and have reduced the number of sailings in BATTERY by 499. New Zealand wish number for U.S.8 to be increased from 5246 to 5745. (A.C.N.B. 0415Z/10).

*Ref: OST 2111/14
p 404.*



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.

Sunday. 279

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ORINOCO.

My 1010/6. Reliably reported ²⁷⁹now expected to leave Tampico at any moment (N.A.Washington, 1302/10).

MENES.

At Trieste, being fumigated before receiving crew on 12/11. (D.S.432).

ANTARKTIS.

At Vigo, received 2 10 ton lorry loads of provisions on 9/11. (D.S.432).

BREMEN)
EUROPA.)

Had both left Bremenhaven on 3/11, one being sighted at Brunsbüttel on 4/11. (B.1) (D.S.432).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

KILISSI.

See Home Commands, Policy.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.



WAR DIARY.

10.11.40.
Sunday.

Submarines
Reported.
Tangier.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

280

2 Italian submarines (damaged).
See North Atlantic.

0905.

Submarine reported in 55.44 N., 10.00 W.
at 0905. (C.in C. W.A. 1251/10).
(Aldergrove to aircraft duty 1545/10).

1100.

Italian submarine reported damaged in
49.50 N., 11.13 W. at 1100/10.
JACKAL, JAGUAR and JUPITER to leave
vicinity of Eddystone at dark today
to attack U/Boat at dawn tomorrow.
(C.in C. W.A. 1330/10 1405/10)
(V.A.S. 1249/10, 1544/10) Your 1330
Capt: D.5 in JACKAL sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1630/10).
My 1330, position of U/Boat was between
49° and 50° N and between 11° and 13° W.,
at 1100/10.
One section of Blenheims will escort
you 11/11 from 0900 being in position
48° 45' N 09° 30' W. at that time.
Call sign, ~~SUBMARINE~~. JACKAL (S.O.
Destroyers) R/T call sign ~~BIPER.~~ "Bitem".
(C.in C. W.A. 1744/10 to D.5.)

1110.

55° N., 15° W., position indefinite.
(D.5.432).

Estimated U/B
Dispositions.
Italian.

1 may be in area 49 to 50° N 11 to 13°
W, proceeding to Bordeaux slowly and may
be damaged.
1 may still be in Azores area.
1 may have been off Cape Roca, Portugal,
on 5/11.

German.

1 possibly in area 49 to 50° N., 10 to
12° W, proceeding to Lorient.
3 possibly N of 55° N and W of 15° W of
which 1 is in area 58° to 60° N and W
of 20° W., another may be in area 55° to
57° N., 17° to 21° W., the third in
about 55° N., 15° W.
1 more is probably N of 55° N and E of
15° W., whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1246/10).



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

→ Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

REPULSE and BONAVENTURE arrived at Scapa this morning. BONAVENTURE left again at 2305 for further search of the position of attack of Convoy H.X. 84.

The oiler ERODONA of Convoy H.X. 84 informed BONAVENTURE on 1700/7 that she saw JERVIS BAY sunk by the raider on 5/11.

ADMIRAL SCHEER

SM

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

3 Blenheims today attacked docks at Lorient, where two factories at the west end of the wet dock were hit.

A large fire was started at the oil refinery at Bremen last night.

Channel ports and docks in Holland were attacked last night. A Direct hit is believed to have been made on a merchant vessel at Le Havre but otherwise no special results are reported.

Two Hampdens bombed Danzig.

Coastal Command

3 Beauforts dropped heavy calibre bombs on the submarine base at Lorient this morning. Hits are estimated on workshops and on the dry dock.

One Blenheim dropped bombs on Cherbourg at 0005.

→ Special patrols in connection with the search for the ADMIRAL SCHEER were flown today.



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Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Attack on
F.N. 32 and
F.S. 32 by
Italian Aircraft

Convoys F.N. 32 and F.S. 32 were attacked apparently by a formation of Italian bombers escorted by about 40 Italian fighters whilst two convoys were passing one another in the Thames Estuary shortly after noon and (F.S. 32) again about 1½ hours later.

Three ships were damaged, SS ILSE (2844 tons) SS CORSEA (2764 tons) (anchored at Southend) SS COLONEL CROMPTON (1495 tons) (towed to Southend) SS CORDUFF had an U.X.B. on board. (anchored at the Nore)

Air Ministry report 13 enemy aircraft were destroyed by fighters, plus 6 damaged. LONDONDERRY claims to have shot down one plane, tug ST. MELLONS claims to have destroyed one aircraft by a direct hit with 12 pdr. and to have disabled a second which was finished off by fighters. Admiralty communique states that VIVIEN shot down one and severely damaged a second.

Shortly after the attack VEGA was mined (see mining)

Convoy E.N. 23
Attacked
SS TREBARTHA
Sunk
SS CREEMUIR
Sunk
SS HARLAW
Damaged

Convoy E.N. 23 was attacked by enemy aircraft off Montrose early today and again S.E. of Aberdeen late this afternoon. In the second attack SS CREEMUIR (3997 tons) was torpedoed and sunk and SS HARLAW damaged by bombs and entered Aberdeen., SS TREBARTHA (4597 tons) was holed and set on fire and sank later in Cove Bay; it is reported that the crew were machine-gunned whilst abandoning the ship.

SARPEDON

H.M. Tarwler SARPEDON was machine-gunned off Ramsgate this afternoon and had 6 casualties. Her 12 pdr. gun was damaged.

SS BALMORE

SS BALMORE (1925 tons) was bombed about 230 miles west of Dingle Bay this morning ROCHESTER was detached from the escort of Convoy O.B. 240 to try to locate her, but was unsuccessful and abandoned the search after 5 hours. 17 men remain on board BALMORE which is sinking and has no boats left.



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11.11.1940
Monday

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SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity- Contd.

SS PITWINES (932 tons) was bombed this morning off Yarmouth and was undamaged, but had two casualties caused by an accident whilst engaging the enemy.

SS BARON MINTO

SS BARON MINTO ashore at Rattray Head was bombed this afternoon.

SS RAVNANGER

SS RAVNANGER (Norwegian 3371) was sunk by enemy air attack off the Tees today.

Damage was caused in an attack on St. Merryn this afternoon.

Several south east coast towns were bombed today.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft was indicated in the Thames Estuary and between the Wash and Usworth and probably in the Bristol Channel and off the Cornish coast.

Mines were found in the Thames Estuary, off Humber, South Foreland, Margate (where M.V. GRIT had her electric steering gear put out of action by near explosion but suffered no structural damage) off Milford Haven (where 5 ground mines were self detonated)

Humber was opened at 1045, Milford Haven at 1144, Blyth was closed at 1849.

VEGA
Damaged

VEGA escorting Convoy F.S. 32 was damaged by mine in the Thames Estuary this morning and was towed to Harwich.

STELLA ORION
Sunk

M/S Trawler STELLA ORION was damaged by a mine in the Thames Estuary this morning and foundered after being taken in tow. (D.O.R.)



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday 284

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

It is reported that RICHELIEU was to leave Dakar 9/11 for Algiers.

No submarine will be available for Straits patrol until 12/11, by which date Force H will have returned to Gibraltar. F.O.C.N.A. intends to establish a submarine patrol a.m./14 to intercept JEAN BART and RICHELIEU, should they attempt to pass through the Straits.

North Atlantic

S.O. Force H in ARK ROYAL, with SHEFFIELD and 5 destroyers returned to Gibraltar this morning.

Operation
"White"

Two destroyers left Gibraltar this morning to R.V. with ARGUS and DESPATCH (due Gibraltar 13/11)

South Atlantic

An enemy unit was located by D/F today in mid Atlantic, about the latitude of Freetown.

BULOLO and BRIDGEWATER are patrolling south of Freetown and DRAGON further S.E. of Cape Palmas to prevent French warships going to west African ports, intercept French merchant ships, and control neutral traffic to French West African ports.



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11.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

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Mediterranean

Air Attacks
on Egypt

There were two air raids on Alexandria last night. In the first, it is believed bombs were jettisoned far to seaward. No naval or military damage was caused in the second raid.

Between 2040 and 2100 today bombs were dropped along the coast S.E. of Aboukir, at Helwan, Suez and 8 miles S.E. of Kabrit. At Suez, the lighthouse and Govt. buildings were set on fire. No other damage is reported.

East Indies

At 0207Z today Matara intercepted from SS AUTOMEDON an incomplete raider report which was purposely jammed; the figures 418 North were read. SS AUTOMEDON left Durban 29/10 for Penang when she was due 13/11.

* PROTECTOR

SHROPSHIRE made contact with CHAKDINA and BHIMA in tow this morning (local time) All was well. * ~~CHAKDINA~~ was last seen about 0700/9; SHROPSHIRE and oiler SLAVOL are searching.

3 Blenheims today attacked the main quays and destroyer base at Massawa, but the bombs fell in the town.

Taranto
FAA attack on
Italian fleet.
See page 335
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War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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Policy.

Thames Estuary

In view of present situation in the Thames Estuary, the need for a rescue tug at Sheerness has become most urgent. Request that tug ST MELLONS may be sent for this purpose and that a relief may be sent as soon as possible for MURIA at Harwich. (C. in C., Nore, 1251/11 to Adty)

"Deluge"

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/11. (D.C. 1133/11) At 2330/11.
(D.C. 2346/11)

Plymouth
A/A Defences

Your 0056/8 dealing with minelaying at Plymouth. Question of night fighting aircraft is being considered by Air Ministry.
2. Re para 2. Request in conjunction with A.A. Defence Commander all available evidence including R.D.F. Plots may be examined to confirm circumstances of attack particularly height, and that it may be confirmed that mine and not bomb was dropped. [Deluge: C. in C. W.A. 1616/12, R 326]
3. If height is confirmed heavy A.A. or 3" Case I will be better defence than close range A.A.
4. No heavy or light A.A. are at present available from production or other sources. A.A. Command are instructing local Commander to examine any re-deployment of existing 3.7 and 3" Case I, Bofors and 2-pounders considered to be desirable to combat enemy's present tactics. Improvement of night firing arrangements are also being examined. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 1314/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 0056/8 and 2254/10. To assist in dealing with this serious situation I have given instructions for six single barrelled pompoms now in dockyard to be mounted temporarily on baulk mountings or on lorries and sited at Penlee Point to cover the Approaches to the port. Crews will be provided from depot and local resources. (C. in C., W.A. 1316/11 to Adty.)

/Following.....



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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Defence of U.K. Contd.

*Defence of
R.N. Air
Stations.*

Following information is required by 1800 Tuesday:-
(1) The Strength and type of military guard at present provided.
(2) Rank of Local Defence Commander appointed.
(3) Whether accommodation is available for a defence company of five officers and two hundred men but not additional to any Army ratings at present lent for defence of Naval Air Stations.
(4) A list of all guns used in active defence. (D.N.A.D. 1725/11 to R.N.A.S. Stations)

Movements

LINCOLN
LUDLOW
LEWES }

Your 1040/10. Owing to minelaying at Plymouth sailing is to be deferred pending further instructions (C. in C., W.A. 0043/11 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

D.3.

Intend to sail for Sheerness at 1800/11 (Capt. (D) 3, 0919/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

CILICIA

Request you will sail CILICIA for area C2 as soon as can be arranged (F.O.C.N.P. 0950/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CAVINA

Sailed for Clyde E.T.A. 1700/12 (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 1200/11 to Admty.)

HEATHER

Intend sailing to arrive Greenock 0800/13 for D.G. ranging and compass adjustment. On completion F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to route and sail HEATHER for Tobermory (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1200/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Patrol 0

Cancel tonight Monday. AURORA may revert to 4 hours notice until 0800/12 and give night leave. (C. in C., Nore. 1247/11)

Dover

Patrols for tonight 11/12 (V.A.Dover, 1531/11)

/LL Trawlers...



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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

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Movements-Contd.

LL Trawlers
LACENNIA
NAB WYKE

My 1741/10. Sailing delayed owing to collision damage (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1658/11) *See p. 293*

Orkneys and
Shetlands

Positions at 2000/11 (A.C.O.S. 1538/11)

LEOPOLDVILLE
HIGHLANDER

Intend sailing LEOPOLDVILLE 1030/12 from Bar Light, Vessel. HIGHLANDER will R/V 50° 48' N., 4° 43' W at 1400/11 after A/S exercises. Thence in accordance with C. in C., W.A. 1145/11 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1540/11 to Admty.)

Orkneys and
Shetlands

Trawlers line occupied 11/11 (A.C.O.S. 1643/11)

Nore and
Harwich

Movements summary (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1715/11 to SHEARWATER)

SHEARWATER

My position, course and speed 052° 11' N., 0001° 55' E., 020° 15 knots. (SHEARWATER 1800/11 to LONDONDERRY)

SOMALI

My 1702/11 add SOMALI sails Scapa midnight for Rosyth (C. in C., Rosyth 2026/11)

DOUGLAS

When detached later to-day proceed Faeroes to complete with fuel. Then escort transport ADDA to Liverpool as ordered by N.O. i/c Faeroes. (C. in C., H.F. 1209/11)



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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER

(Attack on JERVIS
BAY and Convoy
H. X. 84, 5.11.40)

Your 2218/10. BONAVENTURE Spoke Oiler ERODONA at 1700/7 on 056° 01' N., 025° 45' W., who answered following question. "Have you any news. Reply. Scattering Tuesday night hoping to rejoin convoy tomorrow. Saw one vessel of German Armoured ship ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE class sink JERVIS BAY and probably six other ships last seen course South position 052° 35' N 032° 13' W., After being detached at 0400/8 BONAVENTURE and MASHONA searched area to leeward of sinkings through positions 053° 13' N., 031° 45' W., 052° 52' N., 031° 43' W., 052° 48' N., 031° 16' W., thence at 1800 set course rendezvous with REPULSE. Spoke RANDA, DIMITRIOS INGLESSIS, and ELIZABETH MASSEY, on November 8th but all were Westbound and gave no information. No trace of wreckage or boats were sighted. (BONAVENTURE 0115/11 to Adty.)

C. in C., H.F.'s 1246/9 and your 1930/10. Sail LETITIA to R/V with REPULSE at 1200/13 in 62° 30' N., 12° W. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0231/11 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Admiralty 2247/10. Following were received:
A. Reports of attacks on RANGITIKI, CORNISH CITY, and BEAVERFORD from Whitehall W/T.
B. An enemy report from JERVIS BAY.
C. Admty. message 2019 to FOLKESTONE
2. These placed the enemy about 150 miles to southward.
3. On receipt of Admty. 2225/5 course was steered for scene of action which was reached at dawn 6th November. It was then blowing a gale from E.S.E. and visibility was less than two miles.
4. Owing to weather and fuel situation and to defects in LUDLOW and LEWES search was abandoned at 0900/6 without anything having been sighted.
(LINCOLN 0730/11 to Admty.)

My 0045/10, para 4. For H.G. 5 read H.G. 7. Add convoys increased speed to 7 knots at 1000/10 (RENOWN 0843/10 to Adty.)

WORCESTER ^{SHIRE} patrolling on T.R. 36 (C. in C., H.F. 0933/10 to F.O.C.N.P.) (see next page)

/Expect.....



War Diary

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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations-Contd.

ADMIRAL SCHEER cont.
(attack on H.X. 84.)

Expect to arrive Scapa in NELSON with 4 destroyers p.m./13 passing through position 60° 35' N., 11° 20' W and south of North Rona. F.O.C.N.P. is to withdraw WORCESTERSHIRE from patrol on T.R. 36 after 1800/12. (C. in C., H.F. 1219/11)

Admiralty 2247/10. At 1834Z + 3/5 in 051° 05' N., 045° 02' W., course and speed 055° 14.5 in company MONTGOMERY, CHURCHILL, LEEDS, received Admty. 2028/5. At 2056 spread ships to 3 miles and altered course to 082° for Tory Island speed 14.5 knots. At daylight 0600Z + 3/6 spread ships to 16 miles on line of bearing 000° 180° in order CHURCHILL, MONTGOMERY, LEAMINGTON, LEEDS the latter being southern ship. Course and speed 082° 14.5 knots. At 1400 when in position 051° 58' N., 037° 43' W sighted steamship SOVAE who reported she was dispersed from Convoy H.X. 84 which had been attacked by an enemy warship and was returning to Halifax. SOVAE requested instructions and was routed as follows: through position 054° N., 025° W., and 054° 40' N., 016° 40' W., then if escort not met to proceed by guard route to Liverpool. The sight of SOVAE at her position, course and speed was reported to Admiralty in LEAMINGTONS 0622/9 transmitted at 1215/9. At ? 0656/7 LEAMINGTON passed through position where convoy H.X. 84 was attacked but nothing was seen. At 0830 Z + zone sighted French merchant vessels SAN FRANCISCO and WINNIPEG. Position, course and speed of these ships was approximately 053° 29' N., 022° 36' W., 075° 13 knots. (LEAMINGTON 1330/11 to (?) N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

H.X. 84
(Summary)

Following is a summary of a report by Rear Admiral Maltby, Commodore of Convoy H.X. 84:-
At 1500/5 Convoy consisted of 37 ships. The MORSKAWOLA having dropped out on 2/11 and had not rejoined. Convoy was in 9 columns with Commodore in CORNISH CITY leading the 5th column. Escort JERVIS BAY was in centre of convoy between 4th and 5th columns. Convoy was steering 067° at 9 knots. Sea smooth, visibility good. At 1540 RANGITIKI leading the 6th column called attention to the bearing 020°.

/Nothing.....



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Monday

HOME COMMANDS

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Operations- Contd.

ADMIRAL SCHEER cont:
(Attack on H.X.84.)

Nothing seen except a very little smoke. At 1700 EMPIRE PENGUIN leading the 4th column called attention to bearing 351° when ship was seen approaching convoy. At 1706 JERVIS BAY reports unknown warship approaching convoy "prepare to scatter" At 1707 JERVIS BAY asked for convoy to be turned to starboard which was immediately done by emergency procedure. At 1709 JERVIS BAY cancelled this signal which had already been complied with. At 1710 unknown warship opened fire on convoy and on JERVIS BAY who had drawn ahead of convoy and was steering for raider. Commodore at once made signal to convoy to scatter which was carried out effectively. Ships dropping smoke floats which appeared to put up a very effective screen. Raider on opening fire was about 8-10 miles distant and appeared to be the GRAF SPEE Class. It was subsequently estimated by height of splashes and measurements of shell fragments that shells were 11". Raider fired 3 gun salvos throughout. For the first 15 minutes the raider appeared to concentrate on the JERVIS BAY who put up a very gallant fight and continued firing when she was burning furiously. She was last seen at 1900 still burning when an explosion occurred on board. After shelling the JERVIS BAY raider was seen to attack RANGITIKI. In the meantime the convoy was scattering, most of the ships being pursued to the southward by the raider while some others, including the Commodore's ship, escaped to the westward and northward. Firing was observed to the southward from the Commodore's ship up till about 2230 and during this time about 7 heavy explosions were observed, thought to be tankers. Nothing further was seen and there were no ships in sight of Commodore at daylight. Commodore then made for the Clyde picking up the following ships en route:-
ERODONA, DANAE II, OIL RELIANCE, ATHEL TEMPLAR, DAN-Y-BRYN, EMPIRE PENGUIN, CASTILIAN, ANDALUSIAN, BRIARWOOD, CORNISH CITY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1400/11 to Admty.)



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Operations-Contd.

ADMIRAL SCHEER cont. My 1240/11. Amend as follows. (C. in C., W.A. 1710/11 to DERBYSHIRE, LETITIA)

MATABELE, MASHONA, SIKH, PUNJABI are detailed to proceed with REPULSE in accordance with F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1116/11 (R.A.D. H.F. 1743/11 to MATABELE)

My 1145/11. Amend R/V to 55° 39' N., 7° W at 0830/13. (C. in C., W.A. 1917/11 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Report any further details you can add to your 0730/11. For example, were ships spread and if so how far apart. (V.C.N.S. 2015/11 to LINCOLN)

Have you any further details to add to your 0115/11. For example, what front was covered in your sweep. (V.C.N.S. 2016/11 to BONAVENTURE)

As search carried out by BONAVENTURE appears to have been quite inadequate she is to proceed immediately to position of sinking and carry out search for survivors and wreckage to the limit of her endurance. Information re weather since date of sinking follows. (1st S.L. 2055/11 to C. in C., H.F.) See also p. 303. (Shipping)

Proceed at your best possible speed to 52° 40' N., 32° 30' W., Further orders follow. (D.C. 2116/11 to CHITRAL)

Operations
PU 1 and PU 2

Three 70 foot M.T.B's to destroy alleged Rescue craft and/or Light Forces maintaining the Swept Channel between 53° 23' N 4° 48' E., and 53° 8' N., 4° 36' E., attacking without challenge any vessel met East of 2° 30' E. Details. (C. in C., Nore 1 50/11 to BEEHIVE)

FURIOUS
DIDO

Comply with Admty. 1350/9 and F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0855/11. (A.C.O.S. 1042/11 to DIDO)

/My 1217/10....



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Operations

FURIOUS.
DIDO-Contd.
(op. "Callar")

My 1217/10. Sail CAIRO with SOUTHAMPTON to R/V with convoy as A/A Escort (C. in C., W.A. 1325/11 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

My 1217/10. Destroyer escort. HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, HURRICANE from Liverpool, VESPER, VENOMOUS from Clyde, VELOX from Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A. 1643/11 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

DIDO's 0950/9 and 2015/10. Have inspected DIDO's shell stowage. Particulars. Some reduction in rate of fire over long period must be accepted, but consider ship fit for service contemplated. (C.S. 15 1737/11 to Admty.)

DIDO left Scapa 1930 for Clyde. (A.C.O.S. 2047/11)

Iceland

Intend sailing LL Trawlers LACENTIA and NAB WYKE for Reykjavik 1000/12. Speed 9 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1741/10 to Admty)

See p. 285.

Submarines

SEAWOLF

Intend to sail SEAWOLF escorted by TROUBADOUR when ready from Campbelltown to position 180 Lizard Head 7 miles. Details. (S.2, 0854/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Time your arrival at position W, 180 and 2 between 0830 and 1500. E.T.A. at this point is to be reported 24 hours in advance. (Capt. (S) 5., 1602/11 to SEAWOLF)

TRIDENT

Intend to direct TRIDENT to proceed from S. of Belle Ile to carry out anti U-Boat patrol off Lorient. (V.A.S. 1633/11 to Admty.)

Amended by (V.A.S. No T.O.O. to Admty.)

After dark 11/12 TRIDENT is to proceed to carry out anti U-Boat patrol to south westward of Ile de Groin. (V.A.S. 1634/11 to S/M's on patrol, Area B. Negative S/M's on patrol Portsmouth Command)

/Positions.....



MOST SECRET

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Submarines-Contd.

Positions and
Movements

For following 24 hours at 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1651/11)

TUNA

V.A.S. 1634/11. TUNA may be on the line 046° 56' N., 003° 55' W., 048° 00' N., 005° 20' W., tonight 11/12 (Capt (S) 2, 2252/11 to TRIDENT)

British Air Activity

Rosyth
Air Searches

My 2042/10. Add following one circuit of Cross-over Patrol. (C. in C., Rosyth 0058/11)

R/C of Norwegian
Coast

3 Beauforts leave Wick about 1300 for offensive R/C between Sogne Fiord and Stadlandet. (C. in C., Rosyth 1124/11 to Adty.)

A/C Torpedo Training
in Firth of Forth

Has begun between May Island and Inchkeith. Request all ships be informed. (C. in C., Rosyth 1509/11 to Admty.)

Bombing of
Coastal Batteries

Calis and Ambleton
(CF. 16)

C. in C., Nore's 1026/10. Request may be undertaken by Coastal Commands, who should also undertake future similar requirements in co-ordination with Bomber Command. (Air Ministry 1800/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

S/M Bombing
Restrictions

Institute in Holyhead Sanctuary daily from 0730 to 1600 from 12 to 15 November inclusive and in Tay Sanctuary 0800 to 1800 daily from 12 to 14 November. (H.Q.C.C. 1800/11)

Attack on
Lorient

11/11 Two factories at west end of wet dock hit. 3 Blenheims attacked 2 small ships in 48° 45' N., 4° 0' E., results not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0247/12)

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Enemy Air ActivityBALMORE

(British 1925 tons) Bombed and sinking in 52° N., 17° W., (BALMORE 1036/11) Want help immediately (BALMORE 1041/11) Sinking slowly. May last 2 hours. (BALMORE) 1117/11) If in vicinity proceed to assist. (C. in C., W.A. 1217/11 to ROCHESTER) Detach one ship to assist BALMORE. D/F bearing puts her in 53° N., and 15° to 16° W., (C. in C., W.A. 1637/11 to ARROW) Your 1217. Have searched 5 hours without result. In view of your 1637 and weather, am abandoning search and proceeding. Weather report. (ROCHESTER 1704/11 to C. in C., W.A.) Still afloat at 1812 G.M.T. (Port Patrick Radio 1807/11 to Navy Charge, Greenock) Bearing from Port Patrick Radio 254° (Port Patrick 1812/11 to Greenock) Port boat swamped. Help urgently required. (Scapa W./T. 2158/11) One boat away with 10 men. 17 men left in ship. High wind and sea. (BALMORE 2314/11 G.M.T.) Position 52° N 17° W. Ship almost gone. No boats. Do your best (BALMORE 0318/12) (C. in C., W.A. 0445/12 to ARROW, AMAZON. Reptd. to ABERDEEN, HEARTSEASE, GERANIUM) Bearing from Lands End 300°, from Malin Head 244° at 0534/12) (Lands End Radio 0535/12) Bearings give position 53° N., 15° W., (C. in C., W.A. 0705/12 to ARROW, AMAZON) My position 55° 13' N., 12° 50' W., Very heavy sea. (AMAZON 0001/12 to CYCLAMEN) MY position 53° 18' N., 14° 55' W., Searched without result since 1400. Spoke ALMEDA STAR inward bound, nothing sighted. Intend returning Clyde forthwith (AMAZON 1900/12 to C. in C., W.A.)

RAVNANGER

(Norwegian, 3371 tons) Reports bombed 1 to 1½ miles N.E. of No 20 Buoy. Submerged, stern floating, dangerous to navigation. 26 men saved in own boat, 1 man lost. (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 0500/11 to C. in C., Rosyth) A.P. Vessel and Tug both report no trace. Consider no longer dangerous to navigation. Depth of water 20 fathoms. (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1030/11 to C. in C., Rosyth)

"Ariana"
/Convoy ~~AREATA~~.....



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Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

^{"Arara"}
Convoy ~~ARARA~~
(F.S. 32)

Being shadowed by 1 aircraft in 51° 54' N., 1° 40' E., (VIMIERA 0828/11) 13 aircraft in 51° 43' N., 1° 22' E. (VIMIERA 1027/11) 10 aircraft in 51° 36' N., 1° 11' E., (VIMIERA 1205/11) Aircraft bombing convoy (VIMIERA 1219/11) Am standing by COLONEL CROMPTON on fire. No other casualties. 2 aircraft down. (VIMIERA 1242/11 to C. in C., Nore.) Have left SUN II towing COLONEL CROMPTON who is still on fire. (VIMIERA 1259/11 to C. in C., Nore) Enemy bombing convoy in 51° 31' N., 1° 4' E (VIMIERA 1331/11)

^{"Agart"}
Convoy ~~AGART~~
(F.N. 32)

Help in 51° 37' N., 1° 13' E., (LONDONDERRY 1211/11) Enemy is dropping bombs. (LONDONDERRY 1213/11) Fighters being sent (C. in C., Nore, 1220/11 to LONDONDERRY) 12 Junkers. 2 Enemy and 2 Hurricanes down. (LONDONDERRY 1220/11 to C. in C., Nore) CORSEA hit. (LONDONDERRY 1230/11) My 1220. 2 Junkers. Reported 6 down by VIVIEN. (LONDONDERRY 1326/11 to C. in C. Nore) 2 M.T.B.'s leaving Harwich now for A/C rescue work. (C. in C., Nore 1349/11 to LONDONDERRY) VEGA in tow. steering gear out of action. (ST. MELLONS 1356/11 to C. in C., Nore) See also p. 299.

My 1220 final analysis. Attack by 12 J.U on head of convoy 32. 3 down by our fighters, one by H.M.S. LONDONDERRY's gunfire, and one Hurricane down. Attack by 10 more on rear of F.N. convoy 32 and head of F.S. convoy 32. 2 J.U. down. COLONEL CROMPTON, ILSE, CORSEA damaged No ship sunk. At 1405 one enemy seaplane brought down by fighters in 51° 40' N., 001° 26' E., (LONDONDERRY 1516/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Salvage Tug ST. MELLONS armed 12 pdr. gun reports during attack on F.N. 32 having obtained direct hit total destruction one Me aircraft also near miss partly disabling a second which was shot down by friendly aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2220/11 to C. in C., Nore.)

/ F.N. 32



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Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

F.N. 32 damaged in Southern Anchorage.
COLONEL CROMPTON main engines and helm out of action. Fire on board under control. Proceeding London a.m. 12 th.
CORSEA near miss, leaking under control Proceeding London a.m. 12th.
S.S. CORDUFF reported unexploded bomb on board anchored at the Nore. (N.C.S.O. Thames 0133/12 to Adty.)

HUGH WALPOLE

(A/S Trawler) Being attacked by A/C in 56° 45' N., 2° 4' W. (HUGH WALPOLE 1350/11)
One A/C. Attack unsuccessful (HUGH WALPOLE 1455/11 to C. in C., Rosyth)

BARON MINTO

Coastguard Peterhead reports one Heinkel dropping Bombs on SS BARON MINTO ashore at Rattray Head, at 1345. (C. in C., Rosyth 1422/11 to Adty.)

Ramsgate

Between 1315 and 1320/11 A/C dropped 3 H.E. Bombs on town. Casualties and damage, but no Navel.

SARPEDON
(H.M. Trawler)

At 1358 2 A/C machine-gunned SARPEDON causing 6 casualties, one very serious, one serious, and 4 slight. 12 Pdr. gun in SARPEDON damaged. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1740/11 to Adty.)

St. Merryn

At 1633/11 one A/C dropped 3 bombs. Damage to building. No casualties. Raider believed hit. (Naval Air Station, St. Merryn 1746/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Convoy E.N. 23

TREBARTHA
Sunk

CREEMUIR
Sunk

HARLAW
Damaged

Air Attack on E.N. 23 at 1815/11/11 off Aberdeen resulted in CREEMUIR being torpedoed and sank in three minutes. 13 survivors out of 42 landed from SS OBERON a.m. 12/11 at Aberdeen SS TREBARTHA bombed and eventually sank in Cove Bay about midnight. 4 lost includes 3 W/T operators and 1 gunner R.A.F.. Remainder saved.
SS HARLAW bombed and entered Aberdeen midnight for repairs. No casualties, damage not serious. (C. in C., Rosyth 1207/12)

/(British.....



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Enemy Air Activity

Convoy E.N. 23
TREBARTHA
Sunk, Contd.

(British, 4597 tons) Attacked in convoy E.N. 23. Ashore in Cove Bay, 3 miles south of Aberdeen, on fire and holed both sides. About 50 survivors including many casualties returning to Aberdeen in SS OBERON. ABEILLE IV ordered to stand by, unable to approach owing to heavy sea. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2314/11 to C. in C., Rosyth) Attacked by one A/C at 1815/11. Gunner killed. Large fire. Five mains broken. Crew abandoned ship, were machine-gunned while doing so, and were picked up by OBERON. Ship total wreck at Souter Head 2 miles South Girdleness. Crew landed Aberdeen, 3 stretcher cases. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1232/12 to C. in C., Rosyth)

CREEMUIR

(British 3997 tons) OBERON reports seeing CREEMUIR torpedoed, sinking in 3 minutes, and picked up 13 survivors of crew of 42. (N.O.I.C. 1232/12 to C. in C., Rosyth)

HARLAW

Reports one glancing hit by Bomb and 2 near misses. Ship leaking and entered Aberdeen for repairs. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1232/12 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Mining

Sheerness

FIREFLY reports 1 red mine detonated at 2325/10. 305° N.E. Spit Buoy 1½ cables near inside. (Capt M.S. 0916/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Humber

Port is open (F.O.Humber 1045/11 to Admty) LL Trawler detonated following mines at 0300/11, 120° Spurn Point Light House 3.35 miles red inside Far at 1045, 20 yds S.W. magnetic from 1 A Buoy Red under Far this mine exploded fourth time over at 1446, 1 mile west magnetic of Chequer Shoal Buoy red inside Far. At 2120/10 heavy explosion reported in sky ½ mile E. of Bull Fort. Burning fabric seen to drop after explosion A/C was then seen proceeding and was plotted at 4000 ft. Possible mine hit by machine-gun fire. (F.O.Humber, 1901/11 to Admty.)

/Milford Haven.....



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HOME COMMANDS

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Mining-Contd.

Milford Haven

Port open subject to local restrictions.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1144/11 to Admty)

VEGA

Send ST MELLONS to assistance of VEGA
mined near Sunk Head Buoy (C. in C.,
Nore, 1209/11 to LONDONDERRY)
Harwich 11/11 departure of KENIA to assist
VEGA (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1257/11 to Admty.)
Following from VEGA addressed C. in C.,
Nore, begins My 1059 near miss by acoustic
mine 051° 46' 00" N., 001° 25' 00" E.,
engines, W/T and D/F completely out of
action. Leak under control, am anchored
in this position, 1231 ends. Tugs ST.MELLONS
and KENIA ordered to tow VEGA to Harwich
for examination. (C. in C., Nore, 1431/11
to Admty.)
KENIA now assisting (ST. MELLONS, 1436/11
to C. in C., Nore)

Dover

Routine sweeps to noon/11. 2 mines found
in QZX 200 (V.A.Dover 1421/11)

Explosions

No 38 Light Vessel reports heavy under-
water explosion N.E. 100 yards. Two
vessels bearing west course N.E. speed
10 knots, about 150 yards from explosion.
GRIT (motor vessel) reports explosion near
E. Margate Buoy 1150/11, abreast midships
part of ship about 20 feet distant.
Electrical steering gear out of action
but no structural damage. (F.O.I.C. Ramsgate
1542/11 to Admty.)

Analysis of reports from ships on patrol
on night 10/11 shows following explosions
etc., in Thames Estuary. Details. (S.O.T.
L.D.F., 1615/11 to C. in C., Nore.)

Operation
B.S. 46

Postponed 24 hours (TEVIOT BANK 1645/11 to
Admty.)

Minelaying
by Seaplane

1 Seaplane possibly minelaying 2735 (?)
course 325° height 8000 ft. (Loestoft 1741/
11 to Admty.)

/Milford Haven.....



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HOME COMMANDS

300

Mining-Contd.

Milford Haven

One red mine detonated by single LL 173 °
Great Castle Head low light 9.7 cables.
Five ground mines self detonated as follows:
224° Great Castle Head low light 12.9 cables.
162° Great Castle Head low light 8.4 cables.
84° St. Anns Light 13.2 cables.
89° St. Anns Light 6.4 cables.
114° St. Anns Light 5.1 cables.
The last three exploded approximately
200 yards from H.M.S. ROSEMARY within
channel swept by LL sweepers today.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1829/11 to Admty)

Blyth

Port closed, suspected A/C minelaying.
Expect to open 1300/12. (N.O.I.C. Blyth,
1849/11 to Admty.)

Sweep

My 1137/8 re Oropesa sweeps. Search com-
pleted 1 mile each side of 56° 36' 00" N.
KELLET, PANGBOURNE and ROSS sail from
Grant ~~24~~ 12/11 to complete operation. (C.
in C., Rosyth, 2259/11 to Admty.)

Minefields,
QZH 202 and 209

HAVELOCK reports when passing S of mine-
field QZH 202 and 209, 4 mines were heard
to explode between 1220 and 1330. One
was a mile from ship but no wreckage was
seen. Explosion appeared dangerous to
surface navigation. 1643/10. Ends.
(C. in C., W.A. 2313/11 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Gironde

Report from TUNA suggesting that mines
may have been laid inshore. (TITANIA
0101/11 to Admty.)

LÜTZOW

My 1541/9. Position on 4/11 (N.A. Stockholm
1117/11 to Admty.)

Lorient

1430. 2 S/M's in harbour (H.Q.B.C. 0247/12)



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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

301

MENDIP
(for Tyna.)

My 1450/9. In tow of CHAMPION leaves 0900 today. Speed about 5 knots. (R.A.D. H.F. 0803/11 to C. in C., Rosyth)

CAPE ST ANDREW

(British, 5094 tons) Request immediate assistance. Engine broken down, will require tow. Position 55° 35' 15" N., 11° 10' W., (CAPE ST ANDREW Recd. 2350/11) Proceed to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0404/12 to Tug SUPERMAN) CAPE ST ANDREW still urgently requires assistance (CAPE ST ANDREW 0451/12) Sailed SUPERMAN (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0505/12 to C. in C., W.A.) Position at 1659/12 was 55° 28' N., 11° 20' W., HURRICANE standing by (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1805/12) 35 survivors landed. 15 lost. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1117/15 to Admty.)

STELLA ORION

M/S Trawler. Sank about 262° 2 cables from N.W. Shingles Buoy. (C. in C., Nore 0947/12 to Admty.)
Foundering. All hands taken off. (MARETTA 1135/11 to C. in C., Nore)

2 Rafts

A/P Trawler MORAVIA has landed 2 rafts marked Amsterdam picked up 9/11 on H.Q. Patrol. Particulars. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1320/11 to C. in C., Nore, and 0957/12 to Admty.)

EUPHORBIA

(British, 3380 tons) Out of control off St. Ann's Head and drifting rapidly. Can we enter Milford Haven (EUPHORBIA 1336/11) Very urgent. Drifting. (Burnham on Sea Radio 1537/11)

ENGLISH TRADER

(British, 3953 tons) In collision at 1230 in No 3 Dock, Methil with MONAS ISLE, while undocking. Request surveyor be sent by A.S. Rosyth to inspect damage. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1450/11 to Admty.)

LL Trawlers

See Movements.

LACENNIA
NAB WYKE



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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

Situation at 2000/11. (C. in C., W.A. 1240/11)

O.B. 239.

Not met. My p.c. and s. Passed O.B. 241 unescorted at 0800 (position) and W.V. 35 at 0930 (position) (BROKE to C. in C., W.A. 1105/11) Commodore O.B. 239 reports position 308° Tory Island 55 miles at 0930/11. (C. in C., W.A., 1239/11) REVENGE to cover O.B. 239, 240, 241. (C. in C., W.A. 1145/11)

O.B. 241.

Reported in position 55.47 N., 07.21 W., at 0800/11. If not in company report your p.c. and s (C. in C., W.A. to HURRICANE, VERITY etc., 1255/11) Your 1712/11 O.B.O. 241 did not sail. (C. in C., W.A. to VETERAN, 2255/11)

S.C. 10

Amended route to avoid minefield being laid on 12/11. (C. in C., W.A., 1007/11 to WALKER, VANSITTART, FOLESTONE)

O.B. 242

Amended route to avoid minefield being laid on 12/11 (C. in C., W.A. 1233/11 to WANDERER, WILD SWAN, CLARE, GARDENIA, HIBISCUS) Sailed 1115/11 (C. in C., W.A. 1236/11)

O.B. 243

Addition to my 1221/10 (N.C.S.O. Mersey to Admty. and C. in C., W.A. 1530/11) Ships in O.B.M. 243 are to be sailed to Clyde to await convoy (D.T.D. 2105/11)

S.L. 55

MORETON BAY to act as ocean escort. (C. in C., S.A., 1705N/11)

S.C. 11

Route. Escort, ENCHANTRESS to U.K. (D.T.D. 1221/11)

B.H.X. 88

Your 1651/10. To be sailed in accordance my 1654/9. My 1829/4 in cancelled (D.T.D. 1400/11 to C. in C., A.W.I)

H.G. 46 }
S.L. 53 }

R.V. altered to minimise risk of air attack. (D.T.D. 1924/11, 1925/11, to WELLINGTON, ARAWA, etc.,)

F.N. 30

Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER, damage from air attack 9/11. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1529/11)

H.X. 87 }
H.X. 88 }
S.C. 12 }

To be sailed in accordance with my 1654/9 (D.T.D. 1401/11)

/H.X. 86.....



MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

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Convoys-Contd.

H.X. 86

Sailing telgram (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1107/11 to Admty, VOLTAIRE, etc.,)

C.E. and C.W.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1833/8. There are insufficient colliers available to produce the surplus suggested.

C.E. Convoy should be sailed within three days of the arrival of the C.W. regardless of whether it is up to the number of ships allowed. (D.T.D. 2107/11)

H.X. 84

Attacked by Raider

5/11. (ADMIRAL SCHEER)

See also p.p. 269 to 292.

Admty. 2218/10. Information from BONAVENTURE who spoke oiler ERODONA at 1700/7 in 56.01 N., 23.45 W., which vessel saw German armoured ship GRAF SPEE class sink JERVIS BAY and probably 6 other ships, last seen course south, 52.35 N., 32.13 W., BONAVENTURE and MASHONA searched area to leeward of sinkings (positions) No trace of wreckage or boats. (BONAVENTURE, 0115/11)

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND with R.A.F. personnel ex W.S.4.A) reports leaving convoy 0310 G.M.T./5 and at 1900 G.M.T. in 51° 27' 30" N 32° 30' W., steering 260° true, received report raider attacking convoy in position north true distance 70 miles. Flash gunfire continually visible between 1900 G.M.T. and 2100 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Montreal 1140/11)

Report of search by Town Class destroyers (LEAMINGTON, 1330/11 see Operations)

Sighted HJALMAR WESSEL, straggler from H.X. 84, with one other unidentified vessel inward bound in 57° N., 10.45 W., at 1715/10. (B.C.1. to Admty 1455/11) HJALMAR WESSEL arrived Oban 1800/11. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1830/11)

RANGITIKI, too rough to board, has been ordered up harbour (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1735/11)

All destroyers at St. Johns to search for wreckage of H.X. 84 (Admty, 2119/11) Your 2119/11. Route given in my 1129/8 allowed for drift to northward and S.O. was instructed to spread ships when passing through area. Master PACIFIC ENTERPRISE in H.X. 84 interviewed today stated S.E. gale occurred following day. (F.O. 3 B.S., 2334/11)

/Information...



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HOME COMMANDS

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Convoys

Shipping

H.X. 84
Attacked by Raider
5/11-Contd.

Information from SOLFONN, ex H.X. 84. Of 36 ships in convoy, 19 have now been accounted for. (D.O.R. 11/11)

All available Town Class destroyers to search towards 52.40 N., 32.30 W., (D.D.O.D. (H) to R.A. 3., 2119/11)

W.S.4.B.

Date of sailing. Composition. Ocean escort EDINBURGH. Fighter protection code word "Olive". (D.D.O.D. (H) 2121/11)
Orders to EDINBURGH. (D.O.D. (H) 2114/11)

C.M. 5.

Arrived (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0925/Z/11)

LEOPOLDVILLE

REVENGE to escort to Halifax (C. in C., W.A. 1145/11)

WESTERN PRINCE

Route (N.C.S.O. Liverpool to A.C.W.A., 1531/11)

11.11.1940
Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

305

Operations Against Vichy French

CANADA

French hospital ship, ready to sail from Liverpool for Gibraltar 12/11. F.O.I.C. Liverpool to sail her by route in my 1913/28 as soon as safe conduct which has been applied for is received. (D.O.D. (H) 1327/11 to C. in C., W.A. etc.,)

W. African Patrol

BULOLO and BRIDGEWATER patrolling S. of Freetown on line 230° St. Ann's Shoal. DRAGON further to S.E. off Cape Palmas. Object prevention of French Warships going to W. African Port, interception of French Merchant Ships and control of neutral traffic to French W. African Port. (C. in C., S.A. 0951/11 to Admty.)

RICHELIEU

Report from Command Bathurst believed reliable that RICHELIEU would leave 9/11 for Algiers. Not possible to check. (C. in C., S.A. 1403/11 to Admty.)

PONCELET

Your 1852/8. Investigation shows no British A/C or other British forces attacked PONCELET on 4/11 inside or outside territorial waters. On 7/11 she made a torpedo attack on MILFORD at 1423 without warning. Confirmed by PONCELET log. MILFORD sighted submarine for first time at 1547, 15 miles from Cape Lopez, she was subsequently signalled to stop but ignored signals and fire was opened. Submarine dived and re-surfaced, crew fell in on deck and PONCELET scuttled herself. Crew were picked up. For your information PONCELET was bombed by Free French Blenheims at Port Gentil 4/11. (Admty 1653/11 to N.A. Madrid amended 202/11)

Submarine Patrols

My 1810/10. Patrol will be established E of Gibraltar a.m./14, details. Objects: by day to attack JEAN BART or RICHELIEU without warning. Not to attack French ships coming from Eastwards. By night to attack any darkened ship which attempts to pass straits in either direction accompanied by warning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1704/11 to Admty.)

Your 1704/11. Confirmed that information in para (d) of Admty 0404/3 had been communicated to Vichy Govt. (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 1424/11)

/TEMPETE.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

305

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/TEMPETE.....

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

306

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

TEMPETE

Passed Gibraltar 1620/11 from west to east escorting P.L.M. 21. (S.O. (T) Gibraltar 1733/11 to Admty.)

INDOCHINDIS

My 1706/6 (re repatriation of passengers) request information whether arrangements are being made for a ship to call at Freetown to take passengers (C. in C., S.A. 2025/11 to Admty.)

French Ships,
Lome

Collector of Customs, Kita, reports 1 French warship and French steamer stated to have arrived Lome 0011. These are probably the Vichy destroyer and merchant ship CARIMARE mentioned in my 1315/7, (C. in C., S.A. 2237/11)

Libreville

At 0515/10 the O.C. Troops Libreville requested end hostilities. Governor Masson believed left Libreville by air for Abidjan. Situation at Port Gentil not yet known. (G.O.C. Accra 2020/11 to War Office)

North Atlantic

ARGUS
DESPATCH

ARGUS to adjust speed of advance, if fuelling necessary arrive Gibraltar 2200/3 if fuelling not necessary pass Europa Point at 0500/14, maintaining speed of advance 15 knots. Inform DESPATCH of intended plans. DESPATCH to part company when destroyer escort joins and arrive Gibraltar by about 1200/13. (S.O. Force H., to ARGUS, 1150/11)

Operation
"White"

With Force H hampered by ARGUS and Mediterranean Fleet not in Central Mediterranean, warning of move by important Italian units to westward considered important. Request adequate reconnaissances Any bombing of west side of aerodrome possible (date) would assist. (S.O. Force H 1005/11 to V.A. Malta) Amending dates. (S.O. Force H, 1132/12, 1531/12)

/Italian S/M.....



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

307

North Atlantic-Contd.

Italian
Submarine
Prisoners

My 1642/10 para 1 (re interrogation of Italian prisoners from Midget S/M) Second name should read Paccagnini. (F.O.C.N.A. 1046/11 to Admty.)

Enemy Unit

By D/F at 0214/11 an unknown enemy unit transmitted message from within 150 miles of Cape Race. Possibly shore station. (F.O.C.N.A. 1057/11 to S & A.N.A.Station)

My 1057/11. May be a U-Boat. Amend position to within 150 miles 30° N., 20° W., (F.O.C.N.A. 1609/11) (See U-Boat Campaign, S/M's Reported)

AGIA VARVARA
(Greek 2433 tons)

Lloyds gives tonnage as 2425, 1948.41

Greek Minister reports AGIA VARVARA sailing from Bilbao 13/11 sunset for Lisbon was repeatedly reconnoitred a.m./11 in Port Bilbao by aircraft with German markings. (N.A.Madrid 1800/11 to Admty.)

Exercises,
M. T. Ships

Your 1633/8 para H Concur proposals. Instructions for exercises on passage are being signalled direct to F.O.C. 18th C.S. (S.O.Force H., 1944/11 to Admty.) (S.O.Force H 1948/11 to F.O. 18 C.S.)

Operation
"Coat"
Completed

Operation "Coat" carried out by Force H according to plan, 8/11. One shadowing S. 79 shot down 038° 16' N., 003° 05' W., by fighters directed on by R.D.F. plotting. At 1330 ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, GLASGOW, and six destroyers proceeded ahead for attack on Cagliari.

Operation "Crack"
(Bombing of Cagliari)

9/11 Striking force of nine Swordfish flew off 0430 all returned by 0805. Five attacked hangers and buildings and obtained several hits causing one big explosion and fires. Remainder attacked seaplane at anchor, A/A ships, batteries and factories near power station, obtained one direct hit on latter. 33% bombs delayed action. At 0745 three Fulmars flew off for Malta. Forces F and B concentrated at 0920. At 1005 shot down one shadowing Cant. 506B 037° 30' N., 006° 48' E. At 1120 four flights each of five S. 79 delivered high level bombing attacks 037° 54' N., 007° 17' E. Of three fighter sections on patrol two able to intercept and engage but unable to break up formation. Fighters handicapped by lack of speed particularly Skuas.

/Some near.....



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

308

North Atlantic

Operation "Crack"
"Coat"
Completed-Contd.

Some near misses on ARK ROYAL, BARHAM, DUNCAN. A/A ship burst mainly short. See my 1920/10. No certainties, one probable, and others possibly damaged by fighters. No further attacks during day and no indication of further shadowing. Forces F and B parted company at 1915, 037° 55' N., 009° 10' E. (S.O. Force H., 0723/11 to Admty.)

Operations
"White"
"Collar"

Re Admty. 1235/10. NEWCASTLE cannot yet sail. If she does not do so before 1800/12, Operation "White" is to be carried on without her. NEWCASTLE would then have to join operation "Collar" unless you can propose any other method of getting her to Malta earlier. If NEWCASTLE sails 12/11 Operation "White" is to take place 24 hours late. You may prefer to delay arrival of ARGUS at Gibraltar by 24 hours. Operation "Collar" must not be postponed, and if the two above are adopted, date could be adhered to by moving R/V with SHEFFIELD nearer to Gibraltar. (V.C.N.S. 2120/11 to F.O. Force H)

FOXHOUND

Your 1202/10 (re FOXHOUND joining 8th D. Flotilla) Approved (D.O.D.(F) 2125/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

DELHI

Expect to arrive Point B 1400/12 (DELHI 0925/11 to C.S. 1.) Your 2025/10. Full facilities Lagos, probably also Duala, nil at Victoria. (DELHI 0947/11 to C.S. 1) Cancel my 0925/11. Delayed by engine room defects. New time of arrival Point B., 1800/12 (DELHI, 1537/11, to C.S.1.)

CORNWALL

PRETORIA CASTLE arrived. My p, c and s at 0900N/11. Departures vide Admty 1435/4, HIGHLAND MONARCH. (CORNWALL 0901N/11)

/DANMARK.....



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

309

DANMARK

ex-Danish. Sailed Capetown 8/11 for Freetown with armed guard. Trouble with crew, Master pro-Nazi. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1020B/11 to S.O.I. Freetown)

DRAGON

Departure 0900/11 on patrol in accordance C. in C., S.A. 0951/11. (S.O.I. Freetown 1151 N/11)

Hospital Ship

My 1242/8/10. Dept. of Defence, Union of S.A., request for hospital ship still unsatisfied. Union now accepting Imperial casualties from Egypt, etc. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, to Admty. 1225/11) *Reply: 1457/12*

D.F. Reports

Admty. 1342/11. (D.F. report- see U-Boat Campaign) Suggesting these bearings be treated with reserve. (C. in C., S.A. to Admty., 1635/11, 1935/11)

DEVONSHIRE

C.S. 1. leaving patrol in DEVONSHIRE and proceeding to Lagos (C.S.1. 1146/11) My 1146 For 13/11 read 12/11 (C.S.1., 2121A/11)

MORETON BAY

To act as ocean escort to Convoy S.L. 55 (C. in C., S.A. 1705N/11)

Wreckage

Following from S.C. (I) Montevideo. Norwegian tanker VARDEFJEL reports on 16/10 in 000° 12' N., 036° 33' W., she passed 2 rafts and later a lifeboat and wreckage painted yellow. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1938/11)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

310

Mediterranean

Operation
"White"

Suspect Saint Elma aerodrome may no longer be used by bombers. Request confirmation by reconnaissance before operation White, and any information of other bomber aerodromes in Sardinia besides Alghero. (S.O. Force H., 0952/11 to N.O.I.C. Malta)

Greek Advance

Greek troops advancing on Epirus front across area between Acheron and Kalamos Rivers. Greeks request you bombard no land objective south of Kalamos River. (N.A., Athens, 1012/11 to C. in C., Med.) Military situation (M.A. Athens 0250/11)

Alexandria
Air Raids

(N.O.I.C., 0840/11, see 10/11)

Submarine attacks
on Destroyers

Repeating Capt S.I's 1131/10 to TRITON, TRUANT, OTUS. (V.A. Malta 0925/11)

Air
Reconnaissance

(a) R.A.F. reconnaissance p.m./10 discloses no enemy activity at Valona, Santi Quaranta Konispol or Kalomos river bridges.
(b) One 7000 tons ship in Santi Quaranta unsuccessfully attacked.
(c) One unidentified ship sighted by coast watchers at noon today zig-zagging between Corfu and mainland possibly laying mines. (N.A. Athens, 1315/11)

Enemy
Intelligence

Italians reinforcing Albania day and night especially at night. Owing to lack of facilities at Durazzo and Valona only four to five ships can be handled at the port every 24 hours.
Italians fear attacks by British Navy on lines of communication and by R.A.F. on these ports. (A.1.-)
Italians state British reinforcements to Greece are routed via Haifa and that Italians have prepared for this contingency. (A.3-)
(N.A. Angora, to C. in C., Med., 1106/11)

/Greek Coast.....



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

311

Mediterranean

Enemy
Intelligence-Contd.

Greek Coast watchers report one small ship at 1600 and 2 small ships at 1625, steering contrary courses 3 to 5 miles N. from Cape Lefkimo, Corfu. (N.A.Athens, 1854/11 to C. in C., Med.)

TRITON)
OTUS)

Orders to (V.A.Malta, 1907/11)

British Air
Activity

R.A.F. reconnaissance p.m./11 sighted convoy of 9 large ships arriving Valona Bay escorted by aircraft at 1530. No enemy movements observed South Valona. R.A.F. are bombing Durazzo tonight (N.A.Athens, 1941/11 to C. in C., Med.)

U-Boat
Report

British master reports sighting U-Boat 6 miles S.S.E. Malaga silhouetted against the moon 2245/3. (A.2) (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1407/11)

Suez Canal
Employees

Urge action be taken without delay on my 1129/5. Pronouncement to be made by H.M.G. that for military reasons and/or attitude of Vichy Govt., control of Canal Company's affairs from France no longer admitted and will be vested in future in London Office. Failing some such action, deterioration in Canal Company's attitude with subsequent difficulties and possibly obstruction. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal 1932/11, 1941/11 to Admty.)



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

312

East Indies

→ Raider Patrols
CANBERRA
CAPETOWN

My 1016/10. Amend. CANBERRA establish search in sector bounded by lines drawn 160° and 250° from position 04° N., 90° E. CAPETOWN act similarly in sector 270° to 315° from position 04° N., 90° E. Assume raider's speed 12 to 15 knots from 0230Z/11. Act at your discretion on receipt of any (?immediate) intelligence. (C. in C., E.I., 0418Z/11 to Force V) See also 1104/11, 1248/11. *See also next page*

AUTOMEDON.
Raider Report

Matara intercepted incomplete R.R.R.R. report from British ship. AUTOMEDON at 0207Z/11 figures 418 N were read, remainder purposely jammed. Ship left Durban 29/10, due Penang 13/11 (C. in C., E.I. to Force V 0222Z/11)

→ CANBERRA

My 1836/10. Have felt it necessary to retain CANBERRA to assist in hunting down raider. Will release as soon as situation allows. Hope you approve. (C. in C., E.I., 0742Z/11 to A.C.N.B.)

Tug CHAKDINA
BHIMA
PROTECTOR
KANDAHAR
(Storm)

My 2044/10., SHROPSHIRE made contact, CHAKDINA and BHIMA in tow in position 014° -02' N., 058° 40' E., at 0501Z/11. All now well and proceeding Bombay 7½ knots. Weather fair. PROTECTOR last seen about 0700/9 in position 014° 32' N., 057° 15' E., SHROPSHIRE and Oiler SLAVOL searching. KANDAHAR in approx. position 016° 07' N., 060° 10' E., at 0130Z/11 proceeding to Bombay. (C. in C., E.I., 0744/11)

Operation
"Rope"
*(Bombardment of Santa
It. Somali land.)*

My 1916/10. Intend DORSETSHIRE shall carry out operation "Rope" p.m./18. (C. in C., E.I. 0906Z/11 to Admty.)

D.F.
Report

Your 0851/11 (See U-Boat Campaign) Bearings from Ascension and Freetown 312° and 280° respectively 3 maximum probable errors minus 8° and plus 5° respectively. Suggest transmitter more likely to have been German naval unit within 100 miles of position 10° N., 33° W., (C. in C., S.A. 1027N/11 to Admty.)

/Mombasa.....



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

313

East Indies-Contd.

Mombasa

S.A.A.F. carried out 2 escort patrols Mombasa 11/11. 2 troopships, 2 warships escorted in, 1 warship escorted out. No enemy sighted. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1211/13)

WESTRALIA

My 0418/11. WESTRALIA proceeds now towards position 02.00 N., (?) 81° 30' E., using Walrus when practicable to find raider. (C in C., E.I., 1104/11)

CANBERRA
CAPETOWN

Search from dawn 12/11. CANBERRA and CAPETOWN are to resume search for raider furthest on circle in following sector, datum position and time and enemy's speed being as in my 0418/11. CANBERRA, 140° to 210°, CAPETOWN 210° to 240° (C. in C., E.I., 1248Z/11 to Force V) *See previous page*

American
Ships

Request American ships bound for British ports on E Indies Station call Capetown or Singapore for information and instructions re channel (buoys, lighting restrictions, etc.,) (C. in C., E.I., 1844Z/11. to Admty)
Reply from Cin C AWI, 1336/13, p. 367.

China

Command
Boundary

My 0743Z. Request immediate decision as C. in C., Far East, passes through Singapore in a few days. In order to include all Andamans Island, etc., suggest a more suitable boundary that that given in Malaya tactical appreciation (C. in C., China, 0951Z/11 to Admty.)

LIVATHO

Your 2357/9. Wallem and Co, Hong Kong, claim Greek ship LIVATHO transferred to their ownership and Panama registered under name of HOOFTAD on 28/10. Captain requires confirmation from Greek Govt., without which he is unwilling to change flag. Am not satisfied of genuiness of transfer. Ship being detained at Singapore. (C. in C., China, to Admty. 1005Z/11)

/Japanese Troops...



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

314

China-Contd.

Japanese
Troops

From Navy Dept., information of Japan's concentration of troops. No concentration of freight ships. Navy Dept., would probably have a fortnight's notice of this. (N.A.Washington, 1135/11 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

RANPURA
Fire

Fire in after boiler room RANPURA at St. John N.B., 2/11. No casualties but damage to wiring. Repairs expected to take up to one month. (F.O. 3 B.S. to Admty 0951/11)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Admty. 1213/11, requesting route. QUEEN ELIZABETH expected to leave New York 2030 G.M.T./12. Date of arrival Port of Spain. (N.C.S.O. New York, 1214/11)

Town
Destroyers

Your 1147/5. Officers and ship's companies for 6 destroyers will sail probably fourth week of November. Would you consider taking over HAMILTON, as you will be standing by her during repairs? (1st S.L. to C.N.S. Ottawa, 2041/11)

Search for
H.X. 84
Survivors

Your 1129/8. All destroyers at St. John's fit to sail for U.K. are to be sailed as soon as possible towards 52.40 N., 32.30 W to carry out search for any wreckage or survivors of Convoy H.X. 84. (D.D.O.D. (H) to R.A. 3., 2119/11) Admty 2119/11. In absence of other instructions, destroyers are to proceed by shortest route to position quoted, and unless S.O. is satisfied with their machinery efficiency, they should not be spread at more than visibility distance during search. (F.O. 3 B.S. to N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 2259/11)

New Zealand

Greek
Shipping

My 0044Z/9. Suva reports further telegram received cancelling previous instructions (S.O.I. Wellington 0331Z/11 to Admty.) Your 0044/9. Greek shipping Committee desire ALFIOS and EVINOS to remain at Nauru until final destination has been determined. (D.T.D. to S.O.I., Wellington, 1402/11)



War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

315

BESSHEIM

Norwegian, under German control. Probably leaving Oslo today for the North. (V.A.S. 0826/11, to S/M's on patrol, Area A)

PARIS

Norwegian, under German control. Probably leaving Oslo 12/11 for the North (D.S. 433 11/11)

BALI
BRAVO I
SARDINIA }

Under charter to Germans for sailings between Oslo and the North (D.S. 433)

ORINOCO

P.C.O. New Orleans reports ORINOCO loading large stores. Probably sailing soon. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1502/11 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

TERESA ODERO

Reported that all Italian ships at Puerto Cabello are interned, and that fuel oil taken by TERESA ODERO was for Harbour use only. (D.S. 433, 11/11)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

MONIQUE

French tanker, 7011 tons. Lloyds report MONIQUE, which left Oran on 6/6 homeward bound from Haifa, said to have been sunk off French Coast later in that month. (D.S. 433, 11/11)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.11.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

316

Submarines Reported

- 0908 D.F., very approx. position of homeward bound U/B, 47° N., 04° W., (V.A.S. 0959/11)
- 0319 D.F., U/B between 61 and 63° N., 6° and 8° W., (D.D.I.C. 1049/11)
- 0214 D.F., on Series "A" at 0214/11, unknown enemy unit. Bearings. (D.D.I.C. 0851/11) My 0851. Further bearings, message from Simonstown and Durban indicate transmission may have been from a U/B within 150 miles of 30° N., 20° W., (D.D.I.C. 1342/11) (See East Indies, North and South Atlantic) (F.O.C.N.A., 1057/11, 1609/11) My 0851 and 1342/11. Further bearings obtained from Ascension and Freetown. In view of great divergence of bearings no fix can be obtained. Conditions for D/F bad. (D.D.I.C. 1703/11)

Damaged
Italian
U-Boat

My 1744/11. Aircraft had to return owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A., 1127/11 to D. 5.) If not in contact by 2000 today proceed to Dartmouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1305/11 to D. 5.) My 1544/10. If not in contact by 2000 today, own forces are returning to Dartmouth. (V.A.S. to S/M's Area B. 1614/11)

Mediterranean

2245/3

6 miles S.S.E. Malaga. (See FOREIGN STATIONS)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 possibly in area 48° to 49° N., 9° to 11° W., proceeding to Bordeaux slowly. 1 may still be in Azores area.

German- 1 off Lorient inward bound. 3 possibly N. of 55° N., and W. of 15° W., of which 1 may be somewhere about 61° N., 21° W., another in area 57° to 58° N., 20° to 22° W., whereabouts of the third unknown. 1 more is probably N. of 55° N., and E. of 15° W., 1 in area 61° to 63° N., 6° to 8° W. 1 in area 61° to 63° N., 6° to 8° W., 1 was in 61° 33' N., 3° 10' E., at 1504/10 course 020°.

(D.D.I.C. 1225/11)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

317

Home Commands

Search for
ADMIRAL SCHEER

F.O.C. 15th C.S. in NAIAD with REPULSE and 4 Tribal destroyers left Scapa 1230 today to take over the Iceland-Faroes patrol from C. in C. Home Fleet. LETITIA joins the force tomorrow from the Clyde. WORCESTERSHIRE was withdrawn from Northern Patrol this evening.

18 HCS.

V.A. L.E. Holland CB ~~commanded~~ 18 HCS,
flag in MANCHESTER.

British Air Activity

Activity was seriously curtailed by the weather today. The only patrols carried out were a few in the southern area.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today. Coastal Command carried out no operations against Naval Objectives today.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy
O.B. 242

Convoy O.B. 242 was bombed early this afternoon in the approach to North Channel. No details received.

SS LILY

SS LILY (Greek 5719 tons) in Convoy S.C.10 reported being bombed this morning about 50 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

BRITISH MARINER

BRITISH MARINER (Tanker 6996 tons) was machine gunned off Start Point at 1430 today.

Attack on
Convoys FN 32
and FS 32

It is now stated that VIVIEN destroyed two (not one) enemy planes and severely damaged a third, and that VIMIARA destroyed two. (D.S. 435)

Considerable damage was caused in the town in an attack on Ramsgate this afternoon.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

12.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

318

Mining

Operation
S.N. 43

1st M.L.S. this afternoon completed the laying of a line of mines in the North Western Approaches.

T.H.V. ARGUS

Trinity House Vessel ARGUS was sunk by a mine in the Thames Estuary this afternoon.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night probably took place off the East Coast and in the Thames Estuary.

Several mines detonated spontaneously at Plymouth last night, but the channel cannot be considered clear. NEWCASTLE is still held up.

Two mines self detonated at Milford Haven today.

Operations Against Vichy French

Air Reconnaissance for RICHELIEU (see 11/11) was established to westward of the Straits of Gibraltar at dawn today.

ARK ROYAL is at short notice ready to proceed to sea and fly off striking force if ordered to attack. RENOWN arrived this afternoon and with 2 destroyers was fuelled and kept at short notice.

South Atlantic

HERMES left Simonstown this afternoon to establish a patrol south of 200 miles south of Cape of Good Hope, supplemented by patrol by S.A.A.F. within 200 miles of the Cape, to intercept 5 Vichy French merchant vessels reported leaving Madagascar 6/11 for Dakar.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

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Mediterranean

Straits of
Otranto Raid.
Convoy Destroyed

The 7th C.S. with NUBIAN and MOHAWK last night carried out a raid into the Straits of Otranto. A convoy of 4 merchant ships escorted by 2 destroyers proceeding westward was encountered at 0115 off Valona. One merchant ship was sunk, two left burning and almost certainly sunk, and one escaped in a smoke screen, but was probably damaged. The escorting destroyers escaped, though one was hit. Our ships suffered no damage or casualties.

F.A.A. Attack
on Taranto

Aircraft of Fleet Air Arm last night attacked Taranto and preliminary reports state one LITTORIO and 2 CAVOUR class battleships hit by torpedo. The bombing results were not observed, though fires were started. 2 Swordfish were lost. From preliminary examination of photographs it appears that one LITTORIO class is badly damaged but not sunk. One CAVOUR is beached to avoid sinking and is half under water, a second CAVOUR apparently damaged and believed beached, 2 cruisers have lists and are surrounded by oil fuel, and 2 auxiliaries appear to have their sterns under water.

R.A.F. attack
on Valona

R.A.F. last night carried out an extremely successful raid on Sordinori Valona. Two large ships were burning fiercely about 16 miles west of Valona about 0300. The fires were so fierce that Tankers are suggested. About 2340/11 G.M.T. Taranto broadcast S.O.S. from Italian SS RAMB III (3667 tons) and ANTONIO LOCATELLI (Tanker 5691 tons) Stating they were being bombarded off Valona.

R.A.F. Attack on
Benghazi
Derna
Bardia

R.A.F. last night attacked shipping at Benghazi; and aerodromes at Berca, Derna, Tobruk and Bardia were also bombed.

/ R.A.F.....



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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

R.A.F. Attacks
on Durazzo

R.A.F. operating from Tatoi made a successful attack on Durazzo last night. The fuel depot is reported to have been completely burned out.

3 Blenheims bombed Durazzo again today, bombs bursting on the quayside amongst cranes and warehouses and on petrol dumps and a power station.

Air Raids on
Alexandria

²⁷
~~Two~~ bombs were dropped during two air raids on Alexandria this evening. ~~No~~ ^{Slight} damage, ~~or~~ casualties resulted. (p. 328)

East Indies

On 8/11 an Italian aircraft en route to Italian East Africa landed in Crete. Her cargo was lubricating oil, indicating that the Italians are short.

COLOMBO left Mombasa a.m. (local time) to establish a patrol off Kismayu to prevent any supplies reaching Italian East Africa.)

A Blenheim bombed Assab today.

America & West Indies

QUEEN ELIZABETH left New York today.

DIOMEDE left patrol off Martinique (to intercept CHARLES see 7/11) to cover s.s. QUEEN ELIZABETH during her call at Trinidad.

" p. 130

Town class destroyers LANCASTER, MANSFIELD SHERWOOD, CHESTERFIELD sailed from St. Johns N.F. for the U.K. today. STANLEY was delayed by defects,

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

R.N. Air Station
Defences.

Adty.'s 1725/11. Particulars of Defences. (Hatston 0947/12) (Crail 1042/12) (Roborough 1035/12) (Lee 1100/12) (St. Merryn 1151/12) (Yeovilton 1200/12) (Donibristle 1253/12) (Eastleigh 1403/12) (Worthy Down 1415/12).

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 1130/12. (D.C. 1136/12). At 2330/12. (D.C. 2331/12).

Rosyth.
Guns for Site
R.N.G. 8.

Adty. 1617/10. Propose this be taken at next Meeting of C.O.S. A.A. shadow on 16/11. (Air Ministry 1255/12 to Adty.)

Movements.

Nore Command.

Dispositions for night 12/13. (C.in C. Nore 0800/12)

WORCESTERSHIRE

Leave patrol to arrive Clyde 0800/15 passing west of Trawlers on patrol S. of T.R. 36 and through 060° 008 N., 010° 00' W. Thence through Minches by route as in my 1010/7 and 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W. Speed 12 knots. (F.O.C. N.P. 1432/12).

H/ EXMOOR.)
PYTQLEY)

On arrival of DOUGLAS, EXMOOR and PYTQLEY are to return to Scapa. If oiler PRESTOL has less than 500 tons of oil remaining escort her back. (A.C.O.S. 1514/12 to EXMOOR and PYTQLEY).

Portsmouth.

Movements for night 12/13. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1523/12).

Orkneys and Shetlands.

Trawler lines occupied tonight 12/13. (A.C.O.S. 1527/12). Positions at 2000/12. (A.C.O.S. 1539/12)

Western Approaches.

Movements for night 12/13 (C.in C. W.A. 1550/12).

Rosyth.

Movements for night 12/13 (C.in C. Rosyth 1558/12).

CANADA

My 1327/11. Notwithstanding instructions in para. 2 CANADA should be sailed on 14/11. (D.O.D.(H), 1738/12 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

VAILLANT,
VIKINGS
(Patrol Vessels)

Request proposed programme stating date ready to sail. (D.O.D.(H) 1747/12 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

LEOPOLDVILLE,)
HIGHLANDER,)
REVENGE)

LEOPOLDVILLE and HIGHLANDER delayed by weather. Intend sailing 0900/13 request F.O.I.C. Greenock will sail REVENGE and escort to R/V in position 54° 30' N., 5° 05' W. at 1730/13. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1937/12 to Admiralty.).



HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

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ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

(Attack on JERVIS BAY
9 H.X.84.)

My 2119/11 to R.A. (3) and my 2116/11 to CHITRAL. It is reported that JERVIS BAY was sunk in action with a raider, and that a number of other ships escaping to the southward were attacked and subsequently sunk.

BONAVENTURE carried out a short sweep to the north-eastward of this position. LINCOLN and her group searched the position for three hours. LEAMINGTON and her group finally swept through position some 36 hours later.

None of these ships saw any sign of wreckage, but the weather and visibility at the time was very bad.

(A.C.N.S. (F). 0015/12 to R.A.3, CHITRAL).

A.M. 2055/11. BONAVENTURE sailed from Scapa at 2305/11 routed (a) 58° 15' N. 15° W. (b) 43° N. 30° W. Speed of advance to (a) 26 knots and from (a) to (b) 21 knots. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 0157/12 to Adty.)

Admiralty 2015/11. My position at 2136Z/5 when course was altered to southward was 55° N. 34° 09' W. Owing to weather maximum speed which could be maintained during the night was 14 knots.

2. Original intention was to spread at dawn and search to leeward but visibility coupled with steering and wireless defects in other two ships decided me against this.

3. Fuel situation in LUDLOW was critical to the end. (LINCOLN 1145/12 to Adty.)

In order to identify the warship which attacked HX 84 detailed descriptions are to be obtained from officers and crews of any merchant ships which were present. Particular points to be noted are as follows. Descriptions to be signalled to Admiralty. (D.D.I.C. 1151/12).

F.O.C. 15th Cruiser Squadron in NAIAD with REPULSE, MATABELE, MASHONA, SIKH, PUNJABI, leaves Scapa 1230/12 routed through 060° N. 005° 20' W. to R/V with LETITIA in position 062° 30' N. 012° W. at 1200/13 and comply with C.in C. H.F.'s 1246/9. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1247/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

My 2123/11. After careful calculation it is estimated that at 1200/12 the mean wind since date of attack on convoy has been westerly.

(2) Due to drift, wreckage or boats may now be expected in vicinity 53° 00' N. 27° 30' W.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations. (Continued)

ADMIRAL SCHEER

Cont:

(3) Ships or boats would have probably drifted through the following positions: 53° 15' N. 52° 50' N., 53° 35' 32° 00' W., 53° 30' N., 30° 45' W., 54° 05' N., 29° 50' W. thence to 53° 00' N., 27° 30' W.

(V.C.N.S. 1436/12 to BONAVENTURE, CHITRAL).

My 2116/11 and 0011/12. Continue to keep W/T watch as for Northern Patrol. (D.S.D.1732/12 and 0308/13 to CHITRAL)

Your 1234/12. Ref. Adty. 1151/12 Masters of vessels ex convoy H.X.84 report as follows:-

1 DELHI Swedish pennants 14. time of attack 1710 - approx. zone time, about 2 hours West of Greenwich. Approx. position 53 N. 32 W. Weather fine and clear.

Enemy first seen port beam, 3 to 4 miles. Thought one of NURNBURG class. Can't say how many turrets - one funnel tower mast - 15 or 20 centimetre guns - saw JERVIS BAY hit on bridge by second salvo, also a tanker Ex ~~HAWK~~ hit. Convoy was turned to starboard DELHI then worked round and passed to northward of scene of action. At 1100/4 DELHI saw black cargo ship cross ahead of convoy from South to North ship about 8000 tons gross - painted standard merchant service colours - brown funnel and deck houses, flag on Gaff identified. Other ship steering about 350° at least 12 knots - no signals passed Captain of DELHI thought possibility two ships attacked convoy.

2. HJLAMAR-WESSEL - Norwegian. Pennants 31. Thought time of attack 1715 zone time - position 53 N. 32½ W. Weather fine and clear. Enemy first seen 3 points before port beam - distance about 5 miles - thinks it was cruiser not a pocket battleship - two turrets - one funnel - one tower mast. - Has a fragment of shell from enemy projectile which is being forwarded. JERVIS BAY ordered 40° turn to starboard just before enemy opened fire. Convoy made another 40° turn and received no more orders as JERVIS BAY was hit and burning. Master saw a cargo ship about 8000 tons cross ahead of the convoy from South to North during previous forenoon. Thought it might have been on East of the convoy - thought it was painted grey.

3. PERSIER - Belgian Pennants 22. Time of attack 1720 zone time - approximate position 55 N. 33 W. Weather fine / clear ...

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Operations. (Continued)ADMIRAL SCHEER

cont:

clear and smooth. Enemy first seen 8 miles port beam. Chief officer who had seen GRAF' SPEE at Montevideo thinks it was same class. One tower mast - guns made sharp bang rather than loud boom. At time of attack CORNISH CITY was in Pennants 61. JERVIS BAY was between Pennants 41 and 61 and turned towards the enemy. When she was 2 ship's length ahead of Pennants 11 she was hit on the bridge after ordering 40° turn to starboard and a further 40° - PERSIER went 10 miles to Westward and after 1900 returned to North East course until 2100 at which time there was still firing from Southward. At 2100 received S.O.S. from BEAVERFORD - Being shelled - latter ships being then about 30 miles to Southward namely 20 miles Southward namely 20 miles South Eastward of first position of attack. Also heard EMPIRE PENGUIN report being shelled and sinking and CORNISH CITY and RANGITIKI being shelled. Between 11 and noon previous saw cargo ship right ahead of 6th or 7th column of convoy - about 8000 tons - red ensign - yellow funnel - at first thought it one of convoy but saw it leaving convoy at about 18 knots in the N.N.E. direction. Black hull - tall and thin funnel.

EMILE FRANCOIS Belgian. Sailed for Methil W.N. 36 11/11/40. No identification details except Master reported enemy shells on hitting water or target threw up a green light like a Verrey's Light to height of 100 to 150 feet. (N.C.S.O. Oban 2000/12 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

Iceland.

HONNINGSVAAG reports that FRIDTJOF NANSEN ran aground and sank. No sign of ship mentioned in Adty. 1735/5. Am recalling OBUS. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1305/12 to Adty.) Your 1305/12. Every endeavour is to be made forthwith to capture or sink vessel referred to in my 2106/9. Ship may not arrive for several days. (A.C.N.S.(H.) 1949/12 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Dover.

No Patrols tonight owing to stress of weather (V.A. Dover 1414/12 to Adty.)

Operation "White".~~WHITE~~

Channel cannot be considered clear of Mines and not safe to sail NEWCASTLE except in tow of Paddle Tugs. Heavy seas made this impossible today, but hope sail her P.M./13. (C.in C. W.A. 1614/12 to Adty.)

/Enemy Expedition at
Jan Mayen Island.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Continued)

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Enemy Expedition
at Jan Mayen
Island.

My 1735/5 to C.in C. Home Fleet and
F.O.I.C. Iceland.

1. Information from Norway now indicates enemy may land very small but important armed scientific expedition at Jan Mayen Island between 0600/15 and 0600/17 approximately.
2. Expedition is to be captured regardless of any identity claimed and personnel with all apparatus and documents brought to Scapa.
3. F.O.I.C. Iceland has already sent two Trawlers but they may not be in time to forestall enemy.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2117/12 to B.C.1.) *See p. 350*

Submarines.

Brittany
Coast.

Evidence now shows that area in my 1546/4 was only projected and not actually mined. Restrictions cancelled but when patrolling close in normally to keep at least 5 miles to seaward of line Penmarch Belle Ile. (Capt. S.2 to TRIDENT).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/12. (V.A.S. 1711/12).

HOOD.

Cancel my 1939/8 re operating of HOOD in certain areas. (V.A.S. 1849/12, to S/M's on patrol in Area B (Negative))

British Air Activity.

A/S Patrol and
Air Escorts.

Cross-over A/S Patrol near North Rona, and all Air Escorts, postponed on account of weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0826/12).

S.A. 1 E.

Patrol postponed owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 0828/12) Patrol cancelled. (C.in C. Rosyth 1242/12 to Adty.)

Nore.
S.A. 9.

No Air R/C during the Night. S.A.9 will be flown at 0830. (C.in C. Nore 0837/12 to C.in C. Rosyth).

S.A.1 A.

Postponed. (C.in C. Rosyth 1242/12 to Adty.). Cancelled owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1742/12 to Adty.)

ST. 1.)
ST. 2.)

Patrol ST.1 at 1415/13. Patrol ST.2 at 0900/13, but abandoned on 12/11 owing to weather (F.A.A. (?) Stornoway 1555/12 to A.C.O.S.)

Rosyth.

Air Escorts for 13/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1724/12).

/ S.16 A.

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British Air Activity. (Continued)

S. 16A.)
S. 16B.)

Cancelled owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1742/12 to Adty.)

W.2.)
Rona)

W.2 Patrol will be flown in place of Rona Patrol until further notice. (C.in C. Rosyth 1954/12).

M.V. attacked.

At 1250/12 A/C attacked with 2 torpedoes one M/V 6000 tons in 53° 34' N. 6° 37' E. Both missed. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/12 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

JACKAL
shadowed

One A/C shadowing me in 50° 32' N. 3° 9' W. (JACKAL 1049/12).

S.S. LILY.
attacked.

S.S. LILY reports Bombs burning close in 55° 30' N. 9° 15' W. at 1028/12. (Base Ship, Scapa 1134/12).

Convoy ^{"Onset"} ~~SECRET~~

Enemy A/C bombing Convoy in 55° 42' N. 6° 49' W. (Plymouth W/T 1250/12).

BRITISH MARINER
machine gunned

(British Tanker, 6996 tons) Machine-gunned in 170° Start Point 3 miles. (Plymouth 1430/12).

Ramsgate bombed.

My 1700 to V.A. Dover. At 1650 today one A/C dropped 3 H.E. Bombs on town. 8 houses demolished, 15 seriously damaged, 250 slightly damaged. 2 casualties believed killed and 2 slightly injured. No A/A guns in vicinity. Red warning not sounded. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1853/12 to Adty.)

Mining.

Blyth.

Open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1439/12 to Adty.)

A/C mining of
Plymouth 8/11.

Your 1314/11 para. 2. ^(p. 286) Owing to presence of other aircraft which were being plotted by the only two R.D.F.'s no plots can confirm position of aircraft over Narrows.

Aircraft was seen approaching in glide from northward and two red lights were observed just before splash. After splash plane started up engine and disappeared to southward.

Height is believed to have been just above balloons but evidence on this point is inconclusive. No parachute was seen, or whistle heard and it was considered that mine and not bomb was dropped. It is possible however that this deduction was incorrect.

(C.in C. W.A. 1616/12 to Adty.)

/ Plymouth

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining.

Plymouth.

Several Mines detonated spontaneously during the night, but Channel cannot be considered clear, and it would only be safe to sail NEWCASTLE in tow of Paddle Tugs. (C.in C. W.A. 1614/12 to Adty.) Since my 1946/10, 3 Mines detonated spontaneously. At 1800/11, 109° Penlee Point 1.5 miles. At 1950/11, 185° Breakwater Light 1.5 miles. At 0610/12, 019° Breakwater Fort 5.2 cables. All positions approximate. (C.in C. W.A. 1848/12 to Adty.)

S.N.43.

Completed. Intend sailing for S.N.45 probably A.M./13. (R.A.M.L. 1621/12 to Adty.)

Milford Haven.

2 Ground Mines self detonated. One in 184° St. Ann's Light 2½ cables and one in 029° Great Castle Head Low Light 10¼ cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1647/12 to Adty.)

ARGUS.
sunk.

(Trinity House Vessel). No. 38 reports ARGUS struck Mine ¾ mile East of Mouse Light Vessel at 1653. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1659/12 to C.in C. Nore). ARGUS sunk in 199° 3 cables from South Uaze Buoy. ROYAL EAGLE picked up one sole survivor. ARGUS was proceeding at slow speed after putting 5 reliefs on board Mouse Light Vessel. (C.in C. Nore 2225/12 to Adty.)

S.N. 45.

My 1621/12. Intend sailing 0900/13 to lay S.N.45, starting at 1245 and finishing at 1600. ETA. Port ZA 0700/14. (R.A. M.L. 2140/12 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Main
Units.

Positions of following 7 ships not known since late October. (V.A.S. 1526/12 to S/M's in Area A).

Norwegian
Coast.

German W/T traffic indicates possibility of movement by German Force from Trondheim area to Skaggerack in the near future. (D.D.I.C. 2019/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

4 Fishing
Vessels.

At 1403/12, 4 Fishing Vessels steering 135° in line ahead in 55° 35' N. 6° 5' E. (H.Q.C.C. 2300/12 to Adty.)

/ PRINCESS RAGNHILDE

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence. (Continued)

PRINSESSE
RAGNHILDE

My 1143/29 para. (f).

(1) Norwegian woman survivor from Tromso saved from PRINSESSE RAGNHILDE sunk about 23/10, states vessel carried among passengers about 300 German army cadets most of whom were lost. She added that vessel carried ammunition and that explosion which sank vessel was not due to mine but ammunition. C three.

(2) Two prominent Norwegians from Oslo shipping circles state that a Christiansand German offers 10,000 kroner for services of coastal steamers to carry ammunition from Christiansand to Northern ports.

B two. (N.A. Stockholm 1717/12 to D.N.I.)

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

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PORHCARRACK

(British, 406 tons). Grounded and broke up during westerly gale in about 51° 27' N. 3° 37' W. at 2330/11. 4 rescued, 1 drowned, 3 missing. (O.I.C. Cardiff 1004/12 to Adty.)

FRIDTJOF NANSEN.

(Norwegian Fishery Protection Vessel) Ran aground and sank. See Operations. (324)

EAGLESCLIFFE HALL.

(British, 1900 tons) S.O.S. Drifting ashore 10 miles South of South Stack. (EAGLESCLIFFE HALL 1309/12) Drifting ashore near Menai Strait entrance. Position becoming very grave (Seaforth Radio 1319/12) Now beaching at Multrath Bay and abandoning ship. (Seaforth Radio 1449/12).

WIVERN.

WIVERN's 2322/6. Propose repair broken housing locally. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1315/12 to Adty.)

WITTE ZEE.

(Rescue Tug) Ashore in about 51° 32' 30" N. 4° 13' 30" W. Likely to become total wreck. All crew rescued. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1350/12 to Adty.)

ANNE DE BRETAGNE.

British ship BERWICKSHIRE arrived today with 31 French Fishermen crew of French Barquentine ANNE DE BRETAGNE which was in collision with BERWICKSHIRE in 043° 41' north 032° 15' west at 0500/2/11. Crew state ANNE DE BRETAGNE bound from St. Pierre Newfoundland to French Morocco. Ship had to be abandoned and was subsequently sunk by gunfire by BERWICKSHIRE as danger to navigation. Presume your 1222/29/10 refers. (C.in C. S.A. 1942/12 to Adty.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping.

Convoys.

S.L. 53.)
H.G.46.)

2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th escort groups required to meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1343/12, to WANDERER, ARROW, VETERAN, etc.).

S.L. 55.

MORETON BAY left 1730/12 as ocean escort. (S.O.I. Freetown 1841 N/12).

S.C. 10 B.

R.V. for DERBY COUNTY at 1400/13. (C.in C. W.A., 1729/12).

S.L.F.52)
S.C.9.)

S.L.F. 52 arrived. 3 ships. S.C.9 overdue ships arrived ALGARVE, POLYKARP (~~Du~~) (~~Not~~) BERKEL (Du) (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1210/12).

H.X.88.

Bermuda departure times, escort MONTCLARE (C.in C. A.W.I., 1103/12).

O.B.M. 243.

Sailed for Clyde, 1715/12. Escort ROSEMARY (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1931/12).

F.N. 33.

My 0221/8. Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Rosyth 1519/12).

E.N. 24.

Cancelled, weather. Ships will be included in E.N.25 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1627/12).

C.E.16.

Postponed, weather. (C.in C. Nore 0930/12)

O.B.243.

Weatherbound at Liverpool, Clyde, Oban and Belfast portions not to sail until further orders. (D.T.D., 1305/12).

H.X.85.

Date and route. Escort RAJPUTANA, returns Halifax. (D.T.D. 1823/12) Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1355/11).

Ships' W/T.

In view of Admty. 1906/29 and the fact that oscillating is still occurring it is proposed to commence with H.X.87 to seal W/T office of all ships in convoy except a few selected ships, with orders that seals are not to be broken except in fog or emergency or by orders from Commodore. After fog or emergency has passed Masters are to be ordered to again seal ships own W/T office and full report why it was opened and for how long is to be made to N.C.S.O. at Port of arrival. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1519/12 to C.in C. A. and W.I.)

H.X.84
(raider attack
5/11).

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping. (Continued)

H.X.84.
(raider
attack 5/11)
(ADMIRAL SCHEER)

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1632/11. Request all possible information from survivors of JERVIS BAY now in Swedish STUREHOLM. No Press publicity of losses until released in London. (D.D.I.C. 1131/12, to R.A. 3 B.S.) GLOUCESTER CITY arrived here 2100 G.M.T. with 7 boatloads of survivors of H.X.84. Total landed 92 - TREWELLARD, 25; SAN DEMETRIO, 23; FRESNO CITY, 24; KENBANE HEAD, 20. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F., 2121/12) See also America and West Indies.

Troop Convoys.

LADY OF MANN.

Your 1915/10 (sailing of 900 troops from Douglas). VANQUISHER detailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool to Admty. 1210/12).

DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.

Route and E.T.A. in 10° W. (D.T.D. 1058/12, 1303/12.

PASTEUR

Route and E.T.A. in 10° W. (D.T.D. 1058/12, 1303/12.

CAMERONIA.

E.T.A. 10° W., and route. (D.T.D. 1303/12)

ALMEDA STAR.

E.T.A. 10° W., and route. (D.T.D. 1303/12)

WESTERN PRINCE.

My 1531/11. Sailing postponed 24 hours. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1010/12).



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MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

332

Recognition
Signals.

Your 1919 N/10, re issue of recognition signals to Free French aircraft. Concur. (D.S.D., 1734/12, to C.in C. S.A.)

CUBA
Examination.

Your 1733/12. CUBA has now been rummaged by Customs staff in co-operation with Naval Officers. Cargo reported in order by Comptroller of Customs and no trace of gold or valuable cargo. Captain has not been informed that ship will be released, but thinks there is a possibility of this. Arrangements are being made for interviewing the Naval officers and ratings and merchant officers and crew. Request earliest information as to financial terms for Naval and Military personnel willing to join (A) Free French or (B) British, Service. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty., 1853/12).

STRASBOURG,
Dakar.

Re Sierra Leone telegram 529 of 8/11 to S. of S. and my 2009/5 (information from French officer escaped from Dakar) and my 1731/12, consider there is no suggestion French battle-cruiser STRASBOURG was at Dakar 29/10 when these officers left, and that report that she arrived at Dakar shortly after incident is not reliable. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty. 2015/12).

FUTRA
SINAIA

Reported left Casablanca for Dakar 7/11 (See French Merchant Ships)

PONCELET crew.

No.1539. Officers and crew of PONCELET, scuttled off Libreville, are now in internment camp at Ibadan being treated as undesirable aliens. Grateful for early instructions as to their disposal, and treatment pending removal. Camp urgently required by military. (Govr., Nigeria, No. T.O.O./11 to S. of S., received 0115/12).

Preparations
to intercept
JEAN BART,
RICHELIEU.

See North Atlantic.

Enemy
Intelligence.

My 2009/5. Information from Lieut. Bertrand Garde (corrupt group) Indigene who escaped from Dakar with Lieut. Montezer.

(1) Cruisers GEORGES LEYGUES and MONTCALM were still at Dakar. Both seen by him 29/10, the day he left. No Destroyers then present.

L'AUDACIEUX

(2) The Destroyer beached and burnt out at Rufisque 23-25/9 was L'AUDACIEUX casualties 100 killed. The other Destroyer damaged during action sailed for Casablanca after temporary repairs.

(3) Prisoners held include 8 Officers of De Gaulle forces and 6 British airmen held at Koulikoro in Sudan.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French (Contd.)

RICHELIEU
BLAUDACIEUX
(contd.)

(4) Information about RICHELIEU is conflicting. Bertrand says she is resting on bottom and cannot be moved. Montezer stated that she is moved about harbour at intervals and further report in my telegram 1403/11 states she was leaving. Request may be informed if any other information is available. (C.in C. S.A., 1731/12, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

Preparations to intercept JEAN BART, RICHELIEU.

C.in C. S.A. 1403/11. Air reconnaissances will be established to westward at dawn. ARK ROYAL at short notice ready to go to sea and fly off striking force if ordered to attack. RENOWN expected 1515 with 2 destroyers will be fuelled and kept at short notice. 3 destroyers expected from Malta p.m./13. Owing to defects and escort duties only one destroyer is available here now. 1 submarine expected to be ready for sea p.m./12. (F.O.C.N.A., 0040/12).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Can ROYAL SOVEREIGN be used for "Collar" if required? (F.O., Force H, 0846/12, to Admty.)

Force H.

Cancel my 1150/11. ARGUS to arrive Gibraltar 2200/14. Relief for WRESTLER being arranged. Fuel permitting, DESPATCH to remain with ARGUS parting company so as to arrive Gib. by 1200/14. (S.O. Force H 1209/12).

Operation "White" postponed.

Your 2120/11. Propose to postpone "White" 24 hours. This will also enable NEWCASTLE to be passed through if she is delayed up to a further 48 hours after 1800/12. Further reasons. (F.O. Force H to Admty., 1132/12, amended 1531/12). Your 1132/12 re postponement of "White". Approved. (D.O.D. (F), 1609/12 to F.O. Force (H)) Your 2120/11 request NEWCASTLE be sailed at highest speed practicable. (S.O. Force H, 1622/12 to Admiralty). Hopes to sail NEWCASTLE p.m./13. (C.in C. W.A., 1614/12, to Admty.)

D.F. Report.

My 1609/11. Due to poor D.F. conditions this position cannot be accepted as even approximate. (F.O.C. N.A., 1213/12).

/DOMINE Intercepted

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North Atlantic. (Continued)

DOMINE
Intercepted.

Your 1835/9 Spanish s.s. DOMINE stopped by British trawler. 50 out of 500 mail bags were removed on 28/10 as it was suspected they contained enemy correspondence and propaganda. This suspicion found to be correct. My 1204/12 refers to policy in such cases. (F.O.C.N.A. 1206/12 to N.A. Madrid).

Movements.

WRESTLER leaves position 038° 15' N. 012° 48' W. 1600/13 E.T.A. at Gibraltar 1600/14, ARGUS escorted by WISHART and VIDETTE E.T.A. at Gibraltar 2200/14 DESPATCH E.T.A. at Gibraltar 1200/14. KINGSTON TOPAZ on patrol off (?Lisbon), KINGSTON TURQUOISE on patrol off (?mainland). ARGUS leaves Gibraltar 1800/12 speed 15 knots to patrol off Azores. ROCHESTER arriving Gibraltar 16/11 from U.K. course and speed unknown. (F.O.C. N.A. 1530/12 to TRIUMPH).

Enemy Agent,
Algeciras.

British S.S. SHAFTESBURY arrived Mobile 8/11. Master reports intercepting the following at 0009 GMT 1/11 on 33 metres (begins) Number ten Algeciras, British convoy of 60 ships left Gibraltar Thursday accompanied by destroyers, patrol boats and armed auxiliary ships. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1714/12).

South Atlantic.

Coaling
Freetown.

My 1633/10/8. Ships can now be supplied with up to 400 tons coal at Freetown. (C.in C. S.A. 1035/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Hospital Ship.

Your 1225/11 (request for Hospital ship still unsatisfied) not understood in view of my 2231/7. (D. of S.T. 1957/12 to (N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

NEPTUNE,
DEVONSHIRE

Possibility of armed raider makes it necessary to strengthen escorts for troop convoys. NEPTUNE to proceed to Lagos and C.S.1 requested to transfer flag to her on arrival. Further signal will be made re DEVONSHIRE's movements. (D.O.D. (F), 2334/12 to C.in C. S.A.).

DEVONSHIRE.

Important it should not be known DEVONSHIRE will be leaving patrol off Libreville. (D.O.D. (F), 2337/12 to C.S.1.)

/ HERMES
S.A.A.F. A/C.



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South Atlantic.

HERMES
S.A.A.F. A/C.

C.in C. S.A. 2025/6. HERMES left Simonstown 1500/12 to establish patrol from position 180° 200 miles from Cape of Good Hope as far south as can be covered according to weather conditions, using aircraft if possible during daylight hours. Coastal aircraft of S.A.A.F. are maintaining seaward daylight patrol from Cape of Good Hope and Cape of Receiffe to a depth of 200 miles. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1530 Z/12).

DELHI.

Coming transfer to China. (See China Station).

Mediterranean.

Taranto Bombed,
Italian Battle-
ships Damaged,
Operation
"Judgment".

11 - 12 Nov:

Attack on Taranto by F.A.A. night of 11-12/11. A/C report torpedo hit with Dupleix pistol on one LITTORIO and 2 CAVOURS. Bombing results not observed, but fires started. 2 Swordfish failed to return. If conditions favourable hope to repeat attack tonight before defences strengthened. (C.in C. Med., to Admty., 0805/12).

Air reconnaissance Taranto 1040 G.M.T., six battleships, seven cruisers, about 23 destroyers or torpedo boats. Of total of six cruisers in inner harbour, four cruisers being moved from wall. One of six battleships was under water. One other battleship in outer harbour definitely in trouble, number of small boats all round it. Battleship under water was one nearest southern jetty. Battleship in trouble was one nearest the Island in harbour. At 1055 G.M.T. two merchant vessels and one destroyer 16 miles N.E. of Cape Alice course 360° 8 knots, destroyer course 170° 12 knots. T.C.O. 1525/12. (V.A. Malta, 1539/12).

Details of
Damage.

Have examined Taranto photographs carefully. Appears that (a) 1 LITTORIO class is down by bows with forecastle awash and a heavy list to starboard. Numerous auxiliaries alongside. (b) 1 CAVOUR class is beached opposite entrance to graving dock under construction. Stern including Y turret is under water. Ship is heavily listed to starboard. (c) Inner harbour. 2 cruisers are listed to starboard and are surrounded by oil fuel. (d) 2 auxiliaries off Commercial Basin appear to have sterns under water. Congratulations on a great effort. Our small contribution today 1 ~~RAF~~ 200 and 1 corpse. (V.A. Malta, 2031/12, to C.in C. Med.)

/ My 2031/12.



FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

My 2031/12. Stem only of Northern CAVOUR class battleship shows on photograph but by fixing from entrance of Passagio Piccolo which also just shows the bow is in about 4 fathoms. Oil round the stem, seems certain ship has been beached. The remaining one LITTORIO and 2 CAVOUR class battleships appear undamaged. (V.A. Malta, 2345/12).

Malta Report,
Taranto,
Enemy
Intelligence,
Malta Raid.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 12/11 all times G.M.T. 1340 to 2356 Sunderland 228 Sqdn. carried out moonlight patrol Gulf of Taranto to report Units of Italian Fleet leaving Taranto Harbour. Nil report. Recco Eastern Ionian Sea from Malta included photographs recco. Gulf and Harbour Taranto. 0745 to 1235 Glenn Martin at 1040 reported Taranto 6 battleships 7 cruisers and about 23 destroyers or torpedo boats, 6 of these cruisers in inner harbour. 1 battleship disabled and down by stern and another surrounded by small boats appeared in trouble - photographs confirm. At 1055 2 M.Vs and 1 destroyer position 16 miles North East Cape Alice M.Vs course 360° speed 8 knots. Destroyer course 170° speed 12 knots. 1022 to 1435 Blenheim at 1410 saw 1 Italian schooner position 15 miles East of Cape Passero marked V 5 T O M on close investigation she opened fire with mgs. inaccurately. 1437, Sunderland of 230 Squadron. Moonlight patrol Gulf of Taranto to report enemy naval units leaving Harbour. Due back 0001 hours. 0840 to 0900 6 Macchi 200's in pairs crossed Malta at 20,000 feet. Formation split up by accurate A.A. fire. 6 Hurricanes 2 Gladiators up. 1 Macchi 200 shot down by Hurricanes into sea. (H.Q. Malta 1745/12)

Valona
Bombed.

About 2340/11 G.M.T. Taranto broadcasting S.O.S. from Italian RAMB III and ANTONIO LOCATELLI stating they were being bombarded off Valona. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 0423/12) R.A.F. carried out extremely successful raid Sordinori, Valona, last night and report that 2 big ships were burning fiercely about 16 miles west of Valona about 0300. Fires were so fierce that tankers are suggested. (N.A. Athens, 0949/12, to C.in C. Med.)

Greece 11/11,



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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Greece 11/11, 1335 hours. 3 Blenheims 30 Sqdn. bombed harbour and aerodrome Valona from 18,000 ft., bombs falling on large building on aerodrome and on docks. Details damage not observed. Intense A/A fire encountered. All aircraft returned safely. Blenheims 30 Sqdn. maintained steady fighter patrols Athens area. No enemy sighted. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1318/12) Later attack, night of 11-12, see (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1211/13)

Raid on Durazzo.

During night of 11-12/11, R.A.F. made a most successful attack on Durazzo. Report 3 fires started on the jetty later merged into one, visible 100 miles away. Fuel depot destroyed. Pilot leading the raid said "It was the best raid the Squadron has done since the outbreak of the war". (The Times Correspondent, Athens, 13/11, in The Times 14/11) (See H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1211/13), *page 263*

Otranto Raid.
Enemy Convoy
Attacked.
7 C.S.

My 1357/4. 7th C.S., NUBIAN, and MOHAWK raided into Strait of Otranto night of 11-12/11. Convoy of four merchant ships escorted by two destroyers proceeding westward encountered at 0115 off Valona. One merchant ship sunk, two left burning and almost certainly sunk, one thought to have escaped in smoke screen but probably damaged. Escorting destroyers escaped but one hit. No damage or casualties to our ships. (C.in C. Med., 1459/12)

M.E. Air Report.

Egypt 11/11. 113 Squadron located 1 submarine and 1 merchantman 5,000 tons 6 miles off Ras El (32° 38' 23" 9' E.) proceeding north west. No other shipping off-shore between Derna and Barrani. No change Derna. 9 seaplanes Bomba. Day 11/11. A Hurricane 33 Squadron despatched to attack enemy seaplane reported by 113 Squadron at Sollum failed to locate it. 2 Blenheims 55 Squadron and a Valentia of 216 Squadron attached 202 Group bombed the enemy aircraft reported concentrated at Barrani by 113 Squadron. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1316/12).

/ Air Bombing.
Benghazi, Derna Tobruk.

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Mediterranean. (contd.)

Air Bombing,
Benghazi,
Derna,
Tobruk.

Enemy Air
Raid, Suez.

Night 11-12/11. Blenheims 113 Squadron attacked shipping Benghazi and hangars Berca destroying 2 bombers and damaging other aircraft and buildings at Berca. Several warships anchored off Benghazi as A.A. guard ships. 5 Blenheims 113 Squadron attacked the barracks at Derna demolishing some buildings. 7 Blenheims 55 Squadron bombed Tobruk foreshore starting a large fire which was seen at great distance by aircraft of 113 Squadron returning from raid one hour later. Blenheims 55 Squadron also attacked Bardia. [Between 2040 and 2100 hours enemy aircraft operating singly dropped a few bombs along coast South East of Aboukir at Helwan at Suez and 8 miles South East of Kabrit. Lighthouse and Government buildings set on fire at Suez. No other damage or casualties reported.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1317/12).

Enemy Routes.

TETRARCH reports approach channel appearing in direction 60° from 31.42' N., 19.30' E., 10 miles wide. Eastbound convoys making night passage at 7 knots to cross 100 fathoms line at dawn.
(N.O.I.C. Malta to ROVER, 1307/12).

Operation
"White".

NEWCASTLE

Your 1005/11. Operation "White": Watch on main Italian Fleet in Taranto and Brindisi will be maintained. Search ahead of your force to northward of Cape Bon and Galita Island will be carried out to locate any Italian units liable to encounter NEWCASTLE during final run. Reconnaissance of Cagliari in accordance your 0952/11 is being carried out on 13/11. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1927/12) Hoped to sail NEWCASTLE p.m./13 (C.in C. W.A. 1614/12, to Admty.)

Alexandria
Raids.

Air raids 1937 to 2037 and 2056 to (?)2124. Two bombs, no casualties, no damage. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1132/12) Air raids, 1900 to 1945, about 15 bombs, 2000 to 2100 about 12 bombs. Slight damage to 2 mercantile transit sheds and Ras El Tin. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 2232/12) (See also HQ RAF, ME, 1211/13, p 362)

Operation "Collar".

Adty. 1633/8. Concur with proposals (C.in C. Med. 1534/12)

/ Greece.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Greece.

Situation Report. (M.A. Athens to W.O. 0300/12).
Instructions to Military Mission, Greece, handed to General Heywood. (W.O., to C.in C. M.E., 0330/12).

Gulf of Athens.

Learned from most secret source that Greek navigation instructions for Gulf of Athens are known to Italians. Request pass this information to Greek Chief of Staff. (C.O.I.S. to N.A. Athens, 1029/12).

Greek Naval Action,
Otranto.

Greeks planning raid into Straits of Otranto night of 14-15/11, by 5 T.B.D's of HYDRA and KING GEORGE class. Grateful for cover against interception by forces from Taranto. Also propose to make another raid preferably by day if you can provide cover.
Efforts being made to put up air reconnaissance over Italian Southern Adriatic ports 13/11 and 14/11. (N.A. Athens to C.in C. Med., 1836/12).

Italian Morale,
Objectives.

Reports from Greek Diplomatic and Consular Corps returned from Italy. Low state of Italian morale. VULCANIA, SATURNIA, (4?) ships of AUGUSTUS type and many other merchant vessels lying in Port of Genoa. Other objectives suggested are shipyards at Sestri Ponente. (Service Attaches, Athens, 2000/12).

Italy and Corfu.

Transmitting message from Greek Ambassador, Angora, 2200/11, of information from Rome that Italian Fleet concentrating at Taranto for air attack on Corfu. (Service Attaches, Athens, 2203/12)

East Indies.

PROTECTOR tug.

My 1838/10. For H.M.S. PROTECTOR read tug PROTECTOR (in company with CHAKDINA) (C.in C. E. Indies, 0402 Z/12).

Patrol off Kismayu.

Italian A/C en route to Italian East Africa landed in Crete. Cargo was lubricating oil, which shows how short Italians must be, and necessity of establishing a patrol off Kismayu to prevent supplies reaching them. In spite of your shortage of ships it is necessary for this patrol to be instituted with as little delay as possible. (1 S.L., to C.in C. E.I., 0114/12). [Reply, see next page]

/ COLOMBO.

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East Indies. (Continued)

COLOMBO.

COLOMBO to leave Mombasa a.m./13 to patrol off Kismayu to intercept shipping and dhows using the port. To report longest time she can remain on patrol so as to arrive Mombasa with 15% fuel remaining and allowing for most economic steaming whilst on patrol. (C.in C. E.I., 0446 Z/12).

Your 0446/12. Expect to be able to remain on patrol until a.m./26/11. (COLOMBO, 1704Z/12 to C.in C. E. Indies)

Policy Patrols and Escorts.

Admiralty 0114/12. This had been arranged. My policy has been to establish this patrol whenever cruisers have been available from escort duty, allowance being made for short spell in harbour for rest and maintenance. Due to external docking and a heavy demand for escorts the shortage of ships is acute and in consequence patrols have been (? few) and trade routes have remained unprotected except for the occasional free ship making passage to pick up next convoy or keep its docking date. I appreciate help I have had in Indian Ocean and Red Sea from cruisers remaining with convoys from U.K. and others homeward bound but, even should this continue, I am not hopeful of being able with present forces to maintain a permanent patrol off Kismayu unless this is to take precedence of escort, which I assume is not the intention. The fact that Italians are forced to transport lubricating oil supplies by air to East Africa suggests to me that our present measures are successfully preventing supplies reaching there by sea. However I realise that these measures must be tightened up to utmost and every effort is being made to do so.

(C.in C. E.I. 1910Z/12 to Admty.)

CANBERRA.

Your 0742Z/11. In view of A.C.N.B.1216Z/10, CANBERRA not now required at Fremantle until (date), but in any case she should be retained if prospect of hunting down raider. (A.C.N.B., 0215Z/12 to C.in C.E.I.) My 0215Z in addition PERTH, CANBERRA is required to escort U.S.7 from Fremantle to Colombo. Request release to arrive Fremantle a.m./21/11, but if not possible due to present operations convoy will be delayed. (Naval Board, Melbourne, 1720Z/12 to C.in C. E. Indies).

/ Local Defence.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

Local Defence,

Seychelles.

Admty. 1541/8.

(1) Ceylon Government approve provision Ceylonese personnel for installation and manning but will not commit themselves to meeting pay and allowances without further information.

(11) Matter is being taken up by Brigadier Ceylon.

(111) As Naval responsibility is confined to provision of gun, mounting and ammunition, request (a) Colonial Office may inform Seychelles (b) War Office may conduct any further negotiations necessary regarding finance, and may provide any subsidiary equipment required. (C.in C. E.I., 0802Z/12 to Admty.)

CANBERRA)
CAPETOWN)
WESTRALIA)
DURBAN)

(Force "V")

Movements ordered after dark 12/11. CANBERRA proceeds to search during daylight 13/11 an area (defined) CAPETOWN returns to Colombo at best speed. WESTRALIA proceeds 12 knots to 002° 00' S., 073° 00' E. to cover shipping. DURBAN to extend patrol from vicinity of Achin Head to 003° N., 088° E. (C.in C. E. Indies, 1028Z/12 to Force V).

LEANDER, KINGSTON.

Arrival 1030Z/12/11. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1125Z/12 to Admiralty).

Convoy B.N.8½

Details. Escort RANCHI and HECTOR to Gulf of Aden, then Force Q. Route. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0905Z/12).

British Prestige.

Kamaran No.48 to Information Officer, Aden (begins) remarkable rise in British stock apparent throughout Yemen (corrupt group) due to action of KIMBERLEY, ^{Kassaba} victory Galabat, and operation ~~KASSABA~~. British successes openly appreciated everywhere (Ends). (S.N.O. Red Sea Force, 0609Z/12).

French Shipping.

My 0908/7 re summaries of manifest of French ships sent into British Ports and subsequently amended signals are now to be taken as applying to all French ships sent into a British port for examination. (C.in C. E.I. 0528/12).

Massawa Bombed.

Day 11/11. 0930 hrs. 3 Blenheims 14 Squadron attacked main quays and destroyer base, Massawa from 14,500 feet, bombs falling south of target on buildings in town. 5 Blenheims 45 Squadron attacked petrol dump Zula from 15,000 feet, encampment Keren from 3,000 feet and W/T Station, Dohul Island from 2,000 feet. 2 small fires started in camp at Keren, other targets missed. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1318/12).

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China.

N.E.I. Navy
Co-operation.

My 1213Z/9. Changed attitude of Govr. Gen., Dutch E.I. Is asking permission to send officer to Singapore for co-operation in plans. (C.in C. China, 0251Z/12, to Admty.)

LIVATHO

My 1005/11. Greek Consul Gen., Shanghai, states his Government has forbidden transfer of flag. (C.in C. China, 0257 Z/12, to Admty.) My 0257. LIVATHO has been allowed to sail under Greek flag to Calcutta. (C.in C. China, 1003Z/12, to Admty). Your 1005/11. Case reported to Greek Shipping Committee who are investigating transfer of flag. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China, 1705/12).

DELHI.

Necessary boiler tubes be renewed before May 1941, work to be undertaken at Singapore. If situation allows, intended that a D class cruiser from China Station should transfer to S. Atlantic Station prior to this and that DELHI should subsequently transfer to China Station. Ship selected to meet DELHI at Mauritius to exchange station orders. C.in C's China and S.A. to propose dates for this transfer. (D.O.D. (F) 1805/12).

America and West Indies.

JERVIS BAY
and H.X.84
survivors.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1632/11. Request soon as possible all information from survivors of JERVIS BAY now in Swedish STUREHOLM. Identity of raider of great importance. (D.D.I.C. to R.A. 3 B.S. 1131/12).

Your 1131/12.

Evidence of survivors definitely tends to show that enemy had one triple turret forward and one aft foremast with control top and one funnel, but due to long range of about 14 miles details could not be observed. All survivors state that only one enemy ship present. First two salvos were six guns, and third put fore control, steering gear, and W/T in JERVIS BAY out of action. Ship never got within gun range but held enemy fire and was continuously hit for 55 minutes, subsequently sinking about three hours after enemy was sighted. Survivors names follow in my 2001/12, none seriously injured. Due to heavy gale ensuing considered unlikely that there are more. Board enquiry being held tomorrow. Master of PACIFIC ENTERPRISE and STUREHOLM both full of praise for JERVIS BAY's determined action. (F.O. 3 B.S., 1942/12, to Admty.)

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America and W. Indies. (Continued) 343

Channel Buoys.

Your 1844Z/11 re instructing ships to call at the ports they are arriving at to obtain information regarding Channel Buoys, para. 3 all N.C.S.O's and Consular Shipping Adviser's Canada and U.S.A. informed (Chief of N.S. of Canada, 1825/12 to C.in C. W.I.).

Australia.

CANBERRA.

Retention in East Indies. (See East Indies).



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HELGOLAND.

Possibly sighted by PACIFIC EXPLORER
(S.O.I., Kingston, 0931/12).
~~See America and West Indies.~~

No trace in Lloyd's.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

FUTRA
SINAIA

Following from Navy Dept. Reported
from Dakar French steamers FUTRA and
SINAIA left Casablanca for Dakar 7/11.
(N.A. Washington, 1245/12).

CARAIBE (A.P.V.)

Following from R.O., Lumlo. CARAIBE
sailed noon/12. (Capt i/c Simonstown,
1515Z/12).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

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1335. 54 to 55° N. 9 to 13° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435).
1409. 55 to 55.30° N., 9 to 12° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435).
1614. 55 to 56° N., 15 to 20° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435).
2325. 57.30° to 58.30° N., (8 to 22° W., position indefinite D.S. 435).
1251. 48 to 50° N., 12 to 16° W., position indefinite (D.S. 435)

Routes.

It is now doubtful if incoming U boats make Belle Ile. TAKU patrolled from 23/10 to 25/10 line 245° from North Point of Belle Ile during which period at least one U-boat arrived Lorient unsighted. (Capt. S.2, 1025/12, to TRIDENT)

Estimated U/B disposition.

Italian - One entering Gironde.
One may still be in Azores Area.
One in area 55-56° N., 16-18° W. at 1504/11.

German - One in area 57-58° N., 18-20° W.
One in area 58-59° N., 21-23° W.
One or possibly two more in N.W. Approaches east of 20° W. whereabouts unknown.
One about 61° N., 21° W.
One probably N.E. of Muckle Flugga bound for Germany.
(D.D.I.C. 1238/12).

Submarines Attacked.

North Atlantic.

Depth charge attacks were carried out on 8/11 by VIDETTE, WISHART, and WRESTLER in position approx. 252 degrees Cape Trafalgar 11.5 miles. on firm contact in each case. In no case was any visible result obtained. On 9/11 UPRIGHT also obtained contact in position 235 degrees Cape Trafalgar 13 miles. It is considered that contact in each case was a wreck. (F.O.C.N.A. 1602/12).



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SITUATION REPORT.

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Home Commands.

Battery of St. Margarets shelled.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 14 rounds between 1430 and 1704 today, which fell near the new heavy gun emplacements near St. Margarets.

NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE left Plymouth this afternoon. Operation "White" has been postponed 24 hours to enable her to take part.

Dover Patrols.

Owing to stress of weather, Dover patrols last night were cancelled.

Convoy H.X.84.

8 ships totalling 47,768 tons are still missing from Convoy H.X.84 (attacked by raider 5/11) only one (BEAVERFORD 10,042 tons) is definitely known to have been sunk. Survivors from some of the other missing ships have been landed in Canada.

S.S. ARDMORE.

Cork Steam Packet ARDMORE due at Fishguard 1500/12 is overdue and cannot be traced.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command.

Last night, the submarine base at Lorient and the harbours of Flushing and Dunkirk were attacked. Single Blenheims attacked docks at Boulogne and Le Havre.

Coastal Command.

The dock area at Zeebrugge was bombed by a Blenheim last night. A Hudson this morning bombed the Amsterdam Canal. Specially equipped Whitleys escorted Convoy O.B. 242 up to 2400/13 when a similarly equipped Sunderland took over.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE WIND sunk.

S.S. EMPIRE WIND was bombed and hit this morning about 250 miles west of Ireland and is stated to have sunk. The ship was originally in Convoy O.B. 240.

S.S. ANVERS sunk.

S.S. ANVERS (Belgian 4398 tons) was sunk during air attack on Convoy W.N.35 off Rattray Head at 1754 today.

Dover bombed.

Dover was bombed this afternoon. No naval damage occurred.

COLLINGWOOD.

Some casualties were caused and slight damage occurred in camp when COLLINGWOOD was bombed at 1305 today. (Farchim, Hants)

/ Mining.



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SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Two Swordfish laid mines off the Mouth of the Ems River and in the Hubert Gat at 2015 and 2035 respectively.

There was a marked increase in mine-laying activity by air, the areas covered including, besides the E. Coast of Scotland, N.E. England, East Anglia, the Thames estuary and probably S.W. England.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place tonight in the Firth of Forth. The approximate positions where the mines fell was noted. The port was closed from West Gate Inchkeith to 2° 52' W. at 2155.

Weather interfered with routine sweeps at Dover today. Two mines were found.

BRITISH PRESTIGE
damaged.

A Mine exploded in the Humber this morning close to tanker BRITISH PRESTIGE. The ship was towed to Saltend. 3 Mines were exploded off Spurn Point.

LEON MARTIN sunk.

S.S. LEON MARTIN (British 1951 tons) was mined and sunk off Falmouth today. One mine was cut in Fowey Channel. Blyth was closed at 2247, Tyne at 2306 and Tees at 2349.

Mediterranean.

TERROR arrived at Suda Bay this morning for duty as guardship.

Convoy M.E.3 from Malta, escorted by RAMILLIES, arrived at Alexandria.

Alexandria was twice attacked p.m. today by enemy aircraft, causing slight damage to the shore base. DECOY was hit by a bomb at 1730 and was damaged. Two Blenheims today bombed Valona harbour, destroying a jetty and sinking a barge.

Blenheim aircraft successfully attacked shipping at Benghasi and the barracks at Derna, Bardia, and Sidi Barrani, and co-operated with APHIS in a bombardment of Maktila, east of Sidi Barrani.

/ Wellingtons



SITUATION REPORT.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Wellingtons last night successfully attacked Bari, causing much damage and setting fire to the oil refinery.

