

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

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

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

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

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



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep
with West Scheldt

M.T.B.'s 31 and 30 carried out a sweep with the West Scheldt last night. M.T.B. 22 returned to Harwich when her hydraulic steering failed near Thornton Ridge. M.T.B. 30 was disabled early by shell fire, and returned to Harwich under her own power. M.T.B. 31 engaged several enemy ships and dropped depth charges very close to a merchant ship of about 3000 tons. At 0052 today German SANTOS, 5943 tons, reported that she had been torpedoed by a British M.T.B. off the mouth of the Scheldt. (G.D 463(2))

Destroyer
Engagement
with E-Boats

Capt. D. 21 in CAMPBELL with VANESSA on patrol last night had a brief inconclusive engagement in the North Sea with 2 enemy E-Boats which they chased.

Demand for
Torpedo carrying
aircraft

C. in C., W.A. asks for a striking force of F.A.A. torpedo carrying aircraft to be placed at his disposal for use against enemy destroyers in operations such as the latter have carried out in the Western Channel during the past week.

FAME

FAME was refloated today and was towed to Sunderland.

HASTINGS

HASTINGS was damaged in collision today.

SAGUENAY
Torpedoed

SAGUENAY with convoy H.G. 47 was torpedoed early this morning in the N.W. Approaches. [REDACTED]

British Air Activity

No operations were carried out by Bomber Command today, on account of the weather.

Attacks

Blenheims of Coastal Command dropped bombs on the submarine base and naval docks at Lorient. Beauforts successfully bombed Brest; the power station, a jetty and dry docks were hit.

/A Beaufort.....



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Attacks-Contd.

A Beaufort on patrol off the Frisian Is. unsuccessfully attacked a 7000 ton merchant vessel.

Merchant vessels in Kristiansand Harbour were also attacked; hits were obtained on sheds on the quayside.

A gas works at Esbjerg was bombed and direct hits obtained, resulting in explosion and fire.

Patrols

New standard patrols were flown this morning, covering the coast of Norway southwards from Stadlandet and continuing to Horn's Reef. An offensive patrol was flown in the Bight and along the Frisian Islands to Terschelling.

Owing to the weather, patrols and convoy escorts in the N.W. Approaches were recalled during the forenoon.

Hatston

The two squadrons of Swordfish at Hatston are to be disbanded. C. in C., H.F. reports that after this is done, there will remain no naval aircraft except about 4 Walrus to seek out and destroy U-Boats near the main Fleet Base or on passage to and from the Atlantic. The Air striking force to attack enemy warships and shipping is reduced to 6 Skuas. He is informed that the operational strength of the Torpedo Bomber Squadron at Wick today was 3 Beauforts. In view of this and the probability that the enemy will endeavour to pass raiders through the Norwegian Fiords during the coming weeks, C. in C., H.F., asks that the 2 Squadrons not now required for FURIOUS may be sent to Hatston.



1.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS CETVRTI (Yugoslav) was bombed about 80 miles S.W. of Ireland today and is reported to have sunk later.

disconnect see page 9.

SS ASTRAL (U.S.A. 7542 tons) was damaged today by a near miss.

Attack on
Southampton

*NORMAN?

Southampton was heavily attacked, commencing at 1845 yesterday. Considerable damage was caused in the city where there was a shortage of water for fire fighting. Minor damage was done in the docks area. H.M.S. *HOBURG was slightly damaged and two Dutch schuyts and a coal barge were damaged, as also were Harland and Wolff's extension yards.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected between 1800 and midnight in the Bristol Channel.

MAORI exploded a mine in the Firth of Forth but was not damaged. A mine was detonated off Milford Haven.

Tyne

Two ships were mined off the Tyne today SS OSLO FIORD and tanker BRITISH OFFICER both were beached. The Tyne was closed at 1325.

Plymouth is closed. Liverpool was closed at 1420 and reopened with restrictions at 1630.



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Either yesterday or today CARNARVON CASTLE intercepted the Brazilian SS ITAPE near Rio de Janeiro and removed 22 German Merchant Navy Officers and men.

Mediterranean

A message received today from R.A. (A) Med. says that during the 12 weeks to 25/11 ILLUSTRIOUS fighters have shot down for certain 21 enemy aircraft in the Mediterranean.

America & West Indies

Search for
IDARWALD
and
RHEIN

VAN KINSBERGEN (Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship) left Nassau and CARADOC left Bermuda today, to patrol Florida Straits. DIOMEDE left Trinidad after fuelling, for Kingston, Jamaica. PRINCE ROBERT left yesterday for patrol off Callao. Aircraft left Curacao yesterday morning for Jamaica to search.



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Torpedo-carrying Aircraft for W.A.

The operations of enemy destroyers in the Western Channel last week have called attention to necessity of a striking force of torpedo-carrying A/C being at my immediate disposal.

When enemy destroyers are located, chances of intercepting and successfully bringing them to action on a dark night are small. They may often return to Brest after dawn, but surface forces cannot safely be used to intercept them off Brest in daylight due to danger of air attack.

Enemy destroyers are faster than J's and K's. Torpedo-carrying A/C would often have an excellent chance of cutting them off. The great importance of being able to distinguish between British and German destroyers in poor light makes it most desirable that a F.A.A. unit should be used. (C. in C., W.A. 2010/1 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge"

At 1130/1 (D.C. 1148/1) at 2330/1 (D.C. 2335/1)

Defence of Fleet Anchorage against Torpedo-bomber attack.

Reply to Admty 2323/29 (A.C.O.S. 1300/1) See Operations Volume.

Decoy Sites at Plymouth

Re. (C. in C., W.A. 1123/1)

Movements

VAN OOST

My 0845/30 (Sailing of A/S trawlers for Reykjavik) Name VAN OOST (H.M.S. WESTERN ISLES 0855/1)

A/S Trawler Search

A/S Trawler searching to Holyhead, Mimbles Head, Rame Head (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1035/1)

SOMALI
MASHONA
BEAGLE
BULLDOG

My 0957/30. Will provide A/S screen. (C. in C., H.F. 1055/1 amended by 1623/1 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/MOOLTAN.....



HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

MOOLTAN

N.O.I.C. Belfast 1056/29/11 re movements. Request further instructions (F.O.C.N.P. 1100/1 to C.in C. S.A.) F.O.I.C. Belfast 1056/29. Will not be proceeding on service as A.M.C. Fuel, ammunition etc., should not be embarked at Greenock. (D.O.D. (F), 1259/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

CHARLESTOWN

Request be informed when CHARLESTOWN will be sailed for Port ZA (R.A.M.L. 1129/1 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

Nore.

Movements to 1200/2 (C.in C. Nore 1200/1 amended recd. 1300/1).

JUPITER

Sailed 1055/1. (C.in C. W.A. 1212/1) *See also p. 11*

BOUCLIER,
AMIENS

Admty. 1618/14/11. Intend sail BOUCLIER escorting AMIENS e.t.d. Needles 1715, e.t.a. Dartmouth 0815, route. Request you take BOUCLIER under your command on arrival (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1247/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

MAORI.

Owing mines off Tyne, return Rosyth (C.in C. Rosyth 1322/1.)

Dover.

Disposition night 1/2/12. (V.A.Dover 1416/1).

Portsmouth

Night movements (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1533/1).

TRIBUNE,
THUNDERBOLT

My 1212/1. Sailing delayed until 0845/3. C.in C. W.A. requested make other arrangements for escort of TALISMAN. (S.2. 1601/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Western Approaches.

Western Channel night report. (C.in C. W.A. 1600/1).

Operations.

Destroyers patrol
in North Sea.
M.T.B's off
Belgian Coast.

Harwich 1/12 arrivals CAMPBELL and VANESSA M.T.B's, 22, and 31 at 0904. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0909/1).

Destroyer patrol
in North Sea.

Following received from D 21 at 2050/30 VANESSA and CAMPBELL in position one mile south of 54 F buoy steering 020° at 12 knots sighted two 'E' boats 2 miles ahead in swept channel steering similar course at slow speed. On increasing enemy made off at high speed to E.N.E. making smoke.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (Contd.)Destroyer patrol
in North Sea.
(contd.)

Star illumination not very effective owing to smoke screens and haze but enemy was engaged during brief sightings.

Chase was continued at full speed with an occasional sighting through smoke until touch was lost 10 miles to the east of swept channel.

Sweep towards Smiths Knoll and back to No. 5 NX buoy produced no result patrol then resumed.

RD/F failed to detect until after sighting and lost contact immediately range increased.

High explosive on "E" boat increasing speed was distinctly heard. One very bright white magnesium flare fired by aircraft overhead during chase fell within 3 cables of CAMPBELL. White flashing light from aircraft was then observed to the eastward. Conditions were ideal for 'E' boat operations except that their engines could be easily heard on acceleration due to stillness of the night. 1130/1.

(C.in C. Nore 1434/1).

M.T.B.'s off
Belgian coast.

Hydraulic steering failed in M.T.B.22 near Thornton Ridge. M.T.B.31 detached with M.T.B.30 to carry out sweep into West Schelde while M.T.B.22 returned. About 0030 about six ships were seen in approximate position 51° 28' N. 30° 10' E. apparently stopped and in a line 1500. Enemy probably sighted at same time and challenged soon after with red and green two star cartridge.

M.T.B. 31 closed to attack ship at south end of line who challenged; torpedo seen to run under and target opened heavy fire as also some other ships not previously sighted. Also searchlights were burnt. The other torpedo was fired at next in line but had faulty discharge. M.T.B. 31 then went to north end of line and in 2 runs dropped 2 depth charges very close abreast a merchant ship of about 3000 tons. M.T.B.30 following was hit early and had hydraulic steering throttles and turret supply shot away and both officers and coxswain wounded. M.T.B.30 being unable to continue action returned to Harwich using jury steering.

M.T.B.31 remained in vicinity to find and assist M.T.B.30 until a signal from latter was received when she returned to Harwich. Visibility good throughout. 1149.

(C.in C. Nore, 1305/1.)

/ Cover for ...

SANTOS
(see G.D.)
403(3)

1.12.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Cover for
 Operation G.Q.1.

Own destroyers will be carrying a sweep from Bishop Rock Light southwards along Meridian 006°W. tonight 1/2 December covering ADVENTURE operating near 048° 15' N. 009° 30' W. (V.A.(S) 1049/1 to Submarines Area P).

Submarines.

SEALION

Leave patrol 1800/3 routed 060° 36' N., 002° 44' E. 056° 37' N., 00° 46' E. and Gap A. Report when west of 002° 40' E. (Capt. S.6. 0955/1 to SEALION).

TRIBUNE,
 THUNDERBOLT
 TALISMAN

Intend sail TRIBUNE and THUNDERBOLT escorted by 1 Yacht from Clyde 0845/2 for position 270° Bishop Rock 10 miles. TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT thence to patrol. Escort to meet TALISMAN at 0900/4 in vicinity Lands End and escort her to Holy Loch. (S.2. 1212/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Positions and
 Movements.

For following 24 hours at 0800/2. (V.A.S. 1819/1).

CACHALOT

Admty. 1228/29/11 and 1633/1/12 CACHALOT to be sailed 3/12 escorted to vicinity Lands End (route) to patrol off Ponta Delgada in accordance with M.022797/40 of 30/11. (V.A.S. 2124/1).

British Air Activity.

Nore.

No air recco. during night. (C.in C. Nore, 0807/1).

A/S Patrols.

In vicinity St. Kilda and N. Rona returned to base, owing to weather (C.in C. Rosyth 1010/1).

Air Recco.

With view to Naval action being taken against shipping following reconnaissances will be flown 2/12. (1) In area between 62°N. and 62° 20'N. and 04° 50'E. and 05°40'E. with special reference to Sund anchorage and Vanelo Gabel noting which direction ships are lying at anchor also routes taken by shipping round Statlandet. (2) In vicinity Kolbeinsfu Buoy 62°58'N., 06°53'E. noting routes taken by shipping. (C.in C. Rosyth 1528/1).

/ Air Patrols



HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Air Patrols.

2 routine A/S patrols (200 Group 1710/1 to Air Min.)

Air Searches.

Norwegian Coast, Stavanger (A.C.H.Q. Donibristle, 1730/1 to Wick).

Coldsnap
S.A.2.
S.A.3.

My 2244/30 Patrols ordered for 2/12. (C.in C. Rosyth 1824/1).

Patrols
St. Kilda,
Rona

St. Kilda patrol not to be flown 2/12 or 3/12. Two sorties of Rona patrol being flown in lieu. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1858/1).

Terschelling.

1312 observed 1 M/V, 7000 tons, and 1 M/V 3000 tons in position M.F.G.P. 5949 course 270°. Attacked former at range at 400 yards, torpedo dived to bottom. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham, 1912/1 to H.Q.C.C.)

821 and 823
Squadrons
Disbandment and
Re-allocation.

Effect of your 1529/30/11 is that with exception of about four Walrus which must be withdrawn to their parent ships periodically no naval aircraft remain in Orkneys and Shetlands to seek out and destroy U Boats in the vicinity of main Fleet Base or on passage to and from the Atlantic. Also the air striking force to attack enemy warships and shipping is reduced to six Skuas. I am informed that the operational strength on No. 42 Torpedo Bomber Squadron at Wick on 30/11 was 3 Beauforts.

Suggested use
of 816 and
825 Squadrons.

In view of above and of probability that enemy will endeavour to pass Merchant Shipping, raiders and warships through the Norwegian Fiords during coming weeks requested that No. 816 and 825 Squadrons not now required for FURIOUS may be sent to Hatston as soon as possible. Also that when these two Squadrons have to re-embark in FURIOUS after her refit endeavour be made to provide aircraft to operate from Hatston as A/S and striking forces and that these aircraft should be modern ones. (C.in C. H.F. 0942/1).

Enemy Air Activity.

CETVRTI.

Bombed 51° 30' N., 11° 52' W. (Valentia Radio 0957/1.) and (Lyness, 1057/1) Arrived Valentia in tow (D.S.No.4590/7/12).

ASTRAL.

Damaged by near miss, requires docking. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/1 to C.in C. Nore)

Norwegian Coast.

At least 6 German A/C active this morning off Norwegian Coast, vicinity Bergen. A/C from 3 squadrons identified. (D.D.I.C. 1207/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

/ Southampton attacked..

1.12.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Southampton
attacked.

Concentrated attack on Southampton starting 1845/30, following report received. Begins - Heavy and indiscriminate bombing by H.E. and incendiaries has resulted in very large fires in the city, Woolston and Dock Area.

Fires not under control owing lack water. Situation Southampton Docks. Management report the whole has been or is ablaze practically. 3 small ships and some lighters on fire. Also a great many sheds. Also Harland and Wolff extension yards.

Thorneycrofts completely gutted by fire. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1042/1 to Admiralty).

In severe air raid on night of 30/11 about 12 incendiary bombs fell within buildings of Naval Store depot Woolston, but were extinguished with negligible damage to stores and fittings. Storehouses K and O in old docks are undamaged and Naval stores appear intact.

(N.S.O. Woolston 1200/1 to D. of D.)

Woolston.

Reports indicate that area Naval Store Office is intact although building was damaged by fire in air raid of 30/11. Staff are safe. Area Naval Store Depot intact. (N.S.O.I.C. Woolston 1245/1, D. of S. Admty.)

Fuel tanks at
Turnchapel.

My 1701/29. Position at 0935/1. The five tanks that contained oil will be a total loss. The 6th tank containing water is standing and still holding water. (C.in C. W.A. 1121/1 to Admiralty.)

Mining.Plymouth.

Fort is closed, mines (C.in C. W.A. 0624/1).

OSLO FIORD

Mined 220° $\frac{1}{2}$ mile T.2. Buoy. Sinking. VIMY, tugs and lifeboat standing by. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0855/1).

ICARUS

Your 2257/30. Arrived (N.O.I.C. Portsmouth, 0935/1).

11th M.S. Flotilla.

Ops. carried out 29/30/11. 6 Mark XX exploded in sweeps 6 Mark XIV cut, S. end field. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1151/1).

/ Operation G.Q.1.

War Diary.1.12.1940.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Operation
G.Q.1.

Sailed 1055 JUPITER (C.in C. W.A. 1212/1). Sailed ADVENTURE for Op. G.Q.1. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven. 1241/1). JACKAL (defects) proceeded 0800 from patrol to Immingham e.t.a. 0900/4/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1422/1).

BRITISH OFFICER

Struck mine 0700 N. Tyne Pier Light 4.5 cables. Being towed into harbour. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1301/1).

Tyne.

Closed, minelaying (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1325/1) Closed, minelaying, ships for Tyne to Sunderland. (C.in C. Rosyth 1429/1).

Liverpool.

Port closed, suspected minelaying by enemy A/C. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1420/1) Port open. Anchorage forbidden S. line joining Bar L.V. to B.1 Pillar Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/1).

MAORI.

Firth of Forth. 1 mine exploded 56°03' 12"N., 03°01'30"W. while MAORI passing No.7 Reflector Buoy in Q.Z.S.175. Ship undamaged. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1601/1).

Hayle.

Mine 1415/1/12, 50°44'26"N., 4°59'30"W., spherical, horns red or rusty. (Custom Hayle, 2100/1).

Future Operations.

R.A.M.L. 1451/30. Proposals A. and B. concurred in provided that C.in C. H.F. can cover operations. Proposals for subsequent operations generally concurred in. Not expected that Mark XIX mines for the forty series will be available before S.N.7, 8 and 9 have been laid. Anti-aircraft escort will be required for operations S.N.15 and 16 in East Coast Mine Barrier. (D.D.O.D. (M) 1234/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

Enemy mines on
Swedish Coast.

Information (A.1) indicates that, in addition to standard contact types, mines of following characteristics have been laid by enemy and washed up on Swedish West Coast (details). (D.N.I. 1642/1 to C.in C. Med.)

Milford Haven.

Mine detonated 197° Great Castle Head low light one mile (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2222/1).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET. 12

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unidentified
ships.

Following have not been identified
(details). (A.C.O.S., 1211/1 to
Admty.)

Brest.

Warships in harbour at 1145/1. (P.I.U.
St. Eval 1540/1 to H.Q.C.C.).

E. Boat.

1 unknown War motor boat distance
unknown course 110° bearing 040° from
Hartland Point 1 mile. (MIGRANTE,
1705/1).

War Diary.

1.12.1940.

Sunday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.JACKAL.

Defective. Sailing ^{for} Immingham north about
~~from~~ ~~for~~ vicinity Wolfe Rock 0800/1.
 (C.in C. W.A. 0342/1). See p. 11.

HASTINGS.

Been in collision with LIMESLADE,
 056° 50' N., 001° 57' W. Considerable
 damage, D.G. out of action. Returning
 Rosyth LIMESLADE proceeding Aberdeen
 (HASTINGS, 0730/1 to C.in C. Rosyth)
 Was in collision 1/12 with LIMESLADE,
 consider her to blame. Considerable
 damage to HASTINGS. (HASTINGS, 2030/1
 to Admty.)

OSLO FJORD

Beached 55° 00' N., 1° 24' W. (F.O.I.C.
 Tyne, 1130/1).

CITY OF HEREFORD.

In convoy W.N.46 for Methil and London
 arrived Methil a.m. 1/12 damaged.
 Was in collision with ST. LOMAN
 escorting E.N.34 about 0330/1 between
 Bell Rock and May Island. ST. LOMAN
 arrived Aberdeen under own steam,
 1100/1/12. (C.in C. Rosyth).

FAME.

Refloated, being towed to Sunderland.
 (F.O.I.C. Tyne to C. in C. Rosyth 1747/1)

COVENTRY CITY.

Still delayed by faulty D.G.
 Proposed she remains here for next C.E.
 Convoy. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1527/1
 to C.in C. Nore).
 Delayed by faulty D.G. (C.in C. Nore,
 2031/1 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Rosyth.

Arrivals and departures 1/12.
 (C.in C. Rosyth, 2037/1).



War Diary.

1.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Positions, N. Atlantic Convoys, 0900/1.
(D.T.D., 1128/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

H.G.47.

VANSITTART to join. Position.
VETERAN to join as soon as relieved
by escort from Londonderry. (C.in C.
W.A. 0811/1 amended 1014/1).

S.L.55.)
H.G.47.)

My 0811/1. 2 destroyers from S.L.55
to join H.G.47 forthwith.
VETERAN, VANSITTART join S.L.55.
(C.in C. W.A., 1110/1) My 1110/1.
Object is to reinforce H.G.47 before
dark. Positions (C.in C. W.A., 1132/1,
1424/1).
Your 1110/1. ANTHONY and ACHATES
detached at 1230 to join H.G.47.
Position and weather. (ANTHONY 1700/1
to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N. 34.)
W.N. 47.)

E.N.34, ANGLE and ST. LOMAN, additional
escort HASTINGS (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0030/1)
WOLFHOUND as additional escort. (Capt.D.
Rosyth, 0923(1) Fighter escort for
E.N. 34. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1030/1) Route.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2357/1).

O.B.251.

Disperse after dark tonight. (C.in C.
W.A., 1058/1, to FOLKESTONE, etc.).

O.B.252.

Route to keep clear of S.L.55.
(C.in C. W.A., to WELLINGTON, etc.
1218/1).

Londonderry departure SABRE, SCIMITAR,
SHIKARI, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE, ST.ELSTAN,
WELLARD for O.B. 252. (N.O.I.C.
Londonderry, 1201/1).

E.N.35.)
W.N.48.)

POWEY as additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1101/1).

H.G.47 B.

After passing 08.00 W., to form
2 columns for passing through North
Channel. (C.in C. W.A., 1148/1, to
ROCHESTER).

F.N.47.

Tyne closed. Ships for Tyne in F.N.47
to be diverted to Sunderland. (C.in C.
Rosyth 1430/1, to LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON).

F.S.48.

A/S trawler GREENFLY left Humber to join.
(F.O. Humber, 1448/1)
GOSSAMER left to join F.S.48. (F.O.
Humber 1617/1).

1.12.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMLANDS.Shipping. (Continued)H.X.89.

Arrived FLEUR DE LYS, WILD SWAN, etc., escorting H.X.89. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1501/1).

S.L.57.

U-boat Report (See S/M's Reported).

B.H.X.93.

Departure, Ocean escort MALOJA, returning to Halifax. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda, 1143/1).

Troop Convoys.BERGENSFJORD.

Your 1034 BERGENSFJORD will sail as soon as possible in accordance with Admt. 2018/23. 200 troops will embark provided this will not delay sailing. Every effort being made to expedite departure which is primary consideration.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1622/1, to D. of S.T.)

W.S.4 B.

My 2211/15 para. 3.
(c) Amend to read. Durban to Aden - SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE until DEVONSHIRE is relieved by SOUTHAMPTON (date). When relieved DEVONSHIRE is to return to U.K. (D.O.D.(F) 2151/1 to C.in C's S.A., E.I., and Med.)

Icelandic Trawler.

Icelandic trawler JOKULL ([redacted]) arrived Reykjavik 0420/1. Chart examined on arrival showed trawler passed 25 miles west of St. Kilda. Seals on W/T room broken. Master admits disobeying routing instructions and taking shortest route to Reykjavik. Request I may be informed condition of seal on leaving Fleetwood as master ascribes break to fair wear and tear. Investigation proceeding.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1200/1).

War Diary1.12.1940
SundayFOREIGN STATIONSOperations Against Vichy FrenchVILLE DE ROUEN

Reported will sail from Reunion 5/12 or 6/12 direct for France. (D.D.I.C. 1723/1)

DUNKERQUE

██████ Consul at Casablanca informed by a French Officer that latter "thought" DUNKERQUE had been towed from Oran to Toulon between 19/11 and 21/11. This does not tally with information supplied in my 1815/25, but presume it is possible that even if not "ready for sea" in general sense she might be towed across Mediterranean. (Consul-Gen, Tangier 1115/1 to Admty.)

(Note by D.N.I.: - 1815/25/11, ██████ Report) that at least 4 or 5 months will be required before DUNKERQUE can be made ready for sea.

U-Boats
Request for A/C
Reconnaissance

Following from Brazaville (begins) Colonel Parlent in report dated 29/11 from Libreville reports presence of submarine(s) off the estuary and has asked H.Q. here for planes for sea reconnaissance. No aircraft available here capable of undertaking this task. H.Q. sending position of aircraft available which is only capable of doing very short range reconnaissance. (C. in C., S.A. 2311N/1, to I.C.S.)

North AtlanticARGUS

Admty. 0210/30 and my 2226/29. Enquiries completed. ARGUS ready to sail when ordered. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/1)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Admty. 1224/30. Will be sailed for Halifax p.m./1 (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/1)

Sails 1830/1, escorted by KELVIN and JAGUAR. Route (F.O.C.N.A., 1740/1) E.T.A. Freetown (F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1)

DESPATCH

Delayed with defective 6 inch gun. Probably ready 4/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1120/1)

/FIREDRAKE.....



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

FIRE Drake
VELOX
ARCTIC RANGER }

Order for patrol (.F.O.C.N.A., 2002/1)

BERWICK

Admty. 1337/30. Damage in vicinity of explosion of 2 shells extensive. Repairs to make ship fit for service, excluding Y turret, cannot be undertaken with present resources of this yard. (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/1)

Your 1746/1. Necessity for hunting down raiders so urgent and shortage of cruisers so acute that we must work to an entirely different standard to that we have been used to. On assumption Gibraltar will do everything possible and that all possible assistance is obtained from the Fleet, report in what vital matters BERWICK's fighting efficiency will be defective on 16/12. Repairs to BERWICK are to be commenced forthwith. (1st S.L., to F.O.C.N.A., 2332/1)

NEWCASTLE

Your 1841/20. Consider that further isolated perforating may occur in near future but intend sailing NEWCASTLE in accordance with Admty. 0036/25 p.m. today 1/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1246/1 to Admty)

Sails 1830/1 for Freetown. Route and E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1740/1, 1830/1)

South Atlantic

HAWKINS
CUMBERLAND
ENTERPRISE

On relief ~~of~~ HAWKINS at dawn 4/12 in position 004° 00' S., 005° 12' W., CUMBERLAND is to proceed towards position 037° 00' S., 053° 00' W., at speed of advance 18 knots to rendezvous with ENTERPRISE as ordered by R.A.S.A.D. (C. in C., S.A. 0951/1 to CUMBERLAND)

See also next page

BARON CAWDOR

My 1035/30. (Overdue shipping) BARON CAWDOR arrived (S.O.I.) Capetown, 0955/1)

/CARNARVON CASTLE...



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE

Your 1537/2/25 CARNARVON CASTLE visit to Rio de Janeiro, Approved. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1130/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOOLTAN

N.O.i/c Belfast 1056/29. Request action that is being taken with reference to your 1913/21 which states MOOLTAN will require 4 months refit to make ship serviceable. (1335/N/1.)

W.S. 5 A.

Estimates fresh water requirement of W.S. 5A at Freetown is between 5000 and 6000 tons.

A 14000 ton water tanker will be included in convoy if this will assist provision of water for this convoy.

Early reply requested in order that vessel may be prepared. (D.O.D. (F) 1941/1 to C. in C., S.A.)

W.S. 4 B.

W.S. 4 B., Ocean escort DEVONSHIRE, CUMBERLAND, sailed Freetown 1700/1 for Durban by direct route E.T.A.

HAWKINS relieves CUMBERLAND dawn 4/12 in position 004° 00' S., 005° 12' W., CUMBERLAND then proceeds in accordance with my 0951/1.

HAWKINS is being detached before arrival at Simonstown to refuel and rejoin convoy before passing meridian 21° East.

(C. in C., S.A. 2011N/1) *See previous page*

Raider
Positions

Indications of enemy surface vessels on dates given are passed to you for information in case you have not received them previously. 24/11 in the vicinity of position 020° N., 055° W., 17/11 some indication near Canary Islands. Other indications are that there were 2 raiders on East Indies Station on 25/11. (C. in C., S.A. 2045N/1 to Cdre. S.A. Div.)

FURIOUS
DIDO
RESOLUTION

Admty. 1531/25 C. in C., W.A. 2138/27 and my 1231/28 DIDO has engine defects which will not be completed until p.m./3. Intend FURIOUS and DIDO shall sail then or a.m./4 Date of RESOLUTION sailing will be delayed accordingly. (C. in C., S.A. 2047/1 to Admty.)



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Air Intelligence-Italy

Following from Air Attache for Air Ministry X. 309 1st Dec. Intelligence Summary 108.

Italy. Extracts from report written by M. 3. personal friend of Air Attache on 26/11.

a. Every available Italian civil transport aircraft is being used for transporting troops to Albania.

h. If British can spare a few more Spitfires and Hurricanes for Albania and Africa, Italians will receive a bad air beating.

j. Great effect obtained by even a single aircraft over Italy. The mentality of the Italian civilians is such that they go nearly crazy during the alerts.

The effect of bombing Rome would be terrific. Town itself should not be bombed but there are suitable targets on the outskirts of the capital.
(Mr. Kelly, Berne, 1125/1 to F.O.)

SOUTHAMPTON

SOUTHAMPTON will arrive Suez p.m/3/12 to act under your orders. (C. in C., Med., 1335/1 to C. in C., E.I.) *See also next page.*

MANCHESTER

Intend MANCHESTER to leave Malta about 1600/4 following satisfactory air reconnaissance. Ship passes South of Skerki Bank to be near 037° 40' N., 006° 30' W., by 0800B/5. (C. in C., Med., 1341/1 to S.O.Force H.)