Wellington aircraft last night successfully attacked Bari, Durazzo and Valona.

Bad weather prevented a further attack by the F.A.A. on Italian warships in Taranto last night.

East Indies.

PROTECTOR has reported her position and is proceeding to Bombay. SHROPSHIRE is proceeding to Aden and SLAVOL to Colombo. (See 10/11, 11/11).

America and West Indies.

S.S. ANGLO SAXON (5596 tons) which was reported overdue at Bahia Blanca 26/9 is now reported to have been shelled without warning and sunk on 21/8 in 26° 10' N. 34° 9' W. (in mid Atlantic). One boat got away with 7 of the crew, and the 2 survivors are said to have drifted ashore on 30/10 at Eleuthera in the Bahamas.

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Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

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"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/13. (D.C. 1202/13) At 2300/13
(D.C. 2333/13)

Campbeltown)
Defences)

(R.A.N.A.S. 1532/13 to Adty.)

Plymouth A/A)
Defences.)

My 0056/8 and my 0102/2 reporting mines dropped in the Hamoaze. There is evidence that isolated enemy Aircraft, probably flown by some very daring pilots, fly down the Lyner or Tamar River and then drop mines in the Hamoaze at night.

2. To Counter this menace, and after discussion with the Balloon Barrage Commander, very early approval is requested to instal as an immediate temporary measure 3 V.L.A'S in the following position.

- 1 In Centurion
- 1 In Oiler at No. 9A Buoy
- 1 On Shore at Bull Point
- 3. Some balloons are available at No. 13 Centre at present held as spares for the Tor Point Ferry V.L.A'S and it is understood that winches are available from Naval sources. These can be installed using local resources.

(C.in C. W.A. 1704/13 to Adty.) *See also Admiralty 2225/14, p. 375*

Greenock Area.
A/C Decoy.

Your 1923/8. Request ~~at~~ Air Ministry may be prepared to discuss also following possible alternative position for Glasgow. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1840/13 to Adty.)

Movements.

FOLKESTONE

Expect arrive 53° 48' N. 5° 8' W. at 1300/13.
(FOLKESTONE 1915/12 to C.in C. W.A.)
(C. in C. W.A. 0053/13).

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 13/14. (C.in C. Nore 0800/13).

REVENGE.

(To cover O.B. 239, 240, 241). Your 1145/11, para. 2. In view of delay in sailing REVENGE, intend to detach Destroyers 24 hours later. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1042/13 to C.in C. W.A.). Sailed REVENGE, OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT, GARLAND routed as by C.in C. W.A. 1145/11 to R/V with HIGHLANDER and LEOPOLDVILLE as by F.O. Liverpool 1937/12. (F.O. Greenock 1115/13 to C.in C. W.A.)

VAILLANT)
VIKINGS)

Your 1747/12. Both Ships ready to sail probably 21/11. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1108/13 to Adty.)

LONDONDERRY.

My 0750. ETA. at 20 C. Buoy 1230/13
(LONDONDERRY 1119/13 to C.in C. Rosyth)

/ SOUTHDOWN



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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

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SOUTHDOWN

Adty. 2155/24/10. Intend sail for Scapa 1700/13, calling Holyhead 1800/14 to disembark passengers. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1133/13 to C.in C. H.F.)

Dover.

Patrols for Night 13/14. (V.A. Dover 1212/13).

AUSTRALIA

To leave Convoy at 2000/13 and proceed to Clyde. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1232/13 to AUSTRALIA)

PEONY.

My 1334/4 and your 1837/12. Delay in departure of L.L. Corvettes must be accepted. They should be sailed for Gibraltar on 16/11. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1233/13 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Western Channel.

Night Report (C.in C. W.A. 1531/13).

Orkneys.

Positions at 2000/13. (A.C.O.S. 1540/13).

Rosyth.

Movements for Night 13/14. (C.in C. Rosyth 1614/13).

Escort for
W.S. 4B.

Owing to delay in sailing REVENGE and LEOPOLDVILLE, their Destroyer Escort may not be available to escort W.S.4B on 17/11. Propose sailing 4 Destroyers of 5th D.F. to Liverpool on 15/11 to take their place. (C.in C. W.A. 2037/13 to Adty.) *Approved, 1152/14.*

SALADIN, CLARKIA

SARDONYX 1230/13. Intended to sail SALADIN and CLARKIA in lieu of SARDONYX and MALCOLM at 2100 to-day for 054° 00' North 018° 00' West. Speed of advance 13 knots. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1750/13 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Jan Mayen Island.

COSSACK leaves Scapa 0130/13 to comply with Admiralty 2117/12. COSSACK remains Jan Mayen Island to limit of endurance assuming oil available Faeroes. Request details of vessel quoted in Admiralty 1735/5 may be passed to COSSACK. (F.O.C. 1st. B.C.S. 0039/13 to Adty.) Decypher Admiralty's 2117/12. NAIAD is to proceed to Jan Mayen Island and carry out operation using Trawlers as necessary. REPULSE is to move north eastward to 066° North to cover NAIAD. Flag Officer Iceland inform Trawlers. After operation NAIAD take up Denmark Straits patrol and REPULSE resume Faeroes Iceland patrol. (C.in C. H.F. 1013/13 to C.S.15).

/ My 1013.

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations (Continued)

My 1013. Please recall COSSACK.
(C.in C. H.F. 1211/13 to F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.)

F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 0039/13.

Latest information suggest that vessel is a small Norwegian Sealer BUSKO of 160 tons made of wood 105 ft. long with a raised poop including bridge and funnel. One Mast forward, and ship has a rounded appearance.

British Trawlers you may expect to meet are ELM and WISTARIA.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1324/13 to C.S.15 and COSSACK).

Dover shelled.

Between 1430 and 1704, Enemy Coastal Batteries fired about 14 rounds which fell near the new Heavy Gun Emplacements near St. Margarets. (V.A. Dover 1919/13 to Adty.)

Special Service Brigade.

To shorten Rail transport, Troops will now embark in ST. HELIER, MALINES, ANTWERP as follows. Troops will be on board about 10 days. (D.O.D. H. 1327/13 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

FURIOUS)
DIDO)
CAIRO)
SOUTHAMPTON)

C.in C. W.A. 1217/10. Cancel paras. A. to G. and substitute following two positions. R/V with SOUTHAMPTON and CAIRO from Belfast in 270° Chicken Rock 8 miles at 1700/15. Route thence. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1738/13 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)
Request Fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1838/13 to C.in C. W.A.)
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2008/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

HX.84.

(attacked 5/11,

see also p. 355.)

and p. 357)

Your 1234/12 Ref. A.M.1151/12 Master of CETUS (Nor.) ex H.X. 84 reports:-

Position in convoy pendants 32
Position at time of attack 52° 33' N.
32° 00' W. At 1715 zone time weather fine and clear.

Enemy first seen 6 - 8 miles on port beam steering in opposite direction appeared to be a pocket battleship. Grey paint. Tower mast. Funnels similar to British cruiser completing at North Shields last month.

JERVIS BAY ordered emergency turn away but turned towards the enemy herself. Enemy turned towards convoy and JERVIS BAY continued until hit on bridge and poop. Convoy dropped smoke floats and CETUS turned westerly and then north east.

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Operations. (Continued)

At 2315 enemy fired star shell towards the north but these exploded astern of CETUS.

During previous forenoon CETUS thinks JERVIS BAY sent one of convoy with red band on funnel to the north eastward and that she returned. Also thinks another ship from the convoy went to north eastward soon after this and did not return thinks only one ship made the attack. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1645/13 to F.O. Greenock).

Your 1151/12. Sergeant J. Bowie R.M. gunlayer in S.S. SOVAC of convoy H.X.84 reports that he observed enemy ship attacking and is positive that she had 2 funnels. Larger forward and close to bridge and foremast and the smaller some distance and thinner and shorter, he is also quite sure that attacking vessel was of considerable size and gave the impression of a battleship. He was unable to ascertain other details but on inspection of silhouettes is very strongly of opinion that she was a vessel of Courbet French Battleship class. Sergeant Bowie gives the impression of being a responsible individual whose evidence should be reliable. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1831/13 to Adty.)

Iceland.

Your 1209/7. Regret that Iceland D/F cannot be re-opened until Spring as ice and snow make operating impossible. Owing to high latitude, D/F bearings have been of no value. (V.C.N.S.2101/13 to C.in C. H.F.).

Patrol O.

Cancel Patrol tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1301/13).

Submarines.

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/14. (V.A.S. 1704/13).

British Air Activity.

R/C of Norwegian Coast.

Your 2019/12. Request an early Air R/C of Norwegian Coast to ascertain what Enemy Units are near Trondheim. (C.in C. H.F. 1926/13 to Adty.)

Bombing of Coastal Batteries, Calais and

Ambleteuse.

My 1026/10. Request bombing may take place from 0445 to 0615/14. (C.in C. Nore 1130/13 to Adty.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EMPIRE WIND.

BR 1337 states tonnage 7459. 2.43.
(British, 4900 tons) Bombed in
53° 48' N. 15° 55' W. (Lands End Radio
0852/13) Position 53° 48' N. 15° 52' W.
(Valentia Radio 0910/13) Sinking
(Valentia Radio 1001/13) Detach one
Ship to assist.
(C.in C. W.A. 1020/13 to ARROW) Proceed
to assist with all despatch. (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 1049/13 to Tug MARAUDER)
Sailed MARAUDER (F.O.I.C. Greenock
1145/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

ANVERS.

(Belgian 4398 tons) Convoy W.N.35 attacked
in 57° 43' N. 1° 49' W. One Ship sunk
(CURACOA 1851/13 to C.in C. Rosyth)
N.O.I.C. Peterhead reports ANVERS sunk
by A/C 4 to 5 miles N.E. of Rattray Head
at 1754/13. Survivors believed whole
crew picked up by other Ships of Convoy
(C.in C. Rosyth 0147/14 to Adty.)

Dover.

At about 1400/13, A/C dropped 3 Bombs
in Town. One did not explode.
6 civilians killed and some injured.
(V.A. Dover 1919/13 to Adty.)

Mining.

Dover.

No routine sweeps to noon/13 owing to
weather. QZX 22⁰ swept to westward of
channel in bad weather by 4 Oropesa
trawlers. 2 mines and 2 cutters found
positions doubtful, no area cleared.
(V.A. Dover 1248/13)

ARISTOCRAT.

Admiralty 1858/12. Request ARISTOCRAT
be sailed Sheerness for anti-minelaying
duties in Thames Estuary as requested
in my 2152/5. (C.in C. Nore, 1410/13
to Admiralty). *See also p. 354*

M.D. Ships
precautions.

*(Mine Destructor
Ships)*

Reference C.A.F.O. 1819/40. As M.D.
ships are fitted with heavy diesel
generators they may be in particular
danger from acoustic mines when
operating 'LL'.
Ships should remain at their fitting out
ports until further orders and their
forepeaks should be examined with a view
to eventual fitting of acoustic sweeps.
(D.M.S. 1613/13 to C.in C. Nore).

/ LEON MARTIN



MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Continued)

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LEON MARTIN
(British. 1951
tons).

Mined and sunk, 202° at St. Anthony light 5.2 cables. Apparently 2 acoustic mines. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1641/13 to Admiralty).

Humber.

At 1150 L.L. Trawlers two mines exploded 138 degrees Spurn Point Lighthouse two miles. First mine red exploded midway between the sweeps second mine exploded ten seconds later. At 1435 LL Trawlers exploded a red mine 130 degrees Spurn Point Lighthouse miles.

ICARUS about one mile distant. Explosion different to usual. White or grey smoke lying on water with a peak of water about 200 feet at one end of smoke.

(F.O. Humber 1825/13 to Admiralty).

Mine exploded at 0944/13 60 ft. one point abaft beam of Tanker BRITISH PRESTIGE, 7106 tons which had just passed Humber Gate inwards. (F.O. Humber, 1925/13 to Admiralty)

Plymouth.

Cancel my 1850/7. Port is open between 0930 and sunset. Ships should arrive at 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0930 or 1630. Wreck of KINGSTON ALALITE lies in approximate position 242° Breakwater Fort 5.7 cables. (C.in C. W.A. 2020/13).

Falmouth.

Cut 1 mine in Fowey Channel 50° 7' 34" N., 4° 52' 18" W. Mine sunk by rifle fire. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2103/13 to Admiralty).

Rosyth.

Port is closed from West Gate Inchkeith to 02° 52' W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2155/13).

Blyth.

Port is closed, A/C minelaying. Expect re-open 1400/14. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 2247/13).

Tyne.

Port is closed, suspected minelaying. Expect re-open 1100/4. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2306/13).

Tees.

Port is closed, suspected minelaying. Vessels for Tees may enter Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2349/13).

ARISTOCRAT.

Now that MONA'S ISLE has arrived at Methil, ARISTOCRAFT to be sailed for Humber for Anti-Minelaying duties (C.in C. Rosyth 1546/13 to N.O.I.C. Methil).

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

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- ARDMORE. (Cork Steam Packet) Due Fishguard 1500/12. Overdue and cannot be traced. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1245/13 to Adty.)
- CANTICK HEAD. Still ashore in Inganess Bay. Master refused assistance of 2 Tugs. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1245/13 to Adty.) Attempt to re-float today failed. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 2100/14 to Adty.)
- CAPE ST. ANDREW. (See Casualties 11/11) My 1805. Ship reported in 55° 17' N. 11° 19' W. at 1030 today and drifting south at 1 knot. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1256/13 to SUPERMAN, SALVONIA).
- Convoy H.X.84. ^{a H.X.84} *ADMIRAL SCHERER 5/11/40*
MORSKAWOLA (Polish, 3376 tons) Not yet arrived (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1817/13 to Adty.)
- BEAVERFORD (British, 10,042 tons). Sunk by Raider 5/11. (D.S. 435).
- TREWELLARD. (British, 5201 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).
- FRESNO CITY. (British, 4955 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).
- KENBANE HEAD. (British, 5225 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).
- MAIDAN. (British, 7908 tons) Missing. (D.S. 435).
- SAN DEMETRIO. (British Tanker, 8073 tons) Proceed forthwith to assist in 53° 46' N. 0° W. at 2030 today. Sheltering at Clare Island, Clew Bay, and should if possible be towed to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2145/13 to Tug SUPERMAN) Reported anchored 7 miles South of Achill Head at 1745/13. (C.in C. W.A. 2250/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- Following received from ARROW begins:
 Am standing by damaged SAN DEMETRIO under Achill Head. She will be seaworthy by 1300/14 and I will escort her to Clyde. SUPERMAN with me. SAN DEMETRIO has only 15 of her complement left. Have sent Steam and Repair parties T.O.O. 1221 14th Ends. Join her. (C.in C. W.A. 1715/14 to HELIOTROPE).

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Convoys.

Shipping.

F.N.32.

Ships from Tyne area 1½ hours late and overtaking you. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1229/13 to LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN).

→ W.N.36.

000° Cape Wrath 5 miles at 0850. GLEANER in company. (A.C.O.S. 1115/13).

W.N.37.

Sailed W.N.37(0) 0815/13, escort FOXTROT. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1129/13) (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 0938/13).

S.L.53.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to ARROW, CROCUS, HEARTSEASE, etc. 1317/13).

O.B.246.

Admty. 1827/9. Revised date of sailing. (D.T.D., 2227/13)

W.N. 35.

Am in company with 4 ships of W.N.35 and WOLVES off Dunnet Head. Air escort reports main body 23 miles astern. My D.G. out of action. (GLEANER, 1546/13, to C.in C. Rosyth).

O.B. 240.

Route to avoid S.L. 53. (C.in C. W.A. to ARROW, etc., 1243/13).

O.B. 244.

Route. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1127/13).

O.B. 243.

Sailed. Escort ACTIVE. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1202/13).

S.L.55.

Route. (D.T.D. to MORETON BAY, 1600/13) (D.T.D. to C.in C. W.A. 1837/13 amended 1744/14).

H.X.82.

30 hours late at R.V. Convoy hove to in gale in 52° W. EMPIRE BISON unmanageable in heavy sea straggled and was torpedoed and sunk at 0415/1. RUTLAND straggled only ship not reported. (D.T.D. 1835/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.83.

7 hours late at R.V. S.W. gale for 40 hours. SCOTTISH MAIDEN torpedoed and sunk in convoy at 0230/5. Cdre. reports many ships showed bright stern lights. (D.T.D., 1836/13).

H.X.90.

Route. (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C. Halifax etc., 1842/13)

S.C.12.

Draft sailing telegram. Escort LEITH. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1628/13).

Unescorted Sailings.

My 1107/11 and 1531/11 (intended sailings). Intend sailing at 1800/13. E.T.A. QZS 180, 0900/14, escorted by HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1043/13) Cancel my 1043/13. Sailed at 1801/13 (list) (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1821/13) (C.in C. W.A. 1835/13).

/ H.X. 84.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

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Convoys (contd.)

H.X.84.
(raider
attack
5/11).

Admty. 1151/12. Captains of BRIARWOOD, CASTILIAN, ERODONA and possibly others not yet interviewed are being sent to London 14/11. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1140/13 to Admty.) Continue to report all information of survivors from H.X.84 which bears on identity of raider, tactics employed, and the position in which survivors were rescued. (D.O.D.(H) to R.A.3 and N.O.I.C's, 1934/13).
At 1200/13, 26 ships of convoy H.X.84 had reached port in safety (D.S. 435) Ships missing, see Casualties.

Admty. 1151/12. Report from Master of CETUS, Norwegian, ex-H.X.84. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1645/13). Polish MORSKAWOLA not yet arrived from H.X.84 (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1817/13)

E.N., W.N.,
Routes.

C.in C. W.A. 2029/7/11. Propose the following instructions for routing E.N. and W.N. (1) E.N. to arrive off Rattray Head between 1200 and 1400 thence to proceed into Moray Firth on a course Approx. 273 degrees altering to Northward not earlier than one hour after sunset in order to make the tide in Pentland Firth during the following day. (2) W.N. to make the passage of Pentland Firth in the last of daylight whenever the tide permits. (3) Cancel my 1203/10/11. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2357/13).
Concur in Your 2357/13. Re para. (2) it is important that W.N. Convoys make the passage of Pentland Firth before it is necessary to ask for shore lights. (A.C.O.S. 1225/14, to C.in C. Rosyth).

Troop Convoys.
LEOPOLDVILLE.

My 1937/12. LEOPOLDVILLE and HIGHLANDER sailed and will be half an hour late at R.V. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1130/13 to Admty. etc.) Your 1145/11, para. 2. In view of delay in sailing, REVENGE intends to detach destroyers 24 hours later. (F.O. Greenock, 1042/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

W.S.4B.
EDINBURGH

My 1343/1. Following is new position (D.S.T. no T.O.O./13 to F.O.I.C's, Liverpool, Greenock, Glasgow). Latest position (D.S.T., 2138/13 to F.O.I.C's, as above).
Admty. 2114/11 and 2121/11. EDINBURGH firings. Do not consider she is efficient for the duty laid on her. Suggest AUSTRALIA be used, and if the sailing of this convoy on 17/11 is not vitally important that it should be escorted by RODNEY as well. (C.in C. H.F. 2325/13 to Admty.)

Navicerts,
Vichy
French
Ports.

On 18/11, compulsory for ships sailing from or to Madagascar and Reunion to have ship navicerts. Instructions. (D.E.W.D., 2057/13).

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Navicerts,
Vichy
French
Ports.

Ditto for French W. Africa, Liberia and Portuguese Guinea. (D.E.W.D., 2059/13 Syria included in Navicert area on 18/11. Instructions. Above does not apply to French ships which are to be sent in unless sailing under special arrangements. (D.E.W.D., 2100/13).

Operations Against Vichy French.CANADA.

Intend sailing French Hospital ship CANADA for Gibraltar 1200/14 routed in accordance with Admiralty's 1913/28/10. Speed 11 knots. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1230/13 to Admiralty).

Dakar,
French
S/M's.

Following has been received. Begins. C.S.l. repeated Admiralty C.in C. S.A. from Liaison Officer French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA letter dated 19/10 from Admiral Landriau referring to possible second attack on Dakar states that only S/M's equipped are the French S/M BEVEZIERES and 4 small S/M's in bad repair. Ends. (C.S.l., 1634/13 to Admiralty).

INDOCHINOIS,
requisitioning

A.M. 1104/29/10 paras. (c) and (d) INDO-CHINOIS urgently required in U.K. as a transport. Ministry of Shipping making arrangements through local agents to sail her as soon as possible. Master and Crew should be given opportunity of serving in the ship under conditions laid down in Tel. No. 636 to Governor, Sierra Leone. Any deficiency should be made up, if possible, out of volunteers from French sailors ex CUBA or even British naval ratings. Report urgently if crew cannot be provided. Presume you will consider possibility of an attempt by French to recover the ship and route her accordingly. Provision of escort and armed guard is at your discretion. Your 1706/6 and 2025/11. Possibility of diverting a neutral ship to Freetown is being explored. (Head of M.1039/13 to C.in C. S.A.).

Shipping
Dakar.

My 2237/11 and 1635/13 following from Governor Gold Coast. Warship A 56 or A 66 left Lome A.M. 13 for Kotonu. Movements believed to be as follows:- arrives Kotonu 13 pick up S.S. F.DREY.* Returns Lome and leaves there 14 or 15 with S.S. CARIMARE and S.S. EDREY.* Destination believed France via Dakar Casablanca. Also S.S. LOUIS L.D. if Lome in and day to load produce for France. (C.in C. S.A. 2315/13 to 1 C.S.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic.

Corvettes.

Your 1334/4. ^(p. 76) Request confirmation that all four corvettes are fitted with A/S and any information on their ability to maintain speed in adverse weather. (S.O. Force H, 1435/13 to Admiralty). *Reply: 1354/14, p. 391.*

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 0846/12 and A.T. 1525/12. Intended ROYAL SOVEREIGN should proceed to Halifax for convoy escort duties if results of examination referred to in 1525/12 are satisfactory. (D.O.D. (F), 1636/13 to S.O. Force H).

Patrols.

Air Patrols (200 Group, 1715/13 to Air Ministry).

South Atlantic.

CORNWALL.

Intend to steer 120° from position 10.41 N., 18.00 W., passing inshore of MORETON BAY. (CORNWALL, 0830 N/13, to C.in C. S.A.).

Duala.

Extract of message from British Vice Consul Fernando Po 4/11 delayed in transit. Begins. Reported on good authority Madrid has requested local authorities to cease all contact with Duala on ground that Spain does not recognise Free French Government. Ends. He also states more armaments arrived Fernando Po 23/10, details not known. (N.S.O.(I) Freetown 1411/13 to Admiralty).

Air Reconnaissance.

G.O.C. West Africa reports Air Pilot at 0730/13 sighted vessel believed Cruiser apparently at anchor 2 or 3 miles S. of Kotonu Pier. ? British vessel believed sloop approaching Kotonu from S.W. May be vessels mentioned in my 2237/11 but no direct indication. (C.in C. S.A. 1635 N/13 to F.O.C. 1st Cruiser Squadron)

NEPTUNE
 DEVONSHIRE.

Admiralty's 2334/12 and my 1145/11. My flag will be transferred to NEPTUNE p.m./15 DEVONSHIRE ready for sea a.m./16. Intend sail for patrol in NEPTUNE to relieve DELHI p.m./16. DELHI return to Lagos, as NEPTUNE cannot oil at Lagos until DEVONSHIRE sails can early information of latter's movements be given. (F.O.C. 1st Cruiser Squadron 1801 N/13 to Admiralty).

SOIKA
 SARNA
 SOTRA
 SVANA

SOIKA, SARNA, SOTRA, SVANA sail Freetown 14/11 for St. Helena to fuel thence to Walvis Bay and Simonstown. E.T.A. Walvis Bay LARISTAN accompanying as far as St. Helena and then returns to Freetown. Following required at Simonstown. (C.in C. S.A., 2025 N/13 amended 0925/14).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

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Taranto
Attack
night of
11-12/11.

Should like to issue communique about most successful attack on Italian Fleet at Taranto, but will not do so until you give all clear for fear of compromising your further operations. Is there any objection to mentioning that torpedo aircraft were used? (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 0036/13).

Your 2345/12. Were 2 or 3 battleships sunk? Prime Minister making statement at noon today. (1 S.L. to V.A. Malta, 1038/13). Your 1037. From incomplete photographic survey - one LITTORIO class battleship badly damaged but not sunk, one CAVOUR class battleship beached to avoid sinking and now half under water, one second CAVOUR class battleship apparently damaged and believed beached (V.A. Malta, 1125/13 to Admty.)

Your 2031/12 and 2345/12.

Impossible to get a clear picture of the situation from these signals.

If there were 6 battleships present as stated in your 1539/12 call them LITTORIO A and B and CAVOUR C, D, E and F and state if known -

(1) Exactly where they were originally berthed, giving bearings and distances.

(2) Where they now are giving bearings and distances.

(3) Condition of damaged ships.

Is it certain that the list on various ships actually exists or may it be due to effect of oblique photographs?

(1 S.L. 1213/13 to V.A. Malta).

Taranto Attack
(continued)

Your 1213/13. My signals were primarily intended for C.in C. Med. and V.A. (A) for operational purposes. They were urgent and were therefore condensed but they should have enabled these authorities to visualise the situation observing both had enlarged photographs of Taranto Harbour showing normal berths and had been kept fully informed of all reconnaissance.

(ii) Your 1037/13. No mention was made in my 2345/12 of any ship being sunk. The signal said that stern only was visible on photograph and by measuring length of the ship and plotting it on a chart from position of the photographed stern it places the bows which were off the photograph in four fathoms of water and it was therefore assumed that the ship had been beached, i.e. run ashore.

/ (iii)

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Wednesday.
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)Taranto Attack
(continued)

(iii) Your 1213/13. Condition of the ships were as fully reported as possible. A further reconnaissance will be made when weather is suitable and aircraft are available. The actual damage is naturally not known as it appears to be all under water and cannot be seen from vertical photographs.

The forecastle of the damaged Italian Battleship LITTORIO Class may not be down but ship appears definitely well down by head and large auxiliaries were on both sides of the bow plus numerous smallcraft.

(iv) The list of the Littorio Class battleships and of one cruiser may be due to oblique photography. The two cruisers and damaged battleships are surrounded by heavy oil patches which is not the case with any other ships in harbour. The definitely listed cruiser had a tug on stern apparently towing her towards dockyard.

(v) Positions of Battleships the day before the attack. (Details).

(vi) Positions on 12/11. (Details). Ships B, C and F are the damaged ones. F is Cavour class ship half under water. Positions in case of B, C and F photographs of sterns the position of B is approximate only as it was photographed through a gap in cloud and no land shows. The photographic aircraft had difficult conditions and was attacked by enemy fighters and taking of photographs was a very creditable piece of work. (V.A. Malta 2035/13 to Admty.)

Credit to F.A.A.

Admty. 0036/13. Part one of my 1121/13. Consider that full credit to the F.A.A. and such publicity as be desirable should be given to this very gallant exploit and it is hoped that it will not be forgotten that this pronounced success is largely due to the inspiring leadership of R.A. Lyster and the commanding officers of EAGLE and ILLUSTRIOUS. No objection to mentioning torpedo aircraft. V.A. Malta reports that examination of photographs taken A.M./12 appear to show one CAVOUR Class beached with Y turret under water and a heavy list to starboard. One Italian Battleship LITTORIO down by bows with forecastle awash and heavy list to starboard. Another CAVOUR may be beached close to entrance to Mar Piccolo. Two cruisers and other light craft and auxiliaries also damaged in inner harbour.

Unfortunately weather prevented the repetition of the operation night 12/13th. Suggested communique follows as part two. (C.in C. Med., 0951/13).

/Press Communique ..

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Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)Press Communique.

Proposed communique: (begins)
 During course of extended operation by Eastern Mediterranean Fleet in Central Mediterranean and Ionian Sea, F.A.A. aircraft of EAGLE and ILLUSTRIOUS attacked Italian Fleet in Taranto Harbour on night 11-12/11.

The attack was carried out by moonlight in face of strong A.A. defence which included an elaborate system of balloon barrage. Notwithstanding these hazards and difficulties hits with torpedoes were scored on two enemy battleships and probable a third anchored in outer harbour, while damage was inflicted by bomb on smaller warship and auxiliary in inner harbour. Two of our aircraft failed to return.

Subsequent reconnaissance has shown one battleship of Littorio Class and one of Cavour Class to be heavily damaged and another of the latter class may also have been hit.

Timely and accurate reconnaissance carried out by aircraft of R.A.F. greatly contributed to the success of this operation.

Concurrently with air attack on Taranto a raid into Straits of Otranto was carried out by a force of cruisers and destroyers under the command of V.A.L.F. This force when west of Valona encountered a convoy of four Italian store ships escorted by two destroyers. One ship was sunk at once, two were set heavily on fire and were almost certainly destroyed while fourth was damaged but managed to escape. Disabled escorting destroyer fled at once under cover of smoke screen but one was damaged by gunfire. There was no damage or casualty to our ships. (Ends).

Further information for communique dealing with enemy air activity (corrupt group) briefly follows on arrival of bombers.

(C.in C. Med., 1121/13).

Air Report.

Night 11/12 November. Swordfish 813 and 824 Squadrons F.A.A. despatched to attack ships at Marakeb Island reported by 113 Squadron were unable to locate target and returned to base. 12/11. 2 Hurricanes 33 Squadron despatched to attack concentration of 26 enemy aircraft at Sidi Barrani reported by 113 Squadron previous day, found aircraft had departed and attacked enemy camp damaging M.T. and tents. Night 12/13 1900 and 2020 hours. Enemy aircraft dropped 17 bombs on Alexandria. 2 warehouses at Ras el Tin slightly damaged. No casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1211/13).

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid ...



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATION.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Air raid (a) 1730 to 1750. 2 planes at dusk 8 bombs 27 killed 10 were children 22 injured all Egyptians. Raid (b) 1900 to 2040 about 3 planes and about 10 bombs five Egyptians killed. Slight damage to two transit sheds.
(R.A.i/c Alexandria 2230/13).

Valona
Attacks,
10/11, 12/11,
Durazzo
Attack,
12/11.

Greece. 10/11. 1230 hours. 3 Blenheims 84 Squadron bombed Valona hitting buildings round old aerodrome and starting fires among petrol dumps and at naval base. Night 11/12 November 4 Wellingtons 70 Squadron operating from Tatoi bombed Durazzo completely burning out fuel depot and starting 3 fires on jetty which later merged into 1 large blaze. Fire from fuel depot still visible two hours later to aircraft at distance of 100 miles. On outward journey Wellingtons sighted 2 ships in flames 15 miles out to sea off Valona. Understood that ships were set on fire by our naval forces operating in that area but confirmation of this is awaited. 2 Wellingtons 70 Squadron also attacked Valona exploding ammunition dump in docks. 1 Wellington landed at Eleusis on return journey owing to broken petrol pipes. Day 12/11. 1 Blenheim 84 Squadron photographed Durazzo and road to Tirana for distance 4 miles. 1 cruiser 10,000 tons and 12 merchant ships in harbour. 3 Blenheims bombed Durazzo, bombs bursting on quayside among cranes and warehouses. Other bombs fell on petrol dumps and power station south west of town, starting fire with column of dense smoke. Accurate A.A. barrages encountered over town and Tirana Road. All aircraft returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1211/13).

Air Recco.

R.A.F. Reconnaissance night 12-13 sighted no ships at Valona, one passenger ship six miles S.W. of Durazzo which was attacked. 24 large ships sighted at Bari thought to be escort ships may be cruisers.
(N.A. Athens 1331/13 to C.in C. Med.)

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 13/11 All times G.M.T.

Air Report,
Malta.

1437 to 2004 moonlight patrol Gulf of Taranto by Sunderland 230 Squadron to report enemy naval units leaving harbour. Patrol requested by C. in C. Med. in connection with operations Italian Fleet Taranto. Reported fires seen Taranto in distance - otherwise nil. Reconnaissance Ionian Sea carried out 0525 to 1532.

Reconnaissance

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Mediterranean. (Continued)Air Report,
Malta. (Contd.)

Reconnaissance required by S.O. Force H. Elmas Aerodrome. Alghero Elmas seaplane base. Island of Caprera. Sighted six submarines and 1 destroyer in creek, south east of Island at 41° 11' N. 09° 26' E. No enemy air activity over Malta today. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1910/13).

S/M's
CapreraCrete,
Greek
Troop
Convoy.

Embarkation of troops from Crete will commence a.m. 17/11, 7 ships from Candia and 5 from Suda Bay, destination Salonica, time of sailing not later than 1700. Escort may be given by 6 and 4 destroyers respectively. 2 Sections of Convoy joins a.m./18. Requesting air protection, and asking if A/A cruiser could escort. (N.A. Athens to C.in C. Med., 1559/13).

Greek Situation.

Report for D.D.M.I. (M.A. Athens to W.O., 1645/13).

DECOY

Damaged in air raid Alexandria 1730/13 (see 15/11)

Middle East
Appreciation

Chiefs of Staff No.26 to C.in C's, Med. and M.E. Summary of appreciation of possibility of enemy advance through Balkans and Syria to Middle East. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med. and E.I., 1624/13) See Med. Vol.

Landing
Operations.

Summary of present proposals for supply of materiel and personnel. (a) Carriers, (b) Craft, (c) Personnel, (d) Accommodation. (Hd. of M., to C.in C. Med., 1936/13). See Med. Vol.

Syria,
Navicerts.

Syria will be included in Navicert area on 18/11 after which it will be compulsory for all ships sailing from or to Syria to have ship navicerts. Above does not apply to French ships which are to be sent in unless sailing under special arrangements. (D.E.W.D. to C.in C. Med., etc. 2100/13).

M.N.B.O.O.

Your 1941/9. If the M.N.B.O.O. can be spared from U.K. it can be usefully employed in the Mediterranean. (C.in C. Med., to Admty. 1055/13).

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East Indies.

Navicerts,
Madagascar.

On 18/11, compulsory for ships sailing from or to Madagascar and Reunion to have ship navicerts. (D.E.W.D. to C.in C.E.I., 2057/13).

NIEUW HOLLAND.

D.S.T. 2232/7, and C.in C. E.I. 0756/8. NIEUW HOLLAND sailed Bombay 11/11. Date of arrival Durban and requirements. (P.S.T.O. Bombay, 0800 Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

CANBERRA
DURBAN
CRICKET
CAPETOWN
WESTRALIA

(i) at sunset 13/11 CANBERRA is to proceed to establish a patrol along latitude 010° 00' South between longitudes 090° East and 085° East. Speed on patrol 12 knots. In absence of further information of raider, at sunset 14/11 CANBERRA is to proceed to Fremantle.
(ii) at sunset 13 DURBAN is to proceed to Nancowry to fuel and escort CRICKET to rendezvous with CAPETOWN.
(iii) CAPETOWN is to sail from Colombo at 1530Z/13 and proceed to rendezvous with DURBAN and CRICKET as arranged by DURBAN.
(iv) WESTRALIA as in my 1028/12 (C.in C. E.I., 1112Z/13).

My 1112/13. Cancel paragraphs two and three and substitute (ii) CAPE TOWN is to sail from Colombo at 1630Z/13 and proceed so as to arrive at Australian port A.M./16. After fuelling from Oiler PEARLEAF she is to escort CRICKET to Colombo. (iii) DURBAN is to proceed so as to arrive Nancowry 16/11 for fuel informing CRICKET and Oiler PEARLEAF of para two above. DURBAN on arrival report to C.in C. E.I., C.in C. China, and CAPETOWN, (a) time DURBAN will be ready to proceed again, (b) whether CRICKET will have steam before CAPETOWN arrives. (C.in C. E.I., 1406Z/13).

WOOLWICH.

Your 1434/12. Intend sailing 0900Z/15. (WOOLWICH 1203/13).

OLE JACOB#)
AUTOMEDON)

My 1644/10 and 0606/12. Further information concerning distress messages made by these ships from 1347/10 G.M.T. Conclusion that OLE JACOB#, Norwegian tanker, is now in enemy hands. (C.in C. E.I., 1322 Z/13 amplified 1444/13).

PROTECTOR
SHROPSHIRE.

My 0744/11. Tug PROTECTOR has reported her position in 016° 12' N. 062° 32' E. at 0800 Z/12. She is proceeding Bombay SHROPSHIRE is proceeding Aden and oiler SLAVOL to Colombo. (C.in C. E.I., 1324 Z/13).

/ U.S.6
/ E.N.8½

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Continued)

U.S.6.
B.N.8½.

Convoy U.S.6 transhipped completely at Bombay to Convoy B.N.8½ and sailed Nov. 12th.

America and West Indies.

Italian
Contraband.

Intercepted letter. Goods for Italy left New York in U.S. ship SEAFX now named MORMACKPORT on 25/10 due Buenos Aires about 14/11. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1503/13).

ANGLO-SAXON,
sunk by raider
21/8.

My 1600/6. Names of 2 survivors of S.S. ANGLO-SAXON (in reply to inquiry by D.T.D.) Following is summary mainly from log kept by Chief Officer Denning. Raider believed to be WESER or WEBER which confirmed by Widdicombe attacked ship in position latitude 026° 10' North longitude 034° 09' West 2020/21/8. Shelled without warning range 1 mile with 4 inch gun then closed 3 cables raking deck with machine guns and pompoms. Ship sunk only 1 boat believed got away with 7 of crew. 5 dead by 9/9 survivors drifted ashore Eleuthera 30/10. Widdicombe states master killed while dumping ships papers although log shows found dead in cabin. Comments. Consider confidential books if not dumped were destroyed as ship soon on fire. (S.O.I., Kingston 1147/13) Your 1625/9 and my 2313/12 ANGLO SAXON attacked at 2020 ships time 21/8 in 026° 10' N. 034° 09' W. by ship thought to be of Hamburg America Line similar to WESER. Raider not seen until within 1 mile when firing was opened with 4 inch without warning immediately wrecking guns and poop. W/T office smashed before report could be sent. Raider then closed within 3 cables raking bridge and deck with pom-poms and machine guns using tracers. Engine room hit and boiler burst. Many of crew killed in attempt to reach boats. 2 big life boats badly damaged. Gig with 7 survivors pulled away unseen whilst raider was firing machine guns at 2 life rafts already launched. Evidently intention was to sink without trace. ANGLO SAXON on fire sank stern first and raider disappeared eastwards. Gig remained afloat to all night but no wreckage sighted, eventually reached Bahamas. 5 survivors perished on passage. Diary kept by mate records ANGLO SAXON carried only one breaker half filled and suggests that life boats should carry more breakers and food, particularly tinned fruit. (C.in C. A. W. I. 1152/13.).

13.11.1940.
Wednesday.
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS..America and West Indies. (Continued) 367U.S. Ships.

C.in C. East Indies' 1844Z/11. Suggest supply of confidential navigational information to U.S. Ships undesirable at present. Should entry of U.S.A. into the war appear probable suggest supply of information to U.S. Ships by N.C.S.Os on all stations as for Allied ships. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1336/13).

Town Destroyers.

Expect LANCASTER, MANSFIELD, SHERWOOD, CHESTERFIELD to reach vicinity 052° 40' north 032° 30' west by 0230 Z 15/11 thence being guided by your 1436/12. They have been ordered to proceed Belfast on completion of search in absence of other instructions. (F.O.C. 3rd B.S. 1142/13 to Admiralty).

China.Shore Defences.

Your 0545/11/10. Owing to limited stock of 4.7" and 4" guns available at Indian ports, Colombo and Singapore, no alteration to arrangements in Admty. 1414/7/10 is considered advisable. (D. of L.D. to C.in C. China, 1732/13).

Australia.U.S.7.

STRATHMORE from Sydney for Melbourne for fuel, taken nil, remaining 1860 tons. (A.C.N.B., 0214 Z/13, to D. of S.T.)

New Zealand.TURAKINA
wreckage

My 0835Z/20/8. Wreckage ^{was} worked up West Coast, North Island, New Zealand, little doubt that of TURAKINA (N.Z.N.B., 0229Z/13) (TURAKINA reported attack by raider 20/8).



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CAPE ST. ANDREW
sunk.

CAPE ST. ANDREW, British 5094 tons.
SSSS position 55° 40' N. 11° 31' W.
approx. (Valentia Radio 1931/13)
Torpedoed 55° 14' N., 010° 29' W.
Am hunting. (HURRICANE, 2030/13 to
C.in C. W.A.). Was originally in Convoy
O.B.240 became disabled, and was reported
to be drifting on 11/11. Sank after being
torpedoed, 78 m. W. of Bloody Foreland.
14 of crew missing, the rest having been
picked up by tug SALVONIA (D.S. 436).

Submarines Reported.

2050.

D.F. Italian U Boat in approximate
position between 045° and 047° N.,
006° and 007° W. probably homeward
bound. (V.A.S. 2117/13 to S/M's on
patrol Area B).

2030.

55° 14' N., 10° 29' W. (D.D.I.C. 2205/13
and 2310/13).

1208.

59° N., 19° - 20° W. indefinite position.
(D.S. 436).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

No reliable reports have been received.
Italian - 1 in Atlantic N. of 55° N.,
whereabouts unknown.

No news of any others.

German - 1 some 220 miles S.W. of
Fastnet at 1251/12 may be
bound northwards.

2 in area 54° to 56° N:
10° to 15° W.

1 in area 55° to 56° N;
15° to 20° W.

1 in area 57° to 59° N:
18° to 22° W.

1 in area 60° to 61° N:
about 20° W.

1 in northern North Sea
homeward bound. (D.D.I.C.
1206/13).

14.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

JAGUAR and JUPITER last night carried out a patrol between Eddystone and 3° W.

H.M. Drifter
THE BOYS
Lost

H.M. Drifter THE BOYS foundered in violent weather at 0800 today, whilst in tow near South Goodwin buoy.

Enemy
Barges

Bomber Command aircraft report having sighted 300 barges stationary without lights off Terschelling at 2300 today.

FAME

An attempt to refloat FAME today failed and it is anticipated that the destroyer suffered further damage.

British Air Activity

Security patrols were extended today to visibility distance of the Norwegian and Danish coasts. A reconnaissance of the coast from Trondheim to Stadlandet and an offensive patrol as far as possible into the Skaggerak were carried out.

Patrols in connection with the search for the ADMIRAL SCHEER were again flown N.W. of the Butt of Lewis to 17° W., and also covering the French Biscay ports.

Specially equipped Whitley aircraft carried out A/S sweeps in the Western Approaches.

Single aircraft attacked Calais, the docks and shipyards at Wilhelmshaven, and docks at Bremerhaven.

Enemy Air Activity

SS FISHPOOL
Bombed

SS FISHPOOL in Convoy O.B. 242 was bombed this morning about 250 miles west of Malin Head and was apparently damaged (tugs ordered to be sent 17/11)

/Air Attack.....



14.11.1940
Thursday

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Air Attack
on Dover
SHIPMATES
Sunk
LORD HOWE
YORKSHIRE LASS
CIRRUS
Damaged

Dover was bombed this afternoon, when H.M. drifter SHIPMATES was sunk in the Submarine basin, and H.M. Drifters LORD HOWE, YORKSHIRE LASS and M/L CIRRUS were damaged. Some damage was caused to buildings in the dockyard. The enemy aircraft incurred heavy losses from our fighters.

M.L. 120

M.L. 120 on passage to Sheerness had casualties to all her 6 upper deck ratings this afternoon from 2 very low flying M.E. 109's which presented easy targets. M.L. 120's machine gun jammed after firing 2 rounds.

SS ST. CATHERINE

SS. ST. CATHERINE (1216 tons) was sunk by torpedo from an enemy aircraft while proceeding from Aberdeen to join Convoy E.N.25 this evening.

SS LILY

(Bombed 12/11) Arrived in the Clyde today.

Mining

Operation
B.S. 46

TEVIOT BANK and PLOVER, with ICARUS laid a further line of mines in the East Coast Mine Barrier today. PLOVER did not lay. (See p. 361)

Enemy
Minelaying

Mines were found today in the Thames Estuary, Tyne, Hartlepool, Plymouth.

Minelaying on a heavy scale took place in the Firth of Forth last night. The positions of 13 mines reported falling were noted.

3 mines were exploded off the Humber today and a mine was exploded at 1040 one cable on the port beam of T.H.V. STRATHEARN just inside the Humber boom. (p. 420)

/M/S Trawlers.....



War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday 372

SITUATION REPORT

Mining- Contd.

M/S Trawler
JEAN EDMUNDS
Damaged

M/S Trawler JEAN EDMUNDS provoked a mine this afternoon off Inchkeith and was damaged and beached in Granton Harbour.

M. V. FAIRY

M.V. FAIRY (204 tons) was mined off the Humber this morning and was towed into Grimsby Roads. Salvage is being attempted.

Plymouth is open between 0930 and sunset. The Humber was closed at 0341 but was reopened at 0928. The Tyne was opened at 1327, but Blyth is still closed.

Operations Against Vichy French

Port Gentil was occupied by Free French Forces at 0830/14. F.O.I.C.S. considers there is little object in continuing the patrol in the Libreville-Port Gentil area after 16/11, but in view of our promises to Gen. de Gaulle it is to be maintained for the present.

The French Hospital Ship CANADA sailed from Liverpool at 1100/14 although her safe conduct does not operate until 17/11. C. in C., Western Approaches has ordered WESTCOTT to intercept and send her to Belfast or Clyde until that date.

A Tangier report states that the French cruiser PRIMAUGUET sailed from Casablanca on the night of 11/11 southbound.

Mediterranean

Mediterranean
Fleet

The main part of the Mediterranean Fleet returned to Alexandria a.m. from its week's operations in the Central Mediterranean. MALAYA, BARHAM and AJAX were detached on 12/11 to fuel at Suda Bay. During the week ILLUSTRIOUS lost 3 Swordfish aircraft due to forced landings in sea, but all crews were saved. The operations showed the inestimable value of Suda Bay as a fuelling base. Two unsuccessful attempts to bomb the Fleet were made during the operations. A total of 7 enemy aircraft were shot down.

/URSULA.....

14.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST

The submarines URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST have been placed under the orders of C. in C., Mediterranean, in view of the importance of cutting Italian lines of communication to Libya.

There were 2 air raids on Alexandria this evening. No damage resulted. A destroyer was hit by an incendiary bomb, but no damage is reported (Air Min D.S.) Egyptian SS ZAMZAM (8299 tons) received considerable damage (D.S. 441)

Blenheims last night successfully bombed shipping at Benghazi, barracks at Derna, Bardia and Sidi Barrani.

APHIS last night bombarded Maktila (East of Sidi Barrani) in cooperation with R.A.F.

R.A.F. Attack
Taranto

10 Wellingtons from Malta, attacked Taranto last night. 14-500 lbs of G.P. bombs and 1440 lbs incendiaries were dropped in the eastern part of the main dock in the inner harbour. Two very large explosions and fires were caused. 4500 lbs G.P. bombs and 480lbs incendiaries were dropped on the naval oil tanks and destroyer pens starting fires: a stick of 5 bombs was seen to explode along the wall and pens where many destroyers were docked.

America & West Indies

U.S. Destroyers are patrolling off Tampico and in the Florida Straits to shadow German ships if they attempt to escape.

14.11.40.
Thursday.

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Rosyth Area.
A/P Trawlers
for
Patrols.

Admty. 1819/25/10 and 1310/26/10 also C.in C. Rosyth's 1559/27/10. Request arrangements be made to replace by A/P Trawlers M/S vessels and A/P vessels which are unable to operate during the winter. To maintain patrols the following additional trawlers are required. Hartlepool 6. Invergordon 3. Leith 2. Dundee 2. (S.O.A.P. Leith 1040/14 to C.in C. Rosyth). *See also C.in C. Rosyth, 2014/15, p. 413.*

23rd D.F.

To be transferred to W.A. Command. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1918/14 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Nore Command
Light Vessels.

Your 1704/8. Light Vessels will be withdrawn and replaced by Light Buoys as opportunity offers. (Hydrographer 1829/14 to C.in C. Nore).

11th M/S
Flotilla.

A.M.2302/22/10. Request I may be informed when return of 11th M/S Flotilla to Clyde may be expected. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1128/14 to Adty).

Your 1128/14. 11th M.S.F. is the only mine clearance force on the West Coast. It is Intended they shall remain at Milford Haven until a more seaworthy flotilla is available there; this will not be for some months. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1928/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

French Ships.

Your 1044/12. Approved. (D.P.S. 2334/14 to F.O.I.C. Southampton).

Defence of United Kingdom.

R.N. Air Station,
Defences.

Your 1725/11. (R.N.A.S. Campbeltown 0050/14 to Adty).

"Deluge"
Defences.

At 1130/14. (D.C.1135/14).

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Thursday. 375

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Scapa
Defences.

I observe in Appendix A to War Office letter enclosed with A.L.M. 019767/40 of 6/11 the A.A. heavy guns at present authorized for Scapa number 64. Present number is 88 and no reduction can be accepted. See my X 1738/3/9 and 1727/24/9. Request appendix be amended accordingly.
(A.C.O.S. 1235/14 to Adty).

Plymouth
A/A Defences.

C.in C. W.A. 1704/13. Request you consider implementing this requirement. Winches are available from Naval sources.
(D. of L.D. 2225/14 to Air Ministry).

Reply: Air Min., 1150/15, p. 414.

Movements.

The Downs.

Eight M.V's, two balloon tugs, one M.L. and DEODAR of C.E.16 are scattered between Ramsgate and Dover proceeding to Southend. M.L.120 is in Dover.
(V.A. Dover 0750/14 to C.in C. Nore).

AUSTRALIA.

My 2121/11, para.2. AUSTRALIA is to be sailed from Clyde as additional Escort for W.S. 4B. (V.C.N.S. 1103/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

ADASTRAL.

My 1821/13. Returned to Dartmouth. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1107/14 to N.C.S.O. Milford Haven).

CLEVELAND.)
KINGSTON OLIVINE.)

Report your position. (C.in C. Nore 1113/14 to CLEVELAND).

EDINBURGH.

C.in C. H.F. 2351/13. Expected time of arrival 1300/15, passing into W.A. Area at 0030/15. (EDINBURGH 1139/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

Escort for
WS.4B.

Your 2037/13. Approved. (V.C.N.S. 1152/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Nore Command.

Movements to 1200/15. (C.in C. Nore 1200/14 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

GARDENIA.

My noon position 55° 13'N., 10° 40'W. Sinking ship not sighted. (GARDENIA 1202/14 to C.in C. W.A.)

FOWEY.

Sail at 1530/15 and anchor off Methil. Proceed as additional A/A Escort with EN.26 sailing 0800/16 and transfer to WN.39 due Cape Wrath 0130/17 and escort to Methil. (C.in C. Rosyth 1214/14 to FOWEY).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. (A.C.O.S.1542/14).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 14/15. (V.A. Dover 1544/14).

VELOX.

My 1217/10 and 1643/11. Request you detach VELOX from 51° N., 20° W., through 36° 30'N., 10° W. to Gibraltar. Route of VELOX to be modified if fuel necessitates. (C.in C. W.A. 1615/14 to C.S.18).

Nore and Harwich.

Movements Summary. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1730/14 to WIDGEON).

KENYA.

Your 1335/14. KENYA is waiting at Belfast until Plymouth considered safe for her entry as ordered in my 2257/8. (C.in C. W.A. 2021/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

5th D.F.

PRU report shows three and possibly more destroyers in Brest today. Despatch of four of 5th D.F. as approved in your 1152/14 would leave only one or two serviceable destroyers in Plymouth till November 22nd. Request therefore that BATH, ST. ALBANS, ST MARYS may be made available for escort of Convoy W.S.4B. on November 17th in lieu of 5th D.F. (C.in C. W.A. 2049/14 to Adty).

NIGERIA.

Expect ready for service p.m./20. (C.in C. W.A. 2212/14 to Adty).

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations.

FURIOUS
SOUTHAMPTON
Operation
"Collar".

C.in C. W.A. 1217/10 and N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1738/13. SOUTHAMPTON cannot be sailed in time to R/V in 54° 45'N., (?) 5° 12'W. at 1940/15. Intend sail CAIRO to R/V in 270 Chicken Rock 8 miles at 1700/15. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/14 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Request you sail SOUTHAMPTON to R/V in position H in C.in C. W.A. 1217/10. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2000/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

Dover
Shelled.

Between 1622 and 1653 Enemy Coastal Batteries fired about ten rounds which fell near R.M. Siege Battery. No damage or casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 1946/14 to Adty).

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

My 1942/12. Evidence of Board of Enquiry confirms that enemy had one triple turret forward and one aft. Single funnel with cowl similar to RESOLUTION of which class he was first thought to be by many survivors. Foremast with compact bridge structure and some evidence of short mainmast well abaft the funnel. Secondary Armament and Ships.

My 2330/14 part two.

Typical shell hole in JERVIS BAY'S side assessed as 12 inches in diameter. Enemy sighted steering South altered to West to open A arc and fired triple salvo from single turret fore and aft at high rate of fire presumably giving impression of six - gun salvo referred to in my 1942/12. Very small spread. Enemy concentrated on JERVIS BAY before molesting convoy and opened fire with time fuze shell high explosives or Shrapnel from secondary armament at the end of action while survivors were abandoning.

(F.O.C.3B.S. 2318/14 to Adty).

Part three final. Complete absence of funnel smoke from enemy was particularly noticed. Survivors rescued in 052° 41' N., 032° 17' W. close to position of sinking. Handling of JERVIS BAY by Captain and conduct of all on board was in accordance with best traditions. Recommendations for immediate awards will follow.

(F.O.C. 3rd. B.S. 2330/14 to Adty).

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Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Submarines.

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock.1337/14).

SEAWOLF.

Expected time of arrival. Position
W. 0832/15. (SEAWOLF 0600/14 to C.in C.
Portsmouth).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/15. (V.A.S
1707/14).

British Air Activity.

R/C of Norwegian
Coast.

C.in C. H.F. 1926/13. Request you
arrange this if possible.
(Adty. 0135/14 to A.C C.in C. CC).

Nore.

Dawn reconnaissance not carried out.
(C.in C. Nore 0725/14).

SA.IA.
SA.IE.

Security patrols today are being extended
to visibility distance of the Norwegian
and Danish Coasts. S A 1(A) is being
substituted for S.A.1(E) and also to
carry out reconnaissance of coast from
Trondheim to Stadlandet. Offensive
patrol enter Skagerak as far as
possible.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0920/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

Report of Airman
in Sea.

Whenever Airman reported in sea, F.O or
N.O.I.C. concerned is to report by signal
to Adty. giving following particulars.
(A.C.N.S. (H. 1315/14 to C's in C.)

Stavanger.
Norwegian
Coast.

Three aircraft are carrying out a bombing
attack on Stavanger aerodromes tonight.

One Sunderland will carry out a moonlight
reconnaissance of Norwegian Coast from
the Approaches to Trondheim to 61° 30' N
the aircraft not to enter Fjords but
keep to sea in visibility distance of
coast. Aircraft to take off 2359 and
land in daylight.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1732/14 to Adty).

Priority of
Inland Photographic
reconnaissance.

A566 14/11 during alert No.3 or until
further orders when weather conditions
are favourable for deep penetration the
photography of important objectives
inland as indicated from time to time is
to take priority over daily reconnaissances
of invasion ports.
(Air Ministry 1545/14 to C.C.)



MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Rosyth.

Air Escort for 15/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1924/14). The following Patrols will become daily routine until further orders. Parallel Track search by 2 Hudsons leaving line Butt of Lewis and 30° Butt of Lewis 30 miles at dawn, for 360 miles on 300°, thence on 80° to 10° W, then to base. (C.in C. Rosyth 2028/14 to C.in C. H.F.).

SA.1A.

SA.2.

SA.3.

Patrol S.A.1 A will be flown instead of S.A.1 E. a.m. tomorrow Friday, taking off at first light and will be extended to Norwegian Coast if cloud cover permits. S.A.2 and S.A.3 also extended to Coast will take off at 1030 tomorrow and will not repeat not be repeated p.m. Two Southern tracks of S.A.2 will be extended to 7 degrees East. Offensive patrol Lister to Horns Reef will be extended into Skaggerak if cover permits and will be flown concurrently with S.A.3.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2242/14 to Adty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Basem."
BOSON.

One aircraft shadowing in 50° 36'N., 0° 20'W. (FERNIE 0907/14 to Culver W/T).

FISHPOOL.

Bombed in 55° 30'N., 16° 10'W. (Valentia Radio). (1027/14). Detail one Destroyer to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1157/14 to WANDERER) Proceed to assist (C.in C. W.A. 1431/14 to GARDENIA).

ST. CATHERINE.

Sunk on way to join N.Bound Convoy E.M.25 at 1800/14 in 4 minutes by aerial torpedo 1/4 mile S. of outer buoy swept channel. Survivors of crew 14 out of 28, Master and 2nd Officer lost, 3 out of 4 passengers saved. Survivors brought in by BERRIEDALE also joining convoy. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1125/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Convoy "Aver."
ARENA.

10 aircraft in 51° 35'N., 1° 10'E. (WOLSEY 1136/14) One aircraft in 51° 30'N 1° 9'E. (VERDUN 1317/14) Enemy disappeared (VERDUN 1320/14).



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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Alpha."
ALPHA.

One aircraft shadowing in 57° 17'N.,
0° 15'W. (ICARUS 1733/14).

SHIPMATES)
LORD HOWE)

(H.M. Drifters). SHIPMATES sunk and
LORD HOWE damaged by aircraft bombing
in Dover Harbour at about 1415/14. 1
missing, 6 injured. (LYNX 1845/14 to
Adty).

YORKSHIRE LASS }
(Drifter) }
M/L. CIRRUS. }

Damaged by bombs during attack on Dover
at 1420/14. No barrage Balloons flying.
Some damage to buildings.
(V.A. Dover 1946/14 to Adty).

Dover,
*use of U.P.
equipment.*

At 1420 today 25 J.U 87's escorted by
M.E.109's approached Dover from North
East at 11,000 feet and dive bombed the
Harbour. 60 Rounds were fired by 'B'
Battery of the U.P's in two Salvoes of
30, and 30 Rounds by 'A' Battery. At
least six Junkers went right through
the U.P. Barrage and several Machines
subsequently crashed but it is not
possible positively to determine the
cause as our Fighters were attacking.
(V.A. Dover 1947/14 to Adty).

See also Admty. 1903/15, p. 419.

Mining.

Humber.

Closed (F.O. Humber 0341/14).
Open (F.O. Humber 0928/14).

S.N.45.

My 1504/13. Completed(RAML 0921/14).

Thames Estuary.

1 Red mine detonated by L.L. at 1915/13
in 48° knob L.V. 4 cables. (Capt:
M/S. 1009/14 to C.in C. Nore).

Tyne.

1 Ground Magnetic Mine detonated L.L. in
70° North Tyne Pier Light 12½ cables
at 1225/14. (PMSO South Shields 1308/14
to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Great Bromley,
Essex.

2 mines dropped last night by parachute.
One did not explode. (F.O.I.C.
Harwich 1315/14 to Adty).

Channel.

At 1145, 5 M/V's stationary halfway
between Cherbourg and Isle of Wight
possibly minelaying. (V.A.S. 1326/14 to
UNIQUE).



WAR DIARY.

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Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining. (Contd.).

Tyne)
Blyth.)

Tyne open. Blyth still closed.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1327/14 to LOWESTOFT).

Tyne.

Port Open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1400/14).

Thames
Estuary.

Balloon Drifter in position 51 28' 9" North 0 51' 45" East reports that at 1845/13 a parachute and splash of mine dropping in sea was observed 500 yards S. by W. from this position. In view of depth of water there appears to be a good chance of recovery of mine.
(C.in C. Nore 1411/14 to Adty).

B.S.46.

Completed. Length 7 miles. PLOVER did not lay. (TEVIOT BANK 1446/14 to Adty).

Hartlepool.

One mine exploded spontaneously at 1410/14 in 54° 39' 45" N., 1° 7' 18" W., (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1515/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Blyth.

My 2247/13. Not now anticipated that Port will be opened till 1400/15.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 1528/14 to Adty).

FAIRY.

(Motor Vessel 20~~7~~ tons) Mined 1-1/2 miles E. of Chequer Shoal Buoy at 1110 today. Ship has been towed into Grimsby Roads and salvage is being attempted. Speed 6-1/2 knots. Course S.E. by E. Explosion 10 yards dead astern. Large flame. Three men injured.
(F.O. Humber 1612/14 to C.in C. Nore).

Firth of Forth.

Approximate positions of 11 Mines laid and 4 splashes reported on 13/11 are as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 1621/14 to Adty).

Acoustic
Mines.
Precautions.

To safeguard against acoustic mines following precautions are recommended when in mined waters:-
(D.M.S. 1730/14) (Ad.Message Home 952.AZ).

Harwich
Area. Search.

Your 1601/14, weather permitting intend

/sailing

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Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining. (Contd.)

Harwich Area.
Search. (Contd.)

sailing 5 or 6 Fleet Sweepers at 0730 tomorrow to make high percentage search of Area ordered. Request Air protection South Ship Wash at 0830. Thence to 52° 05' North at 1000 and between 52° 5' North 1° 51' East 52° 12' N 1° 59' East from 1000 to 1630, then for return to Harwich.

Humber.

1108 a skid exploded a mine in 262° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.4 miles. At 1115 and 1125 mines exploded near the Fairey and Robrix in 170 Chequer Shoal Buoy 5 cables and 154° Chequer Shoal Buoy four and a half cables. L.L. trawlers report explosions appeared of magnetic type and that they swept over these positions at 1015.

(F.O. Humber 1800/14 to Adty). *See also 1014/15.
P. 420*

Harwich Area.

Weather permitting intend sailing 3 Paddle Minesweepers tomorrow Friday at 0730 to continue clearance to west of 'X'. Request fighter protection from 0830 to 1530 between 51 degs. 50" North, 01 degs. 47" East and 51 degs. 45" North, 1 deg. 41" East.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1911/14 to C.in C. Nore).

Plymouth.

Since my 1848/12 one Mine exploded spontaneously in 160 degs. Breakwater Fort 9 cables at 0557. (C.in C. W.A. 2002/14 to Adty).

Belfast.

D.G. range closed. Suspected minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2245/14).

Firth of Forth.

Minelaying on a heavy scale has taken place in Firth of Forth tonight 13/14. 13 mines have been reported falling and approximate positions noted.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2358/14 to Adty).

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Thursday,

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Lister.

D/F bearings at 1012 B.S.T. indicate Enemy. Surface Craft in area off Lister Light. (D.D.I.C. 1124/14 to C.in C. H.F.) (V.A.S. 1149/14 to S/M's Area A).

Bergen.

From W.T.I. It is possible that a German Naval Unit may leave Bergen area this evening for the Skaggerak. (D.D.I.C. 1850/14 to C.in C. H.F.)

[Received too late for surface intervention, see 1031/16, p. 446.]



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Thursday.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

THE BOYS.

(H.M. DRIFTER). Foundered at 0800/14 near S.W. Goodwin Buoy while in tow of Tug. Crew rescued by tug. (V.A. Dover 1057/14 to Adty).

High Speed
Launch 104.

Search for Launch, broken down in $56^{\circ} 22'N.$, $0^{\circ} 47'W.$, at 1030. Do not enter Mine Barrier. (C.in C. Rosyth 1122/14 to KELLETT) One A/C remains over Launch. Remaining 3 trying to lead you to her. (C.in C. Rosyth 1638/14 to KELLETT). Tow Launch to Aberdeen if weather suitable, otherwise Dundee. (C.in C. Rosyth 2253/14 to KELLETT).

VEGA.

Weather permitting intend sail VEGA in tow of ST. MELLONS for Hull on 16/11. Proposed route. (C.in C. Nore 1216/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

NORTHERN PRINCESS.

Have ship in tow in $62^{\circ} 6'N.$, $16^{\circ} 32'W.$ Proceeding Reykjavik. (NORTHERN DUKE 1300/14 to S.O. Trawlers N.P.)

AUSTRALIA.

Pronounced vibration from shafts causing concern. Further report will be made. (AUSTRALIA 0854/14).

FAME.

Attempt to refloat was made today. Heavy swell developed about half tide. Vessel commenced pounding heavily and was flooded down. It is anticipated that bottom has sustained further damage extent of which cannot be ascertained until A.M. tomorrow Friday. Further report will then be made. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2235/14 to Adty).

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Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping.

Convoys.

→ S.L.53.

Join S.L.53 . position and route.
(C.in C. W.A. 1222/14 to SALADIN, CLARKIA)
Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1540/14 to ARROW
CROCUS, HEARTSEASE, etc.)

S.L.56.

R/V and date. (N.C.S.O. Freetown to
Adty.) (in reply to 1843/12), (1037/14).

E.N.
25.

Time. Additional escort. HASTINGS,
JASON. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1050/14).

S.C.13.

Route. Date. (D.T.D. 1535/14).

S.C.9.

7 hours late at R/V. scattered in gale,
26/10. All now reported. (D.T.D.
1745/14).

→ W.N.

Concur your 2357/13. Important W.N.
Convoys make passage of Pentland Firth
before necessary to ask for shore light.
(A.C.O.S. 1225/14 to C.in C. Rosyth).

→ S.L.53.

My 1317/13. 8 hours late at R/V.
Endeavour meet before dusk.
(C.in C. W.A. to BROKE, ARABIS, HEARTSEASE
etc. 0950/14).

→ E.N.. W.N.

Your 2357/13. routing instructions.
Concur. (C.in C. W.A. to C.in C. Rosyth),
(1110/14).

W.N.36.

NORTHERN GEM with ~~post~~ passing
Duncansby Head at 1100. (A.C.O.S.1105/14).

W.N.35.

Belgian ANVERS sunk during air attack
at 1754/13. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0147/14).

H.G.46.

Route. (C.in C. W.A. to WANDERER, WILD
SWAN, WARWICK, CLARE, 1220/14).

E.N.26.)
W.N.29.)

Additional A/A escort, FOWEY. (C.in C.
Rosyth 1214/14).

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

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H.X.84.
(Attacked by
Raider 5/11).

Master of M.V. MORSKA WOLA (Polish) ex
convoy H.X. 84 reports that he left
convoy on 2/11 on account of engine defects
and that he was 120 miles 300 degrees
from scene of attack when it took place.
Reports also that SAN DEMETRIO Tanker
left convoy on 1/11 on account of engine
defects.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2115/14).

Routes
Compromised.

Wireless operator of Greek ship
ANTONIOS CHANDRIS, sunk by German raider
reports that (1) instructions for
rejoining convoy by D.F.2. wireless
log previous to February 1940 shows
position of general convoy routes
between Canada and United Kingdom have
fallen into hands of enemy. [Repetition, p. 448]
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1774/14).

W.S.4.B.

My 2121/11. AUSTRALIA to be sailed from
Clyde as additional escort. (D.O.D.(H)
1103/14). DEVONSHIRE to form part of
escort to the Cape. (D.O.D.(F) 0036/14
to C.in C. S.A.) Route. (C.in C. W.A.
1331/14). Adty 1435/14. To proceed
from Freetown as one convoy escorted
by CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE.
(D.O.D.(F) 0038/14).

W.S.4A.)
W.S.4C.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Operations Against Vichy French

Air
Reconnaissance

Your 1635/13 and 2315/13. Reconnaissance by Walrus A/C report 1 destroyer, 1 sloop and 1 M.V. 006° 20' N., 002° 26' E., steering 236° at 0724. (C.S.I., 0914A/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

Salvage
Libreville

Nigerian marine Salvage expert and plant available and ready to proceed Libreville p.m/15. Guaranteed payment under A.F.O. 3360/40 (C.S.I., 1031/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

CANADA

Sailed French Hospital ship CANADA E.T.A. 21/11. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1104/14 to Admty.)
Sailed from Liverpool 1104/14 through N. Channel and through 055° 17' N., 006° 00' W. speed 11 knots. Safe conduct does not operate until 17/11. Intercept and send to Belfast or Clyde to wait until then. (C. in C., W.A. 1521/14 to WESTCOTT)
Your 1813 (asking whether CANADA had been intercepted) Reply No. Am 4 miles past her estimated position. (WESTCOTT 1840/14 to C. in C., W.A.)
My 1840/14, intend patrolling between Mull of Kin Tyre to Altacarryhead to intercept CANADA. (WESTCOTT 1911/14 to C. in C., W.A.)
Following to CANADA. If you have not already met British destroyer proceed to Clyde and await orders. (C. in C., W.A. 2115/14 to WESTCOTT)

PRIMAUGUET

Report received from secret source, Tangier that she sailed from Casablanca night of 11/11 South bound. (B.1.) F.O.C.N.A. 0008/14 to C. in C., S.A.) Repeated by C. in C., S.A. 1315N/14 to 1st Cruiser Squadron)

FORT DE TROYON
(French, 5206 tons)

Free French Authorities apprehensive FORT DE TROYON may try to reach a Vichy port. Carried armed guard, ships asked to keep a good look out. (F.O.C.I.C.S. 1459/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Port Gentil.....



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Operations Against Vichy French- Contd.

Port Gentil
Occupied

Port Gentil occupied by Free French at 0830. Although both ports at present are without seaward defence there would appear to be little object in continuation patrol now in Libreville Port Gentil area. On leaving Lagos in NEPTUNE intend proceeding to interview authorities at Duala and obtain their views on future defence of this area without in any way committing H.M.G. In meanwhile propose leaving patrol vacant after 16th November. (C.S.1. 1052A/14 to Admty.)

Patrol to
Continue

Do not wish to maintain patrol off the Duala to Point Noire area longer than necessary, but in view of promises to de Gaulle the patrol must be maintained. Suggestion re interview at Duala and use of guns ex BOUGAINVILLE for coast defence. (1st S.L. 2331/14 to C.S. 1.)

F.O.C.1.C.S. 1052A/14 (proposal to proceed to Manoka to interview authorities at Duala) I concur but consider some force should remain in this area for present such force depends on C.S. 1's report after interview with authorities at Duala (C. in C., S.A. 2019/14 to Admty.)

Enemy Reports

Following received from aircraft attached to DEVONSHIRE. 2 destroyers 1 M.V. bearing 287° distant 6 miles approx. course 236° My position 060, 6° N., 2° E., 36, based on a fix obtained within half an hour of 0700 (DEVONSHIRE 0720/14 to DRAGON)

Your 1735/13 and your 2315/13. Reconnaissance by Walrus aircraft reports one destroyer one Sloop and one Merchant vessel in position 006° 20' N., 002° 26' E steering 236° at 0724. (C.S.1., 0914A/14 to C. in C., S.A.)

/INDO-CHINOIS....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

INDO-CHINOIS

Your 1039/13 para (2) re sailing of INDO-CHINOIS. Request information what local agents being employed, undesirable should be known yet that ship is likely to sail. No accommodation at Freetown for passengers of INDO-CHINOIS and unlikely from para (6) of your signal that any neutral ship will be available in near future intend to ask Governor, Sierra Leone to repatriate over border to French Guinea. If the 1258 passengers in CUBA are to be repatriated further alternative might be to ask French to send ship for them under safe conduct. An internment camp in Sierra Leone to take a large number where crews and passengers of ships could be accommodated temporarily or permanently is important requirement. Possible that a transport might be brought in at any time and no organization exists to accommodate troops while arrangements for internment or repatriation are made. (C. in C., S.A. 1759/14 to Admty.)

CUBA
French Enquiry

My 1731/22/8 and your 1844/14/9. French N.A. tells me CUBA sailed from Martinique 26/10 for Casablanca and has not been heard of. Can I give any news. (N.A. Madrid 2015/14 to Admty.)



FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

→ Operations
"White" and
"Collar"

Your 2120/11 re R.V. of NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD for "White" and "Collar" para (111) Amended R/V with SHEFFIELD position at 1500/21. (S.O. Force H., 1134/14 to Admty.)

Operation
"Collar"

Arrangements (S.O. Force H 1643/14 to C. in C., Med. See Operations Volume.

→ DESPATCH
WRESTLER

Arrived Gibraltar 14/11, 1200. (S.O. (1) Gibraltar 1244/14 to Admty.)

TRIUMPH

Report e.t.a. 270° Cape Trafalgar 35 miles which should be in daylight. KINGSTON TURQUOISE now on patrol in Cadiz area to N. of 036° 31' N., will escort you from position off Cape Trafalgar to Gibraltar (F.O.C.N.A., 1634/14 to TRIUMPH)

ARK ROYAL

Air Min. X 146 14/11 suggests 2 R/V's with ARK ROYAL. Either 38° 10' N., 3° 20' E., at 1700 zone minus one 16/11 Or approximately 37° 55' N., 7° E., at 0800 zone minus one 17/11. F.O.H. prefers first position which could be combined with his requested reconnaissance Request observation of recognition procedure. (200 Group, 1735/14 to H.Q. Malta.

Re Aerial Parachute mines and Aerial Parachute anti pursuit mines (S.O. Force H 2142/14 to Admty.)

→ Operation
"White"

Your 1927/12 para 2. 16/11 for Force H and 18/11 or possibly 17/11 for NEWCASTLE (S.O. Force H., 2034/14 to V.A. Malta)

→ DESPATCH
NEWCASTLE
ARGUS

Admiralty 1633/8. Desired DESPATCH should return A and W.I. Station as soon as possible. Requested arrange for NEWCASTLE to return Gibraltar immediately she has completed discharge at Malta subject concurrence C. in C., Med. NEWCASTLE then to escort ARGUS to U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 2235/14 to F.O. Force H.)

" /Corvettes...



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North Atlantic-Contd.

Corvettes

Reply to S.O. Force H., 1435/13. All four corvettes are fitted with A/S. Remarks on their seakeeping qualities. (D.O.D. (H) 1254/14)

CAMPOAMOR
FULGOR

On occasion of sinking of KINGSTON SAPPHIRE in vicinity of Cadiz, tanker claiming to be Spanish CAMPOAMOR was in immediate vicinity. Almost certain not her and probably Italian FULGOR which had slipped out from Cadiz. All Spanish tankers should be carefully scrutinized bearing in mind that Spanish markings should be painted on the hull and not merely displayed on a board on the poop. CAMPOAMOR has now left Port Arthur 6/11 for Santander. (F.O.C.N.A. 1251/14)

Spanish A/C
Shot down

Request your remarks on Madrid telegram No 141 to Gibraltar (re Spanish Savoia 17 A/C stated to have been shot down by British Squadron) which F.O.C.N.A. is requested to report to you. (V.C.N.S. to F.O. Force H., 1129/14)

Your 1129. Possible aircraft in question was Savoia referred to in Para. 2. of my 0723/11. 2 experienced pilots of Fulmar Section report positively S. 79 had Italian tail markings. Fasces markings also observed on fuselage. FIREDRAKE fired one round A.A. which nearly hit and ARK ROYAL indicated direction to Fighters by A.A. Gunfire. Pilot of 1st Fighter to attack reports S. 79 back gunner opened fire first on our aircraft. I personally observed this machine and entertained no doubt but that it was an Italian Shadower. (S.O. Force H 1615/14 to Admt., Amended 1851/14)

Operation
"White"

Outline plan.
(ii) All Forces less NEWCASTLE leave Gibraltar before dawn 15/11 and remain in company until South of Majorca at dusk, 16/11.

/(iii).....



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North Atlantic

Operation
"White"-Contd.

- (iii) If weather conditions suitable and operation "White" (? to be detected) bombing attack will be carried out on Alghero aerodrome on night of 17-17/11.
- (iv) Skua and Hurricanes fly off dawn 17/11 from approx. position 037° 55' N., 007° 30' E.
- (v) NEWCASTLE proceeds independently leaving Gibraltar either p.m./16 or p.m./17 to arrive Malta a.m./18 or 19/11. (S.O. Force H., 2120/14 to Admty.)

My 1622/12 and C. in C., W.A. 1535/13. Request NEWCASTLE's route or speed be modified to enable her to arrive Gibraltar before 0700/17. NEWCASTLE can sail from Gibraltar by 1900/16 the degree of cover provided by Force H is substantially increased. If departure from Gibraltar is delayed until 1900/17 it is possible that movement may escape detection for reason given in my 1132/12 para 3. In view of urgency for these reinforcements to reach Malta intend NEWCASTLE shall proceed if able to leave by about 1900/17 (S.O. Force H., 2130/14 to Admty.)

Air
Reconnaissance

Your A. 795 14/11. F.O.H. cannot agree your suggestion. Suggests sacrificing effectiveness of your recco. to westward 16/11 and complying with first suggestion in my A.240 14/11. Also states rendezvous Hurricanes and Sunderland is 5 miles North of Galita Island not Skerki Bank. Signal your decision. (200 Group 2335/14 to H.Q. Malta)



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South Atlantic

DUNDAS

D. of S.T. 0841/28/9 and my 0935/30/10 overdue Shanghai any news (S.O.(1) Capetown, 1224B/14 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE

W.S. 4.A./W.S.4c

Admty. 1435/4. W.S. 4.A. and W.S. 4.C. are to proceed from Freetown as one convoy escorted by CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE (C. in C., S.A. 0038/14)

Arrival CORNWALL 1700/14 escorting convoy W.S. 4 consisting of STIRLING CASTLE, WARWICK CASTLE, DUNEDIN STAR, PORT WYNDHAM, HIGHLAND MONARCH, CLAN CHATTAN, CLAN LAMONT and SCYTHIA. (N.O.I.C. Freetown, 1916N/14)

U.S.N.
and bases

Local American Consuls have approached Colonial Governments for information on aircraft facilities, landing grounds, seaplane bases, etc., in Colonies. Information required by U.S. Navy Dept. Request instructions as to policy. (G.O.C. W. Africa, to W.D. 1930/14)

SELANDIA

Position re suggested use as a hospital ship. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 1715/14)

Mediterranean

Operations Report
8/11- 14/11.

My 1357/4. Convoy movements to Piraeus, Suda Bay and Malta carried out according to plan under cover of Main Fleet and without incident. EAGLE did not take part in operation owing to defective petrol system, but some of her aircraft and crew embarked in ILLUSTRIOUS.

8/11. One Cant 501 which was shadowing convoy MW 3 was driven off and damaged by two Gladiators. Cant later seen in sea by Swordfish on search. Later Fulmars intercepted formation of 7 S 79's 30 miles from and approaching Fleet. They shot down one, saw crew bale out from Vent and the rest jettisoned their high explosives whilst retiring. RAMILLIES was detached a.m./9 to join convoy and escorted it to Malta arriving 1900 that evening. Fleet cruised to eastward of Hurd and Medina Bank during day and at 1647 Fulmars shot down one Cant 506.

/BARHAM.....

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Mediterranean.

Operations Report
8/11-14/11 Contd.

BARHAM, BERWICK, GLASGOW and destroyers met at 1015/10 50 miles west of Gozo. Fleet cruised to southward of Malta during the day while ships unloaded and destroyer fuelled. Convoy ME 3 sailed escorted by RAMILLIES, COVENTRY and destroyers, TERROR at 1500. At 1230 one Cant 506 was shot down by Fulmars but at 1325 a half hearted HLB attack was made by 9 S 79's. One formation attacked by Fulmars who damaged one. Bombs very wide and only a few within area occupied by Fleet.

Fleet left vicinity of Malta 1900/10 and shaped course towards Sapienza turning north east at noon for F.A.A. Attack on Taranto (known as operation ~~Submarine~~) and raided Straits of Otranto. V.A.L.F. in H.M.S. ORION who had visited Athens and Suda Bay rejoined a.m./11 and was later detached with 7th C.S. NUBIAN and MOHAWK for Otranto Raid. Fortunately all Units of Fleet evaded detection during this passage.

Attack on Taranto
(Op: "Judgment")

R.A. (A) Mediterranean in ILLUSTRIOUS with 3rd C.S. and 4 destroyers detached at 1800 to fly off Air Striking Force off Cephalonia, while Battle Fleet covered this Force to westwards during night. Details of F.A.A. attack and V.A.L.F.'s raid already reported.

ILLUSTRIOUS (?rejoined) 0730/12 off Zante and V.A.L.F. at 1030. Fleet proceeded south and southwest till 1400. Between 1115 and 1228 Fulmars shot down two Cant 501 and one Cant 506 which were attempting to shadow and report Fleet. The latter fell in flames close to Fleet. It is thought that none of these Cants succeeded in reporting Fleet. This was important as I had decided in consultation with V.A. (A) Mediterranean to repeat attack on Taranto if conditions remained favourable.

MALAYA and YORK were however short of fuel and it was therefore decided to detach MALAYA, BARHAM and AJAX with 5 Destroyers (?) to Suda Bay to fuel and to send YORK and BERWICK to Alexandria, and they parted company before dark.

/Unfortunately.....



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Mediterranean

Operations Report
8/11-14/11, Contd.

Unfortunately evening weather forecast showed unfavourable conditions in Gulf of Taranto and repeat attack had to be abandoned. Remainder of Fleet therefore shaped course for Alexandria at 1815 and arrived a.m./14. A Cant 501 which sighted and reported Fleet at 1500/13 was chased by Fulmars and probably damaged. Convoy ME 3 arrived Alexandria a.m./13.

During week of operation ILLUSTRIOUS lost 3 Swordfish due to forced landings in sea but all crews were saved.

These operations have shown inestimable value of Suda Bay as a fuelling Base.

(C. in C., Med., 0945/14)

R.A.F.
Taranto Attack

Special operational Summary. Taranto attacked night 13/11 in accordance my A 784 13/11 and a.m. 975 13/11. Operation carried out by 10 Wellingtons. 7 dropped 14500 lbs G.P. bombs and 1440 lbs incendiaries on Eastern part of main dock in inner harbour from average height 7000 feet. Many bombs seen to explode in target area and incendiaries started at least 7 fires, one very bright fire was followed by a big explosion. The fire was visible 50 miles away. Another huge explosion was seen to light up the town of Taranto after the aircraft observing had flown 15 minutes from the target area. 2 aircraft dropped 4500 lbs G.P. bombs and 480 lbs incendiaries on naval oil tanks and destroyer pens of dockyards inner harbour both from 10,000 ft. Incendiaries started 4 fires south of oil dumps and another between Eastern dock area and destroyer pens. A stick of 5 bombs was seen exploding along wall and pens where many destroyers were docked. One aircraft saw fires burning in this target area 8 minutes before bearing Taranto. One aircraft dropped 2,250 lbs G.P. bombs and 240 lbs incendiaries on esplanade at Cantioro Quoirolo, Eastern Coast of outer harbour, from 9000 feet. Results not seen. Weather clear en route and over target. Targets easily identified by coastline and ships visible in moonlight.

/Intense.....



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Mediterranean

R.A.F.
Taranto Attack-
Contd.

Intense light but inaccurate A.A. from all -ships in harbour and moderate heavy inaccurate from Pietro Island West of outer harbour. Inaccurate A.A. from Cape Passarò and Crotono. 2 ineffective searchlights Catanzarol. No enemy aircraft, balloons or searchlights were seen in target area. All 10 Wellingtons returned safely. (H.Q. Malta, 0645/14)

Taranto
Photographs

Request you arrange for 2 copies photographs of Taranto taken after F.A.A. attack to be sent U.K. Suggest Sunderland from Malta referred to in H.Q. R.A.F., M.E's A414 21/10 could drop in suitable watertight container on selected ship of Force H. Request 200 Group arrange with Force H and inform H.Q., Mediterranean. Photographs to be despatched U.K. by B.O.A.C. CLYDE calling Gibraltar approximately 19/11. (Air Min., to Malta, 1425/14)

Sunderland
Reconnaissance

Your A. 240 14/11. As two Sunderlands required to R.V. with Hurricanes at dawn on 17/11, One Sunderland only is available for recco. to Westward on 16/11. Latter patrol to be effective can only be extended to 0.7° 30' East on that day. Propose therefore that of two Sunderlands requested in S.O.H. Force, 1533/12 to patrol five mile North of Skerki Bank. One Sunderland should R.V. with carrier and drop photø. on her in position and time Hurricanes are due to take off. This Sunderland can then accompany Hurricanes and Skuas to Malta picking up second Sunderland at Skerki Bank en route. (H.Q. Malta 1855/14 to 200 Group.)

Taranto, Air
Reconnaissance

0336-1250. Photographic R.C. of Taranto to ascertain damage done by F.A.A. and by Wellingtons night 13/14. Outer harbour near Y-shaped jetty, one battleship CAVOUR Class submerged. One battleship or cruiser just north of Bersaglio surrounded with submarine nets. VITTORIO battleship in same position and condition as previously but surrounded by destroyers and other small craft, also by a square of submarine netting.

/6 destroyers.... ..



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Mediterranean

Taranto, Air
Reconnaissance-
Contd.

6 destroyers dispersed different angles in northern end of outer harbour. Quantity of oil over outer harbour. Re Balloons. 12 destroyers, at least 13 submarines alongside jetty, also 2 cruisers 1200 yards to north of quay, 2 cruisers apparently normal in same position as previously. Approx. 200 yards from main docks, shapes of 4 vessels submerged. (H.Q., R.A.F., Med 1800/14)

My 2035/13. Analysis of photographs of Taranto 14/11.

(a) LITTORIO B. Stem is in position 293° 15 cables Secca Della Tarantola Beacon. Bow is now well above water and ship has small list to port. A Fleet attendant possibly an Oiler is still alongside starboard side presumably pumping out. Other auxiliaries are port side. Nets have been laid all round her. CAVOUR C. Confirmed that ship is beached in position already given. Ship is upright with an auxiliary probably an Oiler alongside. Nets have been laid all round

CAVOUR F. Ship has apparently been abandoned and is lying heeled to starboard with only superstructure and port shield of upper deck from stem to after funnel above water.

(b) Other Battleships and eight inch gun cruisers have left Taranto.

(c) Inner Harbour. Two Cruisers eight destroyers and four torpedo boats are stern to wall and there are 12 submarines in pens and basin Cruisers and destroyers have nets from stem to stern. The other ships probably including the two damaged six inch guns Cruisers have left Taranto.

(d) Little damage is apparent in dockyard as a result of night bombing raid.

(e) The Pilot of reconnaissance aircraft reported 4 shapes below water off entrance to Graving dock in inner harbour. As these do not appear on photograph I consider it is very unlikely they are the two damaged Cruisers originally reported. (V.A. Malta 2247/14 to Admty.)

/Taranto Attack....



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Mediterranean-Contd.

Taranto
Attack

It had been intended to carry out F.A.A. attack on Taranto on 21/10, when conditions of moon were suitable, but owing to a fire in ILLUSTRIOUS the operation had to be abandoned for that date. I again considered doing it when Fleet was off West Coast Greece on 31/10- 1/11 but there was then no moon and as it would have had to be carried out with flares in using which the Squadron had had very little practice, I decided against it. It was, however, fortunate that attack was not made on either of these occasions as existence of nets and Balloons had not then been discovered.

Many conditions had to be just right to give good chance of success, such as state of moon, weather, an undetected approach by Fleet, and good air reconnaissance. The flying boats and Glen Martin Squadron working from Malta under A.O.C. in close co-operation with N.O.i/c Malta, provided necessary reconnaissance often under difficult and hazardous conditions and I would like to pay a high tribute to their valuable work which contributed so much to successful outcome of the attack.

(C. in C., Med. 2201/14)

R.A.F. Attacks

Operational Summary No 157 to 1200/14.
Para 1. Greece Night 12/13 Nov. Wellingtons successfully attacked Bari, Durazzo and Valona starting fire in oil refinery Bari. Fire started at Durazzo night 11/12 Nov. by Wellingtons still burning. Ammunition dumps and M.T. hit at Valona. 1607/13
3 Blenheim aircraft bombed Argyrokastron aerodrom, starting fires and damaging 2 aircraft on ground. Blenheim aircraft maintained standing fighter patrol over Athens and provided a convoy escort patrol. All aircraft returned safely.

French M.V's

Para 2. Egypt 13/11. A Sunderland operating from Suda Bay sighted 4 French merchant ships in position 34° 40' N., 25° 25' E., steaming East. Night 13/14 Nov. Blenheims of 113 and 55 Sqdns. successfully bombed shipping Benghazi, barracks Derna, Bardia and Sidi Barrani, starting large fire at Derna.

Coast Attacks

/Also.....



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Operational Summary 157-Contd.

APHIS,
Bombardment

Also co-operated with APHIS in bombardment from Sea of Maktila. No important shipping observed Benghazi. All aircraft returned safely.

Alexandria
Raid

Night 13/14 Nov. few enemy bombers made 2 attacks on Alexandria bombs falling in harbour and at Mex. No R.A.F. damage or casualties reported. 32 civilians killed Destroyer hit by incendiary bomb. No details of damage or casualties.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1139/14)

SS ZAMZAM
Damaged

Egyptian SS ZAMZAM (8299 tons) received considerable damage in air raid on Alexandria 14/11 (D.S. 441)

Military Forces
for Greece.

Following is my summary of operations involved in passage of military forces to Greece.

(a) 14 knot convoy M.T. ships leaves Alexandria early a.m./15 for Piraeus by Kaso Straits. Escort COVENTRY, VAMPIRE, NUBIAN, MOHAWK. E.T.A. at Piraeus about 1800/16.

(b) One 16 knot M.T. Ship leaves Port Said p.m. 14. to rendezvous with (a) in position 035° 10' N., 029° 00' E., at 1200/15.

(c) On arrival of (a) and (b) at Piraeus destroyers return to Alexandria. COVENTRY to Suda Bay to fuel then to Candia. (Candia)

(d) Convoy A.N. 7, 6 knots, leaves Port Said 1200/15 for Piraeus Kaso Straits escort ILEX.

(e) Two ships escorted by two A/S trawlers leave Alexandria p.m. 15th to rendezvous with A.N. 7 in 033° 30' N., 028° 02' E., at 0700/17.

(f) CALCUTTA leaves Alexandria and WRYNECK leaves Suda Bay to join A.N. 7 at rendezvous given in (e)

/(g).....



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(g) On arrival at Piraeus CALCUTTA, ILEX WRYNECK await orders, trawlers proceed to Suda Bay.

(h) V.A.L.F. proceeds with Ships ORION and AJAX as requisite to cover convoys and direct operations.

(j) 3rd C.S. and SYDNEY embarked troops and leave Alexandria 1500/15 for Piraeus with despatch. After disembarking troops 3rd C.S. returns to Alexandria. SYDNEY joins V.A.L.F.

(k) F.O.C. 1st B.S. in BARHAM with VALIANT, EAGLE and 8 destroyers will proceed to Suda Bay to arrive 0700/17 and leaves again about sunset/17 for Alexandria passing by Kaso Straits in each case.

(l) Greek troop convoys will load at Suda Bay and Candia 17/11 and rendezvous a.m. for passage to Salonika. Speed 10½ knots. Escort of Greek destroyers. COVENTRY to provide A/A defence loading at Candia and for passage as far north as Doro Channel. (C. in C., Med., 1715/14)

Greek Troop Convoys

Your 1559/13. Intended movements in Aegean (Summary being repeated to you in my 1715/14 provide plenty of cover for Greek movements. COVENTRY has been detailed for A/A defence of Greek troop convoy as far north as Doro Channel. Carrier borne fighter aircraft will be in vicinity on 17/11. Date of arrangement of Greek Convoy is convenient. F.O. 2 in C., Med., will visit Piraeus, Suda Bay and Candia as necessary. (C. in C., Med., to N.A. Athens, 1745/14)

Submarines,
URSULA
UPRIGHT
UTMOST

Admty. 0056/14. Submarines URSULA and UPRIGHT are to be placed under the orders of C. in C., Med., who is requested to inform F.O.C.N.A., as regards sailing and further movements. TRIUMPH is to remain at Gibraltar under orders of F.O.C.N.A., for the present. UTMOST to be sailed in accordance with Admty 1650/13 (A.C.N.S. (F) to C. in C., Med., and F.O.C.N.A., 1748/14) (See also 0056/14, next page)

/Transports.....



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Mediterranean-Contd.

Transports

Speed of reinforcement of Malta and the Middle East is restricted by the rapidity with which 16 knot M.T. ships can be brought back to U.K. to reload. Request you will consider passing SS DORSET PERTSHIRE and PORT CHALMERS all ex W.S. 3 through to Gibraltar in ballast during operation "COLLAR". (D.O.D. (F) 1816/14 to C. in C., Med.) *Reply: C. in C. Med., 1141/18, p. 506.*

830 Squadron
F.A.A.

Your 1431/8. Particulars of ratings detailed. (Bd. of P.M., to V.A. Malta, 2325/14)

Policy,
Submarines

Gen. Wavell will show you signal Prime Minister has sent him regarding future operations. We know you will cooperate with him to fullest extent possible. In view of importance of cutting Italian lines of communication to Libya, 3 out of the 4 submarines now at Gibraltar will be put under your orders. (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med. 0056/14)

Fulmars

3 Fulmars gratefully received. They have been very busy. (C. in C., Med., 0300/14 to S.O. Force H.)

Greece

Situation Report for D.D.M.I. (M.A. Athens 0325/14 to W.O.)

Danish Ships
Piraeus

Greek Government are unwilling to seize Danish tug VIKING and Danish ship MARIE MAERSK now at Piraeus for fear of political complications with Germany. Greek Government not averse to seizure by force by British at Piraeus. Tug VIKING urgently required. Request concurrence in taking action. (C. in C., Med., 1203/14)

/Movements.....



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Mediterranean-Contd.

Movements

1 Cruiser, 3 destroyers, 3 merchant vessels leaving vicinity of Alexandria about 0200/15 proceeding northward (Capt. S. 1. 1845/14 to RORQUAL)

Middle East
Convoys

Proposal to run fast personnel ships through Mediterranean (1st S.L. to C. in C., Med., 2324/14) See Mediterranean Volume

German Units
in Black Sea

Two M.T.B's German crews but flying no flag, doubtful report from Constantza 11/11. (b) No German submarines reliably observed in any Black Sea port so far. (WELFSON 1655/14) ~~WELFSON~~ ~~Welfson~~

East Indies

Mogadishu
Patrols

My 1910/12. COLOMBO will reconnoitre Mogadishu p.m./15, ordered to sink any merchant ships there if can be done without undue risk from enemy action. (C. in C., E.I., 1448Z/14 to Admty.)

Air Report

Daily Intelligence Summary No 155 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500, 14/11. No naval incidents. (A.H.Q., Aden, 1830/14 to Air Min.)

DURMITOR

S.O.I. Singapore 0209/5. Request whereabouts of Yugoslav DURMITOR if known. S.O.I. Capetown reports cargo on board. (C. in C., E.I., 0550Z/14 to Admty.)

WESTRALIA

To remain in vicinity position given in my 1028/12 until daylight 15/11 and then proceed to Colombo arriving a.m./17 (C. in C., E.I. 0618Z/14)

Convoy
B.N. 8½

Following sailed from Bombay in B.N. 8½ 12/11, due Suez (date): DILWARA, RAJULA, ROHNA, NEVASA, LANCASHIRE, EGRA, TAIREA, TAKLIWA. Details. (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1215Z/14)



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China

TARANTULA

My 0436/6 TARANTULA further delayed, date of completion not yet known. (C. in C., China 0323Z/14 to Admty.)

→ AUTOMEDON

Request details of any mails for China Station which would have been on board ship now presumed lost due to enemy action and that arrangement may be made to forward duplicate Official correspondence. (C. in C., China, 0341/14 to Admty.)

→ OLE JACOBS
→ AUTOMEDON

Your 1322/13 (Information re distress messages from Norwegian ship OLE JACOBS and British Ship AUTOMEDON) OLE JACOBS carrying cargo of Kerosene, gasolene and Benzine for Near East but no Bunker or Diesel Fuel in cargo. Approximately 450 tons latter in Bunkers. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0348Z/14 to C. in C., E.I.)

America & West Indies

U.S. Patrol

My 1248/12. Navy Dept. inform me 4 destroyers are now patrolling off Tampico to shadow and observe German ships if they attempt to escape. Destroyers also sent to patrol Florida Straits. (N.A. Washington, 1159/14 to Admty.)

WINDSOR CASTLE
Evacuations

Re evacuation of Gibraltarian evacuees from U.K. to Jamaica. (D. of S.T. 1658/14 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

My 1311/2 estimated draught on arrival Trinidad 38 feet. (D. of S.T. 1826/14 to C. in C., A. & W.I.)

N.C.S.O. New York 1700/12. N.C.S.O. New York is concerned about fuel and endurance worked out for complete voyage particularly the last stage as no allowance appears to have been made for evasively routeing. Suggest this might be checked. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1710/14 to Admty.)

/HELGOLAND.....



MOST SECRET

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America & West Indies-Contd.

HELGOLAND

Route (See German Merchant Ships)

LEOPOLDVILLE

Adnty. 2126/10. Will LEOPOLDVILLE be available for any passengers or troops from Halifax to U.K.? Beatty requests information if she is to be used for cargo on return voyage. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0941/14 to Adnty.)

DESPATCH

To return to A.W.I. Station as soon as possible. (D.O.D. (F) 2235/14) (See North Atlantic)

New Zealand

BATORY

A.C.N.B. 0415/10. Asking why accommodation suitable for 1372 only. Ship fitted for 2067. In view of shortage of vessels suitable for trooping, maximum advantage must be taken of capacity available. (D.S.T. to N.Z.N.B., 2111/14)



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

HELGOLAND

B.O. report HELGOLAND given following route at German Consulate. Old Providence Islands thence coastwise Gulf Mexico. Deck and Upper part painted green. N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to DIOMEDE. (S.O.I. Kingston 0941/14)

CERIGO

German ship CERIGO at Guayaquil has made unofficial enquiries re cost of extensive repairs at Balboa (A.2) Understood would be more economical at Callao. Request investigation whether any enquiries made your Port. Pass to PRINCE ROBERT (S.O.I., Jamaica 0904/14, 0907/17 to S.O.I., Callao)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

VILLE D'ALGER
KATIOLA

VILLE D'ALGER and KATIOLA are expected to sail from Casablanca shortly. Destinations former not known but probably South America (F.O.C.N.A. 1239/14)



War Diary

14.11.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

406

Submarines Reported

0139)
0322)

59° - 60° N., 21° - 22° W., indefinite position (D.S. 436)

0923

In Bay of Biscay, approx 5° W., indefinite position (D.S. 436)

1330

Aircraft report, enemy submarine in 55.55 N 10.55 W., at 1330 approx. (C. in C., W.A. 1607/14) My 1607. Submarine when first sighted was on surface steering approx. 20° 16 knots. Keep well clear. (C. in C., W.A. to AUSTRALIA, 1713/14)

1815

Following Signal intercepted by Adcock and passed to R.A.F. Sumbrough for information)-
To Lava Cobber from Monainz what appears to be Conning Tower of a submarine sighted in our Territorial Waters 1/4 mile off Rinn Point Galway Bay at 1815 hours this evening" (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 2145/14 to A.C.O.S.,)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 in N.W. Approaches North of 55° N., and probably West of 15° W.
1 or possibly 2 in Bay of Biscay approx. 5° W.,

German- 1 in 55° 14' N., 10° 29' W., at 2030/13.

1 probably within 100 miles of Bloody Foreland.

1 in area 59°-60° W., 20° 22° W. Otherwise situation is obscure but there may be one more in area 54°- 56° N., 13°-15° W., and 2 in area 57°-59° N., 18° 20° W., (D.D.I.C. 1210/14)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

407

Home Commands

13 knot ships
to sail
independently

In view of the heavy losses in 9 knot convoys by U-Boat Attack in the N.W. Approaches ships of 13 knots speed and above are in future to sail independently as it is thought they will find greater safety by making use of their speed than by inclusion in convoy.



War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

408

Home Commands

Dover Shelled

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 7 rounds between 0900 and 1030 today, the shells falling near the R.M. Siege Battery.

Operation
"Collar"

The following ships sailed today, from Liverpool: FURIOUS and SS NEW ZEALAND STAR escorted by 2 destroyers. From Belfast: CAIRO, SOUTHAMPTON. From Clyde: DIDO with transports FRANCONIA, CLAN FORBES, CLAN FRASER and 3 destroyers. From Scapa: C.S. 18 in MANCHESTER to R.V. with the above forces at 0830 tomorrow, 50 miles W.N.W. of Tory Island.

S.C. Convoy
Escorts

C. in C., W.A. proposes to discontinue the use of sloops as ocean escort of Sydney C.B. slow convoys, in view of damage in heavy weather and small value of one sloop as ocean escort.

Convoy
H.X. 84

32 ships have now arrived at various ports. Four are reported to have been sunk by the raider, one was sunk subsequently by air attack, and one is unaccounted for.

British Air Activity

F.A.A.

Aircraft of 812 Sqdn., F.A.A., were engaged throughout the night 14-15/11 on mine-laying and attacks on French aerodromes.

Bomber Command

Shipping and docks at Ostend, Dunkirk, Boulogne and Lorient and ships and canal locks at Leuven (near Brussels) were successfully attacked last night. The Wilhelmsburg Oil Refinery at Hamburg was successfully attacked by 14 Hampdens.

No operations were carried out today by Bomber Command, owing to unsuitable weather.

/Coastal Command....



War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

409

British Air Activity-Contd.

Coastal Command

3 aircraft attacked the aerodrome at Stavanger this evening. No important results were observed. Boulogne (bombs did not explode) and Zeebrugge Mole were also bombed. At Zeebrugge, direct hits were obtained in the junction of the Mole with the mainland.

Enemy Air Activity

A/P Trawler
DUNGENESS
Damaged

A/P Trawler DUNGENESS was bombed and beached off Haisborough lighthouse at 0325 but may be refloated.

SS BLUE GALLEON
Sunk

Convoy F.N. 34 was attacked off Yarmouth at 0155. SS BLUE GALLEON (712 tons) being bombed and sunk.

SS APAPA
Sunk

SS APAPA (9333 tons) In convoy S.L. 53 was bombed at 0930 W. of Ireland and sank at noon.

Coventry
Attacked

The Admiralty Establishment suffered severely during the air attack on Coventry last night.

Dover
Attacked

Damage was caused in the dockyard and at Dover by air attack this afternoon.

Kites for
Convoys

Attacks on shipping by enemy aircraft are now occurring daily. Many of these attacks are made from low altitude which would be frustrated by the flying of kites. C. in C., W.A. asks that the provision of kites to all ships sailing independently may be hastened and also to ships sailing in convoy, observing that there have been 3 cases of convoys being attacked outside the range of our fighters.

*Convoy FN 33
attacked.*

At 0015 today a single Heinkel 115 unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes SS SARNIA in Convoy FN 33. The convoy was again unsuccessfully attacked by a single Heinkel near 204 Buoy at 0120/15.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

410

Mining.

AMENITY
Sunk

M.V. AMENITY (297 tons) was sunk by mine at 0717 off Spurn Head.

GUARDSMAN
Sunk

Tug GUARDSMAN was sunk by mine off the North Foreland at 1340.

Mines were exploded in the Thames Estuary.

Blyth is open, but diesel ships can only enter or leave in tow. Tees was opened at 1625.

Operation
Z.M.E.1.

ADVENTURE, reports this operation carried out.

Hampdens successfully laid mines off Brest and Lorient last night. One mine was dropped in the mouth of the Ems.

Operations Against Vichy French

The policy of H.M. Govt. with regard to Vichy French ships is as follows. Warships are to be reported. If necessary, force is to be used to prevent them from proceeding to an enemy occupied, or to any port in French Equatorial Africa now held by the Free French.

RICHELIEU and JEAN BART are not to be allowed to enter the Mediterranean or to proceed to German occupied ports.

Unescorted merchant vessels are to be sent in for examination, unless definitely established to be under Free French control or proceeding between Free French ports. Merchant vessels escorted by warships are not to be interfered with

/French S/M's.....



15.11.1940
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French submarines met in company with a surface warship are to be informed that any attempt to dive will be treated as a hostile act. Submarines submerged or unescorted on the surface are to be treated as hostile outside neutral territorial waters with certain exceptions. (p.428)

South Atlantic

C.S. 1. transferred his flag from DEVONSHIRE to NEPTUNE at sunset today.

Revised routeing instructions are issued today for merchant vessels from South Atlantic ports to the Northern Approaches of the U.K.

Mediterranean

Operation "White"

S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, with ARK ROYAL, ARGUS, SHEFFIELD, DESPATCH and 8 destroyers left Gibraltar 0415 today. After the operation, DESPATCH is to return to A & W.I. Station.

Mediterranean Convoys

A convoy of M.T. ships left Alexandria today for Piraeus, escorted by COVENTRY and 3 destroyers. One ship joined from Port Said.

A convoy left Port Said and Alexandria today for Piraeus, covered by CALCUTTA from Alexandria, ILEX from Port Said and WRYNECK from Suda Bay.

V.A.L.F. in ORION with AJAX are covering the above convoys.

C.S. 3 in GLOUCESTER with YORK and SYDNEY left Alexandria with troops for Piraeus today.

/Air Operations.....

War Diary

15.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air
Operations

Blenheims last night bombed Tummar Bardia, Tobruk and Boma. Enemy aircraft made 2 attacks on Alexandria between 0000 and 0430 today. No damage is reported.

Greek M.V's

Greek Merchant ships may now be provided with degaussing and defensive equipment under the same conditions as those approved for ships of other Allied nations.

British Naval ratings are not to be drafted to any Greek ship except when embarked with machine guns for short coastal passages in the U.K.

East Indies

Two Wellingtons last night successfully attacked Asmara. A listening post in Diffrein Island was attacked today.

An unidentified aircraft was reported off Port Sudan last night, believed engaged in mine lying. The docks at Port Sudan were bombed today, but damage caused was negligible.

15.11.1940.
Friday.

413

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.All Cruisers
in Home
Waters to be
placed under
administration
of C.in C. H.F.
Provision of
Cruisers for
other Home
Commands.

It is proposed that in future all cruisers in Home Waters be placed under the administration of C.in C. H.F. Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands to be made as follows when it is necessary to station them in the South for anti-invasion duties:-

(a) Either the 2nd or 15th C.S. or part of them, to be placed under the temporary operational control of C.in C. Nore, and stationed at either the Nore or the Humber.

(b) Either the 10th or 18th C.S., or part of them, to be placed under the temporary operational control of C. in C. W.A., and stationed at Plymouth and Clyde.

(c) Admiralty will give instructions regarding the number of cruisers to be detailed in accordance with (a) and (b)

(d) C. in C. H.F. will order reliefs as necessary.

Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1227/15 to C.in C. H.F. Nore, W.A.)

Your 1227/15. Concur (C.in C. Nore 1535/15 to Adty.)

Your 1227/15. Concur. But consider para.(b) should read "Plymouth or Clyde". Otherwise it will lead to there being no cruisers in the North again. (C.in C. H.F. 1743/15 to Adty.)

Your 1227/15. Concur. (C.in C. W.A.2131/15 to Adty.)

Passage of
Swedish oil
tankers.

(1) My 1542/2. ^(para 37) Swedish Adty. again approached me re British safe conduct to Gothenburg of Naval tankers BERA, SVEADROTT, CASTOR. All cargo for Navy use except 10% CASTOR's shipment which is for B.P.

(2) Though unwilling to permit me to sight statistic Naval oil consumption, they state present drastic economy is impairing value of training and limiting Naval movements. They add, further restrictions might

(?word omitted) Swedish Naval Forces incapable of guarding territorial waters.

(3) My belief is that Navy still does best to maintain patrols, and that on West Coast where German T/B's and trawlers, according to my information frequently show themselves on fringe of Swedish waters, it seems to our advantage to help them when need for oil becomes urgent.

(N.A. Stockholm 1231/15).

Value of DIDO
class as A/A
Escorts.

Request report of average performance of DIDO-class long-range A/A armament in practice firings, under the following heads. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1804/15 to C.S.15).

Rosyth.
A/P Trawlers
for Patrols.

Request A/P Vessels specified in SQAP. Leith's 1040/14 may be provided as soon as possible. (C.in C. Rosyth 2014/15 to D.S.V.P.)

15.11.1940.
Friday.

414

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/15. (D.C. 1203/15) At 2300/15
(D.C. 2330/15).

Plymouth A/A
Defences.

Your 2225/14. C.in C. W.A's proposal agreed to, subject to old-type V.L.A's being used. (Air Ministry 1150/15 to Adty.)

Movements.

LINCOLN.

To comply with my 2020/13, arrive in 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles at 1630. (C.in C. W.A. 0057/15 to LINCOLN).

EDINBURGH)
PHOEBE)

ETA. Greenock 1300/15. Request Fighter protection. (C.in C. W.A. 0115/15 to H.Q.F.C.)

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 15/16. (C.in C. Nore 0800/15).

KENYA.

Your 2021/14. Suggest she comes to Scapa instead of waiting at Belfast. (C.in C. H.F. 0953/15 to C.in C. W.A.). Request you sail KENYA to Scapa to continue working up. (C.in C. W.A. 1605/15 to F.C.I.C. Belfast).

ABERDEEN.

My position 52° 50' N. 28° 2' W. course 260°, making good 4½ knots. Propose either return U.K. or proceed Halifax. (ABERDEEN 1200/15 to C.in C. W.A.) Return to U.K. (C.in C. W.A. 2039/15 to D.5., ABERDEEN).

HIGHLANDER)
OTTAWA)
ST. LAURENT)
GARLAND)

Detach Ships at dark/15 to Lough Foyle. They will be required for Escort duties A.M./18. (C.in C. W.A. 1327/15 to REVENGE).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 15/16. (V.A. Dover 1429/15 to Adty.)

Orkneys.

Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1527/15) Positions at 2000/15. (A.C.O.S. 1542/15).

Rosyth.

Movements for Night 15/16. (C.in C. Rosyth 1542/15).

Western Channel.

Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1730/15).

NEWCASTLE.

Adty's 1057/15 and 1232/15. ETA. 1700/16. G.M.T. (NEWCASTLE 1828/15 to F.O.C. N.A.)

VIMY.

On completing present duty, proceed Rosyth. (R.A.D. H.F. 2155/15 to VIMY).



15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

415

Operations.

Operation "Collar"

<u>FURIOUS</u>	C.in C. W.A. 1217/10. Secret Positions
<u>SOUTHAMPTON</u>	and Code Names. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool
<u>NEW ZEALAND STAR</u>	1001/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).
<u>HAVELOCK</u>	My 1217/10. Amended position K
<u>HESPERUS</u>	(C.in C. W.A. 1205/15 to C.S.18,
<u>FRANCONIA</u>	SOUTHAMPTON).
<u>CLAN FORBES</u>	FURIOUS E.T.A. Freetown. (F.O.I.C.
<u>CLAN FRASER</u>	Liverpool 1239/15 to C.in C. S.A.).
	Sailed FURIOUS and NEW ZEALAND STAR
	escorted by HAVELOCK and HESPERUS as
	by C.in C. W.A. 1217/10 and my 1738/13.
	(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1249/15 to Adty.)
	Sailed SOUTHAMPTON as by N.O.I.C.
	Liverpool 2000/14. (N.O.I.C. Belfast
	2230/15 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)
	FRANCONIA sailed 1717/15. CLAN FORBES
	sailed 1743/15 CLAN FRASER sailed
	1745/15. Personnel and equipment.
	(P.S.T.O. Clyde 2355/15).

Iceland.

At about 1400/8/11 intercepted signal from Governor West Greenland to Station Master, Ellase, East Greenland, begins, On what do you base supposed arrival of Expedition. (F.O. Iceland 1025/15 to Adty.)

Intend sail A/S Trawler VAN OOST at 1300/16 for Reykjavik. Speed 10 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1030/15 to Adty.)

- NAIAD
- REPULSE
- LETITIA

On completion of operation at Jan Mayen Island or at latest at 1500/17 NAIAD REPULSE and screen are to return to Scapa and LETITIA is to return to Clyde via the Minches. (C.in C. H.F. 1214/15).

Dover shelled.

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 7 rounds between 0900 and 1030 to-day. Shells fell near Royal Marine siege battery. (V.A. Dover 1909/15 to Adty.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER.
(Search for survivors of H. X. 64.)

Your 2055/11/11/40. BONAVENTURE was acting under the following orders from REPULSE, her senior officer:-

Proceed at 0400 to search for survivors principally to the North and East of 52° 50' N. 032° W. in accordance with Adty. 0125/8. Take MASHONA under your orders. I intend to sweep North West for raider to 59° N. then turn East for Scapa. Endeavour to rejoin me with MASHONA in 58° 35' N. 015° W. at noon G.M.T./10. I calculate MASHONA'S fuel will just permit 20 knots when detached with you. Ends. BONAVENTURE was detached at 0400/8 in approx. 55° 18' N. 27° 42' W. Actually BONAVENTURE and MASHONA were unable to keep their R.V. owing to the weather. (C.in C. H.F. 1927/15 to Adty.) Have searched area southward and eastward of 53° 15' N. 27° 20' W. in company with BONAVENTURE who leaves area P.M./16. Am not in touch with Destroyers.

/ Barometer

15.11.40.
Friday.

416

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations(Contd).

ADMIRAL
SCHEER. (Contd.)

Barometer report unsteady. Wind N.W.
force 9. (CHITRAL 2030/15 to Adty).

Submarines.

H.28.

Escorted by Z.5. exercising in Tay Sanc-
tuary 1000 to 1500. (C.in C. Rosyth
0122/15 to MASHONA).

TRIDENT.

To leave Patrol after dark/18 to meet
CUTTY SARK in 300° Pendeen Watch House
5 miles at 0800/20. Route. (Capt:
S.2. 1101/15 to TRIDENT).

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1419/15
to Adty).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/16.
(V.A.S. 1639/15).

British Air Activity.

Reconnaissance
cancelled.

My 1732/14, para.2. Reconnaissance by
Sunderland cancelled owing to unfavourable
weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0018/15 to Adty).

Reconnaissance of
Norwegian
Coast.

Will be carried out as early as possible
today from Trondheim to Stadlandet,
including Trondheim Fiord and Harbour.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0330/15 to Adty).

Air
Reconnaissances.

No dawn reconnaissance. S.A.9 takes off
at 0830. (C.in C. Nore 0749/15 to Adty).

Belfast.
Air Restrictions.

Your X.626.4/11 and our A.684.5/11.
Please signal if proposed restrictions
now agreed by all concerned.
(H.Q. R.A.F. N.I.0930/15 to Air Ministry).

Operation.
No.89.

To be repeated tonight 15/16.
(H.Q.C.C. 1315/15).

15.11.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

417

Standard Air Patrols suspended in Daylight hours.

W.A.C.I's/H Part III. Orders for maintenance of standard patrol are suspended as from dawn until 2 hours before dusk. During period this patrol will be replaced by a close patrol round the ship (s) under escort subject to the 2 provisos laid down in part III paras. 1 (one) - 3. The main object of this close patrol is the protection of ships from enemy air attack and A/S protection is secondary object. From 2 hours before dusk until dusk the normal Patrol will be flown.

Aircraft have been informed that the Astern search is important.
(C.in C. W.A. 1909/15).

Trials of A.S.V. Apparatus.

Adty Letter A/NAD/708/40 of 4/10/40 to C.in C. H.F. Suggestions. (A.C.O.S.1910/15 to Adty).

Ostend, Dunkirk,)
Boulogne, Lorient,)
Bremen, Hamburg.)

Attack by A/C. (H.Q.B.C. 1959/15 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Agent".
AGENT.

Aircraft attacking in 52° 51'N., 2° 8'E.
(WATCHMAN 0155/15).

DUNGENESS.

(A/P Trawler) Bombed and beached off Haisborough Light House at 0325/15. Tug LOWESTOFT sent. No casualties. Report suggests she may be refloated with help of Tug's pumps. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0533/15 to C.in C. Nore). Request Salvage Officer be sent. (C.in C. Nore 1746/15 to Adty).

[P. Bruch list, 1947, shows her as a total loss.]

APAPA.

(SL 53)

(British, 9333 Tons). Bombed in 54° 31'N., 16° 34'W. (Port Patrick Radio 0934/15. On fire (Port Patrick Radio 0945/15). Proceed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1106/15 to tugs ASSURANCE and ENGLISHMAN) BROKE and BOULDERPOOL standing by. (ARAWA 1115/15 to Adty). APAPA has sunk (BROKE 1203/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

BLUE GALLEON.

(British, 712 Tons). Have picked up 11 survivors from ship. Sunk in about 52° 57'N., 1° 56'E. (WIDGEON 0225/15 to Adty). 3 of crew missing. Believed sunk near 56 B buoy. (WATCHMAN 0843/15). Report situation. Tug NORMAN is searching between 56 and 57 Buoys. (C.in C. Nore 0731/15 to WIDGEON).



WAR DIARY.

15.11.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy
Aviation Air Activity. (Contd.)

418

Aircraft attacks
of M/V's.
Proposed.
procedure and
provision
of Kites.

My 1913/9/11 attacks by enemy aircraft are now occurring daily. Request that NCSO's at home and overseas be directed to inform Masters that in the event of attack ships should not attempt to avoid damage by frequent zig-zagging since this hampers efficiency of A.A. fire and has no material effect on the enemy's bombing accuracy. Ships under attack should maintain a steady course only using their helm to assist in keeping their A.A. Armament Bearing. Many of these attacks are made from low altitude which would be frustrated by the flying of kites. It is requested that the provision of kites to all ships sailing independently may be hastened and also to ships sailing in Convoy, observing that there have now been three cases of Convoys being attacked outside the range of our fighters.
(C.in C. W.A. 1741/15 to Adty).

Own ship,
firing at
own A/C.

A/C fired at by own destroyer.
(C.in C. W.A. 0652/15).