Cables

Admty 1657/29/11. Master of MIRROR states that a minimum of two and a half days working continuously and with fine weather would be required to complete operation. Continuous cover and close and substantial A/A and A/S escort would be required. Unless the matter is of extreme importance it does not appear to justify the risks and effort involved. (S.O.Force H., 1629/1 to C. in C., Med.,)

/Air.....



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd

Air
Reconnaissance

1/12. 4 merchant ships (with steam up) approximately 3,000 tons, near entrance Tobruk Harbour. 3 small merchant ships approximately 1,000 tons, 10 miles off shore from Ras Venn. One ship 2,000 tons close to shore near Ras. Not (corrupt group) seen Tobruk Bardia Roads. (202 Group, H.Q., 1645/1 to H.Q., M.E.)

Greece

Operational Summary No. 18. No naval items (H.Q., B.A.F., Greece, 1715/1)

Air
Report

Combined services report- Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 1/12. All air operations cancelled due to weather. No enemy air activity over Malta. No military or naval items. (H.Q., R.A.F., Med. 1700/1)

Operational Summary No 174 to 1200/1. No naval items. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1131/1)

East Indies

SOUTHAMPTON

C. in C., Mediterranean's 1335/1 (SOUTHAMPTON will arrive Suez p.m/3) Request you sail SOUTHAMPTON to Aden with all convenient despatch as soon as practicable after arrival Suez. (C. in C., E.I., 0642Z/1 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal area)

LUXMI
"Q" Signal

British ship LUXMI when in position 011° 44' S., 043° 58' E., heard the auto alarm signal followed by QQQQ -QQ. interupted, continuous wave transmission. Commercial strength 4. Same relative strength as Mombasa Radio. (C. in C., E.A. 0706/1)

LUXMI in position 011° 44' S., 043° 58' E., report at 0405/1 having heard auto alarm followed by QQQ at 1919 G.M.T. 30/11. Signal strength Q S A 4 same strength as Mombasa V P Q. Transmitter interrupted continuous wave. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0807/1)

My 0706/1. QQQQ transmission was at 1919 G.M.T./30 on 500 kc/s. East Indies coast wireless station heard nothing. (C. in C., E.I., 1014/1, to Capt O.S., Singapore, etc.,)

Your 0706/1. Request time date and frequency of signal. (D.D.I.C. 1027/1)

/Disposition....



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East India
Mediterranean-Contd.

Dispositions

My 0706/1. (1) Following are present dispositions in Mozambique channel and approaches.
(a) SHROPSHIRE in position 005° 15' S., 045° 06' E., at 1200Z/1 proceeding with Convoy S.W. 3. to Durban due p.m./5.
(b) CARTHAGE proceeding until 0900Z/2 towards position 020° S., 040° E., from Southward and then towards Durban.
(c) COLOMBO arriving position 011° S., 045° W., about 0001Z/2 and then patrol.
(d) CERES from Kismayu patrol to +Mombasa for fuel and giving cover to ORONTES detached from S.W. 3 ~~at~~ 1500Z/1 for Mombasa. (C. in C., E.I., 1542/1)

Convoy
W.S. 4.

Your 1154/30, paras 2 and 6. It would be preferred that escort in the Red Sea should be provided by ships of the Red Sea Force as in para 4 of Admty. 2211/15 and 2219/26 in order to free the large cruisers for anti-raider patrol or other offensive operations.
In particular it is important CORNWALL's refit should not be delayed. (D.O.D. (F) 1211/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

American
Ships

Your 1844/11. In view of C. in C., A.&W.I. 1336/13 present arrangements should remain in force.
In addition to security aspect it is suggested that information obtained from pilotage service at ports would be more up-to-date. (Head of M. 1327/1 to C. in C., E.I.)

CITY OF DUNDEE
Raider Report
(false)

Following has been read:- Important, Armed Raider, 13° 46' N., 53° 53' E., CITY OF DUNDEE ordered to heave to by suspicious vessel. (CITY OF DUNDEE 1417Z/1) (D.D.I.C., 1651/1)
Your 1651/1. Suspicious vessel was HECTOR, A.M.C. (C. in C., E.I., 1656Z/1)
Your 1651/1. Request similar message may in future be addressed only to me and shore Authorities concerned in order that operational W/T lines to ships can be kept clear. Actually in this case I had received confirmation that the suspicious vessel was HECTOR before Admty 1651/1/12 was originated and therefore no difficulty arose. (C. in C., E.I., 1820/1)

/CORNWALLIS....



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

CORNWALLIS)
INVESTIGATOR)

Your 0436/16. (re exchange) approved (Hd. of M., to C. in C., E.I. 1713/1)

Assab
Reconnaissance

Summary No 172 for 24 hours ending 1500/1/12. 0600 to 0735 1 Glen Martin French Flight photographic R.C.. southern Eritrean Coast No changes Assab Harbour. Low level visual reconnaissance did not confirm boom defence thought to be seen by bombing aircraft on 28/11. All times G.M.T. (Air H.Q. Aden, 1839/1)

W.S. 4 B
SOUTHAMPTON

Your 1146/30. Concur. SOUTHAMPTON should be sailed so as to meet convoy as far south as possible with sufficient margin of fuel. (D.O.D.(F) 2152/1 ro C. in C., E.I.)

China

Japanese
Policy

British Embassy Shanghai No 47 to F.O. Fully concur we should start taking what legal retaliatory action we can by strictly enforcing every restriction and regulation in all British ports. (C. in C., China, to Admty 05312/1)

Situation
in Indo-China

(C. in C., China 08512/1)

America & West Indies

BERGENSFJORD

Your 1921/22 and 1748/28. BERGENSFJORD ^{now p 59} very urgently required for troop convoy from U.K. (date and capacity) Request further endeavour to persuade crew to sail. Repairs and equipment. (D.S.T. 1034/1 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

PORPOISE
(Sailing U.K. to
Halifax, N.S.)

Capt (S) 2's 2302/27/11. Request you will pass necessary information regarding movements of North Atlantic Escort Force to PORPOISE, and warn ships of North Atlantic Escort Force of PORPOISE movements. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1052/1 to F.O.C. 3 B.S.)



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

NOTOU

Probable that French NOTOU, 2489 tons, which left Newcastle, N.S.W., on 12/8 bound for Noumea, New Caledonia, was sunk by an enemy raider in Pacific. No details are available (D.S. 453, 1/12)

New Zealand

ACHILLES

Departure Auckland 0230Z/1 ACHILLES for rendezvous vicinity of Three Kings with AORANGI escorted by ADELAIDE. (S.O.I. Wellington, 0352Z/1)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

1.12.40.
Sunday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TRAUTENFELS.

6418 tons. Due to arrive at Leningrad on 1/12. (This confirms that larger ships are being used now in Baltic trade). (D.S. 453, 1/12).

SANTOS.

5943 tons. Made a P/L message at 0052/1 she had been attacked and torpedoed by a British M.T.B. at the mouth of the Scheldt. (D.S. 453, 1/12).

SPEZIA.

Is being sent with 1600 tons cargo, probably fruit, from Barcelona to Marseilles and Port de Boue and thence to Genoa. (D.S., 453, 1/12).

HAMELN

At Vera Cruz. Report to have ordered supplies for 30 days but had not commenced to take in fuel oil on 28/11. (D.S. 453, 1/12).

KLAUS SCHOKE

My 1022/30 KLAUS SCHOKE ^{No trace.} refloated undamaged. Expected to sail 2100 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1027/1, to Admty. and S.O.I., Gib.)

My 1821/30. Following from British Consulate at Ponta Delgada: German KLAUS-SCHOKE expected to sail 2100 G.M.T. tonight 1/12 1027. (F.O.C.N.A. 1648/1).

My 1027/1. KLAUS SCHOKE sailed 22⁰⁵ G.M.T. Course taken not visible. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 2017/1).

ITHAKA
ARKADIA

German ships ITHAKA ARKADIA arrived from Russia 29/11. (Macrae, Galatz, 1147/30).

PORTLAND.

Callao reports PORTLAND sailed 0130 G.M.T. 1/12. PRINCE ROBERT informed. (S.O.I., Kingston, 1306/1, to C.in C. A.W.I., etc.).

IDARWALD
RHEIN

N.A. Washington reports IDARWALD in 020° 25' N. 096° 20' W. at 1315 zone plus 5, 30/11 course 072°, 6 knots, RHEIN 40 miles southward. Cancel R.V. in my 1202/30. Proceed at 15 knots to arrive 023° 00' N. 088° 00' W. by 1200 zone plus 5, 3/12. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1021/1, to VAN KINSBERGEN).

Tampico reports IDARWALD passed Vera Cruz steaming south afternoon 30/11 (B.2). (S.O.I. Kingston, 1717/1, to Admty., C.in C. A.W.I., etc.)

War Diary.1.12.1940.
Sunday.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)HERMONTHIS

If German ship HERMONTHIS sails before you arrive off Callao carry out an independent custody search as in O.U. 5415/39 page 40 assuming enemy speed twelve knots. Sector between 323° and 270° should receive priority attention. Callao pass via Lima wireless station to PRINCE ROBERT. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1851/1, to PRINCE ROBERT).

LECH
KARNAK

My 1845/22 and 1642/27 LECH KARNAK German left here about 2200/30 destination unknown. (Bilbao, 1235/1 to Admty.) (V.A.S., to S/M's on Patrol Area B, 2229/1) Passed to S.O.(I) Gib. (H.W.R. 1719/2).

FRANKFURT.

My report of fuel stock 1/11. German ship FRANKFURT received additional supply of 504 tons of coal at Talcahuano 30/11. (S.O.I., Callao, 1810/1, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

{	<u>ANTONIETTA</u>	5900 tons)	Reported among 9 Italian vessels
	<u>COSTA</u>)	recently sunk at Otranto. Only
	<u>CATALANI</u>	2429 tons)	confirmation is that first-named sent
	<u>NUMIDIA</u>	5339 tons)	out an S.O.S. on 10/10. (D.S. 453).
	<u>SARANDREA</u>	5077 tons)	
	(tanker))	

ATLAS

Tanker, moved to an anchorage in the steam alongside ORINOCO at Tampico on 27/11. (D.S. 453).

DERNA.

Departure 30/11 VILLA DE MADRID (Spanish) and DERNA for Las Palmas, latter believed bound for Valencia. (Barcelona, 1625/1, to M. of Shipping).



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SAGUENAY

Your 0454/1. (Asking ship to pass this to Admiralty) Following intercepted message. Whitehall W/T from SAGUENAY, have been struck by torpedo on starboard hand, (side) $054^{\circ} 40' N.$, $015^{\circ} 50' W.$, time of origin 0404 (ends) (ROCHESTER 0545/1 to Admty.)

Proceed with despatch to assistance of SAGUENAY reported in position $54^{\circ} 40' N.$, $015^{\circ} 50' W.$, at 0404. today Sunday. SALVONIA is also proceeding to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0800/1 to ENGLISHMAN)

SAGUENAY proceeding stern first HIGHLANDER screening. Send tugs and escort. $54.10 N.$, $16.47 W.$, (Weather) HIGHLANDER 0840/1 to Admty & C. in C., W.A.)

Sailed HUNAN to assistance of SAGUENAY (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0900/1)

Sailed SALVONIA to assistance of SAGUENAY (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0900/1)

Tugs ENGLISHMAN and SALVONIA have been sailed to your assistance both ships keep constant W/T watch on 500 K/Cs. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0902/1 to SAGUENAY)

Amended position of SAGUENAY who is proceeding stern first screened by HIGHLANDER was $54^{\circ} 10' N.$, $16^{\circ} 47' W.$, at 0840 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1012/1 to ENGLISHMAN SALVONIA)

A/S Trawlers FOXTROT, STELLA POLARIS, SPHENE, left Belfast 1330/1 to join you. S.O. FOXTROT. (C. in C., W.A. 1333/1 to HIGHLANDER)

Sailed A/S Trawlers FOXTROT, STELLA POLARIS SPHENE, to assistance of SAGUENAY. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1456/1 to C. in C., W.A.)

RINGHORN
(Attacked 28/11)

Norwegian RINGHORN arrived Belfast Lough damaged by submarine attack 28/11. No salvage assistance required. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1831/1)

$54^{\circ} 23' N.$, $20^{\circ} 11' W.$, unknown vessel torpedoed, sinking. (Lands End Radio, 2317/1) Also received from Valentia Radio, with position $29^{\circ} R 11 W.$

PALMELLA.

Sunk by torpedo 1935/1 in $40.30 N.$, $13.30 W.$
(see 10/12 and 5/12)
(p. 129)



War Diary

1.12.1940
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0404 A.F. message 54.40 N., 15.50 W., at 0304/1
 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0810/1) (C. in C., W.A.,
 0752/1)

2342/30 D.F. at 2242 G.M.T/30 Probable U-Boat
 in vicinity of 12° 00 N., 33° 00 W. (C.
 in C., S.Atlantic, 1211/1 to Cdre. S.L.S.
 57 DRAMATIST) (C., in C., S.A. 1311N/1 to
 R.A.S.A.D., CUMBERLAND)

0020 A.F. message 54.23, N., 20.11 W., at 2320/1
 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0050/2)

Estimated
 U-Boat
 Dispositions

Italian- 1 in N.W. Approaches probably north
 of 55° N., and west of 20° W.
 2 south west of Ireland bound for Gironde.
 German- 1 about 550 miles S.W. of Cape
 Verde Islands.
 1 about 54° N., 17° W at 0400/1.
 1 about 55° N., 23° W., at 1911/30
 1 about 56° N., 20° W., at 0950/30
 1 between 56° 30' N., and 57° 30' N., and
 between 16° W., and 18° w., at 1124/1.
 1 between Faroes and Orkneys possibly
 homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1258/1/1)

Submarines Attacked

1250 By ACTIVE. Your 1250. Continue hunt for
 present. VETERAN, VANSITTART are being told
 to report when they will join convoy:
 (C. in C., W.A., 1416/1 to ACTIVE) My 1250/
 1. Consider target non-sub. Rejoined convoy
 VANSITTART in company (ACTIVE 1535/1)

War Diary2.12.1940
MondaySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsSubmarine Attack
on H.X. 90.
FORFAR Sunk

FORFAR was sailing independently.
(see 29.11.40 p. 798, 814)

About 15 ships were torpedoed in the North West Approaches last night and this morning, of which 14 are known to have been in Convoy H.X. 90. A.M.C. FORFAR which was one of the ships torpedoed sank later.

Aircraft reported a large number of ships off Ostend at 1700 today, ^{Four} M.T.B's were sent to investigate.

British Air Activity

Special patrols of the Norwegian Coast were flown today, with a view to naval action being taken against shipping. Aircraft reported a convoy of 13 merchant ships just south of Stadlandet at 1100, with a flak ship.

A special patrol was flown East of Iceland today.

A Sunderland patrol was maintained today in the area in which Convoy H.X. 90 was attacked last night.

A small force of heavy bombers last night successfully attacked the Naval Shipbuilding Yards at Wilhelmshaven. Some barges lying off the Dutch Coast were attacked today, but weather conditions hampered other operations.

A Blenheim of Coastal Command, on routine patrol today attacked and hit a 2000 ton merchant vessel off the coast of Norway.

Two destroyers were attacked off Egersund by torpedo which missed.

War Diary2.12.1940
MondaySITUATION REPORTEnemy Air Activity

Measures to counter night air attacks such as that made on Southampton 30/11-1/12 are detailed in Admty 1307/2.

Attack on
Southampton

Southampton was attacked again last night. One small H.M. ship was sunk and five damaged (4 only slightly) and 2 other ships had casualties. One Dutch merchant ship was slightly damaged and a small Dutch Schoyt was sunk. Damage was done in the dock area but reports from repair yards indicate that work will not be seriously delayed. Thornycroft's yard was damaged and minor damage was caused to a T.B.D. on stocks.

Bristol was attacked today from 1800 onwards. No reports of damage have been received.

SS KILGERRAN CASTLE was attacked early this afternoon 25 miles S.W. of Kinsale Head. No damage is reported.

MiningOperation
G. Q.1.

ADVENTURE, covered by 3 destroyers last night laid mines about 180 miles west of Ushant.

Enemy
Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active in the Bristol Channel last night.

SS JOLLY GIRLS (483 tons) under Govt. Charter, a straggler from Convoy F.N. 47 was mined and sunk off the Tyne today.

The Tyne was reopened at 1422 today and closed again at 1756.

A mine was detonated this morning at Plymouth, slightly damaging a sweeper.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

30

2.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

CALIFORNIA intercepted the German SS KLAUS SCHOKE this evening about 250 miles East of the Azores. The crew scuttled the ship, but it is possible an attempt may be made to tow her to the Azores or Gibraltar.

Mediterranean

Air Attack
on Valona

9 Blenheims successfully attacked Valona p.m. today. Damage was done at the port, a small ship alongside the jetty was hit and a near miss was obtained on another.

Dodecanese

C. in C., Meditn. telegraphs that the questions raised in his 1241/17/11 are becoming increasingly urgent and he asks for the Admiralty policy regarding the future of these islands.

Operation
"Collar"

Matters of interest concerning this operation are contained in C. in C., Med. 1657/2.

Brindisi

H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. reports that there is no obvious result of damage from the attack on Brindisi by Wellingtons on 29/11.



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Destroyer
Sailing Dates

Your 2258/30. As every Destroyer is urgently required for service request you will advance dates of sailing where practicable. Main requirement of training to counter U-Boat attack on surface at night. (C. in C., W.A., 1120/2 to R.A.D. H.F)

VESPER
VENOMOUS

In view of U-Boat activity and heavy commitment for destroyers on December 18th it is requested that VESPER and VENOMOUS may be retained till completion of operation of December 18th. (C. in C., W.A. 1706/2 to Admty)

ARGUS
RAMILLES
ECLIPSE

Admty. 2109/26. Will not be sailed to U.K. till further orders issued. (V.C.N.S. 1533/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

"Deluge"

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/2. (D.C. 1130/2) At 2330/2. (D.C. 2353/2)

Movements

Nore Command
Ships out of action

(C. in C., Nore, 0940/2 to Admty.)

JACKAL

My 2243/1. JACKAL is complying with your 1550/1, but intend leave Convoy dark 3rd to arrive destination daylight p.m./4., (JACKAL 1024/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

ENCHANTRESS

Sailed from Sheerness 1016/2. (C. in C., Nore, 1128/2 to F.O.I.C. London) Arrived London. (F.O.I.C. London 1700/2 to Admty)

KASHMIR

Destroyers return Plymouth forthwith with despatch. Report E.T.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1 34/2 to KASHMIR) You may be attacked by Surface Force. (C. in C., W.A., 1222/2 to KASHMIR)

/EXMOOR.....



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

EXMOOR }
COTSWOLD }
CHITRAL }
SALOPIAN }

EXMOOR with COTSWOLD pass Switha 0001/3 to R/V with CHITRAL and SALOPIAN on 090° Butt of Lewis 10 miles at 1200/3. CHITRAL and SALOPIAN bound Reykjavik leave Clyde 1500/2 through Minches to position A. 61° N., 15°W Escort to Position A and thence return to Scapa. (R.A.D. H.F. 1146/2 and 1657/2) SALOPIAN Movements from Position A. (A.C.N.S. T. 1251/2 to F.O.C.N.P.)

JUPITER

KASHMIR's 1100 E.T.A. 1520/2. (JUPITER 1200/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

WOLVERINE

Proceed at your best speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1234/2 to WOLVERINE)

PUNJABI

Proceed with despatch. There are signs of enemy activity in the Channel. (C. in C., W.A. 1238/2 to PUNJABI) E.T.A. 2300/2 (PUNJABI 1527/2 to C. in C., W.A.) Keep North of 50° N., till 0500/3. Arrive 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles at 0930/3. (C. in C., W.A. 1655/2 to PUNJABI)

FORMIDABLE }
VESPER }
VENOMOUS }

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1241/2 to Admty. My 1746/27. On completing defects FORMIDABLE to proceed Clyde to embark stores and important Freight in my 1336/30. Then to Scapa to work up and will sail about 18/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1524/2 to C. in C., W.A.) See Raider Volume.

ASPHODEL }
CALENDULA }
GERANIUM }
JONQUIL }

When will ships be ready to sail (C. in C W.A. 1320/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

VANESSA

EGLINTON's 1208. Propose sailing at 1600 (VANESSA 1356/2 to N.O.I.C. Harwich)

Orkneys

Trawler Line Tonight (A.C.O.S. 1516/2)

Rosyth Area

Movements (C. in C., Rosyth 1520/2 and 2105/2)

Dover

Dispositions for night 2/2. (V.A. Dover 1521/2)

/KING GEORGE V.....



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

KING GEORGE V)
SOMALI)
MASHONA)
BEAGLE)
BULLDOG)
ESCAPADE)

Sailed 1445/2 from Rosyth for Pentland Firth. E.T.A. 0400/3 and thence to Scapa. (C. in C., Rosyth 1541/2 to Admty.) ESCAPADE with BRILLIANT proceed passing Switha 0310 tomorrow to rendezvous with KING GEORGE V escorted by SOMALI, MASHONA BEAGLE, BULLDOG due Pentland Firth 0400/3 (ii) when met relieve SOMALI, MASHONA. ESCAPADE take over S.O. of escort and act under orders of KING GEORGE V. (R.A.D.H.F. 2055/2 to ESCAPADE)

Nore & Harwich

Movements (N.O.I.C. Harwich 1629/2)

LEOPARD

Proceed at best speed till North of Lands End. (C. in C., W.A. 1648/2 to LEOPARD)

SOMALI)
MASHONA)

My 1055/1. SOMALI and MASHONA to be relieved in Pentland Firth and proceed to Scapa. (C. in C., H.F. 1815/2 to R.A.D. H.F)

BEVERLEY)
BURNHAM)
BRADFORD)

Your 1120/2. BEVERLEY and BURNHAM sail 6/12 and BRADFORD 7/12. (R.A.D. 2250/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

PEGASUS

Your 1653/2. Request you route ship and escort to arrive 180° Rame Head 2.2 miles Following alternative route if Plymouth closed. (C. in C., W.A., 2314/2 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operations

Operation D.N.

Prepare to order Operation in area Jaederens Point to Lister Light on 3/12 with C.S. 2. in ARETHUSA, AURORA, and 4 Destroyers of 6th D.F. (C. in C., H.F. 1817/2 to B.C.1)

Operation to be carried out as by my 1817/2 (C. in C., H.F., 2341/2 to B.C.1)

Operation may be carried out Night 3/12. Ships passing North of 58° 30' N., 3° 15'E., sweep between Jaederens and Lister, passing North of same point on return. (V.A.S. 2348/2)

/Embarking.....



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Embarking
Troops

Your 1703/27/11. Laygø^r considered unsuitable. Propose to use Gourock Pier. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1855/2 to Admty.)

Ostend

M.T.B's 22,14,67 and 68 to investigate Ostend Roads and attack without challenge any ships E of 2° 15' E., (C. in C., Nore 1914/2 to BEEHIVE)

Submarines

CACHALOT

Intend sail escorted from Clyde at 0845/3 to ~~sea~~ near Lands End and thence unescorted to patrol (S.2. 1033/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) To patrol off Ponta Delgada. Route from Lands End. (V.A.N.P. 1206/2)

Submarine
Bombing
Restrictions

Institute submerged SBR thirty miles each side of line joining BTFS 0000 CPCZ 3000 and GKZB 1000 from 0001/3 to 2359/6. Total SBR in Holyhead Sanctuary from 0800 to 1700 daily from 3/12 to 7/12 and extend SBR in Clyde sanctuary from 1800/3 to 0800/4. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/2 to 15 and a8 Groups)

O. 21
STURGEON
SEALION
SUNFISH

There are indications that an enemy force may move from Skagerrak to the northwards in the near future. Submarines proceed to vicinity of following position. Netherlands submarine O.21 18 miles west of Utsire. STURGEON 18 miles west of Kors Fiord. SEALION 18 miles west of Utvoer. SUNFISH 20 miles north of Stadlandet. (V.A.S. 1259/2 to S/M's Area A)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/3 (V.A.S. 1811/2 and 1051/3)



HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols

My 1824/1. Following additional patrols being flown: Stab Stand
In addition one Beaufort from Wick to Norwegian coast in 59° 02' N., then 20 miles Northwards and return. One Beaufort from Wick to Norwegian coast in 58° 15' N then coastwise to 58° 04' N., and return. (C. in C., Rosyth 0910/2 to Admty)

Milford Haven

My 1508/21/9 and your letter No 0389BB/3003/ M.H. of 29.10. Approval has been given to examine the practicability of providing a balloon barrage for convoy anchorage and outer Channel.
2. Request you will report limits of the area in which ships awaiting convoy are berthed and area of outer channel to be protected with reference to O.S. Sheet 99. (D. of L.D. 1045/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

Night Fighter Patrol

Arrangements made. To come into effect Night 2/3. (D. of L.D. 1307/2) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Air Activity

Thames Estuary

Fireworks seen night 1/2 (X.D.O. Sheerness 1215/2 to C. in C., Nore)

KILGARRAN CASTLE

Attacked by A/C 25 miles S.W. of Kinsale Head at 1236/2. (Valentia Radio 1236/2)

Southampton

Air Raid on night 1/2. Details of damage. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2 and 2203/2 to Admty.)

ASIE

(A/S Trawler) Some damage by near miss in Southampton Air-Raid 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

FEZZARA II

(A.P. Vessel- Bombed and sunk in Southampton Air Raid Night 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)

<u>NEIL SMITH</u> (M/S Trawler)	}	Slightly damaged by Bomb Splinters in Southampton Air Raid Night 1/2. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1723/2)
<u>GREENFINCH</u> (Obs. Minelayer)		
<u>HAWFINCH</u> (Obs. Minelayer)		
<u>PRESIDENT BRIAND</u> (Minesweeper)		

HOBURG

? NORMAN

Slightly damaged in Air Raid 30/11. Two Dutch Schuyts and a coal barge seriously damaged 30/11 (C. in C., Portsmouth 2203/2)



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Liverpool

My 1630/1. Vessels approaching Port should keep North of line joining Bar L.V. to B.1. Pillar Buoy (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1007/2 to Admty.)

Operation J.H.

Suggest you consider repeating as soon as ICARUS has completed present operation and if moon permits (V.C.N.S. 1149/2 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

Operation G.Q.1.

Proceed at your best speed. (C. in C., W.A. 1220/2 to ADVENTURE) ADVENTURE Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1746/2 to Admty) Operation G.Q.1. Completed. (ADVENTURE 1557/2)

Tyne

Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1422/2) Closed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1756/2 to Admty)

Operation G.R.

ICARUS to lay 3 miles 360° from 360° Ile de Bas Light 6 miles on Night 3/4. Details (C. in C., W.A. 1704/2 to ICARUS)

JOLLY GIRLS

(British, 483 Gross) Mined and sunk about 1 mile North of T.I. Buoy. 4 injured. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1756/2 and 2311/2 to Admty)

Plymouth

Since my 1921/28 an Acoustic Mine detonated at 1010 by single L. in 140° New Grounds Buoy 1½ cables. Slight damage to sweeper. No casualties. (C. in C., W.A., 1817/2)

Berry Head

Heavy Explosion to E. of Berry Head. (C. in C., W.A. 1822/2)

Enemy Intelligence

Stadlandet

A/C reports Convoy of 13 M/V's just south of Stadlandet at 1100, steering 160° at 10 knots, with 1 Flak ship. (C. in C., Rosyth 1340/2 to Admty.) (V.A.S. 1431/2 to S/M's Area A)

Sogne Fiord

A/C reports Convoy of small Fishing vessels led by 2000 ton ship at 1127/ in 62° N., 4° 55' E., (C. in C., Rosyth 1446/2)

Aldeburgh

Patrol HU reports unidentified Surface Craft near Aldeburgh at 2222 (C. in C., Nore 2259/2 to EGLINTON)

War Diary

2.12.1940

Monday

37

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTSTARTAR

(Suspected sabotage) My 0124/29. Board of Inquiry being held on 4/12. (C. in C., W.A. 0953/2 to D.N.I.)