U/P Equipment
at Dover.

Your 1947/14. This appears to be the first attack of the type against which the U.P. equipment was designed. It is therefore most important that all evidence regarding the cause of the casualties should be obtained and sifted in order to ascertain if possible whether or not the U/P's were responsible for the casualties. Request therefore that, in view of the fact that future policy regarding mounting these equipments is now under consideration you will endeavour to obtain definite conclusions.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1803/15 to V.A. Dover).

Rosyth.

Air Escort 16/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1848/15).



WAR DIARY.

15.11.40.
Friday.

419

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Coventry.

Adty. Establishment severely bombed night 14th. Work at standstill. No serious casualties. (N.S.O. Coventry 1415/15 to Adty).

Convoy ^{"Booby"} ~~BOOPY~~.

Shadowed by 1 A/C in 53° 18'N., 1° 4'E. (LOWESTOFT 1648/15).

Portsmouth.

COLLINGWOOD report 2 bombs dropped in camp at 1305/15. Small damage. 3 serious casualties, 14 slight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1709/15 to Adty).

Convoy "Pilot"
PILOT.

One A/C bombing in 52° 12'N., 1° 55'E. (VERDUN 1752 and 1755/15) No bombs. Enemy retired eastwards. (VERDUN 1812/15)

Dover.

Air Raid at 1430/14. Damage to Dockyard (Supt: C.E. Chatham 1802/15 to Civil Lord).

M.L.120.

About 1340/14 suffered casualties to all 6 upper deck ratings from 2 low flying M.E. 109's which presented easy targets. But Machine Gun jammed after 2 rounds and C.O. reports he had been unable to get technical assistance for it at the base. (V.A.Dover 1903/15 to C.in C. Portsmouth). If full report from C.O. can be furnished I will have careful investigation made. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2327/15).

15.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

420

Mining.

Firth of Forth.

Red mine exploded by L.L. Sweeper 14/11, 55° 03' 049" N., 03° 03' 38" W. (C.in C. Rosyth, 009/15 amended by 0940/15 to Admiralty).

Operation Z.M.E.1.

Completed. (ADVENTURE, 0330/15 to Admiralty).

BATH)
ST. ALBANS)
ST. MARY)

C.in C. W.A. 2049/14. If these destroyers get involved in convoying shall I ever see them again. Squadron was held up 6 weeks waiting for them. (R.A.M.L. 0031/15 to Admiralty).

MILFORD PRINCE)
SUNLIGHT.)

MILFORD PRINCE reports 1 mine detonated by L.L. 043° Barrow Deep L.V. 1.2 miles. SUNLIGHT report 1 mine detonated by L.L. 074° Mouse L.V. 8 cables (Capt. M/S, 0944/15 to C.in C. Nore)

STRATHEARN
(see 14/11)

My 1800/14. At 1040/14 Trinity House Vessel STRATHEARN was obliged to go astern inside boom. Mine exploded 1 cable on port beam. (F.O. Humber, 1014/15 to Admiralty).

Acoustic Mines,
precautions.

Re Admiralty 1730/14 cancel my 2224/27/9, 2154/14/10 and 2306/24/10. (C.in C. Nore 1039/15 to F.O., Yarmouth).

Re Admiralty 952AZ 1730/14. Recommendations re speeds of A and B class M.L.'s in my 1118/4 remain in force pending further experience. (C.in C. Nore, 1139/15 to F.O. Yarmouth) asking for information re acoustic mines (C.in C. H.F. 1640/15).

Minefields.

Your 1243/14. ^(no trace) Propose first 2 fields be laid to cover 15 miles immediately inside 100 fathom line as follows (details). R.A.M.L. 1219/15 to Admiralty)

M.V. AMENITY
damaged.

At 0717/15 M.V. AMENITY 297 tons damaged by mine explosion 53° 33' 20" N., 00° 09' 30" E. No casualties. Sank 53° 34. 2' N., 00° 10' E. at 0830. (F.O. Humber, 1225/15 to Admiralty). United Towing Co's tug proceeded from Hull 0820 to AMENITY of Hull mined off Spurn. (F.O. Humber, 0915/15 to Admiralty).

5th M.S.F.

On completion of present operations ships of 5th M.S.F. now in Rosyth command will be ordered to Aberdeen. Using that port as base, searches of direct route between Rattray Head and Duncansby Head to be arranged so that as far as possible route is searched in advance of southbound convoys but at such distances ahead of them that the gaps left between sweepers and



MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.11.1940.
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HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining. (Continued)

and convoys cannot be mined by the enemy. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1303/15 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

Blyth.

My 2247/13 and 1528/14. Port is open, but Diesel ships can only enter or leave in tow. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1514/15 to Adty.)

GUARDSMAN
sunk.

Tug GUARDSMAN sunk by mine, 1340/15, $\frac{1}{2}$ cable E. of N.E. Spit Buoy. Seven survivors landed at Margate, 2 missing. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1550/15 to Admiralty).

Tees.

Port is open (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1625/15 to Admiralty).

Harwich
Clearance
Sweeps.

Intend sailing 8 fleet sweepers and one paddle sweeper at 0730 tomorrow Saturday for clearance sweep of 148 Q.Z.S. 2-1/2 miles on either side of No. 52 buoy, extending from centre line 1-1/2 miles eastward. Request air portection from 0830 to 1630. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1858/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Sweeping.

Weather permitting intend sailing 3 P.M./S at 0730/16 to continue clearance to W.of X. Request Fighter protection from 0830 to 1530 between 51° 50' N. 01° 47' E. and 51° 45' N. 01° 41' East. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2135/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Firth of Forth.

Request permission for 3rd M.R.F. to attempt recovery of suspected Magnetic Mine now buoyed near Fidra.

Oropesa Sweep.

My 1137/8/11. Operation completed. (C.in C. Rosyth 2309/15 to Adty.)

S.N.3.

Propose to carry out as follows. (R.A.M.L. 2349/15 to Adty.)

JEAN EDMUNDS
damaged.

Aromatic minesweeper JEAN EDMUNDS exploded a mine alongside when 55° back keel 3200 yds. at 1550/15. Three minor casualties. JEAN EDMUNDS was able to proceed under her own power, but had subsequently to be beached owing to flooding caused by the wave following on the explosion. (Rosalie Command Weekly Intell. Summary No. 4.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

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Addressed Admiralty, ~~from~~ ^{from} Bombay Fort W/T.
NR WC18 Cancel WC7.
(Nore W/T 1236/15).

Enemy Intelligence.

Trischen Island.

At 0203/15, 30' W. of Trischen Island,
two large ships 30 to 40,000 tons and
15,000 tons steering S.S.E. at about
20 knots. A/C report. (H.Q.B.C.1959/15)

Brittany Coast.

At 0505/15 in 49° N. 30 5' W. 2 stationary
ships, possibly Cruisers. A/C Report.
At 0503/15 in 48° 55' N. 20 50' W.
six small M/V's 200 to 300 tons, steering
N.W. at 6 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 1959/15).

Ventry Harbour.

Received at 0329. M/V of unknown
nationality at Ventry Harbour at 0305.
(C.in C. W.A. to D.N.I. Recd. 0413/15).

Brest.

4 possibly 5 Destroyers seen to-day.
(D.D.I.C. 1711/15) (V.A.S.1836/15).

Unst.)
Fair Isle)
Sumburgh)

Following vessels, not yet identified.
(A.C.O.S. 1720/15 to Adty.)

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War Diary.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

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- FRIDTJOF NANSEN. (Norwegian Fishery Protection Vessel)
Struck rock in Driftwood Bay 22 cables
250° from Eier Bluff. (F.O. Iceland
1025/15 to Adty.)
- NORTHERN PRINCESS. (Armed Boarding Vessel) On T.R.38,
reported fires drawn owing to leaky Boiler
Tubes. NORTHERN DUKE now towing her to
Reykjavik. ETA. P.M./16. (F.O.C.N.P.
1109/15 to Adty.)
- CHESHIRE. On completing fuelling proceed to Belfast to
stand by CHESHIRE till further orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1138/15 to Tug
SALVONIA).
- ABERDEEN. Leaking. Require docking on arrival.
(ABERDEEN 1200/15 to C.in C. W.A.).
- My 1200. Am returning to Liverpool.
Leak apparently more extensive and has
flooded lower central store.
Ship jarring badly against swamping sea
and swell on westerly courses. Assistance
not required. (ABERDEEN 1715/15 to C.in C.
W.A.).
- FISHPOOL. BROKE's 1203. Am returning to FISHPOOL who
is apparently undamaged below Main Deck in
55° 25' N. 16° 10' W.
(GARDENIA 1253/15 to C.in C. W.A.)
- FAME. My 2235/14. Sustained further bottom damage
during yesterday's attempt to refloat.
Repairs are now in hand and should be
completed a.m. tomorrow Saturday. If
weather conditions are favourable intend to
attempt to refloat ship on afternoon tide
tomorrow. Position is generally hopeful.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1321/15 to Adty.)
- DUNGENESS. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth requests Salvage Officer
be sent to DUNGENESS, beached abreast
Haisborough Light House.
- AUSTRALIA. Pronounced vibration from shafts causing
concern. Further high speed or heavy
weather may damage shafts. (AUSTRALIA
0854/15, 1744/15).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

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Convoys.

F.N. F.S.

Anticipated movements to 1200/16, of
F.N. 34, F.N.35, F.S.35, F.S.36
(C.in C. Nore 1200/15)

E.N.25.

2 Blenheims to escort from about 0600
until 0900. Kites to be close-hauled
between these times. (C.in C. Rosyth
0044/15, to HASTINGS, JASON, CURACOA
and trawlers)

H.G.46.

WANDERER, WARWICK, WILD SWAN and CLARE
to execution of your 1220/14.
(WANDERER to C.in C. W.A., 0030/15)
If not in company with FISHPOOL, proceed
to join Convoy H.G. 46 in accordance
my 1220/14. (C.in C. W.A. to GARDENIA,
0629/15).

S.L.53.

ARABIS and LA MALOUINE to meet S.L.53 Slow
reported by CAMITO (position)
(C.in C. W.A. 1109/15 to BROKE)

C.W.17.

Intend to sail from Southend 1000/17.
Escort FERNIE, CLEVELAND, 3 A/S trawlers,
5 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.B. vessels,
6 M.L's (C.in C. Nore, 1542/15).

W.N.39(0)

To sail 1500/15. Escort, trawler
DRANGEY. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1152/15)

B.H.X.86,)
TASSO)

My 1032/9 (parting of ships from Convoy
B.H.X. 86) Matter investigated on return
of TASSO to Botwood. No further action
considered necessary. (C.in C. A.W.I.,
2018/15).

H.X.84.
(attacked by
raider 5/11).
(ADMIRAL SCHEER)

No news received of TREWELLARD, 5201 tons,
FRESNO CITY, 4955 tons, and KENBANE HEAD,
5225 tons. Presumed they have been sunk.
Swedish VINGALAND, 2374 tons, bombed
and abandoned on 8/11 after Convoy had
scattered, is now presumed to have sunk.
MAIDAN, 7908 tons, is still unaccounted
for. (D.S. 437).

Of 38 ships in the Convoy, 30 were
announced as safe in Admty. communiques
of 12/11 and 13/11. It has now been
established that 2 more are safe,
SAN DEMETRIO and MORZKA WOLA. So far
as can be ascertained, 4 ships of the
Convoy only, of total tonnage 25,453,
were sunk by the raider. One other ship
of 7,900 tons is, however, still
unaccounted for. (Press Communique,
Admty., 15/11) (D.O.R. 15/11).

65 survivors of JERVIS BAY were picked up
by Swedish STUREHOLM, 4575 tons, which
was a member of the Convoy. (D.S., 438).

/ B.H.X.89
H.X.89
S.H.X.89.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

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Convoys.

B.H.X.89.
H.X.89.
S.H.X.89.

B.H.X.89, H.X.89 and S.H.X.89 are not to sail until further orders and if B.H.X. has sailed to be recalled. Policy signal follows. (Admiralty, 1640/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S.)

W.N.. E.N.
convoys.

My 2259/18/10. Owing to shortage of escorts decided to run W.N. and E.N. convoys 2 days out of 4 (details) Start 19/11. (Admiralty, 1741/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B. 247.

In order to avoid changing convoy numbers and sequences request O.B.247 be cancelled and that it be confirmed O.G.46 and O.B.248 (S) be sailed as programme. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1107/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N. 26.

Route instructions. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2315/15 to H.Q.F.C.)

Routes.

Following instructions supersede previous instructions for independent routing of merchant vessels from S. Atlantic ports to Northern Approaches of U.K. (C.in C. S.A. to S.O.I's Freetown and Capetown, for N.C.S.O's, 1007 N/15).

For N.C.S.O's. Until further notice all merchant ships of 13 knots and over bound to or from the U.K. are to be routed so as to pass to the northward of position 56° North 20° West and are to be sailed independently.

Ships proceeding independently to U.K. from North America and West Indies are to be routed North of Rockall.

It is essential that routes should be widely dispersed and that no focal points are established. Admiralty Message 1255/9 is cancelled. (D.T.D. 1157/15).

[Comment of C.in C. W.A., see 1430/18, p. 499]

Troop Convoys.

W.S.4 B.

W.S.4A.

Intend sailing Liverpool Section W.S.4 B escorted by BATH, ST. MARY'S, and ST. ALBANS, 1330/17 to R.V. with Clyde Section as in C.in C. W.A. 1331/14. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2120/15).

Request you sail BATH and ST. MARY'S to Liverpool for escort of W.S.4 B.

(R.A.M.L. to WESTERN ISLES, 2249/15).

Revised escort arrangements for W.S.4A (12 knots) left U.K. 1/11, and W.S.4B (17 knots) leaving U.K. 17/11. (D.O.D.(F) 2211/15 to C.in C. S.A., E.I., and Med.)



MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping. (Contd.)

Greek Shipping.

To be provided with degaussing and defensive equipment under same conditions as for ships of other Allied nations. (D.T.D. 1844/15).

BERA)
SVEADROTT)
CASTOR)

Swedish tankers. Re safe conduct to Gothenburg. (N.A. Stockholm, 1231/15).



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Intelligence.

Following from Navy Dept; from Casablanca. MASSILIA left for an unknown destination with French troops and ammunition. VILLE D'ALGER has been ordered to prepare for sea. KATIOLA arrived on 10/11 or 11/11 from Bordeaux and her ultimate destination is believed to be a South American port. 2 French destroyers of LAUDACIEUX Class have left for Toulon. Bizerta is understood to be sheltering 5 or 6 submarines which have left in the last few days. On 11/11 PRIMAGUET and JULES VERNE sailed the former in a southerly direction and latter for Bizerta. From Dakar. MARAKECH and MIN arrived on 9/11 with native troops, a contingent of Spahis and munitions. GROIX sailed on 11/11 for Casablanca. (N.A. Washington, 1046/15)

Your 1853/12. Intended CUBA shall be brought U.K. provided arrangements can be made to repatriate pro Vichy elements and that crew can be provided for her from Freetown to U.K. CUBA should be detained pending instructions. Part II, financial terms for personnel. (1 S.L. to C.in C. S.A., 1325/15).

Liberation of Gabon.

Capt. De Frégate D'Argenlieu to Admiral Muselier.

Brief summary of operation.

1 - Troops in convoy escorted by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, ^{COMMANDANT} DOMINE, ^{PREMIER} HOUDUCE, proceeded to Mondah.

2 - SAVORGNA DE BRAZZA and ^{COMMANDANT} DOMINE patrolled off Libreville so as not to allow Vichy ships to co-operate in defence of town.

3 - Have signalled BOUGAINVILLE to surrender she refused.

4 - Manoeuvred so as to force entrance from the North with ^{COMMANDANT} DOMINE sweeping up. BOUGAINVILLE closed distance and opened fire first repeating first, SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA retaliated vigorously alone and put opponent out of action.

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA suffered no casualties.

5 - Have taken advantage of success by / summing up ..

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Operations against Vichy French (Contd.)

? Ammunition

summing up military authorities to surrender town. Agreement reached, have sent message to troops to cease firing.

6 - On 13/11 and 14/11 demonstrations off Port Gentil was followed by surrender of rest of Gabon without further engagement.

7.- Casualties in BOUGAINVILLE slight.

8 - All personnel gave me entire satisfaction.

(SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 1400/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Policy.

Following is the policy of H.M.G. re Vichy French ships and should be followed in so far as it does not interfere with your object.

Warships to be reported. If they appear to be proceeding to an enemy occupied port or to any port in French Equatorial Africa now held by Free French they are to be warned this cannot be permitted and that, if necessary, force will be used to prevent it. If sufficient force is not available, they are to be shadowed. In case of RICHELIEU and JEAN BART, H.M.G. have decided that they are not to be allowed to proceed into the Mediterranean or German occupied ports, and Vichy Government have been so informed. If met, endeavour is to be made to persuade them to return to Dakar or Casablanca.

In the event of their refusal and if you are sufficiently superior force they are to be warned that you have instructions to use force, if necessary, but that it is hoped this may be avoided. Submarines are to be dealt with in accordance with Admty. 2033/28/8, 2306/14/9 and 1509/8/10.

Unescorted merchant vessels, unless definitely established to be under Free French control or proceeding between Free French ports, are to be sent in for examination, action being reported.

Merchant vessels escorted by warships are not to be interfered with.

(A.C.N.S. (F) 2111/15 to C.S.18).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

F.O. Force H in RENOWN, with ARGUS, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and DESPATCH, and 8 destroyers, left Gibraltar at 0415 for Central Mediterranean, (D.O.R. 16/11).

Operation "White". F.O. Force H, 2130/14. Comply with para.1 so as to arrive Gibraltar as soon as possible. Report E.T.A. (A.C.N.S.(F)), 1057/15 to NEWCASTLE, amended by 1232/15)

Your 1828/15. Understood. S.O. Force H 2130/14 is being passed to you. (F.O.C. N.A., 2150/15 to NEWCASTLE)

- UTMOST
- URSULA
- UPRIGHT
- TRIUMPH

- URSULA

- TRIUMPH.

My 1704/11 and Admiralty 1748/14. S/M situation: UTMOST in dock, URSULA further defects, completion date not yet known, UPRIGHT available and at short notice, TRIUMPH expected 16/11. Pending instructions from C.in C. Med. intend to keep UPRIGHT in harbour at short notice and not to establish patrol to eastwards of Gibraltar. (F.O.C. N.A., 1232/15 to Admiralty).

Details of defects. (A.S. Gibraltar, 1240/15).

Route. KINGSTON TURQUOISE to escort to Gibraltar. (F.O.C. N.A. to ROCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, 1648/15)

Sunderland Patrols.

Ref. A.797. 15/11. One Sunderland rendezvous with ARK ROYAL in position 38° 10' N. 3° 20' E. at 1700 hours one minus one 16/11 to drop photos. Two Sunderlands will patrol five miles North of Galita Island commencing 0530 hours K.D. one minus one 17/11 to escort Hurricanes. Sunderland T9048 will leave Gibraltar to arrive off Galita Island at 0530 hours zone minus one 17/11 to escort Hurricanes. Cancel all after E.T.D. in my A.242 15/11. (200 Group, 1700/15 to H.Q., Mediterranean.)

See also p 431 (hid)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- DORSETSHIRE
- CUMBERLAND
- DEVONSHIRE
- SHROPSHIRE
- SOUTHAMPTON
- CORNWALL.

Admiralty 2326/10/10. Future movements (after escort of W.S.4B). Admiralty will issue R/V instructions to DEVONSHIRE who is to be sailed in accordance with A.T. 0036/14 for a position W. of the Azores. (A.C.N.S.(F), 2211/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

→ CUMBERLAND.

Your 1129 B/14. CUMBERLAND to be sailed from Simonstown p.m./17 for 20° 00' S., 02° 00' W., thence to St. Helena. From St. Helena CUMBERLAND to proceed to patrol in I.35 and to arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C. S.A., 1737/15, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DURMITOR.

C.in C. E.I., 0550/14. DURMITOR did not call at any Union port. Nothing known of cargo loaded at Lourenco Marques. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1433/15, to C.in C. E.I.)

NEPTUNE.

R.A. 1 C.S. transferred his flag today from DEVONSHIRE to NEPTUNE at Lagos. (D.O.R. 16/11).

Free French Appts.

General de Gaulle has announced following appointments
(1) General de Larninat to be High Commissioner French Africa.
(2) M. Eboue late of ? Tahad to be Governor General French Equatorial Africa.
(3) M. Cournarie to be Governor French Cameroons in place of Colonel Leclerc
(4) Colonel Parent to be Governor of Gabon.
M. Cournarie, previously Administrator in French Cameroons, was made Secretary General by Larminat. His new appointment will not be universally popular.
It is reported Colonel Leclerc will become O.C. Free French Troops in Africa.
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1517/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Suspicious Ship.

Master HUNTINGDON reports sighting 1035 G.M.T. 7/11 in 032° 19' S. 058° 10' E. strange ship steering East by North speed 9 knots distance 6 miles Ship appeared to attempt to close and then crossed HUNTINGDON track astern maintaining her course.
Description. With exception of stem description fits ship described by C.in C. East Indies 0600Z/21 and may be "heading off" ship referred to in his 1440/30/9. Ship cannot be identified here. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1615/15).

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.Sunderland Escorts.

Your A.241 14/11.
 Agree 1 Sunderland rendezvous with ARK ROYAL in position 38° 10' N. 3° 20' E. at 1700 hours 1 minus 1 16/11 to drop photos. 2 Sunderlands will also patrol 5 miles North of Galita Island commencing 0530 hours 1 minus 1 on 17/11 to escort Hurricanes. Please delay departure of Sunderland T.9048. which arrives Gibraltar A.M./15/11 so that it arrives off Galita Island at 0530 hours 1 minus 1 17/11 to act as 1 of escorting flying boats. (H.Q. Med. 0845/15 to 200 Group).

Alexandria Raids.

Night of 14/11. First 1900 to 1930, 1 a/c, 3 bombs; second, 2300 to 2315, 1 a/c 6 bombs; third, 0000 to 0030, 1 a/c 4 bombs; fourth 0120 to 0430, 3 a/c 6 bombs. Fourth raid destroyed a wooden hut killing a few Egyptians and wounding 9. No other damage or casualties throughout night. (R.A. Alexandria, 0910/15).

M.T.B's.

Could use M.T.B's with great advantage from Crete or Greece if available. Base organisation ashore or afloat would be needed. (C.in C. Med., 1225/15 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE, Operation "Collar".

Admty. 1633/8. Appears unnecessary NEWCASTLE should remain at Malta until Operation "Collar". Suggest NEWCASTLE be sailed independently for Gibraltar by night as soon as convenient after unloading. NEWCASTLE should not fuel at Malta if can be avoided, as stocks are difficult to maintain. (C.in C. Med., 1415/15).

Operation B.S.

Orders to OSIRIS and ROVER. (Capt. S.1, 1509/15).

DECOY Bombed.

DECOY hit by bomb during air raid Alexandria 1730/13. 2 officers 9 ratings killed. Temporary repairs in hand locally to complete in about 7 days, when ship will proceed to Malta for permanent repairs. (C.in C. Med., 1531/15).

Greek Troop Convoys.

N.A. Athens 1715/15 see Mediterranean Volume.

Greek Mission.

British Minister Athens 1148/15 to F.O. Consider this is a most inopportune moment for Rear-Adm. Turle to leave Athens. (C.in C. Med., 2007/15)

/ Taranto Photos.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Taranto Photos.

Taken 12/11 and 14/11 being forwarded.
(N.O.I.C. Malta to Admty. 2010/15).

VALIANT.

Admty. 2000/18/10. Capt. C.E. Morgan
assumed command p.m./14. (C.in C. Med.,
1416/15).

Motor Yachts.

Your 1835/8. Description of M.V's.
How many would you require and what is
degree of priority? (D.S.V.P. to C.in C.
Med., 1839/15).

Taranto Attack.

My 1121/13. Re attack on Italian Fleet
in Taranto Harbour. Communique has been
issued with following addition "During
course of these operations 8 enemy
aircraft were shot down".
(C.in C. Med., 1345/15 to Admty.)

Convoy A.N.7.

Sailing telegram. Escort ILEX.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1814/15).

R.A.F. Operations.

M.E. Operational Summary No. 158 up to
1200/15. Para. 1 Greece. Day 13/11.
2 Blenheims bombed Valona harbour
destroying a jetty and sinking a barge.
Accurate A.A. fire experienced.
1 large 12 medium ships and 30 barges
observed in harbour and 2 Squadrons of
fighters and 1 of S.79's on aerodrome.
Para.2. Egypt. Day 14/11.
A Sunderland reconnoitred southern
Ionian Sea for enemy surface and submarine
craft. Night 14/15 Nov. Blenheims of
55 and 113 Squadrons bombed Tummar, Bardia,
Tobruk and Bomba starting a fire at Bomba.
All aircraft returned safely. During
night single enemy aircraft made 6 attacks
on Alexandria bombs falling on shore in
Lake Maryat and in sea. No damage or
casualties reported.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1147/15).

Enemy Units.

My 1817. Have arrange a visit to Naples
as well as Sicilian ports for 16/11.
The cruisers in Messina are probably
8 inch gun and are surrounded by torpedo
nets. (V.A. Malta, 1903/15).

Enemy Units,
Air Recon.

Your 2247/14. As undamaged Italian
battleships and 8 inch cruisers had left
Taranto yesterday 14/11 request you take
steps to locate them by investigating
bases within range of your aircraft.
Flying boat reconnaissance already
arranged from Suda Bay for 16/11 17/11
18/11 should be adequate for security
of operation outlined in my 1715/14.
Object should be, firstly, Security of
operation 'XXXX'. Secondly, Location
of Italian battle fleet and 8 inch
cruisers. (C.in C. Med., 2011/15, to
VA. Malta.)

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East Indies.

DURBAN.

To sail from Nancowry, at 0330Z/16/11 and proceed at 15 knots to (?004°) 30' N., 092° 00' E. and then patrolling at 12 knots between that position and 003° 00' N., 088° 00' E. (C.in C. E.I., 1804 Z/15 to Force V).

QUEEN MARY.

Experience has shown that handling of this ship at Bombay is unsatisfactory (reasons). Suggesting Trincomalee instead. (S.S.T.O. India (Bombay) 0555Z/15 to D. of S.T.)

Air Report.

Summary No. 156. No naval items. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1719/15).

W.C.7 cancelled.

Following received on F.X.:- Addressed Admty., from Bombay Fort W/T. N.R. W.C.18, cancel W.C.7. (Nore W/T, 1236/15).

Air Report.

Operational Summary 158. Night 12-13/11. 2 Wellesleys bombed fuel depot Gura setting fire to 4 buildings. Day 14/11. Reconnaissance made of Dahlak Archipelago. Kenya, 12/11. S.A.A.F. reconnoitred Geldeidia and made coastal patrol off Dar-es-Salaam. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1147/15)

America and West Indies.

German Ships.
Tampico.

My 1302/10. Navy Dept. informs me that 4 German ships at Tampico reported to have steam up and ready to sail. (N.A. Washington, 2115/15). [See also p. 435]

China.

Shipping Losses.

Following ships must be presumed to have fallen into enemy hands. There is no evidence that they have been sunk and possibility of meeting them at sea cannot be excluded.

CITY OF BAGDAD, TIRRANNA, TALLEYRAND, FILEFJELL, KING CITY, NOTOU, ATHELKING, BENAON, BENARTY, NORDVARD, COMMISSAIRE RAMEL, STORSTAD, RINGWOOD, DUMITOR, AUTOMEDON, OLE JACOB.

Wreckage has been recovered from following ships which may therefore be presumed sunk: KEMMENDINE, TURAKINA, BRITISH COMMANDER. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0801Z/15)

/ Japanese Policy. ...



MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (Continued)

Japanese Policy.

Indo-China.

Interview of an American correspondent with Vice-Adm. Shimada on coming Japanese move into South Indo-China to gain bases at Saigon and Canranh against the day they are at war with G.B. (S.O.I. Shanghai, 0739Z/15, to C.in C. China).

Australia.

Troop Transports.

ADELAIDE escorting transports ORION, BATORY left Sydney 1400 Z/14 for R.V. Western Bass Strait proceeding to South of Tasmania. (A.C.N.B., 0724 Z/15) STRATHEDEN left Melbourne 1800 Z/14 for Adelaide. (A.C.N.B. 0512Z/15) QUEEN MARY arrived Fremantle 0605Z/15. (A.C.N.B. 1341Z/15).

15.11.1940.

Friday. 435

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Tampico.

Navy Dept. report (see America and West Indies).

RHEIN
IDARWALD
ORINOCO
PHRYGIA

RHEIN and IDARWALD left Tampico tonight. Other 2 (ORINOCO and PHRYGIA) ready to leave also. Jamaica advised by R.O., Tampico. (Consul-Gen., Mexico City, no T.O.O./15, recd. 0945/16).

NORBURG)
CORDELIA)
LARISSA)

Left in ballast for Russia. (Macrae, Galatz, 1136/15)

NORDERNEY

At Para, Brazil, has been stopped receiving more than 250 tons coal by Captain of the Port, with concurrence of Brazilian Chief of Naval Staff. Captain of the Port considers the ship interned. (D.S. 438).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

FULGOR.

Tanker, believed to have slipped out of Cadiz and to be masquerading as Spanish CAMPO AMOR. (D.S. 437)

LAVORO)
OLTERRA)

Tankers, which scuttled themselves off Gibraltar in Spanish territorial waters on 10/6, have been refloated and towed into Algeciras. Both said to be flying Spanish flag and to have been bought by Spain from Italy. (D.S. 437)

LEME

My 2139/10/6. Portland, Oregon, reports (A.1) that LEME now lying Portland has on board 1036 tons fuel. Her daily consumption is 23 tons at 14 knots. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1643/15)

TORCELLO

Tanker, arrived from Batoum with cargo of petroleum 1210/15 (Varna 1210/15).

15.11.1940.

Friday.

436


 War Diary.
U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.

GONCALO VELHO.
(attacked 14/11)

? 8/11 see page 512

Portuguese, 1595 tons, from Reykjavik to Oporto with cod fish, reported on arriving Leixoes she had been attacked and damaged by a German S/M on 14/11. The U-boat commander afterwards apologised.

KOHINUR
HAVBOR

Both by U.65

British, 5168 tons. CITY OF PITTSBURG arrived Freetown 19/11 with 35 survivors from KOHINUR torpedoed in 04.24' N., 13.46' W. at 1430/15. Survivors report Norwegian tanker torpedoed same position. This is probably HAVBOR (7614 tons). Chief Officer identified S/M from silhouette identification book as Italian. Crew in shorts and berets looked like Italian or French seen from 40 ft. This appears another s/m to that reported in my 1909 N/19. (C.in C. S.A., 2129 N/19, to Admty.) My 2129. Only European survivors are first mate, chief engineer, 4th engineer (names). (C.in C. S.A., 2229 N/19).

Submarines Reported.0010.

Italian U/B probably entering Gironde. (D.S. 437).

1206.

57° to 58° N., 17° to 19° W., position indefinite (D.S. 438).

Before 2030.

53.13 N., 26.29 W., periscope reported by CHITRAL and graded C.3 by her. (D.S.438).

2253.

Northwards of Shetlands, position indefinite. (D.S. 438).

1308.

D.F. unreliable fix 56° N. 12° W. (H.Q.C.C., 1700/15).

Submarines Attacked.

Following from ELSE RYKENS:-

Consider target is s/m. Result of d/c attack unknown. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0129/15). Initial A/S contact 0025 bearing 280° 3000 yards from Aldeburgh Light. One d/c expended, contact lost and found, searched area without any result. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0205/15). ELSE RYKENS reports suspected s/m vicinity of position Z at 0129/15. (C.in C. Nore, 0215/15, to CAMPBELL, CATTISTOCK). My 0129/15. Target was thought non-sub. WIDGEON and SHEARWATER searching area before F.N.35 passes. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1610/15).

437

16.11.1940
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Dover
Shelled

Enemy coastal batteries near Calais fired about 10 rounds this morning. Four shells fell near the R.M. Siege Battery. The remainder were presumably fired at an eastbound convoy in the Downs, but all fell astern and short.

ARSENAL
Sunk
BURZA
ARROW
SUPERMAN
Damaged

BURZA was damaged this morning in collision with A/S trawler ARSENAL. The latter sank, and the explosion of her depth charges damaged ARROW which was standing by. Rescue tug SUPERMAN which stood by was also damaged in collision.

LL Corvettes
for Mediterranean

PEONY, SALVIA, GLOXINIA and HYACINTH left Liverpool today to join the Meditn. Fleet.

Convoy
W.S. 4. B.

AUSTRALIA reported defects yesterday. Her place as ocean escort of convoy W.S. 4 B will be taken by NORFOLK.

TALISMAN

TALISMAN sailed today for patrol. Before proceeding on patrol she is to carry out an operation which is referred to in V.A.S. 1011/10.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Heavy attacks were made last night on Hamburg, the docks being included among the objectives.

Channel ports and gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez were also attacked. No important results were observed.

Today, shipping was attacked in the docks at Den Helder.

Coastal Command

A Hudson today dropped 3- 250 lb bombs near a merchant vessel 68 miles West of Lister Light, causing a slight list.



War Diary

16.11.1940
Saturday 438

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

The following attacks occurred in the Thames Estuary and Harwich areas today:-

SS SHERBROOKE
Damaged

0933 SS SHERBROOKE in F.S. 35 bombed 5 miles N.W. of Sunk L.V. 1241 bombed 8 miles S.E. of Orfordness. 1337 reported disabled 4 miles N. of Sunk L.V.

SS GASLIGHT
Undamaged

1313 SS GASLIGHT unsuccessfully bombed near S.W. Swin Light.

VEGA

1404 VEGA (damaged by mine 11/11) in tow of ST MELLONS attacked off Harwich. No details known.

N.E. Swin L.V.
Shelled

1407 N.E. Swin L.V. shelled by aircraft, several hits above waterline, no casualties.

Paddle M/S
QUEEN EMPRESS
Undamaged

1447 QUEEN EMPRESS (Paddle minesweeper) bombed near Orfordness. No damage.

Butt of Lewis
Lighthouse
Station

Butt of Lewis Lighthouse Station and R.A.F. Station, Melbost, were machine-gunned today; no casualties occurred.

Bombs were dropped in the Portsmouth and Gosport areas today, but no naval damage or casualties are reported.

Mining

The Swedish wireless broadcasts that the Finnish SS MINERVA, 2039 G. has been sunk off the North Sea coast of Germany, it is believed as the result of striking a mine. (A.M., D.S. 485)

SS DAGENHAM
Damaged

SS DAGENHAM in Convoy F.S. 35 was damaged this afternoon by an underwater explosion in the mouth of the Thames and was beached.

/A parachute.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

439

Mining-Contd.

A parachute mine was seen to fall at 1850 today in the Medway. Enemy aircraft minelaying last night was suspected in the Thames Estuary.

Mines were exploded off Blyth (which was closed from 0315 to 1021) and off Swansea and Milford Haven. Explosions resembling mines were seen in the Thames Approaches.

Mediterranean

Troops for
Greece

C.S.3. in GLOUCESTER with YORK, SYDNEY, BERWICK and GLASGOW with troops from Alexandria arrived at Piraeus today.

Air
Operations

Oil tanks, railwaystation and aerodromes at Brindisi were bombed last night, starting several fires.

Blenheims last night bombed Sollum, Bardia Tobruk, Boma and Derna, causing much damage.

Three enemy aircraft attacked Alexandria last night. No damage was caused. Four heavy bombs or mines with delay action of about 72 hours, which were dropped during the raid on night of 13th., exploded in the harbour today. The damage was slight, but the floating dock was damaged and will be out of commission for a short time. (P. 477)

An R.A.F. convoy of 4 vessels arrived at Piraeus this evening.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

16.11.1940
Saturday

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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

CANBERRA no longer forms part of Force V
(see 10/11)

COLOMBO, while reconnoitring, obtained at least 2 hits on a small coaster of 1500 tons anchored off Mogadishu p.m. today. The shore batteries replied but COLOMBO was not hit.

Last night, Wellesleys bombed the main quay, destroyer base at Massawa and store houses at Zila.

America & West Indies

The German vessels RHEIN, ORINOCO, PHRYGIA and IDARWALD left Tampico last night. ORINOCO developed engine trouble before actually clearing port and returned, as did also RHEIN and IDARWALD. PHRYGIA is reported to have caught fire and was abandoned outside the port.

QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived at Trinidad this morning.



WAR DIARY.

Saturday.
16.11.40.

HOME COMMANDS.

MARSHALL
SOULT.

Asking approval to allocate her as 441
Trawler base ship. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1145/16).

Portsmouth
Destroyer
Striking
Force.

Reference A.T. 1618/14 and C.in C.
Portsmouth 2243/5/10. Present allocation
of four destroyers to Portsmouth when one
is away refitting and one is boiler
cleaning does not allow of two destroyers
being kept at immediate notice every
night for unforeseen commitments.

I have been using a French T.B. as
second destroyer in order to give one the
necessary stand off. Request
confirmation that BOREAS due to complete
22/11 will be rejoining 1st D.F. If not,
I would be grateful if one V class
could join flotilla in order to maintain
essential emergency striking force.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1923/16).

Escort of
merchant ship
groups.

In view of A.T. 1618/14 will it be
possible for armed trawlers from your
command to escort the merchant ship groups
from and to Dartmouth after the French
T.B's have sailed from Portsmouth.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2018/16 to C.in C.W.A).

Defence of United Kingdom.

"Deluge" at 1130/16. (D.C.1152/16)
At 2330/16 (D.C.2345/16).

Movements.

Nore.

Dispositions night 16/17. (C.in C. Nore
0800/16).

WILLEM
VAN DER
ZAAN.

Sailed Londonderry to Java. Itinerary.
Instructions. Re Adty. 2322/25.
(D.O.D.(F) 1228/16 to C.in C. W.A.etc.)

Rosyth.

Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth 1516/16).

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

442

Operations.

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.
(Search for survivors
of H.X. 64.)

Adty. 2055/11. BONAVENTURE has been in company with CHITRAL since p.m./14 but destroyers mentioned BS 3 1142/13 have not been sighted. Continuous gales have been experienced and consider chances of finding any survivors is now negligible. BONAVENTURE leaves patrol tomorrow Sunday. Much minor damage has been caused by the weather. Suggest proceeding to a dockyard port on return to replace boats, effect repairs and simultaneously clean two boilers. Estimated time required 3 or 4 days. (BONAVENTURE 1111/16).

Dover
Shelled.

Enemy Coastal batteries near Calais fired about ten rounds between 0630 and 0830 today. Four shells fell near Siege Battery. Remainder presumably fired at Eastbound convoy while in the Downs fell astern and short. (V.A. Dover 1803/16).

Jan Mayon.

My 1214/15. As expedition may be carrying stores for a seaplane base and great importance is attached to its capture NAIAD is to continue to operate Jan Mayon Island for present. Hope to sail AURORA from Scapa to relieve NAIAD about 18/11. REPULSE is to return to Scapa with destroyer screen as in my 1214/15 November passing south of North Rona. Oiler MONTENOL is in Skaale Fiord, Faroes. (C.in C. H.F. 2246/16).

Submarines.

O.22.

Orders to leave patrol. (Capt: (S) 9 1401/16).

Movements.

Informatory signal to submarines Area A. (Capt: (S) 9 1423/16).

Positions and
Movements.

0800/17 (V.A.S. 1656/16).

16.11.40.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

443

British Air Activity.

Q.F. Decoy Sites.

for Worthy Down, Yeovilton, Arbroath, Crail. Concurrence of A.A. Defence Authorities to be obtained. (D. of L.D. 1309/16 for R.A.N.A.S.)

Starches.

Assessments. (C.in C. Rosyth 1740/16, 1914/16).

S.S. EMPIRE WIND.
(Bombed 13/11).

Enemy Air Activity.
Following survivors of EMPIRE WIND. 10 Officers, 31 men landed Greenock 16.11.40. by ARROW. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1241/16).

Convoy "Child".

1 A/C shadowing Convoy ^{"Child"} ~~CHILD~~ 55° 58' N., 12° 17' W. (Convoy Guard N.T.O.O. Rcd. 0928).

SHERBROOKE Attacked.

(F.S. 35)

0933/16 five miles N.W. of Sunk L.V. SHERBROOKE bombed. (SHERBROOKE 0935/16) N. Foreland Radio T.O.R. 1043/16).

8 miles South East Orfordness SHERBROOKE bombed 1241/16. (N.Foreland Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1353/16).

AAAA Disabled require immediate assistance SHERBROOKE, position 4 miles North of Sunk. (N.Foreland W/T 1337/16).

S.S. SHERBROOKE. KENIA.
S.S. GASLIGHT. VEGA.
SWIN L.VESSEL. QUEEN EMPRESS.

Summary of air attacks on shipping in Thames Estuary and Harwich areas today. 0935 S.S. SHERBROOKE in F.S.35 bombed 5 miles NW of Sunk Lt. Vessel. Engines disabled casualties unknown. Tug KENIA has been sent from Harwich. 1313 S.S. GASLIGHT bombed near S.W. Swin Lt. Vessel no damage. 1404 VEGA in tow of St. MELLONS attacked off Harwich no further details reported. 1407 N.E. Swin Light Vessel shelled by aircraft several hits above waterline no casualties. 1447 H.M.S. QUEEN EMPRESS bombed 2 miles 040° from ~~Orfordness~~ ^{Orfordness}. No damage. (C.in C. Nore 1737/16).

Departures Tug R W WHEELDON and PRIZEMAN at 0810 to assist VEGA. (F.O. Humber 0850/17).



WAR DIARY.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.) 444

Convoy "Bosom"
"Bosom" 1 aircraft shadowing convoy ^{"Bosom"}~~Bosom~~
51° 20'N., 1° 32'E.
(FERNIE 1000/16).

LXEW. S.O.S. de LXEW attacked off Lowestoft.
(Scapa Base Ship 1149/16).
S.O.S. Re LXEW Resume normal working but
please keep look out for further
developments 1150/16 de GKU.
(N.T.O.O. Recd. 1336/16).

S.S. GASLIGHT. AAAA GASLIGHT bombed off South West
Swin. (North Foreland 1313/16).

Tanker. Following received at 1405 G.M.T. from
St. Mellons to N.O.I.C. Harwich observed
bombs dropped near Tanker off Shipwash.
Cannot see any damage.
(N.Foreland Radio 1403/16).

Convoy "Secura"
"Secura" Convoy ^{"Secura"}~~Secura~~. Fighters have been
despatched to your assistance.
(Nore W/T 1424/16).

Convoy "Booby"
BOOBY. Emergency air Attack. ^{"Booby"}
Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy ~~BOOBY~~.
My position 51° 43'N., 1° 24'E
(WOOLSTON 1455/16).

Butt of Lewis
attacked N.O.i/c Stornoway reports: Enemy
aircraft probably one in number made
reconnaissance over Northern most
part of Lewis today between 1230 and
1330. Machine gun fire was directed
against Butt of Lewis Lighthouse Station
and R.A.F. Station at Melbost. No
casualties. Fighter station at Wick was
informed by R.A.F. 1329/16 ends.
HAZARD also reports one hostile aircraft
at 1345 000 degs. Cape Wrath 6 miles.
Aircraft fired bunch of about 9 Red Stars
then flashed letter M afterwards
disappearing on westerly course.
(A.C.O.S. 1648/16).

Portsmouth. At 2107 3 H.E. bombs dropped in Haslar
Creek no apparent damage 3 H.E. in
Portsmouth slight damage 1 or more in
Gosport 3 or 4 houses demolished.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2342/16).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.11.40.

Saturday.

445

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

M/S Operations.

My 1858/15 and 2135/15 both operations cancelled on account of weather. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0259/16).

Blyth.

Port of Blyth closed. Mine self exploded in channel. Expect to reopen daylight if weather conditions permit of pilot boarding. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 0315/16).

My 0315 / Blyth open. Restrictions in my 1514/15 still in force. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1021/16).

One ground magnetic mine detonated LL 0934/16. 2.5 cables Blyth E.Pier. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1050/16).

Operation S.N.3.

R.A.M.L. 2249/15. Sailed BATH and (?) ST. MARY for Liverpool (?) 1800/16. (WESTERN ISLES 0445/16)

R.A.M.L. 2349/15.

It is not desired to issue a QZX message for operation S.N.3 until lay is completed.

(2) If you concur and consider it necessary to warn individual ships request you will do so.

(A.C.N.S.(H) 1144/16 to C.in C. H.F.)

*

Your 2349/15. Proposals for Operation S.N.3. Concur. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1145/16 to R.A.M.C.)

Your 1144/16. Concur.

(C.in C. H.F. 1915/15 to Adty).

Explosions.

FOLKESTONE reports at least 15 underwater explosions resembling Mines detonating were heard on 12/11 between 0600 (055° 45' N., 009° 17' W) and Noon (055° 47' N., 008° 20' W.) Others were heard both before and after these times. Four splashes were seen to Southward accompanying explosion. (C.in C. W.A. 0910/16).

S.S. DAGENHAM.
Damaged.

S.S. DAGENHAM Commodore's ship in convoy F.S. 35 damaged by underwater explosion in position 4 cables 065° from Mouse L.V. at 1335 today. Ship now beached in position 6 cables 180° from East Cant Buoy. (C.in C. Nore 1707/16).



16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

446

Mining. (Continued)

MARCELLE
(mined 10/11)

Belgian trawler MARCELLE employed as Balloon Barrage trawler was mined on 10/11. 5 of Belgian crew were picked up, all injured. 1 has since died. None missing. 1 of Belgian crew was not on board at the time.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1440/16).

Swansea.

Mines exploded by L.L. 236° 2.2 miles from Flatholm Light (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1445/16).

Thames Estuary.

Summary of explosions etc. in Thames Estuary on night of 15/16.

1820 Explosion similar to mine explosion seen in region of East Oaze buoy.

2356 Two explosions similar to those caused prematurely by mines falling on the water in region of East Spaniard Buoy.

At 1850 Parachute mine seen to fall on bearing 078 degs. from near South Gate of Boom at range estimated to be three miles.

At 1955 Plane circling over Medway area dropped seven groups of four red lights and finished by firing one green light when leaving to the Eastward.

At 2345 A plane flying to the Eastward over the outer estuary fired two groups of four red lights.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1717/16)

St. Ann's Head.

Two ground mines self detonated 095° St. Ann's Head Light 7.8 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1816/16).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

0820 r.c. of Brest Harbour five destroyers moored alongside, 2 anchored.
(A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1000/16).

Re intelligence
14/11.

Your 1850/14 ^(p 383) telling me of the possibility of a German Naval Unit leaving the Bergen area for the Skaggerak that evening bore no indication that this information had been communicated to A.C.O.S., C.in C. Rosyth, or A.O.C.-in-C. C.C. Request this may be done in future, that consideration may be given to an immediate air reconnaissance to be followed by the despatch of Air Striking Forces if a target is located. The information was received too late to allow of the enemy being intercepted by surface forces.
(C.in C. H.F. 1031/16 to Adty.) Reply: p. 463.

16.11.1940.

Saturday.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ARSENAL
BURZA
SUPERMAN
ARROW

BURZA reported in collision with H/37 Trawler ARSENAL at 0745, 4 miles South of Toward. ARROW and Tug SUPERMAN are standing by. (F.O. Greenock 0830/16).

My 0830. ARSENAL sank and exploded causing machinery damage in SUPERMAN. BURZA returning to Greenock with considerable damage to bow. No casualties. (F.O. Greenock, 1027/16)

ARROW.

ARROW reports ship out of action operationally for some weeks. Machinery damaged by depth charge explosions following sinking of ARSENAL. Only destroyer in 3rd Group now available AMBUSCADE. Group required 19/11 for OG 46. (D. 11 1211/16).

Rescue tug SUPERMAN damaged in collision today Saturday request owners or agents may be advised. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1224/16).

?

Following from D.O. Walton. My 1444 reference to vessel apparently on sand at 1335 No. 89 LV reports 3 tugs and a lifeboat attending on her. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1610/16).

S.S. ANDONI

ANDONI engine failure taken in tow position, course and speed 054° 50' 013° 43' 077° 5½ CLARE in company. CLEMATIS 1800/16).

Proceed with despatch to assistance of S.S. ANDONI in tow CLEMATIS in position 054° 50' N. 012° 43' W. today course 077° speed five and half knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2321/16 to ENGLISHMAN).

Sailed rescue tug ENGLISHMAN in accordance with my 2321/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0015/17).

FAME.

E.R. 3268 FAME today's attempt unsuccessful. Further repairs are being carried out aft and additional pumps are being placed. A further attempt will be made tomorrow Sunday weather permitting. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1823/16).

16.11.1940.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.

448

Convoys.

- E.N. 27. Additional escort GLEANER. Code word "Usage". (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1027/16).
- F.N.36. CATTISTOCK to reinforce escort, to act under orders of LOWESTOFT. (C.in C. Nore 2140/16)
- W.N.40. S/M L.23 from Scapa to Dundee. (A.C.O.S. 1141/16) Your 1141/16. Request you will inform R.A.F. and F.A.A. authorities in accordance F.S.A.3 para. 6. (C.in C. W.A. 2029/16)
- S.L. 53. U/B may be following (C.in C. W.A., 1830/16 to SALADIN, BROKE, etc.)
GERANIUM to proceed with Liverpool portion, ST. APOLLO with Oban portion. Both ships to await orders at destination. (C.in C. W.A., 1640/16).
- S.C., H.X., O.B. Adty. 1640/15. Normal sailings of S.C., H.X. and O.B. convoys are to be resumed. O.B. 247 is cancelled. Ships from B.H.X.89 are to join B.H.X.90. (V.C.N.S. 1828/16).
- O.G.46
O.B. 248(S) Your 1107/15. Confirmed as to these convoys (C.in C. W.A. 1911/16 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool).
- B.H.X.90. Details. Motor boats in EMPIRE PUMA and RAJAHSTAN, aeroplanes in MODAVIA. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1450/16, 1452/16)
- HENRI MORY. Returned from S.C.11, engine trouble (N.C.S.O., Sydney, C.B. 1521/16)
- CORDELIA. Returned from B.H.X. 84, scattered. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.V., 1521/16).
- Escort Groups. Order of sailing (C.in C. W.A., 2130/16)
- Routes compromised. Your 2001/15. (Request for verification from W.R.) Following is repetition of my 1744/14. From N.C.S.O. Lisbon. Wireless Operator of Greek ship ANTONIOS CHANDRIS, sunk by German raider, reports that (1) instructions for rejoining convoy by D.F. (2) Wireless logs previous to February 1940 showing positions of several convoy routes between Canada and U.K. have fallen into hands of enemy. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 0212/16)
- A/A Guns and Zigzagging For N.C.S.O's. Masters of merchant vessels armed with A.A. guns are to be instructed that in the event of air attack frequent zigzagging may hamper efficiency of A.A. fire and has no great effect on the enemy's bombing accuracy. Ships under attack should however use their helm to assist in keeping their A.A. armament bearing. (D.T.D.1942/16).

/ Employment of sloops for
S.C. convoys.



16.11.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

449

Shipping. (Continued)

Employment of
sloops for
S.C. convoys.

In view of damage in heavy weather and small value of one sloop as ocean escort of S.C. convoys, I propose discontinuing use of sloops on this service and using all sloops on O.G. and H.G. escorts, where reinforcement is important. (C.in C. W.A. 2030/15). *Approved (Admty 2201/30) page 831.*

Troop Convoys.
W.S.4 B.
NORFOLK.
CAIRO.

In view of AUSTRALIA'S 0854 and 1744/15, propose NORFOLK replace her in ocean escort of convoy W.S.4 B to Freetown. After calling Scapa for essential stores 17/11 NORFOLK can R.V. with convoy in position 270° Oversay Light six miles at 0830/18. (C.in C. H.F., 1143/16). Your 1143. Request you will sail NORFOLK accordingly. (D.O.D.(H), 1627/16). My 1103/14 and 2211/15. For AUSTRALIA read NORFOLK. (D.O.D. (H), 1818/16) Orders to NORFOLK. (C.in C. H.F., 2314/16) Request you will detach CAIRO to R.V. (Oversay Light) at 0830/18 with Convoy W.S.4 B, EDINBURGH, NORFOLK and ten transports. Route. (C.in C. W.A., 2040/16 to C.S.18).

W.S.4 A,
W.S.4 C.

CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE are to act as ocean escorts to W.S.4 A and W.S.4 C, combined. Date of arrival Capetown. (C.in C. S.A., 1133/16).

W.S.4 B.

Admty. 2121/11, para.1. Delete PASTEUR. (D.O.D. (H) 1848/16).

ORDUNA
ADDA
CITY OF CANTERBURY

) Date of sailing with Govt. personnel,
) for Bermuda, Freetown and Bombay
) respectively. CATHAY to provide
ocean escort. (D.O.D.(H) to
C. in C. W.A., 1311/16). *Amended, see 1207/20*

W.S.3.

Arrived Suez p.m./16. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1812/16). *p. 556.*

A/C and
U/B attacks,
Convoys.

In order that official information of A/C and action taken by escorts and convoy, may be available to C.in C. at earliest moment, Capt. D. of the port concerned is to draw up a collective report of circumstances as soon as escort group returns to harbour. Details (C.in C. W.A. 1620/16).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Operations Against Vichy French.

Cameroons,
NEPTUNE.

Admty. 2331/14. Am informed De Gaulle has made many changes in administrative appointments in A.E.F. among others supersession of Leclerc in the Cameroons. De Gaulle himself expected Lagos 18 or 19/11 on way to England. Intend remaining in NEPTUNE at Lagos to see him before I go to Duala to call on the new Governor. (F.O.I.C.S.I.1042 A/16)

INDOCHINOIS
CUBA

Your 1759/14. Elder Dempster have agreed to act as agents and operators for INDO CHINOIS and if necessary for CUBA and will co-operate in finding crews. Request you will inform their local representatives. Elder Dempster will not communicate with them direct but will send all instructions through Admiralty. (Head of M. 1906/16 to C.in C. S.A.) Details of cargo in CUBA (C.in C. S.A. 2311/16).

VICTORIA.

French trawler, due to leave Casablanca for Gibraltar about 20/11 with Brit. merchant seamen stranded in N. Africa. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C. N.A. 1812/16)

North Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE

F.O. Force H 2130/14. Intend to sail NEWCASTLE for Malta p.m./17. (F.O.C.N.A. 2045/16).

GERMANIA

Probability of leaving Ponta Delgada and of R.V. with ADMIRAL SCHEER. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1920/16) (See German Merchant Ships).

VICTORIA
(German
guarantee)

Your 1332. French N.A. has asked Adty. three times. Guarantee still not given by Armistice Commission. Will go on pressing the matter. (Madrid 2011/16.)

South Atlantic.

Suspicious Ships.

NORTHUMBERLAND reported large merchant ship and oil tanker in 05° 28' N., 12° 36' W. at 0600Z/16 behaving suspiciously. Investigate. (C.in C. S.A. 0906/16 to BULOLO). Report cancelled, ships apparently friendly (C.in C. S.A. 1220/16).

DELHI.

Since 26/8 DELHI has been at sea 69 days out of 82. Cannot steam at full power due inability to keep pace with leakages and consumption of fresh water. Urgently request 6 days at long notice at Lagos to make good defects with assistance from Nigerian Marine and give some long overdue liberty. (DELHI to C.S.1, 0122/16)

/ QUEEN ELIZABETH



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (Continued)

S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0825/16).

RIDLEY abandoned. RIDLEY owned by Stephens Sutton Limited Newcastle-on-Tyne was abandoned derelict in position 020° 08' N. 029° 36' W. at 1400 G.M.T. on 9/11 after being gutted by fire resulting from bursting oil fuel tank. All on board saved and brought to Freetown by KERMA. C.Bs handed to me intact. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1131/16)

CUMBERLAND.

My 1737/15. CUMBERLAND from St. Helena is to remain in J.36 and rendezvous with KENT and HERMES in 016° S. 004° W. at date and time arranged by N.O. I/C Simonstown. After rendezvous sweep under orders of S.O. to be carried out on route given to KENT and HERMES which follows. CUMBERLAND to leave force so as to arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1335N/16).

Lagos.

Examination of possibilities for greater use by H.M. ships. (C.in C. S.A. to Governor, Nigeria, 1737N/16).

CORNWALL
PRETORIA CASTLE

CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE are to act as ocean escorts to convoys W.S. 4 (a) and W.S. 4 (c) combined. Speeds are to be adjusted to arrive Capetown (date) (C.in C. S.A. 1133/16).

DUNDAS
KING LUD
HERISLE

Overdue shipping my 0935/30 cancel DUNDAS. My 1105/14 KING LUD, HERISLE arrived Capetown. (S.O.I) Capetown, 0915B/16).

CUMBERLAND.

Leaves Simonstown 17/11 for J.36. (Movements as in 1335N/16). HERMES and KENT arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C.S.A., to R.A.S.A.D., 2027N/16).

Libreville.

Convey to Gen. de Gaulle congratulations on successful operations against Libreville and Gabon. Control of Libreville and Port Gentil by Free French is of great assistance to naval operations in whole of West African area. (C.in C. S.A., to C.S.1, 1723/16)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Operation
"Collar."

Admty. 1633/8 to be amended. MANCHESTER and FRANCONIA to proceed at best speed to Gibraltar on reaching latitude of 41°N. Amend time of R.V. (D.O.D.(F) to C.S.18, 1055/16) See Mediterranean Volume.

Dodecanese Islands. Proposals for operations against. (C.in C. Med., 1429/16) See Mediterranean Volume.

Vichy Policy.

Admty. 0046/9. ^{p. 243} It was realized H.M.G. would be aware of this denial. The significant point is that the French Government should have apparently made it official to Admiral Godfroy. This fact is likely to have a profound effect on the Admiral if Vichy Cabinet begin to run counter to their word and give ships or ports to the Axis. (C.in C. Med., 1515/16)

A/C Squadrons.

Admty. 1153/7. It was not intended to transfer aircraft but personnel of squadron who have special knowledge of objectives on this station. In view however, of para. (d) I bow to their Lordships decision, but would like to be free to reallocate personnel existing Swordfish squadrons in EAGLE and ILLUSTRIOUS so that the more experienced are retained on the station. (C.in C. Med., 1235/16)

Greek Reports.

Intelligence reports from M.A., Athens, to W.O., 1600/12, 0325/14, 1315/15, and 0220/16, all received from W.O. 0800-0845/17.

RAMILLIES.

Your 1025/13. In view of raider situation, RAMILLIES will be most acceptable addition to our naval strength outside the Mediterranean. Request you endeavour to arrange for transfer of RAMILLIES from East to West during Operation "Collar". (1 S.L., to C.in C., Med., 1500/16).

Air Report.
Bardia and
Derna Bombed.

Summary No.159 to 1200/16. Reconnaissances, 4 ships 350-ft. long in Benghasi, of which two damaged, and a fifth off harbour. One ship believed cruiser off Benghasi, 12 miles. Total of 186 aircraft, including 16 seaplanes, observed at bases from Benghasi to Gazala. Night 15/11, to 16/11, Blenheims of 55 and 113 Sqdns. bombed Sollum, Bardia, Tobruk, Bomba and Derna, causing violent explosion at Bardia, a fire at Bomba, and hitting barracks at Derna. One enemy a/c attacked Alexandria dropping bombs in Lake Maryut

Alexandria Raid.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)Alexandria Raid
(contd.)

Lake Maryut and in area south of docks.
No service damage or casualties.
Believed 13 native casualties with
damage to property. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E.
1306/16) Air raid 2005-2040/15. (No naval
damage) (R.A. Alexandria 0950/16).

Attack on U/B

14/11. (C.in C. Med. 1223/16).
See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Convoy W.S.3.

Arrived Suez p.m./16. (S.B.N.O.,
Suez Canal Area, 1812/16).

Air Report,
Enemy
Intelligence.

Up to 1700 hours 16/11. All times G.M.T.
0800 to 1130 Glenn Martin 431 Flight,
recco. North and East Sicilian ports
Syracuse, nothing seen. Augusta no
shipping 17 seaplanes Straits of Messina
5000 ton M/V Hospital ship marking and
4000 ton M/V. Messina Harbour,
4 destroyers, 3 large and 2 small M/V's
and some fleet auxiliaries all moored.
Off Messina heading possibly Naples,
3 cruisers and 4 destroyers. Palermo,
3 cruisers just leaving harbour.
In harbour 2 large cruisers, several
fleet auxiliaries and M/Vs Trapani
4 destroyers and some fleet auxiliaries.
0800 to 1325 Blenheim 431 Flight recco.
Corfu Lovkas, Cephalonia, Zante,
Strephadia, for enemy naval and air
force activities, no shipping soon.
0910 to 1540 Glenn Martin 431 Flight
recco. Naples to report on enemy battle
fleet movements. Only M/V's in port.
20 miles South of Naples, 1 battleship,
1 cruiser and 4 destroyers proceeding
towards Messina 1010 Sunderland 228
Squadron detailed to drop photos on
H.M.S. ARK ROYAL aircraft due back 2100.
No air activity over Malta today. No
naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F.
Malta, 1700/16).

East Indies.COLOMBO.

My 0810/14, not to Admty, and my 1448/14.
COLOMBO delayed, adverse currents.
She will reconnoitre Mogadishu p.m.
(C.in C. E.I., 0534Z/16). *See next page.*

DURMITOR.

Request early answer to my 0530/14 (re
whereabouts of Yugoslavian DURMITOR.)
(C.in C. E.I., 0724 Z/16, to Admty.)

CANBERRA.

My 1836/10. CANBERRA does not now form
part of Force V. (C.in C. E.I.,
0726Z/16).

WOOLWICH.

Orders for passage to Suez. (C.in C. E.I.
0806Z/16).

/ Air Report



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Air Report.East Indies. (Continued)

Sudan, night 14-15/11. 2 Wellesleys attacked Asmara, bombs falling among buildings around M.T. workshops. Unidentified aircraft reported by M.R.U. off Port Sudan believed minelaying. Day 15/11, Wellesleys attacked Kassala, all bombs falling on buildings near station. 1 Blenheim attacked listening post at Difnein Island, bombs falling near W/T hut. All aircraft returned. 2 S.79's bombed Port Sudan docks, damage negligible. A Gladiator engaged enemy at 200 yards and 1 S.79 believed damaged. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1306/16).

Djibuti.

Summary No. 157. 0845 to 1050/16, 1 Glenn Martin French Flight reconnoitred Djibuti and Eritrean Coast northwards to Meder. Flying boat reported in Djibuti harbour in Summary No. 154 not seen in harbour or immediate vicinity or hauled up. No sign troop concentrations or activities and no changes Assab. Only 3 burst at Assab. No casualties. Times G.M.T. (A.H.Q., Aden, 1919/16)

CORNWALLIS
INVESTIGATOR

Proposal to exchange these H.M.I. ships for service with R.N. Remarks. Request approval. Proposed to effect exchange (date). (C.in C. E.I., 0436Z/16, to Admty.)

COLOMBO

Attack on coaster off Mogadishu.
(See 17/11).

Bombing
Volcanoes

Suggestion (C.in C. E.I. 1240Z/16).

Seizure of
Japanese fishing
boats.

- / Governor Burma's 1042 C/15 regarding seizure of Japanese fishing boats and crews passed to you. (C.in C. E.I. 0706Z/16 to Adty.)
/ Circulated as from Governor Colombo; message shewed this place of origin on cable form.

Operation
"Rope"

My 1916/10. Intend DORSETSHIRE shall carry out operation "ROPE" p.m./18. (C.in C. E.I. 0906Z/16 to Adty.)

Operation
"Canvas"
(Capture of Kismayu)

My 1834/6. Operation "Canvas" has been postponed until May. Consideration is being given to combined naval and air action prior to this date. (C.in C. E.I. 1212Z/16).

Convoy W.S.3.

Arrived Suez p.m./16 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1812/16).

16/11 Suez arrival CALEDON, arrival and departure 1350 KIMBERLEY, departure 1600 CLIVE. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 2203/16).

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War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

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China.Repatriees.

My 1052/6. Ministry of Shipping anxious to know numbers being sent to Lourenco Marques, date, etc. (Hd. of M. to C.in C. China, 1810/16).

Indo-China.

Telegram No. 12, de Schompre to de Gaulle. Situation. (C.in C. China 0435Z/16)
Ditto, No. 13, (C.in C. China, 0437Z/16)

Air Force.

Proposed allocation of flying boat squadrons. Advanced bases. 1 fast ocean going ship 1000 tons capacity shallow draught required (C.in C. Far East 1115/16).

America and West Indies.German Ships,
Tampico.

My 0043/16. Tampico reports ORINOCO, RHEIN sailed 2315/15. (S.O.I., Kingston, to Admty., 0203/16). My 0043/16.

VAN KINSBERGEN
patrol.

Tampico reports that it is possible that some of the Italian ships at Tampico may also sail. (S.O.I. Kingston, 0354/16) (S.O.I. Kingston 0203/16. Proceed forthwith at 20 knots by Old Bahamas Channel to establish patrol in Florida Straits between Miami and Birrini to intercept German ships. U.S. destroyers and aircraft may be shadowing. (C.in C. A.W.I., to VAN KINSBERGEN, 0501/16). *Cancel 112 - see next page*
Your 0043/16, 0203/16 and 0301/16. U.S. Naval Patrols are expected to broadcast movements of German ships in P.L. on 500 kc/s. Instruct Jamaica and Belize commercial W/T stations to pass such report to me immediately. (C.in C. A.W.I. to S.O.I. Kingston, 0521/16).

U. S. patrols.ASCANIA
MALOJA

Keep steam at short notice on arrival harbour. Intend to sail you p.m. today, to Florida Straits to intercept IDARWALD, ORINOCO, RHEIN and PHRYGIA, which sailed from Tampico about 2300 R/15. (C.in C. A.W.I. to ASCANIA, 0522/16). Cancel my 0522/16. MALOJA has been detailed. (C.in C. A.W.I., 0957/16 to ASCANIA).

PHRYGIA
destroyed.

My 0203/16. Tampico reports ORINOCO developed engine trouble, now anchored in River. PHRYGIA destroyed by fire outside Tampico breakwater 0300/16, cause unknown. Crew placed on board ORINOCO. IDARWALD and RHEIN re-entered port 0400. (S.O.I., Kingston, to Admty. etc., 0954/16).

/ 3 ships returned



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America and West Indies. (Continued)

3 ships returned.

(See also p. 454)

Three of four German ships have returned to port, but PHRYGIA caught fire and has been abandoned outside port, crew coming ashore in life boats. Appears ORINOCO developed engine trouble before actually clearing port. (Consul-Gen., Mexico City, no T.O.O./16)

PRINCE ROBERT.

My 1722/9. Patrol off Talcahuano 20/11 and carry out following programme. (C.in C. A.W.I. to PRINCE ROBERT, 1101/16).

WAR BRAHMIN.

To proceed forthwith by Old Bahamas Channel to Florida Straits and patrol between 10 and 20 miles 270° from North Bimini Light, ready to fuel VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE and MALOJA. Keep good lookout for German ships ORINOCO RHEIN, PHRYGIA and IDARWALD, sailed from Tampico p.m.15/11. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1002/16 to WAR BRAHMIN).

→ DIOMEDE,
VAN KINSBERGEN,
MALOJA.

S.O.I. Kingston's 0954/16. Cancel my 0501/16. Netherlands gunnery training ship VAN KINSBERGEN proceed to Jamaica at economical speed. MALOJA has returned to Bermuda. DIOMEDE to comply with my 0952/12. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1301/16, to DIOMEDE, VAN KINSBERGEN).

→ DIOMEDE.

Leave QUEEN ELIZABETH when 50 miles clear of Trinidad and proceed 20 knots through Mona Passage and steer for Old Bahama Channel. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1001/16 to DIOMEDE).

Convoy B.H.X.
84.

Returned from convoy HENRI MORY from S.C.11 engine trouble CORDILIA from B.H.X.84 scattered. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1521/16).

Italians
supplying
torpedoes to
Germany.

Navy Department informs me. From Madrid. Italian N.A. asserted that the Italians were having a difficult time supplying all their naval and aircraft units with torpedoes since they are required at present to supply "all torpedoes which are being used by Germans". For this reason the Attache stated Whitehead factory at Trieste has been considerably enlarged to take care of increased production. (N.A. Washington 1155/16).



WAR DIARY.

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Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

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RHEIN)
IDARWALD)
ORINOCO)
PHRYGIA)

Sailed from Tampico and returned.
(See America and West Indies.)
PHRYGIA destroyed by fire outside
breakwater 0300/16, cause unknown, crew
placed on board ORINOCO. IDARWALD and
RHEIN re-entered port 0400. (S.O.I.
Kingston, 0954/16).

State department informed me. All 4
slipped their harbour. CRINOCO developed
engine trouble and returned to Tampico.
Fire broke out on PHRYGIA and she was
burned to water's edge. The RHEIN and
IDARWALD returned to port.
Mr. Butler, Workington 1313/16).

GERMANIA.

Probability of sailing. German Consul
overheard to say if further supply of oil
is agreed to she would R/V with ADMIRAL
SCHEER.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1920/16 to Adty).

BRAKE.

Tanker BRAKE is having condenser screens
cleaned but imminent departure seems unlik-
-ly owing to bad weather.
(Actg. Consul, Vigo 1847/16).

ATLAS
BELLONA.

Barcelona reports ATLAS docked 15/11.
BELLONA will follow. TRAPANI is ready
to leave. Barcelona now instructed to
inform Gibraltar as necessary.
(N.A. Madrid 1941/16 to S.O.(I) Gib:)

Italian Merchant Ships.

TRAPANI.

See German Merchant Ships.



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked.

FABIAN.

U.65

British, 3059 tons, sunk by submarine at 1600 G.M.T./16 in 03.00N., 15.00W (C.in C. South Atlantic. 1054/18).

PLANTER.

Submarine attack signal, 55.38 N., 8.27 W, PLANTER torpedoed. (Scapa W/T 1925/16). Attack U/B that torpedoed PLANTER in 55.38 N., 0.27 W. (C.in C. W.A. to WITHERINGTON, 1937/16). Proceed with despatch to assistance of PLANTER (position) at 1922 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to ASSURANCE, MARAUDER, 1938/16) CLARE arrived with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0835/18) Should have been in Convoy S.L.F.53, but was apparently ahead of the convoy (DOR).

FABIAN Sunk.

FABIAN sunk by Submarine on 1400 G.M.T./16 /11 approx. 3°N, 15°W saved Master 3 mates 4 engineers 2 operators 23 crew 6 missing. (BRITISH STATESMAN 0310/18).

Submarines Reported.

Italian. 1 in Atlantic probably North of 55° N. No recent news. 1 more probably at sea in Atlantic whereabouts unknown.

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

German. 1 in 55° 30' N., 9° W at 1052/16. 1 in area 56° to 57° N., 13° to 15° W, at 1007/16. 1 was in area 57° to 58° N., 17° to 19° W., at 1206/15. 1 in area 59° to 60° N., 20°W at 0358/16. 1 was in about 60° 20' N., 11° 30'W at 0103/16 probably homeward bound. 1 was to northward of Shetlands at 2253/15, homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1233/16).

1053.

D.F. probable U/Boat 55.30 N., 9° W. reliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1121/16).

0108.

D.F. probable U/Boat. 60.20 n., 11.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0145/16).

1314.

My 1121/16. D.F. bearings at 1314/16 indicate these may be a second U/Boat in area 55° to 55.30 N., 11° to 12 W. (D.D.I.C. 1402/16) Advising H.G.46 to keep clear to northward if possible. (C.in C. W.A. 1435/16).

1830.

There is indication that a U/Boat may be following you. (C.in C. W.A. 1830/16, to SALADIN, BROKE, etc. - Convoy S.L.53).

1915.

A.F. message. 55.38 N., 8.28'W., at 1815 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 2056/16).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.11.40.
Saturday.

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U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Attacked.

1550.

Investigating suspicious object of oil patch in 61.27' N., 00.00 E. Have attacked enemy with dive bombs and estimate no hits. ((A/c, duty "R", to Sullom Voe, 1550/16).

Mediterranean.

14/10.

**? A/c. No trace
of ship of this name*

On 14/10 attack on asdic contact in position 285° ~~285° 20'~~ 20, carried out by HAUSA assisted by BANDOLERO and Sunderland L (?) 2066. After depth charge and 70 yards clear of pattern (?large) air bubbles 80 feet in diameter appeared. Assessed C.
(C.in C. Med., 1223/16 to Adty).



MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for
H.X. 84
Survivors

BONAVENTURE and CHITRAL left patrol today for Scapa and Clyde respectively, continuous gales have been experienced and the chances of finding any survivors is now negligible. The destroyers LANCASTER, MANSFIELD, SHERWOOD and CHESTERFIELD which should have reached the position early on 15/11 have not been sighted. CHITRAL has been in company with BONAVENTURE since p.m./14. BONAVENTURE has much minor damage caused by the weather.

NAIAD

Jan Mayen operation.

C.S. 15 in NAIAD last night carried out an operation which is referred to in signal C.S. 15 0225/17, (p. 463)

British Air Activity

Owing to the weather certain patrols were cancelled.

Bomber Command

A heavy attack was made on Hamburg last night though weather prevented observation of results in nearly every case. Naval targets attacked were Blohm and Voss Shipyards.

Channel Ports, Docks and Shipping were also attacked last night.

Coastal Command

No operations were completed today, owing to unsuitable weather.



War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

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SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Paddle M/S
SOUTHSEA

H.M. Paddle M/S SOUTHSEA was attacked this morning by an enemy aircraft which she shot down. SOUTHSEA had no casualties.

Convoy E.N.

Convoy E.N. was attacked at 1150.

Rescue Tug 33 MARAUDER

MARAUDER was bombed in 55° 30' N., 7° 52' W at 1116, but no damage was caused.

WITCH
VOLUNTEER

WITCH and VOLUNTEER were unsuccessfully bombed today about 6 miles west of St. Catherines. The Aircraft carrying out the attack were not seen.

Mining

Ports Affected:-

Humber closed at 0809.

Plymouth Sound opened at 0726.

Blyth Open. Restrictions removed 2249.

North Atlantic

There were indications this evening that ADMIRAL SCHEER was near the Azores. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and destroyer screen (returning from operation "White") were ordered to proceed to Gibraltar at maximum speed, and after fuelling, to proceed towards the Azores. A full westerly gale was blowing, against which Force H was making only 9 knots.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

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Mediterranean

Operation
"White"

(Air reinforcement of Malta by ARGUS)
V.A. Malta reports that only 4 Hurricanes and one Skua have arrived; one Skua and 8 Hurricanes force landed in the sea owing to lack of fuel. Search made and one pilot was picked up by a Sunderland; the remainder must be considered lost. Rome on 18/11 claimed shooting down a Blackburn Shark off Sicily, taking the crew prisoners; this may account for the Skua's.

NEWCASTLE left Gibraltar for Malta at 1230 today with R.A.F. personnel.

Air
Operations

11 Wellingtons from Malta attacked Bari last night, causing large fires and explosions in the port and at a railway junction south west of Bari.

Last night Blenheims successfully attacked shipping in Benghazi and Tobruk harbours, and enemy aircraft at El Adem, Bardia and Sollum.

Blenheims today maintained standing fighter patrols over Athens.

Air raids on Alexandria last night and today caused casualties and some damage to private property and to ports and light-house gear. It is believed that 2 raiding aircraft dropped mines or torpedoes off the harbour this evening.

Greek Troop
Convoy from
Crete

A convoy of 9 Greek troop transports escorted by Greek destroyers left Suda Bay p.m. today for Salonika, COVENTRY providing AA escort.



War Diary

17.11.1940
Sunday

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Information of
Enemy Movements

Your 1031/16. Paras 1 and 2. This should have been done and will be done in future. Para 3. This unfortunately will generally be the case. (1st S.L. 2031/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

"Deluge".
DELUGE

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/17 (D.C. 1134/17)

Scapa Defences

Progress Report. (R.A.Scapa 2015/17 to Adty.)

Movements

Trawler Patrol
Lines T.R. 30-3

My 1617/14 and 1827/14. These lines will be spaced 20 miles apart along following Datum Line as from 1400/21. (R.A.D. H.F. to BRILLIANT, etc.)

FORMIDABLE

Escort during trials in Irish Sea 20 to 25/11, VESPER, VENOMOUS and 1 destroyer of 9th Escort Group. (C. in C., W.A. 1103/17 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

FORFAR

Will be ready for sea p.m./19 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1120/17 to R.A.N.P.)

CATTISTOCK

After leaving F.N. 36 adjust speed to join Patrol O off Humber 54 F Buoy at 0500/18. (D. 21 1124/17 to CATTISTOCK)

AURORA

On passage to Scapa sails Sheerness 1315 and due Aldeburgh 1745/17 (C. in C., Nore, 1046/17 to LOWESTOFT, etc.) *See next page*

WESTMINSTER }
WALLACE }

Anchor in Barrow Deep for the night and proceed at first daylight. (C. in C., Nore. 1156/17 to WESTMINSTER) See also Shipping)

CATHAY

Your 1311/16. Expect not ready to sail from Greenock till p.m./26 (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1225/17 to Adty.)

/VESPER.....



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Movements-Contd.

VESPER)
VENOMOUS)

After escorting FORMIDABLE about 26/11, should rejoin Nore Command. (A.C.N.S. H. 1259/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

CAIRO

My 1259. Course of 340° Type H.A. 138. (CAIRO 1311/17 to Admty.)

VETERAN)
VERITY)

Noon position 55° 2' N., 9° 20' W., course 058°. Left to fuel Londonderry. (VETERAN 1400/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

CRISPIN

Is being fitted with special A/A armaments. Will come under operational control of C. in C., W.A. but will continue to be administered by F.O.C.N.P. (A.C.N.S. H. 1400/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

HAVELOCK)
HESPERUS)
HURRICANE)

All Destroyers ordered by F.O.C. 18 C.S. at 1030/17 to part company in 52° 55' N., 17° 45' W., owing to weather. HESPERUS and HURRICANE in company. Hove to. (HAVELOCK 1401/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

Portsmouth

Night Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1427/17)

Northern Patrol

Trawler lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1506/17)

Dover

Dispositions for Night 17/18. (V.A. Dover 1506/17)

Orkneys

Positions at 2000/17. (A.C.O.S. 1514/17)

Rosyth

Movements tonight. 17/18. C. in C., Rosyth 1606/17)

AURORA)
ARETHUSA)

See previous page.

C. in C., H.F. 1452/17. AURORA is to join C. in C., H.F. at Scapa. ARETHUSA on completion should also join C. in C., H.F. for working up. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 1620/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

/Nore....



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Movements

Nore & Harwich

Movements Summary (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1821/17 to SHELDRAKE)

REVENGE

ARAKAKA's 1720/17. Presume she was reporting you. (A.C.N.S. H. 2029/17 to REVENGE)

CAMITO

E.T.A. in 56° 30' N., 11° W., 1000/19.
Course 112° Speed 11 knots (CAMITO 2330/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

Operations

ADMIRAL SCHEER

BONAVENTURE 1111/16/11. BONAVENTURE return to Scapa. CHITRAL return to Clyde. (C. in C., H.F. 0953/17 to BONAVENTURE)

SIKH sent in to Skaal Fiord by REPULSE to oil. Am ordered to R/V with REPULSE in 61° 30' N., 8° 30' W., at 1000/18 for return to Scapa. (SIKH 1029/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

→ In view of recent losses of A.M.C's, can you provide any escort for CHITRAL to Clyde (A.C.N.A. H. 1753/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

ADMIRAL Indications point to the possibility of SCHEER being in the vicinity of the Azores. (1st S.L. 1816/17 to SALOPHAN, MORETON BAY, CILICIA, ESPERANCE BAY, MARSDALE)

My position 53° 16' N., 25° 35' W., course 074°, 13 knots, at 1900. (CHITRAL 1915/17 to Admty.)

→ ACTIVE and ACHATES are to R/V with CHITRAL in 55° N., 21° W., at 1900/18 and escort her to Clyde through 56° 30' N., 15° W. (C. in C. W.A. 2305/17 to ACTIVE)

NAIAD Expedition

(Jan Mayen)

Your 2246/16. My position 69. 22' N., 7° 55' W., Intend proceed to Scapa. Result of operation. (C.S. 15 0225/17 to C. in C., H.F.) See Operations Volume.

NAIAD arrived Scapa from N.W. at 0900/18. (A.C.O.S. 1953/17)

A.F.O. 2036/40. Procedure to be followed. (D.N.I., 1320/17 to C. in C., H.F.) See Operations Volume.

/Operation COLLAR..



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Operations-Contd.

Operation "Collar"
COLLAR

My 1331/14 and 2040/16. Amend positions A and B to read 56° 30' N., 10° W., and 56° 30' N., 20° W., respectively. (C. in C., W.A. 1507/17 to EDINBURGH, CAIRO)

LOWESTOFT

No Motor Launches will join you tonight. (C. in C., Nore, 1517/17 to LOWESTOFT)

FURIOUS

Owners report SS PENRBYN sunk by you when outward bound. Please report details. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2001/17 to FURIOUS)

Dover
Shelled

Between 1933 and 2205 tonight, enemy batteries at Calais, Wissant, and Gris Nez fired about 120 rounds mainly intended for convoy C.W. 17. A few rounds fell behind the R.M. Siege Battery, and one in Dover town. No damage reported by convoy. No casualties ashore. (V.A.Dover, 2250/17 to Admty.)

Submarines

SWORDFISH

Nothing heard of her since leaving Portsmouth a.m./7 to relieve USK off Brest. If nothing heard by 0900/18 must be considered lost. (V.A.S. 1004/17 to Admty.)

TALISMAN

Route from Wolfe Rock to Ile de Groix area (Capt S. 2. 1109/17 to S/M's Area B.)

TRIDENT

My 1101/15. Bombing restrictions (Capt S.3. 1116/17 to TRIDENT)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/18. (V.A.S. 1721/17, 1934/17, 1903/17)



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British Air Activity

Dutch Coast

Shipping at Helder, One M/V at 51° 33' N., 3° 40' E., and a Convoy of 7 ships at 52° 51' N., 4° 32' E., attacked by aircraft. (H.Q.B.C. 0037/17)

Air Patrols

Dawn Patrols have not been flown. (C. in C., Nore, 0725/17 to Admty.) S.A. 2 and S.A. 3. cancelled this p.m. owing to weather. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1240/17 to Admty.)

Cancel Patrol in my 2028/14. (C. in C., Rosyth 1320/17 to C. in C., H.F.)

Shall not require any further R/C by 98 Squadron after today. (C. in C., C.C. 1618/17 to Alabaster)

Assessments of S.A.I.E. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1628/17) S.A.I.A. S. 16 A, S. 16 B, (C. in C., Rosyth 1828/17 to Admty.)

Air Searches

For 18/11 (C. in C., Rosyth 1956/17)

A/A Gun in
M.L. 120

V.A.Dover's 1903/15 and my 2327/15. To allay undue anxiety, see my letter 5994/9680 of 13/11 to Admty. forwarding report from C.O. of M.L. 120 as to excellent performance of this gun against A/C. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1127/17 to Admty.)

Rosyth

Fighter Escort cancelled tonight. Kites may be kept flying. (C. in C., Rosyth 1508/17 to SPURS, etc.)

Falmouth.
Proposed
Balloon Vessel
Patrol

As a preventative against minelaying by aircraft request permission for one Falmouth balloon barrage vessel to patrol in an area Pennance Point, 1.5 miles 180° from St. Anthony Head, St Anthony Head, by night only when weather permits. (C. in C., W.A. 1526/17 to Admty.)

Air Escorts,
Operation S.N.3.

Your 2349/15, and 1249/17 to C. in C., Rosyth. A/S Air Escort arranged as follows: One Hudson from 0800/18 to 1730/18. One Anson from 0800/19 to 1300/19. Three Blenheim fighters will be standing by at immediate notice at Sumbrough during daylight /18. (C. in C., Rosyth 1800/17 to R.A.M.L.)



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Enemy Air Activity

MARAUDER

Attacked in 55° 30' N., 7° 52' W., by A/C
3 bombs dropped. (Port Patrick Radio 1116/17)

Even-numbered
E.N. Convoy

Being attacked by A/C (Scapa 1150/17) Fighters
being sent (Scapa 1220/17)

Felixtowe

At about 0930/17, Bombs were dropped near
Boom Defence Ground. 3 Civilians and few
military injured, one seriously. No
material damage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1241/17
to Admty.)

FISHPOOL
(Bombed 14/11)

(Bombed 14/11) Request you send Tugs to
FISHPOOL in 55° N., 17° 4' W., at 0800 (C
in C., W.A. 1243/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
ASSURANCE to proceed forthwith, Tug THAMES
leaves Campbeltown 1530/17 to assist,
passing through 55° 38' N., 8° 27' W.,
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1451/17 to ASSURANCE)

Unless both Tugs required to tow ST. GERMAIN
one is to be diverted to assist FISHPOOL.
Report action taken. (F.O.I.C. Greenock
1457/18 to MALLOW and ASSURANCE) Position of
FISHPOOL at 0800/18 was 53° 46' N., 16° 45'
W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2035/18 to TENACITY,
ASSURANCE)

SOUTHSEA

(H.M. Paddle Minesweeper) Attacked by aircraft
this morning. Aircraft shot down, no
survivors. No casualties in SOUTHSEA (F.O.I.C.
Tyne 1249/17 to Admty.)

Mining

Plymouth

Traffic in Sound may be resumed. (C. in C.,
W.A. 0726/17)

Humber

Closed (F.O. Humber 0809/17 to Admty.)

Harwich Area
Clearance Sweep

Weather permitting intend sailing 7 Fleet
Sweepers at 0900 to-morrow for clearance
sweep of 148 Q.Z.S. 2½ miles on either side
of No 52 buoy extending from centre line
1½ miles eastward Request air protection
from 0930 to 1700 (F.O.I.C. 1802/17 to C. in
C., Nore)

Talmouth

Cu CWA. 1526/17 occ p. 467.

/Blyth.....



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Mining- Contd

Blyth

My 1021/16. Restrictions now removed.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 2249/17 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

Unknown
Unit

At 0608/17 in 58° 40' N., 0° 23' W., D/F
unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 0756/17)

Warship
and M.V.)

Sighted in 49° 56' N., 30° 42' W., steering
West and apparently working together.
(ARAKAKA 1720/17 to Admty.)

2 Armed M/V's

Ungraded report received that Germans intend
sailing 2 armed M/V's from Biscay ports to
a port in Latin America with German
speciality goods to show ineffectiveness of
Blockade. (D.D.I.C. 2128/17 to Authorities
concerned) (V.A.S. 2311/17 to S/M's Area B)

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

ABERDEEN

My 2039/15. Proceed to Liverpool. (C. in C.
W.A. 0045/17 to ABERDEEN)

MAREEN

H.M. (Motor-Boat) Fouled pier in river and sank
on rising tide. No casualties. Salvage
being undertaken. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1256/17 to
Admty)
MAREEN has been raised and repairs are being
put in hand (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1656/18)

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Convoys

E.N. 27
W.N. 39

Shipping

My 1716/15. leave E.N. 27 to meet before dark W.N. 39 11 ships. S.O. DANEMAN from Duncansby Head 1300/17. routed direct Rattray Head. On meeting E.N. 28 sailing Methil 2100/18 transfer and cover Pentland Firth. Thence enter Scapa. (R.A. (D) H.F. 0945/17 to ALYNBANK)

W.S.4b

Route from 270° Oversay Light 6 miles at 0830/18 (details) Thence to Freetown (C. in C., W.A. 1509/17 to NORFOLK)

Ships addressed are Destroyer escorts of W.S. 4 B, S.O. HIGHLANDER (C. in C., W.A. 1733/17, 1833/17 to HIGHLANDER) Sailed 1355/17/11 6 ships speed of advance to R/V 10½ knots. Escort BATH, ST ALBANS, ST MARYS. Commodore Robinson in SS DUCHESS OF ATHOLL. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1438/17 to Admty.)

O.B. Convoys

Submarine Escort

It has been decided submarine should occasionally accompany Atlantic convoys (Details) Request you will detail S/M for his duty reporting when available at Clyde. (D.O.D. (H) 1656/17 to V.A.S.)

H.G. 46

R/V with H.G. 46 B.M. 1600/18, 053° 46' N., 005° 08' W., (C. in C., W.A. 1753/17 to LEEDS UNITED)

O.B. 244 S

Proceed to R/V with O.B. 244 S. Thence to Sydney Cape Breton parting company from Convoy at dispersal point adjusting speed to arrive 28/11. You may be diverted to Gibraltar by C. in C., W.A. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1300/17, to SANDWICH)

Sailed 1355/17 14 ships, escort CASTLETON, VISCOUNT, WHITEHALL, SANDWICH, CYCLAMEN, RHODODENDRON, HIBISCUS. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1733/17)

H.X. 84
(Attacked by
Raider, 5/11)

Request report describing action of STUREHOLM after dispersal of convoy and subsequent rescue of survivors. (D.T.D. 1737/17 to C.O.A.C. Halifax)



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HOME COMMANDS

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Convoys-Contd

Shipping

F.S. 36

Delayed by full southerly gale. Smith's Knoll. (WESTMINSTER, 0745/17)

F.N. 37

Report if you require fuel before proceeding with F.N. 37 at 1000/18. (C. in C., Nore, 2031/17 to WESTMINSTER)

F.N. 37 }
F.S. 36 }

Your 2031/17. Have 70% fuel remaining sufficient for normal F.N. trip, but no fresh meat or bread. Propose WALLACE should proceed Sheerness for Supplies for both ships subsequently joining F.N. 37. WESTMINSTER to cover F.S. 36 into Nore E.T.A. 1030 and F.N. 37 outwards. WALLACE should have rejoined by 1100. (WESTMINSTER, 2107/17 to C. in C., Nore.)

CAMPBELL proceeds daylight 18/11 from Sheerness to relieve you. On relief proceed Sheerness at 12 knots to fuel and provision (C. in C., Nore, 2137/17 to WESTMINSTER)

KINDAT ^{Lloyd's}
(British, 4358 tons)

Leaking badly and being sent to Glasgow for immediate docking. e.t.a. a.m/18/11. (ARAWA, 1030Z/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

CANADA

Sailed French Hospital Ship CANADA. e.t.a. 24/11 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1629/17 to Admty)

W.N. 42

Code, "Chitty" (N.C.S.O. 1701/17)

H.X.

Commodores of H.X. Convoys should be supplied with approximate S.C. routes to enable ships sent back for lack of speed to join slow convoy at sea. (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C., Halifax 1458/17)

H.X. 88

Route. Escort AUSONIA, returns to Halifax. (D.T.D. 1359/17)

H.X. 87

Route. Escort ALBONIA, returns to Halifax (D.T.D. 1358/17)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS.

Brazilian. My 1753/20/10 re interception. Ship expected to ⁴⁷²leave Lisbon today. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C.N.A. 1329/17). *Reply: 1146/18, p. 502*

NEWCASTLE

Sailed from Gibraltar for Malta (Operation White) at 1230/17. (D.O.R. 18/11).

ADMIRAL SCHEER suspected near Azores.

Portuguese Naval authorities received telegram from Capt. Port Ponta Delgada stating certain remarks and behaviour of German Consul give rise strong suspicion that pocket battleship in vicinity of Azores.

GERMANIA (see also German Merchant Ships.)

Further Consul demanded fuel for GERMANIA to sail immediately 16/11. Tagus Oil Company refused to supply. In view of threat Consul then made Portuguese fear possibility of bombardment of oil tanks. KLAUS SCHOKE at Horta demanded leave to sail 16/11. Possibly both these vessels seeking convoy pocket battleship. (N.A. Lisbon 1142/17).

^{nk}
Coal bunkers for French ship.

(See also p. 481, French Merchant Ships)

My 1819/16. Considered inadvisable French Legation should apply to Portuguese Gov. for coal. Suggest I should grant to French Naval Attache minimum amount of coal necessary to reach Casablanca and make it appear that this was done on my own initiative. Embassy concurs. Request immediate instructions. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1225/17 to Adty.) *Reply: Admty. 2136/18, p. 502.*

South Atlantic.

SELANDIA LLANSTEPHAN ? CASTLE

Reply to 1715/14. Not understood why provision of alternative shipping may cause uncertainty. (D.S.T. 0007/17 to S.N.O. Simonstown)

S.L. convoys.

20 ships will sail in next S.L. Slow convoy without ocean escort 19/11, speed 8 knots. Next S.L. convoy, about 40 ships will sail with ocean escort 21/11, speed 9 knots. In view of undesirability of reducing speed of S.L. convoy during passage of what is dangerous area and large number of ships in slow convoy suggest providing additional local escort and bringing in two convoys separately instead of together and this to be carried out in future when possible. If considered practicable to provide additional escort it would be for consideration whether S.L. slow convoys in future should sail to reach rendezvous with local escorts on same date as S.L. convoys or on separate dates altogether. (C.in C. S.A. 1052/17).

Reply: Admty. 1637/20, p. 556.

DEUCALION

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic. (Continued)

DEUCALION

¹⁷³
DEUCALION not routed in accordance with Admiralty 1157/15 received after sailing. Position E as vescaed should be amended accordingly if considered necessary. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1202B/17).

CORNWALL & PRETORIA CASTLE to act as escorts for convoys W.S.4(a) and W.S.4(c) combined.

Your 1133/16 and A.T. 1851/14. Has convoy been directed to Capetown instead of Durban because of ships inability to comply with requirement (a) in N.O.i/c Simonstown's 1903/16. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1231/17 to C.in C. S.A.).

Convoy W.S.

x
Your 1850/14 SCYTHIA cannot carry enough water for voyage to Durban. Whole convoy is therefore being sailed for Capetown. My 1133/16 Durban departure delayed 24 hours expected time of arrival Capetown now dawn 29 November. (C.in C. S.A. 1419N/17.)

Convoys W.S.4A. W.S.4C combined.

x 1851/14 intended.

Sailing telegram 1. Convoys WS 4A and WS 4C combined (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1917/17).

Departure 1800/17 CORNWALL and PRETORIA CASTLE for Capetown escorting combined convoys W.S.4A and W.S.4C. (S.O.(I) Freetown 2035/17).

Mediterranean.

REGULUS

Operation BS leave Alexandria 0900/18 and after exercising proceed through 031° 50' 028° 00', 035 deg. 08' 023 deg. 22', to area N. 038° 35' 016° 54' - 040° 40' - 40. (Capt. (S) 1 0927/17.)

Italian activity round Saseno Island.

Wireless traffic from Italian surface ships has been exceptionally heavy during night of 16/17 Nov. This activity is apparently centred around Saseno Island. It is not possible at present to say what Naval forces are involved except that there appear to be 8 or 9 surface units concerned. The movement, whatever its exact nature, obviously transcends in importance anything that has been detected since beginning of the Greece-Italian war. B.N.A. Athens informed. (Capt. on Staff, Alexandria 1022/17 to C.in C. Med.)

R.A.F. Greece.

R.A.F. convoy of 4 vessels arrived at Piraeus 2200/16. (N.C.S.O. Athens 1200/17)

R/C of Trieste. Pola Spezia.

It is important to establish the present location of the Main Italian Units. Can Trieste Pola and Spezia be covered by reconnaissance from Malta. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1309/17 to V.A. Malta). (See 144)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Your 1309. It has already been arranged to visit Spezia when a Glen Martin is available, hope 19/11. All aircraft have recently been employed on reconnaissance for Fleet operations, and another reconnaissance to Brindisi and Taranto arranged today 17/11 had to be cancelled on account of Operation ~~White~~ "White", Two. Trieste and Pola are doubtful as they are barely within range but matter is being examined by A.O.C. Mediterranean. (V.A. Malta 2229/17 to Adty.)

Air Raids, Alexandria.

Air raids 2110 to 2140, 0030 to 0145 and 0240 to 0300, hence total about about 18 bombs, seven Egyptians killed including five children and twelve wounded. Some damage to private property and to ports and lighterage gear in Arsenal basin. (R.A. Alexandria, 1400/17).

Italian S/M's

A report has been received emanating from an unchecked source that two Italian submarines will go through Straits today to join seven others which are based Rio de Oro and Canary Is. (Consul, Tangier 1605/17 to F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

Operation "White"
Loss of 9 aircraft.

Only 4 Hurricanes and 1 Skua arrived. Feared 1 Skua leading second lot and 8 Hurricanes force-landed in sea due to lack of fuel. Sunderland picked up one pilot. Search being continued by 2 Sunderlands and 1 Swordfish. Visibility very poor. (V.A. Malta, 1135/17 to S.O. Force H).

First flight took off in 037° 29' N. 006° 43' E. Second flight in 037° 24' N. 006° 52' E. Both positions being to eastward of position given by ARGUS as furthest west under weather conditions. (F.O. Force H. 1712/17 to V.A. Malta.)

In view of reported movements of Italian Surface Vessels I considered it undesirable to proceed further East than was essential.

From information available there was no reason to anticipate head wind. Forecasts suggested tail wind. ARGUS stated aircraft should have had ample endurance to reach Malta.

Visibility at taking off was maximum and no indications that visibility was poor to eastward. (F.O. Force H 1714/17).

/ Your 1135/17. ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

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Your 1135/17. Request you will confirm that previous to Hurricanes being flown off S.O. Force 'H' had been informed as to weather conditions in vicinity of Malta. (1st S.L. 1720/17 to V.A. Malta). Reply, see 2343/17, (below).

Details of
Hurricane Loss.

My 1135/17. All overdue aircraft must now be considered lost. Circumstances were as follows. (a) Sunderland met the first Skua and six Hurricanes at R/V North of Galita Island and escorted them on. Two of these Hurricanes ran out of fuel 25 miles and 34 miles 300°, from Malta. The first was observed to crash by Sunderland but it took half an hour to locate and rescue the pilot.

(b) Disabled second Sunderland from Gibraltar was unable to leave and a Glenn Martin was sent instead from Malta. The second Skua and six other Hurricanes failed to rendezvous with this aircraft. The Skua asked for D/F bearings from Malta at 0957 (zone minus One) He then bore 260° to 270° but was apparently unable to receive signals giving these bearings. Malta was also in R/T communication with two of the Hurricanes, and at one time Skua was thought to be quite close.

(c) Aircraft and A/S Trawler have been searching to westward of Malta and Gozo throughout the day without success. (V.A. Malta 1915/17 to S.O. Force H).

Weather
Conditions.

Your 1720/17. At 0330 when Sunderland took off visibility was good and there was no indication of any sudden change in the weather. At dawn conditions were still favourable and therefore no special weather report was sent. Weather was being carefully watched by A.O.C. Mediterranean. At 0800 the wind freshened from south and visibility decreased quickly.

2. Four of first flight of Hurricanes arrived at 0922 which was within two minutes of expected time of arrival given by ARGUS in her 0240/15.

Of four aircraft which arrived one landed with no fuel and others with three, four, and 12 gallons respectively although the formation approached the Island on direct route.

It appears from report of Skua which arrived that first flight left ARGUS in 006° 40' E. and not 007° 30' E. as was expected. There is no information as to position from which second flight left.

(N.O.I.C. Malta 2343/17 to Admty.)

/ NEWCASTLE



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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

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→ NEWCASTLE

There is no evidence so far to suggest operation "White" has been observed by enemy. Extensive westerly gale now blowing should afford good cover for NEWCASTLE. (S.O. Force H 1749/17 to C.in C. Med.)

SHEFFIELD.

Your 1727. My position course and speed are 037° 34' N. 003° 31' E. 265° 9 knots. Full westerly gale. SHEFFIELD proceeding independently. (S.O. Force H 1800A/17 to Adty.)

Force H

Force H less NEWCASTLE proceed Gibraltar at Maximum speed. (1st S.L. 1727/17 to S.O. Force H).

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

ADMIRAL

- A. My 1727. Reports received point to ADMIRAL SCHEER being near Azores.
- B. RENOWN ARK ROYAL and other units at your discretion are to proceed to Gibraltar at maximum speed and after refuelling are to proceed towards Azores.
- C. Operation ~~Collar~~ will be deferred if necessary.
- D. Withdrawal of support for NEWCASTLE is accepted. (1st S.L. 1800/17 to S.O. Force H).

Your 1800/17. By proceeding without destroyer screen RENOWN and ARK ROYAL can proceed at somewhat higher speed if situation justifies additional submarine risk. (S.O. Force H 1914/17).

Your 1914/17. Keep destroyers with you. (C.N.S. 2025/17 to S.O. Force H).

→ RAMILLIES
Operation "Collar"

Your 1643/14. Admty. have now requested RAMILLIES to be passed from east to west during "Collar". Following are my broad intentions. (C.in C. Med., 1207/17, to S.O. Force H) See Med. Vol.

Appts. of V.A.C.L.F. and R.A. 1 B.S.

My 2000/18/10. Asking that dates of transfers of flag may be reported. (Hd. of M. 1643/17 to C.in C. Med.)

→ RAMILLIES.

Re ammunition (D.O.D.(F) 1738/17)

Asdics.

Your 1753/5. Approved in principle to give asdics to Greeks (D. A/S W. 1806/17 to C.in C. Med.) See also 1832/23, p. 645.

Dodecanese Is.

C.in C. Med. 2008/17 (See Mediterranean Volume, p. 106). (asking for decision on political policy)

Corvettes.

Your 1207/17 para. 5. Corvettes sailed 1100/16. Unlikely they will reach Gib. in time to leave with Operation "Collar". (A.C.N.S.(F) 2351/17 to C.in C. Med.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Bari Raid.

11 Wellington a/c from Malta bombed harbour and railway junction at Bari during night 16-17/11. One a/c failed to return. (D.O.R. 18/11).

Convoys.

V.A.L.F. in ORION, with AJAX and SYDNEY, is operating S.E. of Crete covering passage of a convoy escorted by CALCUTTA, WRYNECK and ILEX. (D.O.R. 18/11). COVENTRY is providing A/A escort for 9 Greek troop transports from Suda Bay to Salonika (D.O.R. 18/11).

Bombs or
Mines,
Alexandria.

4 heavy bombs or mines with delay action of about 72 hours and dropped during raid night 13/11 exploded in harbour p.m./16. One in the vicinity of 28 quay and three near floating dock. Damage appears to be slight but dock will be out of commission for short time whilst repairs are being made. Further report will be made after examination. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 2231/17).

East Indies.

COLOMBO,
Mogadishu

COLOMBO obtained at least 2 hits on small coaster of 1500 tons enclosed off Mogadishu p.m./16. Shore batteries replied but did not hit. (C.in C. E.I., 0324Z/17). The maximum range shore batteries appears to be 15 thousand yards. (C.in C. E.I. 0622Z/17).

OLE JACOB.

Norwegian tanker due Colombo 13/11 from Singapore. Overdue (S.O.(I) Colombo 0454Z/17)

BANKURA
Sabotage

Master of BANKURA reports suspected case of sabotage of mail between Bushire and Jask. Details. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 0646 Z/17)

SHROPSHIRE
S.W.3.
ORONTES

SHROPSHIRE is to escort convoy S.W.3. from vicinity of Aden to Durban (ii) route for S.W.3 after passing Aden. ORONTES is to be detached to Mombasa as arranged by SHROPSHIRE. (C.in C. E.I. 0722/17 amended 1508Z/18)

Seizure of
Japanese
fishing boats.

Lieut. Ferguson of Burmese R.N.V.R. found 25 Japanese fishing illegally near Great Swinton Island (~~corrupt group~~ ^{Mergui} Archipelago. He seized their (group missing) fishing boats and brought these into Victoria Point on 10/11. Japanese fishermen were left on Island. Local Officers accompanied armed force are proceeding to Great Swinton Island to apprehend Japanese / fishermen ...



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East Indies.

Seizure of Japanese fishing boats. (contd.)

fishermen. Proposed to prosecute them. (Governor Colombo 1042/17.)

Your 1042/17. Repeat word between "Swinton Island" and "Archipelago". State act under which it is proposed to prosecute. (Admty. 1808/17 to Governor, Governor's Camp, Burma).

Your 1808/17 addressed Governor Ceylon. Telegram 1042 C passed to Admiralty by C. in C. East Indies was originated by Governor Burma. Word between Swinton Island and archipelago is Mergui. Governor Burma is requested to inform Admiralty and C.in C. East Indies of name of act under which it is proposed to prosecute (name omitted telegram 1042 C). (C.in C. E.I., 0844Z/18 to Admty.)

Kisimayu.

(a) Recent reports from East Africa indicate certain shipping movements have been taking place lately off Italian Somaliland. Until 17/10 air photographs at Kisimayu taken periodically show apparent unchanging total of thirteen ships in port. Since then the following reports have been received.

Shipping movements.

(1) On Oct. 18th air photographs showed 14 ships

(2) Subsequently from reliable and most secret source indicated that probably one Italian ship left Kisimayu for Mogadiscio Oct. 28th escorted by one aircraft.

(3) On Nov. 4th air photographs showed 15 ships, newcomer resembled GUISEPPE MAZZINI

(4) On Nov. 16th at Mogadiscio COLOMBO observed, fired on and hit a 1,500 ton coaster, all earlier reports having indicated port empty of ships.

(5) Yugo Slav ship DURMITOR which had been in Lourenco Marques since Aug. 23rd. sailed Sept. 26th for Batavia but did not arrive and is now unaccounted for. These facts lead me to conclude that Italian Somaliland ports are now being used.

S.S. DURMITOR missing.

(B) Shipping facilities at Dante are being bombarded on Nov. 18th. The bombardment of shipping at Kisimayu is also under consideration again with G.O.C. East Africa now that operation CANVAS has been postponed. I am urging it should be done as soon as ships are available.

(C) Apart from these ships (My limitations ...

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East Indies. (Contd.)

limitations have already been explained to Admiralty in my 1910 Nov. 12) I am requesting A.O.C. in C. Middle East to assist me with a co-ordinated air reconnaissance plan with a view to discovering whether this traffic is coastal or oceanic and ultimately to intercepting ships.

(C.in C. E.I. 1120Z/17 to Adty.)

China.N.E.I. Navy.

My 0251Z/12. Dutch C.in C. now informs me Netherlands Govt. agree to exchange of information and discussion, and visit of staff before departure to Singapore for this purpose will shortly be arranged. (C.in C. China, to Admty. 0213Z/17)

C.in C. Far East.

H.Q. will open at Singapore at 0800/18. Functions of Staff. (C.in C. Far East 1625/17)

America and West Indies.

German and
Italian Ships
at Tampico and
Vera Cruz.

My 0354/16 Tampico now reports Italian ships show no sign of early departure and believe further movement German ships Tampico unlikely at present. German ships Vera Cruz no sign of intended sailing. German ship PHRYGIA sunk. (S.O.(I) Kingston 0954/17).

/ Not received: repetition called for.

HEIYO MARU
YASUKAWA MARU
BRAZIL MARU

HEIYO MARU sailed Los Angeles 24/10 for Valparaiso one day behind advertised schedule but arrived Valparaiso Nov. 16th 4 days ahead of schedule. YASUKAWA MARU sailed Los Angeles 30/9 in accordance with schedule but sailed Callao Northbound Nov. 15th 12 days ahead of schedule. Comment. Possibly received orders to hurry home. BRAZIL MARU will not call at Trinidad en route Rio de Janeiro to Panama Canal. Expected to call La Guaira and possibly Curacao for bunkers. Comment. Avoidance Trinidad ostensibly fear of delay in bunkering but more probably fear of contraband control possibly carrying German exports South America to Venezuela and for transshipment at canal.

(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1017/17)

/ N.Y.K. Line

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

N.Y.K. Line.

N.Y.K. Line. Callao reports ships between Far East and West Coast South America will call at Acapulco in addition to Manzanillo, also may omit calling at Balbao. Local Agent Ciudad Trujillo reports California Carribbean Service suspended, for 3 months. Request D.N.I. Ottawa confirm. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1032/17. to C.I.S. Singapore etc.)

Independently
routed ships.

Your 1107/14 infers that independently routed ships for east coast U.K. should be routed to Oban. Whereas your 1733/24/10 and 1602/25/10 only mentioned ships in H.X. convoys. Does your 1540/12/7 still hold good and are independent ships for east coast U.K. still to be routed to Clyde only. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1302/17 to Adty.)



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

GERMANIA

Report indicates probable sailed from Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 0243/17) Now taking Diesel oil. Will have sufficient for 10 days at full speed. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1034/17) Sailed 1815 G.M.T. from Ponta Delgada steering West (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1631/17 F.O.C.N.A. 2115/17) Cargo aviation spirit. May intend to R.V. with enemy raider. B. 1. Also reported KLAUS SCHOKE to sail from Horta same time (F.O.C.N.A. 1605/17)

KLAUS SCHOKE

SPEZIA

Very strong rumours German Steamship SPEZIA has been sunk. (N.A. Madrid 1945/17)

FRIESLAND
MONSERRATE
LEIPZIG
MUNCHEN
HERMONTHIS

Re Minister Lima telegram No 0167 16/11 addressed F.O., following is gist of German minister's urgent request for oil to Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs (begins) As German ships now at Callao, Paíta, have to prepare for return voyage without re-fuelling en route, following quantities of oil fuel are required to fill them to maximum capacity. FRIESLAND 1100 metric tons, MONSERRATE 750, LEIPZIG 800, MUNCHEN, HERMONTHIS, 100 tons each. FRIESLAND to take sufficient at Paíta for voyage to Callao to complete and (?fuel) (ends Minister, Lima, endeavouring to convince Peruvian Authorities oil might be used for fuelling raiders. (S.O.I. Callao, 1149/17)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

LT. ST.
LOUBERT BIE
COMPIEGNE
ESPIQUETTE

French Authorities have been ordered to sail all French ships to Casablanca. Will let you know date of sailing. LIEUTENANT ST. LOUBERT BIE will be next to sail. COMPIEGNE and ESPIQUETTE cannot sail until they obtain bunkers. ESPIQUETTE will not complete loading until about 24/11. COMPIEGNE about 26/11. It will have a very bad effect here if these ships get through blockade. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1210/17) See also p 472.

LAUBEL
CAUDEBEC

Following ungraded report received. SS ~~LAUBEL~~ CAUDEBEC is loading (presumably in Casablanca) bi-oxide of manganese and oxide of ore. This vessel is expected to sail for Marseilles on 18/11 or 19/11; it is thought that cargo is destined for Germany or Italy (Mr. Gascoyne, Tangier 1350/17)



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

PLANTER

→ (Torpedoed 16/11) Sank at about 2100/17. Contact attacked by WITHERINGTON at 0100/17 now believed to have been a wreck. Tug MARAUDER, sent to assistance of PLANTER was unsuccessfully bombed at 1116/17 off North of Ireland. (D.O.R. 18/11) Was not in company with S.L. 53 when split at 0900/17. (ARAWA 0930/17)

VERONICA

Swedish, 1316 tons. Torpedoed and sunk p.m./17 55.20 N., 8.45 W., (A.1.) (D.S. 442)

Submarines Reported

0750/16

V.A.S. 1004/17. At 0750/16 a Blenheim aircraft reported that he thought he saw a submarine in 49° 30' N., 04° 40' W., but on turning to observe further no trace could be seen. Interrogation of the pilot showed that the report was very doubtful but in view of the fact that SWORDFISH has not arrived at Portsmouth the report was passed by direct telephone to Admty. for V.A.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1850/17)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 was in about 58° 20' N., 10° 20' W at 2216/16, possibly another is farther W. 1 was about 400 miles W of the Gironde at 2019/16 and is probably bound thither. German- 1 probably in area N. of 55° N., and E. of 10° W., 1 probably in area 56° to 57° N., 11° to 14° W., 1 in area 58° to 59° N., 15° to 18° W., at 0322/17. 1 in area 58° to 60° N., 19° to 20° W., at 0147/17. 1 probably between Faeroes and Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1209/17)

Submarines Attacked

0831

→ Your 0240 (attack on SS PLANTER) 2 patterns dropped on contact which is still firm. Electrical charge misfired. Now suspect this may be a wreck. Am proceeding Londonderry for fuel. (WITHERINGTON, 0831/17 to C. in C., W.A.)

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

^T
CATTISTOCK
^

CATTISTOCK was damaged this evening in collision with drifter LIDDOCK in the Thames Estuary in low visibility. LIBDOCK was slightly damaged.

GO AHEAD
Sunk

H/M Drifter GO AHEAD is reported to have sunk in collision with WATCHMAN off Sheerness during a gale. (D.O.R.)



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Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

S/M SWORDFISH
Overdue

SWORDFISH was due to return from patrol on 16/11. She was ordered to report her position on the nights 15/16 and 16/17, but nothing has been heard of her since leaving Portsmouth a.m/7 to relieve USK off Brest; and she must be considered lost.

Northern Patrol

A.M.C's and A.B.V's are to be withdrawn from the Northern Patrol with the exception of a patrol in the Denmark Straits. The ships released from this duty will be used to strengthen the Western Patrol.

Slight damage by shelling was caused this afternoon at St. Margarets at Cliffe.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

The docks at Lorient and Den Helder were each attacked last night by one Whitley, causing small fires at each place. One Whitley bombed the south bank of the Ems Canal, near Gelsenkirchen.

Enemy Air Activity

ROYALLIEU
CAPRICORNUS
Bombed

M/S Trawlers ROYALLIEU and CAPRICORNUS were bombed in the Thames Estuary, but no damage or casualties resulted.

SS NESTLEA
Sunk

SS NESTLEA (4274 tons) (straggler from Convoy S.L. 53) was bombed and machine-gunned and abandoned with engine room flooded this morning in the South Western Approaches. (SS BIELA, see next page)

OPALIA and
S.N.A. 8.
Damaged

Convoys F.S. 36 and F.N. 37 were attacked by dive bombers several times today between 1331 and 1530 in the Thames Approaches. British tanker OPALIA (6195 tons) was slightly damaged and S.N.A.8 (2569 tons) was disabled and subsequently towed to Southend by CAMPBELL. (also destroyed, see next page)

/SS BIELA.....

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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS BIELA
Bombed

SS BIELA (5298 tons) straggler from S.L.S.53 was bombed about 250 miles west of Ireland early this afternoon. No damage is reported.

SS. STELLA

(Swedish 1189 tons) was slightly damaged and put back to Harwich (D.S. 441)

SARPEDON

H.M.Trawler SARPEDON was machine-gunned at 1305 off Ramsgate and had 2 men wounded.

GARDENIA

GARDENIA was bombed but not hit this afternoon about 250 miles west of Ireland.

LOWESTOFT
destroys
Enemy Aircraft

LOWESTOFT escorting Convoy F.N. 37 at 1755 today destroyed by gunfire a Heinkel seaplane off Hartlepool. It is reported by ships in convoy that a second seaplane fired a torpedo which missed the convoy. At 2113 the convoy fired at a low flying raider returning from the Tyne and hit and damaged it.

Sunk L.V.

Sunk lightship was attacked early this afternoon and suffered some damage from cannon fire.

Ramsgate

Damage was caused at Ramsgate this afternoon, but there was no naval damage.

Folkestone

Widespread damage was caused at Folkestone in the early hours of this morning. No naval damage is reported.



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MOST SECRET

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SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft this afternoon is suspected off the East Coast, and during the early part of the night abnormally large numbers of aircraft were apparently minelaying off the East Coast from the Thames Estuary to the Tyne.

2- parachute mines are reported at Sunderland, which was closed at 2230.

Parachute mines were seen to drop off the Tyne late today and the Tyne was closed.

Acoustic mining is suspected at the entrance to the Tees. The ports of Tees and Hartlepool are open, except to diesel engine ships.

Several explosions were heard off Harwich today. Two mines were found.

Fowey is closed. Mines are suspected in St. Austell Bay, positions uncertain.

ABILITY

Motor barge ABILITY was mined and sunk at 1544 today off Clacton.

Operation
S.N. 3.

1st M.L.S. escorted by 3 destroyers laid mines to the north-west of Scotland p.m. today.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Commencing today, the following will be included in the NAVICERT area:-
Madagascar, Reunion, French West Africa, Liberia, Portuguese Guinea and Syria. (P 359)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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18.11.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

SS CONGONIAN (5065 tons) was torpedoed by a U-Boat probably German, in position 8° 21' N., 16° 12' W., at 1800 today.

KENT arrived at Simonstown today with damage from heavy weather.

Mediterranean

Blenheims last night attacked Benghazi, Tobruk, Bardia and Sollum. (Results not yet received) 3 *Wellingtons* bombed *Valona* and one *Durazzo*.

East Indies

Masters of ships, especially neutral, have represented that it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish whether or not they are being stopped or boarded by a genuine British ship. C. in C., E.I. reports that some form of signal whereby an H.M. Ship can establish her friendly character, seems clearly necessary.

COLOMBO, patrolling off Kismayu was attacked from the air at 1410 G.M.T. today but was not hit.

Operation
"Rope"

DORSETSHIRE today bombarded Dante (Italian Somaliland) She reported all targets appeared badly damaged except two circular tanks. Her Walrus was hit but is serviceable with reduced performance. DORSETSHIRE was not damaged. There was no shipping in the harbour.



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Monday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Proposed Submarine
Escort for HX.
Convoys.

Policy.