BOREAS

(Norwegian,
2801 tons)

Sailed rescue Tug SEINE to assist in 240° The Smalls 10 miles (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1041/2) SEINE towing BOREAS arrived. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2300/2) Tugs unable to bring BOREAS into harbour. Will attempt at daylight (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0258/3)

OTWAY

(H.M. S/M) Struck by SS ST.MODAN while berthed at pier at Campbeltown. Slight damage (S.7 1044/2 to Admty)

ST. LOMAN

(A/S Trawler) In collision at 0305/1 with CITY OF HEREFORD in 056° Isle of May 9½ miles. Damage being surveyed. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1121/2 to Admty.) Request Board of Inquiry. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1301/2 to C. in C., Rosyth)

RAJAHSTAN

(British, 6391 tons) One engine completely disabled. Am trying to proceed. Position 54° 51' N., 18° 46' W., (RAJAHSTAN 1138/2 to Admiral, Devonport)

WHITE BEAR

Crack in main steam-pipe. Request proceed Dundee for repairs. (WHITE BEAR 1426/2 to C. in C., Rosyth) Approved (C. in C., Rosyth 1629/2)

2.12.1940.
Monday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

F.S. 49
F.S. 51

→ F.N. 49
F.S. 51
→ F.S. 52

Shipping

M/LS 106, 108 and 110 were unable to sail in time for F.S. 49 intend sailing them to join F.S. 51 on 4/12. (F.O.Humber 0922/2)

GUILLEMOT to sail to escort F.N. 49 and F.S. 51 WIDGEON is to sail at 0800/4 and proceed to rendezvous before dark with F.S. 52 due Outer Dowsing at 1800/4. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2)

Information

H.X. 92
S.C. 14
H.X. 93

Eastbound convoy may be met approximately as follows H.X. 92 escorted by MONTCLARE 6th/7th December. S.C. 14 escorted by FORFAR 7th/8th December. H.X. 93 escorted by AURANIA 8th/9th December. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1116/2 to PORPOISE)

My 1116/2. For FORFAR read SALOPIAN. (F.O.C. 3 B.S., 1603/4)

H.X. 90

GENTIAN ordered to R.V. (VISCOUNT, 0830/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

S.C. 11

On time at R.V. List of ships torpedoed (see U/Boat Campaign) (D.T.D., 1803/2 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

H.X. 85

On time at R.V. all ships present. Cdre. reports very favourable on this convoy despite bad weather and alterations of course at night. (D.T.D., 1805/2, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

H.X. 86

On time at R.V. with 36 ships. S.W. winds, rough sea. (D.T.D. 1806/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

C.W. 16

Owing to enemy minelaying in swept channel between Folkestone Gate and S. Goodwin postponed until 5/12. (C. in C., Nore, 1844/2)

→ F.N. 49, F.S. 51

GUILLEMOT to sail to escort (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2)


Positions

At 0900/2. North Atlantic Convoys (D.T.D. to C. in C., H.F. 1123/2)

→ F.S. 52

WIDGEON to sail at 0800/4 to R.V. before dark with F.S. 52 due Outer Dowsing 1800/4 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1238/2) Escorted by VANITY, WESTMINSTER. PRIMULA to act as additional escort (C. in C., Rosyth 1749/2)

/S.C. 13.....

2.12.1940
Monday

 War Diary
HOME COMMANDSConvoys-ContdShipping

- S.C. 13 Meet 0900/4 unescorted. Position. Route (C. in C., W.A. 1311/2 and 2334/2 to WELLINGTON, SABRE, SCIMITAR, SHIKARI, CLARKIA, HELIOTROPE)
- O.B. 252 To alter course at 2000/2 (C. in C., W.A. to escorts as for S.C. 13, 1252/2)
- W.N. 48 To R.V. with CHITTY 56° 52' N., 7° 9' W., 1030/3 (N.C.S.O. Oban 131732)
- S.L. 56 WORCESTERSHIRE, CALIFORNIA leave patrol to R.V. with S.L. 56. Position. Time. (F.O.C.N. P. 1414/2)
- O.B. 253 Sailed 1358/2. Escort WALKER, WESTCOTT, HONEYSUCKLE, CANDYTUFT (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1423/2) WALKER proceed to Londonderry forthwith to refuel and then rejoin convoy. WESTCOTT, orders re fuelling (C. in C., W.A. 2055/2)
- W.N. 47 Join Clyde portion escorted by one A/S trawler code word "Muster" (C. in C., W.A. 1550/1 to JACKAL, COREOPSIS)
- W.N. 47 (O) Running as separate convoy (N.C.S.O. Oban 1602/2 to Admty.)
- H.X. 91 Cancel route ordered and substitute (D.T.D. 1802/2 to REVENGE)
- S.C. 14 Left Sydney C.B., at 1200 A.S.T./30. Endeavour to intercept on your return voyage and report if diversion understood. SALOPIAN is joining as ocean escort in about 35° W., (D.T.D., 1802/2, to REVENGE)
- W.N. 49 Code "Rusty" Escorts unappropriated. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1226/2)
- H.G. & O.G. speed of ships Ships of less than 1,000 tons gross not to be accepted for H.G. and O.G. convoys unless capable of speed of at least 10 knots loaded. (D.T.D. 1234/2)
- F.S. 49 SHELDRAKE to meet (C. in C., Nore, 1200/2)

/Troop Convoys.....

2.12.1940
Monday



War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 (A) /

Convoy W.S. 5 (A) will leave the U.K. on
(date)

2. Included in the convoy will be at least thirty ships carrying personnel and valuable M.T.

3. C. in C., W.A. is requested to state maximum number of destroyers he can provide from his command and whether he considers this escort adequate.

4. On breaking off from W.S. 5 (A) escort will be required to R/V with and bring in Convoy T.C. 8. (D.O.D. (H) 1545/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

Shipping
At Scapa

Your 1150/25. Arrangements have been made to reduce traffic of non-British vessels to Scapa as far as possible and that such vessels shall be acceptable from the security point view (D.T.D., to A.C.O.S. 1104/2)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

2.12.1941
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Warships
in Beirut.

One French S/M left Beirut some days ago not returned. French Warships now in Port are Light Cruisers GUEPARD, VALMY, Sloop M/S ANNAMITE, LA GRANDIERE, S/M's DAUPHIN Oiler ADOUR. (Consul General Beyrout 1001/2 to Admty.)

Interception of
French Ships.

312. Your 1916/27/11. French ship VILLE DE TAMATAVE to be intercepted. In these and similar cases it is intended to instruct warships on North Atlantic station to place armed guard on such vessels if encountered. They will be directed to U.K. if possible, otherwise Gibraltar and risk of interception by French patrolling craft with consequent loss of an armed guard will be accepted. French patrol and escort ships are liable to be encountered off St. Vincent. (F.O.C.N.A. 1652/2 to Admty.)

CUBA.

The Senior Naval Officer in French ship CUBA has represented that conditions under which personnel are confined in that ship are inferior to those which would normally be accorded to prisoners of war or internees. Ship undoubtedly overcrowded and general conditions poor. Adequate stocks of provisions have been supplied but personnel on board have no money to buy cigarettes or any smaller requirements. The policy in circumstances as these not known and it is requested I may be informed whether some small scale of cash payment together with an issue of service tobacco may be allowed. Ship has now been in custody for a month. (C.in C. S.A. 1947N/2, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

Sailed 1600/30/11 from Freetown to Scapa (route) (F.O.C.N.A. 0932/2). C.in C. S.A. 1015/30/11. Request signal EDINBURGH onward routing instructions from position (ii) Orlock Head. (F.O.C.N.A. 1808/2 to C.in C. W.A.).

JERSEY.

Arrived Gibraltar 1615/2. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1615/2).

WISHART.

Departed Gibraltar 1830/2 to R/V with DEPTFORD. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1900/2)

/ SERPA PINTO

2.12.1940.
Monday.



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

42

North Atlantic. (Continued)

SERPA PINTO
(Portuguese)

My 1527 29/11. SERPA PINTO left Santos 30/11 due Freetown 7/12 or 8/12. Master has never applied to me for route instructions on his normal voyages and possibly has not done so at Santos on this occasion. Number of berths available not yet known. Request may be informed urgently name of reliable shipping agent at Freetown.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1500/2 to N.S.O.(I) Freetown).

Your 1500/2, last sentence. Sierra Leone Coaling Company (telegraphic address Coaling Sierra Leone). (S.O.I. Freetown, 0931N/3).

South Atlantic.

ITAPE,
22 Germans
Removed.

As CARNARVON CASTLE has removed 22 Germans from Brazilian ITAPE her visit to Rio de Janeiro must be postponed about 4 days pending their transfer elsewhere. Report any local reactions. (Cdre. S.A.D. to N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 0111Z/2).
Your 0801Z/1. You cannot be spared to proceed Freetown. R.V. with QUEEN OF BERMUDA in 28° S., 45° W. at 1200Z/4 and transfer 22 Germans to her.
On completion of transfer proceed Rio de Janeiro to refuel informing N.A. Rio E.T.A. Report position where ITAPE was intercepted. (Cdre. S.A.D., 0104Z/2 to CARNARVON CASTLE). CARNARVON CASTLE 0801Z/2 and R.A.S.A.D. 0111Z/2 passed to you for information (C.in C. S.A. 1056/2 to Admty.)

MEROPI.

My 1806/29/11. Arrived Montevideo 30/11. /5 (S.O.(I) Freetown 0752/2).

ROSS.
CLAN MACWHIRTER

Due Capetown 27/11 from U.K. not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1105/2).

Convoys
S.L.58
S.L. (Slow) 58

Your 1944/30/11. R/V in 054° 40' N., 018° 50' W. at 0900/24/12 and 0900/26/12 G.M.T. respectively. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1118/2 to Admty.)

HEIYO MARU

My 1002 2/12, (Addressed PRINCE ROBERT) Japanese ship HEIYO MARU sailed for Paita 1700 G.M.T. 2/12. (Callao, 1201/2 to D.N.I.)

HERMONTTHIS
HEIYO MARU
VENICE MARU
PRINCE ROBERT

Report (A.2) German ship HERMONTTHIS has postponed sailing temporarily. HEIYO MARU due to leave Callao 1700 G.M.T. 2/12 ? reluctant to leave. VENICE MARU due to arrive Callao 1900 G.M.T. 2/12 from Guayaquil. Suggest PRINCE ROBERT gives wide Berth while patrolling.
(S.O.(I), Callao, 1527/1 to PRINCE ROBERT)

/ A/S Vessels for ...

2.12.1940.

Monday.

43



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

A/S Vessels for
Mediterranean.

My 1752B/25/11. Owing to Governments engagement to Parliament not to send organised forces outside Africa impossible for four A/S Vessels to be loaned to R.N. except on following conditions. (Details)

I am endeavouring to ascertain if guarantee of employment in North African waters only (for example Alexandria) would meet the difficulty. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1705/2 to Admty.).

DORSETSHIRE,
defects.

Have developed excessive vibration Port inner propeller necessitating trailing this shaft. Suspect propeller blade. My position course and speed are 032° 07' S. 029° 30' E. 223°, 17 knots maximum except in emergency. (DORSETSHIRE, 1915Z/2, to Capt. i/c Simonstown).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

44

Mediterranean.

Italian
Battleships.

It is reported that 2nd B.S. consisting of ANDREA DORIA and VITTORIO VENETO are now at Spezia after having been engaged South of Sardinia on 27/11 B.1. (Capt: O.S. Alexandria 0902/2).

Convoy
A.N.8.

Escorted by VOYAGER and VENDETTA, left Alexandria and Port Said 2/12 for Piraeus. CALCUTTA joins a.m./4. 3 C.S. covering the passage. (D.O.R. 4/12).

Leghorn.

Admty. 1558/28. Bombing oil storage at Leghorn. Request your remarks. My 1545/18/11 is being passed to you. (C.in C. Med. 1121/2 to S.O.Force H.)

Route for
UTMOST.

Amendment to 1939/30. (N.O.I.C.Malta 1229/2).

Air
Reconnaissance.

Brindisi 1012 2-1/2. Convoy 11 large merchant ships leaving harbour. 3-6 inch cruisers, 9 destroyers inner harbour. Taranto. LITTORIO battleships moved to entrance of harbour no nets round, 4 cruisers in inner harbour. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1417/2).

Air
Operation.

1/12, 2 Blenheims attacked 100 aircraft on aerodrome at Benina destroying 2, damaging 2. 4 ships 3000 tons anchored off Tobruk. 3 ships 1000 tons, 1 ship 2000 tons off Ras Venna. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1447/2).

Dodecanese.

Questions raised in my 1241/17/11 (T.H.I. 2008/17) becoming increasingly urgent. Asking for policy re future of islands. (C.in C. Med. 1645/2 to Adty).

Italian
Morale.

Details from Turkey secret source, period 18/11-25/11 (Wolffson 1915/2).

Movements.

Summary No.172 (C.in C. Med. 1740/2).

MANCHESTER.

On passage to U.K. left Alexandria 1400/2 for Suda Bay. (D.O.R.4/12).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

45

Mediterranean.

Roumanian
Ships.

Your 1225/11 28/11 and Wolffson's 1226/28. Agree most desirable the ships should be got out of the Black Sea. If they can be induced to sail for any port in Mediterranean their interception will be arranged. Question of purchase or seizure can then be decided whilst they are being held for contraband control.

(C.in C. Med., 1445/2, to N.A. Angora).

Italian
Intelligence.

Ankara reports B.3 Italians intend shortly bombarding Amyrgos and Nikaria Island from Thesea. Governor General of Dodecanese Vecchi using Aeroplanes painted Greek colours for local flights. Trouble expected from Dodecanese population owing to food shortage.
(Capt: on Staff Alexandria 1519/2).

Motor
Craft.

My 1429/16 and 1225/15/11. Can any reply now be given regarding provision of these M.T.B's and fast motor craft. Our occupation of Crete greatly increases possibility of profitable employment of such craft.

(C.in C. Med. 1647/2 to Adty).

Operation
"Collar"
Points of
Interest.

My 1207/17/11. Operation M.B.9. "Collar" (~~COLLAR~~). Apart from operation reported in my 1307/26/11. Following were matters of interest.

1. F.O.C. 3rd C.S. reported hearing three muffled explosions at 2334/27 when in 036° 00' N., 013° 55' E. This attack presumably by a submarine was probably the basis of the Italian claim to have sunk a convoy of 3 ships. This is the third recent report of muffled explosions followed by extravagant Italian submarine claims and it appears they are firing at long range probably from the Deep, the torpedoes exploding at (? end) of their run.

3. From W/T interception there was considerable enemy activity in the Narrows during the night of 27/28 but no report from our ships of any attack.

4. While first div. 1st B.S. and ILLUSTRIOUS and 3rd C.S. were westw. of Malta on 28/11 there was considerable air activity which chiefly took the form of attack on Malta but six J.U. 87 K Dive bombers attacked GLASGOW and



FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operation "Collar"
"COLLAR"
Points of
Interest.
(Contd.)

obtained near miss, but caused no damage or casualties. One Dive Bomber was shot down by GLASGOW. 6 of ILLUSTRIOUS's Fulmars intercepted 6 C.R. 42's. Fulmars claim one certain shot down and two damaged. 3 Fulmars slightly damaged but serviceable same day. It is Fulmars' first fighter engagement.

5. Corvette and one destroyer remained at Malta with engine defects otherwise programme completed as planned. An important feature was that except for aircraft mentioned in paragraph 4 and in paragraph 4 of my 1307/26, no enemy aircraft were sighted East of Malta throughout operation by any unit nor does there appear to have been any shadowing.

(C.in C. Med. 1657/2).

Aircraft
Reconnaissance.

I.137 2/12. Combined services report - Malta up to 1700 hours 2/12. All times G.M.T. reconnaissance reported sighted at 0950 convoy of 11 M/V, of 8,000 tons each coming out of Brindisi. In Brindisi harbour - 3 6-inch cruisers and 9 destroyers. No obvious result of damage by Wellington operations referred to in my I.131 29/11 Taranto. LITTORIO battleship in outer harbour has been moved towards entrance of harbour and is now without nets and supports. CAVOUR battleship still supported in outer harbour - still with tilt - unable to see others on account of clouds. 4 cruisers in inner harbour. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1720/2).