Adty's. 1656/17. (Page 470)

A. In view of C.in C. Western Approaches 1844/27/10 not to S.2 and the unpleasant experiences of O.14 which came over with HX.79 suggest as an alternative that the submarine should be based at Halifax and should escort HX convoys to the point at which the ocean escort leaves them, returning thence to Halifax independently. This would eliminate the risk to our submarines with escorted convoys in the N.W.Approaches and should have the desired effect of keeping raiders at arms length.

B. If the above alternative is agreed with I suggest the initial passage of the submarines from the Clyde to Halifax should be as desired by C.in C. Western Approaches, the submarine if considered necessary proceeding south of Ireland.

C. Submarines operated from Halifax satisfactorily last winter and in this instance either PORPOISE or CACHALOT would be detailed. [Decision, see p. 611]
(V.A.S.1308/18 to Adty).

Your 1656/17. My 1844/27/10 states that submarines in convoy with local escort present are undesirable.

(ii) Propose (a) submarines going to Halifax proceed independently to patrol area routed well clear of escorted convoy route.

(b) Submarines acting as ocean escort for homeward bound convoy leave convoy when local escort joins and proceed independently well clear of convoy routes to a suitable rendezvous preferably in the vicinity of Butt of Lewis for escort to base.

(iii) Impending submarine patrol areas should be outside normal limit of operations of local escort. Convoys have recently been dispersing between 020° West and 025° West and it is suggested that submarine patrol area should lie between these longitudes and between latitudes 054° North and 056° North depending on convoy routes.

(iv) Homeward bound convoys with submarine ocean escort will have to be routed clear of submarine patrol zone. (C.in C. W.A. 1337/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

ARMED MERCHANT CRUISERS, 1939-40

Circumstances of Loss

23.11.39	RAWALPINDI	Attacked by battle cruiser and sunk by gunfire at 1551/23 in 63° 38' N, 11° 55' W when patrolling on Northern Patrol between Faroes and Iceland.
6.6.40	CARINTHIA	Torpedoed by S/M at 1412/6 in 55° 13' N, 10° 39' W when patrolling.
13.6.40	SCOTSTOUN	Torpedoed by S/M at 0600/13 in 56° 54' N, 9° 48' W (west of Scotland) while on passage to Northern Patrol.
15.6.40	ANDANIA	Torpedoed by S/M at 2330/15, 200 miles S.E. of Iceland in about 61° 47' N, 16° 35' W, when patrolling on Northern Patrol and sank 0700/16.
10.8.40	TRANSYLVANIA	Torpedoed by S/M and sunk off Malin Head (Ireland N.W.) in 55° 51' N, 8° 3' W when on passage to patrol.
27.8.40	DUNVEGAN CASTLE	Torpedoed by S/M at 2307/27 and sank on 28/6 in 54° 54' N, 11° W on passage to patrol
3.11.40	PATROCLUS)	Torpedoed and sunk by S/M west of Ireland in about 53° 43' N, 14° 41' W, on passage to Clyde from Western Patrol (PATROCLUS hit by 2, LAURENTIC by 7 torpedoes).
3.11.40	LAURENTIC)	
5.11.40	JERVIS BAY	Escorting Convoy H X 84, Attacked by raider in 52° 45' N, 32° 13' W and sunk.
2.12.40	FORPAR	Escorting Convoy H X 90, sunk by S/M at 0350/2 in 54° 44' N, 18° 30' W. (5 torpedoes).

Total sunk = 10

On patrol or on passage to patrol 8

Escorting Convoys 2

On November 4 C-in-C H.F. (Signal 1047/4) proposed to withdraw A.M.C.s from North and Western Patrols unless A/S escorts could be provided and to use them for hunting down raiders, or as convoy escorts in non U/B waters or as troop escorts.

On November 18th, 1940, it was decided that A.M.C.s should be used only for patrols between Iceland and Greenland; the passage between Faroes and Iceland being left to trawlers and minefields.



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.11.40.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

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Escort of
M/V Groups.

Your 2018/16. It is hoped to be able to provide Escort required. There may be some delays.
(C.in C. W.A. 1349/18 to C.in C. Portsmouth.)

Northern
Patrol.
Withdrawal
of A.M.C's and
A.B.V's.

It has been decided to withdraw A.M.C's and A.B.V's from the Northern Patrol with the exception of a patrol in the Denmark Straits.

2. It is intended that the ships released from this duty should be employed to strengthen and extend the Western Patrol.

3. A meeting will be held at the Admiralty at 1500/20 to discuss the implementation of these decisions and consider the future operation and administration of these Patrol Forces.

4. It is requested that representatives from C.in C. Home Fleet and R.A.N.P. may attend.
(V.C.N.S. 1410/18 to R.A.N.P.)

Display Signals
in M/L's.

Adty. 1643/14/11. Present signals often inadequate. Urge that 2-star Cartridge be retained for emergencies.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1903/18 to Adty).

French
Warships.

Following 13 ships should be ready for service in next few weeks. LE TRIOMPHANT, LEOPARD, LA MELPOMENE, CHEVREUIL, and LA MOQUEUSE are French manned. OURAGAN Polish, BOUCLIER Dutch, and rest British.
(C.in C. W.A. 1921/18 to Capt: D. Londonderry).

Defence of United Kingdom.

At 2330/17 (D.C.0009/18) at 1130/18 (D.C.1302/18) At 2330/18 (D.C.2331/18).

"Deluge"
Defence.

R D/F Screen
in North Scotland.

A.M.1727/12. Fully concur with A.C.O.S. 1625/16. (D. of L.D. 1306/18 to Air Ministry).

18.11.40.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Movements.

VERITY.

My position 55° 20'N., 9° 24'W.
Am proceeding to assist A/C in
55° 35'N., 9° W. (VERITY 0310/18 to
C.in C. W.A.)

CLEMATIS.

A/C landed. Proceed to ANDONI and
escort. (C.in C. W.A. 0651/18).

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 18/19.
(C.in C. Nore 0800/18).

FORFAR.

Cancel my 1120/17. Ship will be ready
for sea p.m./20. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool
1125/18 to R.A.N.P.)

LANCASTER.

Expected time of arrival 1415/18 B.S.T.
MANSFIELD, SHERWOOD, CHESTERFIELD in
company. (LANCASTER 1155/18 to N.O.I.C.
Belfast.)

Dover.

Dispositions for Night 18/19.
(V.A. Dover 1456/18).

Orkneys.

Positions at 2000/18. (A.C.O.S. 1523/18)
Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1538/18)

Western Channel.

Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1609/18).

Harwich.

Movement Summary. (N.O.I.C. Harwich
1623/18 to SHELDRAKE).

BORDE
QUEENWORTH.)

S.D.G. Bath 1355/16. Revised
completion dates are BORDE 23/11
and QUEENWORTH 28/11. (F.O.I.C.
London 1705/18 to S.D.G. Bath).

L.23.

Cancel my 1141/16. L.23 will not join
Convoy WN.40. (A.C.O.S. 1832/18 to
Adty).

DOUGLAS
SOMALI
VIMY.

DOUGLAS proceed passing Switha as
necessary tomorrow to rendezvous 1000/19
in Pentland Firth with SOMALI and
VIMY escorting TITANIA and S.S. KYLE
FISHER.

2. Relieve SOMALI and provide onward
escort with VIMY to Clyde. SOMALI,
enters Scapa.

3. When released DOUGLAS and VIMY
return to Scapa. (F.O.C. D.F. H.F.
1851/18 to Capt: D.6.)

WAR DIARY.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Operations.

ADMIRAL
SCHEER.

Cancel my 2305/17. ACTIVE and ACHATES R/V with CHITRAL in 54° N., 21° W., at 0900/18 and escort to Clyde through 56° 30' N., 15° W., at 13 knots. (C.in C. W.A. 0123/18 to ACTIVE.)

Have not sighted Destroyer Escort. My position 54° N., 21° W., course 054° 14 knots. (CHITRAL 1200/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

It is possible ADMIRAL SCHEER may be fitted with following modifications. (V.C.N.S. 2223/18 Ad. Message. 543.A).

Amend my 0123/18 as follows. Route to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 2231/18 to CHITRAL, ACTIVE).

Icelandic
Fish Carrier
G.K.7.

My 0615/18. Intercepted and released. (NORTHERN REWARD 0740/18).

MALINES)
ANTWERP.)

Adty. message 1327/13. To avoid bringing ships into Milford Haven strongly recommend a small Collier be sent there at once. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1121/18 to Adty).

Unknown
Operation.

(1st S.L. 2350/1 to C.in C. H.F.) Suggest R.A.D. in place of C.S.18 whose movements are uncertain. (C.in C. H.F. 1722/18 to 1st S.L.)

Operation
D.L.

3 Tribal Destroyers on Night 19/20. to attack German fishing vessels on banks north of Aalesund. Particulars. (C.in C. H.F. 2259/19 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Submarines.

O.24.

Proceed to first Patrol Position. (Capt: S.9. 0527/18).

WILK.

Movements. (Capt: S.9. 0857/18).

5th Submarine
Flotilla.

My 1004/17 not to S.2. I do not consider it desirable to maintain a submarine patrol off Brest except in special circumstances such as the presence of an important enemy unit in or expected to arrive at Brest or if invading forces are expected to be leaving that port. Intend therefore that available submarines of 5th Flotilla

/should



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Submarines. (Contd.)

5th Submarine Flotilla.

should patrol in English Channel in D.4 and W.2 in that order of priority. (V.A.S. 1113/18 to Adty).

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1530/18).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/19. (V.A.S. 1647/18 and 1729/18).

O.23.

Expected time of arrival Tay Searched Channel 0831 (O.23 1816/18 to N.O.I.C. Dundee).

British Air Activity.

A/C Torpedo Training in Firth of Forth.

A.177/18/11. Request that all concerned be warned. Particulars. (Air Ministry 1607/18).

Falmouth.

Re C.in C. W.A's request for one Falmouth Balloon Barrage Vessel to Patrol by night off St. Anthony Head. Request your concurrence. (D. of L.D. 1739/18 to Air Ministry).

Rosyth Air Patrols.

Assessments. (C.in C. Rosyth 1904/18 to Adty).

Ostend, Dunkirk.)
Calais, Boulogne.)
Gris Nez, Hamburg.)

Attacked on night 15/16. (B.C. Intelligence Summary 547).

Off Cuxhaven.

At 0440/17 A/C attacked 3 M/V's 4-6000 tons in 53° 58'N., 8° 32'E. 2 bombs seen to burst near. (B.C.Intelligence Summary 550).

Enemy Air Activity.

NESTLEA.

(British, 4274 Tons) Hit in 50° 38' N., 10° W. (Valentia Radio 0739/18) Machine-gunned now (Plymouth W/T 0755/10) Going now. Please send assistance. (Valentia Radio 0846/18). Amended position 50° 45'N., 10° 50'W. (Plymouth W/T Recd. 0854/18) Engine room flooded. Now lowering lifeboat. (Valentia Radio 0823 and 0835/18)

/A/C

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Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

NESTLEA. (Contd.)

A/C reports 2 boats under sail in 50° 50'N., 9° 30'W., at 1625 with survivors from NESTLEA. (C.in C. W.A. 2237/18 to N.A. Dublin) Master and 15 crew landed at Swansea by Belgian fishing trawler IBIS I. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 10/5/21 D.N.I. 1037/22).

Lowestoft.

One aircraft attacked near Depot., at 0945 today with Bomb and machine-gun. One Boat exploded in grounds. One skipper and 2 civilians wounded. (Patrols, Lowestoft 1039/18 to Adty). Damage slight. Estimate £180. (Works, Shortley Gate 1707/18 to C.E. in C.)

Convoy "Pawlit".

One A/C shadowing in 50° 36'N., 0° 30'W. (FERNIE 1137/18).

Convoy "Pilot".
PILOT.

One aircraft shadowing in 51° 42'N., 1° 22'E. My course 230°, speed 12 knots. (Capt: D.21 0940/18). Enemy bombing in 51° 35'N., 1° 10'E., (CATTISTOCK 1331/18) (D.21 1334/18) 2 A/C bombing in 51° 40'N., 1° 18'E. (CATTISTOCK 1424 and 1425/18). At 1530 OPALIA (British Tanker, 6195 Tons) slightly damaged and one slight casualty. Ship proceeding Tyne instead of Methil (WESTMINSTER 1658/18) (to C.in C. Nore).

OPALIA damaged. in F.N.37
S.N.A. 8 disabled.

Brief report of proceedings during 18/11. CAMPBELL covered F.S.36 until F.N.37 was met. Approximately ten dive bombing attacks then took place. Consider 1 J U 87 seriously damaged and unlikely to have reached base. Several near misses on Convoy. No damage to Escort but S.S. OPALIA suffered minor damage but continued with Convoy. S.S. SNA.8, was disabled by a direct hit off S.W. Swin Light Vessel and subsequently towed by CAMPBELL to Southend. SNA.8 had 5 killed and 8 wounded. (C.in C. Nore. 1117/19 to Adty).

BIELA.

(British, 5298 tons). Bombed in 52° 26'N., 16° 31'W. (BIELA 1307/18) Corrected position 52° 26'N., 16° 10'W (Valentia Radio 1313/18). A/C disappeared in S.E. direction. (Valentia Radio 1326/18) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1445/18 to ASPHODEL, ANEMONE, LA MALDUINE)

/ANEMONE



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Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

BIELA. (Contd.)

ANEMONE in company in 53° 54'N., 16° 10'W. course South, 15 knots.
(LA MALDUINE 1548/18 to C.in C. W.A.)
Proceed to base. (C.in C. W.A. 1825/18 to ASPHODEL) Your 1445/18. 15 hours search unsuccessful.
(LA MALOUINE 1201/19) Your 1233 and my 201. ANEMONE only met who reported finding new wreckage and oil in 52° 41'N., 15° 50'W. Swept together 30 miles to leeward. Am returning to base with ANEMONE. Expected time of arrival Lough Foyle 2100/20.
(LA MALOUINE 2201/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

SARPEDON.

(H.M.Trawler) Machine-gunned at 1305 by ME.109 in 085° 21 miles East Pier. 2 men wounded. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate ← 1315/18 to V.A. Dover).

GARDENIA.

Enemy Aircraft bombing in 53° 46'N., 16° 45'W. (GARDENIA 1438/18) No hits. (GARDENIA 1457/18 to Rosyth W/T).

Ramsgate.

At 1335/18 2 aircraft dropped 8 H.E. bombs on Ramsgate. No Naval damage. 2 slight civilian casualties. Gas works seriously damaged, one house demolished, 20 seriously damaged, 68 slightly damaged. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate ← 1550/18 to Adty).

WITCH
VOLUNTEER.

Attacked by aircraft with 6 Bombs about 1900/17 in 6 miles S.W. of St. Catherines. No damage or casualties. A/C not seen. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1556/18 to Adty).

~~Sunk~~
SUNK Light
Vessel.

Details of damage. Morale of crew still good. (C.in C. Nore 1717/18 to Adty).

ROYALLIEU)
CAPRICORNUS.)

(M/S Trawlers) Both bombed by A/C while operating near Swin and South Shipwash respectively. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1832/18 to Adty).

Harwich.

Between 2030 and 2050, 6 aircraft plotted approaching Harwich and finally circling Bawdsey. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2128 and 2204/18 to C.in C. Nore).



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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Tees,
Hartlepool.

Acoustic Mining suspected at entrance to Tees. Ports open, but Diesel-engine ships to be diverted to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1325/18).

Harwich.

No.23 L.V. reports several explosions S.W. of station. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1345/18 to C.in C. Nore)
7 fleet sweepers extended clearance to 1½ miles east of QZS 148 for a distance of 2½ miles north and south of 52 buoy.
Two mines found one cut in position 51° 54.9'N., 01° 41.3' E. and one destroyed dragged in sweep. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1634/18 to Adty).

Operation
ZME.2.

Intend sail from Milford Haven 1800/19, lay at 2130, and return Milford Haven 0130/20. (ADVENTURE 1345/18 to Adty).

ABILITY.

(Motor Barge) Mined and sunk at 1544 off Clacton in about 51° 45' 30" N., 1° 11' 6" E. Crew of 7 saved by Clacton lifeboat and landed at Clacton. Master both legs broken, rest shock and slight injuries. Cargo of cement. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1548/18 and N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1850/18 and 1925/18 to C.in C. Nore).

Fowey.
Par.
Charlestown.
Proposed
Sweeps.

Situation re Clay Ports Fowey Par and Charlestown. Port of Fowey definitely closed owing to mines. St. Austell Bay suspected mines position uncertain. Aircraft having been observed flying low over bay.
A Channel is being swept by Falmouth from F Buoy in QZS 180 048° to join a Channel from Fowey to Plymouth in position 3.1 miles 139° from Fowey Light. Fowey-Plymouth Channel was searched once about October 25th and no mines found and none have been observed to be dropped since but this Channel is not A Q Z S. Propose after consulting R.N.O. Fowey to endeavour to sail vessels from Par and Charlestown coastwise to Chapel point at highwater, thence eastwards to join Plymouth Fowey Channel in 50° 16'.4°N., 4° 33'.6 W. thence clear of Q.Z.Y. 157. Propose also sweeping a Channel into Fowey as soon as vessels are available. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1630/18 to Adty).



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HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining. (Contd.)

Tyne.

Parachute Mines observed to drop off Tyne. Probable time of re-opening 1200/19. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2203/18 to Adty). Tyne closed. Ships to be diverted to Blyth. (C.in C. Rosyth 2253/18 to WESTON).

Sunderland.

Port Closed. 2 Parachute Mines reported between S.1 and S.2 Buoys each side of Channel. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 2230/18 to F.O.I.C. Tyne) (C.in C. Rosyth 2357/18).

S.N.3.

Completed. (R.A.M.L. 2225/18 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Hamburg.)
Dutch Coast.)

Shipping seen on night 15/16. (H.Q.B.C. Summary 547 and 550).



MCS T SECRET.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

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ELETH.

(British, 368 Tons) Sailed tub MARAUDER at 0345 to assist in 55° 40'N, 8° 40'W (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0356/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

GO AHEAD.

(LL Drifter) Sunk 3 cables W.N.W. of Garrison Point after collision with WATCHMAN during gale at Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1128/18 to Adty).

CATTISTOCK.

Have collided with ^{Armed Trawler} Drifter LIDDOCK at 1844 by 52 Buoy. One Bulkhead buckled and leaking slightly. Drifter has slight damage but is able to steam. (CATTISTOCK 1916/18 to C.in C. Nore).

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping.

Convoys.
S.L. Convoys.
Escorts.

Repeating C.in C. S.A., 1052/17 to C.in C. W.A., and adding:-
Additional Ocean escort not at present available but if the additional local escort can be provided it is proposed to sail S.L. and S.L. (S) convoys so that the fast passes the slow convoy about halfway between Sierra Leone and the rendezvous with local escort.
Request your remarks. C. in C. S.A. 1401/20/9 is being repeated to you.
(D.O.D. (H) 2326/18)

C.W.17
shelled

Arrived. Shelled off Dover, about 90 rounds, not accurate, estimated less than 1/4 in target area. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1837/18)

S.L.54.

SALOPIAN to R.V. at 0800/22 for inward escort to Clyde. (F.O.C.N.P. 1150/18)

O.B. 244.

E.T.A. Clyde 2100/18. VISCOUNT with Oban portion and SANDWICH Clyde portion. (WHITEHALL, 1302/18 to C.in C. W.A.)

F.S. 38.

Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1701/18).

F.S. 39.

Additional escort GUILLEMOT (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1615/18)

W.N. 40.

Position at 2000. (A.C.O.S. to F.O.(D) H.F., GLEANER, 2133/18)

W.N. 43.

Code "Rusty". (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1521/18).

H.X. 91.

Admty. 1531/17. Date and route. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1144/18)

H.X.89.

Sailing telegram. Escort COMORIN. S.H.X., HUSKY, and ELK. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1115/18).

E.N. 28.

GAVOTTE and PIROUETTE. Additional escort HASTINGS (N.C.S.O., Methil, 2253/18).

W.S.4 B.

Sailed STRATHAIRD, OTRANTO, EMPRESS OF CANADA, VICEROY OF INDIA, escorted EDINBURGH, SAGUENAY, SKEENA, in accordance C.in C. W.A. 1331/14 and 1507/17. E.T.A. (date) (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0145/18).

Possibly reported by U-boat (D.D.I.C. 1709/18, 1720/18, 1845/18 to NORFOLK, EDINBURGH).

My 0015. Impossible to repair tube and overtake convoy. Proceeding in company with convoy until further orders or density becomes acute. (CAIRO, 0945/18 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ W.S.4 A.)
W.S.4 C.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping. (Continued)

W.S.4A.)
W.S.4C.)

Admty. 2211/15 and 1435/4. Is it now intended that W.S.4C shall accompany W.S.4A from Cape to Suez, the speed of the whole being 12 knots? (C.in C. E.I., 1504Z/18 to Admty.)

A/C
co-operation.

Cancel A.M. 2115/26/10 (913 AZ.) re co-operation of a/c with Ocean convoys. Instructions contained in A.M. 1248/2 (925 AZ.) and A.M.1800/8 (940 AZ) remain in force. (D.T.D. 1614/18).

Independent
sailings,
Air Protection.

Admty. 1157/15. I am not aware of the reasons which led to the decision that ships of 13 knots and over should not sail in convoy. The present number of aircraft available to A.O.C. 15 Group is barely sufficient to protect convoys and ships of and above 15 knots against the increasing menace of air attack. It is hoped that routeing independently-routed ships farther North may solve the problem, but if this is not the case, the increased number of independently routed ships will be more than can be protected by the aircraft now available. (C.in C. W.A. 1930/18).

Reply: Admty 1902/19, p. 529.



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

MASSILIA
(Exchange of
Prisoners)

French ship MASSILIA will be ready for sea p.m./18. Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool to Admty., 1110/18)

Crew of
French submarine,
AJAX

My 1150/14/10 and your 2024/14/10. Captain of French S/M AJAX states they were informed that they would be repatriated at first opportunity. They have now been detained at Gibraltar for over one month, request I may be informed as to progress of negotiations Their continued detention here is inconvenient and involves sending all British Naval ratings for detention to U.K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1234/18 to Admty.)

Guns for
Coast Defence

Your 2331/4. Details at Duala, Libreville, Port Gentil and Pointe Noire. (C.S. 1. 1141/18 to Admty.)

Threat to
Libreville

Your 2331/4. Para c. De Gaulle convinced sea borne attack on Libreville and/or Pointe Noire with land attack on Chad is to be expected in very near future. Question of continuing patrol. (F.O.C. 1st C.S. 2017A/18 to Admty.)

L'ORAGE
FORT RICHEPANSE

French Trawler L'ORAGE sailed p.m./15/11 from St. Pierre Miquelon. French steamer FORT RICHEPANSE sailed for Casablanca via Guadaloupe p.m.14/11 from Martinique. (N.A. Washington, 1738/18 to Admty.)

INDOCHINOIS
Repatriation
of Passengers

My 1415/17 and other signals. N.C.S.O. St Vincent reports. Only known ship at present COLONIAL (Portuguese) due St. Vincent 20/11 for St. Tome. Will endeavour to persuade Captain to call at Freetown. Most desirable that passengers of INDOCHINOIS should be repatriated by this means if possible. Informed N.C.S.O. St. Vincent that Captain could be informed that if his ship calls at Freetown for this purpose she will not be interfered with. Crew is available for INDOCHINOIS and she can be sailed for U.K. when passengers are disposed of. (C. in G., S.A., 1759/18 to Admty.)

/Volunteers.....



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

Volunteers from
CUBA
INDOCHINOIS
ANNE DE BRETAGNE

All officers and men of the Merchant Service Crew and passengers in CUBA and INDOCHINOIS have been interrogated in accordance with my 1853/12. Following only volunteer to serve. (details) Crew of ANNE DE BRETAGNE (my 1942/12) also interrogated, have volunteered, these are fishermen but with some experience should be available for Merchant shipping. Crew of RIDLEY now at Freetown are available for INDOCHINOIS and these with 11 ratings from INDOCHINOIS and CUBA will provide a full crew to take the ship to the U.K. Intend to send remainder of volunteers from CUBA and INDOCHINOIS and crew of ANNE DE BRETAGNE as passengers in ship. (C. in C., S.A., 2053N/18 to Admty.)

North Atlantic

RENOWN
ARK ROYAL

My 1800/17. Have increased to 15 knots. My position 037° 24' N., 000° 57' E., S.O. Force H., 0600/18 to Admty.)

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL will oil in Bay on arrival about 0530/19.

Request A/S patrol in Bay be arranged. Some destroyers now in company can assist. Four will be required to screen the ships clear of the Straits subsequently. Fuel not essential. Your 1536/18. None required. (S.O. Force H., 1757/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Is it likely that weather will admit of oiling in Bay? Each requires about 800 tons. E.T.A. 0200/19. (S.O. Force H., to F.O.C.N.A. 1239/18) Your 1239. It is at your discretion to delay arrival until daylight. (A.C.N.S.(F) to S.O., H., 2021/18) Detail 4 destroyers for A/S patrol while RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are oiling and subsequently to provide screen until clear of Straits. (S.O. Force H to Capt., D. 8. 2109/18)

ADMIRAL SCHEER

Your 1800/17. Intend proceeding about 0900/19 with RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, making good 20 knots if weather permits. Destroyers will return to Gibraltar when clear of Straits unless Admty considers there is indication that presence of ADMIRAL SCHEER is connected with assault on Islands in which case destroyers and oiler will follow. (S.O. Force H., to Admty.) (1809/18) Your 1809/18. Attack on Islands by ADMIRAL SCHEER is not expected. (1st S.L., to S.O. Force H., 2317/18)



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

FRANCONIA

Details of personnel embarked for transhipment at Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (F) to S.O. Force H., 1622/18) (W.O. to Govr. Gib., 0055/18)

Coal for French Ship

Your 1225/17. You should not provide fuel for French vessels. (Hd. of M., to N.C.S.O. 2136/18)

Spanish M.T.B.

Your 1240 (Requesting identity of Spanish M.T.B.) Believe German originally. ~~HARD HARD~~
China CHINE. Believe wooden construction but not certain. Armament. 2 bow tubes, 2 high angle machine guns with crunched shoulder pieces. Photographs will be sent when obtainable. (S.O.I. Gibraltar to Admty.)

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS

Your 1329/17 N.C.S.O. Lisbon's 1750/17 1210/17. Only KINGSTON JACINTH now on patrol off Tagus is available to intercept these ships. (F.O. Gibraltar 1146/18)

South Atlantic

CUMBERLAND

Your 1737/15 and 1335/16 CUMBERLAND sailed from False Bay at 1100/18/11 at 20 knots for Patrol area in accordance with my 2157/17 after carrying out 8 inch firing practice. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 11152/18 to C. in C., S.A.)

Oil for Raider

(B.2.) German firms Rio de Janeiro normally consumers of diesel oil have been ordered by German Embassy to reserve proportion of their stocks for eventual supply to German raiders. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1220/18 to Admty.)

A/S forces in Freetown Area

A/S forces in Freetown area considered inadequate in view of developments since Dakar, increased commitments off Free French coasts and possible use of French submarines. Propose at least 4 corvettes for more distant areas, escorts and offensive operations to be allocated to Freetown and 2 additional A/S trawlers. (C. in C., S.A. 1257/15 to Admty.)

/ADMIRAL SCHEER....



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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South Atlantic-Contd.

ADMIRAL SCHEER

Should ADMIRAL SCHEER remain at large and any indication be given of likelihood of her proceeding S.A. problem of concentration arises. Alternatives suggested. (C. in C., S.A. 1329/18 to Admty.) *Reply: 1405/22, p. 614.*

PENNLAND

My 1051/21 PENNLAND sailed ^{2. sails} Freetown for Jamaica 19/11 with 559 internees with military and naval guard totalling 4 officers and 105 men. G.O.C.W Africa represents most important military guard be returned to Freetown at once as they are part of Sierra Leone Garrison. Propose in bunkers if necessary. (C. in C., S.A. 1413/18 to Admty amended by 1957/18) *See also 2025/21, p. 599*

QUEEN ELIZABETH

D. of S.T. 1648/8. Amended dates of itinerary of QUEEN ELIZABETH (details) (D.O.D. (F) 1655/18 to C. in C., W.I.)

Your 0834/18. Request German preamble may be signalled in amplification (C. in C., S.A. 1631/18 to D.N.I.)

Convoy W.S.4 (A+C)

Your 1231/17 re sailing of convoy to Cape Town instead of Durban. My 1419/17 now answers. Your 1851/14 had no indication of priority and was received 0435/16 decyphered 1000/16 the day that convoy would have sailed if unexpected delay had not occurred. (C. in C., S.A. 1036/18 to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean

NEWCASTLE
Operation
"White"

Long distance air reconnaissance must be concentrated on preventing NEWCASTLE being intercepted by superior forces. (C.N.S. 0135/18 to V.A.Malta)

Italian
Units

R.A.F. report 30 ships just outside Durazzo 3 above mentioned probable warships, at 0400/18. 0530, report convoy several ships leaving harbour. Recon at Valona at 0315/18 sighted no ships.

Air Reconnaissance 18/11.

(a) Ionian Island- nil.

(b) Syracuse 16 small and medium sized merchant vessels. Augusta, 2 destroyers 18 small merchant vessels. Catania 1 destroyer 1 large liner 1 naval auxiliary.

At 1215 a convoy of 5 merchant vessels off Spartivento Cape Eastward and 2 merchant vessels Northbound. Messina, 2 cruisers 5 destroyers 10 small merchant vessels. Palermo, 2 cruisers, 2 merchant vessels off Cape Saint Vito. 2 destroyers Eastbound. Trapani, 2 destroyers 12 small and 1 large merchant vessel.

(c) Nothing sighted between Sicily and Sardinia T.O.O. 1809/18. (V.A.Malta 1813/18 to Med. Fleet.)

Air Targets

Italy

Remarks on Admty 1831/15 re target^(t) for air attack in Italy. (V.A.Malta 1215/18 to C. in C., Med.,) See Mediterranean Volume.

Your 1215/18, para (d) There is no intention of moving 830 Sqdn. from Malta (5th S.L. to V.A.Malta, 1537/19)

/Greek.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Greek
Situation

(M.A. Athens to W.O., 0220/18) Concludes :
Greek High Command, has once again
appealed urgently for fighter aircraft
support.

Suggested
Bombing of
Leghorn

Has consideration been given to bombing
of oil storages at Leghorn by R.A.F. Believe
there are large stocks there and there are
indications that Tankers for Libya load at
this port.
(C. in C., Med., 1545/18 to Admty.)

Motor
Yachts

Admty 1839/15. Up to six craft are
urgently required as first supply.
(C. in C., Med., 1333/18 to Admty.)

Alexandria
Raid

Air raid 17/11, 1722 to 1800, two enemy
aircraft, believed to have dropped mines
or torpedoes off Alexandria Harbour.
No damage, no casualties. (R.A. Alexandria
1445/18)

/Spain.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean-Contd.

Spain

Bi-weekly report. M.F.A. has gone to Berlin on invitation of Germans. Reliably reported that Germany anxious to conclude peace agreement with France, and Spain is to be asked to give up any designs on French Morocco and adjust administrative difficulties in Tangier to please French. Spain is on edge of starvation. Unless we offer wheat she may fall into German trap. (N.A.Madrid 1107/18)

Operation

"Collar" (proposed
passage of transports
from Malta under cover)

Your 1816/14. In view of complicated nature of operation "Collar" as set forth in my 1207/17 consider it undesirable to add to this further on account of commitments to an already over loaded programme. Ships named have speed of 15, 16 and 14½ knots respectively. Thus the addition of any of the 3 would entail reduction of speed in RAMILLIES passage thus prolonging the critical period during which RAMILLIES will be proceeding to Westward side in daylight prior to junction with Force H. Further the presence of these ships with Force shown in D 4 (B) is an unmistakable disclosure of intentions and may thus prejudice attainment of the main object. Would prefer to await outcome of operation "Collar" as at present planning before undertaking further through convoy commitments. (C. in C., Med., 1141/18 to Admty.)

Air Report

Operational Summary No 161 up to 1200, 18/11. Greece 17/11. Blenheims maintained standing fighter patrols over Athens. Egypt. Day 17/11. Blenheims bombed Benghazi Tobruk, Bardia and Sollum. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E. 1154/18)

Operation "White"

Your 1915/17. Did the Glenn Martin make contact with second Skua and 6 Hurricanes? (C.N.S. to V.A.Malta, 0132/18)
Your 0132. No. (N.O.I.C. Malta 0850/18.)

Italian
Movements

(p.474)
Request you will amplify Part 2 of your 1714/17 regarding reported movements of Italian surface vessels (1st S.L. to S.O. Force H., 0133/18)

/Your 0133.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Italian
Movements-Contd.

Your 0133/18. Para 2 of my 1714/17 referred to following signals: V.A. Malta 1817/15, 1903/15, 1439/16, 1641/16, all addressed S.O. Force H, and C. in C., Med.'s 2011/15 addressed V.A. Malta and A.O.C. Mediterranean. These signals indicated one battleship, 7 cruisers, of which 3 were 8 inch, and destroyers were concentrating in lower Tyrrhenian Sea a.m./16 and that remaining battleships and 8 inch cruisers had not been located. (S.O. Force H., 0506/18 to Admty.)

From War Registry. The following signals quoted in S.O. Force H., 0506/18 concerning Italian Warships, were not received in Admty and have been called for:- (V. Malta's 1817/15, 1903/15, 1439/16 to Force H., 1641/16, C. in C., Mediterranean's 2011/15 to V.A. Malta.)

Loss of
Hurricanes,
Operation
"White"

Following is amplification of my 1714/17 and V.A. Malta's 2343/17. Admty 1952/17/7. Prior to operation "Hurry" stated range of Hurricane 521 sea miles and 1820/18/7 from Admty stated Air Staff agreed to flying off position about seven degrees east. Subsequent discussion with ARGUS led to position 007° 20' East being decided upon to cover possibility of easterly wind. For operation "White" ARGUS was asked in my 1146/5 if position 007° 30' was suitable or if position further west was acceptable. ARGUS's 2031/5 reported position 40 miles further westwards, i.e. 006° 40' East, accepted for the present provided upper air not easterly.

At time of flying off wind at 2000 feet in flying off position was 220°, 20 knots, and latest forecast received from Malta which was timed 1130/16 reported wind in Malta Channel southwest. As no further report received it was presumed there was no change.

First and second ranges therefore flown off 2 and 8 miles respectively to the eastwards of 006° 40' east approximately 400 miles from Malta. (F.O. Force H., 1147/18 to Admty)

/Air Recon.....

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Monday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean-Contd.

Air
Reconnaissance

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700/18
All times G.M.T. 0530 to 1400, Sunderland
Recco ahead of NEWCASTLE (area). Nil report
0846 to 1355 Blenheim reconnaissance Corfu-
Levkas- Cephalonia- Zante- Strovathi, nil
report. 1014 to 1436. Syracuse- 15 M/V's-
3,000- 5,000 tons- no warships. Augusta
2 destroyers- U. 18- small M/V's - 14 Cant
Z 506 seaplanes. Catania- 1 destroyer-
1 liner 20,000 tons- 8 naval auxiliary and
3 small E vessels. 11.15- 5 M/V's 5,000
and 2 1500 tons and course 135 degs. 1115
2 M/V's 2,000 tons steering North into
Straits of Messina- 2 cruisers- 5 destroyers
10 small M/V's. Palermo 2 cruisers- 2 M/V's
5 auxiliaries. 15 (miles?) North (West?)
(of?) Saint Vito- 2 destroyers course 70degs.
Trapani- 2 destroyers - 1 large M/V- 12
small M/V's. Marsela Bay, nil. Immense
fairly accurate heavy A.A. from Trapani and
Aegean Islands. Reference loss of 1 Skua
and 8 Hurricanes in my "I" 106 17/11- Rome
today claims shooting down 1 Blackburn Shark
off Sicily, taking crew prisoners, this may
account for Skua. No enemy activity over
Malta today. No naval or Military items.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1830/18 to Air Min.)

Operation
"White"
Loss of
Hurricanes.

East Indies

Operation
"Rope"

(Bombardment of Dante, near Ras Hafun,
Italian Somaliland) Completed. All targets
appear badly damaged except 2 circular
tanks one defended by 3 machine gun nests.
Walrus hit but serviceable with reduced
performance, no casualties. Own ship no
damage or casualties. No shipping in
harbour. (DORSETSHIRE 1445Z/18 to C. in C.,
E.I.)

SHROPSHIRE
W.S. 4.B.

Will remain at Durban until required to
escort W.S. 4 B from Durban to Red Sea.
SHROPSHIRE+ will now refit at Simonstown
after CORNWALL who refits early in
January. (C. in C., E.I., 1508Z/18 to
SHROPSHIRE)

COLOMBO

Attacked from air 070° Kismayu 60 miles.
Two attacks, no hits. (C. in C., E.I.,
1646Z/18) My 1646/18. Time of attack
1410 G.M.T. 18/11 (C. in C., E.I., 0354/19)

S.W. 3.....



War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

509

East Indies-Contd.

S.W. 3.
ORONTES

Request which transports in W.S. 3 are to return to U.K. in addition to ORONTES (S.S.T.O. Egypt, Port Said, 1035/18) Your 0722/17. Military have details (specified) urgently required Aden and request they be embarked in ORONTES, vessel being diverted to Aden to disembark. Do you concur? Ship carrying evacuees will not require to call at Aden. (S.S.T.O. Egypt to C. in C., E.I., 1213/18)

Chief of Staff,
Appointments

Re signals starting with my 1355/14/10/1939 Consider time has come when duty of Chief of Staff and N.O.I.C., Ceylon must be separated. Appointments proposed. (C. in C., E.I. to Admty., 1846/18)

U-Boat
Report

Your 1906/7. Master reports traces of periscope seen for one minute by second officer at distance of one mile and then obscured by rain squall. Position 003° 13' S., 055° 14' E., at 0905, G.M.T. 6/11. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0947Z/18)

Distinguishing
Signal for
Merchant Ships

My 1322/13. Masters (especially neutral) have represented that it is exceedingly hard to distinguish whether or not they are being stopped or boarded by a genuine British ship. A Norwegian Master at present at Colombo was surprised at OLE JACOBS being deceived as he has reputation of being particularly ready to resist enemy action. Some form of signal whereby an H.M. Ship can establish her friendly character seems clearly necessary. Following ideas suggested. (C. in C., E.I., 1412Z/18 to Admty.)

China

U.S. Naval
Liaison.

My 0729Z/14. I have withdrawn Commr. Wisden from Manila to report, with concurrence of U.S. Naval Authorities and as he is urgently required for normal duties I do not propose to send him back for the present. (C. in C., China, 0301/18 to Admty.)

N.E.I.
Navy

My 0213Z/17. Request may be informed of policy regarding supply of codes and cyphers to Dutch naval forces as basis for forthcoming discussion (C. in C., China 0303Z/18 to Admty.)

/DANAEE.....



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Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

510

China-Contd.

DANAE)
DELHI)

Admiralty 1805/12. Propose DANAE meets DELHI at Mauritius at end of February 1941. (C. in C., China, 0847Z/18 to C. in C., S.A)

ELLENGA

Hong Kong departure 17/11 hired transport ELLENGA for Singapore (S.O.(I) Singapore 0959/18 to Admty.)

America & West Indies

REVENGE

When making your E.T.A. include your speed and approaching course to assist such escort as can be provided. I was not informed of route. (F.O. 3.B.S. to REVENGE 1827/18)

A/S Gear

Your 1407/15. Supply of following has been shipped Halifax for U.S.S. DENEbola in SS NOVA SCOTIA. Do R.C.N. require replacement of equipment they have provided? (D. A/S.W., 1950/18 to F.O. 3. B.S.)

PENNLAND

My 1413/18 to Admiralty (sailing of PENNLAND with internees) is passed for information. (C. in C., S.A. 1950/18 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Trinidad
R.N.V.R.

76 N.O.i/c Trinidad's 1240/15/10. It is intended that all anti-submarine, examination and patrol craft except Norwegian whalers, operating from Trinidad shall be manned by Trinidad Naval Volunteer Force eventually. In view of consequent expansion strongly recommend Admty. takes over Trinidad Naval Volunteer Force on terms proposed in Governor of Trinidad telegram 570 dated 20/8 1940 addressed to Secretary of State for Colonies. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1806/18 to Admty.)

Australia

STRATHEDEN
U.S. 7.
Troop
Requirements

Left Adelaide 2130Z/17 for R.V., U.S. 7. (A.C.N.B., Melbourne, 0530Z/18 to Admty.) A.C.N.B. 1146Z/10. Australian troops requirement 10,000 per month for M.E. up to and including April 1941. (A.C.N.B., 0713Z/18) U.S. 7. Left 0900Z/18 for R.V. in Great Australian Bight. Route. Escort PERTH. (A.C.N.B. 2111Z/18)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

511

GERMANIA

Lisbon report states German Consul, Ponta Delgada, demanded fuel for GERMANIA which was refused by Tagus Oil Co., resulting in a threat which made Portuguese fear possibility of bombardment of oil tanks. Please supply information (Admty 1758/18 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)

ITHAKA

Arrived from Russia 17/11 3000 tons of barley. (Galatzi 1101/18)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

KILISSI
COMPIEGNE
ESPIGUETTE
LIEUT. ST
LOUBERT BIE

My 1730/8/11/40 and 2150/10/11 KILISSI sailed today. May meet escort 19/11. Probably other sailings COMPIEGNE 24/11, ESPIGUETTE 26/11, LIEUT. ST. LOUBERT BIE 30/11. (V.A.N.P. 1630/18 to Western Patrol)



War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

512

Ships Attacked

FABIAN

U.65

British, 3059 tons, was sunk by submarine 1600 G.M.T. on 16/11 in 03.00 N., 15.00 W., (C. in C., S.A. 1054/18 to CORNWALL, PRETORIA CASTLE, DRAGON)

GONCALO VELHO
(Attacked 8/11)

Your 1539/16. ^CGONCALO VELHO (Portuguese, 1595 tons, attacked by German Submarine 1056/8 position 052° 50' N., 017° 30' W., Submarine fired 3 shots without warning, the third hit vessel high on the port side forward. Crew took to the boats and Captain and First Officer entered Submarine, Commander of which apologized for attack but pointed out vessel within the limits of German blockade and after perusal of Ship's papers recommended course for completion of journey. (Consul, Oporto, 1800/18)

CONGONIAN

U.65

British 5065 tons DEVONSHIRE reports torpedoed by U-Boat probably German in 08.21 N., 16.12 W., at 1800/18 (C. in C., S.A. to Admty., 2129N/19)

Submarines Reported

1709

Possible you are being shadowed by U-Boat (D.D.I.C. 1709/18, to NORFOLK, EDINBURGH)

1639

D.F. probable U-Boat, 56° N., 11.10 W., unreliable fix, possibly reporting Convoy W.S. 4.B. (D.D.I.C. 1720/18)

1817

My 1709/18 and 1720/18. U-Boat made further signal, probably reporting convoy, at 1817/18. (D.D.I.C. to NORFOLK, EDINBURGH)
My 1709/18, 1720/18, and 1845/18. At 2112/18 position of unknown enemy unit, probably U-Boat, was 56.45 N., 12.30 W., unreliable fix. Series of signals by this unit indicates shadowing continues. (D.D.I.C. 2145/18, to EDINBURGH, NORFOLK, HIGHLANDER)

1424

D.F., probable U-Boat 57° N., - 57.30 N., 13° - 15° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1516/18 to A.C.O.S.)



War Diary

18.11.1940
Monday 513

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

- 0143 Cancel my 2123/17 (MALLOW to return to Oban) Continue hunt. (C. in C., W.A., 0143/18, to MALLOW) Whitley Aircraft landed. If fuel permits join MALLOW in hunt for submarine., 55.40 N., 08.40 W., where ELETH torpedoed. (C. in C., W.A., to VERITY, 0655/18)
- 1131 D.F., at 1 31/18, probable U-Boat. 53. 25 N 16.30 W., may be bound for Gironde. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1235/18)
- 2146 58.30 N., 23° W., Italian U-Boat, position indefinite. (D.S. 441)

East Indies

- 0905/6 U-Boat report, 03.13 S., 55.14 E., (see FOREIGN STATIONS)

South Atlantic

- 2316 Off W. Africa. No position obtainable (D.S. 441)
- 1300 Off Cotonou, French Dahomey 6.20 N., 2.24 E Reported on surface by aircraft course 36° (B.4.) (D.S. 441)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 in about 53° 30' N., 16° 30' W., at 1131/18, probably bound for Gironde. Possibly 1 still in N.W. Approaches. 1 in Bay of Biscay may reach Gironde today. German- 1 probably German was about 350 miles S.S.W. of Freetown, Sierra Leone, at 1500/16. 1 some 450 miles W. of the Gironde at 1807/17 1 was somewhere about 55° N., between 12° and 13° W., at 1806/17. 1 was in 55° 40' N., 8° 40' W at 1920/17. 1 probably in area 58° to 59° N., 15° to 18°W 1 probably in area 58° to 60° N., 19° to 20°W 1 probably in northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1258/18)

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
D.L.

Capt. D.4 in COSSACK left Scapa with ESKIMO and MAORI this morning to attack German and Norwegian fishing vessels north of Aalesund tonight.

Atlantic
Convoys

RODNEY is escorting homeward bound Atlantic convoy. After her return to Scapa it is not at present intended to operate her further on this service.

Norwegian
shipping.

Norwegian merchant ships are refusing to leave Halifax (N.S.) without defensive armament. This is causing considerable embarrassment and delays at assembly ports, where probably neither armament nor personnel are available. (pp 527-8)

Air Activity,
N.W. Approaches.

Ships in convoy are warned that enemy air activity in the North Western Approaches is rapidly increasing and any stragglers from convoys east of 22° W. run a very real risk of being sunk by air attack. New routes are being given to ships bound to and from the U.K. (p 528)

BONAVENTURE
NAIAD.

BONAVENTURE arrived at Scapa p.m. today. This ship and NAIAD (see 17/11) have sustained damage from heavy weather during their recent operations. (San Mayen Island)

British Air Activity.

Operations last night were restricted by bad weather. A Blenheim of Coastal Command dropped 4 bombs on Barfleur harbour today, scoring 3 hits on jetties.



MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

515

Enemy Air Activity.

SUNSPOT
damaged

M/S Trawler SUNSPOT was damaged by near miss bombs this morning off Lowestoft. ←

FONTENOY
damaged *sunk*

M/S Trawler FONTENOY was damaged by near miss bombs early this afternoon off Yarmouth, and sank later.

STAR OF PENTLAND
attacked.

M/S Trawler STAR OF PENTLAND was bombed and machine gunned early this afternoon off Lowestoft. She arrived at Lowestoft later.

W.N.40
attacked.

Convoy W.N.40 was unsuccessfully attacked off Kinnaird Head p.m. today (D.O.R.)

S.S. FOLDA
damaged.

S.S. FOLDA (1165 tons) in Convoy F.S.37 was bombed and damaged off Harwich this morning and was towed into Harwich.

CRAIGMILLER
damaged.

M/S Trawler CRAIGMILLER was damaged by air attack in the Thames Estuary today.

Mining.

Four Swordfish of Coastal Command successfully dropped mines last night in the Maas Estuary.

There was an increase in enemy minelaying activities by aircraft off the East and North East coasts last night. Explosions and flashes were seen off Aldeburgh this morning.

Ports affected:-

Tyne. Open 1507 except for diesel engined vessels which must be towed, with engines stopped.

Sunderland. Open 1630, with restrictions on diesel driven vessels.

Operations against Vichy French.

It is reported that French ships arriving at Dakar from the north nearly all bring French West African troops and war material.

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

516

At 0140 today the Admiralty cancelled the orders for RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to proceed to the Azores.

Operation
"Collar".

SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar at 1800 today, to R.V. with SOUTHAMPTON and 3 M.T. ships for Mediterranean.

Op: "White"

See next page.

South Atlantic.

U-boats off
West Africa

S.S. CITY OF PITTSBURG arrived at Freetown today with 35 survivors of S.S. KOHINUR (5168 tons) which was torpedoed at 1430/15 in position 4° 24' N. 13° 46' W.

The survivors report that a Norwegian tanker was torpedoed in the same position and C.in C. S.A. states this is probably HAVBOR (7614 tons). The submarine is reported by Chief Officer of KOHINUR to have been Italian.

Survivors of FABIAN (torpedoed 16/11 about 300 miles S.S.W. of Freetown) were landed at Freetown today. The master, who went aboard the U-boat, reports that she was definitely German.

It would therefore seem possible that two U-boats, one German and one Italian or French, are operating in this area.

Sweep for
raider.

HERMES left the Cape today for 16° S. 4° W. to search for raider with CUMBERLAND (who left Simonstown yesterday for St. Helena) after which both ships will return to Freetown.

There were indications that a raider was in position ~~29° S. 30' W.~~ (1200 miles East of the Plate at 2000 today.

32° 30' S. 29° 00' W.

Mediterranean

Air
Operations

Blenheims last night bombed Benghazi, Berka, Benina, Barce and Tobruk. Two large ships in Benghazi Harbour were hit and damage done at other places.

Sup 533.

S.A. watches approx 30° S. 30° W.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

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Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

Wellington tonight bombed Bari Docks, but all bombs fell in the southeast outskirts of the town. In the distance, Taranto put up a heavy barrage. There were 4 air raids on Alexandria last night. No Service damage or casualties occurred.

- One enemy plane last night dropped 2 bombs amongst a convoy assembled in Great Bitter Lake and machine gunned 3 ships, later dropping 4 incendiary bombs near Geneefa. No damage or casualties occurred.

YORK

YORK arrived at Suda Bay at noon today from Port Said, and left at 1515 for Piraeus.

Operation "White". S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, ARGUS, DESPATCH and 8 destroyers arrived at Gibraltar between 0345 and 0900 today.

should be under N. Atlantic
NEWCASTLE carrying R.A.F. personnel arrived at Malta this morning with defects. She was unsuccessfully attacked off Pantellaria by a U-boat earlier in the day.

East Indies.

Air Operations.

R.A.F. attacked Massawa last night and Assab several times between 1940/18 and 0835/19.

Aden was attacked last night, but no damage was caused. Aden and Sheikh Othman were attacked today.. No damage is reported. This was the first low attack that has been made on Aden.

COLOMBO was unsuccessfully attacked again this afternoon off Kismayu by two formations of 3 aircraft.



19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

518

Policy.

Northern Patrol.

Your 1410/18. Regret representative cannot attend. Following are my views on Northern Patrol. (C.in C. H.F. 1754/19 to Adty.)

"Deluge"
~~Deluge~~

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/19 (D.C. 1149/19) At 2330/19 (D.C. 2345/19).

Portsmouth
A/A Defences

Re Air-Raid at 1920/10. Consider protection of Copnor should be reviewed. Suggest increased number of Balloons or re-arrangement of their present lay-out to safeguard Main Line and Sewage Works. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1837/19 to Adty.)

Movements.

PUNJABI.

Passing Duncansby Head at 0130, south-bound. (A.C.O.S. 0101/19)

TITANIA)
SOMALI)
VIMY)

SOMALI and VIMY escorting TITANIA and one M/V due off May Island 0300 north-bound 9 knots (C.in C. Rosyth 0146/19 to PUNJABI).

RODNEY

Escorting homeward-bound Atlantic Convoy. R.A.D. H.F. is to sail 3 Destroyers to meet her in 55° 53' N. 17° W. where she should R/V with Local Escort at 0800/22, and to escort her to Scapa passing N. and W. of Rockall Bank. C.in-C. W.A. and C.in C. Rosyth requested to arrange A/S Air Escort from as far West as possible. (C.in C. H.F. 1131/19 to R.A.D. H.F.) Request RODNEY be ordered to proceed to Scapa when local A/S Escorts join Convoy. It is not at present intended to operate RODNEY further on this service. C.in C. H.F. 1131/19. BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, BULLDOG leave Port Z.A. P.M./20 for this duty. (R.A.D. H.F. 1743/19 to RODNEY)

DOUGLAS.

My 2142/19. Proceed, passing Switha to R/V in Pentland Firth at 2200/19. (F.O.C. D.F. H.F. 1137/19 to DOUGLAS)

MOOLTAN.

Date of completion of repairs 2/12. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1259/19 to Adty.)

/FORMIDABLE.



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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

519

Movements. (Continued)

FORMIDABLE.

Intend to sail at 1500/20. E.T.A. Clyde
Boom 1030/21. Trials will be carried out
between 20/11 and 25/11 in following area.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1347/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

MASSILIA.

(French, 15,363 tons). Sailed at 1320/19
for Gibraltar for onward routeing to
Toulon, routed as by Adty. 1913/28
reversed. Speed 14 knots. (F.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1421/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Dover.

Dispositions for Night 19/20. (V.A.Dover
1503/19).

Western Channel..

Night Report. (C.in C. W.A. 1545/19 and
1753/19).

Orkneys.

Position 2000/20 (A.C.O.S. 1546/19)

Rosyth.

Movements tonight. (C.in C. Rosyth
1552/19).

Portsmouth.

Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1603/19)

LA MOQUEUSE.

Fighter protection arranged for you
daybreak 20th, till arrival Plymouth.
(C.in C. W.A. 1855/19 to LA MOQUEUSE)

Operations.

NAIAD
Operation,
(Jan Meyer.)

Request you signal following particulars.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0021/19 to C.in C. H.F.)
Your 0021/19. Reply.
(C.in C. H.F. 1243/19 to Adty.)
See Operations Volume.

Operation D.L.

My 2259/18 para. 5. Amend instructions
regarding Fishing Vessels as follows.
(C.in C. H.F. 0057/19 to R.A.D.)
Take MAORI and ESKIMO under your orders
and proceed for Operation D.L. (R.A.D.
0329/19 to D.4.)

Iceland.

Sunderland Flying Boat left for Sullum Voe.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland 0805/19 to C.in C. H.F.)

Operation
P.U.I.

Weather permitting carry out P.U.I. tonight,
M.T.B's sailing from Yarmouth as convenient
before dark and returning to Felixstowe if
fuel permits. (C.in C. Nore 1112/19 to
BEEHIVE).

Unknown
Operation

Your 1722/18. Concur. R.A.D. due London
tomorrow. (C.in C. H.F. 1752/19 to 1st S.L.)

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

520



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Straits of Dover. Intend to sail M.T.B's 69 and 5 at 2335/19 to operate between Gris Nez and Calais returning to No.1 Buoy. E.T.A. Dover about 0400. (V.A. Dover 2131/19 to Adty.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER. Report of Engagement on 5/11 by s.s. STUREHOLM. Rescue of JERVIS BAY survivors (C.O. Atlantic Coast, Halifax 1055/19 to Adty.)

Submarines.

A/S Exercises at Plymouth. 76. My 1113/18. On completion of forthcoming patrols in zones D4 and W2, zone D4 only is to be kept filled. Remaining submarines are to be used for A/S exercises at Plymouth as arranged with C.in C. W.A. and for an occasional patrol in zone W2. UPHOLDER is to be made available for A/S exercises at Plymouth before proceeding to Portsmouth. (V.A.S. 1149/19 to S.5.)

Positions. For following 24 hours at 0800/20. (V.A.S. 1739/19 and 1822/19).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. S.A. 1A is being substituted for S.A. 1E. from first light today, and extended to Norwegian Coast and Trondheim. Offensive Patrol is being extended to cover Norwegian Coast from 59° 30' N. to Lister. S.A. 2 is being extended to Norwegian Coast and into the Kattegat up to 8° E. (C.in C. Rosyth 0458/19 to Adty.)
 2 Blenheims leave Sumburgh at 1200 to make R/C coastwise from 62° 30' N. to 63° 20' N. to a depth of 30 miles seaward. (C.in C. Rosyth 1026/19 to COSSACK).
 S.A. 3 recalled (C.in C. Rosyth 1428/19 to Adty.)
 Assessments (C.in C. Rosyth 1428/19 and 1900/19 to Adty.)

Vlaardingen. A.P./592/19/11. Repeat tonight 19/20 attack on Fuel Installations with available A/C of No. 53 Squadron (H.Q.C.C. 1235/19 to 16 Group, Manston).

Lorient. A.P./591/19/11. Available A/C of No. 59 Squadron to attack tonight 19/20 the Naval Dockyard and S/M's. (H.Q.C.C. 1238/19 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

/ V.L.A. Balloons



HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Continued)

V.L.A.
Balloons.

Commencing about 25/11, it is proposed to fly V.L.A. Balloons by certain mine-sweepers operating between Solent and Thames Estuary and commencing at a slightly later date by minesweepers and certain other of H.M. Ships at other points round the coast. Until experience is gained wires will be non-lethal but it is proposed to attach lethal devices later. Propose flying below cloud level with a maximum height of 2,000 ft.

Request your concurrence and information as to height to which balloons should be close hauled during dark hours, lowest height for balloon safety being 300 feet. (Adty. 1630/19 to Air Ministry) See 1600/20 p.549.

Rosyth.

Air Escort for 20/11. (C.in C. Rosyth 1838/19).

Enemy Air Activity.

FISHPOOL
(Bombed 14/11)

Drifting North-Eastwards at 1 to 2 knots. Estimated position at 0800/19, 53° 30' N. 16° 13' W. (GARDENIA 0810/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

FISHPOOL spoken at 1630 in 53° 34' N. 16° 5' W. (LA MALOUINE 1201/19 to A.C.W.A.)

Search should be continued. GARDENIA standing by. Reported in 53° 47' N. 15° 55' W. at 1800/19. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2111/19 to ASSURANCE, DILIGENT)

EGLINTON.

One A/C shadowing in 52° 2' N. 2° 42' E. (EGLINTON 0941/19).

Horsea Island.

At 2100/18 one U.X.B., probably 50 K.G., fell on Horsea Island. No inconvenience to W/T services. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1148/19 to Adty.)

LOWESTOFT.
Off Tees.

(Convoy FN.37)

Heinkel seaplane sighted at 1755/18 in position 54° 38' N. 00° 50' W. by 19C Buoy on port bow flying towards convoy. First round from LOWESTOFT burst in aircraft and rear half seen to break off and splash seen as aircraft hit water. While proceeding to search for wreckage another aircraft sighted on starboard beam of convoy and search was abandoned.

Destruction corroborated by AVONMORE and DURHAM COAST. Reported this morning Tuesday by ships in convoy that second aircraft fired torpedo at 1807/18 about 300 yards from starboard column which narrowly missed one ship in each column. Ships in convoy did not open fire.

At 2113/18 convoy fired on low flying raider returning from Tyne. Commodore and ships report aircraft was hit and damaged. (LOWESTOFT, 1153/19 to Adty.)

/ SUNSPOT



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

SUNSPOT.

(M/S Trawler) Damaged by near misses at No. 5 Buoy at 1004 and leaking. Reached harbour. No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1230/19 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

STAR OF PENTLAND.

(M/S Trawler) Bombed with near misses and machine-gunned 5 miles North of Position Z at 1258. Now reached harbour. One killed. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1554/19 to Adty.)

FONTENOY.

(M/S. Trawler) Sank at 1410 /19 in 52° 31' 15" N. 1° 55' E. as a result of 2 near misses during Bombing Attack near No. 5 Buoy. No casualties. Crew landed at Yarmouth. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1710/19 to Adty.)

FOLDA.

(Convoy F.S.37)

(British, 1165 tons) Bombed by single A/C at 0920/19 in about 51° 47' 15" N. 1° 30' E. Considerable damage to upper deck but none to hull or engines. Arrived Harwich 1730 in tow of Tug NORMAN. 2 killed, 5 wounded. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1745/19 and 2302/19)

Convoy W.N.40.

Your 1819. Convoy was attacked by aircraft in 57° 45' N. 1° 45' W. As far as is known, no ship was hit (CURACOA 1925/19 to C.in C. H.F.)

CRAIGMILLER.

M/S Trawler CRAIGMILLER was damaged by near misses when bombed in Edinburgh Channel 19/11 main inlet valve fractured and much minor damage repairs being taken in hand at Sheerness. (C.in C. Nore 1021/22).

Mining.

Explosions off Aldeburgh.

D.O. Walton reports at 0856 several Explosions heard and flashes seen 090° from Aldeburgh. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0900/19 to C.in C. Nore). Two Explosions seen at 0906 and 0929 in 51° 59' N. 1° 47' E. and 50° 58' 15" N. 1° 46' 15" E. No ships within 2 miles. (JAVELIN 1014/19 to C.in C. Nore) (C.in C. Nore 1247/19 to Adty.)

S.N.3.

Completed. (R.A.M.L. 1050/19 to Adty.)

Tyne.

Port open, except for Diesel-driven Vessels which can only be admitted in tow and with engines stopped. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/19 to Adty.)

/ Operation.



**"SUSPICIOUS VESSEL" IN
THE ATLANTIC**

20-11-40

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, Nov. 19

The Mackay Radio received a message this morning from the 4,392-ton British cargo steamer Jedmoor saying that she was being followed by a "suspicious vessel" 500 miles west of Cape Finisterre, Spain.

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Tuesday.War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Continued)Operation.

Squadron will be ready to sail A.M./23rd and loaded with mines which have been modified and are suitable for use in deep fields. Propose these should be used for forty series if attached destroyers are available, or if escort could be provided by C.in C. Home Fleet. Duration of operation 36 hours. It is most desirable to clear congestion in supply.
(R.A.M.L. 1623/19 to Adty.)

Sunderland.

Port open. Restrictions on Diesel-driven Vessels West of S.2 Buoy (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1630/19 to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Portland.

Request Fighter protection for 3 Minesweepers from 0800 to 1800/20 within 7 mile radius of 50° 22½' N. 2° 44½' W. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1739/19 to H.Q.F.C.)

ICARUS.

Required for Mining operations under C.in C. Portsmouth during next moonless period. Ship to arrive Portsmouth 27/11. (V.C.N.S. 2135/19 to C.in C. Portsmouth)

Floating Mine.

In 55° 30' N. 8° 24' W. Hit with S.A. fire but failed to sink. (MALLOW 1100/19 to C.in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

→ Suspicious Vessel. Reported by JEDMOOR in 43° 20' N. 22° W. (Valentia Radio 0319/19 to Admiral, Devonport).

Enemy Surface Unit. At 0200/19 off Norwegian Coast between Bergen and Stavanger by D/F. H.Q.C.C. requested to extend R/C to Norwegian Coast at daybreak. (D.D.I.C. 0336/19 to C.in C. H.F. and V.A.S. 0353/19 to S/M's Area A).

Norwegian Coast.
R/C by
Blenheims.

My 1026. Search carried out in varying visibility 4 to 15 miles. Rain and low cloud. Only four very small fishing boats seen in whole area and they were widely scattered.
One M.V. of 800 tons in position 62° 17' N. 05° 12' E. at 1400, steering south.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1738/19 to COSSACK).

Holmengraa.

0.23 reports Trawler Patrol near Holmengraa. Coastal shipping south of Jaederens hugs the coast protected by Trawler and A/C Patrols. (V.A.S. 2207/19 to Adty.)

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Tuesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Enemy Intelligence. (Continued)

M/V's.

At 1043/19 two 5000 ton Cargo Vessels
in 51° 59' N. 3° 20' E. heading 020°.
At 1200/19 in 52° 15' N. 3° 40' E.
3 Cargo Vessels and 3 sailing ships.
A/C reports. (H.Q.B.C. 2340/19).

The Sound.

My 1708/12. Following are details
of clear Channel from Kullen to Malmo.
(N.A. Stockholm 1839/19 to D.N.I.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

19.11.1940.

Tuesday.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

MAY DAY.

Intercept at 0847 G.M.T. from unknown station. Require assistance. (North Foreland Radio. Recd. 1010/9)

M/V. off
Harwich

Tug NORMAN sailed to assistance of M/V. 225° Sunk Light Vessel 3 miles. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1132/19 to Adty.)

Lifeboat.

In 51° 20' N. 8° 34' W., course 220°, speed 10 knots. No sign of other boats. A/C report. (A/C. (?) Duty A. 1445/19 to No.15 (R) H.Q.)

HAIG ROSE.

(British, 1117 tons) Sailed Barry 1135/5 for Plymouth. Not since heard of. (C.in C. W.A. 1625/19 to Adty.)



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Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

H.X.89.

Date and route. Escort COMORIN returns to Halifax. (D.T.D., 1657/19)

F.S.37.

7 ships lost convoy approx. 0200. 3 of these turned into Harwich remainder proceeding down Swin. Bombed by a/c (see Air). F.O.I.C. Harwich 23⁰²/19).

S.L. 54.

ARAKAKA to join for passage to Liverpool. (D.O.D.(H) to ESPERANCE BAY, 1540/19 and to ARAKARA, 1559/19).

H.X.88.

ROSEWOOD to be detached in about 35° W. and proceed direct to Reykjavik. (D.T.D. to AUSONIA, 1623/19).

B.H.X.90.

Left. Ocean escort MALOJA, returning to Halifax, (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1313/19)

FRESNO CITY

(ex H.X.84)

Arrival of survivors at Halifax 18/11. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1049/19) (See America and West Indies).

STUREHOLM

(ex H.X.84.)

Swedish. Report on rescue of JERVIS BAY survivors. Number of STUREHOLM officers and crew refused to sail after reaching Halifax and are being paid off. Hoped to complete crew from other H.X.84 survivors and sail STUREHOLM perhaps in H.X.91. No disciplinary action contemplated and no awards recommended. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1055/19) (See HOME COMMANDS, Operations).

MAIDAN

(ex H.X.84)

Now presumed to have been sunk by raider. (D.S. 442).

W.N.41.

To join in Pentlands 1100/21. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1103/19)

C.E.17.

Intend to sail from St. Helens 21/11. (C.in C. Nore, 1506/19)

S.L. 56 Slow.

Greek IOANNIS FRANGOS did not sail owing to refusal of crew. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1509/19).

O.G.46

(non-elastic).

Sailed 1420/19. Escort DEPTFORD, WALKER, CALDWELL, CALENDULA, CANDYTUFT, BLUEBELL, HONEYSUCKLE. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1606/19).

S.L.Convoy.

Admty. 2326/18. Propose that system of 2 S.L. Convoys be adopted for trial as it is not possible to forecast exactly what difficulties will be encountered in providing the additional local escort. (C.in C. W.A., 1609/19 to Admty.)

O.B. 245.

British TRECARELL and SOMME, stragglers from O.B. 245, arrived, unable to keep up with convoy. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1639/19)

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HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Continued)S.L. 54.

Your 1150/18 re SALOPIAN. S.L.54 will be approx. 24 hours late at R.V. with local escort due weather conditions. (ESPERANCE BAY, 1740/19 to F.O.C. N.P.)

F.N., F.S.

Forecast of sailings F.S.43-49, F.N.41-48. (C.in C. Rosyth 1951/19).

O.B.

Admty. 1656/17 and my 1308/18 (S/M escort for O.B. convoys). PORPOISE detailed. (V.A.S. 2321/19).

W.N.

Admty. 1741/15. Sailing dates from Clyde of W.N. 42, 43, 44, 45. (N.C.S.O. Greenock, 1002/19).

VIBRAN

Norwegian, Ocean route. (D.T.D.1702/19 to N.C.S.O. Avonmouth).

Troop Convoys.W.S.4B.

My 1331/14. Use your discretion as to whether to alter course for position (C). An alteration after dark may be advisable to put off shadowers. (C.in C. W.A. to EDINBURGH, 1119/19) S/M reports. (see U-Boat Campaign).

DEVONSHIRE
to relieve
NORFOLK

DEVONSHIRE to R.V. with W.S.4B in 35° N., 31° W., at 1200 zone plus 2, 23/11. If necessary, EDINBURGH to order new R.V. Convoy is routed through 40° N., 32° W., and 30° N., 30° W. When DEVONSHIRE joins convoy, NORFOLK is to return to Scapa, proceeding east of Azores. (D.O.D.(F) 1307/19)

WINDSOR CASTLE,
PASTEUR.

WINDSOR CASTLE with Gibraltarians and PASTEUR with Naval and R.A.F. personnel will be ready to sail for Halifax from Clyde. (date).
C.in C. W.A. to provide A/S escort and to sail ships to R/V with LACONIA on her leaving H.X.90.
F.O.C.N.P. to arrange for CATHAY to accompany ships to R/V with LACONIA and thence to proceed as ordered by C.in C. S.A.
LACONIA will escort WINDSOR CASTLE to Halifax.
PASTEUR is to proceed independently as soon as destroyer escort breaks off. Admiralty will provide route. (D.O.D. (H) 2212/19 amended 1140/20).

Norwegian Shipping,
Armament.

Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission, New York, are giving Norg. masters in U.S.A. ports following declaration(begins) We hereby declare that S.S. (Name of ship) is not going to sail from Halifax to England before the ship has the same equipment of weapons as English ships. We further declare that the ship has no

/ permission ...



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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping. (Continued)

Norwegian
Shipping.
Armament.

permission to leave Halifax for England before she is fully manned according to regulations, (ends).

Whilst this is a method of persuading Norg. ships to leave U.S.A. it is causing considerable embarrassment and delays at assembly ports where probably neither armament nor personnel are available though every possible effort is made to assist Norg. masters. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1536/19, to Admty.) *Repl. of D.T.D., 1506/26, p. 730.*

Routes.

/6

Cancel my 1146/8/8, 1648/7/9, 2358/9/9, 1245/16/9, 155/6/10, 1838/23/10, 1729/28/10, 1837/31/10, 2304/6/11.

(A) All independently sailed ships are to be routed as in my 1157/15. Those sailing to or from South Atlantic or West African ports are to keep out of sight to the Eastward of Cape Verde Islands and the Azores and to the Westward of a line joining 10 degs. N. 20 degs. W. and 52 degs. N. 22 degs. W.

(B) All convoys are routed by the Admiralty.

(C) Enemy air activity in the North Western Approaches is rapidly increasing and any stragglers from convoy East of Longitude 22 degs. W. run a very real risk of being sunk by air attack.

The area of greatest air danger in this locality is considered to be within a radius of 650 miles from Brest.

The routes given to ships in envelope C must give a high degree of consideration to the above though it is not desired unduly to extend the time spent in the submarine danger zone. After passing through the final position of the standard route, homeward bound ships in convoy must have a final route to 10 degs. W. well to the North of the convoy route.

The above principles also apply to the routes given to ships in outward bound convoys for use in case of separation.

(D) Independently sailed ships homeward bound for East Coast Ports are to call at Oban. Reference N.C.S.I. 139 paragraph 1 add Oban. (D.T.D. 1612/19).

Independent Sailings.
Air Protection.

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping. (Continued)

Independent
Sailings,
Air Protection.

Your 1930/18. Reasons for this decision were, as follows:-

(a) In view of heavy losses in 9-knot convoys by U-Boat attack in N.W. Approaches, it was considered that ships of 13 knots and over would find greater safety by making use of their speed than by inclusion in convoy.

(b) Present time seemed a suitable moment to start sailing these ships independently, because in the long winter nights ahead reasonably fast independent ships should have considerable immunity from attack, whereas the slow convoys are most vulnerable in the dark hours.

(c) Ministry of Shipping has been pressing for more economical use of our mercantile tonnage.

Your para. 2. This is appreciated, but it is hoped that for some time to come independently routed ships to and from North America and West Indies will be reasonably free from air attack.

(D.T.D. 1902/19 to C.in C. W.A.)



19.11.1940.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

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Operation "Ration". See North Atlantic.

Guns for
Coast Defence.

Re guns from RESOLUTION until guns from COURBET and PARIS are available. (D. of L.D. 1227/19 to C.in C. S.A.). *later 9*

WINNIPEG,
DJENNE

Inform French N.A. that unless delayed WINNIPEG will be sailed 21/11 and DJENNE on 23/11. (Head of M. 1319/19 to N.A. Madrid).

MASSILIA.

(French M.V. 1536 tons). If ready to be sailed for Toulon today by reverse of route given in my 1913/28/10. Safe conduct has been obtained. (D.O.D. (H). to F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1041/19). 1320/19 sailed Gibraltar for outward routeing to Toulon. Route in accordance with Admiralty 1913/28 reversed. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1421/19 to F.O.C. N.A.)

Martinique.

Situation, and relations of French with U.S.A. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1731/19 - see FOREIGN STATIONS, America and West Indies.)

Intelligence,
Dakar.

Following from Navy Department. From Dakar. French ship ASIE arrived from Morocco 16/11. French ships EL MANSOUR sailed for Casablanca and **VILLE de HAVRE** for Madagascar 16/11 and French S.S. CHANTILLY arrived from Casablanca 17/11. Such vessels when arriving from North nearly all bring French West African troops and war material to extend of several thousand tons. This material will not fall into German hands, say Government officials. According to Governor General there will be brought back France 100,000 French West African troops in the course of 12 months to come. All are not to be discharged according to rumour. (N.A. Washington, 1254/19 to Admty.)

Casablanca.
CAUDEBEC.

Following from Navy Department. From Casablanca. There are in port at present time in addition to JEAN BART, 8 torpedo boats and/or destroyers, one old battleship, 4 submarines (?), 2 auxiliary cruisers and 3 trawlers. Oxide of iron and Broxide of Manganese ore are being loaded by steamer CAUDEBEC which is due to sail for Marseilles on 18/11 or 19/11. It is believed this cargo is for Germany or Italy. (N.A. Washington, 1300/19).

19.11.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Collar."

Cancel my 1800/17. Operation "Collar" is to be carried out according to plan. (D.O.D. (F) 0140/19 to S.O. Force H).

Operation
"Ration."

Admty. 2327/19/10, 0100/24, and 1835/25. Prepare to carry out Operation "Ration" on 20/11 but do not act without further instructions. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to be maintained in a condition to proceed to sea if necessary. Pending receipt of orders to carry out Operation "Ration", Force H may be at four hours' notice for steam. (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0150/19) Your 0150. Destroyer situation will not permit of "Ration" being carried out on 20/11 without interfering with "Collar" (F.O.C.N.A. 1014/19). Your 0150/19. Request immediate consideration be given to postponement of "Ration". Reasons. (S.O. Force H., to Admty., 1113/19).

Operations
"Collar"
"Ration"

I have proposed to C.in C. Mediterranean that M.T. ships and Corvettes in "Collar" should be routed partly along North Africa Coast for reasons given in my 0405/19. If Ration is carried out this may not be practicable on account of possible French retaliation.

Unless it is essential to commence operation against French immediately I urge most strongly that everything possible should be done to avoid adding contingent difficulties of executing "Collar" which C.in C. Med. has described as a complicated operation.

(S.O. Force H, 1115/19 to Admty.)

Operations
"Ration"
"Collar"

Your 1014/19 and S.O. Force H 1115/19. "Consequent on decision of H.M.G. Operation ~~"Ration"~~ is to be put into effect once either on 21/11 or if there is no convoy passing on 21/11 then on 22/11.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN must if possible be at short notice for steam on 21/11 and 22/11. Operation ~~"Collar"~~ must not be delayed. The forces employed on Operation ~~"Ration"~~ are at your discretion.

(1st S.L. 2110/19 to F.O.C. N.A.)

DESPATCH,
NEWCASTLE

Admty. 2235/14. DESPATCH is to remain at Gibraltar until return of NEWCASTLE. C.in C. W.A. requested to inform addressees of DESPATCH's destination. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1226/19 to F.O.C. N.A.)

Cancel my 1226/19 to C.in C. A. and W.I. and substitute my 2235/14. DESPATCH is to remain at Gibraltar until return of NEWCASTLE. C.in C. A. and W.I. requested to inform addresses of DESPATCH's destination. (A.C.N.S.(F), 1605/19 to F.O.C.N.A.) Admiralty 1605/19.

/ Destination



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Destination of DESPATCH is Bermuda.
(C. in C. A. and W.I. 1251/19 to
F.O.C. N.A.)

FRANCONIA.

Pass instructions to FRANCONIA, Admty.
1622/18. Each unit for passage east of
Gibraltar is to be divided equally
between MANCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON.
(S.O. Force H, 0314/19 to F.O.C. 8 C.S.)

DUNCAN,
FORESTER

Sail 1400/19 to R/V with you daylight
20/11. Will pass through 037° 35' N.,
013° 10' W. at 1500 zone minus one
20/11 steering 300°. (F.O.C. N.A.
1148/19 to MANCHESTER).

German
Blockade
Runners.

Ungraded report received Germans intend
sailing 2 Armed M.V.'s from Biscay port
to port in Latin America loaded with
good to demonstrate ineffectiveness of
blockade. (C. in C. W.A. 1301/19 to
EDINBURGH).

Unknown
Destroyer

At 0700/19 passed Sagres from S.E. going
N., destroyer of unknown nationality.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1627/19).

URSULA

My 1240/15. Trials still unsatisfactory.
Consider inadvisable repair at Gibraltar
and that ship should return U.K.
(A.S., Gibraltar, 1820/19, to Admty).

Italian
S/M's
Tangier.

My 2340/9. Work appears continuing on
S/M "A", but no outward sign repairs
on S/M "B". Latter possibly waiting for
"A" so that they can escape together.
(Consul-Gen., Tangier, 2045/19).

Gibraltar.

Situation Report. One Martin recco.
a/c flew over Rock at 1138/19 but was
driven off by A/A fire. (Govr. Gib.,
2305/19).

South Atlantic.

FURIOUS.

In view of urgency of air reinforcements
in Middle East delays at Freetown and on
passage should be reduced to the minimum.
(V.C.N.S., 1156/19 to FURIOUS).

S/M Report.

See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

KOHINUR.

Torpedoed (C. in C. S.A., 2129 N/19)
See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, 15/11.

HAVBOR

Torpedoed (C. in C. S.A. 2129 N/19)
See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, 15/11.

CONGONIAN.

Torpedoed (C. in C. S.A., 2129 N/19)
See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, 18/11.

HERMES
CUMBERLAND



MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (continued)

HERMES
CUMBERLAND

Simonstown departure 1635/19 HERMES for patrol and Freetown in accordance C.in C. S.A. 0955/19. To R.V. with CUMBERLAND (date).
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1703Z/19) Order to HERMES. (C.in C. S.A. 0955/19).

Enemy Unit.

D.F. at 1911 G.M.T., enemy unit, probably surface vessel, position south of 15° N. and possibly in vicinity of the Equator. (D.C., 2330/19 0001/20)
Admty. 2330/19 and 0001/20. Further bearings suggest position may be 32°30' S., 29° 00' W. (C.in C. S.A. 0219/20 to R.A.S.A.D.)

DEVONSHIRE
W.S.4B.

Left Freetown 0700/19 to relieve NORFOLK escorting W.S.4B. (D.O.R.)

DRAGON.

Arrived at Freetown 0930/19. (D.O.R.)

Mediterranean.

Operation
"Collar".

Your 1207/17. Proposals (details). (S.O. Force H 0405/19 to C.in C. Med.)
Your 0405/19. Concur in proposals (1) to (7). Para. (8) (corvettes to show French colours if approached by Italian a/c and simulate minesweeping) is worth trying. Para. (9) (submarine concentration to block southern exit of Tyrrhenean Sea) not feasible with number of S/M's available. Para. (10), no Force H destroyers required except HOTSPUR. (C.in C. Med., 1919/19 to S.O. Force H).

Convoy
A.N.7.

Arrived Piraeus 1200/19. (Athens, 1239/19, to Admty.)

VIKING.

Admty. 1733/16. Greek Govt. have requisitioned VIKING. Will be under Danish flag with all Greek crew. Hoped to obtain use of her for ourselves. (N.A., Athens, 1940/19 to Admty.)

Oilers.

Submissions for THORSHOLM, and other oilers. (N.O.I.C. Port Said to C.in C. Med., 2004/19) Amended (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1701/20)

Alexandria
Air Raids.

Air Raids Alexandria 18-19/11.
First, 2017 to 2046 one aircraft one large bomb or mine and some small ones to seaward.
Second, 2302 to 2330 2 aircraft two bombs near Seagull camp 6 in lake Mariut.
Third, 0015 to 0050 2 or 3 aircraft 7 bombs Abuquir.

/ Fourth



MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Alexandria
Air Raids.
(contd.)

Fourth, 0235 to 0314 2 aircraft 9 bombs
43 Egyptians killed 75 wounded.
Attempt at low bombing on harbour but
bombs jettisoned demolishing 15 houses
when barrage opened up.
All low bombing attacks.
(Alexandria, 1336/19 to C.in C. Med.)

Suez Air
Raid.

18th November 2030 one enemy plane
dropped two bombs amongst convoy
assembled in Great Bitter Lake and
machine gunned three ships later dropped
four incendiary bombs near ~~GENEKEPA~~ Geniefa.
No damage. No casualties.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1941/19).

Movements.

Movement Summary 169. Submarines.
YORK left Port Said for Piraeus.
JUNO escorting ETHIOPIA left Port Said
for Suda Bay. 7th C.S. operating in
Aegean, etc. (C.in C. Med., 0043/19).

UPRIGHT

Your 1132/18. Would prefer UPRIGHT to
patrol as ordered. Suggest extra men
and books should be transferred to
MANCHESTER or SOUTHAMPTON for passage
to E. Mediterranean. Transfer to Malta
will be arranged as convenient.
(C.in C. Med., to F.O.C.N.A. 1003/19).

NEWCASTLE
defects,
attacked by
S/M.

NEWCASTLE on arrival reported starboard
forward boiler with several tubes
defective and port outer condenser
leaking. Ship can proceed about
22 knots. Do not consider it safe for
NEWCASTLE to sail by herself under these
conditions. Propose retaining her and
effecting such repairs as are possible
to enable her to sail westwards with
units during operation Collar. NEWCASTLE
reports she was attacked by a submarine
off Pantellaria in bright moonlight.
(V.A. Malta 1337/19).
Your 1337 approved. (C.in C. Med.,
1930/19)

Spanish and
Italian Trade.

V. Consul, Cartagena, reports CASTILLO
CUELLAR suspended voyages to Genoa because
of loss of FRANCA FASSIO. Master states
Italian seaborne trade including coastal
non-existent except schooners. (Madrid,
1400/19, to Admty.)

A/C Sqdns.

Your 1235/16. It is hoped that you will
re-allocate personnel as you think fit,
keeping Admty. informed. (5 S.L. to
C.in C. Med., 1302/19).

Air Reconnaissance.

My 2229/17. Air reconnaissance of
Spezia not carried out 19/11, weather
unfavourable. Reconnaissance of Pola and
Trieste is possible from Malta under
selected weather conditions but not as
/ routine



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

- Air Reconnaissance. (contd.) routine requirement. Reconnaissance will be arranged accordingly. (V.A. Malta, 1911/19).
- U-Boats. Left Rhodes (Capt. S.1 1503/19)
See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.
- 830 Air Sqdn. Your 1215/18. No intention of moving 830 Sqdn. from Malta. (5 S.L. 1537/19 to V.A., Malta).
- Air Report. Combined services report Malta up to 1700/19. All times G.M.T. 0527-0906 3 Swordfish detailed on patrol to escort NEWCASTLE into Grand Harbour. No enemy activity encountered. 0740-1545 Sunderland R.C. Corfu - Levkas - Cephalonia - Zante - Strovathi to report enemy naval movements. No activity observed. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/19).
- BUCEGI. Your 1701/7. Roumanian Govt. have been informed that crew may be repatriated. High Commissioner, Palestine, is being instructed to requisition ship for Min. of Shipping when crew have been disposed of. (Hd. of M., 1837/19 to C.in C. Med.)
- Air Report. Operational Summary No. 162 up to 1200/19. 1445/18 Durazzo, 1 large 3 medium 36 small ships, 0505/18 Valona, 2 large 6 medium ships 5 destroyers. Blenheims maintained standing fighter patrol over Athens. Reconnaissances made of Maddalena, Bir El Gobi Bardia and Dignaish areas. 2 Sunderlands operating from Suda Bay reconnoitred eastern Ionian Seas. 21 enemy aircraft dropped 80 heavy bombs on Siwa wounding 3 British soldiers. Material damage slight. Night 18/19 Nov. enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria, no service damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1152/19).
- Alexandria Raid.
- Air Attack on Bari. Tonight 1 Wellington aimed 1750 pounds G.P. bombs and 240 pounds incendiaries from 8,000 feet on Bari Docks but seen to explode in south east outskirts of town. Moderate heavy and light A.A. fairly accurate. Heavy barrage at Taranto in distance. 1 ship with lights 4 miles off Bari. (H.Q. Med. 2310/19.)



MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

Air Attack on
COLOMBO.

My 1646/18 time of attack 1410/18 G.M.T. C.in C. E.I. 0354/19 to Admiralty).
My 0534/16. COLOMBO now patrolling off Kismayu was attacked from air 070° Kismayu 60 miles at 1412/18 G.M.T. No hits. Reports enemy A/C shadowing her at 0327/19 G.M.T. 1° 54' S., 43° 25' E. (C.in C. E.I. 0604Z/19 to A.O.C. East Africa) after being shadowed during day was bombed at 1450/19 G.M.T. Two attacks by formations of 3 A/C. No damage. Position 000° 35' S., 042° 35' E. (C.in C. E.I., 1908Z/19 to Admiralty).

BENAVON

(M.V. British 5872 tons). Your 0801/15. N.O.I.C. Mauritius reports STRAAT MALACCA (Dutch) at 0930Z/17 passed through several hundred bundles of raw rubber around 024° 28' S., 053° 08' E. Suggest this might be from BENAON. Request remarks. (C.in C. E.I. 0548 Z/19 to Capt. on Staff, Singapore).

DALIA.

My 1202/2 British ship DALIA arrived Kilindini under her own steam (C.in C. E.I., 0814Z/19 to Admiralty).

Convoy
B.S.9.

Sailing telegram. Escort CLIVE, GRIMSBY. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1703/19).

Air Reports,
Assab Raids.

Intelligence summary No. 160 and operational summary for 24 hours ending 1500/19/11 6 night and 6 day sorties despatched to attack Assab. 1940, to 0835. Details. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1944/19).

China.

Repatriees.

Your 1810/16, (re officers and men for Lourenco Marques) Numbers travelling, and E.T.A. (Cdre, Malaya, to Admty., 0537Z/19).

America and West Indies.

FRESNO CITY.

MOUNT TAYGETOS arrived Halifax 18/11. Has on board 12 officers and men picked up 9/11, 051° 17' North 030° 09' West from FRESNO CITY. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1049/19).

S/M 0.15.

Netherlands Submarine 0.15 refitting at Halifax. In view of complete absence of facilities for practical training for A/S vessels on this station, request consideration be given to retention of this submarine if service can be

/ dispensed

19.11.1940.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.) 537S/M O.15.
(contd.)U.S. Navy
and Warship
Movements.

dispensed with in Home waters.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1121/19 to Admty.)
(*not approved: Admty 1153/26, p.729*)

Admiral Anderson has represented to me importance of Navy Department being kept acquainted with disposition of H.M. Ships in West Indies and on west coast of America in vicinity of Panama Canal to enable them to dispose U.S. Ships in neutrality zone to best advantage. If approved request movements may be telegraphed to me.
(N.A. Washington, 1719/19 to Admty.)

Martinique
French
Relations
with U.S.A.

Reports from Admiral Robert at Martinique and Captain Benech, French N.A. at Washington addressed French Admiralty were examined at Bermuda. Following general conclusions emerged.

(1) French Caribbean Sea Colonies Economic Policy must undergo drastic revision owing to trade being practically confined to Western Hemisphere.

Colonies are almost entirely dependent on good will of United States for supplies.

(2) Apparent that policy of U.S. is to maintain existing control by Vichy of these Colonies thereby avoiding necessity for implementing Pan American agreement.

(3) Owing to (1) U.S. Government can exert great pressure to insist on internment of French Warships as price of economic protection.

(4) Cordial relations appear to exist between Admiral Greenslade and Admiral Robert.

(5) Since his recent return from Martinique Admiral Greenslade has taken steps to arrange for exports from U.S. to French West Indies of indispensable commodities except heavy oil for warships.

(6) Seems accepted policy of U.S. Government that internal trouble in French West Indies would necessitate U.S. Intervention to restore order and Benech has been informed to this effect.

(C.in C. A.W.I., 1731/19 to Admty.)

New Zealand.U.S. Visit,
Xmas Island.

Navy Department informs me that they propose sending a unit of Pacific Fleet to visit Christmas Island; I gather this is in connection with plan of C.in C. Pacific for trans-Pacific flights Navy Dept. are anxious to keep this secret and to avoid employing usual procedure for visits of foreign ships. Request approval
(N.A. Washington 1750/19 to Admty.)



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GERMANIA.

Your 1758/18. No truth in report of threat. Order to supply oil fuel was given by Captain of Port only on receipt of telegram from Minister of Marine, Lisbon, ordering him to supply amount he considered necessary. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1152/19 to Admty.)

SPEZIA
(reported
sunk.)

My 1945/16. Spanish member of crew who was saved says that SPEZIA was torpedoed off Cape Creus, apparently about 8/11 (D.4.). (Madrid, 1655/19). SPEZIA was last known to be carrying fruit from Spanish ports to Genoa. (D.S. 440).

AEQUITAS

My 1535/9 Brazilian Naval authorities inform that AEQUITAS will be escorted from Ceara to Rio de Janeiro by minelayer CARIOCA Date at present uncertain but after 25/11. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1530/19).

Ships in Brazil.

(A.1.) My 1220/18 THEODORE WILLE making determined efforts to obtain 250 tons of Diesel Oil through agency of smaller German firms. Oil companies obstructing. (B.2.) German Ambassador at Rio de Janeiro on 16/11 asked Minister for Foreign Affairs for permission for German ships in Brazil to sail. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1623/19).

HELGOLAND.

As no report has been received since ship left Puerto Colombia on 28/10 it must be assumed that she has escaped my patrol and is probably now on passage to an enemy port. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1241/19 to Admty.)

ORINOCO,
IDARWALD,
RHEIN.

Navy Dept. report. From Tampico. ORINOCO readily repairable. Some reports indicate that she and IDARWALD and RHEIN will attempt again at any time. (N.A. Washington, 1249/19).

ITHAKA
SALZBURG

Left for Russia (Mayal, Galatz, 1045/19)
Left for Istanbul " " "

RIO GRANDE

Following from Navy Department. ^{Rio Grande} German ship RIO GRANDE which left Rio de Janeiro 31/10 is reported to be equipped with an 80-ton derrick forward heavy crane fenders and large quantity of Diesel oil in drums as well as other cargo. She is also fitted with short wave W/T. Character of ship and cargo indicates her intention to act as a supply ship to German raiders. (N.A. Washington, 1729/19).

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

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Vigo.
tankers.

Report received C. two that German tankers here are taking further provisions on board. Bad weather has possibly delayed earlier departure. 1830/19.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

KILISSI

My 1605/7 KILISSI sailed from Setubal 06??/19. See also my 1205/9 and my 1919/9. (F.O.C.N.A. 1329/19 to N.A.Stn.)

CANTAL.

Navy Dept. report from Martinique French CANTAL arrived Fort de France lightly laden 4/11. (N.A. Washington, 1249/19).



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

GONCALO VELHO
(Stopped 8/11)

On 8/11 Portuguese merchant vessel GONCALO VELHO proceeding from Ireland to Oporto was ordered to stop, 52.50 N., 17.30 W., by German submarine. After three shots had been fired at ship and she had been inspected she was ordered to proceed on course 270 degrees until reached 20 degrees West and carried on to west of this meridian then steered south until reaching 46.30° N. (N.A. Lisbon 1627/19)

SAINT GERMAIN
(Torpedoed 17/11)

VERONICA
(Torpedoed 17/11)

* BR 1337 Swedish, 1316 tons.

Searching in 55.30 N., 08.42 W., (MALLOW, 1100/19) My 0440/18 and 1030/18, 55.20 N., 08.40 W., wreckage and lifebuoys from Norwegian ship* VERONICA sighted. (MALLOW 1215/19) My 1215. In 55.30 N., 08.52 W., passing through pit props and wreckage from ST. GERMAIN identified by Master. Heared ST. GERMAIN now sunk. (MALLOW 1310/19)

SSSS made by unknown station at 1659/19. Nothing further heard (Scapa W/T, 1702/19)

Mediterranean

H.M.S. NEWCASTLE

NEWCASTLE reports she was attacked by S/M off Pantellaria in bright moonlight. (V.A.Malta, 1337/19) See also ^Mediterranean.

South Atlantic

CONGONIAN

Ship torpedoed by submarine in 08.21 N., 16.12 W., at 1800/18 (C. in C., S.A. 2108/19 to G.B.M.S. 6 A and 9) Presumably refers to CONGONIAN- see 18/11.

FABIAN
(Torpedoed 16/11)

Survivors landed Freetown 19/11. Master reports U-Boat definitely German. (D.O.R. 20/11)



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 0437 My 2145/18. D.F. bearings of enemy U-Boat in your vicinity indicate you are still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 0437/19 to NORFOLK, etc.)
- 0811 From number of signals made in N.W. Approaches possible that a U-Boat is damaged D.F. fixes between 1639/18 and 2112/18 gave positions in area 56° to 57° N., 10.30 to 13° W. Subsequent bearings give no fix. Last signal received at 0811/19 (D.D.I.C. 1 1022/19)
- 0942 Aircraft reports over enemy submarine, 56.28 N., 19.24 W., at 0942. (C. in C., W.A. 1055/19 and 1130/19 to EDINBURGH, NORFOLK etc.,) See S/M's Attacked.

South Atlantic

Following from aircraft GAERX. S/M on surface course 36° true bearing making Cotonou 20 kilometres away at 1300 hours. (Via Freetown W/T 0015/19 to C.S.I., DELHI, MILFORD) Repeated to MILFORD (C. in C., S.A. 0341N/19)

Mediterranean

2 Italian U-Boats left Rhodes for Cape Santa Maria de Leuca 17/11 and 18/11 routed through 036° 00', 21° 00' (Capt S.I. to OTUS, REGULUS, 1503/19)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian 1 probably about 50° N., 12° W., proceeding to Gironde.
1 in area 58° to 59° N., 20° to 23° W.,
1 more in N.W. Approaches about 60° N., West of 10° W.

German 1 off West Africa Southward of Sierra Leone
1 was 450' W. of Gironde at 1807/17. No later report.
1 in area 56° to 57° N., 10° 30' W., to 13° W.
1 in 56° 28' N., 19° 24' W., at 0942/19.
1 in area 57° N., 12° to 14° W.,
1 in area 57° to 58° N., 19° to 21° W $\frac{1}{2}$
1 about 60° 21° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/19)



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked

0933

By aircraft of 210 Sqn. 56. 28 N., 19.24 W
Depth charge dropped 50 ft ahead of surface
wake, failed to explode. Second attack
impracticable as sea too rough for anything
to be seen. (H.Q. 15 group, no T.O.O./19)
(C. in C., W.A. 1055/19, 1130/19, 1155/19)

1335

Have made attack 055° 19' 12" N., 005° 58'
40" W., Mull of Kintyre 095°, 6.3 miles, fired
3 charges, 4 explosions, oil on the surface,
no other evidence. Returning to escort
W.N. 41. (KING SOL 1335/19)



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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

E-Boat
Sunk

Early this morning CAMPBELL and GARTH whilst on patrol sighted and sank an E-Boat off Southwold, (S. 38)

Invasion
Preparations

An analysis of shipping and barge activities in the Low Countries and France from 8/9 to 4/11 is contained in Daily Summary of Intelligence of German Preparations for Invasion of 2 raids on U.K., Report No 174. The general conclusion is that the peak period was from 14 to 23 September. The sudden change in the grouping of shipping and barges which took place after 23/9 seems a clear indication of a change of plan.

M.T.B. Patrols

Two M.T.B's last night operated between Gris Nez and Calais last night. Nothing was sighted. Three M.T.B's from Dover carried out a sweep off the Texel last night. No enemy forces were encountered.

Operation
D.L.

At 1800 Capt D. 4. was in position 61° N., 1° 30' W., There was nothing to report.

U-Boats

There are indications that there may be as many as 11 U-Boats in the North Western Approaches north of 55° N., The majority of them appear to be spread on 56° N.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Last night, docks and shipyards were attacked at Bremerhaven, Hamburg, Kiel and Holtena. Bad weather prevented offensive operations today.

Coastal Command

Six Blenheims bombed Lorient last night.

Morning patrols and certain afternoon patrols were cancelled today on account of bad weather. A special A/S patrol, centred 180 miles west of Brest, was flown today.



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War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy
F.S. 38

Convoy F.S. 38 was attacked but not hit this morning in the Thames Estuary.

Tug
ASSURANCE

Tug ASSURANCE was attacked this morning in 53° 50' N., 15° 15' W., while searching for FISHPOOL (bombed 14/11) No damage is reported.

CHESAPEAKE

The British Tanker CHESAPEAKE was bombed 10 miles E of the Lizard this morning. No structural damage is reported, though there were some casualties.

Mining

ADVENTURE last night laid mines south of St. George's Channel. (Op. ZME 2, sup. 495)

Two destroyers which were due to leave for Operation "Collar" (replacing FOXHOUND and FORTUNE which left Gibraltar today to R.V. with FURIOUS and escort her to Freetown) are mined in at Plymouth.

Ports Closed Fowey, Penzance, Newlyn, Kyles of Bute, De-gaussing range at Belfast. Diesel ships may only enter Tyne and Sunderland in tow. Milford Haven and Plymouth were closed this evening.

No enemy aircraft were identified mine-laying last night.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

20.11.1940⁵⁴⁵
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD on passage to R.V. with SOUTHAMPTON and 3 M.T. ships tomorrow, today intercepted Brazilian SS SIQUEIRA CAMPOS (6456 tons) carrying German war material to Brazil, and sent her in to Gibraltar under armed guard.

South Atlantic

To deal with U-Boat activity off Freetown two Sunderlands are being withdrawn from the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean

There was an air raid on Alexandria this morning. No damage occurred. Blenheims attacked Bardia and Tobruk last night.

Today, 6 Gladiators and 9 Hurricanes escorting a Lysander over Sidi Barrani were intercepted by about 60 C.R. 42 A/C's 10 of which attacked the Lysander. The Gladiators shot down 6 and possibly 3 more; and the Hurricanes engaged the remaining 50 and shot down one before the fight was broken off.

Two Wellingtons attacked the docks at Durazzo last night and one the aerodrome at Tirana where the hangars were set on fire.

Blenheims today maintained a standing fighter patrol over Athens.

Bombardment
of Maktila

Tonight APHIS, assisted by air cooperation successfully bombarded Maktila Camp (East of Sidi Barrani) for an hour. Ineffective shore fire was encountered and APHIS suffered no damage or casualties.



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SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

Blenheims last night again attacked Assab causing large fires.

One enemy aircraft attacked Aden at 0030 today. A Gladiator shot it down. No damage or casualties occurred.

Australia

Raider
Reported by
SS MAIMOA

SS MAIMOA reports being chased by a raider in position 31° 50' S., 100° 21' E., in the Southern Indian Ocean (750 miles West of Fremantle) at 0830Z today. CANBERRA proceeded at 1430Z to locate the raider.

^N
GOORAGAI
Sunk ^A

R.A.N. Mine sweeper GOORANGAI was sunk in collision off Port Phillip today.



MOST SECRET

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Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"
BULLDOG

At 0630/20 (D.C. 0700/20) At 1130/20
(D.C. 1142/20) At 2330/20. (D.C. 2359/20)

M.N.B.D.O.
Coast Defence
Equipment

Instructions have been given to Home Forces that this Equipment is to be withdrawn by mid- December. (Dacoast 4 1940/20 to Admty.)

Movements

TULIP

Estimated pass May Island 0200/20 (C. in C., Rosyth 0040/20)

RODNEY

R.A.D., H.F. 1743/19. BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, BULLDOG to raise steam and proceed as soon as possible. A new R/V may be signalled. (C. in C., H.F., 1041/20 to BRILLIANT)

In view of Admty. 0745/20/11 and U-Boat dispositions in Atlantic, can RODNEY leave Convoy on 25° W., proceed to 60° N., 25° W., and thence R/V with Destroyer Screen in 60° N., 17° W at 0800/22 B.S.T. (C. in C., H.F. 1053/20 to Admty.)

Your 1053/20. Approved. (A.C.N.S. H. 1201/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

RODNEY is to comply with my 1053/20. BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, BULLDOG and ELECTRA to R/V with RODNEY in 60° N., 17° W., at 0800/22. R.A.D.HF. requested to sail ELECTRA to comply. (C. in C., 1238/20 to BRILLIANT)

BRADFORD }
BROADWATER }

Intend to sail for Scapa at 1630/20. (C. in C., W.A. 1043/20 to A.C.O.S.)

ENCHANTRESS

11 hours early in 55° 15' N., 23° 36' W., (ENCHANTRESS 1301/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

Orkneys

Trawler lines occupied. (A.C.O.S. 1536/20)

Portsmouth

Night movements (C. in C., Portsmouth 1603/20)

Nore and Harwich

Movements Summary. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1711/20)

Rosyth

Movements Summary (C. in C., Rosyth 1514/20)
Arrivals and departures (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)



20.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Straits of Dover

My 2131/19. M.T.B's carried out sweep. Nothing sighted. (V.A.Dover 0950/20 to Admty.)

Operation "Collar"

2 ships of 5th D.F. to be sailed for Gibraltar forthwith, proceeding south of Ireland. Operation sails from Gibraltar 24/11. (V.C.N.S. 1058/20 to C. in C., W.A.) Was there any reason why these should not have been sailed before commencement of enemy mining operations? (1st S.L. 2055/20 to C. in C., W.A.) *Repl: A.C.W.A. 1044/21 (P.575)*

E-Boat S.38 Sunk

My 0225/20. Enemy E-Boat was sighted at 0158 distance 2 miles in position 3 miles North of 54 E Buoy. CAMPBELL and GARTH were in single line ahead and fire was quickly opened with close range weapons. Enemy attempted to escape making smoke but was chased at high speed. At 0225 when on fire and badly damaged E-Boat capsized and sank. (17) survivors were picked up the majority of whom are casualties. (D. 21. 1110/20 to C. in C., Nore.)

18 survivors picked up

Operation D.L.

Nothing to be reported. My estimated position 61° N., 1° 30' W., course 220° speed 12 knots. (Capt D. 4. 1800/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

Submarines

TALISMAN

Proceed to Patrol Area (Capt S. 2. 0001/20 to TALISMAN)

WILK

Proceed into Patrol Zone (Capt S.9. 0941/20 to WILK) Cancel my 0941/20. Proceed, diving by day, to patrol within 20 miles radius of 60° 8' N., 4° 12' E. (Capt. S. 9. 1133/20 to WILK)

O.24.

Proceed to patrol within 20 miles of 59° N 3° 50' E., (Capt S. 9. 1211/20 to O.24)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/21 (V.A.S. 1 1651/20)



MOST SECRET

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20.11.1940
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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

URSULA

N.S. Dockyard Gibraltar 1820/19. Risk of passage to U.K. or Malta with only one main generator available is considered unacceptable unless absolutely essential. Suggest docking is necessary only during short periods that hull cover plate is off for actual removal and replacement of armature. Understand spare armature has already been despatched in TRENTINO. If replacement of new generator definitely cannot be undertaken at Gibraltar I agree that U.K. is preferable to Malta. (V.A.S. 1947/20 to Admty.)

British Air Activity

"Loose".
BOOSE

Cancelled, owing to weather. (C. in C., W.A. 0815/20 to H.Q.F.C.)

Patrols

S.A.I.E. cancelled, owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1034/21 to Admty)
S.A.2. Northern Track. Assessment (C. in C., Rosyth 1754/20 to Admty)

Falmouth.
Proposed single
Balloon Patrol

Admty. 1739/18. Suggest this would not afford protection and would weaken existing static barrage. Recommend consideration of V.L.A. protection. (H.Q.B.C. 1230/20 to Admty) Request your views on H.Q.B.C. 1230/20. (Air Ministry 1740/20 to Admty.)

Lorient

Available aircraft of 59 Squadron to repeat attack on Lorient tonight 20/21. (H.Q. C.C. 1315/20)

Vlaardingen

Available aircraft of 206 Squadron to attack Fuel Installations at Vlaardingen tonight 20/21 with 250 lb. bombs and Incendiary Bombs. (H.Q.C.C. 1316/20)

Coastal
Batteries

Available aircraft of 53 Squadron to attack Gun Positions between Cape Gris Nez and Ambleteuse tonight 20/21. (H.Q.C.C. 1317/20)

V.L.A.
Balloons

Admty. 1630/19. Concur. But consider Balloons should be close hauled to lowest height during dark hours owing to training commitments over Northern Irish Sea area. (H.Q.F.T.C. 1600/20 to Air Ministry)

/Your 1630/.....



War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

Your 1630/19. Concur subject to my being informed in advance of time when ships flying these balloons will be operating in or passing through the Solent between Spithead and Southampton water. This is necessary in order to safeguard aircraft using Lee Aerodrome. The height of Balloons at night does not effect R.A.N.A.S. (R.A.N.A.S. 1710/20 to Admty.)

Your proposal to fly V.L.A. Balloons from certain ships from about 25/11 agreed subject to your concurrence in proposals contained in Air Ministry letter S3616/S6 of 14/11. Balloons should be close hauled to 300' or lower during hours of darkness and when cloud base is below 1,000 feet and/or visibility less than 1,500 yards. (Air Ministry 1831/20 to Admty.)

Air Escorts

For 21/11 (C. in C., Rosyth 1802/20)

FISHPOOL
(Bombed 14/11)

Enemy Air Activity

Observed position at 0800, 54° N., 15° 8' W. (GARDENIA 0830/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock) (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1327/20 to DILIGENT, ASSURANCE)

Aircraft report sighting FISHPOOL at 1620 in 54° 22' N., 13° 30' W., (C. in C., W.A. 2353/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Convoy "Arena"
ARENA

One aircraft shadowing in 52° 2' N. 1° 45' E., (VIMIERA 0900/20) Help in 51° 39' N., 1° 17' E. Course 270°, speed 6 knots. (WESTON 1139/20) Fighter aircraft being sent. (Plymouth W/T 1151/20) 2 Junkers 87. No hits. (WESTON 1215/20 to C. in C., Nore)

NESTLEA

N.A. Dublin reports one lifeboat with 22 survivors landed at Ballycotton, Ireland. Second lifeboat containing Master still missing and reported damaged above waterline. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 0943 and 1534/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

/ASSURANCE.....



MOST SECRET

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20.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

ASSURANCE

(Tug) Attacked by aircraft in 53° 50' N., 15° 15' W., (Lands End Radio 0947/20) Are you in company (Admiral Plymouth 1153/20 to GARDENIA) Have searched vicinity indicated. No met. (GARDENIA 1346/20 to C. in C., W.A.) Keep specially good look out for attack by S/M or A/C. (C. in C., W.A. 1349/20 to GARDENIA)

CHESAPEAKE

(British Tanker, 8955 tons) Bombed in 097° Lizard 10 miles. (Lands End 1028/20)

Mining

ICARUS

Admty 2135/19. Request you arrange ICARUS ready to sail p.m./25 (C. in C., Nore 1104/20 to F.O.Humber)

Dover

No routine sweeping to noon Wednesday 20th November owing to weather. In Q.Z.X. 220 Western limit of swept area has been extended to 17 and a half cables west of the line No 1. to no Lr. Butt. One explosive cutter found. Mines are still suspected to eastward of channel. (V.A.Dover 1646/20 to Admty.)

Operation
Z.M.E. 3.

Position, direction and length. To be carried out on Night 22/23 or as soon after as possible. (V.C.N.S. 1720/20 to C. in C W.A.)

Milford Haven

Closed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 2105/20 to Admty.)

Plymouth

Closed, owing to mines. (C. in C., W.A. 2210/20)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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20.11.1940

Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Bordeaux)
Rochefort)

R/C at 1430/19. (P.I.U. 0030/20 to N.I.D.)

Yarmouth

Special intelligence indicates E-Boats again active off Yarmouth. (C. in C., Nore 0143/20 to Capt. D. 21) One E-Boat bearing 160°, course 180°. My position 52° 21' N., 2° 2' E., (D. 21 0204/20)

E-Boat sunk. Am picking up survivors, (Capt. D.21 0224/20 to C. in C., Nore) See Operations.

Enemy Shipping
between Jaederens
and the Naze

Your 2207/19. Does this proceed by day or by night. (C. in C., H.F. 1023/20 to V.A.S) By day only (V.A.S 1436/20 to C. in C., H.F)

Baltic

Traffic through the Sound, and shipping and Shipbuilding at Gdynia, Copenhagen and Vasa. (N.A. Stockholm 1722/19 to D.N.I.)

Enemy Unit

At 1938 B.S.T. between Stavanger and Lister Probably the same ship as at 1306/8 in my 1814/8/11. (D.D.I.C. 2236/20)

E-Boat S.38

My 0225/20. Intelligence obtained from Prisoners as to bases, construction and armament. (D. 21 1600/20 to D.N.I.)



20.11.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

CASWELL

(M/S Trawler). ST .MELLONS to proceed at once to take her in tow. Position at 0930 South Shipwash. To bring her into Harwich. (N.O.I.C. Harwich 0937/20 to ST. MELLONS)

CORNEL

(British, 353 tons) Engines broken down 2 miles off Trevoze Head. Requires help or Tug. (Lands End 1011/20) Drifting towards shore. (Lands End 1035/20) Distress traffic ended. (Lands End 1159/20)

NAIAD)
BONAVENTURE)

Both sustained damage in heavy weather and have other defects. Main items as follows. (C. in C., H.F. 1536 and 1801/20 to Admty) BONAVENTURE can be received forthwith. (AS Rosyth, 2135/20 to C. in C., H.F.)

TEDDY

(Norwegian Tanker, 6748 tons) Left Abadan 25/10, due Singapore 11/11. Not arrived. (D.S. 442)

SIREHEI

(Norwegian, 3888 tons) Left Montevideo 23/10 due Freetown 11/11. Not arrived (D.S. 442)

MOPAN

(British, 5389 tons) Left Jamaica 26/10, due Liverpool 10/11. Not arrived. (D.S. 442)



War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

554

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

- S.L. 56 BULOLO to act as ocean escort (C. in C., S.A. 1327/20)
- C.E. 17 Re time of sailing. (C. in C., Portsmouth to C. in C., Nore, re latter's 1506/20) (C. in C., Nore, to C. in C., Portsmouth 1456/20)
- STAR OF INDIA Your 1125/19. Destination, Portsmouth. (C. in C., P., 1436/20 to Cdre., WESTERN ISLES)
- 6 M/V's N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 1013/20 re sailing of 6 M.V's. Detail 3 A/S trawlers as escort (C. in C., W.A. 1444/20 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)
- O.B. 245 SCIMITAR unable to join. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1459/20)
- W.N. 42 Escort trawlers BLACKFLY, MORRIS DANCE (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1502/20)
- S.L. 54 SALOPIAN has left patrol to R.V. with S.L. 54 at 0800 G.M.T./22 (F.O.C.N.A. 1532/20)
- W.N. 41 Position (PAYNTER to A.C.O.S. 1620/20) Route (PAYNTER 1740/20)
- E.N. 28 Position (A.C.O.S. to Admty 1642/20)
- E.N. 29 Route (C. in C., Rosyth 1741/20 to C. in C., W.A., etc., Submarine H. 28 and CURACOA in company. (C. in C., Rosyth 1514/20)
- O.B. 246 Time of R.V. Belfast, Clyde to Oban ships now 1130/21. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1645/20) Now 1415/21. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2355/20) Details (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1541/20)
See also next page
- H.X. 85 If convoy is up to time, leave tomorrow at 0900 reporting noon position of convoy when well clear. (C. in C., W.A. to RAJPUTANA, 1731/20)
- H.X. 85)
H.X. 86) Owing to local escorts being delayed by bad weather, imperative these convoys should not be early at R.V. (C. in C., W.A. to RAJPUTANA, VOLTAIRE, 1811/20) H.X. 86 Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 2235/20 to CASTLETON, WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT HIBISCUS, CYCLAMEN, RHODODENDRON)
- S.C. 13 C. in C., A.W.I's 2039/15 to ABERDEEN. Should S.C. 13 be sailed without ocean escort. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1206/20 to Admty.)

/S.C. 11.....



War Diary

20.11.1940⁵⁵⁵
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

- S.C. 11. Route. Escort ENCHANTRESS (C. in C., W.A. 1111/20, to OTTAWA, ST LAURENT, SAGUENAY, SKEENA)
- H.X. 85. Meet (C. in C., W.A. 2329/20 to MALCOLM, SABRE, SARDONYX, HELIOTROPE)
- H.X. 88. Admty tanker DAVILA, due Milford Haven, to proceed to Portsmouth. Tanker SOCONY, due Milford Haven to proceed to Brixham. (D.O.D. (H) 1726/20 to C. in C., W.A.)
- W.N. 40. Arrived with ARAB, ST. ZENO, GLEANER and CURACOA (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)
- F.N. 37. Arrived with WESTMINSTER and WALLACE (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)
- F.S. 40. Left with EGRET and WATCHMAN (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)
- E.N. 29. Left with INDIAN STAR, FANDANGO, JASON, → CURACOA (C. in C., Rosyth 2301/20)
- O.B. 244. Amended route. (C. in C., W.A., 1429/20 to CASTLETON, WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, HIBISCUS, CYCLAMEN, RHODODENDRON)
- S.L.S. 56. Date and route (D.T.D. 1416/20 to C. in C., W.A. and F.O.C.N.P)
- O.B. 246. (non-Elastic) sailed 1455/20, escort AMBUSCADE, GERANIUM (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1530/20)
- O.G. 46. Following from Commodore in PINTO. Have only 5 ships out of 17. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1115/20 to C. in C., W.A.)
- Milford Haven, use of Dundrum Bay.*
My 1909/2. F.O.i/c Cardiff 010/68 of 3/11, propose that in event of Milford Haven being closed to shipping, Dundrum Bay be used as Assembly port for ships from Bristol Channel ports which would proceed thither independently. (C. in C., W.A. 1346/20 to Admty.)
- F.S. 40. F.S. 40 anticipated sailings. Diesel ships whilst entering and leaving ports Tyne Middlesborough and Sunderland must proceed in tow with engines stopped. (C. in C., Rosyth 1825/20 to EGRET, WATCHMAN)
- F.S. 41. Sails. 0030/21 (C. in C., Rosyth 1514/20)



MOST SECRET

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War Diary

20.11.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping-Contd.

S.L. Convoys

Your 1052/17. Concur that system of two S.L. convoys be adopted for trial. Additional ocean escort is not at present available but in order that S.L.S. convoys may obtain as much cover as possible S.L.S. convoys should arrive at the R/V with local escorts 48 hours after S.L. Convoys. The above should commence with S.L. 57. (D.T.D. 1637/20 to C. in C., S.A.)

Independent Sailings

Until further notice all Merchant ships of 13 knots and over bound to or from the U.K. are to be routed so as to pass to the Northward of position 56° N., 20° W and are to be sailed independently. Ships proceeding independently to U.K. from North America and West Indies are to be routed North of Rockall. It is essential that routes should be widely dispersed and that no focal points are established. Admty 1255/9 is cancelled (D.T.D. 1825/20)

OSLOFJORD

Information received from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa that OSLOFJORD will be sailing a.m./21 independently for Clyde. Minister of National Defence and Chief of General Staff are taking passage in her. (D.O.D. (H) 2219/20 to C. in C., W.A.)

Troop Convoys

CITY OF
CANTERBURY
GLOUCESTER CASTLE

My 1311/16, CITY OF CANTERBURY will not now sail on 23/11. GLOUCESTER CASTLE from Liverpool to Freetown will sail in her place. CATHAY will not be available to sail as escort on 23/11. F.O.C.N.P. requested to detail an A.M.C. to take the place of CATHAY and to arrange for this A.M.C. to be allotted a Southerly patrol area. (D.O.D. (H) 1207/20)

Your 1207/20. Owners of GLOUCESTER CASTLE report speed 10 knots only. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1733/20)

CATHAY
ORDUNA
ADDA
FORTHBANK

Admty's 1311/16. Route for CATHAY, ORDUNA, ADDA and FORTHBANK. From position D., ORDUNA leave for Bermuda, other to Freetown. (C. in C., W.A. 1301/20 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

/S.W. . 3.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary20.11.1940
WednesdayHOME COMMANDSShipping-Contd.

S.W. 3.

See FOREIGN STATIONS, Mediterranean.

WINDSOR CASTLE
PASTEUR

My 1123/17. Request early confirmation of proposed arrangements also advise proposals for loading WINDSOR CASTLE homeward voyage. Request same loading information for PASTEUR. Propose embarking at least 200 troops in each ship. (N.S.H.Q., ttawa 1327/20)



WAR DIARY.

20.11.40.
558 Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Libreville
Patrol.

Admiralty 2331/14 and your 2017/18. Patrol must be maintained. Position will be discussed with De Gaulle on arrival U.K. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0013/20 to F.O. 1st C.S.)

WINNIPEG.
DJENNE.

Intend sailing WINNIPEG 1400/21, DJENNE 1600/23 both for Gibraltar for onward routing Toulon in accordance with Admiralty 1913/28. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0943/20 to Adty).

CUBA.

Your 2053/18. Request detailed report minimum crew required. (Head of M. 1641/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

CANADA.
MASSILIA.

Are proceeding Gibraltar with safe conduct from British and German Governments. (C.in C. W.A. 1843/20).

French
Warships
and
M.V's.