A.89 2/12 X.6232. Operational Summary 19. 9 Blenheim aircraft raided Valona p.m./2/12. A large building was hit and one part left in flames. Very large explosion was seen indicating something more than bombs going off and black smoke seen from wharf area. Main jetty, seaplanes damaged. Other buildings hit and one small ship in harbour. Photographs confirm damage to jetty, hit on ship alongside jetty and very near miss on one other, also hits in ammunition dump area. One C.R.42 believed shot down from large enemy fighter formation which made persistent attacks. One of our aircraft forced landed at Araxos, crew safe, aircraft believed damaged. (H.Q. B.A.F. Greece 1751/2).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.12.40.
Monday.

47

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Boom Defence
Vessels for
Turkey.

Turks are pressing for delivery of 5 BAR Class Boom Vessels and 3 Boom trawlers. It is not at present possible for boom craft to make passage to Mediterranean, but as a gesture BARSETTE might be transferred if Suda Bay defences can be run from Mediterranean resources reinforced by BURGONET. Request your views.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1944/2 to C.in C. Med.)

Orders to
UPRIGHT.

MANCHESTER expects to arrive Malta a.m./4. Keep Northwards 035° 42'N., before entering searched channel and do not enter sanctuary before 0200.
(V.A.Malta 2113/2 to UPRIGHT).

Greek
Troop
Transport.

42nd. Regiment 37th. Modens^a Division embarked at Ancona arrived at Valona 14/11. Ship was escorted by small torpedo boat and one aeroplane.
(M.A. Athens, 2215/2 to W.O.)



2.12.1940.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Pilgrim Ships.

MICE No. 9023, 30/11 being passed to you with reference to my 1202/28. These ships are made safer by being put into convoy because enemy are sinking indiscriminately. On other hand, these ships in convoy render themselves liable to legitimate attack. If any information is given to Italians, therefore, I suggest it should be no more than name of ships carrying pilgrims. By reason of enemy right of visit and search this will at least remove excuse for sinking of ships not in convoy which have left a convoy. (C.in C. E.I., 0544Z/2, to Admty.)

COLOMBO

(i) COLOMBO is to proceed now to Durban to arrive p.m./6.

CARTHAGE orders.

(ii) CARTHAGE is to proceed now to Durban at best speed and is to (5 groups omitted) sailing of C.M.7 is to be delayed accordingly. (C.in C. E.I. 0640Z/2 to Force W.)

Dante.

My 0502/28/11. DORSETSHIRE's report as follows. (Re Defences of Dante and best method of attack) (C.in C. E.I. 1000Z/30).

CERES.

CERES to leave Mombasa p.m./3 and proceed Mahe, Seychelles passing through positions 011° S. 045° E. and 011° 40'S. 050°E. adjusting speed to arrive 8/12. CLYDEFIELD is being sent to Mahe from Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I., to Force W. 1216/2).

Convoy W.S.4.

Your 1211/1 Red Sea escorts will be reconsidered and I hope to arrange accordingly without convoys being delayed. My chief concern is to give good A.A. protection to such valuable convoys. (C.in C. E.I. 1234Z/2 to Adty.)

America and West Indies.

22 German prisoners removed from ITAPE.

Your 0801Z/1. Object is protection of trade. You cannot therefore be spared to proceed to Freetown. Rendezvous with QUEEN OF BERMUDA in 028° S. 045° W. at 1200Z/4 and transfer 22 German prisoners to her. QUEEN OF BERMUDA conform and retain prisoners pending further instructions. On completion of transfer CARNARVON CASTLE proceed to Rio de Janeiro to refuel. Report position where ITAPE was intercepted. 0114Z/2.



2.12.1940.

Monday.

49

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

CARADOC.

Bermuda 1/12 departure CARADOC in accordance with my 1202/30/11 to arrive Florida Straits a.m./4. (C.in C. A.W.I. 0903/2).

SANDWICH.

SANDWICH has not yet arrived at Sydney Cape Breton. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1438/2).

LISIEUX
EUGENA CAMBANIS
Lost at sea

My 1721/22 (S.C. draft sailing telegram) LISIEUX and EUGENA CAMBANIS reported lost at sea. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B., 0921/2). LISIEUX was in Convoy S.C.13 in Mid-Atlantic (D.O.R., 29/11).

N.C.S.O. Sydney's 0921/2 British URLA has reported by W/T she has crew of EUGENA CAMBANIS on board and is proceeding to St. John's, also reported Steamship BERNHARD proceeding to St. John's has 15 survivors of LISIEUX including four Officers. Also two dead.

Greek KATHARIOTISSA picked up one survivor of LISIEUX not known whether KATHARIOTISSA is now proceeding. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1733/2 to Admty.)

EUGENA CAMBANIS, see also 2/1/1941.

2.12.1940.

Monday.



War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

50

KLAUS SCHOKE
captured by
CALIFORNIA.

My 1648. Ship sailed 2205 G.M.T., destination unknown. (F.O.C.N.A. 0059/2.) KLAUS SCHOKE sailed from Ponta Delgada 2200/1, destination unknown. (V.A.S., 0724/2 to S/M's, Area B). (D.D.I.C., 0858/2 to C.in C. H.F., C.in C. W.A., etc.)

Captured KLAUS SCHOKE in 38° 28' N. 22° 15' W. Engine and boiler room flooded beyond control but bulkhead stands and hope to save ship and get in tow at daylight. Crew abandoned in great hurry and did not make good job of scuttling. Request permission to tow Azores for necessary assistance otherwise Gibraltar. (CALIFORNIA 2328/2).

HERMONTHIS.

My 1527 December 1st. Port authorities announced in Press HERMONTHIS sails noon today. HEIYO MARU sails same time please give additional Lima routine 1800 to 1830 G.M.T. today only. Peruvian Cruiser GRAU proceeded to sea. (N.S.O.(I) Callao 1002/2 to PRINCE ROBERT).

HERMONTHIS has postponed sailing temporarily (S.O.(I) Callao 1527/1).

My 1002/2 HERMONTHIS has received orders cancel sailing although pilot was actually on board and all papers signed. (N.S.O.(I) Callao 1540/2).

ARKADIA
ITHAKA

ARKADIA and ITHAKA arrived with 2,200 and 3,000 tons of Manganese Ore. (Macrae, Galatzi 1124/2).

SALZBURG

Departure German SALZBURG Braila. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1159/1.)

Following German ships have recently sailed Reference C.A.F.O. No. 422/40

772 HELGOLAND? 28/10 Puerto Colombia
813 RIO GRANDE 31/10 Rio Grande Do Sul.
318 and 577 IDARWALD 29/11
& RHEIN. Tampico.
547 PORTLAND 30/11 Coquimbo.

(C.in C. W.A. 1524/2 to BULOLO, DEPTFORD).

LECH
KARNAK
CAMPOAMOR
ARTIGAS

Departure Colon 29/11 LECH,
KARNAK 30/11, departure
CAMPOAMOR Gijon 1/12.
ARTIGAS 1/12.
(Bilbao 1816/2).

IDARWALD
RHEIN

IDARWALD at 1700Z plus 5 on 1/12 position 020° 56' N. 093° 54' W. Course and Speed made good since 1315 plus 5 was 077° 5.2 knots. RHEIN at 1930Z plus 5 first December off Puerto Mexico following coast line speed 7 knots. Funnel now black.

/ Each ship ...



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

2.12.1940.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

51

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

IDARWALD
RHEIN
(contd.)

Each ship is being shadowed by one U.S. destroyer.
Estimate IDARWALD proposal to pass to Southward of Alacran Shoal.
Endeavour to intercept IDARWALD.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1922/2, to R.A. 3 B.S.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

OLTERRA.
LAVORO

Governor Gibraltar Tel. unnumbered to P.O. June 13 Spanish Government state OLTERRA and LAVORO nearly ready. Request assurance of non-interference on journey from Gibraltar to Cadiz.
(A.N.A. Madrid, 1132/2, to Admty.)

PIER LUIGI
TORCELLO

Correct my telegram 1130/30
(PIER LUIGI) is still in port Tanker TORCELLO left for Batoum 30/11.
(Varna, 1630/2).

AEQUITAS

AEQUITAS passed Pernambuco southbound morning 2/12. Brazilian minelayer CANANEA took over escort duty from Brazilian minelayer CARIOCA.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2007Z/2).

FRANCO MARTELLI

Has paid off the claim against her and has been released from embargo at Pernambuco (D.S. 454).



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

52

Ships Attacked

FORFAR
A.M.C.

Have been struck by torpedo on starboard side, my position 040 QXNG 42. (FORFAR, 0250/2)

Engine Room and dynamo Room flooded, bulkheads holding at present. (FORFAR, 0439/2)

FORFAR torpedoed in position 054° 35' N., 018° 18' W., proceed to assistance forthwith. (C. in C., W.A., 0523/2 to ST. LAURENT)

Proceed forthwith to assistance of FORFAR reported in position 54° 42' N., 19° 00' W at 0250 today. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0558/2 to SEAMAN, THAMES)

My 0558, amend position to read 54° 35' N 18° 18' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0623/2)

Sailed tugs SEAMAN and THAMES from Campbeltown to assistance of FORFAR in position 54° 35' N., 18° 18' W. Tug SEAMAN constant W/T watch on 500 KC/S. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0705/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

SALVONIA is to proceed forthwith to assistance of FORFAR in position 54° 35' N., 18° 18' W., at 0250 today. Tug SCHELDE has been sent from Campbeltown to assist ENGLISHMAN with SAGUENAY. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0724/2)

Addressed GBXZ signal letters not known DUNSLEY have picked up crew of merchant cruiser assistance required master 0916/2 Position 54.40 N., 19.10 W., (Valencia Radio 0925/2)

Report if FORFAR still afloat and any information regarding other ships that have been attacked. (C. in C., W.A. 1548/2 to VISCOUNT)

[FORFAR sunk - see page 56.]

?

Proceed to assistance of unknown ship reported torpedoed and sinking in position 054° 23' N., 020° 118 W., at 0017 (C. in C., W.A. 0040/2 to ST. LAURENT)

/LADY GLANELY.....

War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

LADY GLANELY

British 5497 tons. Addressed following has been read:- Submarine Distress LADY GLANELY torpedoed 55.00 N., 20.00 W., at 0315/2. (Portishead, No. T.O.O./2 recd. 0430/2)

^{LADY}
Steamship ^AGLANELY torpedoed in position 055° 00' N., 020° 00' W., at 0415; investigate. (C. in C., S.A. 0442/2 to ST LAURENT)

?BOTAVON

(not BOTAVON, see page 209)

DE GKIF (not known in War Registry) 55.03 N., 18.40 W., Am being attacked by submarine (Valentia Radio 0453/2)

→ Proceed to assistance ships torpedoed in position 055° N., 020° W., at 0415 and 054° 23' N., 020° 11' W at 2317. (C. in C., W.A. 0550/2 to VANQUISHER)

GOODLEIGH

British 5448 tons. S/M Distress, SSSS GOODLEIGH torpedoed in 55.02 N., 18.45 W (Valentia Radio, 0544/2)

S/M Distress. Torpedoed at 0537 (GOODLEIGH 0639/2)

TRADE

S/M Distress. Am being attacked (TRADE, T.O.R. 0554/2)

Ship being attacked in position 055° 03' N 018° 40' W., at 0553. (C. in C., W.A. 0610/2 to VISCOUNT)

Your 0610 am searching in the vicinity
→ VANQUISHER complying with your 0550. GENTIAN ordered to rendezvous H.X. 90. (VISCOUNT 0830/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

SAGUENAY
(torpedoed 1/12)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of SAGUENAY in position 54° 20' N., 15° 22' W., at 2000/1. Course 070° speed 4 knots HIGHLANDER and A/S Trawler escort standing by. Tug ENGLISHMAN already despatched. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0712/2 to SCHELDE)

Sailed SCHELDE to assistance of SAGUENAY (F...I.C. Greenock, 1204/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

/CONCH.....



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

54

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

CONCH

British, British tanker, 8376 tons. Picked up survivors from CONCH in position 055° 40' N., 019° W., ship still afloat, stationary, proceeding to FORFAR 0736. (ST. LAURENT 0645/2)

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of Tanker CONCH torpedoed but reported floating in position 55° 40' N., 19° 00' W at 0645. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2304/2 to SUPERMAN)

VICTOR ROSS

British tanker, 12,247 tons. Following has been read. SSSS 56.04 N., 18.30 W., VICTOR ROSS torpedoed. (Plymouth W/T 0752/2)

After picking up survivors proceed to assistance of VICTOR ROSS torpedoed in 056° 04' N., 018° 30' W., at 0853/2 then rejoin convoy. Report situation. (C. in C., W.A. 1550/2 to VANQUISHER)

?

S/M Raider 54.35 N., 19.25 W., unknown ship torpedoed requires immediate assistance (Portishead Radio, 0830/2)

SEABANK SPRAY

My 0530/2 not to Admiralty and 936 A.Z. (a) Search by DEPTFORD failed to obtain contact (b) Not known, no signal made. (c) DEPTFORD starboard beam HAARLEM port beam GRMR (X) astern. (d) GDCH (X) Ship unidentifiable. Rear ship of number two column. Ship definitely sunk. (e) 0520/2 039°, 22' N., 014° 18' W., (f) 133° 28 hours proceeding zigzag. (g) B.C. sea 33 wind N.E. three fair dark night. (h) cause of explosion at present unknown. (DEPTFORD 0537/2 to Admty)

SEABANK SPRAY sunk probably torpedoed at 0530/2 in position 039° 22' N., 014° 18' W Survivors have been picked up. (F.O.C.N.A. 0943/2)

? JEANNE M

My 0931/2 (?0943 intended) Ship sunk was JEANNE M and not SEABANK SPRAY. Ship was in O.G. 46 and was torpedoed and sunk at 0545 B.S.T. 2/12 in position 39° 19' N., 13° 54' W., (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/5)

See also p. 57.

/TASSO.....

War Diary2.12.1940
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.TASSO
MODAVIA (?)
GOODLEIGH

Have survivors from TASSO, MODAVIA, GOODLEIGH latter afloat. My position 054° 56' N., 018° 26' W. Am joining ST LAURENT at rendezvous to hunt S/M sighted on surface. (VISCOUNT 1028/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

LOCH RANZA

54° 37' N., 18° 54' W., torpedoed and sinking have shipwrecked crew of another vessel aboard. (LOCH RANZA, 1257/2)

54° 37' N., 18° 54' W., torpedoed and sinking have shipwrecked crew of another vessel on board LOCH RANZA (Valentia Radio 1300/2)

Your 0550 (Proceed to assistance ships torpedoed 055° N., 020° W., at 0415 054° 23' N., 020° 11' W., at 2317) Have found no trace of other ship. Am proceeding assistance LOCH RANZA. (VANQUISHER 1424/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

My position is 054° 36' N., 018° 30' W., Escorting LOCH RANZA course 083° LOCH RANZA can proceed as long as number one bulkhead holds (corrupt group) towage (corrupt group) (? ST LAURENT 1800/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

FORFAR has sunk. Proceed with all despatch to assistance LOCH RANZA in position 54° 36' N., 18° 30' W., at 1800 steering 083° escorted by ST LAURENT. Ship proceeding while No 1 bulkhead holds. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2129/2 to SALVONIA)

STIRLINGSHIRE

Torpedoed at 1632 G.M.T. 55° 42' 16° 13' (STIRLINGSHIRE 1738/2)

Torpedoed in position 055° 28' N., 016° 00' W., Am hunting. (FOLKESTONE, 1805/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

1725/2, 55° 28' N., 016° 00' W., course 351° after 2 emergency turns to port STIRLINGSHIRE afloat and abandoned, master considers salvage doubtful. All saved and in GRANGE PARK. Attack pressed home boldly, contact lost (FOLKESTONE, 1935/2 to Admty.)

/W. HENDRICK....



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

W. HENDRICK

Torpedoed 2027, 55° 00' N., 15° 40' W.,
Valencia W/T 2129/2)

WILHELMINA

→ (H.X. 90)

2116/2, 055° 43' N., 015° 06' W., course
071° Believe W. HENDRICK attacked, and 1
Oiler sank. HILLCROFT picked up survivors
of oiler. (FOLKESTONE, 2251/2 to Admty)

Convoy attacked by one ~~Wolf~~ Condor.
W. HENDRICK bombed and on fire. Can be
salvaged. Request tug. Survivors on board
GENTIAN. Correct my 2251/2. WILHELMINA
only torpedoed and sunk, 56.32 N., 11.37 W
(FOLKESTONE 1201/3)

VICTORIA CITY

→ (H.X. 90)

British, 4739 tons, reported torpedoed
(D.S. 455)

FORFAR

TASSO

KAVAK

LOCH RANZA

APPALACHEE

CONCH

RAJAHSTAN

FORFAR sunk. Survivors in VISCOUNT,
ST. LAURENT, DUNSLEY. Have also survivors
from TASSO, GOODLEIGH. My position at
1700/2 054° 36' N., 018° 10' W., course
093° escort ^{LOCH RANZA} with survivors of
APPALACHEE on board. ST LAURENT in company
with survivors of CONCH. RAJAHSTAN 10
miles to northward steering E. Intend
rejoin convoy am short of fuel and both
ships have sick men on board. (VISCOUNT,
1700/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

FORFAR

RAJAHSTAN

FORFAR has sunk. Proceed with all despatch
to assistance of RAJAHSTAN in position 54°
46' N., 18° 10' W., at 1700 steering E at
3 knots. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2133/2
THAMES, SEAMAN)

If not in contact rejoin convoy forthwith
(C. in C., W.A., 1800/2 to VISCOUNT,
ST LAURENT)

Position 055° 42' N., 015° 06' W., course
071° 9 knots. (FOLKESTONE 2100/2 to
VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN)

→ H.X. 90

Convoy attacked again. (FOLKESTONE 2134/2
to C. in C., W.A.)

/OAKCREST.....



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

→ OAKCREST
(Torpedoed 25/11)

Information received from Piermaster Castlebay that 6 British survivors and 8 bodies from SS OAKCREST were landed in lifeboat at Tangudae Isle of Barra at about 2200/1/12. Survivors now at Castlebay. Ship was in convoy O.B. 244 from Birkenhead to State of Virginia. Survivors state ship was torpedoed at 0600 25/11 in approximate position 53° N., 17° W. Of original 24 men in boat 10 were buried at sea. Another lifeboat said to have left ship with 3 men. No officer survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2107/2 to Admty.)

S.C. 11

On time at R.V. Following ships torpedoed in N.W. Approaches: BRADFYNE, LEISE MAERSK, SALONICA, BUSSUM and JUSTITIA sunk, BRUSE damaged. ALMA DAWSON mined and sunk. OOT MAR SUM not yet reported. (D.T.D. 1803/2 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

** Further news.*

CHARLES F MEYER
(Torpedoed 28/11)

Has arrived at Rothesay Bay (D.S. 455,456)

JEANNE M.

British, 2465 tons, in Convoy O.G. 46. Cardiff to Lisbon with coal, sunk by torpedo about 230 miles W. of Cape Roca, 39.22 N., 14.18 W., at 0520/2. Survivors have been picked up. (D.S. 455)

→ OAKCREST
(Torpedoed 25/11)

British, 5407 tons, in convoy O.B. 244, torpedoed about 250 miles W. of Iceland on 25/11, is now presumed sunk. 18 of the crew were killed, 3 are missing, 6 have been landed on Barra Island. (D.S. 455)

Submarines Reported

0032

S/M reported in 54.23 N., 20.11 W., Keep well clear to southward. (C. in C., W.A. 0032/2, to FORFAR)

0415

A/F message 55.00 N., 20.00 W., at 0315/2 G.M.T. (N.I.D. 0505/2)

0150

A/F message 54.36 N., 22° W., (D.D.I.C. 0647/2)

0553

A/F message 55.03 N., 18.40 W., at 0453 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0647/2)



War Diary

2.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

- 0800 One S/M bearing 340° distance 8 miles course 150° my position 108° D.S.C.N. 19 at 0800 (ROYAL SOVEREIGN to Gibraltar W/T 0830/2) *See also next page.*
 - 0852 A.F. message 56.04 N., 18.30 W., at 0752 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0938/2)
 - 0950 Sighted S/M on surface, 54.35 N., 18.16 W., am hunting. (ST. LAURENT, 0950/2)
 - 1023 U/Boat in approx. position 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1023 homeward bound. (V.A.S., to S/M's Area B 1051/2)
 - 0830 Conflicting reports of S/M sighted 36.02 N., course 150°, northbound. (F.O.C.N.A., to DEPTFORD, JERSEY 1150/2)
 - 1208 G.M.T. S/M sighted 55° 29' N., 22° 00' W., (INDUNA 1410/2, Valencia Radio No T.O.O. Admty., 1500/2)
 - 1610 D.F. probably U-Boat 56° N., 15° W. Unreliable fix. Probably reporting H.X. 90. (D.D.I.C. 1640/2)
 - 1736 U-Boat reported in 055° 32' N., 007° 12' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1806/2)
- Indications at least 3 U-Boats working in 055° N., between 015 and 020° W., (C. in C., W.A. 2034/2 to VISCOUNT, ST LAURENT, VANQUISHER, WELLINGTON, SABRE)
- 1638 HAVELOCK, HARVESTER proceed to vicinity 054° 40' N., 018° 40' W., where several U-Boats are operating. HURRICANE, HESPERUS follow when ready. (C. in C., W.A. 1638/2)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 in vicinity of Rockall.
 1 more in N.W. Approaches possibly N. of 55° N., and West of 20° W.,
 2 returning to Gironde, the foremost was about 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1023/2.
 German- 1 was about 550 miles S.W. of Cape Verde Islands on 30th. No recent news.
 1 in 54° 35' N., 19° 25' W., at 0930/2.
 1 about 55° N., 18° 45' W., at 0637/2.
 1 about 56° N., 19° W., at 0852/2.
 1 about 90 miles N.W. of Rockall at 2315/1.
 1 near Rockall at 0209/2 probably moving South.
 Possibly 1 east of Shetlands homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 1221/2)

/Two Italian....

MOST SECRETWar Diary2.12.1940
MondayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines ReportedEstimated
U-Boat
Dispositions-
Contd.

Two Italian U-Boats returning to Gironde, the foremost was about 120 miles S.W. of Brest at 1032. Possibly one German East of Shetlands homeward bound. (V.A.S. 1426/2)

Submarines Attacked

→ Attacking firm contact in position 054° 36' N., 018° 26' W., VISCOUNT in company. (ST. LAURENT 1132/2)

My 0830. Submarine dived and was attacked by KELVIN who reports 18 charges dropped air bubbles and oil seen consider U-Boat possibly sunk. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1203A/2 F.O.C.N.A.) *See previous page.*

→ Your 1800/2 and my 1700/2. Am endeavouring to find STIRLINGSHIRE en route to join convoy. ST LAURENT remaining with LOCH RANZA. Firm contact in vicinity of ST. LAURENT 1132/2 has been attacked with 80 depth charges. No visible result but contact fading. (VISCOUNT 1907/2 to C.in C., W.A.)

1620

FOLKESTONE (with convoy H.X. 90 see ^{ps} Ships Attacked) attacked contact and sighted periscope. At 1630/2 MODAVIA Captain sighted damaged U-Boat lying on its side which came awash 3 times and sank. This report being further investigated, but conclusion is that U-Boat fired torpedoes at STIRLINGSHIRE immediately before FOLKESTONE killed him. (Capt D. Liverpool to Admty., 1521/7)



War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

M.T.B. Sweep
off Ostend

The M.T.B's returned to Harwich this morning. No incidents are reported.

Operation D.N.

C.S. 2. in ARETHUSA with AURORA and 4 Tribals left Scapa at 1114 today to carry out a sweep between Jaederens Point and Lister Light.

Convoy
Protection

To meet the renewed U-Boat attacks on convoys west of the position where the usual local escort is in company it is intended as a temporary expedient to use the longer endurance destroyers with or near important convoys. Four destroyers of the Western Approaches Command have been sailed for this purpose. Sloops and Corvettes are not fast enough to catch U-Boats on the surface.

British Air Operations

Bomber Command

Adverse weather again caused a considerable curtailment of operations last night. A small force was however, despatched to attack the Naval Dockyard, submarines, and power stations at Lorient. Only part of this force was able to locate and attack the target.

Bad weather prevented any operations being carried out today.

Coastal Command

Bombs dropped yesterday on an Island off the Coast of Norway resulted in an explosion and fire and it is thought that an ammunition dump was hit.

Bad weather interfered with patrols today. All North Sea and Norwegian coast patrols were cancelled. A/S searches and convoy escorts were carried out in the N.W. Approaches only during the forenoon; and poor results were obtained from photographic sorties.

Fighter Command

Fighter patrols were maintained during today over the Heligoland Bight.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

61

3.12.1940
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Operations

Rescue tug SALVONIA was attacked today in the N.W. Approaches. No damage is reported.

Convoy H.X. 90 was attacked this morning by a F.W. Condor about 140 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland. In spite of defence by an escorting aircraft SS W. HENDRICK was set on fire; a tug has been sent to her.

About 1700/3 an aircraft attacked G.H. Auxiliary patrol with machine guns and shot down two balloons off Spurn Point.

Enemy attacks last night were for the most part against Bristol.

Slight damage was done in an attack on Chatham Dockyard this evening.

Mining

Enemy Mining

Mine laying by enemy aircraft took place last night off the south and south west coast and off the east coast; it is estimated that 30 aircraft were employed.

ROBRIX
Mined in
Humber Area

M.V. ROBRIX (292 tons) was damaged by a mine off Spurn Point this morning and was towed to Grimsby. An aircraft dropped 3 mines in the searched channel 3 miles west of the Humber L.V. about 1700 today. The Humber was closed about an hour later.

Dover Area

Special Intelligence suggested that an enemy minelaying operation was carried out last night in the Dover area. Eight mines and 2 explosive cutters were found today.

Operation G.R.

ICARUS left Dartmouth at 1820 today to R.V. with KASHMIR, KIPLING and PUNJABI from Plymouth, to lay mines off the French Coast. The operation was abandoned on account of the failure of the taut-wire gear.

War Diary3.12.1940
TuesdaySITUATION REPORTNorth AtlanticAzores Patrol

CACHALOT left the Clyde this afternoon to establish a patrol off the Azores.

South Atlantic

On account of the ITAPE incident (see 1/12) coming on top of two other as yet unsettled incidents, the visit of CARNARVON CASTLE to Rio de Janeiro has been cancelled and the ship will call at Montevideo to fuel.

Mediterranean

In pressing for a second fighter squadron at Malta, V.A. Malta says: "In view of intention to use Malta more fully for both Naval and Air Force an increase in fighter strength is an absolute necessity."

GLASGOW

GLASGOW (arrived Suda Bay 0700/2) was hit while at anchor at 1540 today by two aircraft torpedoes. The ship is in no danger of sinking and is capable of steaming, and she left Suda Bay for Alexandria at 2130 today with GLOUCESTER (C.S.3) HEReward, and HASTY.

Air Attack
on Naples

Last night, Wellingtons from Malta attacked the railway station and oil refineries at Naples. Hits were obtained on the main line near the railway station and a large fire was started at the oil refineries.

Other
Air Operations

One aircraft attacked the aerodrome at Catania successfully last night. An enemy supply ship was attacked in Sarande Bay today. Blenheims today maintained a fighter patrol over Athens. Sunderlands patrolled the eastern Ionian sea.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

62^A

3.12.1940

Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

China

A report has been received that German SS BURGELAND at Yokohama is being fitted with torpedo tubes and is loading large quantities of provisions.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD and RHEIN are reported to be still in the Gulf of Campeche. In view of their slow advance CARADOC has been ordered to patrol Florida Straits and DIOMEDE Yucatan Channel. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN left Bermuda today for Florida Straits.

Australia

Since the mining of SS CAMBRIDGE off Melbourne on 7/11, 12 mines have been found in the area (D.S. 455)



WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H-Class
Destroyers
as Convoy
Escorts.

To meet U/Boat attacks on Convoys West of position where usual Local Escort in *company* Intend as a temporary expedient to use longer-endurance Destroyers. 4 H.Class have been sailed for this purpose. (C.in C. W.A. 1332/3 to Adty).

Faroes.
Flag of the
Day to
Intercepted
Ships.

Adty. 1152/23/10. Do not propose to give Flag of Day to Ships thus intercepted Reasons. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1846/3 to A.C.O.S.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 1130/3. (D.C. 1134/3). At 2330/3. (D.C. 2332/3).

Plymouth.
Air Decoy
Proposal.

Your postagram 1123/1. Air Ministry representative cannot visit Plymouth. Adty. representative can be at your disposal a.m./5. Request your views. (D. of L.D. 1855/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Movements.

JUPITER. KIPLING.
KASHMIR.

Arrived Plymouth. 1610/2. (C.in C. W.A. 0045/3).

HESPERUS,
HURRICANE.

Expect arrive at daylight/4 in position given in C.in C. W.A. 1638/2. (HESPERUS 0057/3 to HAVELOCK).

EGLINTON.
VANESSA.

Arrived Harwich 0936. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0941/3).