Governor Bathurst states reliable agent just returned from Dakar reports 4 warships and 5 submarines due to leave Dakar a.m. 20/11. Destination unknown. Have no definite information whether RICHELIEU included. 13 Germans reported Marine H.Q. Dakar. 3 merchant ships from Casablanca discharging ammunition believed arrived 12th. Reliability of Agent unknown at Fretown. (C.in C. S.A. 2351/20 to Admiralty).

Libreville
Patrol.

Your 0013/20. De Gaulle agrees that patrol need not be continuously maintained but forces should be maintained in area. De Gaulle confirms appearance of single Vichy ship or small force off Libreville or Port Gentil would not now have much effect. Larger expedition would be necessary to achieve any success. I do not consider there is any particular indication that this is likely at the moment. Some Naval activity reported recently in Ivory Coast and Dahomey ports, probably employed escorting merchant ships with supplies. Consider Force now in Cameroons and Gaboon area should remain for present but continuous patrol not necessary. (C.in C. S.A. 2139/20 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

20.11.40.
Wednesday. 59

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Ships
from Martinique.

Your 1738/18 (re French ships sailing from Martinique) will you repeat similar message to F.O.C.N.A. (D.N.I. 1249/20 to N.A. Washington).

Operation
"Ration."

Your 2110/19 and 1048/20. Intend carrying out operation "Ration" to westward longitude 4° W 21/11 with DESPATCH and 1 destroyer. No other destroyers available. ROYAL SOVEREIGN at 4 hours notice and Force H at short notice in harbour but no screen available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1320/20 to Adty). My 1320/20 Report on ROYAL SOVEREIGN's boilers. Considered necessary be examined before going sea. Anticipate completion by p.m. 22/11. Propose keeping ROYAL SOVEREIGN at 12 hours notice. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850/20 to Adty).

Operation
"Collar."

Adty. 2231/31/10 and 1605/19. Propose including DESPATCH in Force H for operation "Collar" (S.O. Force H, 1629/20 to Admiralty) (Approved D.O.D.(F) 0020/21).

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS.

Brazilian. Intercepted 035° 30' N., 011° 30' W., Cargo admitted German War material for Brazil. Sent into Gibraltar under armed guard. E.T.A. 2300/21. (SHEFFIELD, 1633/20 to Adty).

FRANCONIA.

570 bags for Alexandria placed in FRANCONIA in error. Request may be transferred to MANCHESTER and SOUTHAMPTON. (D.O.D.(F), 1642/20 to F.O.C.N.A.).

SALVIA.

Report position course speed and E.T.A. at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 1813/20 to SALVIA).

Your 1813/20. My position course and speed are 045° 46' N., 015° 03' W., 158° 13 e.t.a. Gibraltar noon B.S.T. 23/11. SALVIA, GLOXINIA, HYACINTH in company. (PEONY, 1930/20 to Adty).

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

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WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARGUS loss
of A/C in
operation
"White".

You are to convene a board of enquiry with yourself as President to investigate the carrying out of operation "White" and loss of Aircraft which took off from ARGUS for Malta. Instructions. (1st S.L. 1915/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Admiralty 1915/20. Following telegram addressed Air Ministry repeated for information (Begins) From information available here the following points emerge (details). (Sec. to 1st S.L. 1916/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

CHR. KNUDSEN
(Norwegian M.V.
4904 tons)
THORSHAVN.
(Norwegian M.V.
6869 tons).

CHR. KNUDSEN due Durban 15/11 from U.K. THORSHAVN due Capetown 16/11 from Colombo, both not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0935B/20 to Adty).

Convoy
S.L.58.

Admiralty 1311/16 and N.O.I.C. Belfast 1259/19. As MOOLTAN cannot arrive Freetown before 16/12 no escort available for S.L.58 unless CATHAY is sailed to arrive 6/12 or A.M.C. is provided. (C.in C. S.A. 1105N/20 to Adty).

Troop Convoy.
W.S.4.A.

C.in C. S.A. 1419/17 Admiralty 1851/14 N.O.I.C. Simontown 2150/16 to be regarded as cancelled. NIEUW HOLLAND and DUNERA due Durban 22/11 and 24/11 respectively to be sailed for Capetown for embarking troops ex SCYTHIA N.O.I.C. Durban to report date and time of arrival. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1204B/20 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

Your 1419N/17, N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1204B/20. Subject to your concurrence PRETORIA CASTLE and SCYTHIA are to leave convoy dawn 27/11 and proceed Capetown. SCYTHIA to be sailed again to rejoin convoy off Cape. Remainder of convoy with CORNWALL will proceed direct Durban. N.O.I.C's 1903/16 para. B. Tanker ANCYLUS can be diverted to arrive Durban 27/11.

/About



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

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Troop Convoy. (Contd.) About 20,000 tons fuel oil and 1000
W.S.4.A. tons diesel oil have been reserved
with Anglo-Iranian for this convoy
and W.S.4.B.
(D.O.D.(F) 2215/20 to C.in C. S.A.)
[See also 2252/20 to C.in C.E.L. p. 565]

DELHI.

Admiralty 1805/12. C.in C. China
proposes exchanging at Mauritius (date)
Arrangements for refit. (C.in C. S.A.
1257/20 to DELHI).

Enemy Raider.

Adty. 2330/19 and 0001/20. Bearing
from Cupar, Flowerdown, Ascension and
Freetown suggests position may be
32.30 S., 29.00 W. (C.in C. S.A. to
R.A.S.A.D.) (0219/20).

My 2330/19 and 0001/20. Further
bearings from Penang, Simonstown
and Durban indicate raider was in
vicinity of 29° S., 28.30 W. at 1911/19
G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0745/20 to C.in C. S.A.
etc.)

U/Boat.

Your 1955/19. Further bearings
indicate 10.30 N., 22 W. (D.D.I.C.
0833/20 to C.in C. S.A.)
Request for 2 Sunderlands.
(C.N.S. 1310/20). See Mediterranean.

FURIOUS.

(Operation
"Stripe")

2 destroyers to be sailed to join
FURIOUS and escort her to Freetown.
(D.O.D.(F) 1048/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1048/20. Owing to presence of
Submarines in vicinity of Freetown
these destroyers are required to escort
FURIOUS into Freetown and then on to
Takoradi. Position for R/V.
(D.O.D.(F) 1358/20 to F.O.C.N.A.
and FURIOUS).

Admiralty 1048/20. FOXHOUND and
FORTUNE detailed and ordered to pass
through 021° 40' N., 018° 50' W., at
0800 zone minus one 23/11 steering
215°. Amend R/V as necessary.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1330/20 to FURIOUS).

My 1352/20 para.3 to FORTUNE and
FOXHOUND only and Admiralty 1358/20.
Amend R/V to 026° 00' N., 015° 40' W
at 1200 zone plus one 23/11.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1620/20 to FORTUNE and
FOXHOUND). Gibraltar departure
1600/20/11 FORTUNE, FOXHOUND in
accordance with Admiralty 1048/20
W.E.B.35. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1650/20
to Admiralty).

20.11.40. 562
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Flying Boat
Clyde.

Clyde leaving Freetown 21/11 has on board De Gaulle and A.D.C. going to U.K. General Spears ill and unable travel. Request give all assistance. Spears hopes to go by next flying boat 23/11. (C.in C. S.A. 2107/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Takoradi.

Intructions to A/C. (Air Ministry 1756/20 to O.C. Stripe c/o FURIOUS).

Mediterranean.

Sunderlands.

U/Boats are troublesome in Freetown area. Could you possibly spare 2 Sunderlands? (C.N.S. to C.in C. Med. 1310/20). Adty. 1310/20. Would seriously reduce already inadequate reconnaissances, but as they are urgently required I will do without them. Presume Air Ministry will arrange with A.O.C.in C. M.E. (C.in C. Med., 1523/20).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
Operation
"Collar."

As air reconnaissance indicates considerable concentration of Italian surface ships in Western Basin, consider that inclusion of ROYAL SOVEREIGN in Force H for Operation "Collar" is advisable. She can maintain 16 knots continuously and 18 knots for brief periods and can be ready for this service 24/11. (S.O. Force H. to C.in C. Med., 1310/20).

UPRIGHT.

Your 1132/18 and my 1807/16. It is intended to recall UPRIGHT from patrol in time for her to reach Malta at daylight 15th day after leaving Gibraltar. (Capt: S.1, 1347/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Bombs.
Alexandria.

Asking for further details re 2231/17 (D.M.S. to N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1614/20)

Oil Fire
Defence.

Details of defence adopted in U.K. have been forwarded to you by D. of L.D. You are authorised to proceed with installation of such defences at Malta in collaboration with military authorities as you see fit. (F.C.N.S. to V.A. Malta. 1718/20).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.11.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Suez Canal Control.

Your 1129/5. Reply. Danger of Vichy support developing fully realised. (Head of M. to S.P.N.C. Suez. 1925/20).

French Fleet Alexandria.

Your 1201/16/10, and related signals. How much of the £22,000 is wages and how much maintenance?. (Hd. of M, 2349/20 to C.in C. Med.) *See also 1601/24, page 726.*

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid 0445 to 0500. 2 bombs. no damage. no casualties. (R.A. Alexandria 1103/20).

Corvettes Operation "Collar."

A.T.2351/17. The early arrival of these corvettes in Eastern Mediterranean is of great importance.

2. If they are not passed through with operation ~~"COLLAR"~~ ^{"Collar"} their arrival will be unacceptably deferred and their passage will entail a further large scale operation by both Mediterranean Fleet and Force H.

3. Propose therefore that ~~COLLAR~~ ^{"Collar"} should be deferred one or even two days to enable corvettes to take part. (C.in C. Med. 0815/20 to Adty).

Your 0815/20. On receipt of reply to A.T.1813/20, "Collar" may be postponed at your discretion. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. Med. 2053/20).

Malta Supplies.

Your 1131/17/10 and V.... Malta's 2309/21/10. The policy that reserve of supplies at Malta should be built up as soon as practicable to 8 months stock falling to 6 months between convoys has been approved by H.M. (D. of Stores, 1204/20 to C.in C. Med.)

Convoy. S.W.3.

Intend Vice Admiral F.A.Sommerville to be Commodore and Rear Admiral R.A. Plowden to be Vice Commodore of S.W.3. sailing from Suez 23/11. No other fast convoy for United Kingdom at present in view. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1306/20 to Adty).

[Cancelled by 1238/21, p. 590]



MOST SECRET.

20.11.40 **564**
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

EOCENE.
Roumanian Oil.

Your tel. 372 to F.O. Provided argument between Turks and Roumanian's mentioned in para.3 can be relied upon it is clearly in our interests to ship as much (?oil) as possible from Roumania and therefore transfer of S.S. EOCENE to Turkey flag is recommended as giving us a reasonable chance of achieving this object.
(C.in C. Med. 1717/20 to Ambassador, Angora.) *See also D. 9 S.T. 2030/22, p. 616.*

Oilers.

Your 2004/19 approved. On completion of discharge BRITISH SAILOR is to be sailed in next southbound convoy to Admiralty orders.
(C.in C. Med. 1839/20 to N.O.I.C. Port Said).

Air
Operations

Blenheims night 18/19 Nov. bombed Benghazi, Berka, Benina, Barce and Tobruk. 2 out of 3 large ships in Benghazi Harbour hit. Damage at other places. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1249/20)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

Fish Factory.
Target.

(Printed on 29/11
 by LEANDER a/c.
 P. 921)

Intercepted P.L. W/T from Ras Alula Mogadishu states Fish Factory has completed 1000 cases (? Tinned Fish) for internal consumption. Is this legitimate target for bombardment and bombing. (C.in C. E.I. 0432Z/20 to Admiralty).
 Your 0432Z/20. Yes. (D.O.D.(F) 2237/20 to C.in C. East Indies).

Convoy B.N.10.

Leaves Bombay 0030Z/27/11. R/V with Force Q, 014° 12', 053° 1100Z/1/12 steering 255°. Route. (F.O.C. R.I.N., 0622Z/20 to C.in C. E.O.)

SOUTHAMPTON
W.S.4B.

Admiralty 2211/15 para. 3(c). Is 8/12 date of arrival SOUTHAMPTON at Mombasa? Does not appear W.S.4B could reach there by then. (C.in C. E.I., 0802Z/20 to Admiralty).

CAPETOWN
CRICKET.

Your 0730/20. After fuelling and provisioning at Penang CAPETOWN to proceed to Nancowry. Minimum crew to be left in CRICKET, but arrangements for raising steam later on without help from escorting ship. (C.in C. E.I. 1726Z/20 to CAPETOWN)

Convoy W.S.4A.

Decision whether shall sail as a whole from Cape with 2 escorts, or in two parts with single escorts will be taken nearer date of sailing, dependent on raider situation. A.M.C. can be accepted as second escort. (D.O.D.(F) 2252/20 to C.in C. E.I.)

STANPARK

My 0702/18, re sailing of convoy, (no force in WD)
 Destination of STANPARK Port Sudan and not Suez. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0602/20).

Air Report.

Attack on supply depot 2 bombs falling on buildings at N.7.
 3 Blenheims 205 Squadron using advanced base Kamaran detailed for fighter escort to convoy B.S.8. and half. 1 failed to locate convoy. One S.81 approached Aden 0030 circling at long range prior to attacking from north at 0110 at 9,000 feet. Well located and held by S.L.'s and attacked by moderately accurate A.A.
 2 Gladiators 94 Sqdn. using advanced base R.A.S. A.R.A. maintained fighter patrol between Perim and Eritrean Coast for interception of possible enemy searching for above S.81. 4 Gladiators 94 Sqdn. fighter patrol Aden 0440 to 0505.
 All G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden, 2109/20)

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Japanese Penetration, Indo-China.

Substance of Chief of Staff's Report on military consequences of further Japanese penetration into Indo-China and possible acquisition of bases in Thailand. (W.O. to G.O.C. Malaya, 0045/20).

BENAVON

Your 0548/19. This appears very probable. BENAVALON had large cargo of rubber. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, to C.in C. E.I., 04582/20).

M.E.W. Far East.

Since my predecessor raised in his 0426/23/3 question of establishing a Far East Branch of M.E.W. closing of Mediterranean has greatly added to importance of trans-Siberian route for imports to Germany. Branch more than ever desirable. Co-ordination in Far East entirely lacking. (C.in C. China, 0723Z/20, to Admty).

N.E.I. Navy, Staff Talks.

My 0213/17. Further delay due to telegram to Governor-General from Welter, Dutch S. of S. for Colonies, after a visit to War Office on 12/11, that W.O. satisfied with general situation, etc. Am trying to rectify unfortunate impressions created by this statement. (C.in C. China, 0851Z/20 to Admty.)

Japanese Transports.

8 Japanese transports apparently loaded passed eastward through Hainan Straits on 16/11 and 17/11. May be connected with withdrawal of troops ex KWANGSI. My 0646/8 refers. (C.O.I.S. Far East, to Admty., 0816/20).

Japanese Shipping.

My 1137/5. HEIAN MARU's sailing 6/12 has been restored. Following additional sailings apparently cancelled: ATAGO MARU for Bombay 2/12 KOMAKI MARU for Singapore 14/12, WALES MARU for New York 30/11 NORFOLK MARU has taken over WALES MARU's voyage. Opinion in Yokohama shipping circles is that above westbound sailings have been cancelled for commercial reasons. (N.A. Tokyo, 1631/20 to Admty.)

Japanese Incident.

Your (?) M.27/2. of 27/10 (Note. Possibly refers to N.L.O. Shanghai 0937/27 October - Boarding of Br. Ships by Japanese.) This incident should now be considered closed. (C.in C. China to N.L.O. Shanghai, 1005/20).

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Graving Dock,
Halifax.

Naval Services considering construction of graving dock at Halifax capable of docking largest of H.M. ships. Views as to minimum dimensional requirements requested. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1018/20 to Admty.)

S/M O.15.

Strongly concur in C.in C. A.W.I's 1121/19. This s/m would be invaluable for extensive programme of A/S training at Halifax next Spring and summer. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1023/20 to Admty.)

German Ships.

Tampico reports indication that German ships may again attempt to sail week-end (B.2). N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to DIOMEDE. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1115/20).

U.S. Bases,
Cable and W/T
Facilities.

Ref. U.S. bases and communication scheme. Request I may be informed of policy to be adopted. Any U.S. proposal developing extensive cable or wireless programme will be offset if local offices at base ports are ready to accept additional traffic and meet U.S. requirements through our own channels. Suggest they be advised in anticipation. I consider it most important that cable and wireless facilities should remain under our control. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1248/20 to Admty.)

Australia.

AQUITANIA

Left Fremantle 0140Z/19 for Sydney. (A.C.N.B., 0150Z/20).

Raider Report.

Following from MAIMOA, "RRRR, 31.50' S., 100.21' E., course 150°, 11 knots. Chased 0830Z/20". Signal received at 0838Z/20. (A.C.N.B., 1145/20 to C.in C. E.I., etc.) MAIMOA left Fremantle W.A., 17/11 for Durban. Position is about 720 miles west of Fremantle. Considered her assailant is probably an A.M.C. (D.S. 443)

GOORANGAI
sunk.

H.M.A.S. GOORANGAI, minesweeper, sank after collision with M.V. DUNTROON, 1054Z/20, 140° 1.3 miles Queenscliff High Light, Port Phillip. No survivors (A.C.N.B. 0632Z/21). 24 lives lost. Ship was built in Australia for deep sea trawling and had been sweeping the Bass Strait since the recent sinkings by raiders. (The Times, (Melbourne Correspondent), 22/11).

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

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War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RIO GRANDE.

Repeating N.A. Washington 1729/19, re equipment likely for supplying raiders, to C.in C. S.A., A. and W.I., R.A.S.A.D., etc. (D.D.I.C., 1710/20 amended 1234/21) Ditto to Ships, N. Atlantic, (F.O.C. N.A., 2140/20 amended 1201/22)

SPEZIA.

My 1655/19. Later report states story untrue and SPEZIA arrived Barcelona. (N.A. Madrid, 2030/20).

Ships at Tampico.

Indication may again attempt to sail week-end. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1115/20 - see America and West Indies).

MARITZA

*Transport of German
to Albania.*

My 1541/14 for German Ship LUVSEE read German Ship MARITZA. Split reports crew of MARITZA state all German Ships now at Trieste are preparing to transport German troops to Albania. Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1112/20).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ARABIA.

At Assab. To transfer cargo consigned to Iranian Govt. and consisting of machinery and war materials to the Panamanian EUREKA for onward passage to Bandarshapur. (D.S. 442).

AEQUITAS

My 1535/9 Italian AEQUITAS speed 8 knots will sail from Ceara 25/11 for Rio de Janeiro. She will be escorted by RENVOYLE as far as Pernambuco, thereafter CANANEA. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1450/20).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VILLE DE TAMATAVE

Orders given to intercept. Sighted on 19/11 about 190 miles S. of Cape Point, Cape of Good Hope, steering west. (D.S. 442).

20.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked.

BERKELEY,
false report.

SSSS. BERKELEY, position Sunk Light Vessel, attacked. (Plymouth W/T 0959/20) Negative BERKELEY's SSSS 0959. A wreck. (VIMIERA, 1139/20).

KOHINUR
(torpedoed 15/11)
CONGONIAN
(torpedoed 18/11)

My 2229/19. Survivors named last night from KOHINUR. DEVONSHIRE reports she has all survivors of CONGONIAN except second engineer. (C.in C. S.A., 1131 N/20, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

N.W. Approaches.

Indications that these may be as many as 11 U-boats in N.W. Approaches, north of 55°N. Majority appear to be spread on lat. 56° N. (C.in C. W.A., 1125/20)

1612.

D.F. probable U/B, 56° to 57° N., 18° to 22° W. (D.D.I.C. 1900/20)

1819.

D.F., probable U/B, 59.40 N., 2.50 E., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 1914/20)

0819.

At 0819, U/B reported in 59.40 N., 2.50 E. (F.O.(S) to S/M's on Patrol, 1926/20).

1919.

Between Faroes and Shetlands, very indefinite position (D.S. 443).

1229.

55° - 56° N., 16° - 20° W. indefinite position (D.S. 443).

South Atlantic.

Your 1955/19. Bearings from Home and Canadian Stations gave an indication of a U/Boat approx. 300' to the westward of Freetown. Freetown's bearing now gives a fair cut in 10.30 N., 22° W. (D.D.I.C. to C.in C. S.A., 0833/20) 7.13 N., 13° W. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE sighted s/m. (Freetown W/T, 0947/20). Position 25' S. of Cape St. Ann, Freetown (D.S. 442).

20.11.1940.

Wednesday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

570

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian 1 probably in Bay of Biscay
proceeding to Gironde.
2 in N.W. Approaches or farther
W. No recent news.
German 1 off Sierra Leone.
1 still some 450 miles W. of
Gironde.

It is still thought that there are only
about 5 North of 55° N. but there are
slight indications that as many as 11
are in this area. It seems doubtful
whether the Germans are able to send
out so many this month.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/20).

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21.11.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

O.22 (Dutch)
Overdue

O.22 is overdue at Dundee today. Nothing has been heard of her since she left Dundee 5/11 for patrol off Skudesnes. A German broadcast at 0729/12 claimed to have sunk a British submarine in the Skagerrak, but there is no evidence to connect this with O.22.

East Coast
Convoys

It is becoming increasingly difficult to persuade crews of merchant ships to sail in East Coast convoys owing to repeated air attacks. Maintenance of these convoys is of great importance, particularly for coal supply to London and South Coast. The Air Ministry have been asked to provide a fighter patrol over the convoys during the passage between Sunk and Nore light vessels, which is made in daylight and is the most vulnerable part of the journey.

Protection
Against low-
flying attack

Kites are to be fitted to ships sailing independently this being considered the most effective measure to defeat low flying air-attacks. Additional close range weapons will be provided to fast liners.

FORMIDABLE

New Aircraft Carrier, left Belfast this morning and after exercises proceeded to the Clyde.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command.

Lorient and Channel ports were attacked last night. Flushing was attacked today, and bombs were burst amongst barges. A convoy of 5 merchant vessels was attacked off Walcheren; result was not seen.

Coastal Command

Vlaardingen and a merchant vessel 9 miles north of Hook of Holland (near miss) were attacked last night. Small vessels at the entrance to the canal at IJmuiden were attacked today.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
F.S. odd.

Convoy F.S. was attacked this morning off Harwich. VANITY reported one a/c was damaged by gun fire.

Convoy
F.N.39.

Convoy F.N.39 was attacked this morning in the Thames Estuary. No damage is reported.

Damage to essential services was caused at Southampton last night.

Mining.

S.S. DAKOTIAN
S.S. PELEUS
mined.

S.S. DAKOTIAN and PELEUS were mined at Milford Haven today, whilst at anchor. The former sank. H.M. Drifter XMAS ROSE was mined and sunk this afternoon in the Thames Approaches.

Enemy aircraft were reported, probably engaged in minelaying, in the Thames Estuary last night and this morning. Various explosions were noted. 4 aircraft suspected minelaying, were observed off Harwich this morning. Other minelaying aircraft were operating last night, but areas were unidentified.

Ports closed. Tees, Hartlepool, Plymouth, Fowey, Penzance, Newlyn, Kyles of Bute, De-gaussing range at Belfast. Diesel ships may only enter Tyne and Sunderland when in tow.

Milford Haven was opened at 1154.

South
North Atlantic.

~~S.S.~~ ^{A.C.} MORETON BAY reported today a disguised merchant vessel raider in 30° 1' N. 25° 10' W. This may be WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN. (See p. 567)

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Greek Ships.

Merchant Vessels trading in the interests of Greece or sailing to Egypt, Sudan or Suez Canal Ports and with the authority of C.in C. Mediterranean or C.in C. E.I., or sailing to the U.S.A. with ore or munition supplies are to be treated as though they possessed ship warrants. (p. 574)

Yugoslavia.

The possibility of a certain operation taking place is referred to in N.A. Belgrade 1845/21.

Malta bombed.

A few bombs were dropped on Malta last night and today without causing any damage. The objective, according to Rome news, appears to have been Takali aerodrome.

R.A.F. last night bombed Sollum, Bardia, Tobruk, Benina, Berka and Benghasi. At Benina aerodrome the control building was hit and several aircraft on the ground were damaged.

APHIS, with air co-operation, bombarded Maktila Camp for an hour last night, starting 3 large fires.

East Indies.

R.A.F. last night bombed Gura, Asmara and Massawa. Two S.79's bombed Port Sudan today. (p 618)
No damage or casualties resulted.

Australia.

Raider
reported
by PORT
BRISBANE

At 1610Z today S.S. PORT BRISBANE reported a suspicious vessel firing at her in position 29° 22' S. 95° 36' E. The position is 300 miles N.W. of that of the MAIMOA which reported a raider at 0830Z yesterday.



MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy O.B. 244 was attacked this evening in N.W. Approaches and the Greek VICTORIA and British DAYDAWN torpedoed, the latter sinking. All Survivors from both ships were picked up by CASTLETON.

CREE, ex S.L.53 slow, was also torpedoed and sank.

WAR DIARY.21.11.40.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Sailing of
Destroyers
for Gibraltar.Your 2055/20. ^{p. 548} Reason for delay.
(A.C.W.A. 1044/21 to Adty).Proposed
strengthening
of Western
Patrol.A.M.1410/18. Minute of meeting being
sent to you by courier tomorrow. Request
your remarks by signal if possible.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1803/21 to C.in C. H.F.)

Reply: 1711/27, p. 738.

Defence of United Kingdom.Nore.Cancel Patrol O tonight. Ships not
required for duty revert to 4 hours
Notice for Steam till 2000.
(C.in C. Nore 0959/21).My 1119/23/10. For the present the
Flotilla detailed for Patrol O is to
keep one Destroyer at $\frac{1}{2}$ hours notice
between 0830 and 2000, remaining
Destroyers at Harwich and Sheerness
being at $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours Notice except when
ordered to revert to 4 hours. ICARUS
to remain at 4 hours Notice by day and
by night. (C.in C. Nore 1201/21)."Deluge".
DELUGE.At 1130/21. (D.C. 1211/21) At 2330/21.
(D.C. 2336/21).Movements.FORMIDABLE.My 1347/19. Sailed for day and night
Trials. VENOMOUS, VESPER, HESPERUS
in company. (F.C.I.C. Belfast
0430/21 to C.in C. W.A.)Nore.Movements to 1200/22. (C.in C. Nore
1200/21).RODNEY.Your 1053/20. From today's U/Boat plot
in Adty. RODNEY would seem better
placed if she went up 25° W., to 61°
N. and then along 61° N., to 20° W.
before turning south to R/V.
(V.C.N.S. 1200/21 to C.in C. H.F.)
My 1053/20. Proceed as in V.C.N.S.
1200/21. (C.in C. H.F. 1339/21 to
RODNEY).



MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

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WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Portsmouth.

Night Movements (C.in C. Portsmouth 1213/21).

Dover.

Dispositions for night 21/22.
(V.A. Dover 1232/21)

Rosyth.

Movements for Night 21/22.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1548/21). Command
State. (C.in C. Rosyth 2001/21).

Western Approaches.

Disposition of Forces at 1200/21. No.445
(C.in C. W.A. 1603/21).

Operations.

Attack on Enemy
Invasion Practice
at Ostend.

Proposed for Night 22/23 to commence
0001/23. Request you detail 4
destroyers in consultation with
C.in C. Portsmouth and issue Operation
Orders with A.O.C.16 Group Coastal
Command. (V.C.N.S. 1413/21) to (C.in C.
Nore).

WITCH
VOLUNTEER.

Patrol westward tonight to Portland
and return. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1447/21 to Adty).

Submarines.

O.22.

*(Lost on patrol
off Norway)*

Left Dundee 5/11 for Patrol of
Sudesnes and has not been heard of
since. If nothing heard of her by
0900/22 regret she must be considered
lost. (V.A.S. 1124/21 to Adty).

SEALION.

Left Blyth for patrol. (Captain S.6.
1156/21 to Adty) Sailed 1200 to
patrol within 20 miles of 61° N., 3°
47' E. (Capt: S.6. 1213/21).

TAKU.

Estimated off Wolf Rock 0600/23.
Route thence to Gironde. (Capt: S.2.
1236/21),

USK.

Sailed at 1443 for Patrol D.4.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1533/21).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/22.
(V.A.S. 1719/21).



WAR DIARY.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

S.A.3 and two southern tracks of S.A.2. cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1532/21).

Assessments (C.in C. Rosyth 1532/21 and 1806/21 to Adty).

V.L.A. Balloons.

Your A.545/20/11 and Balloon Command's A.907/19/11. Concur that V.L.A. Balloons should be used and that requirement be given high priority. But propose that C.in C. W.A's suggestion be tried as a deterrent until V.L.A's are available. (D. of L.D. 1636/21 to Air Ministry).

To be tried: see Air Min. 1201/23, p. 633

Belfast.

Following temporary restrictions on flying near Belfast Lough and Port are to come into force 30 minutes after sunset on 23/11. (Air Ministry) (1421/21).

Enemy Air Activity.

FISHPOOL.
(Bombed 14/11).

Observed position at 0800, 53° 55'N., 13° 46'W. (GARDENIA 0859/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

In tow of ASSURANCE in 53° 50'N., 13° 45' W., course 065° speed 6 knots at 1600. (GARDENIA 1603/21 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Convoy "Booby"
BOOBY.

Shadowed by one A/C in 52° N., 1° 42'E. (WOLFHOUND 0912/21) Enemy A/C bombing convoy in 51° 50'N., 1° 30'E. (From (?) 1116/21). One FW.187 machine-gun attack at 1116 damaged by Gun-fire. (VANITY 1135/21 to C.in C. Nore). One aircraft shadowing convoy in 51° 45'N., 1° 25'E., course 230 speed 7 knots. (From (?) 1150/21).

SHIPMATES.
(Bombed 14/11)

My 1946/14. Salvage Officer reports ship must be considered a total loss. (V.A. Dover 0921/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.578
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy "Pilot"
PILOT
(F.N.39).

One aircraft bombing. (WESTON 1050/21)
Enemy attacking convoy in 51° 38' N.,
1° 15' E., course 060° speed 7 knots..
(WESTON 1110/21). (VIMIERA 1115/21).
One aircraft shadowing (VIMIERA 1127/21)
Am being shadowed by one aircraft.
(WESTON 1230/21).

Walton-on-the-Naze.

D.O.Walton reports Walton bombed by
Dornier at 1215. (F.O.I.C. Harwich
1220/21 to C.in C. Nore).

Faroes.

N.O.I.C. Faroes reports one Enemy
Monoplane, presumably R/C, passed over
Thorshaven and Skaale Fiord at 100/21.
(A.C.O.S. 1230/21 to Adty, O.C.Troops
Faroe Is. 1206/21).

BIELA.
(Bombed 18/11).

Arrived at Galway today. (D.O.R.)

Mining.

Harwich.

At 0645, 4 aircraft circling between
090° and 180° Bawdsey 10 to 20 miles.
Suspect minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Harwich
0656/21 to C.in C. Nore).

S.N.11.

Your 1845/20. Propose leave port ZA
at 1330/11/23 and lay within six cables
on either side of centre line running
327° from 66° 25.5' N., 23° 09' W,
to 113 fathom line. Length of line
about 46 miles. Time of starting
lay 1130 B.S.T. November 26th. Date
of return to port ZA 29/11.
(R.A.M.L. 1008/21 to Adty).

My 1008 Town-Class Destroyers can be
used if Fuel is available at
Reykjavik. (R.A.M.L. 1009/21 to Adty).

My 1009. Another alternative is to
detach Destroyers off Reykjavik and pick
them up on return. Fuel would not
then be required. (R.A.M.L. 1128/21 to
Adty).

My 1009 and 1128/21. BATH reports
ample endurance at speed of Squadron
without fuelling. (R.A.M.L. 1842/21 to
Adty).

DAKOTIAN.

(British, 6426 tons). Casualty 5 cables
090° from Dale Point. (F.O.I.C. Milford
Haven. 1136/21 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Milford Haven.

Open, subject to local instructions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1154/21 to Adty).

Diesel-engined ships on N.E. Coast. Proposed General Signal.

In view of present danger from acoustic mines it is proposed that a general signal be issued to N.C.S.O. on this coast that diesel engined ships may have to be towed through dangerous approach channels.

Diesel vessels should therefore not approach within the 20 fathom line until approved by examination vessel and N.C.S.O.'s should signal letter M. after name of ship in routine signals.
(N.C.S.O. Tyne 1245/21 to D.T.D.)

[Signal should have been through Cin Chough, see p. 607]

Thames Estuary.

Explosions, etc., in Thames Estuary for night of 20/21st November.

2110. Incorrect recognition signal fired by aircraft over Maplin Sands.

2204. Mine exploded in mid air over Princes Channel.

0024. Explosion felt which appeared to come from Longsands and corresponded to plot of aircraft in this area.

0245. Three explosions seen on surface over Kentish Flats following passage of aircraft.

Very low flying aircraft was noted as follows:-

2150. In Channel between E. Oaze and Knob.

2330. In Channel between Nore and East Cant.
(S.O.T.L.D.F. 1247/21 to C.in C. Nore).

Following received from VIMIERA. With F.N.39. My 1115. As well as at least 6 bombs, objects about size of 200 pound bombs attached to parachute were seen dropping from Junkers 88 in approximate position 221° East Barrow L.V. 1.5 miles. Ships of convoy passed position without result.

(C.in C. Nore 1305/21 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

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Mining. (Contd.)

XMAS ROSE.

(H.M. Drifter) Mined and sunk at
1545/21 in 51° 47' 45" N., 1° 25' 30" E.
3 missing, 8 wounded of which 1 very
seriously.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea. 2015/21 to
Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Dutch Coast.

At 1502/20 Red Cross Ship off Helder.
At 1506/20 Tanker 2000 tons off Texel,
steering South.
At 1537/20 one M/V 5000 tons moored off
Schiermonikoog.
At 1555/20 a convoy of 8 M/V's 6000 to
8000 tons off Borkum, steering west.
(M.L.O. Nore 0030/21 to C.F.D.Spurn)

Enemy Unit.

At 1455/21 an unknown Enemy Unit was
near Lister. D/F unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1526/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.11.40.
Thursday. 581

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

LAIRDSWOOD.

(British, 789 tons). In distress off Cornwall Point. (Plymouth W/T 0706/21) Have repaired port engine. Making for Belfast Lough. (Port Patrick Radio 0734/21). Cancel distress signal. (N.O.I.C. Stranvaer 0810/21 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

AMBUSCADE.

Reports at 0910/21. Have been dismasted and starboard circulator out of action. Am returning harbour. (F.O. Greenock 1140/21 to Adty). Arrived (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0043/22 to Adty).

My 1444/16. Vessel previously reported aground S.E. of No. 89 now refloated and proceeding in tow. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1650/21 to C.in C. Nore)

LANARK's Raft.

Coast Guard reports Emergency Raft with name LANARK of Montreal found ashore at Rabbit Island 58° 32'N., 4° 24'W. (A.C.O.S. 1659/21 to Adty).

ALEXIA.
(Tanker).

Left Invergordon in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN, FAIRPLAY I ABEILLE 21, escorted by A/S Trawler LEICESTER CITY. Speed 5 knots. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1732/21 to Adty).

NORDEST.

Aground between C.1. and C.2. Black Buoys. Requires immediate assistance (Seaforth Radio 1910/21) Distress signal now clear. (Portishead Radio 1942/21).

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

582

Shipping.

Convoys.

GLOUCESTER CASTLE.

My 1207/20 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1733/20. GLOUCESTER CASTLE will not sail as arranged and should be included in appropriate O.B. Convoy. (D.O.D.(H) 1457/21).

S.C.11.

Route. (C.in C. W.A. to ENCHANTRESS, etc., 1505/21). Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to OTTAWA, ST. LAURENT, SAGUENAY, SKEENA, 2335/21).
To alter course after local escort joins. (C.in C. W.A., 2307/21 to ENCHANTRESS).

H.X.86.

Position of 1300 G.M.T. (VOLTAIRE, 1410Z/21).

H.X.92.

Date and route. (D.T.D. 1613/21).

E.N. 29.

Modifying route. (FANDANGO, 1645/21)

O.B. 246.

My 1541/20. CITY OF WELLINGTON returned to port. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1626/21)

W.N. 44.

Programme. Code, Metric. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1247/21).

E.N. 30.

Programme. Code, Mission. Escort DANEMAN, HORNPIPE, additional escorts, FOWEY, GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1709/21).

B.H.X.92.

No ocean escort available. Ships to be sailed independently for Halifax to join H.X.92. (C.in C. W.A., 2202/21 to Bermuda).

H.X.55
O.B.246
VICTORIA
(Greek)
(See also p. 596)

Delayed by weather. Will be at least three hours late at rendezvous. SABRE and SARDONYX have insufficient fuel to make the rendezvous and MALCOLM will have to return directly after making contact. VICTORIA was found derelict and abandoned in 56° 08' N. 14° 20' W. at 1015/21. Consider tug could salvage her when weather moderates. Have joined SARDONYX to SANDWICH convoy so long as her fuel permits. My p.c. and s. (MALCOLM 1733/21 to C.in C. W.A.).

O.B.246.

You have been detailed S.O. of escort. If in company Cdre. of convoy pass my immediately following message to him. Convoy is spread out, am in company with Vice. Cdre. of convoy my position course and speed are 53. 58, 04. 58, 316, 12. (AMBUSCADE to WALKER, 0215/21).

21.11.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Continued)

Troop Convoys.

ORDUNA
ADDA
CITY OF CANTERBURY.

Admiralty's 1311/16. Destroyer escort
HIGHLANDER HAVELOCK HURRICANE.
All sailing with Liverpool portion.
(C.in C. W.A. 1039/21).

CIRCASSIA is to take CALIFORNIA
DERBYSHIRE and WORCESTERSHIRE under
her orders leaving Clyde to rendezvous
with ORDUNA, ADDA, FORTHBANK and
GLOUCESTER CASTLE 000° 8 miles
Altacarry. Route. Thence to Freetown.
From position (d) ORDUNA proceeds
independently for Bermuda. (F.O.C.N.P.
1600/21).

WINDSOR CASTLE
PASTEUR

My 2212/19. WINDSOR CASTLE with
Gibraltarians will not repeat not be
ready to sail 27/11. CATHAY will not
now be required as escort for WINDSOR
CASTLE and should be sailed as convenient
to Freetown.
PASTEUR will be ready to sail from Clyde
and CAPETOWN CASTLE carrying 1100
Government personnel to Halifax, from
Liverpool on 27/11.
~~CATHAY will not now be required as
escort for WINDSOR CASTLE and should
be sailed as convenient to Freetown.~~
(D.O.D.(H) 1548/21).

W.S.4A.

Admty. 2211/15, para 3(c). For 8/12
read 14/12 (D.O.D.(F) 2253/21)

Independent
Ships, Air
Attack,
Use of Kites.

Your 1913/9. Para. 3 of your proposals
would involve giving ships referred to
the A.A. Armament of an A.M.C. with
"Complete Equipment". The equipment
required for such a measure is not
available. Regretted proposal cannot
be put into practice at present.
Opinion expressed in your paras. 4 and
5 is confirmed and action has already
been taken as suggested.
Of measures available to defeat low
flying attack, most effective is
considered to be fitting and operation
of kites. Fast liners will be given
priority for fitting as they become
available and rules for their employment
in waters where liable to air attack
are being reconsidered. Additional
close range weapons will be provided to
Fast Liners as they become available.
(Hd. of M. 2035/21, to C.in C. W.A.)

Air Menace
E. Coast
Convoys

.....

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

Air Menace,
E. Coast
Convoys.

Increasingly difficult to persuade crews of merchant ships to sail in East Coast Convoys owing to repeated air attacks. Maintenance of these convoys is of great importance particularly for coal supply to London and South Coast. Convoys are most vulnerable between Sunk and Nore light vessels where passage is made in daylight. Request urgent consideration given to provision of a fighter patrol over these convoys during this part of their journey.

(D.T.D. 1953/21, to Air Ministry).

Greek Ships.

Following categories of Greek ships are to be treated as though they possessed Ship Warrants.

(a) Vessels requisitioned by the Greek Government.

(b) Vessels sailing on voyages to Greece or from Greece with cargo or outward bound to a port to load back for Greece.

(c) Vessels sailing to Egypt, Sudan or Suez Canal Ports and sailing with authority of C.in C. Mediterranean or C.in C. East Indies.

(d) Vessels sailing to the U.S.A. with cargoes of ore or other munitions supplies. (D.T.D. 1534/21, "A" Message).

WAR DIARY.

21.11.40.
Thursday. 585

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Submarine ^{AJAX} ~~Ajax~~.
Crew.

Your 1234/18. ^{of} Negotiations now proceeding with Vichy through Ambassador Madrid, for exchange of AJAX crew against British service personnel held prisoner in N. Africa. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1228/21) Adty. 1356/22/10. Following French personnel from AJAX wish to serve. Conditions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1652/21).

WINNIPEG.

My 0943/20. French ship WINNIPEG sailed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1545/21).

Libreville.
Port Gentil.

Adty. 1227/19. French propose to mount guns 2 at Libreville 2 at Port Gentil. Capitaine Crespin of Manoka battery, a first class practical artillery engineer, to be in charge of work. No cement or metal for holding down rings available locally. (C.S.1. 1235/21 to Adty).

Free French
Submarines.

(?At) Duala on 20/11 French S.N.O. strongly advocated sending 3 or 4 French submarines now in England to this area for local defence of A.E.F. (C.S.1., 1611A/21, to C.in C. S.A.)

Intelligence
Djibuti.
French Indo-
China.

813. Following for F.O. from Mackereth yesterday conversed with two French acquaintances (1) Gros (e?) (2) Aubry, sent to Aden from Jibuti by French Governor there to negotiate release of S.S. ESPERANCE. Gros (e?) who is pro Vichy said the Governor of Jibuti had asked for a French naval squadron from Indo-China to break British blockade of Jibuti and Madagascar. (Gros(e?), Aubry now on their way to Saigon. Suggest a Japanese attack on French Indo-China which we could scarcely prevent, need not be discouraged officially. It might do much to hasten free French Colonial resistance to Vichy, etc. (F.O.C.R.IN 0504Z/21 to Adty).

21.11.40.
Thursday.

586

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Reconnaissance
No incident. (200 Group 1740/21).

Italian Submarines.

Present position. (Consul-Gen. Tangier
2053/21).

Operation
"Ration."

Your 1320/20. In view of paras. 2 and 3
of your 1320/20/10, and as these ships
cannot be seized inside Spanish
Territorial waters, it appears unlikely
operation can succeed if carried out
off Spanish Moroccan Coast.
(D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A. 0058/21).

Your 0058/21. Agree. But limitation
of area to 4 W., was imposed in order
to ensure that "Collar" would not be
delayed by late return of ships
employed and also owing to lack of
screening forces I should be unable to
send heavy ships to sea in support.
It was hoped that ships on convoy might
emerge from territorial waters at dusk
This restriction will now be removed,
and consequent risk accepted but our
forces will be ordered to return to
Gibraltar by 1600/23.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0422/21, to Adty).

My 1320/20, No East going convoys
passed Straits today Thursday. Two
extra destroyers will join intercepting
force tomorrow 22nd November.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2300/21).

Operation
"Collar"
DESPATCH.

*
Your 1629/20. Approved.
(D.O.D.(F) 0020/21 to S.O. Force H)

* (Inclusion of H.M.S. DESPATCH in
Force H. for operation "Collar").

FRANCONIA
MANCHESTER.

Not more than 200 men are to be on deck
of FRANCONIA at any time during daylight
hours from time of passing Tarifa until
troops are transferred to Cruisers(?)
approx. 48 hours after arrival at
Gibraltar. Pending further
instructions no leave is to be given
and no one is to be allowed ashore
from MANCHESTER or FRANCONIA.
(F.O. Force H. 0929/21 to C.S.18).

21.11.40. 587
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

SHEFFIELD.
SOUTHAMPTON.
M.T. Ships.

Operation ^{"Collar"}~~COLLAR~~ postponed 24 hours
After rendezvousing with SOUTHAMPTON
and M.T. ships adjust course and speed
to pass Europa Point 0200/25 provided
M.T. ships have sufficient fuel for
destination without calling at Gibraltar.

F.O.C.N.A. 1716/19, amend rendezvous with
destroyers to 036' 25' North 013 20'
West at 1200/23. If no reply received
it will be assumed that M.T. ships have
sufficient fuel.
(S.O. Force H. 1045/21 to SHEFFIELD)

Use of
Torpedo
Aircraft.

My 0405/19 para. three. Intend to
abandon attack on Alghero in order to
retain Torpedo Spotter Reconnaissances
for reconnaissance and T/P Striking
Force should interference by surface
force be attempted. Request anticipated
position Force D. at dawn D.5 may be
signalled.
(S.O. Force H. 1411/21 to C.in C. Med).

Gibraltar
Air
Reconnaissance.

Situation report. Between 1212 and
1355 hours, one Martin reconnaissance
aircraft flew over the rock more than
once and was driven off by A.A. fire.
Details of Spanish defences will be
sent shortly. Noticeable increase
during last month.
(Govr. Gib. 2130/21 to W.O.)

South Atlantic.

Raider
Report.

Disguised M/V Raider 30.01N., 25.10W.,
(MORETON BAY, 1130Z/21) Intercept
1140, de Valencia Radio QQQQ unknown
Vessel 30.01 N., 25.10 W. 1139 G.M.T.
(Landsend Radio to Adty)., (1150/21).

Your 1130/21. ^{WILLEM}
^ VAN DER ZAAN from Ponta
Delgada to Freetown may be near this
position. (F.O.C.N.A., 1404/21 to
MORETON BAY).

WAR DIARY.21.11.40.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Enemy Units.

Your 0918/19/11. (A) This has now been identified with a transmission on which Ascension received an unreliable bearing 360 at 2012 G.M.T./17. German ship and control were transmitting simultaneously. (B) Ascension reported a transmission approximate ten kiloc. '9 ve control B's frequency at 2116 G.M.T. bearing 358 degrees Group EB1H which occurred near of the transmission was the only group read. Request information whether this also can be identified with the transmission quoted in your 0918/19/11. (C.in C. S.A. 1513/21, to Adty).

MOBEKA.

Left Banana 20/11 unaware of presence of submarine. (Acting Consul, Leopoldville, 1110/21).

HARMA TTAN)
SITOE BONDO)

Due Capetown 17/11 from United Kingdom not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown)(1105B/21).

CAPE RACE.

Due Durban 17/11 from Calcutta, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1106B/21).

OSTHAV.

Due East London 18/11 from Singapore, not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1106B/21).

ANCYLUS.

Tanker. Adty 2215/20. Can this be arranged. (C.in C. S.A. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1115N/21).

KENT.

Your 1105/20. KENT may be used to escort S.L.58 to United Kingdom. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1807/21).

Use of
A.M.C's.
ESPERANCE BAY.

Request report approx. number of officers and O.R's also quantities of stores, that can be embarked in A.M.C's for transport from United Kingdom to Freetown. Early information required re ESPERANCE BAY as arrangements now proceeding. (D.O.D.(F) 1912/21 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.
WAR DIARY.21.11.40.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)MOOLTAN.
ARAWA.
MORETON BAY.

Preliminary survey of MOOLTAN indicates that she will require 4 months refit to make her serviceable.

Approved to fit ARAWA with catapult during present refit, estimated time required two months. Similar approval has been given for MORETON BAY. In view of above, do you wish refit of MORETON BAY to be postponed.
(D.O.D.(F) 1913/21 to C.in C. S.A.)

PENNLAND.

My 1413 /18 PENNLAND now with 561 internees and guard of four officers 105 men including one N.L.O. and five Naval Ratings sailed Freetown 0630/21 for Kingston Jamaica. (Route and E.T.A.)
(C.in C. S.A. 2025N/21).

21.11.1940.
Thursday.
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Greece.

Military situation. (M.A. Athens, 0230/21, to W.O.)

Italian Fleet.

S.O. Force H 1310/20. What is present disposition of Italian surface ships? (1 S.L. to V.A. Malta, 0019/21) Your 0019/21. One CAVOUR class battleship was at Spezia 20/11, 2 or 3 8" cruisers and 2 6" cruisers normally based on North Sicilian ports, and 2 or 3 other 6" cruisers at Maddalena or elsewhere. Usual 4 destroyers at each of Messina and Trapani, and probably some for escort duty at other ports further north. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0211/21). My 0211/21. For "2 or 3 other 6" cruisers", read "1 or possibly 2 other 6" cruisers". (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0845/21).

Gladiators.

Gladiator position serious, reaching the end of our reserves. (details). Above should be borne in mind in all planning for employment of Gladiators and re-arming. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., 0841/21).

Operation
"Collar",
Corvettes.

Admty. 2053/20. To ensure corvettes accompany Force F, Operation Collar is postponed 24 hours. D.1 day is 23/11. (C.in C. Med. to Admty. 0817/21)

Orders,
M.B.9.

Following extracts from Operation M.B.9 (which includes Operation "Collar") are forwarded for distribution to ships concerned in case no opportunity of forwarding complete orders arises. (C.in C. Med., 1619/21, to S.O. Force H) See Mediterranean Volume. Amending 1207/17, re sailing of 1st Division, 1st Battle Squadron (C.in C. Med. 1621/21 to S.O. Force H).

Hospital Ships.


Your 1132/28/10 (use of QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA as hospital ships). Presume arrangement will be made in accordance A.H.Q. M.E.'s QM2/24231, 31/10, and S.T.O. Bombay's 1330Z/7. (S.S.T.O. Egypt to A.C.N.B., 1750/21).

S.W.3.

Cancel my 1306/20. R.A. Plowden will be Commodore S.W.3 in GEORGIC proceeding Durban, and V.A. Sommerville Vice Commodore in ORONTES calling Mombasa. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1238/21)

Yugoslavia.

Possibility of entry into the war, and inquiry re possibility of evacuation of army. (N.A. Belgrade, to Admty., 1845/21) (See Med. Vol.)

21.11.1940.
Thursday. 591
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Continued)Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 164 up to 1200 hours 21/11.

Durazzo Bombed.1. Greece Night November 19/20.
2 Wellingtons bombed Durazzo docks and one Wellington attacked Tirana Aerodrome setting fire to hangars. Day 20/11. Fighter Blenheims maintained standing patrol over Athens.Suez Canal Raid.2. Egypt 18/11. On enemy aircraft dropped two bombs among convoy in Bitter Lake and machine gunned three ships. Four bombs subsequently dropped near Gineifa. No damage or casualties. Night 19/20 November. 0430 hours. Blenheims bombed Bardia and Tobruk. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1125/21)Italian Intelligence.My 1112/20. Split reports: (1) German ship DJRH (MARITZA) due to leave Dubrovnik for Trieste November 21st or November 22nd steaming only by day owing to drifting mines.
(ii) Preparation for embarkation of German troops confirmed by Yugo-slavian - report from Trieste.
(iii) Result of first bombing of Durazzo three oil tanks and three steamers destroyed.
(iv) Eight anti-aircraft guns have arrived at San Giovanni di Medua and 40,000 Italian troops expected there from Milan.
Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1701/21).Malta Air Raids.
20-21/11.

Combined services report Malta up to 1700/21. All times G.M.T. 2334 to 0049 2 consecutive alarms. First single raider flew to within 4 miles of Gozo where he circled and returned. 1 Hurricane up. No interception. No bombs dropped. Immediately afterwards another single raider flew from north of the Island to a point 20 miles due west of Malta then turned east and flew across Island. 1 Hurricane up but just failed to intercept. 3 H.E. and 4 incendiaries dropped between Curmi and Rabat. No damage to service or civilian property nor casualties. Objective according to Rome news appears to have been Takali Aerodrome. No reccos. carried out due to adverse weather conditions Ionian and Tyrrhenian Seas. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1725/21).

21.11.1940. 592
Thursday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Japanese
Contraband,
Persian Gulf.

(no trace)
My 1210/18. Am now informed no cargo discharged at Bushire. Appears these ships load manganese at Marmagoa for Yawata and subsequently call at Bushire to load opium for Far East, but this latter call never advertised. Presume we have no right to interfere.
(C.in C. E.I., to Admty., 0708Z/21).

OLTENIA
STEUA ROMANA

My 1140/31 Two complete crews now available please advise immediately if required as otherwise they will be given employment by shipping master.
(S.S.T.O. Bombay 1118Z/21 to C.in C.E.I.)

OLE JACOB
AUTOMEDON

(no trace)

My 1322/13 Distress messages made by Norwegian ship OLE JACOB and British ship AUTOMEDON. Para. 1 as amended by my 1444/14 has been confirmed by Dutch ship MACOMA who was within 80 miles of OLE JACOB at 1345 G.M.T./10 radio operator reports cancellation was transmitted by OLE JACOB'S operator. The Keying was identical with the previous transmission.
(C.in C. E.I. 1404Z/20 to C.O.S. Singapore, etc.)

Aden Air Report.

Intelligence Summary No. 162 for 24 hours ending 1500. One Blenheim 203 Squadron returning from convoy escort duties reconnoitred Assab area a.m., nothing new and no activities seen Assab harbour Macaaca and Satellities. Three Blenheims 203 Squadron provided fighter escort over convoy B.S. 8½. No casualties. All time G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1814/21).

MOST SECRET.

21.11.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.French Personnel
Indo-China.

Your 0413/6. Every obstacle should be put in their way, but all cases affecting French diplomatic personnel should be referred to London. (Further remarks re de Schompre). (Hd. of M., to C.in C. China, 2221/21).

America and West Indies.MEMDOTA.

No objection to U.S. Cutter MEMDOTA visiting Hamilton Bermuda to land hospital case. Understand Colonial Office are similarly informing Governor. (D.D.O.D.(F) 0823/21 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Japanese Shipping.

Your 1032/17 and your 1229/18.

N Y K passenger steamers will in future call at Acapulco and calling at Balbao will be optional. YASUKUNI MARU removed from Japan - South America service to Japan - Seattle service and replaced by HIE MARU. O S K line round - the - World service discontinued and ships are in Seattle - California running. No confirmation of reports of suspension of California - Caribbean service. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1503/21 to S.O.I., Kingston).

Japanese situation generally unchanged. Arrivals and departures have increased somewhat past week. KAGU MARU sailed Baltimore November 11th for Panama Canal direct omitting usual call at Gulf of Mexico Port. S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica's 1032 November 17th and 1229 November 18th under investigation. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1411/21 to Capt. O.S., Singapore).

U.S. Trade with
Martinique.

My 1231/9/10 and your 1139/16/10.

Trade between French West Indies and United States. In addition to evidence reported in my 1731/19 that the United States are encouraging trade (excepting fuel oil supplies) with Martinique, press reports from New York announce the release of recent French credits in the United States. It seems clear that U.S. policy is the maintenance of Vichy control in French West Indies, whereas our policy is presumably still to encourage Free French movements. Would appear that no useful purpose would now be achieved by bringing in for examination French vessels trading between French West Indies and United States. Intend however to adhere to the policy of bringing in French ships trading between French West Indies and Africa when these are met with at sea. Request Admiralty views. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1001/21 to Admty.).

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

594

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Raider.
PORT BRISBANE

Following received Singapore Commercial W/T at 1610Z/21 RR RR from PORT BRISBANE 029° 22' south 095° 36' east suspicious vessel firing shots at us (in area) GOPF. (C.in C. China, 1645Z/21 to A.C.N.B. etc.)

see
22.11.40

Following intercepted by Adelaide Radio RR RR 029° 22' S. 095° 36' E. firing at us 1719/21 SS PORT BRISBANE. (A.C.N.B. 1837Z/18. T.O.O. as received apparently should read 1837/21). Position is 300' N.W. of that of MAIMO A, which reported a raider early on 20/11 CANBERRA, which had left Perth to investigate MAIMO A's report, should be in the vicinity. (D.S. 444).

QUEEN MARY.

Troop Transport QUEEN MARY arrived Sydney 0200Z/21. (A.C.N.B. 1350Z/21)

PERTH

H.M.A.S. PERTH escorting U S 7 arrived Fremantle 0930Z/21. (A.C.N.B. 1505Z/21).

21.11.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

595

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LECH.

Left Vigo 2230 last night for unknown destination. (Acting Consul, Vigo, 0734/21, D.D.I.C. 1134/21).

HELGOLAND.

Repeating C.in C. A.W.I's 1241/19 to ships and authorities, Areas A and B. (D.D.I.C., 0010/21).

MARITZA

Split reports due to leave Dubrovnik for Trieste 21 or 22/11, steaming only by day owing to drifting mines. (S.O.I., Alexandria, 1701/21).

LARISSA.

Arrived from Russia with grain. (Macrae, Galatz, 1221/21).

CORDELIA.

Arrived from Russia (Macrae, Galatz, 1221/21).



21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

596

Ships Attacked.

VICTORIA
DAYDAWN

O.B. No. 244 attacked in position 056° 01' North 015° 10' West 2 ships torpedoed. VICTORIA, Greek, (6085 tons) large hole in engine room abandoned likely to remain afloat. DAYDAWN, (4768 tons) British, sunk. All survivors picked up and proceeding. Wind West Force 5 B 6 sea 34. (CASTLETON, 0700/21, to C.in C. W.A.)

My 0700. Amend position to 56.17 N., 14.21 W. (CASTLETON, 1342/21) VICTORIA found derelict and abandoned in 56.08 N., 14.20 W. at 1015/21. Consider tug could salvage when weather moderates. (MALCOLM, 1733/21).

CREE

British 4791 tons. S/M Raider, 54.25 N., 19.40 W. S/M on surface, rough sea, clear, cloud 4000. (Land's End, received 1120/21) SAGUENAY, SKEENA, ST. LAURENT and OTTAWA ordered to attack s/m. (C.in C. W.A., 1135/21) Have you sighted CREE? (C.in C. W.A. to OTTAWA, 1907/21) Your 1907. No. Now proceeding to R.V. No contact. OTTAWA A/S defective, suspected broken raft. Weather. (OTTAWA, 2030/21) 54.39 N., 18.20 W., CREE torpedoed, sinking fast. (Valletia Radio 2228/21) Detach one ship to assist CREE, torpedoed (position and time as Valentia). (C.in C. W.A. 2341/21) CREE was ex S.L.53 (Slow). (D.O.R.)

ST. GERMAIN
(torpedoed 17/11)

Crew of M/V St.GERMAIN of the Saint Line, London, landed safely at Londonderry 1200/21. •No casualties. Torpedoed in 55° 40' North, 08° 40' West, 1920/17. Ship not seen to sink. (N.C.S.O. Londonderry, 1744/21).

Submarines Reported.

1142.

D.F., probable U/Boat, 55° N., 20° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1231/21).

0600 G.M.T.
1012 G.M.T.
1042 G.M.T.

A.F. message 56.01 N., 15.10 W.) (D.D.I.C.,
" " 54.25 N., 19.40 W.) 1249/21).
" " 55.00 N., 20.00 W.)

1929.

D.F., probable U-boat 55°-56° N., 13°-15° W. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2008/21).

2031.

D.F., probable Italian U-boat, 48.10 N., 15.20 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2126/21)

2228 G.M.T.

A.F. message 54.39 N., 18.50 W. (D.D.I.C. 2359/21).

21.11.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

597

Submarines Reported. (Continued)

0047.

56° to 58° N., 11° to 15° W.,
very indefinite position (D.S. 443).

0145.

57.30 to 59° N., 16° to 19° W.,
indefinite position (D.S. 443).

1412.

53 to 54° N., 13 to 15° W., indefinite
position (D.S. 444).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian 1 in Bay of Biscay about 5° W.
bound for Gironde.
1 in N.W. Approaches probably
N.E. of Rockall.
1 probably Italian in 54° 25' N.
19° 40' W. at 1112/21.

German 1 off Sierra Leone.
1 about 250 miles N.W. of
Finisterre.
1 in 56° 01' N. 15° 10' W. at
0700/21.
1 in about 55° N. 20° W.
1 within about 50 miles S.E.
or S. of Rockall.
1 between 58° N. and between
16° and 19° W.
1 in about 60° N. 21° W. (3)
1 off Muckle Flugga homeward
bound.
1 N.W. of Shetlands outward
bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1319/21).

Submarines Attacked.

By RHODODENDRON

U/B probably sunk.

See 24.12.40 p. 743
and 26.11.40 p. 733



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

22.11.40.
Friday.

598

SITUATION REPORT.

Redistribution of the Fleet.

The presence of ADMIRAL SCHEER on the Trade routes, the probable existence of five enemy surface raiders operating in the South Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean, and the increasing troop reinforcements to the Middle East via the Cape, necessitate a redistribution of the Fleet and the formation of raider hunting groups.

Home Commands.

Operation
P.V.

Capt: D.21 in FERNIE proceeded this evening with GARTH, EGLINGTON and QUORN to attack enemy invasion practices being carried out tonight at Ostend.

R.M. Siege
Battery
shelled.

The enemy coastal batteries today fired 10 rounds which fell harmlessly near the R.M. Siege Battery and in the sea off St. Margarets Bay.

Denmark
Straits.

A patrol of Denmark Straits is to be instituted as soon as possible. (P.603)

Dover
Shelled.

Dover was shelled by enemy Coastal Batteries today, but no damage was caused



MOST SECRET.
22.11.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

599

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command.

Blenheims today attacked docks and shipping at Willemsoord and Gravelines, barges near Kallantsoog S.S.W. of Den Helder, and a convoy off Vlieland. Results were not seen. Owing to adverse weather, no operations were carried out last night.

Coastal Command.

Routine patrols were flown and special reconnaissances of Ostend.

Stavanger
Raid.

4 aircraft of Coastal Command carried out an attack on Sola, Stavanger this morning.

Enemy Air Activity.

GUILLEMOT
attacked.

GUILLEMOT was attacked but not hit this morning off Harwich.

Portsmouth.

Slight damage was caused at Frater Mine Depot today.

Enemy aircraft were sighted over the Hebrides and Faroes today.

Faroes.

One or two enemy seaplanes flew over the entrance to Skaale Fiord, Thorshavn and Nolio Fiord. Two torpedoes were fired at shipping in Thorshavn Hay and both exploded on the beach. Minor damage was caused ashore, but no casualties.

22.11.40.
Friday. 600

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Tug
HERCULES
Sunk.

Tug HERCULES was mined and sunk off Tynemouth today, approximately one cable South of the swept Channel.

S.S. PIKEPOOL.

(3683 tons) Believed mined off the Smalls Lt. early this morning. (D.O.R.)

M.L.127.
Blown Up.

M.L.127 was blown up today off Clacton. There is some doubt concerning the cause of the explosion.

ETHEL
TAYLOR
Sunk.

A/P Trawler ETHEL TAYLOR was mined and sunk today in the Tyne. The vessel was not diesel engined.

Mines were found off Hartlepool, Tyne, approaches to Moray Firth.

Ports Affected.

Tyne closed at 2355.
Plymouth. Opened at 1330 by day.
River Forth. Closed between Grangemouth and Crombie 1547.
Tees. Opened to diesel engined ships 1911.
Milford Haven. Closed 2007.
Humber. Closed 2155.
Hartlepool, Fowey, Penzance, Newlyn, Kyles of Bute, de-gaussing range at Belfast are closed. Restrictions on diesel engined ships at Sunderland.

Shipping.

A submarine is occasionally to accompany homeward bound Halifax convoys, and PORPOISE has been selected for this duty.

22.11.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Operation Ration.

CHARLES PLUMIER, French ^{A.M.C.}~~M.V.~~ was intercepted about 110 miles E. of Gibraltar today and sent into Gibraltar under armed guard. (D.O.R.)

Mediterranean.

General Smuts has agreed to release four whale-catchers fully equipped, SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN FLOE, SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEA, for anti-submarine work in the Mediterranean. (p. 615)

BERWICK is to be released from Mediterranean for service in a raider hunting group, and will be passed through westward under cover of Operation ~~COLLAR~~ 'Collar'.

12 enemy aircraft flew over Grand Harbour, Malta, this morning on reconnaissance, and 1 was shot down into the sea.

Blenheims last night attacked Derna, Bomba and Bardia.

Fighter patrols by Blenheims ^{we} are provided over Athens today.

AUSTRALIA.

PERTH left Fremantle at 0037Z today to assist in the search for the raider reported by PORT BRISBANE and MAIMOA (see 20/11, 21/11) The sailing of Convoy U.S.7 is delayed until the return of CANBERRA and PERTH.



22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of United Kingdom

"Deluge"
DELUGE

At 1140/22 (D.C. 1149/22). At 2330/22
(D.C. 2338/22)

Movements

Whalers.
WHALEERS

L.L. Whalers SKUDD 3, SKUDD 4, SKUDD 5
and SWONA to be sailed when ready to
Ponta Delgada thence to Bathurst and
Freetown, not to pass within 20 miles of
French territory. Route and fuelling to be
arranged (D.O.D.(F) (1134/22) to C. in C. W.A.

Portsmouth
PORTSMOUTH

Night movements (C. in C. Portsmouth 1517/22)

Orkneys and
ORKNEYS AND

Shetlands
SHETLANDS

Trawler lines to-night (F.O.C.O.S. 1525/22)

HESPERUS

My 1039/21. As HIGHLANDER not available
propose HESPERUS replaces her escorting
Convoy Sailing Liverpool p.m./23. (C. in C.
W.A. 1600/22)

Rosyth.
ROSYTH

Movements at 2000/22/23 (C. in C. Rosyth
1600/22).

LA MOQUEUSE

My 1535/22 (Western Channel night report) add
French Sloop M/S LA MOQUEUSE and 1 M.V.
Dartmouth Plymouth 0930 (C. in C. W.A.
1813/22 amended by 1949/22)

M.V.

My 1535/22. Add one M.V. Weymouth Falmouth
1630. 0900 (C. in C. W.A. 2149/22)

BENTE MAERSK

My 1319/22 (BENTE MAERSK to R/V with 3 A/S
Trawlers) Cancel. (C. in C. W.A. 1827/22)

Northern
NORTHERN
PATROL LINES

Tatrol Lines.

Amendment to 1510/9/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 1642/22)

Operations.

Operation
P.V.
(Attack on
enemy
invasion
practice
at Ostend).

Operation P.V. will be carried out to-night
22/11. As in Admiralty 1413/21 CAMPBELL (D.21)
GARTH, EGLINTON; QUORN taking part (Details)
(C. in C. Nore 1246/22 to D.21)
Admiralty 1413/21. Owing to breakdown CAMPBELL
Capt. D. 21 is embarking in FERNIE for
operation as A.S.V. is considered essential.
(C. in C. Nore 1650/22 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
Have embarked in FERNIE and am proceeding
with GARTH, EGLINTON, QUORN (D.21, 1726/22 to
C. in C. Nore)

Dover.
DOVER

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 10 rounds 22/11
shell fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege
Battery and in sea off St. Margarets Bay. No
casualties or damage reported. (V.A. Dover
1846/22 to Admiralty.



22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd.)

Denmark Straits
DENMARK STRAITS

A Patrol of Denmark Straits to be established as soon as can be arranged. (D.O.D. (H) 2152/22 to F.O.C.N.P).

Submarines.

Positions
POSITIONS

For following 24 hours at 0800/23 (V.A.S. 1719/22).

British Air Activity (1)

East Coast
EAST COAST
CONVOY PATROL
Convoy Patrol

Request careful consideration of Admiralty 1935/21 to provide small standing patrol over E. Coast convoys between Sunk and Nore L.V's (Air Min. 1035/22 to Fighter Command.

Balloon Barrage
BALLOON BARRAGE

Your A.594/20/11 and Admiralty 1630/19 request may be informed at what date minesweepers and ships will commence fly V.L.A. Balloons at other points around coast between Solent and Thames Estuary. Also areas in which they will fly balloons. (H.Q.F.C. 1305/22 to Air Min)

Patrols
PATROLS

Assessments (C. in C. Rosyth 1756/22, 2214/22)

Escorts
ESCORTS

For 23/11 (C. in C. Rosyth 1820/22)

Air Escort of
ESCORT OF
RODNEY

3 Hudson A/C will leave datum line 360° Strathic Point daylight 23/11 carry out search to 8° 30' W. Then fly 30 miles N and return. If RODNEY is sighted 1 A/C will remain as escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 2340/22 to RODNEY)

British Air Activity (2)

Merchant Vessel
MERCHANT VESSEL
ATTACKED (Attacked)

One M/V about 3-4000 tons moving W at 10 - 12 knots at 1615 in position 53° 38'N., 6° 18'E, A/C attacked from 3000 ft. to 60 ft. at right angles to E.V.S. course on starboard beam. Torpedo broke surface and did not run. M/V undamaged and kept her course. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2022/22 to H.Q. Coastal Command)

Brest
BREST

A/C of 53 Squadron to destroy Power Station and Dock Facilities on Night 23/24 (H.Q.C.C. 1312/22 to 16 Group, Thomey Island).

Enemy Air Activity (1)

DAGENHAM

Refloated p.m. 21 passed Medway Gate 1650 in tow of tugs, proceeding Jenkins Buoy (C. in C. Nore 0821/22).

FISHPOOL
(bombed 14/11)

(British M.V. 4950tons) In tow 0800/22, 54° 12'N 10° 43'W, 45° speed 6 knots (GARDENIA, 0902/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

Convoy "Totem"
CONVOY

1 Enemy A/C shadowing 070° distant 10 miles from

/Convoy.....



22.11.1940.
Friday.

604

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (1) (Contd).

Convey "Totem". My position 51° 31'N, 1° 19'E.
320° speed 7 knots (FERNIE, 0930/22).

Convoy
CONVOY S.C.11

Reported by enemy A/C 0755 G.M.T. (C. in C. W.A.
0943/22 to OTTAWA)

Portsmouth
PORTSMOUTH

Air Attack on area 0400/22. Two H.E. bombs exploded
S. of Frater, damage to roofs etc, also ? one
U.X.B. H.E. also in sea by Lee on Solent and Ryde
Pier. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1108/22 to Admiralty)
A.L. C.E. in C. 02040/4A of 22/6/40 para.2 air
raid 22/11 caused damage at Frater mine depot (details)
(Superintending C.E. Portsmouth, 1845/22 to C.E. in C.
Admiralty.)

GUILLEMOT

Enemy A/C attacking. My position 51° 53'N, 1° 35'E.
(GUILLEMOT, 1141/22)
My 1141/22 enemy's course 090° (GUILLEMOT, 1146/22)
One bomb no hits (GUILLEMOT, 1145/22)
Fighters have been sent to your assistance (C. in C.
Nore 1149/22 to GUILLEMOT).

Hebrides
HEBRIDES

1 German bomber circled over Cavlernish and proceeded
westward to sea. Wick informed by R.A.F.
(F.O.I.C. Stornoway 1220/22 to A.C.O.S).

Faeroes
FAEROES

Dornier Seaplane passed low over ^{Thorshavn} ~~THORSHAVN~~, 1725/22
Fired on at long range no effect. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes
1750/22 to A.C.O.S.

MOST SECRET.

22.11.40. 605
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
Z.M.E.3.

Intend to sail from Milford Haven 1800/22
lay mines 2330 returning to Milford
Haven 0300/23.
(ADVENTURE 0950/22.)

Operation
S.N.11.

(Denmark
Strait)

R.A.M.L. 1008/21 and C.in C. H.F.
1959/21. R.A.M.L. proposals approved.
A gap of six miles is to be left between
the minefield and the coast.
(D.O.D.(H) 1040/22).

My 1008/21 S.N.11 as follows: All
times B.S.T.

A. Surface Minefield.

D.One. SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS,
PORT QUEBEC, PORT NAPIER, AGAMEMNON,
BATH, ST.ALBANS, ST.MARYS.

D.Two. Ocean escort. AURORA.
Covering Force. F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. in
HOOD.

F. From 66° 31.3' N., 23° 18.1' W
In 327° direction to 113 fathom line
1330/23.

L. About 1130/26.

M. SOUTHERN PRINCE during Lay.

O. Port ZA 29/11.

(R.A.M.L. 1056/22).

R.A.M.L.'s 1056/22 AURORA is to R/V with
1st M.L.S. at entrance to Inner Sound
1530/23.

B.C. One in HOOD screened by four
destroyers is to sail from Scapa p.m./23
to cover the operation.
(C.in C. H.F. 1653/22).

M.L.127
Blown up.

Motor Launch 127 blown up by mine in
position 51° 49' N., 1° 25' 30" E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1211/22.)

My 1211 some doubt concerning cause of
explosion. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1552/22).



WAR DIARY.

22.11.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Hartlepool.

M/S Trawlers with chain sweep detonated acoustic mine in 54° 38' 50"N., 01° 08' 21" W., at 1231 today. Chain sweep fitted with rattles was improvised at Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1247/22).

Tug
HERCULES
Sunk.

Tug HERCULES mined and sunk 112° 2750 yards from P.W.S.S. Tynemouth. One survivor picked up. This tug was approximately one cable South of swept Channel. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1252/22).

Speed of
Destroyers
in Thames
Estuary.

After considering the various recommendations for speed of destroyers in waters where acoustic mines may be met it has been decided to adhere to 12 knots as the normal operational speed in the Thames Estuary, where special information of the presence of mines exists speed should be as low as practicable. (C.in C. Nore 1255/22 to D.5, D.16, D.20, D.21.

Plymouth.
MANSFIELD.
CHESTERFIELD.

When inside 26 fathom line on entering Plymouth by Q.Z.S. 188 speed should not exceed 9 knots and as little rudder as practicable should be used. All diesel driven auxiliary machinery should be stopped. (C.in C. W.A. 1324/22 to MANSFIELD, CHESTERFIELD.

Tyne.

One ground magnetic mine detonated by LL time 1220/22 Polarity red position 075 degs. 1 mile North Pier Light Tyne. (P.M.S.O. North Shields 1325/22).

ETHEL
TAYLOR
Sunk.

A/P Trawler ETHEL TAYLOR mined in 090° 7.5 cables from North Pier Light Tyne and sank bearing 157½ from South repeat South Pier Light Tyne to South of swept Channel. Wreck has been danned but exact position cannot be given until visibility improves. Two ratings missing presumed killed. Vessel was not ~~repeat not~~ diesel engined. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 2000/22).



WAR DIARY.

22.11.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

607

Mining. (Contd.)

S.S. PIKEPOOL.

(3683 tons) believed mined off
Smalls Light 0500/22. Survivors
landed at Milford Haven. (D.O.R.)

Tyne Closed.

Owing to suspected enemy minelaying
Port of Tyne closed both ways to all
shipping. Ships in F.N.39 being
diverted into Hartlepool.
Probable time of reopening 1200/23.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2355/22).

Plymouth Open
by Day.

Cancel my 2020/13 and 2210/20. Port
of Plymouth is open between 0930 and
sunset. Ships should arrive position
180° Rame Head 2.2. miles at 0930 or
1630;
(C.in C. W.A. 1330/22).

Towing of
Diesel engined
ships through
dangerous
Approach
Channels.

Your 1245/21 proposals should be
submitted to Admiralty through C.in
C. Rosyth.
(D.T.D. 1533/22 to N.C.S.O. Tyne).

■ Adty. 1553/22. N.C.S.O. Tyne's
1245/21 should not have been made.
If it was desired to refer to ports
in Tyne area only this should have
been made from F.O.I.C. Tyne. A
general proposal for ports on
"this coast" should have been passed
through you to C.in C. Rosyth for
consideration.

It must be borne in mind that tugs
are not immune from acoustic mines.
Request you signal to me your
proposals as regards ports in Tyne
area.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1852/22 to F.O.I.C.
Tyne).

Moray Firth
Approaches.

Fishing vessel WHITE KNIGHT on arrival
at Buckie reported having sighted
newly red painted mine with five
horns in 58° 10' 30" N., 3° 1' W.
in 29 fathoms at 0900/22. Dan Buoy
dropped by WHITE KNIGHT. Search
will be made at daylight 23/11 by
M/S Trawlers from Invergordon.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1535/22).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.11.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

608

Mining. (Contd.)

Forth.

River Forth between Grangemouth on the West and Crombie Pier on the East is closed to all traffic.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1547/22).

Tees open to Diesel engined ships.

Cancel my 1325/18/11. Tees now clear of acoustic mines.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1911/22).

Milford Haven Closed.

Port is closed owing to mines laid by Aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 2007/22).

Humber Closed.

Humber closed to navigation. Suspected minelaying.
(F.O. Humber 2155/22).

Damage to Destroyers building.

Enemy Intelligence.

It is reported that during recent air raids on Hamburg two destroyers nearing completion in shipyards were hit and severely damaged. (Air Min. D.S.491)

Cape Gris Nez.

2 merchant ships 2000 tons with 3 trawlers passing Cape Gris Nez westward at 1220. (V.A.S. 1407/22).

Brest.

Visual Air Reconnaissance of Brest 22/11, 5 destroyers observed.
(D.D.I.C. 1428/22 to C.in C. H.F.)

Merchant Vessel.

Heavily stoked ship 032° 12'N., 014° 42' W., steering at 2000, 14 knots abandoning chase. Ship not sighted.
(MARSDALE, 2030/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

R.C. Brest to Lorient.

Brest. Three destroyers. Two arrivals possibly M.T.B's. No apparent change in disposition of shipping in port militaire can be observed on small scale photograph.

Lorient. One S/M has left the dry dock leaving three. One new arrival under 400 ft. probably M/V Korgroise Quay.
(P.R.U. St. Eval, 2115/22 to H.Q.O.C.)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

22.11.40.

Friday.

609

CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.

CLAN MACFADYEN.

Reported aground, presumed Hearty Knoll. (Scapa W/T, 0440/22, F.O. Humber 0648/22, C.in C. Nore 0651/22). Great Yarmouth 22/11 departure tug KROOMAN 0715 to assistance. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 0720/22). Cancel my 0440/22 (C.in C. Nore 0755/22 to EGRET).

MISS ELAINE.

Engine Trouble, repairs will take about 4 days. (Chief Salvage Officer, Hull, 1159/22).

EBRO.

Tug AMSTERDAM proceeding to assistance of Tug EBRO, position 52° 57'N., 5° 2'W (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1500/22 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

BATH.

Damage by heavy seas. Submit destroyers of TOWN class not suitable for convoy duty at this speed. (R.A.M.L. 0921/22).

22.11.1940.
Friday. 610

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.
F.N.39.

Position. (WESTON, 0749/22) Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne in F.N.39 to be diverted to Hartlepool. No ships from Tyne will be joining. (C.in C. Rosyth 2319/22).

W.N. 42.

Position. (BLACKFLY, 1200/22).

SUDERHOLM
BENTE MAERSK

N.C.S.O. Swansea to sail from Southend, 1130/25. Escort, FERNIE, CLEVELAND, 3 A/S trawlers, 4 M/S trawlers, 5 M.B.B. vessels, M.L's if weather permits. (C.in C. Nore 1600/22).

Air Escort.

Your 1131/19, para. III, A/S air escort for Atlantic Convoy. 2 Sunderlands sent, one returned, weather, second failed to meet R.L. (C.in C. Rosyth 1712/22).

E.N. 31.

Sail at 1500/24 and act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 31 sailing 1830/24.

W.N. 44.

On meeting transfer to W.N.44 due Cape Wrath 0030/25. (C.in C. Rosyth 2151/22 to HASTINGS)

H.X.85)
H.X.86)

May have been sighted by Italian U-boat. (D.D.I.C., 2230/22 to HELIOTROPE, CASTLETON), SABRE and SARDONYX to join H.X.85 (C.in C. W.A., 2222/22).

S.C.11.

Reported by enemy aircraft at 0755 G.M.T. (C.in C. W.A., to OTTAWA, 0943/22)

C.E.17.

Passed Dover at 0630. (V.A. Dover to Admty. 0746/22).

E.N.30.

DANEMAN and HORNPIPE. Additional escort GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2320/22.)

S.L.54.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1521/22 to WALKER, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS, etc.)

Routes.

Cancel my 1007/15. Substitute following. (C.in C. S.A., 0908/22)

Iceland.

My 1235/18/?9. Merchant Ships other than transports and store ships chartered by the Ministry of Shipping remain subject to the Icelandic Regulations Customs Clearance and must enter one of five controlled Ports on arrival from United Kingdom before proceeding elsewhere. (F.O. Iceland 0932/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

611

Shipping. (Continued)

S/M Escort.
Halifax
Convoys

It has been decided that a submarine shall occasionally accompany Homeward Bound Halifax convoys, preferably those with weak ocean escort. PORPOISE has been detailed for this duty. She will be ready to leave U.K. on 26/11. C.in C. W.A. requested to sail her for Halifax.
(D.O.D.(H) 2341/22).

Troop Convoys.
ORDUNA
ADDA

My 1301/20. Omit CATHAY, FORTHBANK, (C.in C. W.A., 1020/22). Intend sailing ORDUNA for Bermuda and ADDA for Freetown escorted by HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK and HURRICANE 1800/23, to R.V. with A.M.C's from Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0959/22) Your 1039/21, re destroyer escort. HIGHLANDER will not be available owing to defect.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1503/22 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 1039/21. HIGHLANDER not available, propose HESPERUS replace her (C.in C. W.A. to Admty., 1600/22).

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

612

Operations Against Vichy French.

WINNIPEG
DJENNE

Sailed 1400/21) Both from Liverpool for
Sails 1600/23) Gibraltar with safe
conduct from British and
German Governments.
(C.in C. W.A., 1431/22).

CUBA.

Your 2015/14. This information should
be withheld from French as long as possible.
If N.A. presses enquiries he may be told
CUBA has been taken in for examination.
(Hd. of M. to N.A., Madrid, 1159/22).
CUBA left 26/10 Fort de France for
Casablanca with 1250 passengers and cargo.
French Embassy very anxious for
information as no news of her.
(N.A. Madrid to Admty., 2007/22).

Libreville
Defence.

C.S.I's 1235/21. Presume you are able
to supply material. (D. of L.D., to
C.in C. S.A. 2113/22).

INDOCHINOIS

My 1759/18, (proposal that COLONIAL
should embark passengers). N.C.S.O.
St. Vincent now reports COLONIAL her
full cabin accommodation and Master will
not take deck passengers. (C.in C. S.A.,
1116/22).

North Atlantic.

ARGUS
NORFOLK

Apart from considerations in A.T. 1915/20,
could it be arranged to sail ARGUS for
U.K. to R.V. with NORFOLK in position
about 38° N., 15° W., at noon/25?
(D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., 1404/22).
Your 1404. ARGUS degaussing defective
owing damage in heavy weather. Repairs
reported to complete about 30/11.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1626/22). Cancel Admty.
1404/22 as ARGUS must remain Gibraltar
until completion of Board of Inquiry.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2111/22).

CLAN FORBES
Operation
"Collar"

Instruct CLAN FORBES to dismount as much
as possible of her disguise by dawn 25/11.
She is required to represent a cargo
vessel. (S.O. Force H to SHEFFIELD,
2127/22).

Corvettes.

My 0405/19 para. VII F.O.C. 18th C.S.
prefers that after Force "F" has parted
company corvettes should in any case
proceed south of Skerki bank and arrive
0800 rendezvous on D.6.
In view of large alteration of course
required during passage of narrow at night
and possibility that corvettes may be
unable to keep up, I concur.
If you agree request V.A. Malta will
signal route for corvettes clear of that
for Force "F". (S.O. Force H, 2200/22, to
C.in C. Med.) / Operation "Collar", ...

[Reply, p. 645.]



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation
"Collar",
ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 0217/22. From information available it appears Italians can concentrate in Western Basin three battleships, five to seven 8" cruisers, several 6" cruisers, and other light forces, between time Force H leaves Gibraltar and critical period during passage south of Sardinia.

Against this Force RENOWN, three modern and one old six inch Cruisers have to protect 15 knots convoy and effect concentration midday with RAMILLIES, NEWCASTLE, and COVENTRY.

Unless possibility of Italian concentration can be definitely excluded, I consider employment of ROYAL SOVEREIGN in operation "Collar" essential.

Presence of ROYAL SOVEREIGN with M.T. ships will enable Force H to support RAMILLIES if threatened before concentration. (S.O. Force H, 0910/22, to Admty.)

Your 0910/22. Approved for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to be included in Operation "Collar". (D.O.D.(F), 1708/22)

Your 1708/22. Am informed by F.O.C.N.A. that further examination of ROYAL SOVEREIGN's boiler indicates that it is unlikely that she can be made ready for sea before 27/11. Under these circumstances we must rely on Italians displaying their usual lack of initiative.

(S.O. Force H, 1911/22, to Admty.)

Your 0910/22. I consider your statement unduly pessimistic. Available information shows there is only one CAVOUR Class battleship in western basin. Chance of any serious concentration against your force appears more remote now than in any previous operation since ~~1911~~, more especially as three Mediterranean Battleships will be in central area. (C.in C. Med., 2315/22).

PUNGUE.

For M.E.W. PUNGUE Lobito to Lisbon, 5800 tons general cargo and mail. Has certificate of origin but no Navicert as ship was calling at San Thome where there is no British Consul. Request mail be removed. Not advisable at sea. No cargo embarked at San Thome. Is ship to be diverted to Gibraltar to remove mail? Request early decision as KINGSTON JACINTH is at present off her patrol and in company with PUNGUE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1233/22).

/ Your 1233/22

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1233/22. Send FUNGUE to Gibraltar for removal of mails and detain pending instructions. (D.E.W.D. to F.O.C. N.A., 1611/22)

GEMEAUX.

French schooner, 604 tons, intercepted 2000/22, 130 miles N.E. of Azores. Is being sent into Gibraltar (D.O.R. 24/11).

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS

Admiralty 1753/20/10/40 and 1913/29/10/40. Brazilian SIQUEIRA CAMPOS brought in by Armed Guard, bound Brazil. Has large general cargo all covered by certificates of origin except 500 tons war material in cases, contents not detailed, from Germany consigned to Brazilian Government. Vessel has no navicert from Lisbon. Ship detained pending instructions. (Conband, Gibraltar, 1245/22).

South Atlantic.

OSTHAV

Overdue Shipping. My 1106/21. Arrived East London. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0915B/22).

SITOEBOONDO

Overdue Shipping. My 1105/21. Cancel SITOEBOONDO. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0925/22).

HARMATTAN

Overdue Shipping. My 1105/21. HARMATTAN passed Cape of Good Hope 1100/22 bound Durban. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1145/22).

NIEUW HOLLAND
SCYTHIA
DUNERA
CORNWALL

Your 1204/20. NIEUW HOLLAND has arrived Durban. In view of Admty 2215/20 am holding ship here. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0958Z/22, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
Your ? This can be arranged. Assuming you will now concur with Admty. 2215/20, I intend transfer of troops from SCYTHIA to NIEUW HOLLAND and DUNERA shall take place at Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, to C.in C. S.A., 1114B/22).
Your 2215/20. I concur. N.O.I.C. Simonstown to arrange transfer of troops. CORNWALL to take necessary action as regards movement. (C.in C. S.A., to Admty., 1859/22).

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Your 1329/18. Matter still under review. It has to be considered with other impending operations. A policy signal giving intended dispositions will be made shortly. (D.O.D., to C.in C. S.A., 1405/22).

Corvettes.

Admty. 0027/21. Requesting information re W/T (C.in C. S.A., 1700/22)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

A.M.C's

Your 1912/21. Details of largest drafts carried in ships. (C.in C. S.A., 2059 N/22 amended 1245/24).

A.M.C's
Catapults

Your 1913/21. Request may be informed of policy regarding fitting of catapults (C.in C. S.A. 2005 N/22 to Admiralty)

Shipping.

Cancel my 1007/15 and substitute. (Routes) (C.in C. S.A., 0908/22)

A/S Vessels
for Mediterranean.

Admty. 1832/18/11. General Smuts has agreed to release four A/S vessels for C.in C. Mediterranean. It is probable, however, that Union Government would prefer to send four Southern Class Whalecatchers in which full equipment is at present fitted. These are far superior vessels both in speed and seaworthiness. Vessels concerned are SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN FLOE, SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEA. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1140B/22, to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

Sunderlands.

Admty. 1310/20. This would seriously reduce an already inadequate reconnaissance, but as they are urgently required I will do without them. Presume Air Ministry will arrange with A.O.I.C. Middle East. (C.in C. Med., 1523/22).

Taranto
Photographs.

My 2010/15. Photographs of Taranto are contained in item No. 5, bag No. 269, left Malta by air this day. Bag is urgently required at Admty. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0831/22, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

Greece.

Situation. (M.A. Athens to W.O. 0310/22).

Distribution,
ADMIRAL SCHEER.

Following are urgent considerations which demand some redistribution of the Fleet:-

- (1) Appearance of ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER in North Atlantic.
- (2) Uncertainty whether ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER has proceeded south.
- (3) Probable existence of 5 enemy surface raiders in S. Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- (4) Increasing troop reinforcements to Middle East via the Cape.

Considered imperative that raider hunting groups be formed without delay.

Proposals. (1 S.L. 0215/22 to C.in C. Med.) (See Med. Vol.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Reply. BARHAM has serious machinery breakdown. Suggestions re VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, BERWICK, EXETER. (C.in C. Med., 1057/22, to Admty). (See Med. Vol.) Your 1057/22. Reasons for not withdrawing VALIANT appreciated and concurred with. Undesirable to withdraw either BARHAM or MALAYA at present.

Proposal re BERWICK and EXETER (1 S.L., 2157/22, to C.in C. Med.)
(See Med. Vol.)

Greek Ships.

Re chartering. (P.S.T.O. Egypt to N.A. Athens 1943/22)

EOCENE,
Roumanian
Oil.

Your 1717/20. Following sent to Ambassador, Angora begins:-
Whilst importance of Turkey getting all oil possible from Roumania is appreciated doubtful whether any reliance can be placed upon Roumanian supplies being available for a period long enough to justify transfer of EOCENE to Turkish flag. Also felt that transfer might not prevent vessel being held at Constanza. EOCENE is one of few tankers in position for carriage of oil supplies to Greece and Turkey from Haifa and Egypt and it is considered she could be of more assistance to Turkey in that trade. Explain our views to Turkish Government and oil company making it clear we are influenced entirely by the desire to serve Turkey's best interests. (Ends). Unless Ambassador urges recommendation EOCENE should be despatched to Egypt as soon as possible.
(D. of S.T., 2030/22, to C. in C. Med.)

British Air
Raids.
APHIS
Bombardment,
Maktila.

Operational Summary 165. Night 20/21 Nov. 7 Blenheims bombed Sollum Bardia Tobruk Benina Berka and Benghazi. Bombs burst in target area at Sollum Bardia and Tobruk. At Benina aerodrome control building hit and several aircraft on ground damaged by small bombs and M.G. fire. Berka one large barrack building set on fire. Benghazi bombs fell near 3 ships and hit Customs House. Another large building blew up following direct hit. 1 Blenheim also dropped flares at Maktila to illuminate enemy camp during bombardment by APHIS. All aircraft returned safely. Day 21/11. 1 Sunderland made recco. of passage from Suda Bay to Alexandria.
(H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1151/22).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

APHIS successfully bombarded Maktila Camp for one hour during night of 20/11. Ineffective shore fire was encountered. No damage or casualties to ship. Intend issuing following communique. During night of Nov. 20th a naval unit assisted by air co-operation successfully bombarded Maktila Camp on Libyan Coast for one hour. Three large fires were started. The enemy returned fire but caused no damage or casualties. (C.in C. Med. 1231/22).

East Indies.Raider.

My 1322/?13. A.C.N.B. 1145/20 and C.in C. China 1645/21 signify that raider is a warship or has appearance of one. Is there information to substantiate this? (C.in C. E.I., 0530 Z/22 to Admt). Your 0530Z/22. No evidence here to show that raider is or resembles a warship. Cases have occurred before of ships signalling RRRR in error for QQQQ. (D.D.I.C. 1143/22).

Mombasa,
Sea Transport Staff.

My 1834/6 and 1212/16. The existing Sea Transport staff insufficient to prepare and implement the supply side of operations. Request 2 additional S.T.O.'s Grade 3 be appointed to arrive not later end March 1941. (C.in C. E.I. 1256Z/22).

Kismayu,
COLOMBO.

My 0446/12 and my 1120/17. COLOMBO sighted no shipping or Dhows at sea. 13 ships observed in Kismayu and confirmation is being obtained that this total did not include ASKARI, KIONGA. Confirmed newcomer resembled GIUSEPPE MAZZINI. [Confirmation, see page 647]
My 0324/17, description of coaster fits ACHILLE LAURO. Air reconnaissance about 20/11 indicated no change in number or disposition of ships at Kismayu since 4/11. (C.in C. E.I., 0556/22, to Admt.)

RHEINLAND,
Shipment
to Japanese R.V.

S.O.(I) Karachi reports post intercepted on 21/11 from Miyimoto Bussan Kaisha to Victor Ajsevid, Aleppo stating "Cargo Ex German ship RHEINLAND shipped earlier from Batavia to Nagoya now reshipped to Basra for overland despatch, in Japanese MANTAI MARU expected to leave Nagoya 16/11." Cargo not known. (S.O.I., Bombay 0604Z/22 to Arfar).

/ STEAUA ROMANU. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies.

STEAUUA ROMANU.

Your 1118/21 Repatriation of Roumanian crew of steamer STEAUUA ROMANU. Yes, please. Request early despatch to Mombasa. Will crew take ship the whole way to U.K.? (C.in C. E.I., 0634Z/22 to S.S.T.O. India)

STAR OF ALEXANDRIA

M.I.C.E. Telegram 9002 21/11. S.N.O. Red Sea inform C.C.S. Officer Aden, STAR OF ALEXANDRIA cleared ^{from} for Port Said by C.C.S.O. 13/11 with full cargo of Egyptian sugar for Bushire via Bandar Shahpur. (C.in C. E.I. 0638Z/22, to Admty., etc.)

Convoys
W.S.4.
U.S.7.

Admty. 2252/20 and 2211/15. Escort in southern half of Red Sea will not be available for more than one W.S.4 convoy at same time owing to B.N. and B.S. convoy commitments. Proposed that W.S.4A and W.S.4C proceed through Red Sea in company, and that W.S.4B either proceeds through Red Sea with A and C or pass Aden 5 days after A and C. Anticipated U.S.7 will proceed through Red Sea in sufficient time before W.S.4A and C, but this is dependent on availability for escort from Fremantle. (C.in C. E.I., 0732Z/22 to Admty.)

British Air Report.

Operational Summary 165. Sudan. Night Nov. 20/21. Wellesleys bombed Gura, Asmara, and Massawa setting fire to a building at Gura. Damage elsewhere not observed. Day 21/11. One Wellesley made an anti-submarine patrol off Port Sudan. 2 S.79's bombed Port Sudan no damage or casualties resulting. Two Gladiators intercepted combat indecisive. All aircraft returned safely. [See also 0744/23 p.647.] (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1152/22).

Para.4. Kenya. 20/11 and 21. S.A.A.F. made coastal patrol Mombasa and reccos. Dicks Head and Takaaba. Bombs dropped on Buna by S.A.A.F. recco. aircraft. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E. 1153/22).

Economic Warfare.

Telegram 9002 21/11. Evidence accumulating that blockade of Syria being evaded by greatly increased imports via and from Iraq. Stated in Syrian press that arrangements in hand to bring in large purchases sugar, tea, caustic soda, and that Iraqi Consul-General gone to Bagdad on economic mission. (M.I.C.E. 1228/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

My 1311/2. Following received from Ottawa. (Begins.) N.C.S.O. New York is concerned about fuel and endurance worked out for complete voyage particularly the last stage as no allowance appears to have been made for evasively routeing.

Suggest this might be checked. (Ends.)

Owners state that on basis of speed of advance of 23 knots QUEEN ELIZABETH has 500 miles range beyond that required for voyage from Capetown to Singapore.

Request report whether this considered adequate.

If not propose vessel proceed to Trincomalee for fuelling.

(D.S.T. 1619/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

S.S.T.O. Bombay's 0555/15.

QUEEN ELIZABETH is expected to commence Transport Service (date). Desired to operate her in Convoy with QUEEN MARY. Can arrangements be made to deal with both vessels simultaneously at Trincomalee or alternatively one at Trincomalee and one at Colombo?

After transshipment at above ports it is hoped that no further transshipment will be required for troops destined Middle East. (D.S.T. 1853/22 to C.in C. E.I.)

(Reply: 1704/23, p. 648.)

QUEEN MARY.

Reply to P.S.T.O. India 0555/15/11.

Disadvantages to be overcome at Trincomalee (C.in C. 1254Z/22 to D.S.T.)

Transport Capacity.

Your 0622/1. Arrangements will be made for your to be informed as requested. In exceptional cases where vessels cannot proceed from Cape to Suez without replenishment personnel will be transhipped in South Africa to other suitable vessels.

It was intended in order to avoid call at Aden that personnel for Aden should proceed to Suez in first place and return thence in a B.S. Convoy. Capacity of OROPESA and KEDIVE ISMAIL.

(D. of S.T. 2203/22 to C.in C. E.I.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

C.in C.
Far East.

Admty. 2329/19/10. Additional amendment to directive to C.in C. Far East, approved by Chiefs of Staff. (1 S.L., to C.in C. China, 0049/22).

TEDDY.

Abadan

Norwegian tanker, due Singapore 17/11, not arrived. Left ~~Aberdeen~~ 25/10 Route. (S.O.I., Singapore, 0145/22).

Indo-China.

Situation. Report for de Gaulle from de Schompre No. 19, 21/11. States no Japanese ships near Saigon. Adm. Decoux has decided to resist any Thailand aggression but would accede all Japanese demands. (C.in C. China 0331Z/22).

Potential
Raider,
ELANDS FONTEIN

Dutch source reports motor vessel ELANDS FONTEIN rumoured to be completed for service as raider. (C.O.S.Singapore 0913Z/22).

America and West Indies.

German Ships,
Local Craft
used for reconn.

Enemy merchant ships lying in neutral ports may possibly employ agents launches or other local craft to reconnoitre to seaward before they break out. This was done by HELGOLAND on day of departure Puerto Colombia. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1802/22 to DIOMEDE, CARADOC, PRINCE ROBERT, VAN KINSBERGEN.)

Crew Trouble.

My 1228/20. ^{N/T} As crew refused to sail without high angle gun the 12 pdr. H.A. from s.s. TREDINNICK was supplied. Crew still refuse to sail unless repairs to refrigeration are made.

/k. NORTRASHIP New York regard written statement when crew signed that men would not be forced to proceed U.K. unless ship complete in all details, crew only left New York on this understanding. See my 1536/19 to Admiralty and C.O.A.C. Halifax only which is relevant. Essential whole Brine system should be repaired (dates). Movement of troops for passage has been cancelled. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1921/22.)

Hurford →

We ought to get some
signal about CANBERRA.

All signals of moments of
operational significance should
be marked to W.D.:

W.D.

War Registry,

Have you any signal, please, re
CANBERRA having left Perth to investigate
radio reports from MAIMOA?

Gen W Hurford

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W.D.

Regret we cannot oblige ²³ without
more details i.e. from whom signal was
made or approximate date etc.

R. M. Smith

for W.D. 22/11

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Friday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Troop Movements. A.C.N.B. 0713Z/18. N.Z.N.B. reports that approx. New Zealand requirements 6500 ready end of March, then 4100 every 3 months. (A.C.N.B. 0635Z/22 to D. of S.T.)

CANBERRA.
PERTH.
Raider.

see 21.11.40

CANBERRA proceeded at 1430Z/20 to locate raider attacking MAIMOA. PERTH proceeded at 0037Z/22 in support. Sailing of U.S.7 is delayed until return of CANBERRA and PERTH. (A.C.N.B. 0420Z/22) PERTH left Fremantle 0037Z/22 to assist in search for raider. Proceeding initially along latitude, 20° S. (A.C.N.B., 0810Z/22)

GRUNGAL.

U.S.N. Company. Grounded off Barwon Heads, Victoria, 1215Z/21. Abandoned. No lives lost. (A.C.N.B., 1521Z/22).

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Friday.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ELANDSFONTEIN

Dutch sources reports motor vessel ELANDSFONTEIN rumoured to be completed for service as raider. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0913Z/22). (New vessel under construction at Danzig).

RHEINLAND

Shipment in Japanese MANTAI MARU (See East Indies).

CORDELIA

Arrived from Russia (Galatz, 1113/22)

LECH

Arrived from Vigo 1100/22. (Bilbao, 1845/22). Admty. 1134/21. If LECH is proceeding to Bordeaux she may arrive p.m./23. (V.A.S. to S/M's on patrol).

SPEZIA.

Arrived 21/11 from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1237/22).

?

Post pilot has informed Portugese friend German Steamship KS due to sail dawn 23/11.
Shipping Company's clerk says Captain has requested his account. (Both B.2). Keeping in touch. There are rumours German submarine may be waiting to escort her. (Vice Consul, Horta, 2222/22)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

RAPALLO.

Navy Dept. report from Cartagena, RAPALLO reported to be raising steam p.m./19. (N.A. Washington, 1249/22).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

YALOU

My 0210/20. Understand that delay to YALOU due to insurance agents refusing to cover their consignment of rice unless vessel carry Navycert. French naval officer's enquiry at Consulate General on 20/11 concerning Navycerts tends to confirm this. Same source states that application for Navycert has been prohibited by Vichy.
(N.C.S.O. Saigon, 0225Z/22, to Admty.)

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Friday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

HAVBOR

HAVBOR from Cape Town 1/11 due Freetown 17/11 has not arrived. This may have been Norwegian tanker sunk by submarine at 1715/15 in position 004° 24' N. 013° 46' W. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1552/22).

GREE
(torpedoed 21/11)

Your 2341/21. Have searched area since 0230. No sign of GREE or boats. Intend proceeding to join S.C.11 at 0600. (ST. LAURENT, 0459/22 to C.in C. W.A.) Your 0459. Remain in vicinity until after daylight. (C.in C. W.A. to ST. LAURENT, 0609/22) Sunderland a/c being despatched to assist search, should reach area about noon. Remain searching as long as fuel permits. (C.in C. W.A. 0950/22 to ST. LAURENT)

BRADFYNE

Master of Norwegian S.S. LISBETH in Convoy S.C.11 reports British S.S. BRADFYNE ship in convoy was torpedoed 23 or /22. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1310/25). *torpedoed 2230/22 see 28/11.*

VICTORIA
(torpedoed
21/11)

Detach one Corvette to stand by VICTORIA torpedoed and abandoned in position 056° 08' N. 014° 20' W. at 1015/21. BRITISH HONDURAS sailed Campbeltown 1246/21 to take VICTORIA in tow. Corvette detailed is to report position course and speed of O.G. 46 when well clear of Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1151/22 to CALDWELL).

Submarines Reported.

0308.

59.50 N., 10° W., position indefinite. (D.D.I.C. 0343/22).

0148.

55.30 to 56.30 N., 16.30 to 19.30 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 444).

1938)
2131)

D.F. bearings indicate Convoys H.X.85 or H.X.86 may have been sighted by Italian U/B. (D.D.I.C. 2230/22 to HELIOTROPE, CASTLETON).

1642.

54.30 N., 20° W., indefinite. (D.S.445).

1938)
2131)

58° to 59° N., 16° to 18° W., indefinite (D.S. 445) Italian U/B.

0300.

Norwegian SITONA straggling from W.N.41 reports sighting submarine on surface in position 12 miles N.W. from Cape Wrath at 0300/21st. November. This ship has no gun and has made no previous report. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1645/22).

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Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Use of Rio de Oro. Consul Tangiers 1605/17. Request you will investigate report that Rio de Oro of Canary Is. are being used by Italian U-Boats. (D.D.I.C. 1612/22 to S.O.I., Gibraltar).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - 1 was some 280 miles S.W. of Fastnet at 2031/21. This unit was in about 46 degrees N. 11 degrees W. on 14th November, so may be on patrol in Western Approaches.
2 in N.W. Approaches or farther W., whereabouts unknown.

German - 1 in Sierra Leone area.
1 may be in Western Approaches.
1 was about 135 miles W., of Slyne Head at 1412/21, and may be northward bound.
1 in area 55 degrees to 56 degrees N. 13 degrees to 15 degrees W.
1 was in 54 degrees 39' N. 18 degrees 50' W. at 2328/21.
1 in area 55 degrees 30' to 56 degrees 30' N. 16 degrees 30' to 19 degrees 30' W.
1 probably some 50 miles to southward of Rockall.
1 somewhere about 60 degrees N. 21 degrees W.
1 was in about 59 degrees 50' N. 10 degrees W. at 0308/22, and is probably outward bound.
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1250/22.)

Rocket Signals of U/B Attacks

Masters of ships in Convoy are still not sufficiently impressed with vital necessity of firing a rocket when their own ship or another ship close to them is attacked by U-Boat. If this is not done the escort, in conditions of high wind and dark nights, is frequently unaware that an attack has taken place until it is too late to enable successful, or indeed any, counter-action to be taken.

All possible emphasis must be given to this point by N.C.S.O's at Convoy conferences. Masters should be told that there is little hope of reducing the U-Boat menace by the destructions of U-Boats unless they play this essential part in counter-attack. (D.T.D. 1645/22).



MOST SECRET.

22.11.1940.
Friday.

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War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1535.

By a/c, 55.28 N., 8.01 W., at 1535.
(A/C via Plymouth W/T, 1608/22).

After fuelling proceed with all despatch to position 055° 28' North 008° 01' West. U-boat reported by aircraft at 1539. Report situation to A.C. Western Approaches at daylight. (N.I.C. Londonderry 1715/22).

N.O.I.C. Londonderry's 1715/22. If no further information regarding U-boat attacked by a/c proceed now to join H.X.85. (C.in C. W.A., 2222/22, to SABRE and SARDONYX).

23.11.1940
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

At 1555 today a Coastal Command aircraft sighted 8 to 12 merchant ships 30 miles N.E. of Ushant, proceeding up Channel. The aircraft was chased off by enemy fighters and could not make a detailed report. Intelligence pointed also to the possibility that 3 enemy destroyers would be operating tonight between the Isle of Wight and 60° W possibly proceeding from Brest to Cherbourg.

Destroyer
Operation

Captain D. 5 with 5 destroyers of 5th D.F. left Plymouth at 2050 today to intercept and destroy the enemy convoy which was thought to be probably proceeding from Brest to Cherbourg. ~~These~~ destroyers from Portsmouth Command under DUNEDIN carried out a sweep to the westward to the limit of the Portsmouth Command to cooperate with Captain D.5. The necessary orders were issued to s/M's on patrol to keep clear of the area; and local patrols of small vessels were withdrawn from the area and merchant vessels warned. See p. 632.

Air reconnaissance was arranged, but at 2127 the aircraft had to return to base on account of the weather.

U-Boat
Attacks

U-Boats were active in the North West Approaches last night and today. Eight ships were torpedoed, in, and stragglers from, Convoys S.C. 11 and O.B. 244.

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Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber
Command

A heavy attack was carried out last night on the aerodrome at Bordeaux, and good weather aided a most successful operation. Hangars, barrack buildings and aircraft on the ground were set on fire and destroyed.

Aerodromes at Schipol and Antwerp (Deurne) and the seaplane base at St. Nazaire were also attacked.

The Naval bases at Lorient and Bordeaux, and Channel ports were also attacked; in most cases fires and explosions resulted.

Coastal
Command

A Blenheim on routine patrol today bombed a W/T station on Vikero Island (Norwegian Coast). Three Blenheims obtained near misses on 2 merchant vessels 30 miles south of Horns Reef.

Six Blenheims successfully attacked the power station and U-Boats at Brest between 1730 and 1830 today. Blenheims also attacked Lorient at 1800 today.

F.A.A.

Four Swordfish bombed the dock area of Boulogne at 1920 today.

Enemy Air Activity

The Portsmouth-Southampton area was attacked this evening up to 2230 hours.

Mining

Operation
S.N. 11.

Four ships of 1st M.L.S., with BATH and ST ALBANS (ST. MARYS was delayed) left Port Z.A. today to lay mines in Denmark Strait. AURORA is to provide ocean escort, and 1st B.C.S. in HOOD will provide cover.

Operation
Z.M.E. 3.

ADVENTURE completed this minelaying operation at 0030/23 in the south St. Georges Channel.

/Aircraft.....



23.11.1940
Saturday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

Aircraft
Minelaying

Two mines were laid off Lorient last night.

NEW COMET
Damaged

LL Trawler NEW COMET was damaged by near mine explosion in the Tyne this afternoon.

K.3.
Blown up.

Mine observation patrol craft K.3. was blown up by a mine off Inchkeith Light this afternoon.

SAILOR KING
Mined

H.M.D. SAILOR KING was mined at 1555/23 in the Colne off Brightlingsea.

GOOD DESIGN
Blown up

M.F.V. GOOD DESIGN was blown up p.m. today in the Firth of Forth.

Ports Affected

Milford Haven. Port is open; local restrictions. Two mines detonated.

Plymouth. Restrictions on Diesel engines. One mine detonated.

Thames Estuary. Mines reported dropped by aircraft last night. One exploded on surface.

Falmouth. Closed, 2104.

Faroes. Mines possibly dropped in Nolso Fiord.

Humber opened 0447, closed 1935.

Operations Against Vichy French

British and Allied ships may now call at all ports in French Cameroons and French Equatorial Africa, including Gabon.



War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

French
Ships

It is reported that all French ships have orders to Scuttle themselves if in danger of falling into our hands, and all escorts have orders to fire if we interfere with their convoys.

The French Schooner GEMEAUX (604 tons) was intercepted this evening 130 miles N.E. of Azores and is being sent to Gibraltar.

South Atlantic

Raider *GLENBEG

A disguised merchant raider was reported this afternoon by the *GLENBERG off the West Coast of Africa.

Mediterranean

Steps have been taken to ensure the safety and immunity from legal procedure of French ships requisitioned and now under the British Flag which call at Egyptian ports.

A French troop convoy which left Beirut today is suspected of carrying political prisoners, contrary to guarantee, and possibly cargo and military equipment. If such is the case, the prisoners are to be removed and the ships sent in.

Wellingtons last night heavily attacked Bari with success. Bombs were also dropped on the entrance to the inner harbour at Taranto.

There was an air raid on Malta this morning and another this afternoon. Damage was very slight.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

630

23.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

C. in C., E.I. has asked that A.M.C.'s on his station may be fitted with aircraft on account of the prevalence of raiders on this station.

America & West Indies

Until further orders French ships trading between U.S.A. and French West Indies will not be sent in but will be allowed to proceed.

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Two Destroyers for Canada.

(N.T. & U.D.)
Your 1217/8. I have investigated this question and we can accept two TRIBAL destroyers for Canada to be ordered in May, 1941, and laid down in August, 1941, when your first two destroyers will have been launched.

If you can now confirm this order the necessary arrangements will be made.

(1st S.L. 1239/23 to C.N.S. Canada)

Defence of U.K."Deluge"
DESIGNS

At 0700/23 (D.C. 0704/23) At 1130/23 (D.C. 1147/23)
At 2340/23 (D.C. 2350/23)

Campbeltown
A/A Defences

Recent bombing of Campbeltown by a low flying aircraft shows necessity for A/A defences particularly in view of its isolated position and its important naval establishments. It is understood that A/A gun defences intended cannot be provided before end of March. Consider that machine gun posts should be provided forthwith.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2244/23 to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements.M.L. 125

Left Harwich 0842 to join F.S. Convoy for Chatham.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0847/23 to Adty).

HONNINGSVAAG

Request may patrol between T.R. 37 and Coast, when available. (F.O.C.N.P. 1008/23 to F.O.I.C. Iceland)

ST. LAURENT

Indicate your position, course, and speed (C. in C. W.A. 1021/23) *for reply see p. 651*

Patrol Areas.

Amend para. 2. of 71.ZT00.0949/16 in accordance with R.A.N.P.'s 1642/22 (C in C. H.F. 1134/23 to H.F.)

Dover.

Patrols for Night 23/24 (V.A. Dover 1304/23)

French T.B.'s

My 1923/16. 3 French T.B.'s should be ready to sail for W.A. during week beginning 24/11 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1537/23 to Adty)

Ships out of Action.

Ships of Nore Command out of action at Humber, Chatham, London, Tyne, Sunderland, and Hartlepool. (C. in C. Nore 1546/23 to Adty).

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (1)

Iceland.

Request information when LEONIAN may be expected to relieve DEVON CITY. Also when BARRHEAD and BARRINGTON may be expected. STALBERG can be spared and propose to sail her for Rosyth first opportunity. BARCLIFF must remain until relieved. All B.I. Indicator Net now weighed. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 0952/23 to D. of B.D.).

BERKELEY)
WITCH)

Patrol Westward tonight covering M/V group and return to Portsmouth (C.in C. Portsmouth 1247/23 to Adty)
Cancel my 1247/23 and 1107/23 and westbound movements in my 1257/23 (C.in C. Portsmouth 1743/23 to Adty).

KASHMIR)
JAVELIN)
JACKAL)
JUPITER)
JERSEY)

5 Destroyers of 5th D.F. under D.5 will patrol 5 to 15 miles 160° from Prawle Point from about 2100 today. (C. in C. W.A. 1751/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth) Proceed when ready Return to Plymouth 0930. Object, to intercept and destroy 3 Enemy Destroyers in Channel tonight between 6°W and 1° 30'W probably proceeding from Brest to Cherbourg. (C. in C. W.A. 1833/23 to D.5 and 2317/23 to Adty). Proceed in execution. Despatch is necessary (C. in C. W.A. 2025/23 to Captain D.5) 5th D.F. left Plymouth 2050 for 49° 30'N 3° 25'W at 25 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 2209/23 to UPHOLDER).

My 1833 and 1933. Object now is destruction of Convoy probably proceeding to Cherbourg. 5th D.F. endeavour to intercept before passing 3°W. Propose DUNEDIN aim to intercept to East of 2 40'W. Unless contact made with Enemy it is undesirable for own Forces to meet. (C. in C. W.A. 1005/23 to D.5)

Operations (2)

Operation P.T.2.

Will be carried out between 2030 and 2130 tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1809/23 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

DUNEDIN
BERKELEY
WITCH

All previous night movements to the West cancelled. DUNEDIN, BERKELEY, WITCH, are carrying out a sweep to the West to the limit of Portsmouth Command arriving in position 50° 10' N. 3° 00'W. at 0030/24 then steering Southward for 20 miles then returning Portsmouth to be off Nab at 0745. This force will be available to co-operate with forces of Western Approaches if situation requires it. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/23 to C. in C. W.A)

C. in C. W.A. 2005. Convoy may arrive Cherbourg daylight. Proceed as far south as is safe on meridian 2° 40' W before returning to arrive Nab. 0745.



23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (2) (Continued).

Keep clear of area W.2 Northern and Western limits 50 degrees 05' North and 2 degrees 00' West.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2133/23 to DUNEDIN)

Milford Haven

Operations 24/11 cancelled owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1823/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

Dover shelled

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 18 rounds between 0930 and 1017 today. Shells fell near R.M. Siege Battery. No. casualties or damage reported (V.A. Dover 1856/23 to Adty)

Submarines.

Greenock Area.

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1203/23)

L.26.

Exercising in Scapa Flow A.M. and P.M. tomorrow (ACOS 1617/23)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/24 (V.A.S. 1811/23)

UPHOLDER)
SEAWOLF)

(See operations) UPHOLDER keep more than 30 miles away from coast until 0130/24. SEAWOLF patrol between 001° and 002° W and South of 50° 5'N. (Capt. S.S. 1827/23 and 2201/23 to UPHOLDER) 5 Destroyers and 3 Destroyers operating. Keep well clear. Enemy Destroyer may be met between longitude Lizard Head and Needles. (Capt. S. 5. 1931/23 to UPHOLDER, SEAWOLF)

British Air Activity.

Willemsoord }
Gravelines, }
Helder }
Vlieland }

Attacked by A/C on 22/11 (H.Q.B.C. 0137/23)

Portsmouth

Re-siting Portsmouth impossible without impairing effectiveness of Barrage. Suggest Adty. release Balloons from other naval Barrages. (H.Q. Balloon Command 1100/23 to Air Ministry) My 1359/20, Balloon Command are investigating possibility and re-siting. (ACNSH, 1910/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Single Balloon Patrol

Adty. 1739/18 and 1636/21. If you have no objection, C. in C. W.A.'s suggestion should be tried on 3 nights when weather permits. (Air Ministry 1201/23 to Fighter Command)

/Lorient.....

23.11.40.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity (Continued)

Lorient.

A/C of ~~54~~ Squadron to attack Naval Dockyard tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1310/23 to 16 Group, Thorney Island)

Boulogne

A/C to destroy E-Boats and Shipping tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1314/23 to 16 Group, North Coates)

Ship firing on own A/C

So. T.L.D.F. reports at 1047/23 that at 0753/23 ARISTOCRAT opened fire with whole armament at an A/C which eventually fired correct Recognition Lights. Requests A/C be asked either not to fly low over Patrol Vessels or to fire Recognition Lights on approaching them. (C. in C. Nore 1600/23 to Adty).

Patrols.

Assessments (C. in C. Rosyth 1812/23 to Adty) A/C Patrol is now amended, and will be continuous on line Lizard Head to 49° 25'N 3°W (C. in C. W.A. 2133/23).

Enemy Air Activity.

Eastleigh.

At 0045/23, 7 Bombs dropped on West side of Aerodrome. Electric Light cut. No further damage or casualties. (Eastleigh 1020/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth) Estimated Repairs £10 (Supt. C.E. Portsmouth 1130/23 to C.E. in C.)

Convoy "Beatty".
~~BEET~~

One A/C shadowing in 51° 45'N. 1° 25'E. Course 226°, speed 8 knots. (VERDUN 1025/23)

Faroes

My 2232/22. One or two enemy seaplanes flew over entrance Skaale Fiord Thorshavn and Nolio Fiord between 1725 and 1735/22. 2 Torpedoes were fired at shipping in Thorshavn Bay and both exploded on the beach. Minor damage ashore and no casualties. Failing light hampered observation and no evidence of mines having been dropped, though this possibly exists if two seaplanes were present. Torpedo fragments will be forwarded to A.C.O.S. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1130/23 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1130/23. Can you state if enemy aircraft were monoplanes or biplanes, floatplanes or flying boats twin or four engined and any other details which might assist identification. (A.C.O.S. 1615/23 to N.O.I.C. Faroos).

/Your.....

23.11.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity (Continued)

Your 1615/23. Aircraft were monoplanes probably 2 possibly 3 engine. Failing light made identification difficult but possibly Dornier seaplanes as stated in my 1750/22 (N.O.I.C. Faroes 2331/23 to A.C.O.S.).

GASFLIE.

In tow. Will be in about 54° 15'N 0°8'W at 0200, proceeding North. (C. in C. Rosyth 2010/23 to WESTMINSTER).

Eastney

At 2024, incendiary Bombs dropped in R.M. Barracks. No apparent damage or casualties. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2344/23 to Admiralty.)

FISHPOOL
(bombed 14/11)

At 1331 in tow at 55° 24'N. 7° 10'W. Course E speed 4 knots, A/C report. (C. in C. W.A. 1625/23 to GARDENIA.)

Mining (i)Humber.

Open (F.O. Humber, 0447/23)
Closed, A/C minelaying suspected (F.O. Humber 1935/23).

Tyne.

N.C.S.O. Tyne 1245/21, Admiralty 1535/22, C. in C. Rosyth 1852/22. Signal made to N.O.I.C.'s Tyne area instructing all Diesel driven vessels to be towed in and out of harbour in cases where it is believed Acoustic mines have been laid down. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1100/23 to C. in C. Rosyth)
Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1314/23)
Instruct diesel driven ships not to proceed under own power nearer to Tyne than T.1. Buoy and Sunderland than S.2. Buoy from which positions they should ask for Tug (C. in C. Rosyth 1455/23 to EGRET)
Closed, suspected minelaying. Expected opening noon 24/11 (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1910/23)
Closed suspected minelaying. Ships in FN 40 for Tyne should be diverted Sunderland (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/23 to VANITY, WOLFHOUND).

Operation S.N.11

PORT NAPIER not taking part, foul propellor. Sufficient mines available in rest of squadron (R.A.M.L. 1136/23 to Admiralty)
C. in C. H.E. 1653/22. Intend pass Hoxa 1730/23/11 to make contact R.A.M.L. during daylight 24/11. Destroyers may require to refuel from Oiler OLIGACH about 26/11. (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1141/23 to C. in C. H.F.).

/Operation.



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (2)

Operation S.N.11
(Continued)

My 1056/22 ST. MARYS delayed at least 8 hours. Proceeding with the other two. Can C. in C. provide a third destroyer (R.A.M.L. 1303/23 to Admiralty) My 1303/23 R/V 030° Butt of Lewis 5 miles course 30° at 2045 (R.A.M.L. 1322/23 to R.A.(D)) R.A.M.L. 1303/23. Request you will sail KEPPEL to join R.A.M.L. (C. in C. H.F. 1345/23 to R.A. (D)) Departure Port ZA 1400/23 R.A. minelayers in H.M. Ships SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BATH, ST. ALBANS to carry out S.N. 11 (TRELAWNEY 1402/23 to Admiralty) Proceed when ready to R/V with R.A.M.L. H.F. in SOUTHERN PRINCE at 2045/23, 030° Butt of Lewis 5 miles course 303° Provide escort (R.A.D. H.F. 1420/23 to KEPPEL)

Expect escort by Sunderland A/C from about daylight 24/11 (C. in C. Rosyth 2254/23 to R.A.M.L.).

Humber.

At 2024/22 heavy explosion over Humber entrance height 1000 ft. Similar at 2214/22. No firing taking place. No friendly A/C in vicinity. No balloon destroyed. Explosions similar to mines detonating (F.O. Humber 1212/23 to Admiralty)

Stadlandet.

Your 1927/22. I do not think any mines off Stadlandet. Destroyers have been over banks, fishing vessels sighted fishing and enemy M/V's use waters. (C. in C. H.F. 1216/23 to V.A.S.).

Mining (3)

Milford Haven

Port is open, local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1227/23). I ground mine exploded on land W. of Hook Point. 1 red ground mine detonated 061° 1.5. miles St. Anns Head Light (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1825/23)

Plymouth.

When inside 26 fathom line on entering Plymouth by Q.Z.S 188 speed not to exceed 9 knots. All diesel machinery should be stopped (C. in C. W.A. 1428/23 to SHERWOOD and LANCASTER) Since my 1848/12 one red mine detonated 1030/23 during pulse period single L. sweeper by S. Winter Buoy (C. in C. W.A. 1804/23 to Admiralty).

/Thames Estuary.



MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (3) Continued.

Thames Estuary.

Summary of explosions and A/C activity for night of 22/23 (S.O.T.L.D.F. 1502/23 to C. in C. Nore).

NEW COMET.

L.L. Trawler damaged by near explosion, not sweeping. Position 070 true. 3000 yards from P.W.S.S. at 1507. Beached inside river entrance. Salvage operations in hand. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1734/23 to C. in C. Rosyth amended by 1812/23).

Mining (4)

Moray Firth.
Approaches.

My 1535/22. Search has been made nothing to report, gales make searching and sweeping difficult. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1920/23 to Admiralty.

Falmouth.

Port is closed, suspected mines (F.O.I.C. ~~Falmouth~~ 2104/23 C. in C. W.A.

Faroes.

My 1750. Enemy A/C took hostile action which cannot be fully investigated before daylight. Possible mines dropped in Nolso Fjord. (N.O.I.C. Faroos, 2232/23 to A.C.O.S.)

K.3.

Mine Observation Patrol craft K.3. Kelvin Diesel 66 H.P. blown up by mine, presumed acoustic, 046° Inckkeith light 12.3. cables at 1701/23. (C in C. Rosyth 2311/23)

See also 1903/24, page 668.

ICARUS

My 2135/19. Following are general intentions of minelaying operation (details) (D.D.O.D.(M) 2319/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

SAILOR KING.

H.M. Drifter. Mined at 1555/23 228° 2300 ft. from No. 1 Martello Tower on St. Osyth Point (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea. 2309/23).

/Willemsoord



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

23.11.40.
Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Willemsoord)
Gravelines)
Lakkantsoog)

Shipping and Barges on 22/11
(H.Q.B.C. 0137/23).

Enemy Convoy.

At 1020/22 half a mile West of
Vlieland a Convoy of 8 fairly
large M/V's unescorted, heading
250° at 7 knots. (H.Q.B.C. 0137/23)

Unknown Ship

S.S. ST. PATRICK when 21 miles
E.S.E. of Tuscar at 0800/22 saw
large ship about 18000 tons
painted grey travelling at high
speed to Southward. ~~Ship then~~
Ship then turned in ST. PATRICK'S
wake and steamed Northwards. No
guns were seen in ship.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0957/23
to Adty).

Enemy Unit.

At 1130.B.S.T. in 57° 45'N. 6° 20'E
D/F unreliable fix. (DDIC 1212/23)

Enemy Ships.

A/C reported 8 to 12 ships at
1555/23 in 48° 40'N. 4° 40'W.,
course 045°, speed unknown. (C in C.
W.A. 1933/23 to Capt. D.5.).

3 Enemy Destroyers.

Operating in Channel, probably
returning Cherbourg daylight 24th.
(V.A.S. 2111/23 to S/M's Area B.)
See Operations.



MOST SECRET

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War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

WESTCOTT

Port Engine cannot be moved owing to 3-inch wire round propellor. Am proceeding to Belfast.

Position 55° 40' N., 13° 58' W., (WESTCOTT 0001/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

Proceed to Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A. 0722/23 to WESTCOTT)

Rockets
Seen

At 0607 White Rockets seen in 54° 48' N., 13° 20' W., Am searching area until daylight. (SAGUENAY 0624/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

See also p. 651



War Diary

23.11.1940
SaturdayHOME COMMANDSConvoysShipping

- E.N. 30 If ALYNBANK is in company leave E.N. 30 after Kinnaird Head and return Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F., 0933/23 to CURACOA) Orders to ALYNBANK (R.A.D. H.F., 1710/23)
- H.X. 85)
H.X. 86) My 2230/22. Indications that H.X. Convoys are now being shadowed by German U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 1030/23) Delay in notifying C. in C., W.A., 1353/23)
- H.X. 86 Proceeding Londonderry to fuel, VISCOUNT in company. CASTLETON must leave convoy a.m./24 owing shortage boiler feed water. (WHITEHALL 1200/23)
- S.C. 11 Rejoin convoy with utmost despatch. (ENCHANTRESS to ST LAURENT, 0755/23) Attacked by U-Boat (See U-Boat Campaign)
- F.N. 41 Postponed 24 hours (C. in C., Rosyth 1225/23, 1635/23 C. in C., Nore 1152/23)
- F.N. 42 (fast) WOLSEY, VERDUN sails 0800 (C. in C., Rosyth 1635/23) (C. in C., Nore, 1152/23 2200/23)
- F.N. 41 (slow) EGRET, WATCHMAN, code word "Pilot" (C. in C., Rosyth 1635/23) (C. in C., Nore 2200/23)
- F.S. 42 27 ships with high proportion of valuable vessels. Suggest A/A escort in Thames. (LONDONDERRY 1650/23 to C. in C., Nore) Requesting fighters (C. in C., Nore 2200/23)
- SUDERHOLM)
BENTE MAERSK) My 1319/22, re escort of A/S trawlers. Sailings postponed until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 1739/23 to N.C.S.O. Swansea)
- O.B. 246 If still with convoy order them to disperse at daylight (C. in C., W.A., 1811/23 to W WALKER)
- H.X. 87 To alter course. Route. (C. in C., W.A. to ALAUNIA, 2257/23)
- H.X. 88 To alter course. Route (C. in C., W.A. to AUSONIA, 2313/23)
- H.X. 91 REVENGE as close escort. (D.O.D. (H) 2311/23 to C. in C., A.W.I.)
- E.N. 41 ARAB, ST ZENO, additional escort HASTINGS (N.C.S.O. Methil 1655/23)

/O.B. 248.....



War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys, Contd

Shipping

O.B. 248

Sailed 0630/23. Escort FOLKESTONE, WITHERINGTON, etc., (N.C.SO. Liverpool 1051/23)

S.L. 54

Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 0913/23 to WALKER, HEARTSEASE, CROCUS etc.,)

Dispersal

Intend normally to order convoys to disperse at nightfall on day that local escorts part company. (C. in C., W.A., 1313/23 to Admty.)

S/M with
H.X. Convoys

My 2341/22 for 26/11 read 28/11 (D O.D. (H) 1150/23)

Guns

Your 1121/20. Stocks of low angle guns immediately available for Allied ships both at home and abroad are expected to be absorbed into service during next two months. After stocks of guns in Canada are exhausted stiffening should be continued in North American ports only when this can be done without delay to ships movements. (D.T.D. 1804/23 to N.C.S.O. Ottawa)

ORDUNA
ADDA

My 0959/22. Delete HIGHLANDER. Request you sail HESPERUS to R.V. Liverpool Section. Position and route. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool to F.O.I.C. Belfast 1007/23) Your 1600/22, replacement of HIGHLANDER by HESPERUS, approved, (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., W.A., 0950/23)

F.O.C.N.P., 1600/21 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0950/22. CAIRO is to sail with ~~CLYDE~~ CLYDE. portion and remain with convoy till further orders. (C. in C., W.A. 1333/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

T.C. 8.

Your 1257/5. Intend PASTEUR and CAPETOWN CASTLE should form T.C. 8. (date) Ocean escort REVENGE. (D.O.D. (H) 2325/23)



War Diary

23.11.1940 ⁶⁴²
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Casablanca

Your reply to my 1915/5.

(4) Yes, Admiral D'Harcourt stated personally that any British men of war inside 20 miles limit would be attacked also any escorts to French merchantmen would defend their convoys. He said he is pro-British but would carry out his orders.

(5) Continuous movements of merchant ship causing very bad impression. French Officer stated that guns of French Navy will ensure ample food Morocco as we are afraid to take naval action.

(7) Many troops have been sent Dakar but not guns. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1522/23 to D.N.I.)

Note by N.I.D.

The above reply to a N.I.D. questionnaire refers to Casablanca and (4) appears to be the origin of the report from N.C.S.O. Lisbon that French ships have orders to scuttle themselves and escorts to open fire if we interfere with their convoys. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon has been asked by Admty 1603/24 to conform)

French Ships
Scuttling

All French ships have orders to scuttle themselves if in danger of falling into our hands. All escorts have orders to fire if we interfere with their convoys. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1714/23 to Admty.)

DJENNE

My 0943/20. Sailed French ship DJENNE (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1745/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Military
Situation

E/2069 cypher 22/11. Interview on 18/11 with General de Gaulle and Spears re military situation before departure from Lagos. (G.O.C. West Africa, 2205/22 to War Office) (Recd from War Office 1710/23.)



War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

SIQUEIRO CAMPOS

Conband Gibraltar 1700/23 and your 025/22/11 total passengers on board 264. Request further instructions of disposal of passengers as they have no wish to return Lisbon. (Gibraltar 1740/23 to Admty.)

Photographs

Malta 0831/22 (re photographs of Taranto) Bag containing Admty. photographs still at Gibraltar with others left behind owing to lack of space in Flying Boat Clyde. Copies to Air Ministry forwarded in Clyde. (F.O.C.N.A. 1820/23 to Admty.)

Gibraltar

Arrived 1200/23 SALVIA, PEONY, GLOXINIA, HYACINTH, 1916/23 JAGUAR, KELVIN (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1932/23 to Admty.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Your 1850/20. Request report date ROYAL SOVEREIGN expected ready to sail for Halifax. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. 2313/23)

Gibraltar
A/C Reconnaissance

Situation report. 1 Martin recco. A/C flew over Rock at 1700 today, driven off by A/A fire (Govr. Gib., 1915/23)

South Atlantic

? S/M
refuelling

Consul General Loanda reports 23/11 signalling between shore and sea at 2140 seen twice within past 5 days suggests possibility of enemy submarine or other craft refuelling and provisioning perhaps at mouth of R.Cuanza. Local authorities not informed. (C. in C., S.A. 1101N/23 to 1 C.S.)

SHROPSHIRE

Admty. 2211/15 para (V) Propose SHROPSHIRE should come under your administration forthwith (C. in C., S.A. 1313N/23 to C. in C., C.N.I)

Whalers

COCHRANE reports sighting 7 whalers without colours 009° (700') S., 006° 25' E course N.N.W. 0530/17. (DELHI 1359/23 to F.O.C. 1 C.S.)
DELHI's 1359/23 Probably whalers from Walvis Bay to Freetown on passage to U.K. (C. in C., S.A. 1743/23 to F.O.C.S.I.) 1/

/Suspicious.....



War Diary

23.11.1940
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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Suspicious
Vessel *GLENBEG

QQQQ Disguised Merchant Raider 25° 44' N.,
24° 02' W., *GLENBERG sighted suspicious
vessel. (Freetown W/T 1754/23)

QQQQ Disguised Surface raider, 25° 44' N.,
24° 00' suspicious vessel, 2000.
(Lands End Radio, 1924/23)

→ Free French
Shipping

In consultation with N.C.S.O. Duala and
representative Spears Mission, General
de Larminat, High Commissioner French
Africa, 22/11 made following proposals for
dealing with Free French shipping on West
Coast of Africa (details) Information
requested whether proposals meet with
full approval of Ministry of Shipping and
whether additional crews will be forthcoming
(N.C.S.O. Duala, 1816/23 to Admty.)

DELHI
NEPTUNE

To sail from Lagos at 0700/25 and R/V
with NEPTUNE in 001° 20' N., 006° 30' E
at 1000/26.
Full calibre throw off practice will be
carried out on visual signalling.
(F.O.C.I.C.S. 2042A/23 to DELHI)

→ French Ports
Shipping

My 1916/19/9. British and Allied and
British and Allied Chartered shipping may
now call at all ports in French Cameroons
and French Equatorial Africa including
Gabon. S.O's (I) to inform N.C.S.O's.
(C. in C., S.A. 1656/23)

Mediterranean

Greece

Situation (N.A.Athens to D.N.I., 1330/23)

TETRARCH

Orders for patrol (Capt S. 1. 1433/23)

REGULUS

Operation B.S. Orders (Capt S. 1. 1517/23)

Oil Fire
Defence

Details of experiments, and requesting
remarks. (D.O.D. (F) to C. in C., Med.,
1733/23)

/A/S Vessels....



23.11.1940
Saturday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

A/S
Vessels

Your 1140/22. Decision of Gen. Smuts much appreciated and early release of SOUTHERN MAID, SOUTHERN FLOE, SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEA to C. in C., Med. would be welcome addition to his forces. Requested sail for Alexandria soon as possible. (Hd of M. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1801/23)

BERWICK

Your 2157/22 much appreciated. BERWICK will be passed through under cover of "Collar" (C. in C., Med., to Admty., 0931/23)

Corvettes

Your 2200/22. ^(Page 612) Concur. If corvettes unable to make R.V. at 0800/D 6 they are to proceed to Malta and await orders there. (C. in C., Med., 1034/23 to S.O. Force H.)

Greece,
A/S Officers

My 1806/17. Cancel last sentence. Owing acute shortage of A/S Officers and other urgent requirements, now proposed that Greek Govt. be invited to send a suitable officer to England to undergo specialist A/S course in NIMROD (date) (D. A/S W., 1832/23, to C. in C., Med.)

Italian
R.D/F.

From experience of TETRARCH in Gulf Sidra possible some Italian M.A.S. or destroyers fitted with low angle R.D/F. sets, and probably Italian U-Boats will also be so fitted. Submarines should not expect immunity on dark nights but are to dive for as much of the night as possible in patrol area. (Capt S. 1. to 1st S/M.F., 2017/23) *Modified by 0927/26, p. 726.*

Operation
M.B. 9.

Following positions established (a) to (h) Orders to Force D, Force F, and Corvettes (V.A. Malta, 2345/23)

Turkey

Chiefs of Staff No 28 to Cs. in C., Med., and M.E., requesting views on assistance to Turkey. (1st S.L. 2351/23) (See Med. Vol)

/Destroyer.....



MOST SECRET

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War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Destroyer
Organisation

My 1644/21. GREYHOUND, GALLANT and GRIFFIN have been incorporated in the 14th Destroyer Flotilla as the 55th Sub-Division. Propose KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY and KINGSTON form 56th Sub-Division. (C. in C., Med., 1442/23 to Admty.)

CALEDON

Left Suez 0737/23 (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2007/23)

Greece

Situation Report to 2400/22 (M.A.Athens, 1615/23 to W.O.) Your 1219/17. Military situation as follows. (N.A.Athens, 1330/23 to D.N.I.)

Requisitioned
French Ships,
Egypt.

To ensure safety and immunity from Legal Procedure of French ships which have been requisitioned and are now under British Flag registered in name of Ministry of Shipping, it has been decided that when it is intended that calls are to be made at Egyptian Ports Embassy should be advised by Sir Henry Barker in order that local Consuls may be warned. Instructions. (D. of S.T. 1712/23 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Air
Activity

Combined services report up to 1700/22 All times G.M.T. 0802 to 0843 12 CR.425 in 2 formations of 6 approached from North and flew over Grand Harbour at 21000 feet turned East in shallow dive to 18000 feet and flew out North over Island only 3 minutes during which time A.A. engaged heavily and accurately. 1 CR 42 shot down in sea 8 miles S.E. of Malta by A.A. fire confirmed. 6 Hurricanes and two Gladiators detailed to intercept. Presumably recco only as no bombers followed. 0929 to 1404 Glenn Martin 431 flight photo recco Tripoli for enemy Naval and Air Force Units. Harbour, no warships 6 M/V's. 6000 tons 4 M/V's 3000 tons and 3 submarines. 0V21 to 1344 Glen Martin recco Corfu Levkas Cephalonia Zante Strovathi for enemy Naval Units, nil reports visibility poor, no naval or military item. (H.Q. Malta, 1720/23)

/French Troop...



War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

French Troop Convoy

French troop convoy consisting of (FOBA ?) and CHAMPOLLION left Beirut 23/11 for Marseilles under guarantee no political prisoners cargo or military equipment will be carried.

Possible that prisoners have been embarked two of whom are believed to be named S. Dautroy and Fitarn. Ships may be boarded and prisoners if found removed. Ships should only be sent in if found to be carrying cargo or military equipment in any quantity. (C. in C., Med., 2153/23)

East Indies

Aircraft for A.M.C'S

Request consideration be given to early fitting A.M.C's on East Indies Station with aircraft the need of which is stressed by prevalence of raiders on station. (C. in C., E.I. 0432Z/23 to Admty.)

ASKARI KIONGA

(p. 617)
My 0556/22 re ships seen by COLOMBO. Confirmed that ASKARI and KIONGA were not in 13 ships observed. Total therefore 15. (C. in C., E.I., 0436Z/23 to Admty.)

CAPETOWN

Expect arrive Nancowry 1100Z/23 to leave a.m./24 and proceed to position 004° N., 086° E and then patrol between that position and 004° N., 091° E. (C. in C., E.I., 0740Z/23 to CAPETOWN)

Port Sudan

Two Italian aircraft raided Port Sudan 1145/21 G.M.T. probable objective Harbour but heavy and accurate A/A fire chiefly from CARLISLE made them drop their bombs elsewhere. (C. in C., E.I. 0744/23 to Admty)

COLOMBO

300 miles South of Madagascar

To leave Mombasa p.m. 15/11 and patrol off Kismayu. To leave patrol to arrive Mombasa p.m. 29/11. Speed. (C. in C., E.I., 0755/23 to COLOMBO)

Aden Convoy B.N. 9½

SHOREHAM arrived 0300Z WOOLWICH arrived 0340Z, KIMBERLEY, WOOLWICH departure with B.N. 9½ at 1040Z (N.O.I.C. Aden 1057Z/23 to Admty.)

Madagascar.....



War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Madagascar

British Vice Consul Majunga arrived Pretoria with Mayer, born in Mauritius of British parents but naturalised Frenchman for business purposes. Following is summary of information provided by Mayer (details) setting out the position with regard to the Free French movement (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1143/23 to C. in C., E.I.)

QUEEN MARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH

Your 1853/22. Facilities at Trincomalee. Requested that these vessels should be run alternately until the removal of rock at Trincomalee has been completed sufficiently for moorings to be put down. (C. in C., E.I., 1304Z/23 to D.S.T.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Your 1619/22. Routeing. Fuel capacity insufficient for voyage and ship should proceed (name) for refuelling (C. in C., E.I. 1300/23 to D. of S.T.)

W.S. 4.A
W.S. 4.C
W.C. 4.B

Your 0732/22 and Admiralty 2250/20. Not now intended to split W.S. 4.A and W.S. 4.C. Request adjust time of arrival of W.S. 4.B. at Aden to suit requirements. (D.O.D. (F) 1312/23 to C. in C., E.I)

China

Dutch Navy
Staff Talks

My 0851Z/20. Dutch C. in C., requests arrangements for representatives to arrive Singapore next week for staff discussions. Am arranging accordingly. (C. in C., China to Admty., 0201Z/23) Your 0851Z/20. Explanation of F.O. interview (1st S.L. to C. in C., China 1340/23) [See also p.649]

Station
Boundaries

Admty. 2048/14. At 0001Z/26, boundary between China and East Indies Stations will be altered to following: Boundary between India and Burma, 20° N., 92° E., due south to 13° S., then due East as at present. (C. in C., China, 0323Z/23 to Admty.)

/Dutch Forces...



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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23.11.1940
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China-Contd

Dutch Forces

*use of Sumatra
Landing grounds.*

Your 0801/20/8. It is now hoped that Netherlands Government may accede to our request for facilities and may even authorise their air forces to co-operate. A decision has not yet been made but to expedite arrangements in case decision is favourable you should instruct Major Westall to open discussions with Dutch C. in C., (Hd. of M. 1715/23 to C. in C., China) *Reply: 0801/28, page 788.*

America & West Indies

U.S. Navy Information

113. N.A. Washington 1719/19. Navy Department to be kept informed of movements of H.M. Ships. Proposal should also enable me to economize forces required for watching enemy shipping in American ports if reciprocal information is given. It is presumed that N.A. Washington is satisfied as regards security of information to be given Navy department. Propose to comply. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1151/23 to Admty.)

REVENGE
T.C. 8.

To be sailed 25/11 as close escort for H.X. 91 as far as 30° W if her endurance will allow and then return to Halifax. She will be required to sail to U.K. as escort for T.C. 8 (date) (D.O.D. (H) to C. in C., A.W.I., 2311/23) Your 1257/5. Intend PASTEUR and CAPETOWN CASTLE should form T.C. 8.(date) (D.O.D. (H) to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2325/23)

Japanese Shipping

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1503/21. Callao Agency reports NARUTO MARU also withdrawn and SAGAMI MARU, ARIMA MARU to operate in addition to HIE MARU. (S.O.I. Kingston 0956/23)

French Shipping

My 1831/10. Until further orders, French ships trading between U.S.A. and French West Indies are not to be sent in but are to be allowed to proceed. French Transatlantic shipping is still to be sent in. (C. in C., W.A. 1251/23)



War Diary

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Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS SCHOKE

Reported will sail from Horta a.m./23 (B.2)
(Admty. 0830/23 to C. in C., H.F. and W.AA)
Left Fayel 1930/23, approx. 200 tons coal
on board (Vice Consul, Horta 1930/23,
F.O.C.N.A. 2217/23 D.D.I.C. 2346/23)
Description (F.O.C.N.A. 2345/23)

FRIESLAND
MONTSERRATE
LEIPZIG
MUNCHEN
HERMONTHIS

My 1149/17. Request for oil rejected.
(S.O.I., Callao, 0939/23)

GERMANIA

My 1758/18. Please confirm definitely
cargo in GERMANIA is petrol only and not
fuel or diesel oil. This is important,
in view of possibility of her refuelling
raider. Please give source and grading
of your information. (D.N.I. 1155/23 to
Consul, Ponta Degada)
Your 1155. Confirm (A.I) entire cargo is
petrol. Authority, Capt of Port. (N.C.S.O
Ponta Delgada 1252/23)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RAPALLO

N.A. Washington 1249/22. Castagna report,
satisfied steam required only for repair
Bunkers very low. (S.O.I., Kingston 1633/
23)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLES PLUMIER amc (Intercepted p.m/22) Arrived Gibraltar
23/11 (F.O.C.N.A. 1320/23)

ESPIQUETTE

Your 1728 November 22nd, group 19
undecypherable (note. Group 19 was signal
letters for F.S. ESPIQUETTE)
If this refers to French ship ESPIQUETTE
she is now at Setubal loading sugar Morocco
and will endeavour to run blockade.
(N.C.S.O., Lisbon 1500/23 to Admty.)



War Diary

23.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

→ S.C. 11.
BIRI
BRUSE
?SALONICA

Attacked 0355/23 55° 04' N., 12° 15' W., No contact, star shells used but no sighting. Port side, no signals except rocket. BIRI, 14, BRUSE, 44 possibly one other unknown. ~~BIRI sunk~~. Fore part of BRUSE floating with survivors. SKEENA standing by. (ENCHANTRESS 0726/23) *x incorrect*

SALONICA

Your 1139/23 (Sent by W.R. Requesting verification of 0726/23 from ENCHANTRESS) Name received corrupt believed to be SALONICA. {1305/23. *C. CWA.*

→ ? SALONICA

→ My 0726. OTTAWA reports another ship torpedoed at 0715. (ENCHANTRESS 0730/23)

My 0624 no contact, no wreckage. Rejoining convoy. My position 055° N., 013° 45' W., Weather. (SAGUENAY 0930/23) *See p. 639*

Your 1021/23. Approximate position 055° (08') N., 012° 56' W., course 082°, 16 knots, fastest speed possible at present Meteorological report. (ST LAURENT, 1045/23 to C. in C., W.A.) *See p. 631*

BRUSE
SALONICA

ENCHANTRESS 0726/23. Request Tug for fore part of BRUSE in position 55° 16' N., 12° 05' W., All cargo 1550 tons lumber still intact. Have following survivors, SALONICA, Master and eight, BRUSE Master and 5. Rejoining convoy at 18 knots. (SKEENA 1051/23 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

→ S.C. 11.

Position course and speed of Convoy at 1015, 055° 16' N., 010° 51' W., 072° 6 knots 24 ships in company, 10 missing, but several probably lost touch in gale. Unknown ship torpedoed at 0705. OTTAWA reports no trace of ship or submarine although area was searched with star shells. SKEENA searching up track of convoy. (ENCHANTRESS 1130/23)

VICTORIA
(Torpedoed 21/11)

Contact with VICTORIA not made. Have searched 45 miles to leeward of torpedoed position. (BLUEBELL 1245/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

Following received begins:- N.O.1/c Greenock from ENGLISHMAN. Have been compelled to put back under the lee of Irish Coast through stress of weather 1612/23 Ends. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1707/23 to BLUEBELL)

/BRUSE.....



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War Diary

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Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

BRUSE

If VICTORIA not sighted by dawn tomorrow Sunday proceed derelict BRUSE in position 055° 16' N., 012° 05' W., Tug being sent to her. (Admty, Plymouth 2021/23 to BLUEBELL)

Your 1612/23. When weather moderates proceed to assistance of BRUSE in position 55° 16' N., 12° 05' W., at 1251/23. SKEENA standing by. Cargo 1550 tons lumber. Tug SALVONIA has been sent from Belfast. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2042/23 to tug ENGLISHMAN)

BUSSUM

Ship torpedoed in position 055° 39' N., 008° 58' W., at 2005. Searched with star shells and depth charges dropped at intervals by escorts. Visibility 2 cables wind 260 force 7. (corrupt group) apparently was in convoy. Am rejoining convoy. OTTAWA after searching proceeded to torpedo ship. ST LAURENT and SKEENA searching and not in contact. (ENCHANTRESS 2134/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 2134/23. Torpedoed ship is BUSSUM floating in position 55.37. 08.42. OTTAWA has 29 survivors and considers salvage possible. Suggest SAGUENAY should close this position at daybreak and report as to salvage. (ENCHANTRESS, 2355/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

BLAIRESK
(False Report)

56.42 N., 19.14 W., BLAIRESK torpedoed. (Lands End Radio, 0739/23)
(Incorrect report, see 1300/23)

Proceeded to assistance of BLAIRESK torpedoed in position 056° 42' N., 019° 14' W., at 0809/23. (C. in C., W.A. 0921/23 to SANDWICH)

Sailed tugs TENACITY and THAMES to assistance of BLAIRESK (position) (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0925/23)

ANTEN

Swedish 5135 tons SS ANTEN torpedoed, still floating. (Wick Radio 1230/23)

After investigating BLAIRESK proceed ANTEN torpedoed and reported floating at 1200/23, 056° 57' N., 016° 17' W., You will not now be required to go to Sydney C.B. (C. in C., W.A. 1255/23 to SANDWICH)

/BLAIRESK.....



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

BLAIRESK not torpedoed, am searching until dusk for survivors of unknown ship reported torpedoed by BLAIRESK then in view of oil fuel situation intend proceeding direct to (? Sydney C.B.) 54.42 N., 19.14 W (Weather) (SANDWICH 1300Z/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

ANTEN torpedoed about 1200 today had apparently straggled some 100 miles astern of O.B. 244. Request confirmation that ship was properly ballasted, bunkers of good quality and ship capable of her guaranteed speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1311/23 to Admty.)

TYMERIC

The following has been read. 56.57 N., 16.17 W., At 0200 survivors aboard ANTEN also torpedoed in same position. (TYMERIC 1315/23)

TYMERIC was straggler from O.B. 244 torpedoed at 0200/23 (D.O.R. 24/11)

ANTEN.

ANTEN torpedoed in position 56.57 N., 16.17 W., drifting east, require immediate assistance. (Port Patrick W/T 1321/23)

ANTEN torpedoed 0730 correction of position 56° 57' N., 18° 18' W., at 1500. Stormy weather, require immediate assistance, 1600 drifting due East. (Valentia Radio 1604/23)

KING IDWAL

Sunk

British, 5115 tons. Have picked up Master and 27 Officers and men from KING IDWAL, am proceeding to position of ANTEN (Weather) (SANDWICH, 1730Z/23 to C. in C., W.A.)

SSSS Swedish ship ANTEN torpedoed position 56.57 N., 18.18 W., numbers 2 and 3 holds full of water, just floating, receiver now working, require immediate assistance, drifting due East. (Valentia Radio 1749/23)

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War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 0844 58.30 N., 4.30 E., very indefinite (D.S. 445)
- 0033 59° N., 16° to 18° W., very indefinite (D.S. 445)
- 0955 Italian U-Boat off Bordeaux, indefinite (D.S. 445)
- 0807 A/F message 56.42 N., 19.14 W., (D.D.I.C. 0845/23)
- 1030 My 2230/22. Indications that H.X. Convoys now being shadowed by German U/Boat, D.D.I.C. 1030/23)
- 1134 Indications that an Italian U-Boat is approaching Bordeaux. (V.A.S. to TIGRIS 1134/23) Orders to TIGRIS (Capt S. 2. 1412/23)
- 1120 Trawler reports submerged submarine in 58.14 N., 6.01 W at 1120 (C. in C., Rosyth 1238/23) At 1120 a training aircraft reported that a Trawler had sighted a Submarine in position 058° 18' N., 006° 01' W., Could this have been Submarine H.28 and what was your position at that time? (A.C.O.S. 1312/23 to S/M H. 28) Cancel my 1238. False Report (C. in C., Rosyth 2002/23)
- 1225 A.F. message 56.57 N., 16.17 W at 1125 GMT (D.D.I.C. 1350/23)
- 1747-1754-2154 Possibly N. of 61° N., 2° to 5° E., very indefinite (D.S. 446)
- 2249 55.45, 13° W., Reported by Turkish KIYLE (Straggler from O.S. 46) B.2. (D.S. 446)
- 1931 57 to 59° N., W., of 15° W., very indefinite, Italian U/B (D.S. 446)
- 2029 52.30 N., to 54.30 N., 15° to 19° W., indefinite (D.S. 446)

Understood that reports from a U-Boat apparently shadowing H.X. 85 and 86 were intercepted at 0006, 0033, 0326 and 0442 today. This information was passed to me by telephone after 1000 today and passed to the escorts concerned at 1030/23.

/Even.....



MOST SECRET

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Saturday

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Even if such reports are not considered sufficiently accurate or reliable for immediate general promulgation it is requested all information of this kind may be passed to me as soon as it is available. (C. in C., W.A., 1353/13 to Admty.)

Three Italian submarines are expected to arrive at Stampalia at dawn on 25th 26th and 27th/11, respectively. T.O.O. 1445/23 (C. in C., Med., 1448/23 to Med. Fleet)

2240

(no trace)
Following has been read. SSSS de GPK from BINBROOK Submarine in vicinity 55.45N 13.00 W., (Port Patrick Radio 2149/23)

If in vicinity attack enemy submarine in position 055 deg. 45' North, 013 deg. 00'W at 2240' 23. (C. in C., W.A. 2325/23.)

Use of
Rio de Oro

(P. 624)
Your 1612/22 re suspected Italian U-Boat base at Rio de Oro of Canary Is. Consul Teneriffe and Las Palmas will be asked. Submit Belgian JOHAN might be employed with effect. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1802/23 to Admty.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 off Bordeaux going in. Possibly 1 in Western Approaches. 1 was about 120 miles N.W. of Rockall at 2131/22
1 more may be in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown.

German- 1 in Sierra Leone area. Possibly 1 in Western Approaches. 1 was in 55° 04' N., 12° 15' W., at 0335/23 attacking S.C. 11.
1 was in about 54° 30' N 20° W at 1642/22
1 may be N. of 55° N and E of 10° W.
1 was in 56° 42' N., 19° 14' W., at 0807/23 attacking O.B. 244.
1 probably some 50 miles to Southward of Rockall.
1 approximately in 58° 30' N., 13° W., probably shadowing H.X. 85 or H.X. 86.
1 in area 58° to 60° N., and W of 20° W.
1 W. of Egersund Norway homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1245/23)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

656

24.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Admty. Message 1917/24 states the policy to be ~~arrived~~ at in order to counter the activities of the ADMIRAL SCHEER and 5 enemy armed merchant raiders which are operating in the South Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans; the message gives the composition of the forces to be employed.

See Ops: Vol: P 53

Home Commands

Raider
Reported

At 1328 today a raider signal was received from SS TREHATA, about 400 miles west of Ireland. It is possible that she had sighted another ship from Convoy O.B. 245, in which TREHATA had been, the convoy having dispersed this morning.

E-Boat Attacks
on Shipping

E-Boats were reported off Aldeburgh and Yarmouth Approaches this evening. Enemy E-Boats are attacking merchant ships without warning. The Admiralty today issued instructions for the security of convoys at night. (p.660)

Destroyer
Operation

5th D.F. sighted nothing last night. JACKAL returned to Plymouth with defects. At 2331 orders were sent to Captain D. 5. who had returned to Plymouth, to proceed with 4 destroyers to patrol between 5° W and 4° W to cover shipping between Dartmouth and Falmouth and to intercept any enemy craft returning towards Brest; it was thought that 3 enemy destroyers might be operating tonight off the South Coast between 6° W and 1° 30' W., Air reconnaissance was not available.

At 2206 an E-Boat was reported off Berry Head (Dartmouth area)



War Diary

24.11.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber
Command

Last night, the docks at Ostend and Rotterdam, A/A batteries near Wilhelmshaven and Trischen, and the Estuary of the Elbe were attacked.

Coastal
Command

Swordfish last night bombed the docks at Boulogne. The harbour at Hook of Holland was attacked by Hudsons today.

Bad weather greatly reduced the effectiveness of the routine patrols today.

Enemy Air Activity

WOLSEY was unsuccessfully bombed today.

Attacks, some of which caused very minor damage, took place today on Sheerness R.N. A.A. Range, Whale Island, Mere Oil Fuel Tanks (Portland), Woolston (last night) Enemy aircraft today carried out an unusually comprehensive reconnaissance in the areas Forth-Kinnaird Head, Orkneys and Pentland Firth. The Admiralty this evening enquired of the C. in C., Home Fleet regarding the security of the Fleet against air attack similar to that carried out by the F.A.A. at Taranto.

LEONOLA (~~A 41~~^{A P 41}) is reported to have been machine gunned in the Channel today, but had no casualties.

Mining

Extensive minelaying by enemy aircraft took place last night between the Tyne and the Thames Estuary (particularly during the early hours of the night) and possibly off the South Coast. It is estimated that 50 minelaying aircraft were engaged.

Several mines were exploded in the Thames Estuary today.

/The following..



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SITUATION REPORT

Mining-Contd.

The Following vessels were mined in the Thames Estuary today:-

SS ALICE MARIE

SS ALICE MARIE Abandoned, partly under water, in Convoy F.S. 43.

H.M.T. AMETHYST

H.M.T. AMETHYST. Sunk.

SS CAMROUX IV

SS CAMROUX IV. Damaged. In convoy F.N. 42

SS RYAL

SS RYAL. Sunk. In convoy F.N. 42

M.L. 171

M.L. 171. Slightly damaged.

GAEL

Sunk

H.M. Yacht GAEL was mined and sunk this morning off Spurn Point. The Humber was opened at 0732.

SS THOMAS M

SS THOMAS M (Coasting vessel, under Govt. Charter, in Convoy F.N. 42) was mined and sunk this afternoon off Yarmouth.

SS BEHAR
PRESERVER

SS BEHAR (6100 tons) and Salvage tug PRESERVER were mined off Milford Haven. Two mines were destroyed in the Haven and one exploded $\frac{1}{2}$ mile inland from St. Ann's Head. Milford Haven was closed at 0502 and opened, subject to local restrictions at 1331.

SS ALMA DAWSON

(British Mine)

SS ALMA DAWSON in convoy S.C. 11 was mined (at first reported torpedoed) 18 miles east of Inistrahull this morning and believed sunk.

Blyth was closed 2231. Falmouth was opened at 1515 and Tyne at 1304 with restrictions on Diesel engined ships.

British A/C
Minelaying

Hamp'den aircraft successfully laid mines in the Elbe Estuary last night.



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SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Raid on
Alexandria

There was an air raid on Alexandria early this morning by a plane obviously attacking the harbour but driven off by the barrage. Slight damage was done in the city. C. in C., Meditn. reports that the A.R.P. services of the city are insufficiently developed.

Air Raid on
Durazzo

9 Blenheims attacked Durazzo at 1400 today. Direct hits were obtained on a 10,000 ton ship and smaller ships the remainder of the bombs falling in the dock area or alongside ships at the quay. One aircraft is missing. Appollonia, Derna, Bardia and Tobruk were attacked at dawn today

Air Raid on
Malta

6 C.R. 42's carried out a dusk attack on Luqa aerodrome today. One Wellington on the ground was burnt out.

It is reported that all German ships at Trieste are preparing to transport German troops to Albania. There are believed to be 18 German ships, of 71,785 tons at Trieste.

East Indies

Assab was bombed several times today, 4 bombs being dropped very near a ship in harbour which usually fires at aircraft. A very large fire was started, visible 50 miles.

America & West Indies

SS PORT HOBART
Shelled by raider

The British SS PORT HOBART reported she was being shelled at 1530Z today (16.42 BST) about 500 miles N.E. of Puerto Rico. DIOMEDE was ordered to endeavour to locate the raider.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Anti-E.Boat Policy.

Enemy E.Boats are attacking merchant ships without warning. Sub. Paragraph (b) of D.M.S. Part I (BR 136 (1)) Article 53 is therefore to be regarded as in force so far as small enemy surface vessels are concerned.

2. This will necessitate the stationing of our M.T.B. or M.A/S.B. when employed on escort duties to convoys at night or in low visibility so that they are not mistaken for enemy vessels. All escorting patrol and minesweeping vessels must therefore be kept fully informed of the movements of merchant ships in their vicinity.

3. Merchant ships in convoy on the East Coast or in the English Channel are at liberty to fire at any small craft sighted under conditions of low visibility which are not recognised as friendly.

4. These instructions must be pointed out to the Commanding Officers of small craft and it must be impressed on them that the responsibility for not making contact with friendly convoys under these conditions rests on them.

(V.C.N.S. 1720/24. A.M. 558A).

Restriction of Attack on S/M's.

Surface ships are not to attack submarines unless hostile identity has been established in the area enclosed by the following line.

Benbane Head to Inishtrahul.

Line running 180 degrees from Inishtrahul to Irish Coast.

Restriction from 001/26 until further notice. (D.O.D. H. 1757/24 A.M. 975 AZ)

Scapa. Precautions against Air Attack.

Reference Admiralty telegram 1803/24.

The success gained at Taranto may encourage the Germans to try something of the same kind at Scapa. Request you will confirm that the berthing of the Fleet and general arrangements are such as to preclude a successful attack.

(1st S.L. 2206/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

Reply: C. in C. H.F., 1517/25, p. 686.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/24. (D.C. 1151/24)

At 2330/24 (D.C. 2331/24).

"Beluge"



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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

HESPERUS.

Sailed as by F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1007/23
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0615/24)

A/P Patrols.

For 24/11. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0920/24)

REVILLE.

My 1107/23 and 1743/23. Intend sail
Group 1730/24. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1057/24) 1800/24 and my 1057/24.
Ref. Southampton's 0956/24. REVILLE
only sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1830/24 to Adty.)

ST. MARYS)
VIMY)
TRELAWNEY)

R.A.N.P.'s 1010/23. Movements.
(C.in C. H.F. 1228/24 to R.A.N.P.)

Dover.

Dispositions for Night 24/25.
(V.A. Dover 1301/24).

Orkneys.

Estimated position at 2000/24.
(A.C.O.S. 1528/24).

11th M/S
Flotilla

Your 1557/24. Should be ready to sail
P.M./26. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven
1902/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

CAMPBELL)
GARTH)

Proceed to Harwich on completing
Patrol tomorrow. (C.in C. Nore
2235/24).

Operations.

Air Patrol has been withdrawn on account
of weather. It may be resumed later
(C.in C. W.A. 0101/24 to D.5)
Air Patrol will be resumed at 0415
(C.in C. W.A. 0337/24 to D.5).

KASHMIR)
JACKAL)
JERSEY)
JUPITER)
JAVELIN)

D.5 in KASHMIR sailed in company at
2040/23 to destroy 3 Destroyers
reported in Adty. 1639/23. Speed was
limited by defects in JACKAL. At 2115
received information about convoy.
Movements thereafter till 0522/24.
A/C had to return at 2127/23 on account
of weather. Nothing sighted.
(C.in C. W.A. 1710/24 to Adty.)
3 Enemy Destroyers may be operating
tonight 24/25 off South Coast between
6° W. and 1° 30' W. Proceed with
JAVELIN, JERSEY, JUPITER, KASHMIR to
patrol Lizard to Scillies about
15 miles from shore. Return Plymouth
0930/25. Air R/C not available.
(C.in C. W.A. 1925/24 and 2025/24 to
D.5).. (D.D.I.C. 2107/24 to S/M's
Area B).



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Operations. (Continued)

My 1925/24. Amend to patrol between 5° W. and 4° W. to cover Shipping between Dartmouth and Falmouth and to intercept any Enemy Craft returning towards Brest. (C.in C. W.A. 2331/24 to D.5) (C.in C. Portsmouth 0034/25 to WITCH, VOLUNTEER).

My 1925/24. Cancel instructions to return to Plymouth 0930/25 and act in accordance with your 1957/24. (C.in C. W.A. 0010/25 to D.5).

Coast Guard report flashes of gunfire S.W. of Porth Levan at 0020. 2 Ships seen, one burning searchlights. (C.in C. W.A. 0031/25 to D.5).

Flashes still reported 210° Lizard about 4 miles at 0100 (C.in C. W.A. 0122/25 to D.5).

Continual firing off Lizard between 0003 and 0130. No report yet from D.5. (C.in C. W.A. 0210/25 to C.in C. Portsmouth) Gun flashes reported off Lizard. D.5 may order you to join him. Do not proceed West of 4° 30' W. without orders. (C.in C. W.A. 0213/25 to French Ship LEOPARD).

At midnight 2 or 3 Enemy Warships attacked Belgian Trawlers fishing 10 miles S.E. of Wolf. (C.in C. W.A. 0400/25 to D.5).

Iceland.

Your 1008/23. Every endeavour will be made to make HONNINGSVAAG available as often as possible, but she has greater Escort commitments since loss of FRIDTJOF NANSEN. (F.O. Iceland 1132/24 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Dover shelled.

Enemy coastal batteries fired six rounds between 1526 and 1613 today. Two rounds fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery and the remainder in the sea off St. Margarets Bay. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A. Dover 1808/24 to Adty.)

Straits of Dover.

Intend sail M.T.B's 70, 69, and 5 at 2000/24 to operate between Calais and Boulogne, returning at 0130/25. (V.A. Dover 1830/24 to Adty.)

Armed Enemy Raiders.
Policy and Measures to be adopted.

(1st S.L. 1917/24 to C's-in-C.)
See Operations Volume. P. 53.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

SUNFISH.

My 1229/19. To sail 27/11 for Patrol between Stadlandet and Fro Havet to attack Coastal Shipping. (V.A.S. 0909/24 to S.6).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/25. (V.A.S. 1707/24).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Western Channel. (C.in C. W.A. 0337 and 0101/24 to Capt. D.5) Assessments (C.in C. Rosyth 1934/24 to Adty.)

Falmouth,
balloon
barrage.

A.M. 1636/21 and 1739/18. Pending supply of V.L.A. Balloons, request approval to move one Balloon Barrage Vessel, or more up to maximum of four, into area suggested when weather permits. (C.in C. W.A. 1142/24 to Adty.)
Your 1201/23. (One Balloon Barrage Vessel to patrol Pennance Point to prevent A/C minelaying) No objection. Request you notify all Flying Units. (H.Q.F.C. 1615/24 to Air Ministry).
My 1142/24. F.O.I.C. Falmouth reports that if proposed dispositions had been in force last night, success would have been certain. (C.in C. W.A. 1626/24 to Adty.)
Request your concurrence with C.in C. W.A. 1142/24. (D. of L.D. 1835/24 to Air Ministry.) *Reply: 1734/25, p. 691.*

Lorient.

A/C of 59 Squadron to repeat attack on Lorient tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1240/24 to 16 Group Thorney Island).

Ghent.

A/C of 53 Squadron to attack Oil Tanks near Ghent tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1242/24 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

Enemy Convoy.

2 Hudsons leaving Thornaby as soon as possible to attack Force reported by J/220 at 1300. (C.in C. Rosyth 1522/24 to C.in C. H.F.) (See Enemy Intelligence).

Portsmouth.

Your 1359/20. ^(no issue) No additional Balloons at present available. Suggest requirement be met by V.L.A's in due course. (Air Ministry 1615/24 to Adty.)

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Enemy Air Activity.Lee.

Cancel my 1949/23. Damage and casualties were caused by H.A. Shell. 10 W.R.N.S. killed and 11 injured. (Lee 1109/24 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

WOLSEY.

My 1007. 2 Bombs. No hits. (WOLSEY 1029/24).

Sheerness.

Small Bomb on R.N.A.A. Range at 1605/23. Minor damage to buildings. Repair estimate £12. (O.C.W. Sheerness 1030/24 to C.E.in C. Bath).

Faroes.

One or more Seaplanes attacked Shipping in Thorshavn Bay at 1725/22. 2 Torpedoes exploded on coast causing slight damage to hospital and cable hut. Enemy unsuccessfully engaged with machine-guns, the only weapons available here. (O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands 2228/22 to War Office. Recd. Adty. 1055/24) (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1146/24 to A.C.O.S.)

VANITY.

Adty. 1646/22. (Request for details of VANITY's 1135/21) Details of Enemy A/C. (VANITY 1141/24 to C.in C. Nore.)

Portsmouth.

4 small H.E. Bombs fell on Whale Island at 1951, and others in mud to the Westward. No damage or casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1200/24 to Adty.)

5th M/S Flotilla.

1 A/C shadowing in 57° 26' N. 1° 40' W. (S.O. 5 M/S F. 1211/24) One section Blenheims joining you about 1545 in addition to Section for W.N.43. Air attacks appear probable. (C.in C. Rosyth 1450/24 to S.O. 5th M/S F.).

Portland.

At 1302/24 one A/C dropped 2 Bombs in Harbour close to Mere Oil Fuel Tanks. No damage or casualties. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1321/24 to Adty.)

Scapa Flow.

German A/C made R/C near Scapa Flow at 1215 today and reported as follows. (D.D.I.C. 1423/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

Enemy R/C.

Unusually comprehensive, Enemy Air R/C Firth of Forth to Orkneys from 1330 onwards. (D.D.I.C. 1526/24 to C.in C.H.F.) Your 1526/24. Please give details. (C.in C. H.F. 1550/24 to Adty.)



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Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

3 groups of enemy aircraft 12 in all, operating from Stavanger, carried out a detailed reconnaissance in areas Forth - Kinnaird Head Orkneys and Pentland Firth.

Shipping and naval units in these areas were reported and weather reports were made from the Orkneys and Wick.

(D.D.I.C. 1803/24 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1423 not less than two Dornier 17 carried out Recco, having approached undetected, and remained in vicinity from 1150 until 1311.

Although several sightings were obtained visibility poor at the time. Aircraft were not engaged by Ground Defences. No Bombs or Mines appear to have been dropped.

At 1707 Yellow Warning was made for 3 unidentified Aircraft. Only one other plot received from NAIAD at 1728.

2 Fighters from Castletown went up but did not make contact.

Green Warning made at 1757.

(A.C.O.S. 1925/24 to Adty.)

Woolston.

Air Raid on night 23/24 caused following damage to Naval Store Depot.

(S.C.E. Portsmouth 1753/24 to C.E.in C.)

Mining.

Portsmouth

Suspect minelaying at 0055 approx. 050° 27' N., 002° 18' W. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0141/24 to DUNEDIN)

Milford Haven

Port is closed (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0502/24) Port is open, subject to local restrictions (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1331/24).

Humber.

Open. (F.O. Humber 0732/14)

CAMROUX IV.

Has fired probably acoustic mine 1 mile 045° from charted position East Oaze. Ship anchored makes water. Engine out of action. Request tug at once.

(VERDUN, 0955/24 to C.in C. Nore).

RYAL.

Mined in position 051° 32' N., 001° 04' E. (WATCHMAN 1100/24 to C.in C. Nore).

My 1100/24. Ship sunk, 1 survivor recovered. T.42 and motor launch No.171 standing by. (WATCHMAN, 1113/24 to C.in C. Nore). Your 1100/24 report situation. Is ship still afloat. (C.in C. Nore, 1125/24 to WATCHMAN).

/ Tugs DORIA and ...

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HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)

Tugs DORIA and VENTUROUS proceeding at 1200 and 1230 to assistance of CAMROUX and RYAL. (Admiralty 1219/24 to C.in C. Nore).

Your 1113/24. Is wreck in swept channel, if so can position be given. If survivor on board WATCHMAN give name. (C.in C. Nore, 1241/24 to WATCHMAN).

Your 1241/24. Mine exploded amidships ship blown to pieces. T.42 instructed to Dan Buoy position which is zero (?on) southern edge of swept channel. RYAL was second of 2 motor ships 2 cables dead astern of next ahead.

Survivor Bernard Mannen 1st Engineer. Fractured leg and shock. (WATCHMAN, 1352/24 to C.in C. Nore).

M.L. 171.
Thames Estuary.

M.L. 171 reports when looking for survivors of RYAL mine exploded close ahead. 350° 5 cables from East Knob Buoy. No casualties. Slight damage to boat. (C.in C. Nore, 1839/24 to Admiralty).

Thames Estuary.

At 1038 mines and sinkers exploded in position 4 cables 000° from East Oaze wreckmarking buoy 051° 30' 24" E. Between M/V's and M.L. 171 about 2 cables from each. No damage. (WATCHMAN, 1050/24 to C.in C. Nore).

ALMA DAWSON
(British M/V,
3985 tons).

Reported mined abandoned in ~~sinking~~ condition 055° 32' N., 006° (744') W. Crew safe in SPURT now in company with CLYDE, ship stationary, number one hold flooded, number two leaking. Anchor run out by explosion. Have sent ST. LAURENT to report on condition. (ENCHANTRESS, 1219/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Unknown Ship
? ALMA DAWSON*(British mine)*

Torpedoed 1045/24, 086° 18 miles Inishtrahull (RIVER LUGAR, no T.O.O. Recd. 1154/24) Ship reported torpedoed, 086° 18 miles Inishtrahull probably mined. As soon as confirmed destroyers detached to hunt are to rejoin convoy and report whether ship salvable. (C.in C. W.A. 1400/24 to OTTAWA).

Your 1255 received. An unknown ship was torpedoed 086° 18 miles from Inishtrahull at 1145. Proceed with all despatch (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1503/24 to SALVONIA) My 1331. Ship was seen sinking on horizon cause unknown. Raft and wreckage but no boat or survivors were seen on closing to the position. SAGUENAY and ST. LAURENT now in area. Am rejoining convoy with HURRICANE. (HESPERUS 1525/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

2 vessels reported torpedoed or mined 24/11, positions 55° 32' N., 06° 44' W. and 55° / 32' N.,



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Mining. (Contd.)

? ALMA DAWSON.
(contd.)

32' N., 06° 38' W. Consider torpedoing unlikely, casualties may be due to mines from S.N. 43. Intend send 11th M.S.F. to carry out skimming sweep. (C.in C. W.A. 1557/24 to Admiralty). Ship sunk in approx. position 055° 32' N., 006° 44' W. consider this was ALMA DAWSON, as no other ship was seen during search. Am joining SKEENA. (ST. LAURENT, 1655/24 to ENCHANTRESS). My 1503/24, ship has sunk. Return to Belfast (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1800/24 to SALVONIA). Your 1400/24 and ENCHANTRESS 1336/24 Survivors consider ship was sunk by mine. If still not in contact by 2100 intend abandoning search. * ~~GREENHOUND~~ in company. (SKEENA, 1944/24 to C.in C. W.A.). Your 1400/24. ST. LAURENT reports ship sunk. (ENCHANTRESS, 2147/24 to C.in C. W.A.).

* Ench - GREYHOUND
in Det.

Gael sunk.

H.M.Y. GAEL, Humber Mouth Patrol Vessel, mined 0820/24 in approx. 180° two miles from Spurn Point Main Lighthouse. Details. Reciprocating engines. Excessive vibration at time from dynamo. Ship was completely shattered internally but hull remained fairly sound. Area not swept for some time. GAEL sunk in approx. 53° 31½' N. 0° 7½' E. Nine survivors landed four injured five uninjured. No deaths. (F.O. Humber 1552/24).

PRESERVER.

(salvage vessel
630 tons)

Mined 054° No. 1 Navigation Buoy Milford Haven 1 cable. M/S Trawlers PERDRANT and GEORGETTE sent to search for moored or magnetic mines. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1230/24 to Admiralty).

Thames Estuary.

Summary of Pyrotechnic signals and A/C activity for night of 23/24/11. (S.O.T. L.D.F. 1256/24 to C.in C. Nore.).

Tyne.

Port is open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1304/24). Port is open. Instruct diesel driven ships not to proceed under own power nearer Tyne than T. 1. Buoy and Sunderland than S.2. Buoy from which position they should ask for tug. (C.in C. Rosyth 1512/24 to EGRET).

Falmouth

Port is now open subject to following restrictions (details). (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1453/24 to C.in C. W.A.). Port is open (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1515/24).

ALICE MARIE

Mined and aground, 255° 8 cables from Knob L.V. Request tug immediately to keep ship on bank as tide rising. Am standing by. (LONDONDERRY, 1525/24 to C.in C. Nore) My 1525/24. LONDONDERRY returning to harbour Tug SUN V standing by (LONDONDERRY 1613/24 to C.in C. Nore).



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Mining. (Contd.)

ALICE MARIE
(contd.)

In F.S. 43 mined and aground. 255° Knob L.V. 8 cables. Tug standing by. (C.in C. Nore 1651/24 to Admiralty). Your 1651/24. Abandoned partly under water. Crew being taken off and tug withdrawn. Casualties one injured. (F.C.S.O. Thames, 1851/24 to C.in C. Nore).

THOMAS M.

310 tons.

Coast Vessel THOMAS M mined and sunk 1512/24, 135° 1.5 miles Yarmouth harbour entrance. Casualties 1 missing and 7 injured. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1620/24 to Admiralty). Information from only uninjured survivor; left examination vessel and proceeding about 4 knots on W.N.W. course. Mine exploded under after part. Dutch built, 5 cylinder Deutry Diesel engines. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1945/24 to Admiralty).

AMETHYST

(H.M.T.)

LE TIGER reports AMETHYST sunk by mine vicinity Barrow L.V. all crew saved. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1648/24 to C.in C. Nore).

BEHAR

6100 tons.

Mined 230° Gt. Castle Head Lower Light 4.5 cables PERDRANT and GEORGETTE (Sweepers) sent to search for moored or magnetic mines. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1725/24 to Admiralty).

A/P Drifters.

Your 1339/7/11. ^(page 168) Is it the intention to limit movement of A/P drifters and yachts already fitted with diesel engines, there are 3 such vessels at Lowestoft. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1729/24 to Admiralty).

GOOD DESIGN

K.3

My 2311/23. Explosion believed to have occurred under stern of GOOD DESIGN. (details). Position where explosion occurred was in shell D.G. range area in use at time and which had been cleared by L.L. swept over by similar diesel engined boats. (C.in C. Rosyth 1903/24 to Admiralty).

Blyth.

Closed, suspected minelaying. Expect to open 2231/24. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 2231/24). Closed. Ships bound Blyth to be deflected to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2344/24 to VERSATILE)

Diesel engined
Patrol Vessels.

Pending further instructions, Diesel engined patrol vessels are not to enter waters likely to be laid with acoustic mines. (C.in C. Nore, 2237/24 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

PIKEPOOL.

(British, 3683 tons) Believed mined off Smalls Light at 0500/22. Survivors landed at Milford Haven (D.O.R. 24/11).

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Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy.

4 Destroyers and 6 M/V's steering 150°
in 58° 3' N. 6° 50' E.
(A/C. of 218 Squadron 1300/24 to
Rosyth).

E-Boats.

Reported near H.R. Patrol and 4 miles
E. of 54 B. Buoy. (C.in C. Nore
2029/24 to CAMPBELL, GARTH).
Reported near Aldeburgh Light Float.
(C.in C. Nore 2047/24 to SHELDRAKE)
Unknown War Motor Boat 045° Berry Head.
(Portsmouth W/T 2206/24).
Still off Yarmouth. (C.in C. Nore
2315/24 to CAMPBELL).

Boulogne)
Cherbourg.)

Warships and Shipping at 1425/24.
(P.I.U. 2105/24).



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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

BATH

Damage sustained by sea with W.S. 4 B
Convoy (R.A.M.L. 0921/22 to Admty.)

M/V

Aircraft report at 1752/23 one M/V 5000
tons in 47° 10' N., 6° 50' W., stationary
and may be in distress. (V.A.S 1009/24)

PELEUS

Sailed for Swansea towed by SEINE
and attended by GOLIATH. Making water and
requires docking at once. (F.O.I.C.
Milford Haven 1815/24 to Admty.)

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Convoys.

Shipping.

S.L. 54.

Not met. My p.c. and s. French sloop minesweeper CHEVREUIL in company. Weather. (HEARTSEASE, 1045/24, to C.in C. W.A.) Position. (C.in C. W.A. 1715/24 to HEARTSEASE).

H.X.86.

Route, to steer clear of minefields. (C.in C. W.A. 1515/24 to CASTLETON)

S.C.11.

DERBY COUNTY to R.V. (C.in C. W.A. 1533/24 2109/24) Blenheim a/c escort not reported since leaving Aldergrove (C.in C. W.A., 2010/24).

O.G.46.

Intend MARSDALE should proceed Gibraltar with O.G.46, and later to area R.3 (F.O.C.N.A., 1930/24).

F.N., F.S.

Time tables to supersede my 1255/4/10, for 9 knot and 7 knot ships. (C.in C. Rosyth 1943/24). Escorts. Amending his 1951/19. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1945/24).

H.X.91.

REVENGE to escort. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1533/24)

H.X.85.

Route, to keep clear of minefield (C.in C. W.A. 1509/24 to SABRE for Cdre, SARDONYX, HELIOTROPE, CLARKIA)

O.B.

In future all O.B. Convoys will normally disperse at nightfall on day that local escorts part company (D.T.D. 2205/24).

SUDERHOLM)
BENTE MAERSK)

My 1739/23. Sailings may now be resumed. (C.in C. W.A. 0815/24).

Troop Convoys.

ORDUNA
ADDA

Sailed CAIRO in accordance C.in C. W.A. 1333/23. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0600/24).

CAPETOWN CASTLE
PASTEUR.

Admty. 1548/21. Escort sailing 27/11. HIGHLANDER from Liverpool, GARLAND from Clyde. (C.in C. W.A., 1211/24).

Acoustic Mines.

Pending further instructions, Diesel-engined patrol vessels not to enter waters likely to be laid with acoustic mines. (C.in C. Nore, 2237/24).

E. Boats.

Attacks on merchant ships by -
(See Policy), p. 660

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Operations Against Vichy French.

French Ships,
 Scuttling Report.

N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports all French ships have orders to scuttle themselves if in danger of falling into our hands. All escorts have orders to open fire if we interfere with their convoys. (F.O.C. N.A. 0257/24 to Ships and Authorities N. Atlantic Station).

Your 1714/23. Request you will grade reliability of source and if possible obtain confirmation of second sentence. (D.N.I., 1603/24 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon) *Reply: p. 698.*

GROIX.

Spanish Master reports 0930/21 passing French S.S. GROIX off Cape Cantin steering S. with large number of black troops. This ship cannot be found in Lloyds. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1916/24 to C.in C. S.A.) *(See page 707)*

French Warships,
 Martinique.

My 1731/19 and my 1001/21.

Intercepted letter written about end of September by Admiral Robert, High Commissioner for Martinique, to M. Le Luc, Vichy official, consigned by hand of Messrs. Carde and Revoil, states following:

(1) Condition of Aircraft Carrier BEARN. Cruiser JEANNE D'ARC Cruiser Minelayer EMILE BERTIN, and either BARFLEUR or ESTEREL can be kept effective on peace time basis with personnel remaining after repatriation of reservists. All ships will soon need repairs which cannot be carried out at Martinique.

(2) Need for warships to be allowed to steam about within area of French West Indies to maintain morale of crews.

(3) Existing good understanding with Admiral Greenslade would enable (2) to be effected.

(4) Oil necessary for local warship movements probably obtainable Automobile Agency of United States Naval Representative at Martinique who has already arranged delivery by U.S. tankers of 2,000 tons of heavy oil for factories and harbour use of vessels.

(5) Need for clearer definition of authority of High Commissioner.

(6) Request for Benech, French N.A. Washington, to join Roberts staff at Martinique.

In view of (2) above and possibility BEARN being sent to Dakar suggest (4) is very undesirable. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1101/24, to Admty.)

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North Atlantic.

Operation
"Collar".

C.in C. Med. ? 1619/21 para. 5. Area intended to be covered with ARK ROYAL A/C (details) (S.O. Force H, 0910/24 to V.A. Malta.)

Reconnaissance from ARK ROYAL (details). Orders to RAMILLIES, NEWCASTLE, BERWICK and COVENTRY. (S.O. Force H, 1018/24 to RAMILLIES, BERWICK, NEWCASTLE, COVENTRY).

PUNGUE

(Portuguese M/V. 3993 tons). My 1233/22 and Admiralty 1611/22 PUNGUE from West Africa to Lisbon and Leixoes. Cargo as follows. Removed 18 bags mail. Vessel called San Thome 4/11 but master refused to load cargo, no British Consul being there. Master trying to conform to regulations. Copy manifest follows, vessel detained pending instructions. (Conband, Gibraltar, 1045/24 to Admiralty).

PUNGUE,
CUNENE,
SIQUEIRA CAMPOS

Following from M.E.W. four 1740/23. PUNGUE and CUNENE may be released and may take those passengers of Brazilian ship SIQUEIRA CAMPOS who prefer returning Lisbon now to remaining Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 1440/24 to C.C.S.C. Gibraltar)

Gibraltar Air
Report.

Daily Summary Operations. (200 Group, 1730/24 to Air Min.)

South Atlantic.

THORSHAVN

My 0935/20. Cancel (overdue shipping) (S.O.(I) Capetown 0855B/24).

PENNLAND

Your 1808/21, my 1413/18, 1957/18 and 2025/21 gave route and date arrival at Jamaica and proposed be used to return military guard to Freetown. Sailed Freetown 21/11. (C.in C. S.A. 1203N/24 to D. of S.T.) *See S.O. S.T. 2034/26, p. 730.*

Suspicious Vessel.

BIRCHBANK reports sighting Brigantine 100 to 150 tons 44° 55' N., 33° 56' W. at 1000/4/11 G.M.T. probably same craft reported by ROCHESTER CASTLE, 1514/4/11. Master states he saw similar craft on 13/9 near where SAINT AGNES torpedoed. Considers movements suspicious, suggests may be acting as decoy for S/M; also reports arrived 1030/9/11 in position where RIDLEY torpedoed, searched until 1900/9/11 for survivors but no boat or trace of wreckage sighted. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1215B/24 to Admiralty).

*not torpedoed
(P. 700)*

/BRITANNIC
KENT

.....

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South Atlantic. (Continued)

BRITANNIC
KENT

Your 1747/23. BRITANNIC carrying 304 military and naval personnel ready to sail from Capetown 1200/25. Master proposes proceeding to Liverpool direct. Suggest should be routed Freetown escorted by KENT. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1223B/24 to C.in C. S. Atlantic) Your 1223B/24. KENT should escort BRITANNIC as far as equator, BRITANNIC to be routed independently onward to Liverpool. (C.in C. S.A. 2043N/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Suspicious
Warship

Coast watches reports warship proceeding eastwards high speed 12 miles N. of Pebble Island 0930 zone plus three. Seek confirmation. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Isles, 1446Z/24 to R.A.S. American Division).

My 1446Z/24. Still awaiting further information, situation meanwhile vague. From scanty description by coast watchers ship may be Argentine Cruiser LA ARGENTINA.

B.N.A. Buenos Aires please ascertain if possible. (N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 1920Z/24 to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 1920Z/24 ship apparently proceeding North. Partially intercepted signal of great strength asking in Spanish for Meteorological Report appears to confirm opinion that she is LA ARGENTINA. (N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 2313Z/24).

Your 1920/24. LA ARGENTINA is now in Buenos Aires (N.A. Buenos Aires 2240/24)

DELHI.

Your 2042/23 understood. DELHI will fire 36 single gun salvos throw off 60. (DELHI, 1819/24 to F.O. 1 C.S.)

A/A defences.

W. Africa.

G/2070 cipher 24/11. Your 89082 (M.O.4) 15/11. Not possible provide required information until my G.S.O.l. R.A. who only arrived yesterday is able to proceed Freetown and make thorough examination problem. Consider it unlikely however that additional A.A. resources enumerated your 87996 (M.O.4) November 7th will be adequate to include protection transport facilities Pepel. The position is that in addition protection which will eventually be required for Hastings, C.in C. South Atlantic is pressing for some A.A. defences to be sited on Bullom shore as ships very vulnerable to attack from that direction. (G.O.C. W. Africa, Accra, 1135/24 to War Office).

Takoradi
and Lagos Aerodromes

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Takoradi and
Lagos Aerodromes.

90211 cipher (M.O.4) 24/11. Your G/2069 22/11. Your anxiety about safety of aerodromes at Takoradi and Lagos appreciated but it is vital that all fighter aircraft reach Middle East earliest possible. Nothing must be done to delay these aircraft on any account. (War Office, 1935/24 to G.O.C. West Africa).

Mediterranean.

Greece.

Situation. (M.A. Athens to W.O., 0230/24).

PANDORA.

Operation B.S. To leave Alexandria 1700/25. Route. (Capt. S.1, 0937/24)

Crete.

Q.B.C. 156, Crete, Suda Bay. Details of searched Channel. (R.A., Alexandria, 1351/24).

Lack of
A.R.P.,
Egypt.

Drawing attention to Cairo message 1574 of 20/11 to F.O. Lack of A.R.P. a considerable danger to internal security. (C.in C. Med., to Admty. 2147/24).

Minelaying -
Turkey.

Following action is necessary to complete preparations for laying (C.in C. Med. 1615/24).

Air Report.

Operational summary No. 167 up to 1200 hours 24.11.40. 1. Greece. Day 23/11. 9 Blenheims despatched to bomb Durazzo were forced to return by exceptionally bad weather. 3 Blenheims despatched to attack Elbasan, of which 1 located and bombed target, remaining 2 returning owing to bad weather. 1 fighter Blenheim patrolled over Athens. All aircraft returned safely. 13 Blenheims 211 Squadron arrived in Greece from Egypt. 2. Egypt. 3. Udas. No naval items. 4. Kenya. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1206/24).

Alexandria Raid.

Air raid 0425 to 0545. About 18 bombs mostly in city area. Civilian casualties 2 killed 28 injured by shell splinters. Slight material damage to a factory and 2 houses collapsed. Plane obviously attacking harbour but driven off by barrage. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1325/24).

/ Coast defences.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

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Coast defences.

(1) In view present situation in Eastern Mediterranean consider two naval 6-inch guns awaiting mounting at Haifa should be released for Turkey as originally intended.

(2) Consider two 6-inch guns in transit from U.K. for Alexandria (She-Fakhana) should now be allotted Matruh as most desirable. Matruh should have defences against possible bombardment from sea.

(3) Should further six inch guns become available consider priority of issue should be (A) Alexandria two (B) Haifa two. (C.in C. M.E. 1350/24).

Air Attack on Durazzo.

Operational summary No.11 No.211 Squadron. 9 Blenheims attacked ~~Budapest~~ 1400 hours 24/11. Direct hits on 10,000 ton ship and smaller ships, latter burst into flames, remainder of bombs in dock area or alongside ships at quay. Intense and accurate A.A. fire. 1 aircraft missing. (at Corfu, p. 702) 4 Aircraft detained at Larissa reports awaited. (H.Q. B.A.F., Greece, 1930/24)

Attack on Malta.

1600-1630 6 C.R. 42's carried out dusk low flying attack on Luga aerodrome. One Wellington on ground burnt out. One enemy a/c possibly damaged. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1730/24).

East Indies.

Air Patrol.

Probable there is now an air patrol to a depth of at least 50 miles from Kismayu (C.in C. E.I. 0450Z/24 to E.I. Station).

QUEEN ELIZABETH

My 1300/23. Request may be routed as follows (details). (C.in C. E.I. 0514Z/24 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Assab Raided.

Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500/24.

1 Blenheim 8 Squadron on armed reconnaissance of Eritrean Coast 0525 to 0810 dropped 4 bombs 0620 very near a ship in Assab Harbour which usually fires at aircraft. Of 3 Blenheims 8 Squadron sent to bomb Bizellis transport yard, Assab, returned with bomb as turret was unserviceable.

1 at 1200 started fire visible 50 miles
1 at 1240 added all bombs to

conflagration. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron patrolled convoy B.N.9½ 0400 to 1330 all times G.M.T. No damage or casualties. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1830/24).

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America and West Indies.

Raider,
PORT HOBART
attacked.

Enemy raider reported shelling
 PORT HOBART (British 7448 tons)
 024 degs. 44' N. 058 degs. 21' W.
 at 1530Z/24. Proceed at 20 knots
 and endeavour to locate raider.
 (C.in C. A.W.I., 1201/24 to DIOMEDE).

B.H.X.91.

Departure, Ocean escort ASCANIA
 returning to Bermuda (N.O.I.C. Bermuda
 1153/23).

Your 1201/24 Trinidad reports same
 information broadcast by Z U A N at 1135
 local time today. Z U A N secret W/T
 call sign for GORJISTAN, due Trinidad
 22/11 for Capetown.
 (S.O.I. Kingston, 1454/24).

124. Enemy Raider in position 024°
 44' N., 058° 21' W. at 1530 G.M.T. 24/11.
 Homeward bound independent shipping is
 to keep West of 065 degrees West until
 North of 030 degrees North.
 (C.in C. A.W.I., 1232/24 to N.C.S.O's,
 Atlantic Coast).
 Instructing ships to keep well clear.
 (C.in C. A.W.I., 1248/24 to G.B.M.S.7).

Raider
TREHATA
report

Following has been received.
 Warship Raider. 55.11 N., 20. 40 W.,
 TREHATA (British, 4817 tons) sighted
 suspicious vessel. (Plymouth W/T, 1328/24)

Troop Convoys.

Admty. 1548/21 reports WINDSOR CASTLE
 delayed. Can reply yet be given to my
 1123/17 if accommodation is required in
 LADY HAWKINS and LADY RODNEY. Admty.
 2333/23. Can WINDSOR CASTLE also be
 under escort of T.C.8?
 (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1544/24 to Admty.)

KLIPFONTEIN,
Japanese
Inquiry.

Following from San Pedro (begins) Master
 of Dutch ship NOORDAM reports that on
 20/11 when he was three days from
 San Pedro an unknown Japanese ship was
 calling Dutch ship KLIPFONTEIN.
 KLIPFONTEIN broke wireless silence and
 replied. Japanese ship then asked if
 she was KLIPFONTEIN and on receiving
 answer in affirmative then ceased
 signalling. KLIPFONTEIN due Honolulu
 30/11 (Ends.) Can you confirm position
 of KLIPFONTEIN. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,
 1253/24 to Capt. O.S., Singapore).

H.X.91.
REVENGE

Cancel my 1222/23 (Giving MONTCLARE as
 escort) REVENGE will sail as Ocean
 Escort for H.X.91, subsequently returning
 to Halifax. (R.A. 3 B.S., 1533/24).

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

Trieste

Reported all German ships at Trieste preparing to transport German troops to Albania. (List) (D.S. 446).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GRADISCA

Told at 2145/23 to proceed to Valona instead of Durazzo. (D.S. 446).

FRANCO
MARTELLI

Legally seized at Pernambuco 19/11 on account of debt to Vacuum Oil Co. (D.S. 446).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

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Ships Attacked.

BUSSUM
(torpedoed
23/11).

SALVONIA is to proceed to assistance of BUSSUM in position 55° 39' N., 08° 58' W. at 2005/23. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0140/24 to SALVONIA).

ENCHANTRESS 2355/23. Nothing seen of BUSSUM. At 1000 spoke with SALVONIA and informed her considered 055° 37' North correct. Fuel remaining will not permit continued search. My position course and speed 055° 38' N. 009° 06' W. 0900, 14, Visibility 6. (SAGUENAY, 1015/24).

SALVONIA has found BUSSUM abandoned in 55° 47' N. 8° 22' W. and will connect up when weather moderates. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1413/24, to Admty.)

My 1413. BUSSUM broke in half and sank at 1353. She was abandoned when found by SALVONIA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1459/24 to Admty.)

BRUSE
(torpedoed 23/11)

Tug THAMES is to proceed to assistance of BRUSE in position 55° 16' N. 12° 05' W. Cargo 1150 tons lumber. ENGLISHMAN has also been sent. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0147/24).

C.in C. Western Approaches. Rpd. GQQL SALVONIA. Have sighted BRUSE in position 055° 39' N. 011° 31' W. After part shot away. (BLUEBELL, 1545/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

BRUSE was sighted in position 55° 38' N. 11° 31' W. at 1545 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1935/24 to ENGLISHMAN, THAMES)

BRUSE sighted at 1600 today in position 55° 31' N. 11° 29' W. Report when you proceed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1812/25 to ENGLISHMAN)

ANTEN
(torpedoed
23/11).

S/M Raider Signal. ANTEN torpedoed 0730/23 position approx. 56 57 N. 18 18 W. at 1500/23 drifting due east. requires immediate assistance. (Land's End, 0931/24 0940/24).

Your 1311/23/11. ANTEN bunkers of good quality 850 tons Marine Fuel Oil Speed 10 knots 1500 tons Sand Ballast. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1048/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

SHIA (ANTEN) has given amended position 056° 57' N. 018° 18' W. at 1500/23 drifting due east. D.F. bearings indicate position may be about 20 miles further South. (C.in C. W.A. 1129/24 to SANDWICH).

/ Have boarded

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Sunday.War Diary.U-BOAT. CAMPAIGN .

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Ships Attacked. (Continued)

Have boarded ANTEN number 2 and 3 holds completely wrecked ship can be steamed stern first only but do not consider much progress could be made. Master insists ship will break in half but consider ship might be saved with assistance of tugs provided weather does not deteriorate. Crew not willing to remain on board have therefore embarked master 18 officers and men and master and 1 officer of (groups missing) ?GBJ

Owing to darkness have had to leave 14 men on board intend to take them off at daylight. (SANDWICH 1800Z/24).

Your 1800/24. Tug DILIGENT is being sent. (C.in C. W.A. 2344/24 to SANDWICH).

Cancel my 0830/23 proceed to torpedoed ANTEN in position $056^{\circ} 48' N.$ $018^{\circ} 30' W.$ at 1800/24. SANDWICH standing by and reports ship can be steamed stern first. (?C.in C. W.A., 2228/24 to DILIGENT)

Submarines Reported.

0148. 55 to $56^{\circ} N.$, W. of $20^{\circ} W.$ indefinite (D.S. 446).
2010. D.F., Italian U/B. approx. position between 45 and $47^{\circ} N.$, 4° - $5^{\circ} W.$ V.A.S. to S/M's on Patrol, 2043/24)
2046. D.F., Italian U/B, 54 to $55^{\circ} N.$, 16 to $20^{\circ} W.$, unreliable fix. (C.in C. W.A., 2335/24 to DEPTFORD)
1145. Detach available destroyers to hunt U/B reported 086° 18 miles from Inishtrahull at 1145. (C.in C. W.A., 1222/24 to ENCHANTRESS). Your 1222. SKEENA detached. She has 84 tons oil fuel remaining. (ENCHANTRESS, 1336/24)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

Italian - The one that has been in Western Approaches seems now to be nearing Bordeaux.
1 was about 60 miles W.N.W. of Rockall at 1931/23.
1 more may be in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

German - 1 in Sierra Leone area or farther North.
Possibly 1 in Western Approaches.
1 was some 240 miles W. of Slyne Head 2029/23.
1 was in 55 degs. $39' N.$ 8 degs. $58' W.$ at 2005/23 attacking S.C.11.
1 was reported in 55 degs. $45' N.$ 13 degs. W. at 2249/23.
1 was in area 55 degs. to 56 degs N. and W. of 20 degs. W. at 0148/24. / 1 was ...

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported (Continued)

1 was in about 56 degs. 57' N. 18 degs. 18'W. at 0830/23 attacking O.B.244. 1 maybe to the Northward of Rockall, whereabouts unknown. 1 possibly in area 58 degs. to 60 degs. N. and W. of 20 degs. W. 1 was off Norwegian coast, probably N. of 61 degs. N. at 2154/23. (D.D.I.C. 1307/24).

Information of D/F. Reports.

Admty. 2230/22 informed authorities concerned that these convoys had been reported by an Italian U-boat. Owing to bad D/F conditions the evidence that a German U-boat was in the vicinity was slender, no fix being obtained. The number of signals finally indicated the possibility of the convoys being shadowed and you were informed. Instructions have been given that you are to be informed immediately of similar slender indications. (D.D.I.C. 1149/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

My 1312/24. After doubtful sight attacked firm contact in position 055° 28' (? 14 "or 30") N. 007° 07' W. Fired five patterns without result. No Doppler after first pattern. Still in contact intend to remain 24 hours. (MALCOLM, 1713/24).

16/17 October.

It is reported by a reliable source that an Italian submarine operating from Bordeaux was sunk as a result of air attack on 16/17 October (Air Min. D.S. 493).



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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer
Operation

The four destroyers under Captain D. 5. in JAVELIN which last night carried out a sweep off Ushant to cover shipping between Dartmouth and Falmouth, as it was thought possible that 3 enemy destroyers might be operating off the south coast between 1° 30' W and 6° W., (see 23/11, 24/11) failed to intercept the enemy.

Continual firing was seen from shore off the Lizard between 0003 and 0130. Tanker APOLLONIA in ballast from Plymouth to Avonmouth is reported to have been sunk, and it was reported that Belgian trawlers fishing off the Wolf Rock were attacked, though reports are conflicting and it is believed that all are accounted for except two who may be fishing. Tug LYNCH which was in the neighbourhood is missing and one of two barges which were with her have been washed ashore at Portleven. Two other vessels, SS FERINWOOD and STADION II are believed to have been in the neighbourhood.

At 1601 orders were sent to D. 5 to take his force towards a position 15 miles south of the Lizard. JACKAL left Plymouth at 1700 to join D.5. Instructions were later sent to D. 5 that he was free to intercept where he thought fit the 3 enemy destroyers which were thought likely to operate between 1° 30' W and 6° W to-night.

All night aircraft patrol was arranged and a Blenheim escort was held in readiness for D. 5. Local patrols and submarines were withdrawn.

M.T.B.
Sweep

Three M.T.B.'s from Dover operated between Calais and Boulogne last night. There was nothing to report.

/CONQUISTADOR....



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Monday

SITUATION REPORT

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Home Commands-Contd.

CONQUISTADOR

M/S Trawler CONQUISTADOR sank this morning in the Thames Estuary after collision with M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS. The latter was damaged.

Convoy C.W. 18
Shelled

Heavy coastal batteries fired about 200 rounds at Convoy C.W. 18 this afternoon and evening. One ship was slightly damaged by a near miss.

British Air Activity

Bomber
Command

The Blohm and Voss shipyards and other targets at Hamburg were bombed last night as well as the docks at Wilhelmshaven and targets at Sylt, Rendsburg, Helder, Rotterdam, Uist and Boulogne.

Enemy Air Activity

A major attack took place on the Bristol area last night.

German reconnaissance aircraft were again active today between Firth of Forth and Orkneys. The aircraft R.C. from Brest extended 200 miles to the westwards.

Somewhat similar activity was noted prior to the attack on convoy H.X. 84 by ¹³⁰⁸²¹SCHEER on 5/11.

Mining

Minelaying last night by enemy aircraft took place on the East Coast and Thames Estuary.

R.A.F. laid 3 mines off the Texel this evening.

/KENNYMORE.....



MOST SECRET

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SITUATION REPORT

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Mining-Contd.

KENNYMORE

M/S Trawler KENNYMORE was mined and sunk this evening in the Thames Estuary. Mines were detonated in the Estuary last night and today.

TEES HOPPER No 3

TEES HOPPER No.3 was mined and sunk off Hartlepool this morning.

M.L. 111
Sunk

M.L. 111 was mined and sunk off Spurn Point this morning.

Milford Haven

Several mines were detonated off Milford Haven today. The port was closed at 0815 and reopened, with restrictions at 1240.

Tyne

KIPLING exploded a mine off the Tyne, but was undamaged. QZS.171 was closed at 0847.

Blyth

Blyth was opened at 1344.

Plymouth

After an interval of several days mine-laying by enemy aircraft off Plymouth has recommenced and at least 2 mines were dropped in or near the searched channel yesterday evening. Ships are only allowed to arrive and leave for limited periods immediately after the channel has been swept twice daily.

South Atlantic

Operation
"Stripe"

FURIOUS arrived at Freetown 0900 today.



MOST SECRET

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Mediterranean

SS PATRIA carrying illegal immigrants was sabotaged this morning and capsized at the breakwater at Haifa.

Operation
"Collar"

S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, with ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, DESPATCH, FOC 18 C.S. in MANCHESTER, with SOUTHAMPTON, FAULKNER, FURY, FIREDRAKE, FORESTER, KELVIN, JAGUAR, ENCOUNTER and WISHART left Gibraltar at 0830 today for Operation "Collar"

The four corvettes PEONY, SALVIA, HYACINTH, GLOXINIA with DUNCAN and HOTSPUR left Gibraltar at 0100 today to R.V. with the M.T. ships.

1st Divn. of 1st B.S., ILLUSTRIOUS, 3rd C.S. and 8 destroyers left Alexandria today for Suda Bay and the Central Mediterranean.

Greek-Italian
Operations.

It is clear from reports of our own bombers today, who found many transports unloading at Durazzo and Valona that the Italians are trying to retrieve the situation by landing extensive reinforcements. N.A. Athens reports that the vital need is to impede this movement. (p. 703)

M. T. Convoy
Bombed

Blenheims which attacked Tepelene and Argirocastron today dropped bombs on a convoy of 8 M.T., scoring ~~some~~ hits.

A standing patrol was maintained over Athens.

America & West Indies

MALOJA was ordered to assist DIOMEDE to search for the raider reported yesterday by SS PORT HOBART.



MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Scapa.
Defence against
Air Attack

Your 2206/24 I again urge that best method of hindering this form of attack is to destroy by bombing enemy aircraft at Bergen, Stavanger and Kristiansand south Aerodromes and seaplane bases. This necessitates the use of heavy bombers from North Shetlands or Orkneys and also from Shetlands which latter necessitates the making of another Aerodrome in Shetlands a matter I have been pressing for last two years.

I cannot of course confirm that berthing of the Fleet and general arrangements are such as to preclude a successful attack as no human being could do that.

(C. in C., H.F. 1517/25 to Admty) *Reply p 766.*

A/S Patrol for
Firth of Lorne

To protect merchant vessels at Oban usually about 35 in number an A/S patrol of one vessel is required at Southern end of Firth of Lorne. The three trawlers for escorting Oban Group of W.N. convoys are unable to provide the patrol. Request 2 A/S vessels suitable for comparatively sheltered waters of Firth of Lorne be allocated to Oban. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

NIGERIA

Your 1917/24. Can NIGERIA rejoin the Fleet at Scapa to provide auxiliary cruiser for the Home Fleet Hunting Group. KENYA and NAIAD are unfit for rough weather and former is proceeding to Plymouth shortly. No carrier is available. One Cruiser will be required as ocean escort for Minelayers laying Faroes-Iceland field for some weeks. (C. in C., H.F. 1610/25 to Admty.)

Enemy Raiders
Policy & measures
to be adopted.

Amendment to Admty 0036/25 (D.O.D. (F) 1134/25) See Operations Volume.

Defence of U.K.

"Saluge"
DELUGE

At 1200/25 (D.C. 1207/25) At 2330/25
(D.C. 2330/25)



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HOME COMMANDS

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Movements

ST. MARYS

Sailed Port Z.A. 0930/25 to comply with C. in C., H.F. 1228/24 (TRELAWNEY 0932/25)

HOLLYHOCK

Sailed for Tobermory 1015/25 (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1045/25)

Patrol O
CAMPBELL
GARTH
EGLINTON

(1) For the present in order to avoid use of Barrow Deep by Destroyers proceeding to and from Patrol O CAMPBELL and GARTH are to remain at Harwich.

(2) EGLINTON is to proceed to Sheerness on completion of Patrol O tomorrow Tuesday joining F.S. 44.

(3) Harwich destroyers are to carry out Patrol O Flotillas taking alternate nights Sheerness destroyers will be used for reinforcing Dover or convoy escorts as may be required.

(4) Starting tomorrow Tuesday there is to be one duty destroyer at Harwich and one at Sheerness Notice for steam as in my 1119/23/10. Cancel my 1201/21/11. (C. in C., Nore, 1209/25)

Dover

Patrols for Night 25/26 (V.A. Dover 1221/25)

Orkneys

Movements tonight (A.C.O.S. 1526/25)

FURIOUS
DIDO

My 0046/25.

1. FURIOUS is to proceed to Devonport for refit.

2. C. in C., Western Approaches is requested to detail additional A/S escort from 5th D.F. and to arrange rendezvous whence FURIOUS with escort should proceed to Devonport South of Ireland and DIDO should proceed to Scapa.

3. C. in C., Western Approaches to arrange route from latitude of Gibraltar and give all necessary instructions. (A.C.N.S. H. 1531/25 to C. in C., W.A)

Rosyth

Movements tonight (C. in C., Rosyth 1536/25)



MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

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Movements-Contd

Chasseurs
for Patrol

A.M. 1651/25. Anticipate you will not sail Group from Dartmouth tonight. Cancel my 1217/25 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1747/25 to C. in C., W.A.) See p. 690 -

FORMIDABLE
VESPER
VENOMOUS

My 1259/17. After completion of trials on 28th November FORMIDABLE will proceed to Belfast for four days to complete defects.

VESPER and VENOMOUS should be retained to form part of escort for FORMIDABLE to Scapa whence they should proceed as directed by C. in C., Nore.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 2046/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

CAIRO

Return to Clyde, giving A/A cover to convoys on the way. (C. in C., W.A. 2245/25 to CAIRO)

BROKE's Force

Estimated my p, c and s at 2000 was 055° 30' N., 012° 28' W., 280° 8 knots. SALADIN, SCIMITAR in company. MALLOW ANEMONE, ARABIS proceeding independently Destroyers may meet H.X. 88 before dark on 26th if weather no worse. SCIMITAR will have to be sent back to Londonderry daylight 27th as her evaporator is out of action.
(BROKE 2257/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

Operations

D. 5.

When returning from operation, pass through 10 miles S.E. of Wolf Rock where a tanker and a number of Belgian Trawlers are reported to have sunk. (C. in C., W.A. 0827/25 to Capt. D. 5.)

Preliminary report of enemy action night of 24/25 November.

APOLLONIA (Sunk) Saved 7 Officers, 2 Seaman gunners, 12 Chinese. Lost, 1 Officer, 13 Chinese.

Belgian Fishing Trawlers:

MARGUERITE SIMONE sunk. Crew Saved.

MINERVA and JANDENYE, been reported seen fishing since.

ZEESTER and ANGELE EMILE, missing but may be fishing.

Further details when known.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1020/26 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Have steam.....



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Operations-Contd.

Have steam at half hour's notice in available boilers by 1600. (C. in C., W.A. 1219/25 to JACKAL)

Full report of D. 5's movements not yet available as Flotilla is at sea.

2. Tanker APOLLONIA in ballast, Plymouth to Avonmouth was sunk, 19 survivors have so far been landed. A number of Belgian trawlers fishing off Wolf Rock also reported sunk. but details not yet available.

3. D. 5. in JAVELIN, with JUPITER and KASHMIR, swept in vicinity of Ushant, but failed to intercept enemy.

4. Further report will be forwarded. (C. in C., W.A. 1305/25 to Admty.)

Proceed with Destroyers towards 180° Lizard 15 miles. (Plymouth 1601/25 to D.5.)

JACKAL sailed from Plymouth 1720/25 (C. in C., W.A. 0049/26 to Admty.)

If you sight Boom Defence Trawler CONSBRO which left Plymouth 1630 for Dartmouth, send her back to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1735/25 to JACKAL)

3 Enemy Destroyers likely to operate off English Coast tonight. When JACKAL joins patrol on 49° 50' N., between 4° and 5° W Information following. (C. in C., W.A. 1743/25 to Capt D.5.)

Dutch ship APOLLONIA was sunk last night 24/11 by enemy action, South East Wolf Rock Twenty two survivors, Dutch and Chinese. Four badly wounded. Seventeen missing. Tug LYNCH was also in vicinity with two barges. One of these has been washed ashore at Portleven. No other news of LYNCH. It was first reported that Belgian Trawlers had been attacked, but all have been accounted for except two, who may have continued fishing. Other vessels believed to have been in vicinity were FERNWOOD and STADION II from Plymouth. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1615/25)



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HOME COMMANDS

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Operations-Contd.

My 1743. Information.

1. Enemy The three enemy destroyers probably from Brest are likely to operate between 01° 30' W and 06° 00' W.,

2. Own Local patrols in Western Approaches Part of channel withdrawn. 2 unescorted M/V's sailed Falmouth 1600 towards Bristol channel.

LEEDS UNITED with 3 M/V's for Plymouth and VICTRIX, LORD HAILSHAM and LORD STANHOPE with Tanker SUDERHOLM for Dartmouth, have been ordered not to join south of Cape Cornwall, before 0200/26.

3. One Hudson with A.S.V. will patrol all night between 49° 28' N., 07° 00' W., 49° 00' N., 06° 45' W., 49° 53' N., 03° 20' W 49° 17' N., 03° 00' W.,

Ships are to take care not to fire on this aircraft.

4. Object Your object is the destruction of enemy forces. (C. in C., W.A. 1845/25 to D. 5.)

Your 1707. You are free to intercept where you think fit when information of enemy is received. (ii) Blenheim escort will be ready if you signal rendezvous. (iii) None of our submarines are in area concerned. (C. in C., W.A. 1951/25 to D.5.)

Chasseurs Patrol off Anvil Point.

912. It is possible that lights sighted from Portland during night of 23/24 were those of enemy air rescue craft. If weather is suitable tonight Chasseurs 05, 13 and 42 are to patrol within a sector between bearings of 150° and 200° true from Anvil Point to a depth of 20 miles from 2200 to 0200. Patrols QU, QV and WW to be withdrawn. No traffic to pass through patrol sector. Anvil Point light to be shown for five minutes at every hour from 2200 to 0200 inclusive. Policy is to shoot at sight. Further signal will be made if operation is to be carried out. Request SHERWOOD, LANCASTER and CHESTERFIELD may be routed well clear. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1217/25 to Admty.)

Cancelled - See p. 688

VOLUNTEER BERKELEY

Will patrol to southward of Convoy route between Owers and Royal Sovereign tonight, returning Portsmouth at Daylight. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1809/25 to Admty.)

/M.G.B. Patrol...



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HOME COMMANDS

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Operations-Contd.

M.G.B. Patrol
off Dartmouth

Sail available M.G.B's to patrol outside Dartmouth to intercept possible E-Boats They are not to go South of latitude of Start Point unless in contact with enemy. (C. in C., W.A. 2001/25 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

Dover and
Convoy C.W.18
Shelled

904. Enemy Coastal Batteries fired twelve rounds between 0845 and 1051 to-day One round fell in the sea and remainder in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery One soldier killed. Superficial damage to Leathercoates signal station. Batteries at Gris Nez, Wissant and near Calais fired about 200 rounds at C.W. 18 between 1834 and 2141. No damage to convoy reported. (V.A. Dover 2230/25 to Admty.)

Submarines

TAKU

Enter Patrol Area (Capt S.2. 0146/25 to TAKU)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/26. (V.A.S. 1653/25)

British Air Activity

Patrols

S.A. 1 A Cancelled owing to weather. S.16 A and S 16 B not flown. Assessments of S.A.1 E, S.A. and S.A. 3. (C. in C., Rosyth 1538 and 1948/25)

Falmouth
Balloon Defences

C. in C., W.A. 1626/24 and 1142/24. Single balloon in area described in your 1739/18 would afford little protection and detachment of further balloons from main Falmouth Barrage would considerably weaken it. If you accept consequent reduction of protection Air Ministry agree to redistribution suggested in C. in C., W.A. 1142/24 with effect from 1700 hours 26/11 when all concerned will have been warned. Recommend detached sites be replaced by V.L.A. Balloons at earliest possible opportunity. (Air Ministry 1734/25 to Admty.) *Reply: Admty. 1058/26, p. 77.*

/Balloons.....



MOST SECRET

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British Air Activity-Contd.

Balloons
in Ships

Your A 87 of 23/11 intention is eventually to fly balloons from ships operating from Plymouth, Portland, Portsmouth, Sheerness Harwich, Great Yarmouth, Humber, Forth and Bristol Channel. As long notice as possible will be given before proposing to start operations from any port but definite dates cannot at present be given. Date of 25th November for operations between Portsmouth and Sheerness given in my 1630/19 will probably now be 29th Nov. and Sheerness and Harwich will follow about mid December other ports later. (Admty. 1836/25 to Air Ministry)

Rosyth

Air Searches for 26/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1926/25)

LEONOLA (A.P/V.)
(S.V.F.)

Enemy Air Activity

Attacked at 1023/24 in 90° Old Harry Rock 5 miles by one Dornier with Machine Guns 3 hits. No casualties. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1151/25 to Admty.)

Whale Island

Estimated cost of repair of damage by Air Raid on night 23/11 £20. (S.C.E. Portsmouth 1615/25 to C.E. in C.)

Scapa

At 1335 today A/A Batteries on South Walls Hoy, engaged unseen A/C believed enemy travelling S.E. (A.C.O.S. 1709/25 to Admty)

Enemy R/C

My 1526/24 and 1803/24. German reconnaissance aircraft again active today off the East Coast of Scotland between the Firth of Forth and the Orkneys. The A/C reconnaissance from Brest extended 200 miles to the Westward. Somewhat similar activity was noted prior to the attacks on Convoy HX 84 by SCHEER on 5th November. (D.D.I.C. 1859/25 to C. in C., H.F.)

Southampton

Details of damage by air raid 24/11. Lasted 3 hours. Many fires started. 2 Seamen killed, 3 injured. (C. in C., Portsmouth 2156/25 and 2158/25 to Admty.)

/Mining.....



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HOME COMMANDS

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Mining

KENNYMORE

(M/S Trawler) Mined and sunk in 080° East Oaze Vessel 2 miles at 1930/25. Mine probably acoustic. 2 killed, one missing Rest taken on board CONQUISTADOR (C. in C., Nore, 0732/26 to Admty.)

Milford Haven

Port closed (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0815/25 to Admty) Port open, subject to local restrictions. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1240/25)

Red Mines detonated as follows:-
2 by single LL in 180° No 4 Navigation Buoy, Milford Haven, 215° Great Castle Head low light 11.6 cables.
1 by towed skid in 031° Saddle Point Rock Fishguard 1.5 miles.
4 self detonated in position 170° Soldiers Rock, Milford Haven 1.5 miles (two miles) 182° Great Castle Head Light 5.1 cables 075° St. Ann's Head Light 1 mile.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1811/25 to Admty.)

Tyne

QZS 171 closed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0847/25 to Admty.)

ICARUS

Indicate position, course and speed. (C. in C., Nore, 0941/25 to ICARUS)

Thames Estuary

CAPRICORNUS reports detonating one mine in 229° Barry Deep Light Vessel one mile Ship shaken but not damaged. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1015/25 to C. in C., Nore.)

Summary of Explosions and Air Activity in Thames Estuary for night 24/25 (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1425/25 to C. in C., Nore.)

TEES HOPPER No 3

Mined and sunk at 0953/25 in 54° 40' 18" N 1° 7' 9" W., Whole crew landed at Hartlepool. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1040/25 to Admty)

M.L. 111

Mined and sunk at 0840 off Spurn Point, ½ mile SSE of Inner Binks Buoy. 10 survivors landed, all injured. 2 missing. (Base Captain, Grimsby 1246/25 to Admty)

/Blyth.....

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Blyth

Port open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth 1344/25 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

Off Tyne

KIPLING reports Mine exploded in 55° 8' 30" N., 1° 15' W., 30° on bow while ship steaming 30 knots in 30 fathoms water. No damage. (C. in C., Rosyth 1500/25 to Admty)

Plymouth

My 2254/10. After an interval of some days minelaying by enemy aircraft off Plymouth has recommenced and at least two mines were dropped in or near the searched channel about 1945 yesterday 24th Nov. One of these was detonated this morning by LL trawler in the third sweep over the spot. Another magnetic mine was detonated on 3/11 near South Winter Buoy in the Sound the existence of which was not known but which had probably been laid fifteen days previously and had been swept over daily.

No acoustic mines have detonated since 14/11 and it is thought that several still exist in the searched channel.

To minimise risk ships are only allowed to arrive and leave for limited periods immediately after the channel has been swept. At present this is carried out twice daily. Operations would be considerably facilitated if more LL sweeps could be made available.

(C. in C., W.A. 1642/25 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

D/F Transmission

Following transmission heard at 2348 and 2355/24 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1008/25)

Enemy Raider

Position 24° 44' N., 58° 31' W., at 1530/24 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1130/25)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

- CONQUISTADOR (M/S Trawler) Sank 245° East Oaze L.V. Wreck Buoy one mile, after collision with M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS (C. in C., Nore 0732/26 to Admty.)
- CAPRICORNUS Bow damaged in collision with CONQUISTADOR (C. in C., Nore, 0732/26 to Admty.)
- PENRHYN Your 2000/17. Rammed and sunk by FURIOUS at 1213/15/11 off Crosby Light Vessel, River Mersey. (FURIOUS 0915/25 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)
- Derelict Ship At 1600 sighted fore part of derelict Timber Ship in 55° 31' N., 11° 29' W., (CHEVREUIL 1620/25 to Admty)
- ST. CYRUS ^{Rescue} (Tug) Has propeller foul of wire. Tug HEADMAN standing by. (F.O. Humber 2120/25 to Admty.)
- Nore Command Ships out of action My 1546/23. Delete CATTISTOCK and KIPLING (C. in C., Nore, 0815/25)



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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

O.B. 252-
O.B. 259

Order of sailing of escort groups. (C. in C., W.A., 1203/25)

F.S. & F.N.

Cancel my 1945/24 (List of F.S. and F.N. Convoys) and substitute (details) (C. in C., Rosyth 1629/25 to Admt.)

F.N. 41

4 hours early outer Dowsing (EGRET 0002/25)

F.N. 43

Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C. in C., Nore 1024/25)

F.S. 43

Anchored near 54 D Buoy (C. in C., Nore 0745/25)

S.C. 12

Meet (C. in C., W.A. 1010/25 to HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HESPERUS) Hove to (position) (LEITH 1300/25)

S.L. 55

CILICIA leaves patrol to R/V with Convoy S.L. 55 (position) at 0830/30/11 (F.O.C.N.P. 1050/25)

S.L. 54 B

Route (C. in C., W.A. 1240/25 to ESPERANCE BAY)

E.N. 32
W.N. 45

Proceed 1500/26/11, anchor off Methil sail thence as additional A/A escort to E.N. 32 sailing at about 2200/26. On arrival off Cape Wrath part company from E.N. 32 and patrol to eastward during remainder of night and as necessary to join W.N. 45 shortly after daylight. W.N. 45 is due Cape Wrath 2200/28 and Duncansby Head 1 00/29. Anchor off Methil keep steam at immediate notice. (C. in C., Rosyth 1343/25 to FOWEY) *See also next page*

BENTE MARSK

Your 1319/22. Ready 1500/26 request instructions (N.C.S.O. Swansea 1731/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

DIRECTOR HOPESTAR

Separated from Convoy in gale. (WALKER 1029/25 to C. in C., W.A.) *See also next page*

H.X. 87

Meet. (C. in C., W.A. 2222/25, 2300/25 to HAVELOCK, HURRICANE, HESPERUS) Noon position (ALAUNIA, 1401/25)

C.W. 18

Escort destroyers FERNIE, CLEVELAND, ICARUS 5 A/S and M/S trawlers, 5 balloon ships, 2 M.L.'s (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1322/25)

/E.N. 32.....



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HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

E.N. 32

Escort PAYNTER, KING SOL, additional escort FOWEY. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1501/25) *See previous page*

Separated from Convoy in gale, following missed 24/11- DIRECTOR, HOPESTAR and whole of slow section of convoy (WALKER 1029/25) *See previous page*

H.X. 90

Route. Escort LACONIA, returns to Halifax and LUPIN. (D.T.D. 1139/25)

Non-British Ships
Scapa

There have recently been cases of non-British vessels arriving at Scapa. Examples Dutch AMIGO arrived from Invergordon 17/10 and sailed 25/10. Norwegian Oiler JOHN P. PEDERSON arrived 11th/11 from Clyde. Request confirmation that when non-British vessels are ordered to Scapa it is first ensured that there is no objection from a security point of view. (A.C.O.S. 1150/25 to Admty.)

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Monday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Submarine
AJAX

Your 1652/21. If ratings are prepared to join de Gaulle they can be accepted for service in Free French Navy under conditions stated in your signal and should not be sent in FRANCONIA. (Hd of M. 1903/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French
North Africa

Military intelligence re. Weygand will almost certainly defend North Africa against any aggressor. etc. (Geenleaves, Tangier No 1131 T.H.I. 1812/25)

French Ships
Scuttling Report

Your 1603/24. Admiral D'Harcourt definitely stated that all British warships inside 20 miles Lisbon from Morocco would be attacked, all escorts had orders to open fire if British ships attempted to interfere with their convoys. This information is absolutely reliable A.1. The Masters of French ships ESPIQUETTE informed French Manager of S.A.P.E.C. Lisbon that he and all other Masters of French Merchant Vessels had orders to scuttle their ships rather than let them fall into our hands. B.2. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1300/25 to Admty.)

Air
Intelligence

Following information obtained from French intercepted messages. (1) Eighteen Curtis aircraft, two Lockheed, two Gen Martin, one Bloch, 120 or two Dewoitin were at Atar 14/11 possibly bound for Dakar. It appears that Dakar to Mediterranean Air Service is now running by trans Sahara route via Gao Aoulef Algiers and that use of route across Rio De Oro has been much decreased or abandoned. Secret W/T call signs are likely to be adopted by French Commercial Aircraft as from December 1st. (C. in C., S.A. 2037N/25 to Admty.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar

Departures 25/ 11 (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 0952/25 to Admty.)

^{Tangier}
Italian U-Boats
at Casablanca

Report (A.2) received from Tangier that Italian S/M BRIN ready to leave 23/11 and that her camouflage painting has been removed. (D.D.I.C. 1821/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1821/25. Confirmed both Italian U-Boats still at Tangier tonight and no signs of activity (F.O.C.N.A. 2210/25 to Admty.)

Gibraltar

Situation. At 1152/24, Martin bomber off South of Rock for twenty minutes. Driven off to East by slight A.A. Fire. At 1444/24 Martin bomber in vicinity of Rock was not engaged by A.A. defences and flew away eastwards after thirty minutes. Nothing to report 25th (Govr. Gib. 2100/25 to W.O.)

South Atlantic

HAWKINS
CUMBERLAND
HERMES
NEWCASTLE
ENTERPRISE
NORFOLK
FORMIDABLE
BERWICK

Dispositions to implement A.T. 1917/24 (D.O.D. (F) to Cs. in C., 0036/25) (See Operations Volume) p.p. 53 & 54

FURIOUS
DIDO
FORTUNE
FOXHOUND
RESOLUTION
JAGUAR
KELVIN

C. in C., S.A. 2253/18 and A.T. 1603/8. FORTUNE and FOXHOUND are to escort FURIOUS and DIDO on their departure for U.K. until 300 miles from Freetown, then to escort RESOLUTION to Gibraltar. JAGUAR and KELVIN to R.V. with FURIOUS and DIDO about latitude of Gibraltar and accompany them to U.K. (D.O.D. (F) 0046/25)

Operation
"Stripe"

Request immediate information of arrival of FURIOUS at Freetown. (D.O.D. (F) 1355/25 to C. in C., S.A.) *See next page*

DUNERA

Your 1204/20. Arrived 24/11. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0840/25 to Capt i/c Simonstown)

/CHR. KNUDSEN....



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CHR. KNUDSEN
CAPE RACE

My 0935/20 and 1106/21 Arrived Durban.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1125/25 to Admty.)

? Raider

Your 2245/24 (no trace) Do you think it possible any ship of any S. American Republic can have been in that area at that time. (C. in C., S.A. 1145/25 to B.N.A. Buenos Aires.)

Your 1145/25, my 1140/15 reported Argentine naval squadron left Puerto Belgrano 15/11 for manoeuvres in S. Atlantic. Ministry of Marine asked if ship in question was Argentine man of war. I await reply. Report just received transport CHACO arrived and left Santa Cruz 22/11 (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1235/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

My 1235/25 Ministry of Marine state no Argentine man of war was near Falklands (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1805/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

Convoy
W.S. 4.B

Admty. 1917/24 Sail HAWKINS 27/11 to R/V with W.S. 4 B escorted by CUMBERLAND and DEVONSHIRE at dawn 4/12 (position) W.S.4.B routed as follows. (C. in C., S.A. 1255/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

FURIOUS
(Op. "Stripe")

Your 1355/25 Arrived 0900/25/11 (C. in C., S.A. 1345N/25 to Admty.)

RIDLEY

Your 1215B/24 RIDLEY was not torpedoed but gutted by fire due to burst oil fuel tank and abandoned. All saved. (C. in C., S.A. 1407N/25 to S.O. (I) Capetown)

BRITANNIC,
KENT

Your 2043/24, KENT from Simonstown R/V with BRITANNIC Capetown searched channel 1500/25 and sailed for X. On arrival X 2/12 BRITANNIC will proceed independently to Liverpool and KENT to Freetown. E.T.A. outer end Freetown Channel 1330/4/12 (S.N.O. Simonstown 1530Z/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

/CARNARVON.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON
CASTLE

Request you will obtain permission for CARNARVON CASTLE to enter Rio de Janeiro for 24 hours 2/12. Re oil fuel etc., (R.A.S.A.D. 1537Z/25 to H.M.Ambassador, Rio de Janeiro)

A/S Vessels for
Mediterranean

Your 1801/23. ^(page 645) Perm. of vessels confirmed. Two in number expected to sail Capetown 30/11 remainder Durban about 5/12 (N.O.IC Simonstown, 1752/B/25 to Admty.)

HERMES

Your 1917/24 and 0036/25 HERMES leaving Freetown Area and Y Flight 814 Squadron at Wellington Aerodrome will have to be embarked. Proposals to replace Y Flight on shore. (C. in C., S.A. 1827/25 to Admty.)

Reply: Admty 1054/27, p. 747.

EDINBURGH

Future arrangements (D.O.D. (F) 2200/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

ARTEMESIA

Cargo coal, grounded off Cape Sierra Leone 16/11 after discharging 150 tons, was re-floated 18/11, operation conducted by Naval Officers and 2 naval tugs. (C. in C. S.A. 2025N/25 to Admty.)

ITAPE
(Brazilian)

see MONTE VIDEO (German Merchant Ships)



War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

OTUS

Experienced $\frac{1}{2}$ knot easterly set between 39.30 N., and 40.00 N., Echoes from obstructions obtained in circle radius 4 miles with centre 39.30 N., 19.07 E., (V.A. Malta 1231/25 to TETRARCH, REGULUS)

HERO
HEREWARD

0500 zone - 1. (V.A. Malta, 0603/25 to C. in C., Med.)

211 Squadron

My 1930/24 (Operational summary of 211 Sqdn) Latter A/C reported missing from 211 Sqdn. forced landed at Corfu. All crew safe. (H.Q., R.A.F., Greece 0921/25 to H.Q., R.A.F. M.E.,)

Convoy
M.W. 4.

Comprising BRECONSHIRE, CLAN MACAULAY, CLAN FERGUSON, MEMNON sailed 0700B/23/11 due seaward end Malta Channel (B) at 0400B/26/11) (R.A. Alexandria, 1035/25 to Admty.)

TRITON
Operation D.S.

Request sail TRITON p.m./28/11 or as soon after as practicable to carry out operation D.S. in Adriatic (positions) (Capt (S) 1st S.F. 1609/25 to V.A. Malta)

Submarine
Patrol

Preliminary patrol report; TRUANT and OTUS. (V.A. Malta, 1821/25 to C. in C., Med.)

PATRIA

My 1140/25 (re sabotage of PATRIA) ^(p. 707) Damage apparently caused by internal explosion. Ship capsized in about 15 minutes. Approx 80 refugees still unaccounted, loss crew and guard not yet known but believed only few. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 2130/25 to Admty.)

Figures, see 1114/28, p. 785.

Italian
Convoys

A/C which visited Bari reported 2 convoys of two large M/V's each in following positions at 1200B/25 (a) 041° 00' N., 018° 10' E., steering 080° (b) 041° 10' N., 018° 12' E. steering 300°. It appears convoys to Durazzo may proceed about 30 miles along coast to .SE of Bari before crossing Adriatic. (V.A. Malta, 2135/25 to C. in C., Med.)



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Greek-Italian
Operations

Corfu garrison landed 130 men with M.G.'s etc., near Buthogao cutting communications of enemy right flank. Italian High Command show much nervousness ordering bomber and fighter aircraft to repel what they clearly considered landing in strength

It is clear from reports of our own bombers today who found many transports unloading at Durazzo and Valona and heavy A.A. (? defence) that Italians are trying (? retrieve) situation by extensive reinforcements including Eighth Army Corps. It appears vital need is to impede this movement and Greek Staff emphasize necessity such action as all their efforts are being directed to finding and striking enemy before he can be strongly reinforced. (M.A. Athens, 0345/25, W.O.)

Air
Report

Operational Summary No 168 up to 1200 hours 25/11.

1. Greece. 9 Blenheims attacked Durazzo hitting 1-10,000 ton ship and setting fire to another small ship other bombs burst on quayside near ships extremely accurate A.A. fire experienced 1 Blenheim flown by Squadron Commander forced landed Corfu crew safe 4 others landed at Larissa all damaged extent unknown remainder reached base Menidi 1 of them landing with undercarriage retracted weather 10/10 cloud and heavy rain.

2. Egypt.

3. Sudan, No naval items.

4. Kenya.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1201/25)

Air Report
Greece

Operational Summary 12 Squadron. Further bombing results from aircraft 221 Squadron p.m. 24/11 show more bombs on quay and warehouses also among barges. (H.Q., R.A.F. Greece, 1700/25 H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.-)

Air Report....



War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd

Air Report,
Greece

? Bari

Combined services report Malta up to 1700 25/11. All time G.M.T. 0550 to 1503 Sunderland 228 Squadron detailed to reconnoitre Ionian Sea north of latitude 37 and west of longitude 1910 for enemy Naval and Merchant Units. Nil report. 0727 to 1234 Glenn Martin 431 flight on photographic recco of Ari and Taranto. Bari Harbour only 1 M.V. 7000 tons seen. At sea 20 miles out 2 M.V's 10000 tons escorted by 2 destroyers on course 080° Taranto in port 2 battleships 7 cruisers 17 destroyers large number of flying boats 1130 to 1415 Glenn Martin 431 flight on photographic recco. Tripoli Harbour. Moored in harbour 4 destroyers 1 cruisers 7 naval auxiliaries 2 M.V's 10000 tons 3 smaller M/V's and 2 seaplanes. 1451 to 1520 enemy carried out recco over North Eastern part of Island. No naval or military items. (H.Q., Malta 1725/25, 1902/25, 2200/25)

"I" 125 25/11.

Information contained in my 'I' 124 Nov. 25 with reference to Bari considered unreliable. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1902/25)

East Indies

Guns at
Diego Suarez

Your 1143/23 para 1. Confirm that calibre of guns at Diego Suarez aerodrome is 80 millimetres and number of these guns is 3. (C. in C., E.I., 0704Z/25 to S.O (I) Capetown)

?

D. of S.T. 2203/22 para 5. As no definite indication was given that this ship would be required to proceed from Capetown to Suez it was assumed the vessel would bunker en route. There are very few ships at my disposal capable of steaming this distance and this was the most suitable available at that time. (S.S.T.O. Bombay 0757Z/25 to C. in C., E.I.)

SHROPSHIRE

Your 1313/23 (re Administration of SHROPSHIRE by C. in C., S.A.) Concur (C. in C., E.I., 1106Z/25 to C. in C., S.A)

/Daily.....



War Diary

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Monday

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FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd

Daily Intelligence Summary No 166 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 25/11. 3 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escort to convoy B.S. 9 using advanced base Kamaran on remaining overnight. Harbour reconnoitred. No shipping changes no casualties all times G.M.T. (Air H.Q., Aden, 1747/25 to Air Min)

China

BENAVON
TEDDY

(p.433) My 0801/15/11. Transfer BENAVON to list two. Add to list one Norwegian tanker TEDDY. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore, 1025/25 to China Station)

America & West Indies

DIOMEDE
to search
for Raider

My 1201/24. On arrival in vicinity of position search for survivors allowing for probable drift to W.S.W then carry out search for raider to S.E. returning to Trinidad along route A.A. Remain at sea to safe limit of your endurance. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1001/25 to DIOMEDE)

MALOJA
to search
for Raider

Disguised enemy raider attacked PORT HOBART 024° 44' N., 058° 21' W., 1530Z/24. Proceed to search for raider in area centre 029° N., 054° W., Leave to arrive Bermuda a.m./29/11. (C. in C., A. & W.I. 1211/25 to MALOJA)

WINDSOR CASTLE

Your 1127/17 and 1327/20. Now decided Gibraltarian Evacuees not to leave U.K. so WINDSOR CASTLE will not sail (D. of S.T. 1953/25 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

HAMILTON

Admty. 2041/11 (re manning of 7 destroyers) We will be glad to take over HAMILTON (C.N.S. Canada 1711/25)

Australia

AQUITANIA

Arrived Sydney 0425Z/24. (A.C.N.B. 0727Z/25)



War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KARNAK

Left Vigo 2230/24 (Consul Vigo 0039/25)
(D.D.I.C. 0449/25)

BRAKE

Said to be ready for sea at any moment.
(Consul Vigo, 0039/25)

GERMANIA

Sailed 25/8/39 bound Rotterdam Hamburg
cargo 7000 tons European Blend Gasoline
7000 tons European Gasolene 70 Octane
consigned Dutch American petroleum. (British
Vice Consul Aruba 1127/25 to D.N.I.)

KLAUS SCHOKE

In ballast arrived here 1200/25 G.M.T.
from Fayal. Ostensible reason repairs.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1140/25 to Admty)

My 1140/25. Repairs expected to take 3 or
4 days. If ship should not sail then
understood will be interned. Will advise
time limit when decided. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Del-
gada 1535/25 to Admty.)

MONTE VIDEO

Reported that 1st officer and 8 men
of MONTE VIDEO (under embargo at Rio Grande
do Sul) are sailing to Bahia in Brazilian
ITAPE 25/11 (D.S. 447)

ARKADIA
LARISSA
CORDELIA

Sailed for Russia (Galati, 1151/25 to Admty)

SPEZIA

Left Barcelona believed bound for
Valencia. (Barcelona THI 1238/25)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ALABAMA

Arrived Las Palmas en route to Puerto
Cabello will proceed on arrival of tug.
(S.O. (I) Kingston Jamaica 2101/25 to Admty)

RECCA

24/11 painted funnel and part of ventilator
grey. Flag and name obliterated (S.O. (I)
Kingston Jamaica 2340/25 to Admty.)



War Diary

25.11.1940
Monday

707

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

PATRIA

(PATRIA 11,885 tons) sabotaged this morning at 0920 and capsized to starboard at breakwater in about 5 fathoms of water. Rescue work proceeding. (N.O.I.C. Haifa to Admty. 1140/25)

GROIX

(French M/V 9975 tons) My 1916/24. Probably GROIX see F.O.C.N.A. 2250/29/10. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1146/25 to C. in C., S.A.) (See Page 672)

KATIOLA

Reported due Rio de Janeiro early this week from Casablanca. If intercepted send her to Freetown unless C. in C., S.A. directs otherwise. (R.A.S.A.D. 1351Z/25 to CARNARVON CASTLE)

VENDÉMIAIRE
EASTERSWORD
CHARLES L.D.
AVANT GARDE

Following information from Navy Dept: From Martinique. French tanker VENDÉMIAIRE sails from Martinique 24/11 with cargo of crude oil for Casablanca. This oil will be refined in France, and came originally from Mexico before armistice. On 20/11 American Ship EASTERN SWORD Martinique with a general cargo including 7500 bags of flour and French ship CHARLES L.D. left for Casablanca with 100 passengers and sugar cargo. From Saint Pierre, on 20/11, Trawler AVANT GARDE sailed for Casablanca. (N.A. Washington, 1242/25 to Admty.) (See page 796)



War Diary

25.11.1940 708
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

TEMPLE INN
Attacked

British, 5218 tons. SSSS, 56.15 N., 8.40 W being attacked by submarine. (TEMPLE INN, 1145/25 F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1144/25) Following from TEMPLE INN via Port Patrick Ship in ballast, unable to manoeuvre in this weather, submarine last seen steering to 020 on surface at high speed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1227/25) Your 1202/26. Main engine now normal. Ship hove to. Tug not required. Some danger of drifting Hebrides if weather continues. Will report situation later. (TEMPLE INN 1250/26)

BRUSE
(Torpedoed 23/11)

Have lost touch with BRUSE. Wind W.S.W. force 7, visibility 1 mile. Am hove to. (BLUEBELL, to C. in C., W.A. 1055/25)

BRADFYNE
BRUSE
BUSSUM

LISBETH (Norwegian) in convoy S.C. 11 reports BRADFYNE (British) torpedoed 2300/22, BRUSE (Norwegian) torpedoed 0200/23, motor vessel name unknown torpedoed 0700/23 and BUSSUM (Dutch) torpedoed 2000/23. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1310/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

BUSSUM

OTTAWA arrived with 29 survivors from BUSSUM, (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1350/25)

LEISE MAERSK

THAMES (tug) arrived with 7 survivors from LEISE MAERSK (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1402/25 to Admty.) Sunk (torpedoed 0615/23 D.S. 448)

ANTEN
(Torpedoed 23/11)

S.O.S. ANTEN sinking rapidly 13 men still aboard one raft only. Position at 1500 G.M.T./23 56.57 N., 18.13 W., drifting due east 0533/25. (T.O.R. Valentia Radio 0644/25)

ANTEN reported at 0532 sinking rapidly 13 men still aboard. One raft only. (C. in C. W.A., 0657/25 to SANDWICH)

ANTEN heavy list increasing 13 men aboard one raft only position about 57.15 N., 17.40 W., (Valentia Radio 1113/25)

Following has been read. S.O.S. ANTEN heavy list increasing position about 57.15 N., 17.40 W., can only listen MTN broadcast receiver on 36 metres. (T.O.R. 1214/25)

/Very poor.....

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MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGN

709

Ships AttackedANTEN
(Torpedoed 23/11)
Contd.

Very poor visibility sea rough, have located ANTEN appears same as yesterday. May not be able to get men off owing to weather conditions and drift of ship. 56° 57' N., 17° 40' W., (SANDWICH 1130Z/25 to C. in C., W.A.)

Position of ANTEN at 1430/25 57° 00' N., 17° 3-' W., Drifting 070° 1.5 to 2 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2000/25 to TENACITY)

Submarines Reported

1246

Proceed forthwith independently to attack submarine reported by TEMPLE INN 56.15 N., 08.40 W., at 1246 (C. in C., W.A. 1321/25 to MALCOLM)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 may enter Gironde today or tonight.
1 was some 275 miles W. by N. of Achill Head at 2046/24, probably moving northwards.
1 was probably in area around 60 miles of Rockall.
1 more may be in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
German- 1 in Sierra Leone area or farther N.
1 was about 245 miles W. of Achill Head at 1956/24 and may be following S.L. 54.
1 in area 55° to 56° N., 12° to 14° W.
1 in area 55° to 56° N., 16° to 19° W.
1 in area 56° to 57° N., about 20° W.
1 probably in area 57° to 58° N., 15° to 17° W.
1 probably in area 58° to 60° N. and W. of 20° W.,
1 N., of 55° N., and E of 10° W.,
1 in Northern North Sea homeward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 1253/25)

Submarines Attacked

1713/24

Your 1713/24 (attack on firm contact) Asking for further information (C. in C., W.A. to MALCOLM 1201/25)
Your 1201/25. Lookout reports conning tower and periscope sighted for very short time. Initial contact slight opening, extent of target 6 to 12 degrees. No plot indication of submarine movements after first quarter of hour. Further additional weaker echo 200 yards 180°. Contact. Considers possible submarine future guidance. (MALCOLM, 1355/12 to C. in C., W.A.)



War Diary

26/11/1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

710

Home Commands

Destroyer
Operations

VOLUNTEER and BERKELEY last night patrolled to the east of the Isle of Wight, south of the convoy route.

Captain D.5. with 5 destroyers last night swept to a position west of Ushant. One aircraft also carried out a patrol until 0530 today. No reports of the enemy were received.

Dover
Shelled

Dover was shelled today. No naval damage or casualties occurred.

British Air Activity

Attacks were made last night on Ship building yards, naval bases and dockyards at Kiel, Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N.1.

Convoy F.N. 1. was attacked between 1047 and 1255 today at the mouth of the Thames. No damage is reported.

Convoy F.N.45

Convoy F.N. 45 was attacked in the Thames Approaches between 1243 and 1430. No damage was caused though TYNE BANK had one very near miss.

LANOLA

A/P vessel LANOLA was attacked this morning off Standfast Point (Portsmouth area) but was undamaged.

MEDOC
Sunk

A/P trawler MEDOC was sunk by a torpedo from an aircraft in the Western Approaches this evening.

/Mining.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

711

Operation
S.N. 11.

R.A.M.L. reported this operation (laying of minefield in Denmark Straits) completed at 1605 today.

SS WALENBURGH

SS WALENBURGH (Dutch 496 tons) detonated a mine today off the Tees. She was damaged and was taken in tow for Middlesborough.

Mines were detonated off Milford Haven and Spurn Point.

Falmouth and Plymouth were closed this evening.

Mediterranean

Corfu
Bombed

The Greeks report that Corfu was persistently and indiscriminately bombed pm/25 and a.m./26.

Large Ship
Hit

3 Blenheims returning from bombing Valona today obtained 2 hits on a large ship, believed to be a warship.

Leros
Bombed

Port Lago on Leros Island was bombed by 15 Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS, which started fires in the Dockyard area.

Tripoli
Bombed

Tripoli was attacked by 8 Swordfish from EAGLE this morning, and one ship alongside Spanish Quay was probably hit.

Malta
Convoy

Convoy M.W. 4. arrived at Malta after being unsuccessfully attacked by 3 torpedo aircraft.

Crete

No 50 Commando landed at Suda Bay today from WARSPITE, VALIANT and YORK.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.11.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

712

China

Boundary
Altered

From 0001/26, the boundary between China and the East Indies Stations has been altered to the boundary between India and Burma, 20° N., 92° E., due S to 13° S., then due East as hitherto.

New Zealand

SS RANGITANE reports being attacked at 1515 today about 300 miles E.N.E. of North Island, New Zealand. SCHILLES at Lyttelton is proceeding to search, and air search is being carried out.



MOST SECRET.

Tuesday.
26.11.40.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

713

FORMIDABLE.

Ammunition to be embarked for Freetown.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1121/26).

Admiralty's 1121/26. Proposed programme. 28/11 complete ammunitioning. Sail for Belfast. 30/11 proceed up Belfast on mid-day tide. (FORMIDABLE 2253/26 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

Command of Force 'K' and Force 'M'. Proposed lapse of F.O.C.S.l.

Admiralty telegram 1917/24. It has been approved for Rear Admiral W.F. Wake-Walker to hoist his Flag temporarily in FORMIDABLE as F.O.C. Force 'K'. In consequence of this it is proposed that:-

? Vice-Admiral intended.
Kee-Admiral pm
30.6.1939.

A. Rear Admiral J.H.D. Cunningham in NEPTUNE be appointed F.O.C. Force 'M' temporarily.

B. Appointment of C.S.l. should lapse temporarily and ships of the 1st C.S. come under C.S.18.

C. 1st C.S. be reconstituted under its own Admiral when cruiser situation becomes easier.

Do you concur.
(1st Lord 1302/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Your 1302/26 is not quite clear but as far as administration of ship's of 1st C.S. still at home is concerned it would be preferable to attach them temporarily to F.O.C. 10th C.S. as F.O.C. 18th C.S. is at present abroad. I do not understand why R.A. Wake-Walker should not hoist his flag in NORFOLK which belongs to 1st C.S. and will be in company with FORMIDABLE. (C.in C. H.F. 1917/26 to Adty).

Reply: Admty. 0054/27 p. 738

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/26. (D.C. 1140/26).
At 2330/26. (D.C. 2351/26).

714

Skalle Fiord,
Faroes.

My 760/HF. 801255, para.3, of 10/5/40 and A.L. M.017661/40 of 7/9/40. Request Indicator Nets be laid as soon as possible and some A/A protection provided. Reasons. (C.in C. H.F. 1527/26 to Adty).

Movements.

HONEYSUCKLE.

Have lost contact with S.L.54. Water in oil fuel. Am proceeding Londonderry. E.T.A. 1330 (HONEYSUCKLE 0509/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Nore Command.

Night dispositions. 26/27.
(C.in C. Nore 0800/26 and 1200/26).

HESPERUS.

Expect arrive at Convoy HX.87 at 1530.
(HESPE US 0945/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

SANDWICH.

My position 56° 40'N., 11°35'W westbound
(SANDWICH 1000.Z./26 to C.in C. W.A.)

CAIRO.

What is my position? (CAIRO 1010/26 to Admiralty).

VIMY.

If unable join LETITIA by 1400 today, return to Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1013/26 to VIMY).

ARETHUSA.

Intend sail her 1430 today. E.T.A. 0615/27. Request Hoxa Gate 0700, and Fighter protection from 1445 till dark. Speed of advance 22 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1047/26 to C.in C. H.F.)
(H.Q.F.C. 1520/26 to H.Q. 13 Group).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 26/27. (V.A.Dover 1122/26).



WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

715

Movements. (Contd.)

KIPLING.

Arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0930 or 1630. Precautions. (C.in C. W.A. 1229/26 to KIPLING) My 0603/26. KIPLING estimated in 180° The Lizard 5 miles at 0600/27. She has been diverted to Dartmouth. (C.in C. W.A. 1741/26 and 2231/26 to H.Q.F.C.). Plymouth is closed. Proceed Dartmouth (C.in C. W.A. 2055/26 to KIPLING).

NIGERIA
KENYA.

C.in C. H.F. 1610/25. Concur. NIGERIA should be sailed for Scapa when trials completed and KENYA should replace her at Plymouth. (V.C.N.S. 1230/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1447/26 and 1733/26).

Orkneys.

Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1521/26). Trawler lines tonight. (F.O.C.O.S. 1604/26).

LONDONDERRY.

Your 1440. My position at 1600 in 52° 21'N., 2° E. (LONDONDERRY 1545/26 to C.in C. Nore).

Nore and
Harwich.

Movements Summary. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1631/26 to SHEARWATER).

FOLKESTONE.

My position 56° 4'N., 11° W., course West, speed 9 knots. (FOLKESTONE 1700/26 to C.in C. W.A.)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

716

Operations.

D.5.

As no further information has been received, and to increase chance of interception, proceed towards Ushant. Return Plymouth by 0930/26. (C.in C. W.A. 0117/26 to D.5.)

My 1305/25.

APOLLONIA was attacked by 2 destroyers.

2. D.5. reports that he received my 0031/25 when he was in about 04° 30' W and immediately proceeded to investigate. He did not see the gunflashes referred to.

3. At 0200/25, near the Lizard, he spoke S.S. FERNAND bound Plymouth to Bristol Channel.

He subsequently proceeded at best speed to vicinity of Ushant, which was reached at 0620/25. Nothing was sighted, and force reached Plymouth at 0930.

4. Operations night 25/26.

D.5. with JAVELIN, JACKAL, JERSEY, JUPITER and KASHMIR was on a patrol line on 49° 50' N., from 4° W to 5° W. until about 0200/26.

5. Force then swept to a position W. of Ushant and arrived at Plymouth at 1030/26.

One aircraft fitted with A.S.V. carried out a patrol until 0530/26 between 3° W and 7° W in approximately 49° 30' North.

No reports of the enemy were received. (C.in C. W.A. 1915/26 to Adty.)

Rona ~~RONA~~ Patrol
St. Kilda ~~ST. KILDA~~ Patrol.

Cancelled today, owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth. 0952/26).

PEGASUS.

It is under consideration to use PEGASUS for an operation. Commander Naval Air Division will visit you a.m. tomorrow to explain the project. Request you will then issue the necessary operation orders. (D.N.A.D. 1312/26 to C.in C. W.A.)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

717

Operations. (Contd.)

Patrol J.C.
West.

2 Destroyers carrying out tonight.
(Capt: S.5. 1820/26 to UNIQUE).

HASLEMERE.

(British 715 tons) Reports damaged at 1550/26 by near miss from a bursting shell in Convoy C.W.18. Damage slight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1830/26 to Adty).

Dover
Shelled.

Enemy Coastal batteries fired as follows today.
0350. Three rounds one of which fell in town and two in the sea.

0904 to 0957. Nine rounds which fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Seige battery.

1305 Four rounds one of which fell in the harbour and remainder to seaward.

Some damage to house property, no casualties.
(V.A.Dover 1841/26 to Adty).

Submarines.

Clyde Sanctuary.

Request extension of bombing Restrictions from 1800/27 till 0800/30.
(Capt: S.7 0955/26 to H.Q.C.C.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/27.
(V.A.S. 1623/26, 1759/26 and 2249/26).

UNIQUE.

S.5 requested to instruct UNIQUE to R/V with Trawler 90° 4 miles from Start Point at 0900/27 and proceed to Dartmouth. (C.in C. W.A. 2111/26 to S.5).

British Air Activity.

Falmouth.

Your A.419/25/11. Temporary reduction to fulfil C.in C. W.A's 1142/24 can be accepted. Request information when V.L.A. Balloons can be made available.
(D.of L.D. 1058/26 to Air Ministry).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

26.11.40.

Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

718

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols.

S.A.2 and S.A.3 cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1112/26 to Adty). S.A.I.E. and S.A.I.A. cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1234/26 to Adty).

Air Escorts.

For 27/11. (C.in C. Rosyth. 1800/26.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy,
F.N.1.

Enemy aircraft bombing. My position 51° 32'N., 1° 5'E. (Rosyth W/T 1047/26). My 1047. Two bombs. No hits. (WESTMINSTER 1048/26) Fighter A/C has been sent (Nore W/T 1103/26).

A/C bombing my position 51° 44'N., 1° 25'E. (WESTMINSTER 1241/26). Fighter A/C sent. (C.in C. Nore 1250/26 to VALOROUS).

A/C attacking convoy. My position 51° 47' N., 1° 30'E. (WESTMINSTER 1255/26).

S.S. BIFROST
Sunk 22/11.

(Swedish 1781 tons) Sunk by enemy aircraft attack in Alfred Dock, Liverpool 22/11 (D.O.R.)

Convoy "Arena"
(F.N.45)

One A/C shadowing. My position 51° 46' N., 1° 29'E., course 220, speed 10 knots. (VERSATILE 1136/26) A/C bombing. My position 51° 42'N., 1° 22' E. (VALOROUS 1243/26) No hits (VALOROUS 1245/26). A/C attacking. (VERSATILE 1248/26). Fighter A/C sent. (C.in C. Nore 1254/26). Attack by 4 Messerschmitt 109's. 3 bombs. No damage. Planes still near. (VERSATILE 1325/16 to C.in C. Nore). Convoy being attacked in 51° 35'N., 1° 10'E. (VALOROUS 1410/26). Fighter being sent. (C.in C. Nor 1415/26 to VALOROUS) Convoy being attacked by aircraft in 51° 32'N., 1° 6' E. (VERSATILE 1416/26). My 1410 2 M.E.109's. No bombs. No hits. (VALOROUS 1423/26). Attack by 2 M.E.109's. Very near miss under TYNE BANK. No damage. (VERSATILE 1430/26).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.

Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

719

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy "Agent"
AGENT.

One aircraft shadowing. My position
51° 40' N., 1° 18' E. (VIVIEN 1140/26).

Thames
Estuary.

Night 25/26. Orange Flares or
Fireballs seen. Details.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1245/26 to C.in C.
Nore).

LANOLA.

(A/P Vessel). Attacked by Dornier
at 1040 in 110° Standfast Point 5 miles.
No damage or casualties. (C.in C.
Portsmouth 2124/26 to Adty).

MEDOC.

(A/P Trawler) Sunk at 1810/26 by
Torpedo from A/C. Combined Polish
and British crew. 48 survivors picked
up. About 39 probably lost. (C.in C.
W.A. 0016/27 to Adty). *ishere?*

Mining.

Little Sole Bank.

My 1631/30/10. Decided to lay mine-
fields near Little Sole Bank to trap
U/Boats. Proposed positions of first
two operations. ADVENTURE is available.
C.in C. W.A. requested to allocate
short Title and issue necessary orders
for conduct. (V.C.N.S. 1013/26 to
C.in C. W.A.)

S.S.
WALENBURGH.

WALENBURGH (Dutch 496 tons) detonated
one Mine, presumed acoustic, in
54° 40' 9" N., 1° 7' 34" W. Not in
danger of sinking and proceeding in
tow to Middlesborough. (N.O.I.C.
Hartlepool 1320/26 to Adty).

Harwich.
Clearance
Sweep.

Intend to sail 6 Fleetsweepers S.O.
HARRIER at 0730 tomorrow Wednesday
to clear area extending from centre
line of 148 Q.Z.S. for 1.5 miles to the
eastward between 51° 27.5' N., 01° 42' E
and 52° 02' N 01° 46.5' E. in continua-
tion of area cleared 18/11/40.
Request fighter protection from 0800
to 1500.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1559/26 to C.in C.
Nore).



WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

720

Mining. (Contd.)

S.N.11.

Completed. Position. (R.A.M.L. 1605/16).

Milford Haven.

One Ground Mine self-detonated in
054° St, Ann's Head 10.4 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1814/26 to Adty)

Spurn Point.

At 1336/26 one pair of LL. Trawlers
exploded a Mine in Swpet Channel
253° Spurn Point Lighthouse 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cables.
Details. (F.O. Humber 1820/26 to Adty).

Falmouth.

Port closed owing to Mines.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1944/26 to C.in C.
W.A.)

Plymouth.


Closed, owing to Mines. (C.in C. W.A.
2041/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats.

Indication of presence of E/Boats
East of St. Catherines.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0226/26 to
CHESTERFIELD.)

26.11.40.
Tuesday.



WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

721

ELIZABETH.

(Sailing Vessel) Disabled in 55° 38'N. (? Longitude) and requires assistance. (VERDUN 0200/26 to C.in C. Rosyth).

BONAVENTURE.

Your 1905/25. 3 weeks refit approved. Am most anxious that internal D/G should be completed during this time. (C.in C. H.F. 0917/26 to A.S. Rosyth).

VENESYSSEL II

(Naval Control Service M/V) In collision with ~~H.M.~~ Tug FOREMOST 18 at 1330/26 in Methil Roads. Damage to port side makes her unseaworthy. Request A.S. Rosyth arrange survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1540/26 to Adty).

CLERMISTON.

Damaged by collision in Convoy E.N.31. Temporary repairs necessary before can proceed. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1645/26 to Adty).

Unknown
Ship.

ST. OLAVES proceeded to Westray at 1145 today to search for ship reported in distress and has now returned. Nothing Seen. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1730/26 to Adty).

AYRSHIRE.

(A/S Trawler). Ran aground at entrance to Campbeltown at 1920. Re-floated at 2130. Dome lost and oscillator damaged. Have instructed her to return to Belfast. (O.I.C. Campbeltown 2315/26 to N.O.I.C. Belfast). ^



WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys.

Shipping.

722

O.G.46.

Sailing telegram. (C.in C. W.A.
0150/26 and 0210/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

W.N.44.

Am in company with 2 out of 3 ships of
W.N.44 . E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 1430.
(HASTINGS, 0915/26).

W.N.44(O).

Not identified in log
SOUTHERN SPRAY escort, FRIGIA sheltering
in Ody Bay 26/11. (N.C.S.O. Oban
1210/26).

H.X.89.

Meet. (C.in C. W.A. 1445/26 and
2301/26 to WANDERER, WARWICK,
PERIWINKLE, CAMPANULA, CLEMATIS, WILD
SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS).

10 hours late. (COMORIN. 2100/26).

O.B.249.

P, C and S. In company PERIWINKLE
and 13 ships of O.B.No.249. (WANDERER,
1600/26)

→ S.C.12.

My 1300/25 S.C.12 e.t.a. R/V. 0800Z/27/11
(LEITH 1700/26 to C.in C. W.A.)
Meet. (C.in C. W.A. to WITHERINGTON
VERITY, Etc. 2353/26).

H.X.87.

Met, MALLOW and ANEMONE only in company.
Sighted. H.X.88 (position) (HAVELOCK
2001/26).

P.C.74's
Convoy.

Falmouth is closed. Take your
convoy to Milford Haven. (C.in C. W.A.
2049/26 to P.C.74).

→ O.B.248.
S.C.12.

Leave O.B.248 in time to meet S.C.12
before dark 27/11 (C.in C. W.A.
2137/26 to WITHERINGTON, VERITY
FOLKSTONE, CAMELIA, ARBUTUS).

CAPETOWN
CASTLE PASTEUR.

Intend sailing CAPETOWN CASTLE for
Halifax escorted by HIGHLANDER 0900/27
to R/V with PASTEUR escorted by GARLAND.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0952/26).
Your 1211/24. For GARLAND read
SAGUENAY. (D.12 1630/26 to C.in C. W.A.)



WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

723

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE.

Adty. 1912/21. Officers 12, O.R's 200. Maximum numbers already carried on passage 31 officers and 243 O.R's which involved discomfort. Small quantity of stores can be carried on upper deck as no hold space available since fitting of distilling plant. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 1025/26).
(p 588, S. Atlantic)

BENTE MARSK.

Your 1731/25. Sail her unescorted to arrive Dartmouth at Daylight. (C.in C. W.A. 1343/26 to N.C.S.O. Swansea).

H.X.93.

Route. Escort EGRET. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 0936/26).

H.X.91.

Sailing telegram. Escort LUPIN H-X. ASCANIA, S.H.X. HUSKY, ELK. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 1018/26).

H.X.85.

N.C.S.O. Sub Office Greenock reports following ships ex H.X.85 bound for Bristol Channel report having been overtaken 60 miles south of Clyde at 0900/25 by small sloop believed No.126 and ordered into Clyde. EMPIRE TIGER, NURTURETON, BEAVERDALE, and HOPERIDGE 1620/26/11 ends. The reason for this and the sloop referred to are unknown here. Request permission to sail ships for original destinations forth with. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1728/26 to C.in C. W.A.)
Your 1728/26. Approved to sail ships for original destinations. (C.in C. W.A. 2357/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

724

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

COMMANDANT
DELAGÉ.

Gibraltar 1140/26. COMMANDANT DELAGE passed West to East escorting EL KANTARA (S.O.(I) Gib: 1227/26 to Adty).

VICTORIA.

My 1812/16. French Authorities now state instructions have been given for British merchant seamen returning in VICTORIA to be embarked without delay. (H. of M. 1904/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

VILLE
DU HAVRE.

French ship VILLE DU HAVRE left Dakar about 17/11 broke down in position 000° 10' N., 019° 30' W. on 26/11 is being joined by French Tug A.M.26/11 presumably to tow to Dakar. Ship can be intercepted and brought in by DRAGON but this may delay DRAGON sailing with HERMES and Force L in accordance with your 1917/24/11. May I be informed if this ship considered of any value and is required. (C.in C. S.A. 1339N/26 to Adty).

DRAGON
Force 'L'.

Your 1917/24 and 0036/25. DRAGON will accompany HERMES to form Force L for present. As long as DELHI is required in French Cameroons there will after this be no ship or force available in Freetown area to keep any check on French movements to Ivory Coast or Dahomey or other traffic to and from Dakar to southwards. If another cruiser could be made available for Force L on Freetown it would be of great assistance. (C.in C. S.A. 1721/26 to Adty).

North Atlantic.

ARGUS.

Escorted by RAMILLIES to be sailed for Clyde (date) on completion of enquiry ordered in 1915/20. ECLIPSE if available to be sailed as additional escort. (D.O.D.(H) 2109/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

German
Ships at
Vigo.

Re indications of early move see German Merchant Ships.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

725

South Atlantic.

Operation
"Stripe".

Your 1355/25. "Stripe" left Freetown for Takoradi, 2345/25.
(C.in C. S.A. 0959/26 to Admty).

Warship
Sighted off
Falkland Islands.

My 1446Z/24 (report of coast watcher of vessels N of Pebble Is.) Have definitely established vessel seen was not warship or armed merchant vessel.
(N.O.I.C. Port Stanley, 1252Z/26 to C.in C. S.A.)

Willingdon
Mission
Escort.

Report received by Foreign Office from Bristol Ambassador, Buenos Aires, states Willingdon Mission schedule, including departure by sea from Santos 27/11, has been published in press, and assumes naval arrangements have been made in view of raider report. Report action taken observing that safety of mission is important.

(N.A. to A.C.N.S.(F), 1324/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Mission leaves Santos 27/11 for Buenos Aires. Close Santos with view to providing escort until relief by ENTERPRISE. QUEEN OF BERMUDA report position to R.A.S.A.D. N.A. Rio de Janeiro inform all concerned name of ship time of departure and route.
(R.A.S.A.D.1710Z/26 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA)

Your 1710Z/26 Willingdon Mission on board AVILA STAR sailing from Santos p.m. 27/11. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro. 1905/26 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Your 1324/26 CARNARVON CASTLE has been covering Rio de Janeiro area. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will afford cover to mission on passage to Plate and later escort until relieved by ENTERPRISE 28/11.
(R.A.S.A.D. 2106Z/26 to Adty).

RESOLUTION.

Admiralty 1227/19. Particulars of ammunition on board. (C.in C. S.A. 1345N/26 to Admiralty).

OLWEN.
LUCIGEN.

Your 1246/22. Oiler OLWEN sailed for Freetown 27/11. E.T.A. 2/12 has on board 4000 tons oil fuel. Oiler LUCIGEN completed to 7000 tons.
(Dir. of Nigerian Marine Lagos 1530/26 to C.in C. S.A.)



WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

726

Situation in
French West
Africa.

Appreciation. (G.O.C. West Africa
2200/26).

"Shrapnel"
Force.

State of. (Commander Sierra Leone Area
1635/26).

W.S.5A.

A.T.2211/15 and A.T.1917/24. Escort
arrangements for convoy WS 5A (11 knots)
leaving U.K. (date) and WS 5B (15 knots)
leaving U.K. (date). WS 5A (a) U.K.
to Freetown. To be communicated later.
DORSETSHIRE will be required to join
convoy near Azores. (b) Freetown to
Durban. DORSETSHIRE and HAWKINGS.
(c) Durban to Aden. SHROPSHIRE and
SOUTHAMPTON. WS 5B U.K. to Aden.
RAMILLIES. Red Sea Escort to be
provided by Red Sea Force. Other
movements. (a) DEVONSHIRE is to be
sailed for U.K. after escorting WS 4B to
Durban. (b) CORNWALL is to refit at
Simonstown after escorting WS 4A to
Aden. C.in C. to issue the necessary
instructions to ships concerned.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2219/26 to C.in C. S.A.
C.in C. E.I., C.in C. H.F. amended
2111/27).

Mediterranean.

Submarines
diving at
night.

My 2017/23 (re Submarines to dive for
as much of the night as possible when
in patrol area). Cancel last sentence.
Submarines are to use their own
discretion bearing possibility in mind.
(Capt: (S) 1, 0927/26 to 1st S/M
Flotilla.)

Suggested
Attacks.

Your 1215/18. Suggest you also
consider, with A.C.C. Med., attacks on
following targets to shake morale of
Sicily. (details) (D.N.A.D. 1029/26 to
V.A. Malta) (See Med. Vol.). *Reply: p. 803.*

Taranto
Reconnaissance.

H.Q. Malta 1725/25. Were harbour and
docks at Taranto completely covered?
Which of damaged battleships has been
removed? (D.D.I.C. 1136/26 to V.A.Malta)

French Fleet,
Alexandria.

Your 2349/20. Using fact we are paying
wages as lever to reduce personnel.
Have stated in future will pay only a
sum representing amount for $\frac{1}{3}$ of
original complement. (C.in C. Med,
1601/24 to Adty).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

727

Corfu
Bombed.

Greeks report Corfu Island has been bombed persistently and indiscriminately p.m. 25/11 and a.m. 26/11. (Naval Attache, Athens, 1219/26 to C.in C. Med.)

PATRIA.
Sabotage.

N.O.I.C. Haifa 1140/25 and 2130/25 regarding Sabotage in PATRIA. Is there any action you wish me to take. (P.S.T.O. Port Said 1855/26 to Adty.)

MARIT
MAERSK.

Your 1617/19 to H.M. Minister, Athens, and Adty. 1733/16. Greek Government intend to requisition MARIT MAERSK and use it for themselves. (N.A.Athens, 1200/26 to C.in C. Med.)

Port
Largo
Bombed.

Following operations carried out today 26/11.

2. About 0500 Porto Largo on Leros Island attacked by 15 Swordfish from ILLUSTRIOUS with bombs. Difficulty experienced seeing targets but fires started in dockyard area and other places. A ship thought to be a warship attacked by two aircraft result unobserved. One Swordfish failed to return.

Tripoli
Bombed.

Operation "Tripe".

3. At 0620 Tripoli attacked by eight Swordfish from EAGLE. One ship alongside Spanish quay probably hit by three 500 pound bombs. Remainder of stick landed on quay. Major fire started visible from EAGLE 80 miles away and still burning nearly an hour later. All aircraft returned undamaged.

M.W.4.

4. Convoy M.W.4 arrived safely at Malta. It was unsuccessfully attacked by three torpedo aircraft in position 36° 15 N., 24° 50 E.

Suda Bay
Landing.

5. Number 50 command landed at Suda Bay from WARSPITE, VALIANT and YORK. (C.in C. Med. 1307/26).

Air
Reconnaissance.

Results of Air Rc. 26/11.

Taranto. Three Battleships one damaged and surrounded by small craft and two Destroyers alongside torpedo nets around it apparently Littorio Class. Two other Battleships both beached. Outer Harbour. 4 Cruiser 5 Destroyers Northern end of harbour. Inner Harbour 2 Cruisers and several small M/V's from



WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

728

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air
Reconnaissance.

200 to 500 tons also 48 Seaplanes.
5 Destroyers and 4 M/V's of 5000 tons.
Palermo. Two Cruisers and 14 large
M/V's. Messina. 3 Destroyers 5SM's
8 Balloons at 1500 feet across harbour.
Convoy of two M/V's of 10,000 tons
escorted by 3 Cruisers and 3 Destroyers
in 042° 30'N., 015° 30'E course 330° 15
knots sighted at 1335-2. Calabrian
Coast. Ionian Sea nil.
(V.A. Malta 1645/26 Med.Fleet.)

Air
Report.

Combined Services report Malta up to
1700 26/11. No naval or military items.
(H.Q. Med. 1720/26 to Air Min.)

Big
Ships
hit.

Valona

X.4411. Squadron maintained patrols
over Greek front lines 25/11 no
interceptions. 26/11. No.84
Squadron aircraft 3 of which bombed
~~VALONAT~~ 2-500 pound bombs seen to hit
big ship believed probably warship.
1 aircraft bombed ~~TEPELENE~~ *Tapelara*.
(B.A.F. Greece 1920/26).

German
Troops
Trieste.

Reports of various reliability received
from Split that German troops were
being transported from Trieste to San
Hobo Di Medua, transports navigating
inside Yugo Slavian waters. Subsequent
report (B.2) states no such transports
have left Trieste up to midnight 25/11.
Yugo-Slav General Staff have no
knowledge of presence of German troops
at Trieste but have informed me
departure from Trieste on 21/11
of S.S.VULCANIA and one further ship
stated to be about 24,000.
(N.A. Belgrade 2005/26 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.

56th Sub-
Division.

C.in C. Med. 1442/23. (KANDAHAR,
KIMBERLEY, KINGSTON to form 56th
Sub-Division) concur.
(C.in C. E.I. 0528Z/26 to Adty).

ANNISTON CITY.

C.in C. E.I. 1358/25 arrived Bahrein,
has cargo described and being detained.
(S.N.O. P.G. 0741Z/26 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

729

WOOLWICH.

Owing to boiler defect e.t.s. at R/V 0900Z/27. (WOOLWICH, 1920Z/26 to GRIMSBY)

WESTRALIA.

To leave eastern end of patrol line to arrive Colombo p.m./3/12. (C.in C. E.I. 1248Z/26 amended 0758/28).

Air Report.

Up to 1200 hours 26/11. 25/11. 1 Blenheim attacked buildings and jetty Marsa Taclai. No hits. (H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East 1207/26 to Air Min.)

China.

Far East Conference.

My 0201Z/23. Dutch Staff Officers have arrived at Singapore and discussions commence 26/11. (C.in C. China 0239Z/26 to Admiralty).

America and West Indies.

Submarine O.15.

Your 1121/19. (Retention of Submarine O.15 at Bermuda for training A/S Vessels) In view of heavy A/S commitments at home regret this cannot be approved. (D.O.D.(H) 1153/26 to C.in C. A.& W.I.)

Navicerts.

Your 1001/21. The extension of the Navicerts System to the French West Indies is at present under consideration. (Hd. of M. 1325/28 to C.in C. A & W.I.)

PASTEUR. CAPETOWN CASTLE.

Admiralty 2325/23 PASTEUR and CAPETOWN CASTLE will leave Clyde and Liverpool respectively (date) for Halifax contents being as follows, (details). (D. of S.T. 1717/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

5th Towns Flotilla.

Following U.S. destroyers commissioned 26/11 November as fifth ~~flotilla~~ flotilla. READING, RAMSEY, RIPLEY, ROCKINGHAM. Long endurance. None fitted as leader. ROCKINGHAM Senior Officer. Remaining 6 ships manned by R.C.N. C. & M. NEWPORT, NEWMARKET, NEWARK, RICHMOND, SALISBURY, WELLS. Short endurance. All 10 ships completed W/T modernisation and fitted with asdics. SALISBURY, RICHMOND and WELLS have director firing. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1717/26.)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.11.40.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.) 730

Norwegian Shipping.

Your 1536/19. ^{10528.} The Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission in London have now addressed the following message to their representative in New York. Begins. Ministry inform us ~~that~~ New York issuing declaration about not leaving Halifax before certain measures adhered to inclusive manning according regulation. Ministry very concerned and recommend we agree these circulars should be recalled. Ends.

(D.T.D. 1806/26 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

PENNLAND.

C.in C. South Atlantic's 1203/24 propose that PENNLAND should be used to return Military guard of 4 officers and 105 men from Jamaica to Freetown as they are needed for Garrison. PENNLAND is however, urgently required for inclusion in troop convoy sailing United Kingdom for Middle East late December. Request report whether alternative means for returning personnel to Freetown would be available shortly after arrival of PENNLAND.

(D. of S.T. 2034/26 to C.in C. A & W.I.)

Australia and New Zealand.

RANGITANE.

RANGITANE reports being attacked in 036 degrees 58 min. South 175 degrees 22 min. West at 1515/26/11. ACHILLES at Lyttleton proceeding to search. MONOWAI returning to Suva expected time of arrival 1800/28/11. Air Search being carried out.

(~~NEW ZEALAND~~ Naval Board. 1730/26 to Ady)

26.11.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

731

KLAUS SCHOKE

Your 1535/25. Why is it likely that ship will be interned? Is she offensively armed? (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1027/26 to British Consul Ponta Delgada). My 2346/23. Arrived Ponta Delgada, 25/11 for repairs estimated to take 3 or 4 days. (D.D.I.C. 1043/26 to Ships and Authorities Areas A and B.).

Your 1027/26. It is understood having taken refuge in one Portuguese Port ship is not entitled to do so in another Portuguese Port. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1646/26 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar). Arrived Ponta Delgada 25/11 for repairs has been given 4 days to complete and proceed to sea otherwise will be interned (A.1) (N.A. Lisbon 1815/26 to Admiralty).

German Ships.

Indications one or more of German ships in Port Vigo may take advantage of present excellent weather conditions to leave tonight or very soon. (Acting Consul Vigo, 1727/26 to Admiralty). Reported indication some German M/V's may leave Vigo any time during next few days. (D.D.I.C. 2200/26 to F.O.C.N.A. and V.A.S. 2231/26 to S/M's on patrol in Area B).

MADRID

At Las Palmas. Supplied with 900 tons coal, 750 tons water, and provisions. (D.S. 449).

MACEIO

Strong indication that MACEIO at Bahia is expected to sail for Rio de Janeiro to load Castor Seeds and other cargo collected by Theodore Wille. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1501/26).

26.11.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

732

AEQUITAS

Sailing (from Ceara to Rio de Janeiro) postponed until 28/11. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1700/26).

ALABAMA

(Scuttled off Maracaibo 10/6) has arrived Las Piedras en route to Puerto Cabello. Ownership believed claimed by Venezuelan Government. (D.S. 449).

DENTICE.

(Salved after scuttling). Ownership believed claimed by Venezuelan Govt. (D.S. 449).

RECCA.

At Havana. Reported repainted and name and flag obliterated. (D.S. 449).

FRANCO MARTELLI.

Socony Vacuum of U.S.A. have obtained legal injunction on the whole cargo of FRANCO MARTELLI at Pernambuco and ship is arrested pending payment of carriage. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1732/26 to Admiralty).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

VENDEMIARE

Due to have sailed from Martinique for Casablanca 24/11. If met she should be sent in under armed guard. (C.in C. A. and W.I. 0942/26 to DIOMEDE).

CHARLES PLUMIER.

N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1300/25. Master stated he had received no orders to scuttle his ship. Perhaps orders refer to cargoes not destined for Metropolitan France. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1003/26 to Admiralty).

VILLE DU HAVRE

See Vichy French.

26.11.1940.
Tuesday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

733

Ships Attacked.

HAVBOR
(torpedoed
15/11).

My 2129/19, 4 survivors from HAVBOR torpedoed in same position as KOHINOR at 1130/15/11 have been rescued by BARON ARDROSSAN and brought to Freetown after 9 days on raft. They believe they are sole survivors. (C.in C. S.A. 1959/26 to Admiralty).

WEST WALES

British 4354 tons. SSSS 55.39 N., 09.55 W. (F.O. Humber, signal received by military, 1530/26 G.M.T.)
Valentia Radio, 1529/26, 1533/26).

Submarines Reported.

0415.

D.F., probable U/B, 56.50 N., 11° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 0539/26, 0540/26).

1627.

D.F., probable U/B, 54.40 N., 22.40 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1722/26).

Estimated
U-boat
dispositions

<u>Italian</u>	2 or 3 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
<u>German</u>	1 in Sierra Leone area or farther North. 3 between 55° North and 56° North of which 1 was about 22° West at 1548/25 1 was about 17° West at 1235/25. 1 may be between 12° West and 15° West. 1 was about 57° North 11° West at 0415/26. 1 near Flannan Isles homeward bound. Possibly 1 Westward of Rockall. 1 in area 58° North to 60° North West of 20° West. (D.D.I.C. 1216/26.)

Submarines Attacked.

0811/21.

By RHODODENDRON, escorting O.B.244, about 56.30 N., 14.10 W. Fired 3 depth charges. Wreckage sighted immediately after explosion by C.O. and several responsible ratings. (Capt. D., Liverpool, 1814/26).

Admiralty information (no. 12-40, p. 743)



War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

734

Home Commands

PORT NAPIER
Destroyed

PORT NAPIER (Minelayer) was accidentally destroyed by fire at Port Z.A. today.

2-U/Boats
sunk

TALISMAN reports she has on board 4 survivors from two U-Boats stated to have been sunk by direct hits by R.A.F. aircraft.

(p. 762)
740)

Dover
Shelled

Dover was shelled this afternoon. Two shells fell in the harbour, but no damage resulted.

British Air Activity

Two Enemy Ships
Sunk

An aircraft of Coastal Command on patrol off the Weser Estuary today, scored a hit amidships on a small oil tanker which burst into flames and was last seen sinking stern first.

Off Terschelling an aircraft of Coastal Command torpedoed a 5000 ton merchant vessel this morning. The ship was seen listed and with her stern out of water.

Single bombers of Bomber Command last night attacked five Channel Ports. Blenheims of Coastal Command bombed one Channel Port.

Beauforts attacked a 5,000 ton ship off Terschelling and scored a direct hit, the stern rising out of the water. Possibly PATAGONIA, which sent out S.O.S. (p. 758)

doubtful?

A roving offensive patrol obtained a direct hit on the tanker HAVBOR. 7600 tons off Wilhelmshaven, the vessel bursting into flames and being left in a sinking condition.

Extra A/S patrols were flown today in the N.W. Approaches as far as 14° W.



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27.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

736

Mediterranean

Operation
"Collar"-Contd

Who put this
mark of interrogation?
It appears perfectly
clear from that the
position bore 104°
distant 28 miles
from 28°N 0°E.
C. Mordant

destroyers proceeded to concentrate with Force D, (RAMILLIES, COVENTRY and 2 destroyers), The position of which at 1100 was 104° 38' N., 8° E., 28 miles steering 255° at 17 knots. (This force left Alexandria a.m./23 with BERWICK, escorting Convoy M.W. 4 consisting of 4 large transports, which arrived at Malta 26/11 BARHAM, EAGLE, MALAYA, ORION, SYDNEY, AJAX and 10 destroyers covered the movement.)

At 1052 S.O. Force H ordered ARK ROYAL to fly off a striking force to attack. At 1215 S.O. Force H reported the enemy as 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers bearing 343° 12 miles, steering 330°. He had sighted RAMILLIES and both sides opened fire at 1221. At 1239 he reported 2 battleships bearing 044° 20 miles. The enemy were out of range of RENOWN and RAMILLIES and they retired at high speed towards Cagliari. Force H was unable to close and at 1312 he ordered his force to rejoin the convoy. The convoy apparently passed well clear of the action and proceeded through Skerki Channel

At 1201 the Sunderland sighted a damaged Italian destroyer in position 38° 14' N., 8° 28' E., well down by the stern, and a few minutes later 3 enemy cruisers and 2 destroyers were sighted steering towards the damaged destroyer. The latter force was reported, but not the damaged destroyer. One other destroyer is believed to have been damaged.

The result of F.A.A. attacks were one torpedo hit on a battleship of LITTORIO class, one almost certain hit on a cruiser of BOLZANO class and possibly on one other cruiser, and one 6 inch cruiser apparently damaged by near miss.

The Italian communique 28/11 stated that the 8 inch cruiser FIUME was hit and a destroyer was seriously damaged and was taken in tow.

BERWICK has one turret out of action from shell fire. There was no other damage to our ships.

/The Fulmars....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

737

Mediterranean

Operation
"Collar"-Contd.

One Fulmar was lost and one crashed on landing. Two enemy aircraft were shot down.

The Fleet was bombed during the day, without damage.

Air
Operations

Malta was unsuccessfully bombed this evening.

Blenheims from Greece attacked a small convoy escorted by 2 destroyers, but scored no hits.

A standing patrol was maintained over Athens today.

America & West Indies

It has been approved to keep the U.S. Navy Dept., informed of dispositions of H.M. ships in the West Indies, on the West Coast of America, and in the vicinity of the Panama Canal.

Australia

Troop convoy U.S. 7 for the Middle East escorted by the cruisers CANBERRA and PERTH left Fremantle at 2152Z for Colombo.

27 members of the crew of PORT BRISBANE, sunk by raider on 21/11, and picked up next day by CANBERRA, state that the raider was a motor ship similar to NEIDENFELS, and had 4 guns on broadside, believed 4-inch. Two boats' crews were taken prisoner by the raider. CANBERRA also sighted an empty boat assumed to be from the MAIMOA.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

3 ships attacked by U-Boats today in the N.W. Approaches were all stragglers from convoys- CHARLES F. MEYER from H.X. 87. DIPLOMAT from H.X. 88, GLENMOOR from O.B. 248.

27.11.1940.

Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

738

Policy.

Firth of Lorne
A/S Patrol.

No. 1522, 1758/25 x p. 10, p. 696
Your 1711/26. Only Trawlers unsuitable for Convoy Escort are required for Loop Patrol Belfast and Convoy anchorage Dundrum Bay. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0931/27 to C.in C. W.A.). Protection of Oban must take precedence for the present. Request you send to Oban the trawlers allocated to Dundrum Bay. (C.in C. W.A. 1555/27 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Northern Patrol.

Your 1803/21. Concur in proposal for Northern Patrol but hope more trawlers can be made available for the Iceland Faroe passage by time mine barrier is completed. Until then some assistance to this Patrol will be afforded by ships covering minelaying operations. (C.in C. H.F. 1711/27 to Adty.)

Scapa
A/A Defences.

Your 1804/26. Detailed description of present berthing and Air Defence arrangements. Suggestions for possible improvements. (C.in C. H.F. 1927/27 to Adty.)

Ships of
1st. C.S.

Your 1917/26. Ships of the 1st C.S. will be attached temporarily to the 10th C.S.; but it is assumed you would like them attached to the 18th C.S. when C.S.18 returns. From an operational point of view it is considered that there are great advantages in the Admiral being in the Aircraft Carrier and it will certainly save much signalling. (1st S.L. 0054/27 to C.in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

Faroe Islands.

Request Adty. and War Office jointly represent to Ministry of Shipping urgent need for regular and speedy shipment to Faroes of Govt. stores. Average 1000 tons shipping space per month required. Also strongly recommend that Faroese TJALDUR be chartered for regular fortnightly service with Stores and Leave Personnel. These suggestions initiated by Naval Officers in charge. (O.C. Troops, Faroe Islands 530/24/11 to War Office. Recd. by Adty. from War Office at 0921/27). *Danish*

27. 11. 1940
Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

739

Movements.

Nore Command.
Ships out of
Action.

My 1546/23. Delete VANESSA and VORTIGERN.
 (C.in C. Nore 0740/27 to Adty.)

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 27/28. (C.in C. Nore 0800/27) Movements to 1200/28.
 (C.in C. Nore 1200/27).

Dover.

Patrols for Night 27/28. (V.A. Dover 1237/27).

Orkneys.

Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1819/27).
 Trawler Lines tonight (A.C.O.S. 1533/27)

Portsmouth.

Night movements (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/27).

GLENGYLE)
GLENROY)

To embark 2 Commandos Troops at Largs on 6/12 and proceed to Lamash for training. Likely to be at Lamash 7 to 10 days. (D.O.D.H. 1703/27 to V.A.C.T.C.) Request vessel such as Yacht TROUBADOUR or SURPRISE may attend on Ships during period. (D.O.D. H. 1716/27 to C.in C. W.A.).
See next page.

HOOD.

To be taken in hand 15/1 at Rosyth for Turbine Repairs and Refit. Every effort to be made to complete by end February. (D.O.D. H. 1707/27 to C.in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS
DIDO

Adty. 1531/25. Route from latitude Gibraltar to Plymouth and Scapa respectively. (C.in C. W.A. 2138/27 to C.in C. S.A.).
 Only A/C on board FURIOUS are 6 Skuas for her own protection.
 (5th S.L. 1643/27 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.

JOKULL.

(Icelandic Trawler) Left Fleetwood A.M./26 for Iceland through Minches. Suspect she may divert and pass 12 miles West of St. Kilda. If met off the route ordered, the fact to be reported. (C.in C. W.A. 0029 and 0943/27 to Ships)

Channel.

4 Destroyers will be operating between 0° W. and 1° 30' W. on Night 28/29. (Capt. S.5. 1325/27 to SEAWOLF)

PEGASUS.

Adty. 1312/26. If operation decided on, PEGASUS should arrive Belfast not later than P.M./5. Request C.O. visit Plymouth at early date. (C.in C. W.A. 1529/27 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

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Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

740

Operations.

Dover shelled.

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired 8 rounds between 1510 and 1532 today. 6 fell just outside harbour, 1 inside Eastern Entrance, and 1 in S/M Basin. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A. Dover 1811/27 to Adty.)

TALISMAN
Operation

French
30/11/40

V.A.(S) 1011/10 completed. 40 ton Ketch named LE CLIPPER sailed number L.G.X. 3501 White (?hull). Expected to cross channel from 30th November. Fishermen report U-boats leave Lorient during daylight north of Groix diving when west of Penmen. Never more than four U-boats seen Lorient at once. R.A.F. bombing very effective, two U-boats sunk direct hits have four (~~2 officers and men from~~) crews on board, intend to continue patrol. (TALISMAN 1934/27 to Capt. S.2.)

Submarines.

SEAWOLF.

Leave Patrol at 0200/29 and R/V with Escort at Position W. at 0830. (Capt. S.5. 1131/27 to SEAWOLF).

PORPOISE.

Adty. 2341/22. Route from Clyde to Halifax, escorted to 59° N. 7° W. by TROUBADOUR. (C.in C. W.A. 1235/27 to Capt. S.2)
Sail PORPOISE 28/11 by Route in C.in C. W.A. 1235/27, diving by day from 59° N. 7° W. till 25° W. is reached. Submerged bombing restrictions to be arranged as necessary from 59° N. 7° W. to 25° W. (V.A.S. 1448/27 to S.2). *See p. 768*
Request you delay sailing of PORPOISE till TROUBADOUR is ready P.M./29. (C.in C. W.A. 1935/27 to Capt. S.2). Intend sail PORPOISE from Clyde at 0900/30 by Route in C.in C. W.A. 1235/27. E.T.A. Halifax 1600/13/12. G.M.T. (S.2. 2302/27 to Adty.)

O. 24.

To leave Patrol 1800/28. Route. (Capt. S.9. 1407/27 to O. 24).

SURPRISE.

Adty. 1252/14/10. To be held available in addition to TROUBADOUR for special service at 48 hours notice. (D.O.D.H. 1554/27 to C.in C. W.A.). *See previous page*

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/28. (V.A.S. 1844/27, 2102/27, 2343/27).

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War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.

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British Air Activity.

- Off Terschelling. At 0756/27 in 53° 29' N. 5° 8' E.
A/C attacked a 5000 ton M/V with Torpedo.
Hit. M/V listed and stern seen out of
water. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 1450/27) (See pages 734, 758)
- Air Patrols. Assessments. (C.in C. Rosyth 1824/27).
- Off Weser. At 1440/27 in 53° 45' N. 8° 12' E.
A/C attacked 600 ton Oil-Tanker with
Torpedo. Hit. Tanker on fire and
sinking when last seen. (A.C.H.Q.
Chatham 1930/27).
- Operation
"Ceiling". R.A.N.A.S. No. 0141 of 17/8/40.
Operation "Ceiling" Enclosure I
delete all reference to Squadron L
(R.A.N.A.S. 1353/27)
- Mining.
- Harwich. D.O. Walton reports heavy Explosion
and Machine-Gun fire 220° Orfordness
and 130° Shingle Light 1½ miles at
0846. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0846/27 to
C.in C. Nore).
- Tees and
Hartlepool. Closed. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 0857/27
to Adty.) Open. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool
1427/27 to Adty.)
- Thames Estuary. HERO reports Red Mine detonated at
0320/27 by L.L. 232° Mid Barrow Light
Vessel 1½ miles. (Capt. M/S Sheerness
0916/27).
- Little Sole
Bank minefield. Adty. 1013/26. Mines embarked, and
ADVENTURE ready to proceed.
(ADVENTURE 1103/27 to C.in C. W.A.).
- Thames Estuary. M/V CORTACHY, 273 tons, reports
detonating one Acoustic Mine at 1035/24
between Wreck Buoy of East Oaze Light
Vessel and Knob Light Vessel. Vessel
was in Convoy F.N. 41. Details.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee 1145/27).
- Humber. Open. (F.O. Humber 1234/27 to Adty.)
- Thames Estuary. DAROGAH (M/S Trawler) reports Mine
detonated in 240° Knob Bell Buoy 8 cables.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1259/27 and 1818/27
to C.in C. Nore).
- Plymouth,
ELK sunk. Since my 1832/25 an Acoustic Mine has
been detonated by M/S ELK in 185° Penlee
Point 11.4 cables. ELK subsequently
sank. No casualties. (C.in C. W.A.
2309/27 to Adty.).



MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

? A/c

FOLKE WOLFE.

Estimated position at 1205,
50° 20' N. 15° 50' W.
(D.D.I.C. 1237/27 to C.in C. W.A.)

Northern Norway.

Finnish s.s. KUURTANES arriving from Liverpool yesterday boarded by German trawler Nov. 21st taken to Tromso but released at once. She was stopped again Nov. 26th off Vardo by a German armed merchantman name unknown about 2500 tons gross armament (apparently) only A/A and machine guns but allowed to proceed after two hours. The same German had apparently stopped another Finnish unknown steamer possibly T/AUI believed to have been sent to Tromso. (Petsamo 1717/27 to D.N.I.). See Page 811.

Faroes.

Unidentified Cargo Ship passed Skopen Fiord at 1740, westbound. About 3000 tons. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1801/27 to Adty.)

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

NIGERIA.

A.M. 1230/26 and my 1646/25.
Trials unsatisfactory. Serious leak
in pipe joints. (C.in C. W.A. 0014/27).

SHEARWATER.

Have grounded Haisborough. Making water
in A/S compartment. No other damage.
Now anchored in deep water. Propose
return Harwich at daylight. (SHEARWATER
0215/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

CLAN MACKAY
(H.M. Drifter)

In collision with ⁴⁴Trawler COMMODATOR in
Granton Harbour on 26/11. Estimate 6
weeks and £350 to repair.
(N.O.I.C. Leith 1127/27 to Adty.)

PROGRESS.

(Fishing Coble) Picked up, abandoned,
4 miles East of Fifeness at 1415/26 by
M/V CORTACHY, and towed by her into
Dundee. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1148/27 to
Adty.)

WALLACE.

Have sustained following damage in
collision with Newarp Light Float.
Holed above water. Leaks stopped.
Estimate 48 hours to complete temporary
repairs. (WALLACE 1200/27 to C.in C.
Rosyth).

CORCREST.

(British 2373 tons) Reports she
collided with FULHAM II in the River.
Holed, and now beached off Jenkins Buoy.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1806/27 to C.in C. Nore).

PORT NAPIER.

(1st M/L Squadron) Lost by fire.
Began about 1340/27, oil-tanks exploded
between 1540 and 1600, and Ship now on
beam ends bows in 20 fathoms and stern in
10. No casualties. (TRELAWNEY 1940/27
and 2007/27 to Adty.)



War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

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Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B. 244.

Report of U/B attack on 21/11, torpedoing of DAYDAWN and VICTORIA, and attack on and probable destruction of U/B by RHODODENDRON, (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1814/26).

H.X.89.

My 1445/26. COMORIN reports 10 hours late. (C.in C. W.A. 1021/27 to WANDERER, WARWICK, etc.).

E.N.33.

CURACOA to escort to Pentland Firth. (R.A.D., 2205/27) JASON as additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 1141/27) (N.C.S.O. Methil 1540/27).

H.X.85.

6 ships ex H.X.85 bound Bristol Channel overtaken 60 miles S. of Clyde at 0900/25 by a vessel believed small sloop, and ordered into Clyde. Report if anything known of this matter. (C.in C. W.A., to Capt. D., Londonderry, 1503/27).

W.N.45.

→ FOWEY to meet. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1025/27, 1041/27) Postponed 25 hours. (N.C.S.O., Oban, 0917/27).

O.B.249

H.X.89.

7 ships O.B. 249 disperse in 55.25 N., 14.00 W. at 1800, proceeding CAMPANULA course 293° 10 knots to meet H.X.89. (FLEUR DE LYS, 2359/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

S.C.12.

Am going to meet. (VERITY, 1931/27 to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N.32.

→ PAYNTER and KING SOL. Additional escort FOWEY. (N.C.S.O. Methil 003/27).

H.X.92.

MONTCLARE to escort (R.A. 3 B.S., 1011/27).

Air Risk.

Importance of keeping A/A guns manned North of 40° N., and East of 20° W. (D.T.D. 1242/26).

S.C. Convoys.

My 1903/23/8. S.C. Convoy stragglers for East Coast destinations only are to proceed to Clyde. Envelope D should be corrected. (D.T.D. 1845/27)

27.11.1940.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

745

Operations Against Vichy French.*Not to be used in W.D.*Free French Shipping.

Correct message 1816/22 re Free French shipping on W. Coast of Africa. Para. 3 last line for AMABILITAS read CAPO OLMO. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 1008/27 to Admiralty).

PIERRE L. DREYFUS
CAP BLANC
KATIOUA
DUNKERQUE

Arrivals at Dakar. PIERRE L. DREYFUS on 23/11, CAP BLANC and KATIOUA on 24/11 with general cargo from Morocco. French Naval Officer arrived Casablanca from France states DUNKERQUE at Oran will be ready for action by March or April 1941. (B.N.A. Washington 1101/27 to Admiralty).

CUBA.

Admiralty 2305/26 and N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1627/26. Numbers of passengers and crew for whom passage will be required. Request report of number which can be taken by each ship. (C.in C. S.A. 1157N/27 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

French Warship.

Report type of ship speed and course. Is it certain French and not Dutch. (C.in C. S.A. 0958/27, Broadcast for JEDMOOR).

My 1339/26 and your 2105/26 JEDMOOR reports French warship in position 11° 08' S. 20° 09' W. at 0915/27.

Likely this ship proceeding to escort VILLE DU HAVRE though course not given. DRAGON intercepting VILLE DU HAVRE, CUMBERLAND ordered to close and give support. (C.in C. S.A. 1721N/27 to Admiralty).

My 1449/26 and 2007/26 to HERMES repeated for information. DRAGON aware of import. JEDMOOR reports French warship in position 011° 08' N., 20° 10' W. at 0915/27 course not given.

Ship may be proceeding to escort VILLE DU HAVRE. You are to close DRAGON approaching VILLE DU HAVRE with her and remain in company to give support. DRAGON has instructions for interception and bringing ship in. (C.in C. S.A. 1743 N/27 to CUMBERLAND).

My 1449/26 and 1743/27. After locating VILLE DU HAVRE, HERMES to carry out search to north and endeavour to locate any French naval forces approaching, and if located to shadow and report. CUMBERLAND with DRAGON if armed guard has been put on board should proceed to intercept and turn back such a force before it can reach VILLE DU HAVRE acting in accordance with memo. 125 of 2/10 as amended by my 2051/14/11. (C.in C. W.A. 1933/27 to CUMBERLAND, HERMES).

/ My 1743/27



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French. (Contd.)

French Warship.
(contd.)

My 1743/27 French warship now reported as Sloop D'IBERVILLE class steering 060° 12 knots. CUMBERLAND to proceed to Freetown in accordance with previous orders; HERMES to carry out reconnaissance ordered in my 1349/26. CUMBERLAND, DRAGON to proceed to intercept VILLE DU HAVRE in accordance with sailing orders. (C.in C. S.A. 2231N/27 to CUMBERLAND).

VILLE DU HAVRE.

Departure 0600/27 DRAGON to intercept French ship VILLE DU HAVRE. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1053/27, to Admty. and HERMES).

VILLE DE TAMATAVE.

French ship VILLE DE TAMATAVE sailed from Madagascar for France on 9/11 and carries Ex-Governor General and Ex-Controller of Finance, possibly for court martial in France. Vessel was reported by aircraft off Cape Point at 1859/19 but escaped. If vessel is sighted special effort should be made to intercept her subject to any instructions in force at the time concerning escorted ships. (Hd. of M., 1916/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Keep steam at 4 hours notice. (F.O.C.N.A. 1334/27, to ROYAL SOVEREIGN). Revert to 12 hours notice. (F.O.C.N.A. to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

Raider.

Secret sources report informant in German official circles states German man-of-war raided in N. Atlantic short of fuel. (C.O.) (B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1710/27 to D.N.I.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic.

NORMAN STAR.
TORDENE

NORMAN STAR departure Buenos Aires 9/11 due Freetown 23/11 and TORDENE departure Cardiff 18/10 due Buenos Aires 18/11 have not arrived.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 1008/37 to Admiralty)

Freetown Naval
Air limit shore base.

Your 1827/25. Not possible to provide a shore based Naval Air unit for Freetown. Air Ministry intend send Blenheim IV's for dual role of bombers and A/S duties.
(D.N.A.D. 1054/27 to C.in C. S.A.).

AVILA STAR.

Following intercepted from Notraship addressed Master Norwegian Whaling Factory KOSMOS c/o Norwegian Consulate Dakar begins. Please state number of crew aboard. Ends. Request may be informed if news of KOSMOS.
C.in C. S.A. Station 1251/30/10 refers.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1214/27 to Admiralty).

ALCANTARA.

Your 2005/22. Request immediate reply whether prepared to accept delay of from three to five weeks in completion date of ALCANTARA to fit catapult.
(D.O.D.(F) 1618/27 to C.in C. S.A.)
Your 1618/27. Yes. Can longer range guns and all possible improvements be fitted at same time. Can it be assumed catapult will not now be fitted in ARAWA and MORETON BAY if so MORETON BAY refit need not be deferred. (C.in C. S.A. 1931/27 to Admiralty).

German and
Italian M/V's

QUANZA (Portuguese) reports 2 German merchant ships at Lobito and 2 German and 1 Italian at Lorenzo Marques.
(DELHI, 1832/27 to C.S.I., C.in C. S.A.)

PRETORIA CASTLE
CARNARVON CASTLE
escort duty.

Large diesel engined A.M.Cs PRETORIA CASTLE and CARNARVON CASTLE when as is sometimes necessary employed on convoy escort duty experience difficulty when stationed on the convoy at slow speed after being met by local escort in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1240/2/11. Proposed that these ships should leave convoy after rendezvous in N.A. and return direct to Freetown without proceeding to a U.K. port unless required to do so for engine repairs, also all A.M.Cs who have difficulty at slow speed shall at C.Os discretion proceed independently to U.K. port after meeting local escorts if weather conditions render station keeping in the convoy undesirable. (C.in C. S.A. 1906/27 to Admiralty). *See also C.in C. W. App. 1608/29, p. 815.*

/ ADMIRAL SCHREER.

27.11.1940.

Wednesday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

748

ADMIRAL SCHEER.

*Force K,
Composition.*

1. My 1329/9 presence of ^{ADMIRAL} SCHEER in North Atlantic and probable existence of five armed merchant raiders operating overseas has necessitated forming Hunting Groups.

FORMIDABLE will with BERWICK and NORFOLK form Force "K".

FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK will sail from U.K. about / (date) for Trinidad being joined by BERWICK in vicinity of Azores. Later Force "K" will proceed to Freetown. FORMIDABLE will exchange with ARK ROYAL when worked up. (D.O.D.(F) 1746/27 to FORMIDABLE).

Convoy
W.S.4 B,
HAWKINS

HAWKINS from Simonstown, after completion of practice in False Bay at 1930/27, sailed to rendezvous with convoy W.S.4B in accordance with your 1255/25 to Admiralty.

(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1945Z/27 to C.in C. S.A.).



War Diary

MOST SECRET

27.11.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

749

Mediterranean

(Op: "Collar")

Action with Italian Forces. (*Off Cape Spartivento*)

Enemy Reports

Enemy position. One Battleship, 7
cruisers Taranto. (A/C 0125/27 to ?)

BERWICK

My position course and speed 230° 38° N.,
8° E., 34, 075° 27 knots, join me. Report
position course and speed. (S.O.Force H.,
1027/27 to BERWICK)

Force D.

Your 1027 Force D position course and
speed 104, 38° N., 8° E., 28 255° 17 knots.
(BERWICK 1100/27 to S.O.Force H)

(Force D. RAMILLIES, NEWCASTLE, COVENTRY,
HERO, HEReward, VAMPIRE, VENDETTA)
(BERWICK being passed through with "Collar")

DESPATCH
RENOWN
RAMILLIES

DESPATCH and two destroyers detached with
Convoy. RENOWN and remainder of cruisers
and destroyers proceeding to rendezvous
with RAMILLIES. (S.O.Force H., 1045/27 to
C. in C., Med.)

COVENTRY

COVENTRY to join convoy, position course
and speed 220, 38° N., 8° E., 23. 120°
15 knots. (S.O.Force H., 1049/27 to
RAMILLIES)

Aircraft
to Attack

Fly off striking force and attack. (S.O.
Force H., 1052/27 to ARK ROYAL)

Enemy Force

What is composition of enemy force? Is
LITTORIO class battleship present?
(S.O.Force H., 1106/27 to ARK ROYAL)

Force H
Position

My position course and speed 160 38° N.,
8° E., 11, 045° 27 knots in company 2
EN.BS (?) - and 6 CR 010° 30 knots.
(S.O.Force H., 1149/27 to C. in C., Med.)

Air
Attack

What time will torpedo bomber attack?
(S.O. Force H., 1138/27 to ARK ROYAL)

Enemy
Position

Following has been read: 126 (Position of
Enemy?) 2 CR, 2 DR, 12 MV, Palermo.
(From A/C 1145/27)

Estimated Enemy Battlefleet bears 010°
distant 30 miles from me. (S.O.Force H.,
1145/27 to Battle Fleet)

C.S. 18

Take all cruisers less COVENTRY, DESPATCH,
under you orders. (S.O.Force H., 1145/27
to C.S. 18)

Cruisers negative DESPATCH COVENTRY join
C.S. 18. (S.O.Force H., 1159/27 to cruisers)

/DUNCAN.....



War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

750

Mediterranean

Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

DUNCAN

Maximum speed 24 knots unreliable. (Message incompletely received) (DUNCAN 1203/27 to S.O. Force H.)

SOUTHAMPTON

1 unknown ship, bearing unknown distance unknown, my position 095, 38° N., 8° E., 20. (SOUTHAMPTON 1206/27)

Following has been read: One unknown ship bearing course distance unknown. My position 095 38° N., 8° E., 20. (Malta 1206/27)

MANCHESTER
Enemy Units

3 Cruisers bearing 337° }
2 destroyers bearing 343° } 15 miles
course 300°, position 074, 38° N., 8° E., 13
(MANCHESTER 1213/27 to S.O. Force H.)

C.S. 18

Three Cruisers Three Destroyers bearing 343° 12 miles, approximate course 330. My position 81 42° N., 8° E., (C.S. 18 1215/27 to S.O. Force H.)

Enemy
Cruisers

4 cruisers bearing 003 distant 15 (?) miles course unknown, my position 065 38° N., 8° E., 14. (SOUTHAMPTON 1214/27 to Malta W/T)

My 1215. 6" Cruiser (Italian) (SOUTHAMPTON 1220/27)

2 Cruisers unknown number of Destroyers bearing 003° 12 miles course 100° position 073 BFVA 21. (SOUTHAMPTON 1218/27 to Malta W/T)

My 1214. Enemy course 070 degrees. (S.S. 1216/27 to S.O. Force H.)

Position of enemy, three Cruisers and two Destroyers, is 38° N., 8° E., 3053, Course 235. Speed 20 knots. (A/C 1225/27)

2 Battleships

2 Battleships bearing 044° Distance 20 miles. Course unknown. Position 053, 38° N., 8° E., 16. (S.O. Force H., 1239/27)

8 D.F.

My course is 020 degrees. (D.8. 1240/27 to Destroyers in Company)

Turn together 240 degrees. (D.8. 1252/27 to Destroyers in Company)

/2 Battleships..



War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

751

Mediterranean

Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

2 Battleships

My ~~1329~~. Two Battle Ships bearing 038° 17 miles course 050° 049, 38° N., 8° E., 22. (S.O.Force H., 1251B/27 to Force H.)

Order to Retire

Retire Ships in company. (S.O.Force H., 1312B/27 to ? Group or Destroyers in Company)

Situation 1318/27

Have engaged enemy at extreme range. No apparent result. Enemy retiring at high speed towards Cagliari. Am unable to close. My position 05 4' 38° N., 8° E., 32', am retiring to join convoy. (S.O.Force H., 1318/27 to C. in C., Med.)

Damaged Enemy Cruiser

Endeavour to keep damaged cruiser and other units under observation. (S.O.Force H., 1401B/27 to ARK ROYAL)

DESPATCH COVENTRY

Your 1312, 220° La Gulite light 15 miles 090° 15 knots. COVENTRY and 3 destroyers in company. (DESPATCH 1415/27 to V.A. Force H.)

Indicate position course and speed. (S.O. Force H., 1458/27, to DESPATCH)

Convoy Route

'COLLAR'

Intend passing convoy through Skerki Channel. Force B providing cover to Northward. Force F should reach rendezvous 0600/28. (S.O.Force H., 1520/27 to C. in C., Med.)

Force H.

Pass to Whitehall W/T only, from Nore W/T Following received: Proceed in execution of previous orders 1704/27. (S.O.Force H 1611/27 to Force H.)

DESPATCH

Indicate your position course and speed. (S.O.Force H., 1618/27 to DESPATCH)

Indicate your position course and speed immediately (S.O.Force H., 1642/27 to DESPATCH)

18. C.S.

Burst all short. (F.D. 18 C.S., 1654/27 to S.O.Force H.)

Forces A and F

Rendezvous for Forces A and F. 036° 00' N., 013° 25' E., at 0800/28. My 1155/27 to C.S. 3. only. 3 C.S. keep clear of Force F to eastward and make rendezvous. (C. in C., Med. 1705/27 to C.S. 3. C.S. 18)

/Summary. . . .



MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.11.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

752

Mediterranean

Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

Summary from
Aircraft

Following is information of today's action south of Sardinia given by ~~Sunderland~~ on return.

- (a) At 0822 RAMILLIES with cruisers and destroyers were sighted in position $34^{\circ} 23'$ miles from Galita Is. steering 240° .
- (b) Shortly afterwards Force H. was sighted in position $037^{\circ} 37' N.$, $007^{\circ} 48' E$
- (c) At 0902 the Sunderland was sent by S.O. Force H. to search for the enemy. A force of 6 cruisers and 8 destroyers was located at 0933 in position $038^{\circ} 09' N.$, $008^{\circ} 16' E.$, steering 60° . This was passed to RENOWN by V/S at 0945.
- (d) At 1020 the action began and at 1027 one enemy cruiser appeared to be hit. At 1044 the enemy force scattered and retired, some N.E. and some N.W. still being engaged. By 1130 fire had ceased.
- (e) At 1155 French ships CHAMPOLLION and MARIETTE PACHA were in position $038^{\circ} 19' N.$, $008^{\circ} 30' E.$, steering 320° . These were reported.
- (f) At 1201 a damaged Italian destroyer was in position $038^{\circ} 14' N.$, $008^{\circ} 28' E$ well down by the stern and at 1208 three enemy cruisers and two destroyers were in position $038^{\circ} 30' N.$, $008^{\circ} 53' E.$, steering towards damaged destroyer. The latter force was reported, but not the damaged destroyer.
- (g) At 1240 the British Force was in position $037^{\circ} 48' N.$, $008^{\circ} 56' E.$, steering S.E. and being bombed. No damage was observed.

2. The convoy of M.T. ships apparently passed South of Galita Island well clear of the action and are proceeding through Skerki Channel. 3. All times are G.M.T. (V.A. Malta, 1911/27 to C. in C., Med., and Admty.)

27.11.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

Blenheims.

5 left Thorney Island 0215 G.M.T.
E.T.A. Malta 0930 G.M.T.
(Thorney Island 0410/27 to H.Q. Med.)

RORQUAL.

Operation B.S. leave Alexandria
0900/29. Route. (Capt: S.1. 0912/27 to
RORQUAL).

U/Boat
Attacked.

By Greek Destroyer 21/11.
(See U/Boat Campaign).

Palemo and
Trapani
Reconnaissance.

Air reconnaissance Trapani 26/11.
Details. (Capt: S.1 to UPRIGHT 0927/27)
Reconnaissance Palemo at 1115B/27.
2 cruisers, 2 or 3 destroyers, one
10,000 ton liner, 12 6,000 ton M/V's.
Trapani, possibly 1 cruiser.
(V.A. Malta 1353/27, 1411/27).

Messina
Balloons.

I. 129 27/11. My I. 127 26/11.
Balloons reported at Messina were at
1,500 not 15,000 feet.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 2100/27).

Taranto
etc.

Reconnaissance report. 27/11.
(V.A. Malta 1535/27, 1931/27).

Submarine
Sanctuary.

Sanctuary Summary No.3.
(Capt: S.1. 0917/27).

Suez
Canal.

Your 1129/5 and relating signals.
Understand H.M. Ambassador has
satisfied you that existing arrange-
ments should be sufficient to prevent
developments feared by you.
(Hd. of M. to S.B.N.O. Suez. 1917/27).

Convoys.
W.S.4A.
W.S.4B.

Following particulars supplement those
in my 2023/4,
(D. of S.T. 1756/27 to C.in C's Med,
S.A., E.I.)

Greece.

Situation. (M.B.Athens to W.O.
1040/27).
Air Report. No Naval items.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Greece 1718/27).

A/C Crews.

Re shortage of reserves for Med. carrier
squadrons. (C.in C. Med. 1535/27).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

27.11.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.) 754

Supply of
Glenn
Martins.

Asking Glenn Martin position and prospects of further delivery. Reconnaissance requirements of C.in C. Med. cannot continue to be met with only 3 Glenn Martins. Since Taranto attack and partial dispersion of Italian Fleet, calls for distant reconnaissances, only possible by Glenn Martins, are increasing. (H.Q. Med. 0900/27).

Italian
Troop
Transports.

My 1701/21 Para.2. (Preparation for embarkation of German Troops at Trieste). Split report will probably be indication that Axis powers are employing tactics similar to Norwegian Campaign by sending reinforcements to Albania through Yugo-Slavia territorial waters. Latest report up to p.m./25 states troops had embarked but ships had not sailed, destination believed to be San Giovanni Medua. Reports unassessed but have been checked and confirmed by Yugo-Slavia Authorities. (S.O.I. Alexandria 0958/27).

Air Report.
Valona
Attack.

Day 26/11. 3 Blenheims attacked Valona 250 lb. bombs hitting large ship believed warship. 3 fighters intercepted of which 1 believed shot down. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1219/27).

LADY BIRD
Operation M.X.2.

Sail from Alexandria 1600/28 and proceed as necessary arriving Mersa Matruh a.m./29 to relieve APHIS. Carry out operation M.X.2. and on completion return to Mersa Matruh and act as directed by G.O.C. Western Desert. Return to Alexandria when fuel has fallen to 40%. (Capt: S.l. to LADY BIRD 1233/27).

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

VIKING.

Your 1940/19. Neutral vessels requisitioned by us fly British flag. Are Greek Government satisfied that under Danish flag VIKING will be safe from lawsuits by Germans or by Danish owners if she enters Turkish port?
(Head of M. 1316/27, to N.A. Athens).

Warning of
A/C Approach

(Radar)

Warning given by type 279 of approach of low flying aircraft undoubtedly limited AJAX detection of torpedo aircraft which are greatest menace to fleet and the low flying reconnaissance machine is thus difficult and uncertain. Understood that with type 281 this limitation has been overcome. Requested that this type may be sent as soon as available for fitting in ILLUSTRIOUS, VALIANT, AJAX and COVENTRY with local resources in lieu of type 279. Also requested that type 281 may be fitted in any ships which may join Mediterranean Fleet in future. (C.in C. Med., 1651/27)

East Indies.

Red Sea Force.

My 1124/2/9 and 0302/9/10 delete DERBY, HUNTLEY, SHROPSHIRE. (C.in C. E. Indies 1542Z/27 to E. Indies Station).

Air Report.

Intelligence Summary No. 168 and Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500, 27/11. 3 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter Escort over convoy S.W.34. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1810/27 to Air Min.).

Troop Transports.

Your 1300/23 presume you will arrange for bunkering at Trincomalee.
(D. of S.T. 2120/27 to C.in C. E.I.)

Convoy B.N.10.

Route and details. (N.C.S.O. Bombay to Admt., 0105/27)

Operation
"Canned"

Your 0554/22. LEANDER will carry out operation "Canned" 1030Z/29/11. Orders to LEANDER and Walrus A/C. (S.N.O. Red Sea, 1737Z/27 to C.in C. E.I.)

CAPETOWN
CRICKET

Present intention CAPETOWN shall proceed from Patrol to arrive Penang A.M.1/12 and after fuelling sail with CRICKET same day for Nancowry where Oiler APPLELEAF will be sent. Adjust position on patrol line accordingly. Estimated that CAPETOWN and CRICKET will arrive Colombo 9/12
(C.in C. E.I. 0744Z/27 to CAPETOWN)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.

Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MONTCLARE

Intend sailing MONTCLARE as Ocean Escort to H.X.92 returning to Halifax on completion.
(R.A. 3 B.S., 1011/27, to Admty.)

VAN KINSBERGEN

Leave Kingston Jamaica a.m./28 and proceed via Crooked Is. passage to Nassau to arrive a.m./30.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1152/27).

Raider
Wreckage

My 1201/24. DIOMEDE reports two lifeboats belonging to Port Line in position 024° 24' N. 059° 03' W. Boats full of provisions and intact but no occupants. Appearance indicates latter rescued probably by raider.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1602/27)

Raider
Supplies.

United Press, Washington, have received a tip that Portuguese interests are chartering neutral vessels to load coal at Norfolk for refuelling German Raider in Atlantic and directed their representatives at Norfolk to make enquiries on this subject from me.
(Consul, Norfolk, Va, 1300/27, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

U.S. Navy
Information
of H.M. Ships.

Naval Attache's 1719/19. Approved to keep U.S. Navy Department informed of dispositions of H.M. Ships in West Indies, on West coast of America and in vicinity of Panama Canal. Request C.in C. A. and W.I. will keep N.A. informed of dispositions and movements. N.A. should also suggest to U.S. Navy Department that reciprocal information concerning movements of U.S. warships in the Caribbean Area would be of great assistance to C.in C. A. and W.I.
(Head of M. 1645/27 to C.in C. A.W.I., and N.A. Washington).

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Australia.

Raider
PORT BRISBANE
sunk.

Five officers and 22 of crew of PORT BRISBANE picked up by CANBERRA in position 029° 22' S. 095° 36' E. at 1130Z/22. Survivors state occupants of two boats taken prisoner by raider. Description of raider. General appearance like NEIDENFELS. W/T Office, Bridge, and steering gear of PORT BRISBANE wrecked by gunfire. Time bombs placed on board and three heard to explode. Ship subsequently sunk by torpedo.

MAIMOA
Boat found.

CANBERRA sighted empty boat in position 030° 41' S. 100° 09' E. assumed to be from MAIMOA.
(A.C.N.B. 1221Z/27 to Admt.)

Your 1221/27 Colour does not correspond with description given in your 0446/23. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1615/15 being passed to you for comparison. Request your remarks. (C.in C. E.I., 1908Z/27 to A.C.N.B.)

New Zealand.

Search for
Raider.

My 1730Z/26. Result today's search negative. Further search by air and ACHILLES being carried out 27/11 G.M.T. TAI PING YANG (Nor:) Panama to Auckland 48 hours overdue may have encountered raider. Position of s.o.s. from RANGITANE was 165 miles 180° from estimated position on route ordered. (N.Z.N.B., 1159Z/27, to A.C.N.B. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

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PATAGONIA
S.O.S. Report.

(see 741)

Following received PATAGONIA
S.O.S. F.F.F., = Position 53, 38 N.
6. 13 E. (Scapa W/T, No T.O.O./27)

Intercept 0658 G.M.T. from PATAGONIA
53 - 38 N. 6 - 13 E. (N.F. Radio,
No T.O.O./27).

Intercept 0803 G.M.T. from ^{Emden}EMDEN to
PATAGONIA, Wir Kommen. (N. Foreland Radio,
No T.O.O./27 V.A. Dover 0938/27)

KARNAK.

KARNAK arrived from Vigo 26/11.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1642/27).

27.11.1940.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

759

CHARLES F. MEYER

Ships Attacked.

British tanker, 10516 tons.
(Straggler from H.X.87)
Detail one ship to investigate report
of ship attacked by submarine position
056° 00' N. 013° 52' W. at 1124 G.M.T.
(C.in C. W.A. 1241/27 to WANDERER)

My noon position 055° 31' N. 015° 11' W.
→ Have sent VERITY to help CHARLES MEYER
being attacked by submarine 056° 00' N.
013° 52' W. Have left seven ships of
O.B. 248 to meet S.C.12. No other
escort in company. (WITHERINGTON,
1244/27, to C.in C. W.A.)

Received 1230 G.M.T. CHARLES F. MEYER.
SSSS 56.00 N. 1352W submarine attack.
(Portishead Radio 1330/27)

My 1241/27. Ship attacked is GMYM
Signal letters undecypherable homeward
bound tanker. (C.in C. W.A.,
1349/27, to WANDERER).

Following has been read: 56.00 N.
13.52 W. CHARLES F. MEYER, submarine
attack T.O.R. 1340. (Scapa Radio,
no T.O.O./27).

Detail one ship to investigate report
of ship attacked by submarine position
056° 00' N. 013° 52' W. at 1124 G.M.T.
(C.in C. W.A., 1507/27 to WILD SWAN)

My position course and speed are 055°
34' N. 014° 03' W. 240° 14 knots, have
failed to locate CHARLES F MEYER or
submarine, am going to meet S.C.12.
→ (VERITY, 1931/27)

KING IDWAL
TYMERIC
ANTEN
(torpedoed 23/11)

Arrived SANDWICH with survivors from
Merchant Ships KING IDWAL, TYMERIC and
ANTEN. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1520/27).

Your 1311/23. ANTEN was oil burner
of 9325 tons dead weight and sailed with
2700 tons of ballast including oil fuel.
This is considered to be satisfactory.
So far as can be ascertained ship was
capable of speed of 10½ knots. Suggest
surviving Officers be interrogated by
N.C.S.O. Liverpool.
(D.T.D. 1846/27 to C.in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.

Wednesday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

GLENMOOR

British, 4393 tons. (Straggler from O.B. 248) GLENMOOR, 54.35 N. 14.31 W., torpedoed. (Valentia Radio, 1800/27).

Not met. Am proceeding towards GLENMOOR reported torpedoed in 54° 35' N. 14° 31' W. at 1804. Uncoded weather report. (FOLKESTONE, 1900/27).

GLENMOOR torpedoed in position 054° 35' N. 014° 31' W. at 1804. If FOLKESTONE, ARBUTUS and CAMELLIA have joined you send one ship to investigate. (C.in C. W.A., 1929/27 to LEITH)

BRUSE

(torpedoed 23/11)

Following received from aircraft S.S. BRUSE at 1550 in position 56° 00' N. 08° 44' W. drifting East stern blown off. No sign of life. Cargo timber in hold and on deck. No sign of sinking. (C.in C. W.A., 1849/27, to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Proceed forthwith to assistance of BRUSE in position 56° 00' N. 08° 44' W. drifting East at 1550 today. THAMES also proceeding. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2008/27 to SEAMAN).

CONGONIAN

(torpedoed 18/11).

Your 1752/26 (Request for news of CONGONIAN). DEVONSHIRE has 35 survivors of CONGONIAN on board and is expected to arrive Freetown on 29/11. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1150/27 to Admty.)

My 1150/27. DEVONSHIRE has on board all crew of CONGONIAN except second engineer. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2057/27 to Admty.)

DIPLOMAT.

British, 8240 tons, (straggler from H.X.88.)
Following has been read.
DIPLOMAT torpedoed. (Malin Head Radio, 2227/27).

Attack (enemy) S/M in position 055° 45' N. 011° 57' W. at 2325.
(C.in C. W.A., 2355/27, to WILD SWAN, CAMPANULA, FLEUR DE LYS). *See also next page*

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of DIPLOMAT in position 55° 45' N. 11° 57' W. at 2334.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2359/27 to ASSURANCE).



MOST SECRET.

27.11.1940.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0225. Between Rockall and Ireland, very indefinite. (D.S. 449).
0725. About 10° W. in Bay of Biscay, Italian U/B, very indefinite. (D.S. 449).
0817. Off Bordeaux, Italian U/B, very indefinite. (D.S. 449).
1016. 180° Noggin Head 9 miles course 225°, doubtful. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1035/27, 1225/27, to HIGHLANDER)
1224. Detail one ship to investigate report of ship attacked by S/M 56.00 N., 13.52 W. at 1124 G.M.T. (C.in C. W.A., 1241/27, to WANDERER) See CHARLES F. MEYER, attacked.
1643. D.F., probable U/B, unreliable fix, 57° N., 19.30 W. (D.D.I.C. 1730/27).
1900. A.F. message, 54.35 N., 14.31 W. at 1800/27 G.M.T. (D.C. 1939/27)
2254. D.F. probable homeward bound U/B, in vicinity of Fastnet, probably to south westward. (D.D.I.C. 2336/27).
2325. 55.45 N., 11.57 W. (DIPLOMAT torpedoed). WILD SWAN and CAMPANULA to attack (C.in C. W.A., 2355/27). See *previous page*
1135. 53 to 55° N., 17 to 23° W., very indefinite. (D.S. 450).
1107. 56 to 58° N., 21 to 23° W., indefinite. (D.S. 450).

Use of Rio de Oro.

Your 1612/22. Following from Teneriffe. Begins. Report strongly doubted as regards (?Canary Islands) A (2) report regarding Rio de Oro, follows next week. 1450/26 Ends.
He is using S.P. 02300 S (2). Has he received instructions from you to do so? (1558/27.)

/ Estimated U/B
dispositions.



27.11.1940.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian 2 in N.W. Approaches or further West.
1 reaching Bordeaux from patrol.
1 in Bay of Biscay outward bound.

German No news of the one which was off Sierra Leone on 18th.
1 in 54° 40' N. 22° 40' W. at 1627/26.
1 to Westward of Rockall at 2326/26.
1 to Southeastward of Rockall within 100 miles at 0225/27.
1 probably North of Rona homeward bound.
1 probably still in area 58° N. to 60° N. west of 20° W.
No news of the two more probably still between 55° N. and 57° N.
(D.D.I.C. 1240/27).

Submarines Attacked.

TALISMAN Report.

Fishermen report U-boats leave Lorient daylight north of Groix, diving when west of Penmen. Never more than 4 U-boats seen Lorient at once.
R.A.F. bombing very effective, 2 U-boats sunk direct hits. (TALISMAN 1934/27).

See p. 740.

Mediterranean.

21/11.

Greek destroyer depth charged enemy S/M 21/11 in Skiathos Channel. Destruction probable. (N.A. Athens 1010/27).



MOST SECRET.

28.11.1940.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

763

Home Commands.

Dover shelled.

Enemy coastal batteries fired about 25 rounds at Dover today. 3 naval ratings were wounded. S.S. FERMAIN and SKIPJACK were slightly damaged. (D.S. 453).

S/M's for Mediterranean.

Three more U-class S/Ms of 5th Flotilla are to be sent to the Mediterranean. (c.f. North Atlantic 29/11), *4440816, 768.*

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command.

A light force successfully attacked Channel ports last night. Only 2 of the aircraft despatched today to attack targets on the Belgian coast, were able to reach their objective.

Enemy Air Operations.

Plymouth was raided for eight hours from 1830/27 to 0227/28. Two tanks were set alight at Turnchapel oil fuel depot and are probably a total loss. At Mount Batten R.A.F. station two flying boats and a hangar were destroyed.

S.S. SATELLITE was attacked this morning off Plymouth. No damage was reported.

S.S. HARMONIC was attacked at 1154 about 250 miles west of Ireland. No damage was reported.

Mining.

MANX PRINCE sunk.

L.L. Trawler MANX PRINCE was mined and sunk early this morning off Spurn Head.

Enemy mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Plymouth area early this morning, in the Thames Estuary and between Flamborough and the Wash between 1800 and midnight today. It is estimated that 30 minelaying aircraft were engaged. Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary, off the Humber, Milford Haven and Plymouth.

British minelaying operations.

28.11.1940.

Thursday.



War Diary.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. (Contd.)

British minelaying operations.

ICARUS left Portsmouth at 2020 escorted by three destroyers, for operations in Baie de la Seine.

Minelaying by R.A.F. continued last night and today.

Operations Against Vichy French.

CANTON reported this morning having intercepted 2 French merchant ships escorted by a sloop, about 250 miles S.S.E. of Freetown, and allowed them to proceed in accordance with standing instructions.

DRAGON this afternoon intercepted French VILLE DU HAVRE about midway between Pernambuco and Freetown and placed an armed guard on board.

2. The French ship has lost her propellers. A French naval tug arrived and asked to be coaled by VILLE DU HAVRE, but refused to tow her. The French ship was eventually released.

South Atlantic.

QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived at Table Bay 27/11. Up to 1025 Z today she had been unable to fuel from a tanker, on account of the swell.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

Malta was raided seven times between 2155/27 and 1250/28 by formations varying from 2 to a large number of aircraft, the convoy being the main objective. At 1250 a force of 10 bombers and 10 fighters split into two when 10 miles out, one of which attacked the convoy entering Grand Harbour. No damage was caused, and 3 enemy aircraft confirmed and one probable were destroyed.

3 Blenheims today bombed Sarande (Santi Quaranta) where shipping, including destroyers had been reported.

A large ship was attacked in the port. Several destroyers which were bombarding Corfu retired on the approach of our aircraft.

Durazzo was successfully bombed today. Standing patrols of Athens were maintained.

/ Operation "Collar".

28.11.1940.
Thursday.



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operation
"Collar".

The 2 M.T. ships arrived at Malta p.m. today, with HOTSUR, DECOY, GRIFFIN and GLOXINIA.

The other 3 L.L. corvettes are proceeding to Suda Bay.

East Indies.

Blenheims today attacked an A.A. vessel in Assab harbour, obtaining near misses.

Reuter today states that Italians claim that one of their submarines in the Red Sea torpedoed and sank three merchant ships 26/11 in an escorted convoy. CALEDON escorting S.W.3 reports 3 underwater explosions felt early a.m./26. It is possible that S.W.3 was fired at and the torpedoes exploded at the end of their run, without hitting.

New Zealand.

Norwegian TAI PING YANG which has arrived at Auckland, reports having seen wreckage and a large patch of oil and still coming up, in the position where RANGITANE was attacked 26/11. It is therefore presumed that RANGITANE was sunk.



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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

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Defence of U.K.

Shetlands.
Additional
Aerodromes.

Your 1517/25. The question of additional aerodromes in Shetlands has been discussed many times with the Air Ministry who, on various occasions, have sent 3 independent parties of officers and surveyors to try and find suitable sites, but without success.

Can you suggest a possible site, observing that for heavy bombers one strip of 1400 yards and two of 1100 yards are considered necessary. (1st S.L. 1001/28 to C. in C., H.F.) *Reply: 1107/30, p. 831.*

Deluge

At 1130/28 (D.C. 1157/28) At 2330/28.
(D.C. 2345/28)

Movements

Nore

Movements for night 28/29. (C. in C., Nore 0800/28)

VENOMOUS
VESPER

Admty 2046/25. Request VENOMOUS may proceed to Harwich, and VESPER to Sheerness (C. in C., Nore, 1130/28 to A.C.W.A.)

FORMIDABLE

FORMIDABLE's 2123/27. She should not anchor outside a defended Port. (A.C.N.S.H. 1140/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Northern Patrol

Movements (V.A.N.P. 1226/28)

GLENGYLE
GLENROY

Cancel Admty 1717/27 (A.D.O.D. 1301/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) Admty 1501/9, para 5. Request you ensure that GLENGYLE is maintained at 48 hours notice to sail. (D.O.D. H. 1512/28 to V.A.C.T.C.)
Admty. 1703/27. About 75 shipping tons of Army stores to be embarked in each ship. Directions as to embarkation. (D.O.D. H. 1552/28 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

M.L. 269

Sailed Tobermory 28/11. E.T.A. Clyde 0830/29 (WESTERN ISLES 1520/28)

KINGFISHER

Arrived (F.O. Greenock, 1754/28 to Admty)

HOOD

Expect arrive with 4 Destroyers 0705/29 (F.O.C. 1st B.C.S. 1933/28 to F.O.C.O.S.)

/NELSON.....



War Diary

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Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

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Movements-Contd.

NELSON)
SOMALI, MATABELE.)
MAORI, DOUGLAS.)

Sailed from Scapa 2300/28 (A.C.O. 2315/28 to Admty.)

WIDGEON

Detailed to search for wreck position off Haisborough Light Vessel after leaving F.N. 47 at 0430/30, returning Harwich before dark. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2320/28 to C. in C., Nore)

Operations

Unidentified M/V
passing through
Skopen Fiord 27/11

Your 1801/27 and Admty. 1152/23/10. Report circumstances. (A.C.O.S. 1114/28 to N.O.IC. Faroes) Request you investigate and report circumstances (A.C.N.S.(H) 1141/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1141/28 and N.O.i/c Faroes 1531/28. At the time in question trawler STROKE CITY had been withdrawn owing to defects and no other trawler is at present available. One will be sent within the next two days I am informing N.O.i/c Faroes that a continuous patrol must be maintained. (A.C.O.S. 2021/28 to Admty.)

Operation
"Specimen"

Confirmed that operation is to be carried out. (D.N.A.D. 1359/28 to C. in C., W.A. Approved 1st S.L. in N.A.D. 1146/40 Reptd to PEGASUS)

Dover
Shelled

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired about 25 rounds between 1157 and 1318 today, Thursday. One shell fell near Trainferry Dock, one in Granville Dock, one in the town and one in the sea to Westward of Admty Pier. Three naval ratings wounded. Superficial damage to Lord Warden Hotel. (M.T.B. Base) Remainder of shells fell in vicinity of R.M. Siege Battery. (V.A.Dover, 1759/28 to Admty.)

Western
Channel Patrol

1. Five of 5th D.F. ordered to patrol tonight Thursday between Start Point and Land's End.
2. M.G.B's 44 and 50 in Start Bay to sink enemy rescue craft in case attack on Plymouth is renewed. (C. in C., W.A. 1810/28 to Admty.)



War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

768

Submarines

L. 23

Proceed on main motor between Eastern Buoy of A.M. Q.Z.S. 162 and Lady Buoy. (Capt. S. 9. 0857/28 to L. 23)

PORPOISE

? 1446/27 My 1844/27. Delete all reference to PORPOISE. (V.A.S 0932/28)
See p. 740

O. 21

Passing Bell Rock 1400/28. Route. (Capt. S. 9. 1117/28)

USK
→ UNIQUE
UPHOLDER
SEAWOLF

USK, UNIQUE and UPHOLDER are to be withdrawn from their patrol and training duties and prepared for service in the Mediterranean Each to be allowed 10 days in harbour for this purpose and the dates on which each will be ready to proceed are to be reported in due course.

SEAWOLF is to be employed on submarine and A/S training until further orders and is not to proceed on patrol except in emergency. (V.A.S. 1409/28 to S. 5.)

Anticipated dates for USK, UPHOLDER, UNIQUE are 10/12, 11/12, 12/12 respectively. (S.5. 1605/28)

L. 26

In Scapa Flow a.m and p.m./29. (A.C.O.S. 1536/28)

SURPRISE }
TIGRIS }

Sailed. E.T.A. 0800/29. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1545/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

→ UNIQUE

Exercising off Dartmouth (C. in C., W.A. 1655/28 to Admty.)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/29 (V.A.S. 1754/28 and 1919/28)

H. 50

Intend to sail H. 50 escorted by VIRGINIA from Rothesay at 1300/29 E.T.A. Holyhead 1030/30 (Capt S. 7. 1921/28 to H.O.I.C. Greenock)



War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

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British Air Activity

Air Patrols

Assessments. (C. in C., Roayth 1950/28)

Enemy Air Activity

Plymouth

2 Oil-Fuel tanks at Turnchapel set alight by enemy air attack, and a few bombs on Plymouth. Casualties slight so far. (C. in C., W.A. 0143/28 to Admty.)

Raided for 8 hours by waves of aircraft from 1830/27 till 0227/28. Estimated 75 to 100 aircraft, over 75 H.E., and some hundred Incendiary Bombs dropped. Many fires, all quickly put out except at Turnchapel. At R.M. Barracks, Officers Mess hit and 2 killed, 2 seriously wounded, 2 slightly. 2 Oil Tanks at Turnchapel probably a total loss. A few civilian casualties reported. (C. in C., W.A. 0757/28 to Admty.)

SATELLITE

(491 tons) Attacked by aircraft 2 miles S.W. of Runnelstone Buoy. (Plymouth 0843/28)

HARMONIC

(British 4558 tons) Attacked by aircraft in 53° 30' N., 15° 30' W., (Valentia Radio 1154/28)

Thames Estuary

Pyrotechnic Signals seen during night 27/28 (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1301/28 to C. in C., Nore)

Faroes

Junkers 88 passed over Thorshavn at 1300, heading N.E. (N.O.I.C. Faroos 1314/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Mining

Harwich

D.O. Walton reports at 0427 3 Parachute Flares in sky followed by heavy explosion bearing 040° (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0428/28 to C. in C., Nore)

/MANX PRINCE....



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28.11.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining-Contd.

MANX PRINCE

(LL Trawler) Mined and sunk 2 cables North of wreck of GOTHIC (off Spurn Point) at 0505/28. 2 slight casualties. Ship was not sweeping at the time. (F.O. Humber 0952/28 to Admty) Position 130° Spurn Point Lighthouse 3½ miles. All crew rescued. 5 casualties more than slight. (Base Captain Grimsby 1112/28 to Admty)

Firth of Forth

My 1547/22/11. Following local channel from Crombie to Grangemouth is established and will be swept when possible. (C. in C., Rosyth 1101/28 to Admty.)

Thames Estuary

Group Officer in CAPRICORNUS reports detonations of mines as follows:-
One Red mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 2145/27 218° East Oadze L.V. wreck buoy two cables position in sweep unknown.
One mine detonated by CAPRICORNUS S.A. gear at 0630/28 280° Nore L.V. Four cables relative to ship Red five degrees four cables, bright red flash observed.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1116/28 to C. in C., Nore)

Spurn Point

At 0205 LL Trawlers exploded a Mine 100° Spurn Point Lighthouse 6½ miles (F.O. Humber 1225/28 to Admty.)

Milford Haven

In view of the enemy's intensive mining at Milford Haven request that N.C.S.O's Overseas may be instructed that ships bound to ports west of Barry are to be routed to Swansea Bay and those in convoy being detached off Scarweather.
N.C.S.O's in Western Approaches have been instructed that independently routed ships are not to be sent to Milford Haven for onward routing (C. in C., W.A. 1248/28 to Admty.)

Harwich Close Search

Weather permitting intend to sail 5 Fleet Minesweepers S.O. HARRIER at 0745 tomorrow to close search area extending from centre line of 148 QZS for 15 cables to the eastward between 52° 1.8' N., 01° 46.3 E. and 52° 08' N., 01° 53' E., Request fighter protection from 0830 to 1600 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1449/28 to C. in C., Nore)

/Milford Haven..



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

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Milford Haven.

Red Mine detonated in 208 Great Castle Head Low Light 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ cables. One Acoustic Mine exploded by S.S. ST. PATRICK in 037 $^{\circ}$ Saddle Rock, Fishguard 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1714/28 to Adty).

ICARUS
VANOC
WITCH
VOLUNTEER.

ICARUS, escorted by VANOC, WITCH VOLUNTEER, leaves Portsmouth 2000/28 for operations in Baie de la Seine, returning 0800/29. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1823/28 to Adty). Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2020/28 to Adty).

Plymouth.

Since my 2309/27 one Red Mine detonated at 1702 in 275 $^{\circ}$ Breakwater Light 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cables. (C.in C. W.A. 1921/28 to Adty).

Operation
G.Q.
(Little Sole
Bank).

Admiralty's 1013/26.
ADVENTURE is to be prepared to carry out first lay leaving Milford Haven pm/30 so as to pass through 315 Bishop Rock ten miles at 2000/30.

2. Report whether this position is suitable and which line will be laid first.

3. Short title will be G.Q.

4. Further orders will be signalled but operation will not be carried out unless weather is such that ADVENTURE can maintain twenty knots.
(C.in C. W.A. 1930/28 to ADVENTURE.)

Your 1930/28. Position is suitable, but to give accurate navigational departure prefer 5 miles instead of ten. Propose to lay southern line first, checking positions by echo sounding on outward track on Little Sole Bank. Intend to reduce to fifteen knots for forty five minutes while actual lay is in progress.
(Adventure 2329/28 to C.in C. W.A.)



MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

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Enemy Intelligence

Enemy
Destroyers

Aircraft reports 1115/28, 3 enemy destroyers sighted off Belle Isle steering south. (V.A.S. 1342/28 and D.D.I.C. 1354/28)

3 expected night 28/11 operating towards English coast between Isle of Wight and Land's End. (V.A.S. 2133"28)

Air
Reconnaissance

1200/27/11 Brest Lorient, St Nazaire, Nantes, Chateau Bougon Aerodrome. (P.I.U. St. Eval 1850/28 to H.Q. C.C.)

1120/28/11. Flushing, Breskens, Zeebrugge, Gravelines, Calais (P.I.U. 2209/28 to UXID)

Miscellaneous

Repatriation
of 5 Fleet Air Arm
Officers

Reference H.M. Minister's telegram 1058/9/10.
1. Am informed by Swedish Govt. that exchange is now agreed upon by Germans and that following F.A.A. personnel will be released from internment.
2. It is hoped to make arrangements to repatriate these officers via U.S.S.R. to Egypt. (N.A. Stockholm 1031/28 to Admty)



War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

773

BONAVENTURE

Your 1917/26. Time will not permit completion of DG (A.S. Rosyth 1014/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

PORT NAPIER
Enquiry into
Cause of loss
by Fire

TRELAWNEY'S 1940/27. Suggest Ministry of Shipping should be represented on Board of Inquiry. If you agree, Admty will arrange (A.C.N.S. (T) 1256/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

3 French T.B's

My 1537/23. Owing to defects, ships will not be able to sail this week. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1455/28 to Admty.)

H. 33

At 1745/27 while entering harbour collided with HEATHER at anchor and sustained following damage. Proceeding Oban for repair at once. Expect achieve seaworthiness. (Commodore Western Isles, 1538/28 to Admty.)

PROGRESS

(A/P Cable) N.O.I.C. Dundee 1148/27. Request results of investigation into her abandonment may be forwarded as soon as possible. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1807/28 to C. in C., Rosyth)

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

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Convoys

W.N. 45

Escort ELLESMERE, CAPE ARGONA (N.C.S.O. Clyde Sub.Office 0931/28)

S.L. 55

Meet. Escort MORETON BAY (C. in C., W.A. to ACTIVE, ANTHONY etc.)

S.L. 56

Route (F.O.C.N.P. 1050/25)

E.N. 32

Situation 1115/28 (A.C.O.S. 1119/28)

H.X. 88

W.N. 46

Estimated will meet at about 2100/28. position (C. in C., W.A., 1434/28)

Convoy Escort Conference

Your 1153 Concur. (C. in C., Nore, 1811/28 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

CLARKIA

Your 1503/27 (re ships ex H.X. 85 ordered by unknown vessel to Clyde) Vessel was CLARKIA (Captain D. Londonderry 1313/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

OSLO FJORD

Admty. 1633/26. Request arrange destroyer to arrive Clyde a.m. 29/11 to escort to Tyne (C. in C., H.F. 1114/28 to R.A.(D))

P.C. 74

My 2049/26 (Falmouth closed. Take Convoy to Milford Haven) and Admty 1726/20. P.C. 74 may be retained until 30/11 to escort these tankers to Dartmouth.

S.L. 57

CANTON to act as ocean escort (C. in C., S.A., 1259N/28) CANTON arrived 1800/28 (S.O.I. Freetown 1817/28)

S.L. 88

Code words H.X. 88 Broom 2, H.X. 88 A Jumbo 2, H.X. 88^B Canon 2, H.X. 88BM Piano 2. (D.T.D. 1238/28 to BROKE, SALADIN)

O.B. 251

Sailed 1240/28. Escort CASTLETON, VANSITTART, GENTIAN, VANQUISHER, VISCOUNT (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1325/28)

A.M.C's Accommodation

Your 2335/27 (re ESPERANCE BAY) only accommodation available is in crew space which accounts for small numbers. Lack of accommodation is due to buoyant ballast and sealed holds. (F.O.C.N.P. 1015/28 to Admty.)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. 775

Guns for
Coast Defence.

My 1227/19. Request report date anticipated guns will be mounted and rough positions selected.
(Sect: to V.C.N.S. 0008/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

3 French
Ships
Intercepted
by CANTON.

Your 0038/28 and 0220/28. Ships to be sent to Freetown under armed guard. Ensure French ships keep W/T silence. Proceed independently to Freetown yourselves. (C.in C. S.A. 0341N/28 to CANTON). My 0341/28. If escorted by French warships not to be interfered with (C.in C. S.A. 0359N/28 to CANTON) CANTON reports intercepting 3 French Merchant Ships in 005° 04' N., 012° 09' W course 280°. Being sent in under armed guard. CANTON required for convoy at Freetown proceeding independently after placing armed guard on board. (C.in C. S.A. 0401/28 to CUMBERLAND).

428. My 0401/28 CANTON reports these ships as Merchant Ships VENDOME, ST. LOUISE, escorted by sloop L.A. SURPRISE they have been allowed to proceed in accordance with standing instructions.
(C.in C. S.A. 1045/28 to Adty).

MARRAKECH.

Reported left Casablanca 26/11 for Dakar with 40, 16 " shells for RICHELIEU.
(N.A. Washington, 1724/28 to Adty).

VILLE DU HAVRE
(Intercepted,
Dakar to
Madagascar.)

Tug approaching thought to be armed Naval tug BUFFLE, if so no action with reference to tug. If you reach VILLE DU HAVRE before tug place armed guard. If tug already escorting ship remain in company and report. (C.in C. S.A. 1043/28 to DRAGON)

My 1339N/26 and my 1043/28. Is BUFFLE to be treated as Naval Vessel and if with ship as escorting her. Berne List shows her Warship. Probably tug will report by W/T to Dakar. (C.in C. S.A. 1101N/28 to Adty).

Orders to DRAGON, your 1043/28, concur. Decision required in your 1101/28 will be given when DRAGON's report received.
(D.O.D.(F) 1700/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

Position 001° 23' N., 020° 30' W., intercepted VILLE DU HAVRE Dakar to Madagascar and placed armed guard on board 1620. Has general cargo on board and 24 French passengers and lost her propellers. The BUFFLE arriving at 1700 required 100 tons of coal which I am allowing VILLE DU HAVRE to supply. Tug states Naval vessel /and



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DU HAVRE
Intercepted.
(Contd.)

and refuses to tow VILLE DU HAVRE to Freetown. Am remaining in company and taking no further action pending reply from Admiralty to your 1101/28. (DRAGON 1746/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 1746/28. Stop Coaling Tug pending further instruction from Admiralty find out what endurance tug now has. (C.in C. S.A. 2015/28 to DRAGON).

Your 1746/28. You are not to tell Tug that she may tow VILLE DU HAVRE to Dakar. Inform tug that she may tow the ship towards Dakar. Armed Guard is to remain on board. Further instructions will follow.

(D.O.D.(F) 2352/28 to DRAGON). *Continuing to sail Tug (not Admalty 2352/28) complete p.m. 1/29. (DRAGON, 2309 N/28 to C.in C. S.A.)*

VENDEMIARE.
CHARLES L.D.
AVANT-GARDE.
VILLE DE TAMATAVE.
EASTERN SWORD.

Tankers VENDEMIARE from Martinique 24/11 CHARLES L.D., from Martinique 20/11 Maryport AVANT-GARDE from St. Pierre 20/11 all bound for Casablanca and VILLE DE TAMATAVE from Madagascar 9/11 for France sighted Cape Point 19/11 should be sent to Gibraltar if intercepted and if unescorted. EASTERN SWORD from Martinique 20/11 for Casablanca should be sent to Freetown if intercepted.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1323/28 to S. and A. N.A. Station). *See page 25/11. 707.*

Force "L".

Your 1721/26. It is regretted that no other cruiser can be made available. (D.O.D.(F) 2343/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

French African Coast Navigation.

Precis of circular intercepted at Bermuda to all units of French Fleet concerning navigation off West Africa dated 22/10.

(C.in C. A. & W.I. 1004/28 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

North Atlantic.

FRANCONIA.

Your 2311/23, your 2109/26 FRANCONIA will be ready sail p.m. 30/11. Intended keep her sail with RAMILLIES and ARGUS 1/12 or 2/12. Anticipate sailing ROYAL SOVEREIGN for Halifax with this force. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202/28 to Adty).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

My 2313/28 (re date sail for Halifax). Can a definite date be given. (D.O.D.(F) 1321/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)



MOST SECRET.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (Contd.)

A/S Patrols.

Daily Summary. (200 Group, 1945/28 to Air. Min.)

UTMOST.

Admty. 1650/13. UTMOST complete p.m./28. Intend sailing for Malta p.m./29. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1242/28).

South Atlantic.

Convoy
W.S.4.B.

Support by ^cSUMBERLAND (see Vichy French 27/11) must not delay W.S.4.B. Report when necessary to withdraw CUMBERLAND. (D.O.D.(F) 0022/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUMBERLAND.

Position, course and speed 003 °28'N., 015° 31'W., 010° 16 knots. E.T.A. outer end Freetown searched Channel 0600/29/11. (CUMBERLAND, 0830/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

Suspicious
Vessel.

Disguised M/V raider. 8° 30'N., 15° 05'W suspicious vessel in sight for over 1 hour apparently stopped, picked up by searchlight from another craft twice. (KUMASIAN, 0415/28).

KOSMOS.

Your 1214/27. No information (D.D.I.C. 0919/28 to S.O.(I) Freetown)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Arrived Table Bay 27/11. Fuelling from tanker so far impossible due to swell. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1025Z/28 to C.in C. E.I.)

ARETHUSA.
(S.S.)

Your 2016/26 (ARETHUSA grounded). Report was forwarded with my u50/060/19/11 despatched 23/11 to Adty. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1028B/28 to Adty.)

* FAUSTINO
R.SAN PEDRO.

(ESCOLANO intended see 1157/29, p. 818)

KANIMBLA.

Sailed Fernando Po 22/11 for Las Palmas. If intercepted to be sent into Freetown (C.in C. 1106/28 to HERMES, DRAGON, etc.)

My 1118/21 (arrival at Durban) for a.m./20/11 read p.m.1/12. (C.in C. E.I. 1152Z/28 to KANIMBLA).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

778

Convoys.
S.L. and
S.L.85.

Departure 28/11 BRIDGEWATER and Trawlers SPANIARD and BENGALI as local escorts. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1655/28 to Adty).

R.N. Air
Station.

Your 0219/12/10. As necessary to base a carrier at Freetown to deal with raiders in S.A., establishment of R.N. air Station at R.A.F. Station Hastings is of great importance and cannot be deferred. (Hd. of M. 1954/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

HELENE.

German-owned, reported making for Angola. (C.in C. S.A. 2121N/28). See German Merchant Ships.

French
Air
Stations.

My 2037/25/11 para two. Further intercepted signals indicate that French side of air port at Villa Cisneros Rio de Oro Is. being closed down. From same authentic source it appears air France organisation at Praia, Cape Verde Is., being reduced to a care and maintenance basis. (C.in C. S.A. 2313N/28 amended 1017/29).

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

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Mediterranean

Operation "Collar".
Action with Italian Forces

Combined services report Malta up to 1700/
27, All times G.M.T.

R.A.F.
Report

Fleet
Report

0636 to 1527 Sunderland patrolled area between Cape Bon- Galita Island- Sardinia and Sicily, 0833 sighted RAMILLIES and escort position 340° Galita Island 23 miles Sighted ARK ROYAL and remainder of Fleet $37^{\circ} 37' N.$, $07^{\circ} 48' E.$, at 0902. Signalled position to RAMILLIES as requested by that ship. Enemy Fleet six cruisers eight destroyers located position $38^{\circ} 09' N$ $08^{\circ} 16' E.$, course 60° Speed 12 knots. Signalled position to RENOWN by visual signal at 0945. 1020 hours action commenced at 18 miles. 1027 one enemy cruiser hit. 1040 enemy Fleet divided and steered N. E. and N.W. 1130 action ceased. 1155 two French M/V's CHAMPOLLION and MARIETTA (PACHA?) position $38^{\circ} 19' N.$, $08^{\circ} 30' E.$, course 320° speed 10 knots- reported to own Fleet. 1201 Italian Destroyer damaged in position $30^{\circ} 14' N.$, $08^{\circ} 28' E.$, well down by stern. 1208 three Italian Cruisers and two Italian Destroyers position $38^{\circ} 30' N.$, $08^{\circ} 53' E.$, steering towards damaged Destroyer. 1240 British Fleet position $37^{\circ} 48' N.$, $08^{\circ} 56' E.$, course S. E. being bombed by 10 S. 79s. No hits seen. 0800 to 1106 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Palermo, Trapani, Castel Vetrano Aerodrome. Reported Palermo two cruisers two or three destroyers one liner 10,000 tons 5 M/V's 7,000 tons 7 M/V's 6,000 tons. Trapani one cruiser and one M.V. At 0855 two torpedo boats position $37^{\circ} 22' N$ $12^{\circ} 45' E.$, course 60° speed 27 knots 0840 1300 Glenn Martin reconnaissance Taranto reported outer harbour three battleships three cruisers.. One battleship partly sunk near southern jetty, one battleship close in shore N.E. with next and small ships round her. One LITTORIO in middle of harbour nets and three destroyers round her. Inner harbour four cruisers and about 15 Destroyers. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1000/28)

Convoy

"Collar"
~~COLLAR~~ Convoy now approaching Malta.
(C. in C., Med., 1101/28 to Admty.)

/Force H.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

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Operation "Collar"
Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

Force H
Report

My 1530/28 Part One.
Operation "Collar" proceeded without incident until 1000/27 at which time forces B and F were in company with Convoy in position 037° 41' N., 007° 27' E., on an easterly course. Force D approximately 90 miles to the east on westerly course.

Convoy
Detached

(ii) At 1005 report of five cruisers five destroyers bearing 045° 60 miles steering 255° received from one of ARK ROYAL's aircraft. Further report of two battleships seven destroyers 040° 75 miles course 225° received 10 minutes later.

(iii) Convoy was detached to the south east with DESPATCH and two destroyers, joined later by COVENTRY. ARK ROYAL detached with two destroyers. Remainder of forces B and F proceeded maximum speed to concentrate with Force D.

(S.O. Force H., 1500/28)

Enemy sighted
Action joined

My 1530/28. Part 2.
(iv) On sighting RAMILLIES course altered to close enemy. 4 enemy cruisers sighted hull down at 1207. Fire opened by both sides at 1221. Enemy made smoke directly fire was opened and retired to North East at high speed.

(v) Enemy battleship one LITTORIO and one CAVOUR accompanied by one or 2 cruisers sighted to eastward of cruisers at 1250. These opened fire on our cruisers, who made away but resumed chase when battleships turned away. (S.O. Force H. 1510/28)

Chase
Ended

My 1530/28 Part 3.
(vi) At 1310 battleships were still outside the range of RENOWN and RAMILLIES had dropped well astern. No sign or report of any damage to enemy. In reply to signal C.S. 18 reported little hope of catching cruisers.

(vii) As our forces were now 60 miles from convoy and 30 miles from enemy coast, I decided to cease the chase in order to cover convoy and establish contact before dark.

(viii) Subsequently report was received of cruiser stopping and on fire 10 miles off enemy coast. In view of consideration referred to above and necessity for whole

/force.....



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FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

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Operation "Collar"
Action with Italian Forces-Contd.

Enemy
Damaged

force to support any action to close this ship I reluctantly decided to continue the withdrawal, instructing ARK ROYAL to endeavour to finish her off. Further damage to enemy reported subsequently, summarized later. (S.O.Force H., 1515/28)

Enemy
Air Attacks

My 1530 Part 4.

(ix) At 1435 Fleet was attacked by 10 bombers at 12,000 feet escorted by fighters. Fulmars intercepted and caused some aircraft to jettison bombs. Bombing most inaccurate nearest bombs 3,000 yards heavy ships. One Fulmar failed to return.

ARK ROYAL
Bombed

(x) Attack was repeated at 1640 by 15 bombers in 3 waves. Fighters caused a few aircraft to jettison bombs but most accurate attack carried out on ARK ROYAL who was completely obscured by 30 bombs nearest at 10 yards. She emerged with all guns firing furiously.

Convoy
Rejoined

(xi) Rejoined convoy at 1720 and units joined respective forces. Force F parted company at 1830 and proceeded through Skerki Channel. Force B steamed short distance to North East and then shaped, course to west. (S.O.Force H., 1520/28)

Enemy
Damage

My 1530 Part 5.

12. Damage inflicted on enemy observed by aircraft believed to be as follows:-

(a) One cruiser (probably 8 inch) observed on fire aft burning furiously and stopped (vide para 8)

(b) One destroyer (Italian destroyer GRECALE class) observed stopped, down by stern and listing heavily.

(c) One destroyer stopped with slight list.

F.A.A.
Attacks

13. Result of F.A.A. Attacks as follows:-

(a) 11 Swordfish attacked battleships.

One torpedo hit observed on battleship of Italian Battleship LITTORIO class.

(b) 9 Swordfish attacked unit of three 8 inch cruisers.

One almost certain hit on rear ship, Italian Cruiser BOLZANO, also leading ship observed to reduce speed.

(c) 7 Skua dive-bombed unit of three CONDOTTIERI Class. Two very near misses, one of which apparently damaged boiler room. (S.O.Force H., 1525/28)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

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M.E. Air
Report.

Operational Summary No. 171 to 1200/28.
No Naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1148/28).

NARVAL.

Orders to (V.A. Malta, 0931/28). Cancel
my 0931/28. NARVAL delayed by about
4 days by defective air compressor.
(V.A. Malta 1747/28).

Air Targets.

C.in C. Med's 1545/18. Re Leghorn and
other potential targets in Italy.
(D. of P. to C.in C. Med and S.O. Force H,
1558/28) See Med. Vol.

Spain.

Bi-weekly report. Situation will be very
serious unless immediate supply of wheat
forthcoming. (N.A. Madrid, 1735/28).

Movements.

Summary. No.171. Chiefly Submissions.
(C.in C. Med. 2231/28).

Greece.

Situation (M.A. Athens to W.O. 1700/28).

Defence of
Alexandria.

Asking for details of oil for defence
with reference to vulnerability of
Alexandria oil tanks. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria
1805/28)

Italy.

Internal morale, situation. (Madrid,
2017/28 to D.N.I.)

Submarine
Sanctuary.
RORQUAL.

Alexandria submarines Sanctuary will be in
force from 0700 to 1000 on 29/11 and
exercises Sanctuary within 5 miles 031° 19'
N., 029° 09' E., from 1000 to 1500 on
29/11 for RORQUAL substituted. All times
G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0709/28 to Med.,
Fleet.)

BUCEGI.

Admty. 1837/19. Crew of BUCEGI leaves
Haifa today 28/11 for repatriation
(?excepting) a C & M. party which will be
repatriated as soon as nucleus of new
crew arrives. Actual number left on board,
2 Officers, 1 engineer, 2 firemen and 9
sailors etc.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa 1010/28 to Adty).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.11.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

TRITON.

Your 1915/5. (Bring into force condition A) Have instructed TRITON that condition B is to be brought into force crossing latitude 040° North.
(V.A. Malta, 1141/28 to Capt: S.I.)

Air
Operation.

A.572. 28/11 most secret ref: your operation instruction number 10. Did not leave today owing to state of weather.
D. one day now 29/11 weather permitting. 517 Squadron, 1012/28 to H.Q. Middle East).

Enemy
Aircraft.

A large formation of aircraft detected by R D/F is approaching the Fleet bearing 000 degrees distance 33 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 0904/28, to Med. Fleet).
Following has been read:-
Addressed Mediterranean Fleet from N.O.I.C. Malta. Negative my 0904.
(Nore W/T 0947/28).

Malta Raid.

Air Raid on Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0959/28 to Med. Fleet).

Following received.
Mediterranean Fleet. From N.O.I.C. Malta.
Negative my 0959. (Nore W/T 1019/28).

Following received. Addressed Med. Fleet.
From N.O.I.C. Malta. Air Raid on Malta.
(Nore W/T 1041/28).

Following received. Med. Fleet from
N.O.I.C. Malta. Air Raid on Malta.
(Nore W/T 1055/28).

Following received.
Addressed Med. Fleet from N.O.I.C. Malta.
Negative 1055.
(Nore W/T 1110/28).

Following has been read:
Addressed Malta. W/T. From GLASGOW.
Enemy are bombing.
(Nore W/T 1204/28).

Enemy Units.

Position of enemy.
3 Battleships.



WAR DIARY.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Units.
(Contd.)

3 Battleships. 5 Cruisers. Unknown number of destroyers. Unknown number of Merchant vessels Taranto.
(Nore W/T 1205/28).

Following has been read.
Addressed TRIUMPH from N.O.I.C. Malta.
Air raid approaching Malta.
(Nore W/T 1329/28).

PATRIA
Sabotage.

My 2130/25. Final muster indicated 254 refugees at present unaccounted for but believed that a certain number were smuggled from ambulances. Only 1 member of the crew missing and 1 British Police guard.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa 1114/28).

Roumanian
ships.

Suggestion again received Roumania State Line (S M R) anxious to sell Liners TRANSYLVANIA, BASSARABIA, and Motor Ships SULINA, BALCIC, CAVARNA all three new 3,600 Gross 14 knots.

Possible to arrange for second transfer flag, or to work ships for British account under Panama Flag. If ships remain in Black Sea they will be certainly used by Germans.
(N.A. Angora, 1225/28 to C.in C. Med.)

Potential
A.M.C's.

Ref: telegram 1225 28/11 from naval Attache, alternatively it has been suggested that possible to induce S.M.R. sail the two which are suitable A.M.C. for Salonica on pretext of picking up refugees thus giving you an opportunity to seize them at sea. Should this line be pursued?
(Wolffson 1226/28 to C.in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT.

Leave patrol as requisite arriving Malta dawn on 4/12. Route.
(Capt: S., 1413/28 to UPRIGHT).



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Air Report.

Malta combined services report up to 1700/28 all times G.M.T.

Enemy Intelligence.

0753 to 1314 Glenn Martin recco Taranto, Messina, Catania, Syracuse, Augusta Taranto Harbour 3 battleships 7 cruisers 5 destroyers, Catania nothing seen, Messina unobserved due to low clouds. Augusta 9 flying boats no shipping. Just outside Port, heading North, 5 MVS 3000 tons no escort. Syracuse nothing seen, but balloon barrage sighted in harbour. 0940 to 1230 two Swordfish 830 Sqdn. F.A.A.N.A.S. patrol ahead of convoy to Malta. Nothing seen. No naval or military items.

Malta Raids.

Part 2. Raids on Malta. 2155 to 2217 and 6 raids 0608-1250, no damage. (H.Q. Malta, 1800/28, 1801/28).

Air Report.
Greece.

Operational Summary Number 33. A.M. 28/11. 3 Blenheims bombed Sarande where shipping had been reported including destroyers. 1 big ship seen, but no hits observed, but wharves bombed. Several destroyers which were bombarding Corfu disturbed by arrival of our aircraft and fled; 8 aircraft to Durazzo for high level attack, target obscured by low clouds; 6 aircraft dropped bombs all in target area. (H.Q. B.A.F., Greece 1830/28).

U/B Report.

Two separate sources report Submarine between ~~Malta~~ and ~~(Malta)~~ at 1900/28 proceeding towards ~~Malta~~. (Base Ship, Alexandria, 2300/28, to C.in C. Med.)

French Ships.
Egypt.

French ships are now in general requisitioned by British Gov. and accordingly they and their crews are given exactly the same treatment as British crews. French crews receive British rates and terms of service. The Marine Marchande Francaise Libre advises the British Ministry of Shipping and works in close collaboration with it in all matters relating to ex-French ships. (D.T.D. 1850/28 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).



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FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies

Operation
"Rope"

DORSETSHIRE 1445/18/11. Am informed that following are results of bombardment (details) (C. in C., E.I., 0502Z/28 to Admty.)

SAGITTA

Arrived 0510Z/28. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 0732Z/28)

TARANTULA
CRICKET
CAPETOWN

Cancel my 0744/27. TARANTULA probably ready leave Singapore 5/12, now intended CRICKET remain Penang until joined by TARANTULA. Both ships will subsequently be escorted to Colombo in company. CAPETOWN proceeds to arrive Colombo a.m./30/11. (C. in C., E.I. 0756Z/28 to CAPETOWN)

Bombardment of
Italian Somaliland
Coast (*with Factory*
Mogadishu)
(*Operation "Canned"*)

S.N.O. Red Sea 27/11 refers to bombardment of Italian Somaliland Coast (place and position) My 0432/20/11 refers. Middle East successively informed. (C. in C., E.I., 1000Z/28 to Admty.)

Local Defence
Boat-building

Your 1013/13. Local Defence Boat-building Durban will be allocated to port in E. Africa to be selected by C. in C., E.I. R.N.V.R. (S.A.) crew should be provided. (Head of M., 1733/28 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Convoy
B.N. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Arrived Suez 28/11. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1149/28)

VILLE HAVRE
VILLE VERDUN
Madagascar
imports.

Message from Governor of Mauritius to S. of S. for Colonies 367, Repeated to S.O.(I) Capetown. Though it is important to prevent exports from Madagascar it is far more important to frustrate importations. Cables indicate departure from Marseilles VILLE HAVRE and VILLE VERDUN for Madagascar; one is expected to leave November 29/. Can anything be done Gibraltar or elsewhere to prevent ships reaching destination as critical period Madagascar expected to commence February? (S.O.I. Capetown, 1023B/28 to Admty for information)

/COLOMBO.....



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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East Indies-Contd

COLOMBO
CARTHAGE

Convoy C.M.7.

COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa p.m. 30/11 and proceed to Durban to arrive p.m/6/12 COLOMBO is subsequently to escort convoy C.M.7. leaving Durban p.m/8/12 to Mombasa. CARTHAGE is to boiler clean on arrival at Durban on 3/12 and to escort convoy C.M. 7 to 018° S. (C. in C., E.I., 1156Z/28 to CARTHAGE, COLOMBO)

Pilgrims

Counter propaganda to Italian offer of facilities to Pilgrim Ships is desirable on lines such as (a) Italians can offer no facilities whatever (b) on no account should dates etc., be given to enemy (c) pilgrim ships can only be run by us because we command seas. Request authorities concerned be approached on this matter. (C. in C., E.I. 1202Z/28 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Greek Ships

If Greek ships JOANNIS, YIANNIS or MARCUSIO LOGOTHETIS are sent into a British port for examination similar action as in my 0908/7 is to be taken. Adty.1311/4 refers. (C. in C., E.I. 1404/28)

Air Report

Daily Intelligence Summary No 169 and Operational summary for 24 hours ending 1500 28/11.
0900 6 Blenheims attacked A.A. vessel Assab Harbour half mile N.W. Umpal Bahar Island 6 near misses possibly causing damage. Line of apparent lighters stretching north pier to Umpal Bahar Island suggesting boom defence. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1735/28 to Air Min.)

China

Dutch Staff Talks

Preliminary Report (C. in C., China, 0141Z/28)

Use of Sumatra Landing Grounds.

Your 1715/23. Matter has been discussed with Dutch Staff Officers now in Singapore. Aerodrome at Sabang is at present too small for Hudsons. Dutch Officers think their authorities would prefer co-operating Dutch aircraft which was in fact done when a raider was recently in Bay of Bengal. (C. in C., China, 0801Z/28 to Admty.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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America & West Indies

CABLE
ENTERPRISE

Admty 1655/8 (Sailing for Trinidad after repairs) No news of CABLE ENTERPRISE. Four loops laid (details). Admty. 1341/22/10 to Trinidad only instructing 7th loop not to be laid in Venezuelan waters until further orders. Consider this most likely point of entry for enemy vessels. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1051/28)

Portuguese and
Contraband

Reference recent report of opening of a regular service between Lisbon and New York by Portuguese Campanhia Colonial de Navegacao, suggested now that contraband control is in operation at Bermuda, pressure might be brought ~~in~~ to bear on this and the numerous other Portuguese and Spanish lines operating on this route to induce their ships to call at Bermuda for examination of cargo of mails and passengers. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1302/28 to Admty.)

PASTEUR
T.C. 8.

Your 2325/23 re T.C. 8. Military request confirmation that 3100 can be properly accommodated for North Atlantic passage in PASTEUR. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1502/28 to Admty.)

BERGENSFJORD
T.C. 8.

^{-p620}
My 1921/22. BERGENSFJORD has accommodation for 646 if you approve delay sailing T.C. 8. As accommodation is now requested for approximately 8,000 military and air force personnel, could additional ship or ships be allocated for T.C. 8? (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1748/28 to Admty.)

LACONIA

Your 2212/19 and D. of S.T. 1953/25 and in view of N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0952/26. I am assuming there are now no special westbound escort duty required of LACONIA in view of inability to steam 20 knots. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1644/28 to Admty.)



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Australia

U.S. 7.

Details. Route. Escort CANBERRA and PERTH (D.N.O., Fremantle 0101Z/28) CANBERRA left Fremantle to join U.S. 7, 0107/28. (A.C.N.B. 1153Z/28) PERTH and CANBERRA escorting U.S. 7 left Fremantle 2152Z/27 for Colombo (A.C.N.B., 1155Z/28)

Suspicious Vessel

Master of Norwegian MARINA reports sighting vessel 20/11 037° 35' S., 123° E steering 096° distance 12/14 miles one funnel amidships 14-16 knots, cannot identify. (A.C.N.B. 0530/28 to C. in C., E.I., China, S.A. amended 0809/28)

Raider

My 1221/27 re raider which sunk PORT BRISBANE. Correct description of raider: Hull black, boat painted light colour. (A.C.N.B., 0626Z/28)

DOMINION MONARCH

DOMINION MONARCH is to be sailed as soon as ready for Auckland to load cargo thence as ordered by N.Z.N.B. Wellington. Report anticipated date of arrival at Auckland. (A.C.N.B. 0821Z/28 to Capt. Supt., Sydney etc.,)

Shipping Routes

Following routeing instructions have been issued. Channel. In order to deny enemy the opportunity of attacking shipping at a point outside range of shore based aircraft but before full dispersion has been effected all ships are to be routed so that full dispersion has been obtained before reaching longitude 112° East on departure from Fremantle. Full dispersion is to be maintained by ships to Cape Ports until reaching a longitude as far West as possible. The same principle is to be applied to ships leaving for and arriving at Indian Ports. Ships leaving Australian Ports for New Zealand and American Ports are to be routed so as to be fully dispersed 200 miles from coast both on departure and on arrival. (A.C.N.B. 0853Z/28)



MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS

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New Zealand

RANGITANE
Wreckage

My 1159/27. TAI PING YANG has arrived Auckland. Large quantity of small wreckage and a large patch of oil six miles by two miles and still coming up have been located in position of RANGITANE distress message. Vessel must therefore be presumed lost. (N.Z.N.B. 0735Z/28)



MOST SECRET

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

? 28 intended, see p. 824. 792

GERMANIA

Arrived 0400/25) fully loaded (Las Palmas 1045/28)

KARNAK

Admty. 0449/25. Arrived Bilbao from Vigo 26/11 (V.A.(S) 1057/28)

LA PLATA

Has taken about 5 tons provisions (Acting Consul Vigo 1620/28)

IDARWALD
RHEIN

My telegrams 16/11 Grounds for believing preparing to attempt to leave probably in next 24 hours. (Consul General Mexico City, T.G.I. 1625/28) Tampico reports obtained clearance for Spain, probably sail 28/11 (S.O.(I) Kingston 1644/28) (At Tampico) Applied for clearance papers 28/11 recently IDARWALD stated she was bound for Vigo (N.A.Washington 1725/28)

HAMELIN

(At Vera Cruz) Has ordered supplies for 30 days but has not yet taken on fuel oil (N.A.Washington 1725/28)

AMALIE

S.O.S. intercepted, off the Frisian Islands at 1047/28, (D.O.R./29/11)

ERIKA FRITZEN

Following received:- N.C.O. Portsmouth from Niton Radio. 0947 G.T.M. D E D G H N ERIKA FRITZEN to Nordeich Radio. S.O.S. SHA POSN HUBERT GAT BEI TONNE (ends) (C. in C., Portsmouth 0950/28)

MONTEVIDEO
MACIO
WINDHUK
BOLLWERK
NORDERNEY

ITAPE itinerary, leave Santos 27/11 Rio de Janeiro 30/11 Victoria 1/12 Bahia 3/12 Pernambuco 5/12 Para 10/12 has on board 9 German officers and men ex MONTEVIDEO MACIO at Bahia 6 more ex WINDHUK for BOLLWERK at Bahia and 6 more ex WINDHUK for NORDERNEY at Para. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1313/28 to Admty)

MADRID

*German etc at
Las Palmas*

Further to my 1740/25, total quantity coal bunkers taken by MADRID 1282 tons. CHERCA has also been supplied with approx. 300 tons of coal both of which ex Spanish ship ARRAIZ. German passenger aircraft accommodation for about 40 passengers painted black 4 motors arrived Gando Aerodrome p.m./27 also German 3 motor passenger aircraft painted black arrived today. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1705/28)

/HELENE.....



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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

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HELENE

Small auxiliary schooner HELENE German owned whose transfer to Liberian flag is not recognised, sailed from Monrovia 23/11. Reported to have picked up 7 Germans near Cape Palmas area 25/11 and probably so far making for Angola. (C. in C. S.A. 2121N/28 to C.S.1.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RECCA

My 2340/25 Havana reports further indication may sail shortly. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 0852/28)
Following from Navy Department: From Havana 26/11. Learned that the Italian ship RECCA which has been at Havana for several months has recently loaded sufficient oil to put to sea. On 25/11 her funnel was painted black and her name and flag painted out. (N.A. Washington 1217/28)

CHERCA

See MADRID, German Merchant Ships.

FRANCO MARTELLI

Tanker FRANCO MARTELLI at Pernambuco has paid attachment charges on ship and is making other preparations indicating intention to leave port.

ATLAS

From Tampico. Tanker ATLAS moved 27/11 to anchorage in stream near **ORINOCO**. (N.A. Washington, 1725/28)



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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

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Ships Attacked

DIPLOMAT
(Torpedoed 27/11)

Request you will sail tug SALVONIA with all despatch to assistance of DIPLOMAT in position 55° 45' N., 11° 57' W., at 2334/27. Tug ASSURANCE also proceeding. (F.O.I.C. 0013/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

Sunderland reports four life boats in position 056° 02' north, 012° 15' West at 0100 28th/11. (C. in C., W.A. 0144/28 to WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, CAMPANULA)

My 2355/27 and 0144/28. Position should be 055° 56' N., 012° 12' W., (C. in C., W.A. 0500/28)

Your 0144, my 2359/27. In view of distance neither CAMPANULA nor FLEUR DE LYS are practicable. Weather. (FLEUR DE LYS 0510/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Am approaching position searching for survivors. +Asdic installation out of action due to recent weather. Corvette not due for several hours. Intend taking survivors to Londonderry and refuel.

(WILD SWAN 1001/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Sailed SALVONIAN in accordance with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 0013/28 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0220/28)

Position of DIPLOMAT at 0100 today was 55° 56' 5" N., 12° 12' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to ASSURANCE and SALVONIA)

MOUNT ATHOS

(Greek 3578 tons, in Convoy O.B. 248.) Following has been read: SSSS 54.30 N., 15.25 W., MOUNT ATHOS torpedoed. (Scapa W/T 0643/28)

SEAMAN is to proceed with despatch to assistance of MOUNT ATHOS in position 54° 30' N., 15° 25' W., at 0745. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0807/28 to SEAMAN)

MOUNT ATHOS torpedoed in 054° 30' N., 015° 25' W., Investigate. (C. in C., W.A. 0808/28 to FOLKESTONE)

Area searched. No sign of GLENMOOR, MOUNT ATHOS or survivors. Am remaining in area in hope of making up to submarine as her future activities are reported. Request details of shipping that may be expected to pass through area. Weather report. (FOLKESTONE, 1600/28)

/RINGHORN.....

War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

795

Ships Attacked-Contd.

RINGHORN

BR 1337 states Norwegian,
British, ex-Norwegian, 1298 tons
(dispersed from Convoy O.B. 248) Following
has been read: Submarine attack signal
55.29 N., 18.01 W., RINGHORN. (Plymouth
0849/28)

Detach one ship to investigate RINGHORN's
report of U-Boat position 055° 29' N.,
018° 01' W., Ship detached to join
convoy H.X. 89 before dark unless un
contact with U-Boat. (C. in C., W.A., 1016/
28 to WARWICK and WANDERER)

C. in C., W.A., 1016. I expect to reach
this position at noon. (WANDERER 1101/28
to WARWICK)

Your 1016. Nothing seen of RINGHORN but
spoke Commodore of O.B. 248 in TEMPLE
INN proceeding westward all well. Am
making for rendezvous with H.X. 89.
(WANDERER 1620/28)

S/M Raider Submarine still on surface
and dropping astern. (VRCB (No Signification)
1137/28)

CHARLES F MEYER

Following has been read S/M Raider signal
SSSS 55.33 N., 8.47 W., Submarine.
(CHARLES F. MEYER T.O.R. 1210)

Send one destroyer to attack S/M reported
on the surface in position 055° 33' N.,
008° 47' W., at 1147. (C. in C., W.A.
1242/28 to HAVELOCK)

CHARLES F MEYER
BRUSE

Your 1740/28. Instruct CHARLES F. MEYER
to proceed alone to Rothesay where he
will be boarded by Liverpool and Glasgow
salvage representative. You are to
proceed with despatch to assistance of
tug SEAMAN towing BRUSE in position 55°
45' N., 08° 41' W., at 1430 steering 106°
1 knot. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2055/28 to
THAMES)

Following has been read. de GPK.
SSSS 15 miles East of Inistrahull, CHARLES
F MEYER torpedoed. (Plymouth 2145/28)

Following has been read from C.G.O.E.
(Undecypherable) SSSS Cancel my 2145 re
CHARLES F MEYER (Plymouth W/T., T.O.R.
2017/28)

/BRADFYNE....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

11
28. ~~22~~. 1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd

796

BRADFYNE
(torpedoed 22/11)

Four survivors Ex SS BRADFYNE, British, 4740 G.R.T. landed Belfast p.m./27 having been rescued from lifeboat on 25/11 by Norwegian SS NORSE KING. Remainder of crew of forty-three unaccounted for. Ref W.A.G.O. 0191.

- (A) SS BRADFYNE 93 ships in Convoy S.C.11
- (B) 22nd/11 2230, position uncertain
- (C) (D) & (E) Not known.
- (F) Vessel not seen to sink
- (G) Apprentice Buchholtz.
- (H) See (C) (D) and (E) above. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1215/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

ANTEN
(torpedoed 23/11)

C. in C., W.A. 1311/23 and 1846/27, Master of ANTEN has been interviewed and confirms condition of his ship was as stated. He was third ship astern of Commodore and never left him until torpedoed at 0700/23 (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1658/28 to Admty.)

BRUSE
(torpedoed 23/11)

Following received from tug SEAMAN. While proceeding to position indicated in your 0807 today Thursday made contact with forward part of BRUSE 1300 in position 055° 45' N., 008° 41' W., connected at 1430 and proceeding towards Clyde course 106° speed 1 knot require assistance. 1820/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2001/28)

LISIEUX

BERNHARD, following intercept (begins) Saved one lifeboat from LISIEUX with crew on board, now looking for another boat with one man in it. (Ends) (Valentia Radio 0751/28)

LISIEUX was in mid-Atlantic in Convoy S.C. 13. No further details. (D.OR. 29/11)



War Diary

28.11.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

797

Submarines Reported

0743

A.F. message 54.30 N., 15.25 W at 0643
G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0822/28)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 2 in N.W. Approaches of which one is about to leave patrol
1 in about 49° N., 14° W., outward bound to N.W. Approaches.
German- 1 in vicinity of 50° N., 10° W., probably bound for Lorient. May be the one estimated yesterday north of N. Rona homeward bound northabout.
1 in 54° 30' N., 15° 25' W at 0743/28.
1 in 55° 33' N., 8° 47' W., at 1147/28
1 in 56° 39' N., 12° 08' W., at 1215/27
1 was between 53° N., and 55° N., 17° W and 23° W at 1135/27, and may possibly be bound for Lorient.
1 in 55° 29' N., 18° 01' W., at 0950/28
1 in area 56° N., 21° W., to 23° W., (D.D.I.C. 1245/28)



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

798

Home Commands

Destroyer
Engagement

*(Capt Louis
Mountbatten)*

3 Enemy destroyers were sighted off Belle Île by aircraft at 1115 today. Captain (D)* 5 in JAVELIN, with JACKAL, JUPITER, JERSEY and KASHMIR, were ordered to patrol during the night between Start Point and Lands End. They encountered 3 enemy destroyers early this morning 20 miles S.E. of the Lizard. One of the enemy is believed to have been damaged. JAVELIN had her bow and stern blown off by torpedo but remained afloat on an even keel and was towed to Plymouth. The other destroyers swept towards Brest until 0800 but did not regain touch.

One enemy destroyer is believed to have been damaged; Aircraft reconnaissance of Brest saw 3 destroyers at 1230 today, one of which was possibly damaged.

Tug AID and barge CBX 110 were sunk by the enemy destroyers, pilot vessel No 4 and tug ABEILLE No 14 were towed in by trawlers.

GERMANIA

CIRCASSIA, CALIFORNIA and WORCESTERSHIRE of the Northern Patrol, are patrolling areas S.3, S.2, and S. 1 respectively to intercept the German tanker GERMANIA, which arrived at Las Palmas yesterday from Ponta Delgada.

Atlantic Convoys
Escorts

Until more "R" class battleships can be made available extra A.M.C.'s must be allocated as ocean escorts on the North Atlantic route. FORFAR sails tomorrow to meet S.C. 14. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to sail on 1/12 for Halifax.

British Air Operations

A small force of heavy bombers last night attacked Naval Targets at Stettin. Channel ports were also attacked.

Owing to adverse weather conditions no operations were undertaken today by Bomber Command.

A convoy of 12 merchant vessels with 5 probable flak ships was attacked off Terschelling this afternoon, one large ship being hit (D.S.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.22.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

799

Enemy Air Operations

Convoy O.B. 250 was attacked this morning in the N.W. Approaches. No damage occurred. This convoy had an escort of destroyers and a Sunderland.

Convoy F.N. 46 was bombed in the Thames Estuary this morning. No damage is reported. SS BRITISH OFFICER while proceeding to join the convoy was machine gunned by an aircraft showing British markings.

KASHMIR was bombed this afternoon near the Lizard. No damage is reported.

As a result of the attack on Funchapel Oil Fuel depot p.m./27- a.m./28 all tanks containing fuel are now involved.

Slight damage from blast was caused to Admiralty establishments at Liverpool last night.

Mining

CALVERTON
D.W. FITZGERALD
RECONO
Mined off Humber

LL trawler CALVERTON was mined and sunk early this morning and M/S Vessel D.W. FITZGERALD this afternoon off Spurn Point. M/S trawler RECONO was damaged by mine this afternoon off the Humber. Earlier in the afternoon a mine was exploded off Spurn Point, presumably by D.W. FITZGERALD with S.A. gear, who was about 2 miles away at the time.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected early this morning in the Plymouth area and possibly in the Bristol Channel. Between 1800 and midnight, minelaying is suspected in the Thames Estuary.

Minelaying in
Baie de la Seine

ICARUS and 3 destroyers carried out minelaying operations in the Baie de la Seine last night.



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

800

North Atlantic

A submarine patrol by three S/M's relieved in the Mediterranean by "U" class vessels is to be established off the Azores.

There are reports that German ships at Vigo and Ponta Delgada are about to sail.

South Atlantic

Operation
"Stripe"

Takoradi.

Disembarkation of aircraft from FURIOUS, was completed today. 34 Hurricanes and 3 Fulmars were flown off. 1 of the former crashed in the sea, but the pilot was saved.

Brazzaville reports the presence of a submarine off Libreville and asks for aircraft for reconnaissance.

Mediterranean

It is reported that German Troops embarked at Trieste on 27/11 and 28/11 in 5 German ships which are ready to sail for Albania at once.

Wellingtons last night delivered a heavy attack on the port and railway station at Brindisi.

East Indies

Operation
"Canned"

LEANDER today bombarded the fish factory at Mogadishu, her Walrus having first bombed the D/F station, apparently successfully.

Raider
Reported

At 1919 G.M.T. SS LUXMI in position 30° 31' S., 55° 0' E (Southern Indian Ocean) intercepted a merchant ship raider signal apparently very close. No position was given in the raider signal. CARTHAGE is proceeding to intercept.

/Assab.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

801

East Indies-Contd.

Assab
Bombed

Blenheims bombed Assab today.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD
RHEIN

The German SS IDARWALD and RHEIN left Tampico this morning to the Southward.

Convoy assembly at Sydney C.B. will cease after the sailing of B.H.X. 94 and S.C. 15. Halifax will be used instead.



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

802

MACKAY.
Proposed as
16th D.F.
Leader

Understood that Admiralty policy is to replace V and W class destroyers in East Coast by HUNT Class as latter become available. It is most desirable that a leader fitted with A.S.V. should be available for the 16th and 21st flotillas, and that D. 16 and D. 21 should be afloat with their staffs.

No accommodation in HUNT class destroyers for Captain "D" or any staff officers. Since the withdrawal of MALCOLM, Capt. D.16 has been accommodated ashore with his staff. This not entirely satisfactory. Request consideration be given to allocating MACKAY as leader of the 16th D.F. on completion of current refit. (C. in C., Nore, 1504/29 to Admty.)

Rescue Ships
for O.B. Convoys
RATHLIN
TOWARD
COPELAND
HONTESTROOM

To sail with Convoys, change over with escorts, and return with homeward bound convoys. 4 ships already requisitioned and 2 more intended. To be based on Greenock and manned by volunteer Merchant Navy with one Naval Surgeon. Hoped RATHLIN ready in about one week and remainder in about 3 weeks. (D.T.D. 1556/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Scapa.
A/A Defence

C. in C., H.F. 1927/27. Request your views (V.C.N.S. 2323/29 50 A.C.O.S.)

Defence of U.K.

Salage.
Belcher

At 1130/29. (D.G. 1136/29) At 2330/29 (D.C. 2356/29)

Movements

CAMPBELL
GARTH

Arrived Harwich 0933/29 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0933/29)

NELSON
SOMALI. MAORI
MATBELE. DOUGLAS

Arrived Rosyth 1415/29 from Scapa. (C. in C., Rosyth 1423/29 to Admty.)

Orkneys

Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1527/29)
Trawler lines tonight (A.C.O.S. 1535/29)

/Portsmouth.....



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

803

Movements-Contd.

Portsmouth

Night Movements. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1603/29)

Rosyth

Command State. (C. in C., Rosyth 2001/29)

FORFAR

F.O.C.N.P. 1102/29. Route to R/V (C. in C., W.A. 2232/29 to FORFAR)

Operations

D. 5.

*Engagement with
Enemy Destroyers.*

JAVELIN torpedoed.

H.S. N.V.C. - German

destroyers were:-

KARL GALSTER

RICHARD BEITZEN

HANS LODY

For details see

TSB/FDS/X. 300/44

in German Documents 404.

At 1750/27 JAVELIN, JUPITER, JACKAL, JERSEY KASHMIR sailed from Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 0122/29 to Admty.)

Gunfire and Flashes reported 260° Prawle Point 30 miles. (C. in C., W.A. 0402/29 to D. 5.)

3 Vessels, class unknown, bearing 270° 3 miles, course 240° My position 247° 50' N 4° W., 37 miles. (JACKAL 0553/29 to S.O. Cruisers, Channel Force)

JAVELIN torpedoed. (JACKAL 0554/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Information gives flashes in 49° 55' N., 4° 35' W. (C. in C., W.A. 0556/29 to D.5)

Have engaged one Enemy Destroyer. Lost contact. (JACKAL 0603/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Report position (JACKAL 0611/29 to D.5.)

My 0554. In position 126° Lizard 20 miles. (JACKAL 0616/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Have lost touch with enemy after short action. JAVELIN believed sunk. Am in company with JERSEY and JUPITER in 240° 50' 4' W., 49 miles, course 200°, speed 28 knots at 0625. (KASHMIR 0634/29 to Devonport W/T)

JAVELIN afloat but on fire. She reports E-Boats in vicinity. Am keeping clear of her till daylight. M/V on fire in vicinity. (JACKAL 0655/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Your 0634.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd

804

D.5
Engagement with
enemy destroyers.
JAVELIN torpedoed.

Your 0634. 1 Enemy believed damaged. Intend continue search to Southward till 0800. Confirmed sweep to Northwards. Request Fighter protection. (KASHMIR 0700/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 0700. Continue search. Fighter is being sent. Report your position. (C. in C., W.A. 0732/29 to KASHMIR)

At 0800 my position $49^{\circ} 8' N.$, $5^{\circ} 16' W.$, speed 31 knots. (KASHMIR 0810/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

JAVELIN torpedoed both ends. Attempt towing 2 tugs either side. (JACKAL 0818/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

If nothing in sight, proceed to screen JAVELIN in 126° The Lizard 20 miles. (C. in C., W.A. 0834/29 to KASHMIR)

2 tugs left Dartmouth 0745, ^{Rescue} Tug CAROLINE MOLLER left Falmouth at 0830, Tug RETORT is leaving Plymouth now to join JAVELIN (C. in C., W.A. 0836/29 to JACKAL)

3 Blenheim A/C have been sent to escort you. (C. in C., W.A. 0850/29 to KASHMIR)

JAVELIN is floating on even keel having lost both bow and stern. (JACKAL 0855/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

JACKAL and JAVELIN in 140° Lizard Head 20 miles at 0825. (C. in C., W.A. 0922/29 to Tug RETORT)

My 0836. Tug RETORT is being escorted by Trawlers TREVÓ TERCEIRO, and CONCERTATOR Tug ATLAS is leaving Plymouth now. Is Motor Vessel still afloat. (C. in C., W.A. 0950/29 to JACKAL)

M.G.B's have joined. D.5. still in JAVELIN. KASHMIR, JUPITER, JERSEY screening JAVELIN. (KASHMIR 1032/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

JACKAL returning to Plymouth with seriously wounded. E.T.A. 1300 (JACKAL 1039/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

/Capt. D.5.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

805

Operations-Contd.

D.5.
Engagement with
enemy destroyers.
JAVELIN torpedoed

Capt. D. 5, 2 Staff Officers, Yeoman, Captain, 6 Officers and 51 ratings remain in JAVELIN. All other survivors transferred to JACKAL (Capt D. 5. 1045/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

Pilot Boat No 4 abandoned in 49° 49' N., 4° 49' W., on fire forward. Have rescued all survivors. Consider salvage possible. (JACKAL 1047/29 to G. in C., W.A.)

Preliminary report of Operations night of 28/29th November.

1. D. 5. in JAVELIN with JACKAL, JUPITER, JERSEY, KASHMIR were in contact with enemy destroyers at 0553 today Friday in position 140° Lizard 20 miles.

2. One enemy believed damaged. JAVELIN has bow and stern blown off by torpedo but floating on an even keel. Tugs sent to tow her to Plymouth.

3. Action was very brief; and contact with enemy was apparently lost almost immediately.

KASHMIR, JUPITER, JERSEY swept towards Brest until 0800 but did not regain touch. They are now screening JAVELIN.

JACKAL is returning to Plymouth with seriously wounded.
(C. in C., W.A. 1134/29 to Admty.)

As JAVELIN no longer degaussed, request Negative Sweepers may sweep her in. (D.5. 1134/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Rejoin Capt. D. 5. in JAVELIN in 140° Lizard Head 20 miles by 1830. (C. in C., W.A. 1555/29 to M.G.B.'s 44 and 50)

Outlined plan tonight Friday.
KASHMIR, JERSEY, JUPITER operate south and west of JAVELIN as cover against destroyer attack.

2. M.G.B. 44 and 50 arrive 1830 as close screen.

3. M.G.B. from Portsmouth patrol south of Start Point to deal with E-Boats from Cherbourg.

/4.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

806

D.5.
Engagement with
enemy destroyers.
JAVELIN torpedoed.

4. ~~Hudson~~ patrol as in my 1556/28.

5. Details follow.
(C. in C., W.A. 1600/29 to Capt D.5.)

Shore cut to fit foremost bulkhead, wedge, tackles, and three battleship collision mats will be on board. JACKAL and ready to sail immediately any time after 1730. Owing to difficulty of making contact and transfer in the dark she will not be sailing unless you order it. (C. in C., W.A. 1622/29 to Capt. D.5.)

My 1600/29 after fuelling M.G.B's from Portsmouth are to proceed to Patrol a Line from 180° Start Point 5 miles to 180° Start Point 30 miles. Object to -intercept E-Boat from Eastward. (C. in C., W.A. 1650/29 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth)

JAVELIN in tow. My position at 1700, 49° 51' N., 4° 50' W., course 045° speed 4½ knots. 2 Trawlers are towing abandoned M/V. 5 miles astern. (KASHMIR 1705/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Proceed forthwith to patrol from 180° Start Point five to 180° Start Point thirty as long as fuel permits then proceed Dartmouth object destroy E-Boats approaching from Cherbourg. (C. in C., W.A. 1838/29 to M.A.S.B. 53)

My 1600 After JUPITER insert KIPLING (C. in C., W.A. 2000/29 to D.5.)

My 1134. Preliminary report from JACKAL indicates that JAVELIN was torpedoed very soon after opening fire at 0540. Enemy divided into 2 groups. JACKAL chased and engaged one destroyer which made off to westward making smoke, but lost contact after 30 minutes. Enemy fired 2 torpedoes at JACKAL which missed. JACKAL altered to southwest to endeavour to intercept but abandoned chase when it was obvious that enemy would pass Ushant before daylight.

Meanwhile other two enemy destroyers appeared to retire to southward with remainder of Flotilla engaging them.

/2.....



29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

807

Operations-Contd.

D.5.
Engagement with
enemy destroyers
JAVELIN torpedoed.

2. D. 5 is still in JAVELIN in tow of two tugs, 2 M.G.B's forming close screen, while KASHMIR, JERSEY, JUPITER and KIPLING cover to the southward. M.A.S.B's from Portsmouth are on passage to eastward of tow to intercept E-Boats from Cherbourg. Cross over patrol from Start to Lizard will be maintained by Hudsons.

3. Captain, 6 Officers and 51 ratings still on board JAVELIN in addition to D.5 and two staff Officers. JACKAL landed 114 ratings from JAVELIN, of whom 12 are cot cases.

4. Other vessels known to have been involved are tug AID and Barge C.B.X. 110 sunk, pilot vessel No. 4 and tug ABEILLE No 14 being towed in by trawlers. (C. in C., W.A. 2114/29 to Admty.)

Your 2255. 5th Flotilla to anchor in Sound as convenient. Detail 2 ships to cover Trawler towing in M/V before doing so. (C. in C., W.A. 2348/29 to KASHMIR)

JACKAL arrived Plymouth 1347/29. M.G.B's 44 and 50 arrived Plymouth 1141/29. Sailed at 0855/29 Tug RETORT and M/S Trawlers TREVO TERCEIRA and CONCERTATOR. Sailed at 1730, M.G.B's 44 and 50. (C. in C., W.A. 2356/29)

Operation
J.H.

Completed. Nothing to report. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1103/29 to Admty.)

Dover
Shelled

Enemy Coastal Batteries fired ^{two} rounds between 1029 and 1204 and eight rounds between 1612 and 1707 today. Majority fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery. A few in sea off Leathercoates. No damage or casualties reported. Fighters shot down aircraft spotting for A.M. Shoot. (V.A.Dover, 1919/29 to Admty.)



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

808

D. 24.

Arriving Dundee 1100/29. (C. in C., Rosyth 0200/29)

H. 50.

Left Rothesay, escorted by VIRGINIA. E.T.A. Holyhead 1030/30 (Capt. S. 7. to Admty.)

PORPOISE

C. in C., W.A. 1935/27. As TROUBADOUR is further delayed, intend CUTTY SARK to escort PORPOISE as in my 2302/27 (S. 2. 1539/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

→ USK
→ UNIQUE

USK's E.T.A. in position W is 0839/30 to R/V with CAPE PALLISER. UNIQUE may also arrive in Position W at the same time. (S. 5. 1543/29)

→ Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/30 (V.A.S 1717/29)

→ UNIQUE

Expect arrive 0830/30 (UNIQUE 1857/29 to S. 5.)

TALISMAN

Leave Patrol after dark 2/12 to meet Escort at 0900/4 in 300° Pendeen Watch House 5 m miles. Route. (Capt S. 2. 1957/29 to TALISMAN)

TIGRIS

Reports attack on Barque in 45° 41' N., 2° 57' W., at 2340/12. Barque set on fire, abandoned, and could not afterwards be found. (V.A.S 2204/29 to Admty.)

British Air Activity

D. 5.

4 Beauforts are sweeping between Lizard Head and Ushant to search for damaged Enemy ships. (C. in C., W.A. 0958/29 to JACKAL)

S.A. I.E.

Assessment (C. in C., Rosyth 1256/29)

Convoy
E.N. 33

Air Patrols till dark. (C. in C., Rosyth 1532/29 to CURACOA)

Rosyth Area

Air Escorts for 30/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1912/29)

Western
Channel

Hudson aircraft fitted A.S.V. carries out patrol tonight between 49° 59' N., 06° 05' W., 49° 59' N., 03° 35' W., 49° 20' N., 03° 50' W., Wolf Rock. (C. in C W.A. 1934/29 to KASHMIR)



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

809

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.B. 250

Being attacked by aircraft in 55° 19' N., 15° W., (ACTIVE 1010/29)
My 1010. Single Plane. 4 Bombs. No hits. (ACTIVE 1040/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Convoy 'Aunt'

Enemy bombing in 51° 34' N., 1° 10' E., (F.N. Convoy 1056/29) 3 M.E. 109. (F.N. Convoy 1100/29)
My 1128 Enemy's course 100° JU.88. (F.N. Convoy 1140/29)
Am being shadowed by 1 aircraft (F.N. Convoy 1205/29)
2 aircraft over convoy in 51° 45' N., 1° 26' E., (F.N. Convoy 1410/29)

KASHMIR

Enemy is bombing in 49° 42' N. m 4° 57' W. (KASHMIR 1419/29)

Plymouth

My 0143/28. At 0535/29 the three further tanks containing fuel burst and fire boiled over into Creek. Railway Bridge damaged. 3 A.F.S. Trailer pumps and 2 fire floats burnt out. 12 to 15 casualties sent to hospital. Situation at 1500 all tanks containing fuel burning but fire is confined to the saucer. Conference now being held to decide on best method of using fresh foam appliances received and hope may be possible to reduce flames by nightfall. (C. in C., W.A. 1701/29 to Admty.) *Five tanks a total loss. See 1/12 p.10.*

BRITISH OFFICER

In Convoy F.N. 46 was machine-gunned today in Thames Estuary by an aircraft showing British markings. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1809/29 to C. in C., Nore)

Lowestoft

At 1842/ aircraft dropped small number of H.E. Bombs close to Richards Ironworks Yard. About 10 civilian casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2045/29 to Admty.)

29.11.1940
Friday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

810

Mining

CALVERTON

(LL Trawler) Mined at 0230/29 in 118° Spurn Point Lighthouse 3.7 miles. Sank at 0300 in 132° Spurn Point Lighthouse 4.2 miles. (.F.O Humber 0859/29 to Admty) 2 missing, 1 seriously injured, 6 slightly. (Base Capt. Grimsby 1056/29 to Admty) LUDA LADY landed 18 survivors of whom 6 injured, 2 seriously, 2 men still missing (F.O.Humber 0915/29 to Admty.)

Operation G.Q.1.
(Little Sole Bank)

My 1930/28 and you 2329/28. Operation postponed 24 hours. Destroyer escort not available. (C. in C., W.A. 1050/29 to ADVENTURE)

Your 1930/28 Could ADVENTURE complete her lay by 0100, so that she would be less likely to be reported when returning. (A.C.N.S. H. 1152/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1152/29. As the whole passage from and to Scillies cannot be made in dark hours it is considered more important to conceal her intention on the outward passage than to risk detection on her way home. The time table has been worked out on the above basis and the time of departure from Bishop Rock has now been altered to 1900. (C. in C., WA. 1718/29 and 0430/30 to Admty.)

My 1930/28 and Admty 1013/26. Intention to lay in direction 46°, 10 miles, from 48° 15' N., 9° 30' W., by ADVENTURE on Night 1/2 December. Route from Milford Haven. (C. in C., W.A. 1850/29 and 2304/29 to ADVENTURE)

Iceland

Request you signal proposed limits of dangerous areas for Observation Minefields in Iceland, and procedure proposed for signals. (D. of L.D. 1254/29 to F.O.I.C. Iceland) .

Harwich

Heavy Explosion reported 2 miles S.W. of H.K. 2 and 1 mile E.N.E. of H.K.1., confirmed by Coast Guard Walton at 1753. A/C seen at 1746 (F.O.I.C. 1824/29 to C. in C., Nore)

/D.W.FITZGERALD.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

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Mining-Contd.

D.W.FITZGERALD

(M/S ^{Trawler} ~~Vessel~~) Badly damaged at 1555/29 by 2 Mines in 168° Spurn Point Lighthouse 1.6 miles Towed into Grimsby Details. (F.O.Humber 1855/29 and 2050/29 to Admty)

RECONO

(M/S Trawler) Badly damaged at 1700/29 by mine 100 yards East of Boom Gate. Ship beached at Doiga Slip, Grimsby. One casualty (F.O.Humber 2127/29 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence

TAURI
Intercepted

My 1717/27. TAURI (Finnish) arrived yesterday having been boarded by German armed merchantman taken to Vardo released after 24 hours. Master tried to ascertain name of ship without success but confirms other particulars given in my immediately preceding telegram. Observed two Russian destroyers proceeding north-west shortly before reaching Finnish territorial waters. (Vice Consul, Petsamo 1844/29 to D.N.I.) *See Page 742.*

TEMPLAR

Reported on 18/11 at Hamburg fitting out as an A.M.C. Graded C.3. (D.N.I. 0150/29 to C's in C.)

U-BOATS

Following received from Navy Dept. From a reliable source U-Boat activity is expected to increase in December and present estimated number of German submarines is 142, majority of which are equipped with hydrophones (Sic) of British Submarine SEAL Type. Monthly building capacity is reported as 25 submarines. (N.A.Washington 1215/28 to Admty.)

Brest

3 Destroyers seen at 1230/29. One possibly damaged (St. Eval 1555/29 to H.Q.C.C.)

Surface Ship

At 2015 in 49° 25' N., (?longitude) A/C report (C. in C., W.A. 2138/29 to KASHMIR)

MISCELLANEOUS

Belfast Trawler Force

Allocation of A/S Trawlers (C. in C., W.A. 1636/29.)



MOST SECRET

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS

812

ROBERT F. HAND

(British Tanker, 12,197 tons) Arrived Belfast Lough from Milford Haven. Severe bow damage from collision with PARTHENIA. 50 survivors on board. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1210/29 to Admty)

TALONA

(Balloon Barrage Drifter) In collision with Trawler WRANGLER on 28/11 and sank in Fish Dock, Grimsby. (F.O.Humber 1555/29 to Admty)

YOUNG
FISHERMAN

(Drifter on Engagement 6) Grounded alongside Railway Pier, Oban. Efforts to float her unsuccessful. Request -arrange salvage. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1800/29 to Admty)

ATHELTEMPLAR

(British Tanker, 8949 tons) Reported damaged and to require Tanker for discharge of Oil Fuel. Request confirmation. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1832/29 to TRELAWNEY)

TARTAR

Suspected case of Sabotage at Devonport, involving cutting of electric cables. (C. in C., W.A. 0001/29)

WILLING BOYS

Paid off 18/11 (F.O.I.C. London 1235/29)



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

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Convoys

Shipping

Positions

Estimated positions North Atlantic convoys
0900/29 (D.T.D., to C. in C., H.F., 1058/
29)

C.E. 18

VANOC and WITCH to patrol eastward as
cover. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1257/29)
Sailed 1545 (C. in C., Portsmouth 1647/29)

H.X. 89

Formation for passing through North
Channel (C. in C., W.A., 1428/29 to
WARWICK, etc.)
Your 1428/29 cannot be decyphered. WARWICK
not met H.X. 89. Position. (WARWICK 1700/
29) H.X. 89 not met. My position
(CLEMATIS 1410/29 to WANDERER)

Following received from FLEUR DE LYS via
aircraft (begins) position H.X. 89 0930/29
056° 26' N., 013° 39' W., course till split.
Estimated time of split 0900/30.
PERIWINKLE and CAMPANULA in company, time
of origin 1207 (ends) (C. in C., W.A.
1900/29 to CLEMATIS, WILD SWAN, WANDERER
etc.,)

Cancel my 1900/29 (C. in C., W.A. to
WANDERER 2008/29)

Your 1900 H.X. 89 not met, steering
through position 056° 16' N., 012° 04' W
083° 13 knots, arriving South Negril Point
0700. (CLEMATIS 2100/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

E.N. 34
W.N. 47

HASTINGS to act as additional A/A escort
(C. in C., Rosyth 1125/29) Details and
escort E.N. 34, ANGLE, ST LOMAN (N.C.S.O.
Methil 1706/29)

F.S. 48

Intend sailing A/S trawler GREENFLY with
F.S. 48, 1/12 (F.O.Humber 1556/29)

O.B. 251

My 1655/29. Sail ST LAURENT forthwith to
join O.B. 251 GARLAND is to escort FORFAR
(C. in C., W.A. 1906/29 to F.O.I.C. Green-
ock D. 12) My 1655/29. Delete GARLAND
(C. in C., W.A. 2004/29)

F.N., F.S.

Forecast of Convoy sailings. (C. in C.,
Rosyth 1325/29) Asking for figures of
ships suitable for (a) slow and (b) fast
convoy sailed during November (D.T.D.,
1755/29 to N.C.S.O's)

/ H.X.....



War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

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Convoys-Contd

Shipping

H.X.

Escort Forecast for H.X. Convoys (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1022/29)

S.C. 14

Admty 1341/12. Intend sailing S.C. 14 without escort. SANDWICH has not arrived Sydney. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1452/29)
Admty 1456/29. FORFAR leaves Clyde 1200/30 to meet and escort S.C. 14 (F.O.C.N.P., 1702/29)

Sydney C.B.

Convoy assembly at (see America & West Indies)

OSLO FJORD

Sailed escorted by VIMY at 1800 in accordance C. in C., H.F. 1114/28 (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 2000/29)

OLIGARCH

Cancel my 2100/28. NORTHERN PRINCESS (to escort) has broken down on trial (F.O., Iceland, 0951/29 to Admty). *Sailed 30/11, page 831.*

Rescue Ships

Being requisitioned to sail with O.B. Convoys (D.T.D. 1556/29) *(p. 802)*

Extra A.M.C's for Atlantic Escorts
S.C. 14.

Until more "R" class battleships can be made available it is necessary to allocate extra A.M.C's as ocean escorts on North Atlantic route otherwise some convoys will be unescorted. This must be done at the expense of the number of A.M.C's allocated to Denmark Straits patrol.
F.O.C. N.P. to sail FORFAR 30/11 to meet S.C. 14. (details)
C. in C., W.A. to arrange for special escort for FORFAR to enable her to meet S.C. 14 on West Atlantic.
F.O.C. N.P. also requested to propose arrangements for another A.M.C. to escort S.C. 15 (date) (A.C.N.S. (T) 1456/29)

Admty 1456/29. FORFAR leave Clyde 1200/30 to meet and escort Convoy S.C. 14 X leaving Sydney C.B. 30/11 speed 6 and a half knots (date) (F.O.C.N.P. 1702/29)

S.C. 15

Your 1456/29 para 4. (F.O.C.N.P. to propose arrangements for another A.M.C. to escort S.C. 15) CILICIA will be available Beaving Clyde noon 8/12. Request outward A/S escort be arranged. (F.O.C.N.P. 1706/29 to Admty.)

S.L. 57

/S.L. 57.....



MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.11.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

815

S.L. 57

Departure 0600/29. CANTON as ocean escort to Convoy S.L. 57 and thence to Greenock in accordance with C. in C., S.A's 1259/28 (S.O.I., Freetown 1009N/29)

A.M.C.
Escorts

C. in C., S.A's 1905/27. Consider that A.M.C's should leave Convoy 24 hours before rendezvous with local escort as in the case of those with H.X. Convoys. A.M.C's proceeding independently to U.K. should keep well to the Northward of convoy routes in order to minimise the danger of air attack. (C. in C., W.A. 1608/29)



MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

816

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DU HAVRE

Your 2309 N/28. Concur. (C.in C. S.A. 0446/29 to DRAGON).

My 1020 N/29. Coaling of tug complete. Intend shadowing leaving guard in VILLE DU HAVRE. Tug has been receiving orders from Dakar. (DRAGON, 1717/29 to C.in C. S.A.) DRAGON's 1020/29. If intended VILLE DU HAVRE be brought Freetown by Tug or DRAGON towing propose EDINBURGH or DIDO proceeds to support in case of interference by Vichy ships. Delay adds to possibility ~~and~~ S/M's may intercept. (C.in C. S.A. 1745/29 to Admty.)

Your 2352/28 and DRAGON's 1020/29.

Request be informed if further instructions have been sent. (C.in C. S.A. 2347/29 to C.in C. S.A.)

AJAX
Personnel.

Your 1728/27 (French personnel from S/M AJAX) Remainder, understood 7 ratings mentioned in (2) and (3) your 1652/21X should be sent U.K. first opportunity. If unwilling join de Gaulle will be found other employment. (Hd. of M. 1219/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Policy.

Your 2111/15 paragraph (ii). Is it intended that this shall overrule policy laid down to S.A. Station in my 1957/5/10, concurred with by Admiralty, which states under (A) that Vichy French met South of Dakar should be prevented from going to any French West Africa port. Intended to include Ivory Coast and Dahomey to prevent provisions supplies and requirements from being embarked these ports see B.D. signal cancelled. (C.in C. S.A. 2311N/28 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

S/M Patrol,
Azores.

It has been decided to establish a submarine patrol off the Azores. This patrol will be maintained by three O, P or R class submarines from 1st Flotilla based at Gibraltar after they have been relieved in the Mediterranean by three U class submarines from 5th Flotilla.

While these redispositions are being carried out the Azores Patrol is to be maintained by submarines from 2nd Flotilla.

(D.O.D.(H) 1228/29, to C.in C's H.F., Med., etc.)

/ BERWICK.
Damage.

29.11.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

817

BERWICK
Damage.

Damage to BERWICK too extensive for repairs to be undertaken at Gibraltar. Ship has effected temporary repairs to holes in deck and turret and is seaworthy. Y Turret out of action. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850/29.)

RENOWN
defect.

Owing to running of H.P. Borderion bearing starboard inner shaft of RENOWN, this shaft will be out of action until 1600/30. Ship is at 6 hours' notice on 3 shafts until that time. (S.O. Force H 2116/29 to Admty.)

Sailings for U.K.

Your 2109/26 my 1202/28 and my 1850/29. Propose sail ARGUS, RAMILLIES, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, ECLIPSE, BERWICK and FRANCONIA in company with destroyer escort P.M. 1/12. Your 1915/20. If Group Captain Lloyd does not arrive in time for board enquiry 1/12 may Group Captain Rogers 200 group take his place on board in order to avoid delay to any of above ships and consequent extra escort commitment. Group Captain Rogers was in no way concerned with plan for operation "~~White~~ White". See also H.Q.C.C. 1425/29 to 200 group. (F.O.C.N.A. 2226/29 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

NORMAN STAR,
HAVBOR

NORMAN STAR arrived 28/11. My 1552/22 confirmed HAVBOR sunk by S/M. (N.S.O.(I) Freetown 0752/29).

PRETORIA CASTLE,
SCYTHIA,
WARWICK CASTLE,
CORNWALL.

Capetown Arrived 28/11. PRETORIA CASTLE, SCYTHIA, WARWICK CASTLE. Departure 0810/29 PRETORIA CASTLE, SCYTHIA to rejoin CORNWALL and convoy W.S.4A. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0830Z/29).

CUMBERLAND.

Arrived 0815/29. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1015 M/29). Proceeding to S.A. Division in accordance with Admty. 0036/23 has only 1 Walrus A/C, other lost, no spares. Consider she should have 2 before leaving. Intend transfer 1 from EDINBURGH who has 2 on board. Request another Walrus A/C may be allocated to EDINBURGH to replace. (C.in C. S.A. 1745/29 to Admty.)

HERMES.

Arrived 1730/29. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1747/29).

A.M.C's,
catapults

ALCANTARA will be fitted during current refit. CANTON fitted in December. ARAWA, MORETON BAY will not be fitted. (D.O.D. (F) 2252/29 to C.in C. S.A.)

W.S.4 B.

Arrival 1200/29. EDINBURGH and DEVONSHIRE with Convoy W.S.4 B. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1405 N/29).

/ ESCOLANO.



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ESCOLANO

My 1732/27 referred to S.S. ESCOLANO (Spanish). This was intercepted in your 1106/28 as the FAUSTINO R SAN PEDRO, a difference of one in the signal letters. Possibly a transmission error but request you will take any action considered necessary.

(H.W.R. 1157/29 to C.in C. S.A.)

Operation "Stripe."

See also 16/12/40, p. 475.

27 Hurricanes ashore 6 Hurricanes flying off 0600/29, one Hurricane crashed.

12 Hurricanes leave Takoradi 29/11 for Egypt remainder later.

(FURIOUS 0245/29 to Admty.)

Your 0140 and my 0245. Operation "Stripe" completed. 34 Hurricanes and three Fulmars disembarked. One Hurricane crashed in sea pilot saved.

(FURIOUS, 0709/29 to Admty.)

33 "Stripes" arrived Takoradi 1 lost in sea. 6 "Stripes" leaving Takoradi 0940 hours G.M.T. 29/11. 6 will leave daily.

(R.A.F. Takoradi 0919/29 to FURIOUS).

CRAGPOOL
MEROPI

Overdue shipping. CRAGPOOL Barry departure 18/10 due Buenos Aires 22/11 and MEROPI, Barry departure 18/10 due Montevideo 21/11 have not arrived.

(S.O.(I). Freetown, 1806/29).

Mediterranean.

A/C Recon.

Your 1935/28. Only Glenn Martin available will carry out reconnaissance of Maddalena, Cagliari, and Messina in that order.

No reconnaissance of Taranto will be carried out today 29/11. (V.A. Malta, 0745/29, to S.O. Force H).

Operation
"Collar".

Action on 27/11.

Your 1911/27. In view of importance of establishing definitely exact nature of forces engaged request you will carefully question captain of Sunderland, as to

- (a) Class of cruiser and destroyers reported in para. (c).
- (b) Did Flying Boat search the Area for other warships.
- (c) Was he in position to survey whole of field of action.
- (d) Did he observe ARK ROYAL's aircraft attacking.
- (e) Were any battleships sighted, bearing in mind similarity between Italian battleships and certain classes of Italian cruisers.
- (f) What was class of cruiser reported in your para. (f).

(C.in C. Med., 1005/29 to V.A. Malta)

Reply, see 2003/30.

/ U.S. Observer.



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

819

U.S. Observer.

Action off Sardinia
(Op. "Edler")
27.11.40.

Following for N.A., American Embassy, London, from Lieutenant Commander Clark in RENOWN. Admiralty Communique on recent engagement between Italian and British Naval forces off Sardinia and resultant damage to both sides; personally verified Italian and German claim untrue.

(S.O. Force H, 1117/29, to Admty.)

Note:- U.S. Naval Attache requests that contents of this signal should not be given to the Press.

UTMOST.

My 1242/28. Owing to late arrival of Force H trials of UTMOST have had to be postponed. Intend sailing her p.m./30 for Malta. (F.O.C.N.A., 1216/29 to N.O.I.C. Malta).

Enemy Troop Transport.

Susak reports troops embarked on 27/11 and 28/11 at Trieste in five German ships which are ready to sail at once for Albania. Reliability unassessed but source usually reliable.

(S.O.I., Alexandria, 1525/29 to Admty.)

Cables.

Restoration of cable communication between Gibraltar and Malta increasingly desirable. Cable and Wireless suggest joining un-cut Malta-Bona cable to No. 4 Malta-Gibraltar by laying new cable between points 37° 17', 8° 34' and 37° 52', 7° 37'.

(D.S.D. 1657/29 to C.in C. Med.)

My 1657/29 passed to you for information. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0035/30 to V.A. Malta).

Enemy Troop Transports.

My 0755/27. Usual reliable source at Susak reports troops embarked Trieste on 27 and 28/11 in 5 German ships which are ready to sail for Albania at once. Destination probably San Giovanni di Medua. ANKARA, DRESDEN, FREIENFELS, KYBFELS, REICHENFELS, WACHTFELS are most suitable for purpose but about 12 smaller German ships are in Adriatic.

(Capt. S.1, 1703/29, to TETRARCH, TRITON, REGULUS).

Air Recon.

Air reconnaissance for 29/11 (a) Cagliari, 2 Destroyers (b) Maddalena, 1 Cruiser 1 Destroyer 1 Auxiliary. (c) Messina, 3 Cruisers 3 Destroyers usual berths. No damaged ships apparently present. (V.A. Malta, 1731/29, H.Q. Malta 1720/29)

/ Suez Canal

29.11.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

820

Suez Canal.

Your 1917/27. Yes, but I consider fact that control of Canal Company is exercised from London and not Chatel Guyon should be made generally known in order to allay disquietude among those in company who are strongly supporting us and encourage waverers to do same. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1847/29).

Spezia Dock.

Reference C.B. 1712.A. pages 35 and 198, a report graded B.1 states that No.5 Dock at Spezia has been lengthened to accommodate a LITTORIO class Battleship. (D.N.I. 1849/29).

Sarande
and
Durazzo
Bombed.

Day 28/11. 3 Blenheims attacked a large enemy ship in Sarande. No hits bombs fell on wharves. 6 Blenheims bombed Durazzo and 2 others bombed Elbasan results unobserved owing to low cloud. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1208/29).

East Indies.

Suspicious Ship.

Ship in approximate position 30° 31' S. 55' 00° E. reports intercepting QQQQ signal at 1300/29. Signals were strong and apparently close. (D.D.I.C. 2021/29 and 2345/29 to C.in C. E.I.
Your 2021/29. CARTHAGE proceeding towards 027° S., 048° E. to intercept and give cover to UMEENI. Request name of ship intercepting QQQQ message, whether 1300 is G.M.T. or Zone - 3 and confirmation that no position or name of ship was included in QQQQ signal. (C.in C. E.I. 2226Z/29 to Admty.)

Add to my 2021/29. Signals were very strong and apparently close. (D.D.I.C., 2345/29).

U.S.7
Escort
(position)

Your 0514 28/11. CAPETOWN will rendezvous with US 7 and relieve CANBERRA (position). Intend PERTH and CAPETOWN to escort US 7 from Colombo to vicinity of Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/29 to Australian Naval Board.)

S.W.3.
False Italian
Claim.

29.11.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

821

East Indies. (Continued)

S.W.3.
False Italian
Claim.

Reference Reuter 28/11 in which Italian Communique is quoted as claiming sinking by S/M of three Merchant men in convoy in Red Sea 26/11. Inform local press all ships known to have been at sea in Red Sea on this date are accounted for and no reports of sinkings have been received. (C.in C. E.I., 1220Z/29 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Reuter's A.M. 28/11 reads "Italians also claim that one of their Submarines in Red Sea on 26/11 torpedoed and sank three Merchantmen in a heavily escorted convoy". (ii) CALEDON escorting S.W.3 reports three underwater explosions felt between 0010Z and 0015Z 26/11 in 015° 30' N. All ships in Red Sea on this date accounted for except TAIFF bound from Fort Sudan to Yembo due Suez 1/12 when her arrival should be reported. (iii) It seems undesirable that such Italian statements should appear in press without some comment or denial. Have denied this statement on MEYNELL. My 1220Z/29 refers. (iv) Possible that S.W.3 was fired at and torpedoes exploded at end run without hitting. (C.in C. E.I. 1222Z/29 to Admty. amended 0752Z/30)

Your 1222Z329. Concur in steps taken to refute Italian claim. (D.P.D., 2344/29, to C.in C. E.I.).

Operation
"Canned"

Operation "Canned" (attack on fish cannery, Mogadishu) completed. First bombing attack on D/F Station at 1055 C no apparent damage. Bombardment of Fish factory commenced 1156. Considerable damage including two fires one probably Petrol factory judged out of action. Second bombing attack on D/F Station 1520 C. A/C on landing ground. Hospital clearly distinguishable, no Wells near it or native village. No operatives seen at any time in or near factory. A/C met some rifle fire. (LEANDER 1258Z/29 to C.in C. E.I.)

Air Report.

Daily Intelligence Summary No. 170 and Operational Summary, for 24 hours ending 1500 29/11. No casualties. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1740/29 to Air Min.).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

822

China.

Dutch Navy
Talks.

My 0201Z/23. Discussion completed.
Dutch officers leave for Java a.m./30.
(C.in C. China 1013/29).
My 0141/28 (co-operation with Dutch
Forces and issue of Inter-Allied Code).
Para. 3, for Code read Cypher.
(C.in C. China, 0501Z/29).

ILE DE FRANCE
Repatriees.

Your 0537/19. Request information
whether ILE DE FRANCE personnel sailed
according to plan and may be expected
(date) at Lourenco Marques. (Hd. of M.
1354/29 to Cdre, Malaya.) *Reply: p. 845.*

Situation.

F.E.W. 6. (Capt. O.S., Singapore,
1203/29).

Secret document.

I have not yet received a copy.
Suggesting enquiry as to disposal.
(C.in C. China, 1003/29).

America and West Indies.

DIOMEDE.

Proceed Trinidad at best possible speed.
Flooding of fuel tanks should be avoided
if possible. Fuel on arrival and await
further orders. Report by W/T your
expected time of arrival Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1232/29, to DIOMEDE)
Your 1232/29. E.T.A. Trinidad 1400/1.
(DIOMEDE 1712/29).

"Town" Class
Destroyers.

SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR leave
Halifax 1500 G.M.T. 30/11 for St. Johns
Newfoundland and Clyde (route).
(S.O. Halifax Force, 1615/29)

Convoy,
Sydney.

Convoy assembly at Sydney will cease
after sailing of S.H.X. 94 and
S.C.15. S.C.16 will be ready to sail
from Halifax (date). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,
1702/29).

Aircraft.

Your 1212/29. Military and Lockheed
planes will leave Curacoa 0700 and
0900 respectively 30/11. (S.N.O.
Curacoa, to C.in C. A.W.I., 1715/29)

CABLE ENTERPRISE.

N.O. i/c Trinidad 1051/28 November
(re laying of loops and submitting
alteration of whaler to loop layer ideal)
CABLE ENTERPRISE now at St. Lucia but I
have no information of arrangement made
with Cable Company regarding employment
for loop laying. Concur in proposal
of N.O. i/c Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1902/29 to Admty.)

29.11.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

823

Australia.

Flagship.

Flag of F.O.C. Australian Sqdn. transferred temporarily to CANBERRA 27/11. (A.C.N.B. 0507/29).

MAURETANIA
U.S.8.

My 0707/12/10. Estimated time for boiler repairs. In view of movements of EMPRESS OF RUSSIA this would occasion very little delay to U.S.8. (A.C.N.B., 1134Z/29 to D. of S.T.)

ADELAIDE

Arrived Sydney 1850Z/28. (A.C.N.B. 1009Z/29).

New Zealand.

Suva.

Maintenance of oil stocks at, in view of increased activity in Pacific and regular visits of MONOWAI and ACHILLES. (N.Z.N.B., to Admty., 0614Z/29).

RANGITANE
(sunk 26/11)

Conditions of attack on RANGITANE suggest R.D.F. or acoustic methods of detection. Request view of D.S.R. to assist in designing detection set. (N.Z.N.B. to Admty., 2345Z/29)
My 1159Z/27. After further investigation RANGITANE position was found to be only 40 miles 180° from estimated position. (N.Z.N.B., 0400Z/29)
Confirmation of RANGITANE sinking by raider on 26/11 received from Norwegian TA PING YANG, which arrived Auckland 28/11 and reports having seen wreckage and large patch of oil in position of the attack. (D.S.452,30/11)

SAN GABRIEL.

Greek, torpedoed 30/8 and subsequently beached in Clyde, now reported a constructive total loss. (D.S. 452)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1940.

Friday.

824

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GERMANIA

It is important if possible to intercept oil tanker GERMANIA reported as having arrived Las Palmas 28/11.
(D.O.D.(F) 0032/29 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Proceed forthwith to Areas S 3 S 2 and S 1 respectively. Object intercept GERMANIA.
(F.O.C.N.P. 0150/29 to CIRCASSIA, CALIFORNIA, WORCESTERSHIRE).

Your 0150/29, request confirmation that area S. is intended since available information puts GERMANIA at Ponta Delgada.
(WORCESTERSHIRE, 1328/29, to V.A.N.P.)

My 1320/29 amend to read WORCESTERSHIRE F 2.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1708/29).

Bi-weekly report from Las Palmas.
GERMANIA now berthed alongside breakwater outer harbour. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1715/29).

GERMANIA arrived Las Palmas 0400/28 fully loaded. (F.O.C.N.P. 1840/29, to Western Patrol).

IDARWALD
RHEIN

IDARWALD sailed 0745, RHEIN at 0825.
(S.O.I., Kingston, 0915/29 to Admty., etc.)

German ships IDARWALD and RHEIN left Tampico at 0700 today.
(N.A. Washington, 1034/29).

My immediately preceding telegram ships sailed 7 o'clock this morning 29/11.
Jamaica advised direct by R.O. Tampico.
(Consul General, Mexico City 1052A/29).

German Ships IDARWALD and RHEIN sailed from Tampico a.m./29. Request two aircraft be sent to Jamaica so as to be ready to commence operations from there at daylight 2/12. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1212/29, to S.N.O. Curacoa).

Your 1212/29. Military and Lockheed planes will leave Curacoa 0700 and 0900 respectively 30/11. (S.N.O. Curacoa, 1715/29).

My immediately preceding tel. IDARWALD went ashore about a mile South of port entrance but was able to re-float herself. Both vessels are reported to have taken Southerly course. (Consul General, Mexico City, 1228/29).

/ IDARWALD



29.11.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

825

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Continued)

IDARWALD ran aground one mile S.E. of port entrance. Reported relocated and both ships proceeding southerly direction. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1500/29).

Press report states German steamers RHEIN and IDARWALD left Tampico today 29/11. (D.D.I.C. 1631/29 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

My 1034/29. Navy Dept. report RHEIN received clearance papers for Teneriffe. (N.A. Washington, 1824/29).

RUDOLF ALBRECHT
BADEN

Following received by L/T from Teneriffe G.T.C. Recoded (Begins). German aeroplane arrived here 26/11 and another 28/11 with 33 seamen for German vessels RUDOLF ALBRECHT & BADEN. First aeroplane proceeded to Las Palmas same day and second aircraft left 28/11 for unknown destination. (Gibraltar, 1110/29, to Admty.)

NORBURG

German vessel NORBURG arrived from Russia 27/11. (Macrae, Galatz, 1144/29).

KLAUS SCHOKE

Reported that German ship KLAUS SCHOKE may sail from Ponta Delgada P.M. today Friday. (D.D.I.C. 2034/29).

LEESEE)
GERDA VITH)
BESSEL)
NORD ATLANTIC)
LA PLATA)

At Vigo. B.2 report, every sign of early departure. (D.S., 452/30/11).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

AEQUITAS.

Italian ship AEQUITAS left Ceara 0950/29 for Rio de Janeiro escorted by Brazilian Minelayer CARIOCA. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1457Z/29).

DERNA.

Arrived 29/11 from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1746/29).

RECCA.

Following from Navy Department. My 1217/28 RECCA sailed from Havana 1000/28.

FELLA.

Italian steamer FELLA at Punta Arenas is taking on board water and stores indicating intention to sail. (N.A. Washington, 1824/29.)

29.11.1940
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

826

• Ships Attacked

HARPASA

British, 5082 tons. 53.35 N., 20.33 W.,
HARPASA, submarine sighted, 1032/29.
(Valentia Radio 1120/29) (Rosyth W/T 1225/29)

DIPLOMAT
(Torpedoed 27/11)

If ship not found by dusk return to
Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, to
ASSURANCE, SALVONIA, 1651/29)

JUSTITIA
(torpedoed 22/11)

British, 4562 tons. Torpedoed 2357/22
approx. 160' W., of Bloody Foreland. In
Convoy S.C. 11 Latest reports state
afloat but listing. 26 members of crew
landed at Liverpool by BLUEBELL. Master
and 12 others believed still on board.
(D.S. 452, 30/11) (D.O.R. 1/12)

Submarines Reported

1150

A.F. message, 53.35 N., 20.33 W., at 1050
G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1246/29)

1907

52°- 53° N., 15.30-18.30 W., indefinite
position Italian U-Boat (D.S. 452)

1132

53.35 N., 20.33 W., sighted by British
HARPASA (B.1.) (D.S. 452)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian 1 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts
unknown.
1 in about 52 N., 17 W., outward and 1 in
about 54 N., 16 W., homeward bound to
Gironde.
German- 1 N.W. Orkneys.
1 between 59 and 60 N., 16 and 20 W., at
2050/28.
3 in area 54 to 57 N., 12° to 20° W.,
1 South of 56 N., and East of 10° W.,
1 possibly S.W. Ireland bound for Lorient
1 may arrive Lorient p.m. today.
(D.D.I.C. 1145/29) (V.A.S., 1328/29)

30.11.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

827

SITUATION REPORT.

Raider Situation.

The Admiralty estimate that 5 of these vessels and possibly ^{Admiral} SCHEER are operating in various parts of the world.

Raider 1.

- (a) Description - Pocket Battleship
ADMIRAL SCHEER.
- (b) Last heard of - 5/11 in 52°
48' N. 32° 15' W. attacking
HX 84.
- (c) Supply ship. Suspected one
vessel of ALTMARK Class.
- (d) Forecasted area of operations.
May have returned to Germany.

Raider 2.

- (a) Armed merchant raider.
- (b) 20/11. 600 miles S.E. of Bermuda
attacking S.S. PORT HOBART.
- (c) German S.S. HELGOLAND left
Puerto Colombia, 28/10.
- (d) East Atlantic South of Azores.

Raider 3.

- (a) Armed Merchant Raider.
- (b) 8/10. Sinking S.S. NATIA near
St. Paul Rocks.
- (c) German S.S. RIO GRANDE left
Rio Grande de Sol 30/10.
- (d) Pernambuco Area.

Raider 4.

- (a) Armed Merchant Raider.
- (b) 10/11 sinking S.S. OLE JACOB
and 11/11 sinking S.S. AUTOMEDON
250 miles west of Achin Head,
Sumatra.
- (c) None known but at least one
suspected.
- (d) Colombo - Straits of Malacca
Trade Route.

Raider 5.

- (a) Armed Merchant Raider.
- (b) 20/11. Attacking S.S. MAIMOA
and 21/11. Attacking
S.S. PORT BRISBANE 800 miles
West of Perth - Western
Australia.
- (c) None known but at least one
suspected.
- (d) Cape of Good Hope. South
Australian Trade Route.

/ Accurate

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

823

Raider Situation-Contd.

Raider 6.

- (a) Armed merchant raider
- (b) 4/11 and 7/11 laying mines in Bass Straits and possibly sinking SS. RANGITANE 26th November 300 miles east of East Cape North Island, New Zealand.
- (c) None known but one suspected.
- (d) Borneo area and Indian Ocean

Accurate description of raiders difficult owing to vagueness of reports and frequent use of disguises such as dummy bulwarks, houses, boats teleopic topmasts and funnels. Two types appear to be operating in Atlantic, but this may be due to effective disguise.

Home Commands

The Admiralty have approved the discontinuation of sloops as ocean escorts to S.C. Convoys.

JERSEY sailed for Gibraltar at 1745 today.

Shelling by Coastal Batteries

Coastal Batteries at Wissent^a and Gris Nez fired 13 rounds early this morning, all of which are thought to have fallen in the sea. Convoy C.E. 18 was near at the time but was undamaged. The enemy coastal batteries have now fired 1511 rounds.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Shipyards at Bremen were attacked last night. Attacks were also made on Boulogne and Le Havre.

Coastal Command

Blenheims last night attacked the submarine base and docks at Lorient.



War Diary.

30.11.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT.

829

Enemy Air Activity.

CILICIA attacked.

CILICIA, escorting Convoy S.L.55 was attacked by an enemy aircraft this morning 200 miles west of Ireland and had 2 casualties, though no damage to the ship is reported.

Convoy C.E.18.

Convoy C.E.18 was attacked this morning off Ramsgate. No damage is reported.

Attack on
Southampton.

A heavy attack on Southampton commenced at 1845 today. (See 1/12).

Mining.

CHESTNUT sunk.

H/S Trawler CHESTNUT was mined this morning off Margate and sank later. (p. 826)

Minelaying by mining aircraft was carried out tonight off the South-West coast and probably off the East coast.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and off Swansea.

Plymouth will be open daily from 0930 to 1100 and from 1600 to 1730.

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements for M.E. arrived at Alexandria today in S.S. NEW ZEALAND STAR, escorted by C.S.18 in MANCHESTER with SOUTHAMPTON, COVENTRY and 2 destroyers.

C.in C. Mediterranean today stated (C.in C. Med. 1237/30) the policy which he considers should be adhered to with regard to the operation of aircraft at Malta. The former telegram contains some remarks concerning aircraft reconnaissance and operation "Collar".

30.11.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

830

China.

German ships.

ELSA ESSBERGER and WINNETOU disappeared from Kobe today and nothing is known of their whereabouts.

America and West Indies.

Sailing of German ships.

PORTLAND left Coquimbo at 2130 local time today. Other ships are expected to sail from Mexico and South American ports shortly.

War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

831

Policy

Destroyer
for Gibraltar

One destroyer of 5th.D.F. to be at half an hours notice for proceeding to Gibraltar by 1530/30. (VCNS.1037/30 to C. in C. W.A.) JERSEY detailed. (C. in C. W.A.1624/30 to Adty). *See next page*

Despatch of Tugs
to Disabled Ships

When reports received of torpedoed ships, it would greatly assist and economise tugs if confirmation could be obtained by A/C or surface ship that damaged ship is still afloat. The policy of sending a tug to great distances in Atlantic to search unaided for a ship reported damaged is wasteful and imposes severe strain on tug's personnel. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1309/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

Destroyer for
Western Approaches.

Adty. 1734/30. Send one Tribal Class Destroyer from Scapa. (C. in C. H.F.2256/30 to R.A.D).

Discontinuance of
Sloops for Ocean
Escorts.

Your 2030/16. Approved. (ACNS.T.2301/30 to C. in C. W.A).

Defence of United Kingdom.

Shetlands,
Scapa.

~~At Defence.~~

*additional
aerodromes.*

Your 1001/28. Suggest orders be given to construct additional runways at Scatsta and an aerodrome on North side of Balta sound in Unst whatever may be the difficulties. (C. in C. H.F.1107/30 to Adty).

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

At 1130/30. (D.C.1128/30). At 2330/30 (D.C.2335/30).

Methil.

New Balloon Barrage is shortly to be established. Details. (Air Min:1458/30).

Movements.

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 30/1. (C. in C. Nore 0800/30).

MAORI.

To proceed at 1000/1 to Tyne for re-fit. (C. in C. H.F.0932/30 to MAORI).

Dover.

Dispositions for Night 30/1. (V.A. Dover 1231/30).

Iceland.

My 2100/28 and 0951/29. NORTHERN PRINCESS sailed 1315 G.M.T. escorting Oiler OLIGARCH. (F.O. Iceland 1246/30 to Adty).



War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

832

Movements (contd:)

FORFAR.

Sailed, escorted by ST.LAURENT, as by F.O.C.N.P.1702/29 and routed as in C.in C. W.A. 2232/29 and F.O.C.N.P. 0930/30. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1305/30 to Adty).

ENCHANTRESS.

Arrive Aldeburgh Light Float 0730/1 and thence at 10 knots to Sheerness to de-ammunition. Route. (C.in C. Nore 1430/30 to ENCHANTRESS).

Orkneys.

Movements tonight. (A.C.O.S.1514/30). Trawler lines tonight.(A.C.O.S.1536/30).

Rosyth.

Movements tonight (C.in C.Rosyth 1546/30 and 2358/30).

Western Channel. Night report. (C.in C. W.A.1558/30 and 1848/30).

SWONA, SKUDDIII) Sailed as by Adty.1134/22/11. (N.O.I.C.
SKUDDIV, SKUDDV) Ardrossan 1637/30 to Adty).

JERSEY

Sailed 1745. E.T.A.1800/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1904/30 to Adty). *See previous page.*

BEVERLEY.)
BURNHAM.)
BRADFORD.)

Your 1202/30. Subject to no further defects should be sailed by 7/12. *from Scapa.*
(R.A.D. H.F.2258/30 to C. in C. W.A.)



30.11.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

833

Operations.

D.5.

JAVELIN and 2 tugs arrived. (C. in C. W.A. 0436/30 to Adty).

NIGERIA enters Sound at 1730. When she is clear, proceed patrol Eddystone to Lands End to cover Shipping in Channel. Leave Patrol in time to comply with my 1244/30. JUPITER will join tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1550/30 to KASHMIR, KIPLING, JACKAL).

Arrived Plymouth JERSEY 0150/30, JUPITER 0239/30, JAVELIN in tow of RETORT and ATLAS 0425/30, KASHMIR and KIPLING 1340/30, CONCERTATOR and TREVO TERCEIRO 1225/30. Sailed from Plymouth JACKAL, KIPLING, KASHMIR 1815/30. (C. in C. W.A. 2318/30 to Adty).

Belgian Coast.

Three 70 ft. M.T.B's are to operate between Flushing and Ostend tonight Saturday. If considered practicable Flushing Roads should be visited.

Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E. may be attacked without challenge.

If sailing after dark F.O.I.C. Harwich is requested to warn all patrols concerned. (C. in C. Nore 1146/30 to BEEHIVE).

M.T.B's 22, 30, 31 sailed at 2011. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2016/30 to Adty).

Chasseurs Patrol off Anvil Point.

Chasseurs 13, 05, and 42 to patrol between 2200/30 and 0200/1 off Anvil Point. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1313/30). Operation cancelled. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1808/30 to 50. Chasseurs).

Dover shelled.

Coastal Batteries at Wissant and Gris Nez fired thirteen rounds between 0432 and 0443 today. Three fell to seaward of Dover Harbour and remainder are thought to have fallen on the sea off South Foreland. C E18 was in the vicinity of Dungeness at the time.

The second of these rounds brought the total fired by enemy coastal batteries to one thousand five hundred.

A further ten rounds were fired between 1405 and 1559 all of which fell in vicinity of Royal Marine Siege Battery. (V.A. Dover 1746/30 to Adty).



War Diary.

30.11.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

834

Operations (Contd:)

D.21

2 Enemy M.T.B's bearing N. 1 mile course 010°. My position 52°25' N. 2°2' E. (Capt.D.21)

Submarines.

PORPOISE.

Sailed, escorted by CUTTY SARK as by S.2. 2302/27 and 1536/29. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0945/30 to Adty).

Intend that Operational Control of PORPOISE be transferred to C.in C. A.& W.I. on her entering his Station at 0001/6 G.M.T. (V.A.S.1722/30 to Adty).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/1. (V.A.S. 1631/30).

British Air Activity.

Straits of Dover.
Rescue arrange-
ments.

X.298. Nov.30. Limited offensive patrol by strong formation will be carried out by Fighter Command in immediate future of Calais-Boulogne Area. Request in consultation with Fighter Command full arrangements are made to ensure safety service is satisfactory in this part of the Channel for picking up pilots who bale out during air fighting. (Air Ministry 1201/30 to Adty).

Standard Air
Patrols.

The following have been instituted as from 1/12 (C.in C. Rosyth 2244/30).

Air Patrols.

My 2244. Patrols for tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 2254/30).

821 and 823
Squadrons, *Hatston*
Disbandment and
Re-allocation.

821 and 823 Squadrons to cease operating forthwith and then disband for re-allocation to other urgent service. 12 A/C with crews to Donibristle and rest to Lee-on-Solent as soon as possible. A.C.O.S. requested to arrange. (5th S.L.1529/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Bosom"
BOSOM

(CE. 18 *of*
Rensgate)

One A/C shadowing. My position 51°16'N. 1°29'E. (BERKELEY 0908/30). Enemy A/C shadowing in 51°18'N. 1°30'E. Speed 7 knots. (BERKELEY 0940/30). Enemy attacking in 51°20'N. 1°33'E. course 005°, speed 7 knots. (BERKELEY 1025/30).



War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

835

Enemy Air Activity (Contd:)

CILICIA.

One enemy A/C. (CILICIA 0910/30) 2 near misses in 54°2'N. 15°42'W. One rating killed, one slightly wounded. (CILICIA 0942/30 to Adty).

CHARMOUTH)
RATTRAY)

(Trawlers) Attacked by large black A/C at 1330/27 G.M.T. in 53°30'N. 12°4'W. while fishing. 2 bombs, machine-gunned, and shelled. No casualties or damage. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1229/30 to Adty).

Convoy "Loose".
Section.

2 A/C shadowing in 50°8'N. 4°19'W. (NIGERIA 1454/30) D.S.453 states NIGERIA was unsuccessfully attacked by 2 enemy A/C, one of which was shot down by fighters.

Liverpool.

Air-raid on night 28/29 caused following damage. (S.C.E.Liverpool 1915/30 to C.E. in C.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

MILFORD PRINCE reports one Red Mine detonated 0410/30 in 218° Knob Light Vessel 1 mile. (Capt.M/S.0720/30 and 1019/30 to C.in C.Nore).

Owing to possible Minelaying, sweeps are to be kept out during passage of Q.Z.S.159 up to East Shingles Buoy. (C.inC.Nore 0758/30 to BERKELEY).

Denmark Straits.

Request ships on patrol in Denmark Strait try to locate the 100, 200 and 300 fathom lines in view of Mining possibilities. (R.A.M.L.0946/30 to R.A.N.P). Do not consider instruments in A.M.C's can give information required. (F.O.C.N.P. 1558/30 to R.A.M.L).

Trials of Floodlighting Device.

It was agreed that trials should be carried out in the Harwich area of a flood lighting device for illuminating low flying enemy mine laying aircraft. The apparatus has been installed but it is understood from the Air Ministry that there are local Naval objections to a trial.

Trials considered most desirable. It is requested that if in fact there are local Naval objections they may be reported and suggestions made for the conduct of the trials at the earliest possible date. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1113/30 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

.....Your



War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

836

Mining (Contd:)

Your 1113/30. No official objections have been raised but it should be pointed out.

- (A) That it seems unlikely that enemy minelaying aircraft will be illuminated.
- (B) That the position of the lights will indicate the Harwich area to night bombers. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1735/30 to Adty).

Operation G.Q.I.
(Little Sole Bank).

Escort detailed JACKAL, KASHMIR, KIPLING. Escort to R/V with ADVENTURE at 1330/1 in 315° Hartland Point 5 miles. JUPITER will join at 1745/1 in 50°11'N. 6°W. On 2/12 Escort to be detached in time to reach Plymouth 1730. (C.inC.W.A.1756/30 to ADVENTURE). Request Fighter protection (C.in C.W.A.1324/30 to H.Q.F.C.)

ICARUS.

Intend sail ICARUS. ETA. Plymouth 0930. Route. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1257/30 to Adty) ICARUS sailed 2200 for Dartmouth. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2257/30 to C.in C.W.A.)

Swansea.

Acoustic Mine exploded by S.A. Gear in TEWARA 188° Flatholm Light 1.2 miles. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1300/30 and 1805/30).

Plymouth.

Cancel my 2041/26. Plymouth open daily from 0930 till 1100 and from 1600 till 1730. (C.inC. W.A.1632/30).

Humber.

At 1230/29 a Mine exploded in 101° Spurn Point Lighthouse 5 miles, presumably by D.W. FITZGERALD with S.A.Gear who was about 2 miles away at the time. No other ship near. (F.O. Humber 1840/30 to Adty).

CHESTNUT.

(M/S Trawler). Mined at 1150/30 between Botany Buoy and East Margate Buoy, and sank at 1400/30 about 2 cables 240° from position of East Shingles Buoy. Acoustic Mine. Understood no casualties. (C. in C.Nore 1857/30 to Adty. and Cdre. in charge, Sheerness 2315/30 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat.

Suspected in 52°5'N. 1°51'E. steering South at 0040. (C.inC. Nore 0109/30).

Main German Units.

On 29/11. (D.D.I.C. 1558/30).

.....Unknown Unit.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

837

Enemy Intelligence (Contd:)

Unknown Unit.

At 1646/30 in 60°15'N. 40E. Probably destroyer or larger. D/F unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1727/30).

Start Point.

At 2050, suspicious craft 5 miles East of Start Point. M.T.B. being sent from Dartmouth. (C. in C. W.A.2114/30).

Use of Swedish territorial waters by Germans.

Naval Chief of Defence Ministry informs me, that according to international agreement all types of German vessels may pass through outer Swedish territorial waters in Sound providing they do not operate in military manner. Ministry point out that if German magnetic minesweepers passed nightly ahead of convoys it would be difficult to ascertain whether or not they were sweeping and thus Sweden might be permitting an unneutral act. All German ships, other than single merchant vessels, when proceeding northward must leave Swedish waters of the Sound before arriving at Swedish gate off Viken.

I formed the impression that Drogen and Flintrannen channels offer an alternative to both Swedes and Germans according to magnetic mine situation. Even Swedish coast defence vessels prefer eight metres depth Drogen to their own waters in Flintrannen now dredged to 7.2 metres.

I still believe Swedes do their best to protect the neutrality of their waters. B three report of November 20th states that six German transports whilst sheltering at Stromstad were inspected by the Swedes and on being found to contain troops and munitions for Norway were ordered to sea.

Moreover Minister on 28th had absolute denial from Secretary General that German mine sweepers operated in Swedish waters and I have again had similar statement from Naval Chief of Defence Ministry. (N.A. Stockholm 1647/29).

Miscellaneous.

C.in C. H.F.

Flag of Admiral J.C.Tovey, C.B., D.S.O. to be hoisted in BONAVENTURE at 0900/2 and transferred to NELSON at sunset that day.



War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

838

Casualties and Defects.

WITHERINGTON.

Your 1638/29. Cannot be sailed at present, owing to defects. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1125/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

CAROLINE MOLLER.

(Rescue

Tug) Your 0845/30. Divers will be sent when available. Proceed to Millbay Docks at 1600 to-day. (C. in C. W.A. 1517/30 to CAROLINE MOLLER).

Life-Boats and Wreckage.

At 1300/29 about 12 miles South of Sanda, BALMARINE picked up 2 lifeboats one with breaker marked KIRKHOLM, and CLAPHAM picked up one raft. No survivors seen. (N.O.I.C. Ardrosan 1630/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

War Diary

30.11.1940
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HOME COMMANDS

839

Convoys

Shipping

Positions

Estimated positions, N. Atlantic Convoys (D.T.D. 1110/30 to C. in C., H.F.)

F.N. 48

Postponed 24 hours (C. in C., Rosyth 2003/30)

C.E. 18

Arrived Southend with trawlers LE TIGER and BENGALIRN (N.C.S.O. Thames 1426/30).

O.B. 251

WHITEHALL to join (C. in C., W.A. 0218/30) Cancel my 0218 (0500/30) FOLKESTONE to join, S.O., VISCOUNT, (C. in C., W.A. 1133/30)

F.N. 47

Left Southend for Tyne with OAKFIELD (N.C.O.S., 0947/30)

F.S. 51

WINDSOR to R.V. (C. in C., Nore, 1124/30)

S.C. 14

Draft sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1500/30)

O.B. 252

Sailed 1230/30 Escort, WELLINGTON, VANSITTART, VETERAN (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1305/30)

H.X. 92

Sailing telegram Escort MONTCLARE, S.H.X., ELK, LUPIN. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1115/30)

Bristol Channel

Cancel my 1130/7/11 and 0013/29. Owing to minelaying all merchant ships bound for Port Talbot or Bristol Channel ports to westward other than Milford Haven are to be routed to Swansea Bay. (D.T.D. 1229/30)

Sloop Escorts

Your 2030/16, discontinuance of sloops as ocean escorts, approved. (D.O.D.(H) 2301/30 to C. in C., W.A.)

Rattray Head

Amending his 1645/1/11. (C. in C., Rosyth 1817/30)

A.M.C's

Your 1905/27. All A.M.C's either returning direct to Freetown or proceeding to U.K. should leave the convoy 24 hours before reaching R/V with the local escort. A.M.C's proceeding independently in the N.W. Approaches should be routed well to the north of the convoy route in order to minimise the danger of air attack. Requested you will issue a route to the ocean escorts. Risk of collision with out-going convoys independently sailed ships will thus be avoided. (D.T.D. 0143/30 to C. in C., S.A.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

30.11.1940.

Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Raider Situation.

Appreciation.

Admty. estimate of raider situation is that 5 of these vessels and possibly ^{ADRIAN} SCHEER are operating in various parts of the world. Descriptions and details. (D.D.I.C., 0933/30, 1051/30, to N.A. Washington). See Vol. Raiders.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Repatrioes.

Your 1354 29th November. Personnel sailed from Singapore today 30th November. Expected to arrive Lourenco Marques 19th repetition 19th December. (F.O. Malaya, 0531Z/30, to Admty.)

VILLE DU HAVRE
DRAGON

Fuel remaining 55%. Unless instructions received propose re-embarking armed guard and returning to Freetown at 1100. Tug still in company. Position. (DRAGON, 0650N/30 to C.in C. S.A.)

Remain in company with vessels till further orders. (C.in C. S.A., 1027/30, to DRAGON).

466. Your 2352/28 stating further instructions would be sent, request very early decision. DRAGON has been standing by VILLE DU HAVRE since 1620/28 and will have to start to return Freetown in about 36 hours on account of fuel. No cruiser available to relieve her. (C.in C. S.A. 1029N/30 to Admty.)

My 2352/28. Certificate should be obtained that no part of cargo carried is of enemy origin and ship is then to be released. (V.C.N.S. 1400/30, to DRAGON)

MARECHAL JOFFRE,
Repatriation.

French Embassy request safe conduct for voyage French ship MARECHAL JOFFRE from Indo China to France via Madagascar and French West Africa. Ship engaged in repatriation of French demobilized soldiers, sick officials and women and children. Also request permission for ship to take cargo of rice to West Africa. (N.A. Madrid, 1845/30 to Admty.)

30.11.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ENCOUNTER

Left 2335/30 for R.V. with MARSDALE.
(S.O.I., Gibraltar 2350/30).

UTMOST.

Left in accordance F.O.C.N.A. 1242/28.
(S.O.I., Gibraltar, 1852/30).

Germans at
Las Palmas

My 1705/28 (German passenger aircraft
arriving Gando Aerodrome). Both German
aeroplanes left yesterday afternoon
29/11 full of Germans and Italians and
their baggage. Destination not known but
presume Spain. (Consul, Las Palmas,
1200/30).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN
DESPATCH

Your 2226/29 to Admiralty only:-
ROYAL SOVEREIGN and DESPATCH are to
be sailed for Halifax and Bermuda
respectively as soon as ready.
Further signal will be made as to
movements of other ships mentioned.
(D.O.D.(F) 1224/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

NEWCASTLE

Admty. 0036/25/11, and V.A. Malta's
1929/25/11. Request instruction regards
sailing of NEWCASTLE to Freetown.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1238/30 to Admty.)

Your 1238/30. Engineer-in-Chief
considers defects enumerated in V.A.
Malta's 1929/25 are local and should
not affect seagoing and fighting
efficiency. Unless you consider
otherwise, assuming that ship will
remain off South American coast for six
months, she is to be sailed in
accordance with A.T. 0036/25.
(D.O.D. (F) 1841/30).

TRIUMPH.

Intend to sail TRIUMPH on A/S Patrol
in area South of Alboran p.m./30.
In view of presence of Force H at
Gibraltar TRIUMPH will not have orders
to attack French surface ships.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1252/30 to Admty.)
TRIUMPH left 1730/30 (S.O.I. Gib.,
1852/30).

TRIUMPH. patrol.

The area between meridian 003° 20' W.
and 002° 40' W. and parallel with 035°
55' N. and 035° 30' N. is declared a
sanctuary between A.M. 1/12 and P.M. 13/12
during the period in which TRIUMPH will
be on patrol. No submarine is to be
attacked in this area during the period
stated. (F.O.C.N.A. 1734/30).

BERWICK.

Your 1850/29. It is intended that
BERWICK should proceed in accordance
with my 0036/25 Para. F', accepting the
fact that one turret is out of action.

/ Request ...

30.11.1940.
Saturday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

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North Atlantic. (Contd.)

BERWICK (contd.)

Request report whether necessary repairs can be carried out to make ship fit for service in other respects. (D.O.D.(F) 1337/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Air Report.

A.281 30/11. Daily summary operations. (200 Group, 1735/30).

SIQUEIRA CAMPOS.

Reported there are 500 pairs of binoculars among armament items on board Brazilian ship SIQUEIRA CAMPOS. These would be of utmost value to R.N. Ascertain unobstrusively whether they are in fact on board and report as soon as possible. (D.E.W.D.1831/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

RENOWN.

My 2116/29. Anticipate all defective H.P. conveyances will be renewed by 1200/5. Ship will be at 6 hours notice. (S.O. Force H., 2128/30, to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

To sail 1600/30. Route. (For Scapa). (C.in C. S.A., 1015N/30) Left (S.O.I. Freetown 1647N/30 2133N/30).

BARON CAWDOR)
AUSTVARD)

Due Capetown 25/11, not arrived. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1035 B/30).

RESOLUTION,)
Guns for)
Libreville and)
Port Gentil.)

Admty. 0008/28. Arrangements for transport and mounting of guns from RESOLUTION at Libreville and Port Gentil. (C.in C. S.A., 1413/30 to Admty., 1439/30 to C.S.1.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH

Left Table Bay at 0915/30 routed Trincomalee, but Master would prefer Singapore direct. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

TORDENE

My 1008/27, overdue shipping, TORDENE arrived. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1624/30)

Suspicious ship.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0845Z/30 see East Indies.

WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN.

Royal Netherlands ship WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN sailed Freetown 30/11 for Capetown via St.Helena. Ship will not now call at Walvis Bay. (C.in C. S.A. 1125N/30 to Admty.)

DANMARK.

My 1831/28 (Convoy sailing telegram) and S.O.(I) Capetown's 1020B/11. Ex Danish Ship DANMARK has armed guard on board from Australia and Capetown. I am of opinion that the Master is reliable and that the trouble with Officers and crew was due to fear of German reprisals on their families in Denmark. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1212/30 to Admty.).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean.

UPRIGHT.
PROTEUS.

Capt. S.1's 1413/28. Positions and route. (V.A. Malta to UPRIGHT, 1035/30).
Movements of PROTEUS (V.A. Malta, to UPRIGHT, 1935/30).

Air Reports.

Summary No. 173 to 1200/30. No naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1136/30).

Operation Expeditionary No.17. No naval items. (B.A.F. Greece, 1700/30).
Malta report to 1700/30. No naval items (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/30).

UTMOST.

F.O.C.N.A. 1242/28. Route, and movements of PROTEUS. (V.A. Malta, 1939/30 to UTMOST).

Fire Ships.

Admty. 1733/23. Consider fire ships of this type could be used effectively against several Italian harbours. Suggestions. (C.in C. Med., 1503/30).

Air Targets
from Malta.

Admty. 1029/26. Policy I consider desirable has recently been ordered in my 1305/27. Close range targets quoted in Admty. 1029/26 should not be attacked until Malta is better prepared to answer retaliatory action. (C.in C. Med., 1501/30, to Admty.)

VIKING)
MARIE MAERSK)

Admty. 1316/27. Greek Govt. informs me both VIKING and MARIE MAERSK will fly Greek flag. (N.A. Athens, 1400/30).

A.S.7.

Convoy A.S.7 Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0932/30).

Reconnaissance
Aircraft.

Notwithstanding Admty. 1845/5/10, Re aircraft at Malta. (C.in C. Med., 1237/30 to Admty.) See Mediterranean Volume.

Reinforcements.

MANCHESTER, SOUTHAMPTON arrived (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1258/30).

Operation
"Collar"
Action on
27/11.

Your 1005/29. Captain of Sunderland replies as follows.
(a) Certain that three cruisers were eight inch and thinks they were BOLZANO Class. Almost certain three in number six inch cruiser of Italian Cruiser EUGENIO DI SAVOIA Class. (?Three) Italian Destroyers GRECALE Class, the remainder smaller destroyers.

/ (b)



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean. (Continued)

Operation
"Collar"
Action on
27/11. (contd.)

(b) Only to Westward.
(c) Not knowing full area, may not have.
(d) Airborne, but not actually attacking.
(e) No.
(f) Think they were six inch cruisers.
(V.A. Malta, 2003/30 to C.in C. Med.)

Appreciation
of situation
in M.E.

H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. A.222 30/11 No T.O.O.
Rec. 2210/30 See Mediterranean Volume.

East Indies.

Suspicious Ship
reported by LUXMI.

Admty. 2345/29 (Ship reporting intercepting QQQQ). No British or Allied shipping within 400 miles position 030° 30', 055 degrees.
(ii) Spanish ship MONTE MARANCO who left Durban 22 due Fremantle 14/12 is only ship who could be in this area. (C.in C. E.I., 0012Z/30, to CARTHAGE, KANIMBLA).

Adty's 2021/29 and C.in C. E.I. 0012/30. From my plotting NOWSHERA from Adelaide to Durban would have been in the vicinity if she were running one day late. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0845Z/30)

My 2224/29. Subject to my receiving no further information, CARTHAGE is to arrive at Durban to comply with my 1156/28. Adjust movement accordingly, giving as much cover as possible to Mozambique Channel shipping. (C.in C. E.I., 1902Z/30 to CARTHAGE).

HVAL I.

My 0704/27/10, and 1210/5/11. Kilindini reports whaler HVAL I unsuitable for tropics. Suggestions. (C.in C. E.I., 0720Z/30 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

DORSETSHIRE,
Dante.

My 0502/28/11. Report of DORSETSHIRE re defences and naptha reservoir at Dante. (C.in C. E.I. 1000Z/30 to Admty.)

Air Report.

Summary No.171 to 1500 G.M.T./30. No naval items. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1817/30).

SOUTHAMPTON.

Will arrive Suez p.m./3 to act under your orders. (C.in C. Med., 1335/1 to C.in C. E. Indies).

Pilgrim Ships.

Your 1202/28 (propaganda re pilgrims) Government of India are taking action to counter propaganda in press and radio broadcasts. (F.O.C. R.I.N., 0655Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

/ W.S.4 B.
Escort.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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East Indies. (Contd.)

W.S.4 B.
Escort.

Admty. 2211/15. In view of possible scale of attack at present time it is considered desirable that W.S.4 B carrying about 24,000 troops should be escorted on departure from Durban by another cruiser more powerful than a "C" class or A.M.C., in addition to SHROPSHIRE. Suggested that DEVONSHIRE continue with W.S.4 B. until relieved by SOUTHAMPTON.
(C.in C. E.I. 1146/30, to Admty.)

W.S.4.

W.S.4 A and W.S.4 C less ALMANZORA to proceed from Durban to Suez direct and in company, to be called W.S.4 A. CORNWALL and KANIMBLA to escort.
Route. (C.in C. E.I., 1154Z/30 amended 0654/1).

U.S.8.

Request you make following arrangements for convoy U.S.8.
Transshipment from QUEEN MARY to be effected at Trincomalee and from AQUITANIA and MAURETANIA at Colombo. Transports should return to Sydney as convenient.
Convoy comprising DOMINION MONARCH, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and vessels provided by P.S.T.O. Bombay to meet requirements at A, to proceed to Suez direct.
(D.O.D.(F) 2142/30, to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

KAMOGAWA MARU.

Your 1210/18, (suspicious movements Japanese ship.)
KAMOGAWA MARU passed Sunda (Soenda) Strait northbound 0700/28. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0457Z/30 to C.in C. E.I.)

MAIMOA
PORT BRISBANE
RANGITANE

Add to my 0801/15, ships fallen into enemy hands. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0458Z/30).

ILE DE FRANCE,
Repatrioes.

Admty. 1354/29. ^(See p. 822.) Personnel sailed from Singapore 30/11 E.T.A. Lourenco Marques 19/12. (F.O., Malaya, 0531Z/30).

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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.

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America and West Indies.

Transfer of pendant. Intend transferring my broad pendant to CUMBERLAND at anchorage F.O. on 14/12. Oiler BROOMDALE will fuel you there on arrival.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1148Z/30 to CUMBERLAND).

IDARWALD
and RHEIN,
Patrols to
Intercept.

171 S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 0915/29 and 0852/28 (Sailing of IDARWALD and RHEIN) Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship VAN KINSBERGEN leaving Nassau 1200Z plus 5 on 1/12 and proceeding patrol Florida Straits keeping to Eastward Longitude Havana. CARADOC leaving Bermuda as soon as ready on 1/12. CARADOC and VAN KINSBERGEN rendezvous in position 090° Hillsborough inlet light 15 miles at 0700Z plus 5 on 4/12. CARADOC taking VAN KINSBERGEN under her orders and patrolling Florida Straits between Miami and Bimini till further orders. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1202/30). *See Page 848.*

PRINCE ROBERT.

Callao 1200/30. (No trace in W.R.) Proceed at best possible speed to establish patrol off Callao.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1542/30 to PRINCE ROBERT).

DIOMEDE

Six hours early on my 1712/29. Require 10 days' fresh provisions (DIOMEDE, 1012/30, to N.O.I.C. Trinidad)
Leave Trinidad on completion of fuelling and provisioning 1/12 and proceed to Kingston (Jamaica) at 20 knots. (C.in C. A.W.I., 2222/30, to DIOMEDE).

QUEEN OF BERMUDA
CARNARVON CASTLE

QUEEN OF BERMUDA must proceed to Falkland Islands shortly to embark service provisions.
Suggest therefore that if CARNARVON CASTLE could be retained temporarily in S.A.D., QUEEN OF BERMUDA should proceed to Falkland Islands on return of ASTURIAS from Cape, and should subsequently visit Deception Islands vide your 2245/6/10.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1348/30 to C.in C. S.A.)

ENTERPRISE.

Essential for ENTERPRISE to have 36 hours in harbour with steam off engines in order to make good defects before sailing for Cape. Intend therefore for ENTERPRISE to enter Montevideo for 48 hours on 11/12, by which date H.M.S. CUMBERLAND should be covering South American trade route. Highly desirable for ENTERPRISE to have a further 7 days refit at Simonstown.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1436Z/30).

/ French ships. ...

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Saturday.



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

French ships.

Intercepted letter intimates that a ship was to leave Marseilles on 30th for French Guiana and another early in December. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1558/1.).

U.S. Bases.

F.O. Telegram No. 3190 of 23/11 to Washington. Admiralty fully concur in your 2151/6 and have represented as reasons for agreeing with U.S. proposals importance of provision of floating dock, repair facilities and base at Trinidad. From strategical point of view Trinidad is keypoint of whole American Defence Scheme, and its completion at earliest possible date is of great importance to us. Spring of 1941 will be very critical period, time is therefore an urgent factor.

Considerations in Governor's despatch of 22/10 have, however, to be taken into account, and it has been decided best course is, first of all, to ask U.S. to agree to Admiral Greenslade paying another visit to Trinidad to see whether alternative plan or modification can be agreed. (Head of M. 1638/30 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE
AORANGI

ADELAIDE escorting AORANGI with 200 air trainees embarked left Sydney 1550Z/29 for rendezvous vicinity 3 King Island with ACHILLES. (A.C.N.B., 0740Z/30, to C.in C., China, etc.).

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Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

848

ELSA ESSBERGER
WINNETOU

At Kobe, disappeared today. No trace yet ascertainable of whereabouts. (Acting Consul Gen., Singapore, 0845Z/30, to S.O.I. Shanghai)

Ships in
Brazilian Ports

Very little information has recently been received as regards activity of German Merchant ships in Brazilian ports. Report cargo and amount of fuel now on board (R.A.S.A.D., 1656/30 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro)

HERMONTHIS

German ship HERMONTHIS received despatches for sailing. (S.O.I. Callao, 1200/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

My 1200/30. HERMONTHIS intends to sail 0300 G.M.T. 2/12. Can Lima W/T routine be extended to cover this period? (S.O.I. Callao, 1505/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

S.O.I. Callao's 1505/30. On 2/12 PRINCE ROBERT is to keep W/T watch on Lima (routine If any information has to be passed after this time, S.O. (I) Callao is to route the signal via Esquimalt and Bermuda W/T for PRINCE ROBERT. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2147/30)

BISHOPDALE has been ordered to rendezvous with you in 12° S., 78° W., at 1200Z/7. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1722/30 to PRINCE ROBERT)

Information received that HERMONTHIS intends to leave Callao after dark 1/12. Keep a good look out, and if sighted try and keep in touch and report by W/T position course and speed in Merchant Navy Code. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2202/30 to SS LORETO)

IDARWALD
RHEIN
ORINOCO

Tampico reports IDARWALD and RHEIN are keeping close to coast of Mexico to southwards. ORINOCO expected to sail shortly (B.2) (S.O.I. Kingston, 1627/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

PORTLAND

A.2. report: German vessel PORTLAND expected to sail from Coquimbo tonight. She has clearance for Hamburg. (N.A., Santiago de Chile, 1900/30 to S.O.I. Callao) My 1900/30 PORTLAND sailed 2130 local time. (N.A. Santiago de Chile) (2335/30)

/KLAUS SCHOKE...



War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS-Contd.

849

KLAUS SCHOKE

KLAUS SCHOKE to sail. As regards stock at Ponta Delgada Jersey says have approx. 7,200 tons Diesel Oil, 6900 tons U.S.A. Navy fuel oil, 3,600 tons bunker C, or approximately one year supply of normal delivery. (Sparks, New York, no T.O.O./30 to M. of Shipping)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

RECCA

N.A.Washington 1824/29. Havana asked for check of information of RECCA but consider unlikely report accurate as ship mentioned signalled from Havana time 1504/29 and no report made that ship sailed. (S.O.I. Kingston 0009/30)
My 0009/30. Havana confirm ship not sailed (S.O.I. Kingston, 0814/30)

PIER LUIGI

Departure, unknown destination (Varna 1130/30)



War Diary

30.11.1940
Saturday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

850

Ships Attacked

GLENMOOR
(Torpedoed 27/11)
MOUNT ATHOS
(torpedoed 28/11)

No further information of GLENMOOR in position 54° 35' N., 14° 31' W., on 27/11. MOUNT ATHOS was torpedoed in position 54° 30' N., 15° 25' W., on 28/11 search should be made in both these positions before returning to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1043/30 to ENGLISHMAN)

BRUSE
(Torpedoed 23/11)

Arrived Tugs SEAMAN and THAMES towing forepart of BRUSE with cargo of lumber. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1507/30)

Submarines Reported

0354

55.45 N., 7.30 E., indefinite position (D.S. 452)

0407

56.30 58" N., 13.16 W., Indefinite position (D.S. 452)

0950

55°-57° N., 18° 21° W., Indefinite position (D.S. 452.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 was in 52°-53° N., 15° 30'-17° 30' W., at 1907/29 probably bound to Gironde.

1 in approx. 55°N., 18° W.,

1 in about 51° N., 15° W., bound for Gironde

German- 1 was in 56° 30' - 58° N., 13°-16° W., at 0407/30.

Probably one still in area 59-60°N., 16°-20° W.,

1 was 55°-57° N., 18°-21° W., at 0950/30

1 was in 53° 35' N., 20° 33' W., at 1132/29

Probably 1 between 55 and 56° N., and east of 10° W.,

Possibly 1 in about 48° N., 8° W., bound for Lorient.

(D.D.I.C. 1248/30)



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 November 1940.

- Mediterranean. Operations and Movements, period 15/11 to 30/11.
(C. in C. Med., 1015/11/12. see Diary, 11/12/40)
- EMPIRE
BISON. British, 5612 tons, in Convoy H.X.82 from Baltimore to Clyde with steel, torpedoed and sunk 0415/1, position not known, probably about 58° N., 27° W. Believed only 4 survivors.
(D.S.431, 9/11)
- ALMIRA Trawler attacked off Rattray Head S.S.E. 24 miles at 1430/1 by 3 bursts machine gun fire. No casualties. Ship escaped.
(A.A. Form).
- TOWA Dutch 5418 tons torpedoed 1925 G.M.T. 11/11/40 58.50 N., 10.10 W., in Convoy but Convoy had scattered. Attacked by U-boat by gunfire after torpedoing twice. 7 officers and 11 men missing of crew of 35. Ship abandoned in sinking condition.
(S.A. Form). 11.12.40 *in hand*
- LILIAN
MOLLER. British 4866 tons, Italians claim to have torpedoed her on 18/11 in the Atlantic. Homeward bound from Calcutta and Table Bay. Overdue at Oban since 17/11.
(D.S.457, 5/12/40).
- ST. ELWYN. British, 4940 tons, from Hull for Santos in Convoy O.B.249, with coal, torpedoed and sunk in approx. 54.00 N., 19.00 W., on 26/11 or 27/11. 16 survivors landed at Greenock by LEEDS CITY, which rescued them after 6 days in an open boat. Master, 2 women, 1 child, and 30 of the crew last seen in another boat near the enemy S/M which was on the surface.
(D.S.458, 6/12)
- NOW SHERA,
possible
raider
attack. British, 7920 tons. Overdue at Durban since 2/12. Portion of a signal reporting a suspicious ship was intercepted 29/11 by a ship 550' S.E. of Madagascar. Probable it was NOW SHERA which made this signal and that she has been sunk or captured by a raider.
(D.S.463, 11/12).
- HOLMWOOD
Wreckage. Fraser announced interview pieces of wreckage containing shrapnel found on Chatham island little doubt ex steamer HOLMWOOD reported missing 30/11. Fraser added probable passengers and crew taken prisoner.
(Reuter, Wellington, 1205/16/12).