GERANIUM.
JONQUIL.

Your 1320/2. Will be ready for sea a.m./9. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1020/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

VESPER
VENOMOUS.)

Cin C. W.A. 1706/2. (Ships to be retained by W.A. till after operation of 18/12. Concur. (C.in C. Nore 1040/3 to Adty.)

3.12.40.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)

NELSON.
DOUGLAS.
VIMY.
KEPPEL. Intend sail for Scapa passing Oxcars Gate 1530 today. E.T.A. 0545/4. (C.in C. H.F. to C.in C. Rosyth). Sailed 1530. (C.in C. Rosyth 1539/3).

Nore. Movements to 1200/4. (C.in C. Nore 1200/3).

Portsmouth. Intended sailings. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1207/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

BLYSKAWICA. Repairs completed. Sailed for Greenock today. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1221/3)

DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Intend sailing for Freetown a.m./7. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1232/3).

Dover. Patrols for night 3/4. (V.A. Dover 1236/3)

CAMPBELL
VANESSA. Sailed from Harwich 1313/3. E.T.A. Sheerness 1600. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1317/3). Arrived Sheerness 1605. (C.in C. Nore 1806/3).

MORETON BAY. C.in C. W.A. 1632/2. Leaves Clyde at 1200/5 unescorted for South Shields. Route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1646/3).

WORCESTER
QUORN. Sailed from Harwich 1652/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1653/3).

SCOTT. Arrived Port ZA. 1645/3. (TRELAWNEY 1701/3).

ASPHODEL)
CALENDULA.) Intend sail for Freetown as by C.in C. W.A. 1649/26 and 1046/1 at 1700/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1731/3).

FORMIDABLE. Your 1524/2. Expect sail 1800/7, anchoring Greenock before dark on 8th to embark stores and special Freight. (FORMIDABLE 1815/3 to Adty). Request Destroyer Escort from 1800/7. N.O.I.C. Belfast 1820/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

PEGASUS.)
VOLUNTEER.) My 1207/3. Sailed. BRANLEBAS delayed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2047/3).

MOST SECRET.3.12.40.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)TARTAR.

Request may be sailed for Scapa when ready. (R.A.D. 2245/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

BOUCLIER.

Your 1511/3 and 1528/3. Sailed for R/V. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1959/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations.OPERATIONS.Ostend.

M.T.B.'s, 14, 67 and 68 left Harwich at 0025. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0027/3). M.T.B.'s 14, 67, 68 arrived Harwich 0920. M.T.B. 22 arrived Harwich 0927 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0941/3).

Operation D.N.

Carry out operation by ARETHUSA, AURORA, SOMALI, MASHONA, ESKIMO, BEDOUIN. (V.A.C. B,C.S. 0047/3 to C.S.2.) Ships sailed 1114. (A.C.O.S. 1133/3 to Adty).

FERNIE)
WITCH.)

Patrol Westward tonight to cover passage of Floating Dock from Portland to Needles. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1437/3 to Adty).

KLAUS SCHOKE.

Your 2328/2. Did ship use her Wireless before capture. (F.O.C.N.A. 1622/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Submarines.SEALION.

Leave patrol as by my 0955/1. (S.6.0933/3)

O.15.

Request she be sailed independently for Reykjavik and thence to Rothesay. (V.A.S. 1136/3).

→ CACHALOT.

Sailed as by V.A.S. 2124/1. (S.2. 1402/3).

TAKU.

To leave patrol after dark 6th and meet CUTTY SARK in 270° Trevoise Head 5 miles at 0845/9. Route. (S.2. 1549/3).

→ CACHALOT.
THUNDERBOLT.
TRIBUNE.

Movements. (S.2. 1554/3).



WAR DIARY.

66
MOST SECRET.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/4.
(V.A.S. 1731/3).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2244/30. Following patrols ordered to be flown p.m. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0340/3). Unlikely any of these Patrols will be flown today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0938/3 to Adty.) All Air Patrols and Air Escorts cancelled today owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 1246/3).

Milford Haven.
Balloon Barrage.

Your 1045/2. Limits of Convoy Anchorage and Approach Channel. (F.O. Milford Haven 1136/3 to Adty).

Enemy Air Activity.

SALVONIA.

(Rescue Tug) Attacked by A/C in 54° 40'N., 16° 10'W. (Valentia Radio 1047/3).

Convoy HX.90.

Being attacked in 56° 28'N., 10° 40'W. (HX. Convoy 1100/3) Position 56° 28'N., 11° 42'W. (HX. Convoy 1105/3). Attacked by one A/C. W. HENDRICK (British, 4360 tons) bombed and on fire. Can be salvaged. Request Tug. WILHELMINA only (British 7,135 tons) torpedoed and sunk. Position 56° 32'N., 11° 37'W. (FOLKSTONE 1201/3). *See U-Boat Campaign*
(H.Q.15 Group 1930/3 to H.Q.15 Group 1930/2 to H.Q.C.C.)

Ford.

Air Raid at 1200/3. Damage superficial. Estimate £20. (Supt: C.E. Portsmouth, 1745/3 to C.E. in C.)

North Sea.

Indications of German Air R/C activity between Helder and Yorkshire coast between 1800 and 1900 today. (D.D.I.C. 1911/3).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.12.40.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)Humber.

At about 1700/3 an A/C attacked G.H.A/P vessel with machine guns and shot down 2 balloons off Spurn Point.
(F.O. Humber, 2152/3 to Adty).

Mining.Harwich.

Following from D.O. Walton. Coastguard Naze reports at 0117/3, 090° white flash followed by heavy explosion distant.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0120/3).

Dover Area.

See also
enemy
Intelligence.

No routine sweeping to 0800/3 in Q Z X 245 area swept extended to 7 cables E of line joining 1 and 4 buoys. 2 mines and 3 explosive cutters found. Q.Z.F. 26 search sweep 80% nothing found.
(V.A.Dover 1131/3).

In view of special intelligence suggesting that an enemy minelaying operation had been carried out last night a special sweep of channel past A No. 4 and Sandhead buoys was carried out near high water p.m. 3/12. Eight mines and two explosive cutters were cut between A and No.4 buoys, thus confirming this supposition.

Operation O Y was in force last night between 2340 and 0440. Although warned that special intelligence indicated the presence of enemy vessels neither of the M.T.B's in the vicinity of number 4 and number 1 buoys saw or heard minelayers which must have passed within a few cables of them. Visibility was poor and at times not more than two cables. Dover R.D.F. was out of action.
(V.A.Dover, 1818/3 to Adty).

Operation S.N.
10.A.

1st M/L Squadron will carry out operation S.N.10.A. sailing from Port ZA at 1530/5. C.S.2 in ARETHUSA will provide ocean escort and R/V with R.A. M/L at 1730/5. REPULSE screened by 4 destroyers to cover operation. R.A.(D) H.F. is to sail 2 destroyers for Port ZA as additional screen in accordance with R.A. M/L 1635/2. (C.in C. H.F. 1226/3 to R.A.I.B.S.)

WAR DIARY.

3.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Enemy
Minelaying.

Good indications enemy minelaying took place between Folkstone Gate and S. Goodwin last night.
(D.D.I.C. 1300/3 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

Operation G.R.
S.H.
(ICARUS).

My 1704/2 para.5 KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI to R/V with ICARUS in 102° Start Point 3 miles at 1900/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1324/3 to ICARUS). Your 1149/2. Repeat, Concur. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1431/3 to Adty).

Operation
Z.M.E.4.

Initial position 51° 23½'N., 5° 05'W., direction 119 length 7 miles. Operation to be carried out as an alternative to second part of operation, G.Q., if C.in C W.A. considers conditions unsuitable for latter.
(D.O.D.(H) 1331/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Operations
G.Q.
Z.M.E.

ADVENTURE will be ready proceed for further operation G.Q. 6/12 or for a Z.M.E. p.m. 5/12.
(ADVENTURE, 1436/3 1113/4 to Adty).

A.A.Lights.

Adty. 1307/2. Consider dousing of A/A Lights will seriously hamper close range A/A fire against minelaying A/C and will greatly reduce chance of seeing where mines fall. Request consideration may be given to use of lights over the sea subject to angle of elevation being less than 15°. (C.in C. W.A. 1559/3 to Adty).

Humber.

Closed suspected A/C minelaying. (F.O. Humber 1809/3). About 1700/3 low flying A/C dropped 3 mines in swept channel 3 miles W. of Humber L.V. (F.O. Humber 2152/3).

Operation G.R.

Your 1704/2. Sailed ICARUS. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1820/3). Taut wire failed. Am escorting ICARUS towards Tor Bay. Will then patrol to Lizard Head. (KASHMIR 2240/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

ROBRIX.

Motor vessel 292 (tons). Damaged by underwater explosion in 110° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2-3 miles at 1043/3. No casualties. Towed in and now in Royal Dock, Grimsby. (F.O. Humber 1838/3).

MOST SECRET.3.12.40.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)Dangerous Area.

My 1818. Request area may be declared dangerous owing presence of enemy mines (positions). 105 and 190 Q.Z.S and 26 Q.Z.F. closed within above area. 245 QZX is superceded. (V.A.Dover 1920/3 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.E/Boat.

At 2130 machine guns posts at Shingle Street observed unidentified Motor Boat patrolling up and down 500 yards off shore until about 2200 then made off southwards.

At 2210 H.W. patrol reported suspicious motor boat to S.E. of him and Shingle Street Coastguard. One white rocket fired from surface 091° 4 miles. At 2217 H.R. reported unidentified surface craft north of him. At 2224 H.U. reported unidentified surface craft in vicinity of Aldeburgh. No flares or other pyrotechnics reported and no A/C plotted or reported.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0009/3 to C.in C.Nore).

At 0207 Infantry Observation Post near Bawdsey reported a Motor Boat heard at sea proceeding North to South. Showed a white light off Walton Point and disappeared to N.E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0255/3 and 0325/3).

At 0650 Shingle Street reports sounds of Motor-Boat heard South of Shingle Street Look-out. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0720/3).

My 0009/3. It cannot be established that any E/Boat was seen at time indicated, though indications exist of possibility of such operations. Visibility was bad.
(F.O.I.C. 1814/3 to C.in C. Nore).

Enemy Tanker.

It is believed that a German Tanker left St. Nazaire recently, and is probably proceeding to the Westward.
(D.D.I.C. 1010/3 to F.O.C.N.P.)

MOST SECRET.3.12.40.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Scapa.
Possibility
of attack
from Air.

Information is reaching us from several quarters, but of course there may be nothing in it, that the Germans intend to make a concentrated air attack on the Fleet as they have recently done on towns.

Please see Adty. 2206/24, 1001/26, 1804/26, and 2323/29 to A.C.O.S. C.in C. H.F. 1517/25, 1927/27, 1107/30 and A.C.O.S's 1300/1 to Adty. (1st S.L. 1746/3 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET..WAR DIARY.3.12.40.
Tuesday.CASUALTIES and DEFECTS.BASSET.(A/S Trawler) Arrived Sheerness 1132 /3
in tow. (C.in C. Nore 1241/3 to Adty).CAMPBELTOWN.(In collision) Details of damage. 3½
weeks required in dock. No dock
available at present. (F.O.I.C.
Liverpool 1321/3 to Adty).GULLFOSS.(Icelandic, 1414 tons). On North
Goodwin. LADY BRASSEY sailed at
1141/3 to assist and returned at 1453.
(V.A.Dover 1503/3 to Adty).Rockets.Reported about 4 miles out to sea from
Watergate Bay, Trevoise Head at 2040.
(C.in C. W.A. 2102/3 to BOUCLIER).

MOST SECRET.

3.12.40.

Tuesday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping.E.N.36.

Escort H.M.T's ELLESMERE, CAPE ARGONA, JASON. Code word "Paddle", for ports "Monitor", "Mixture". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1643/3)

F.S.51.F.N.49.F.S.52.

F.S.51 and consequently F.N.53 postponed 24 hours-fog (C.in C. Rosyth 0717/3). F.S.51 is postponed 24 hours. GUILLEMOT, to escort F.N.49, and F.S.52 due Outer Dowsing 1800/4. WIDGEON to sail a.m. 5/12 to R/V before dark with F.S.51 due Sheringham Light 1630/5. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1047/3).

E.N.36.W.N.49.

Sail 1500/4 and act as additional A/A escort to E.N.36 sailing at 2200/4. On meeting transfer to W.N.49 due Cape Wrath 0230/6 and Duncansby 1630/6. (C.in C. Rosyth 1115/3 to JASON).

HX.93.

Ocean escort AURANIA subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A.3rd B.S. 1214/2) AURANIA left. (S.O.I. Halifax 1810/3).

W.N.47.

Your 1013. Fast section with CURACOA have drawn clear ahead. Slow section somewhat drawn out 30 ships including 2 stragglers. Am in station on rear of slow section. (ALYNBANCK, 1343/3 to R.A.(D) H.F.)

O.B.254.

Sail VESPER to join O.B.254 in position 055° 41'N., 006° 53'W at 1100/3. (C.in C. W.A. 1440/3 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)

F.N.52.

Propose sailing Group 31 with F.N.52 on 6/12 to Methil for onward routing Aberdeen. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1515/3).

HX.91.

Route from R/V. (D.T.D. 1456/3).

4 M/V's.

My 1207/3 sailed 4 M/V's escorted by ST. CATHAN and PEARL. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1915/5).

HX.92.

Cancel route. New route. (D.T.D.1834/3 to MONTCLARE) 1836/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.3.12.40.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)HX.89.Halifax arrival. 3/12. COMORIN from
HX.89. (S.O.I.) Halifax 1810/3).S.C.13.)
O.B.252.)My 1252/2. Escort meet S.C.13 as
arranged. Convoy O.B.252 is not to
disperse until further orders. HAVELOCK
and HARVESTER will join convoy a.m./4.
Route (C.in C. W.A. 1222/3, 1522/3).S.C.14.
O.B.256.Route. (D.T.D. 1831/3).
Route. (D.T.D. 1455/3).B.X.H.94.In view of C.O.A.C. Halifax 0950/3,
B.H.X.94 will be sailed a.m./4. Ocean
escort ASCANIA delayed by repairs will
sail a few hours later to join convoy
a.m./5.

(C.in C. A. & W.I. 1631/3 to Adty etc.)

Troop Convoys.
W.S.5.A.Your 1545/2. Anticipated maximum of 8
destroyers from this command will be
available. Consider at least 12
required to give reasonable security.
(C.in C. W.A. 2002/5 to Adty).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DE VERDUN.

S.O.(I) Capetown 1023/28/11. Passed Gibraltar 29/11 westbound escorted. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1052/3).

PIERRE L.D.,)
LA MANSA,)
GUYANE)

French M.V's, passed Gibraltar eastbound 1740/3, escorted by armed trawler ASPIRANT BRUN. (D.O.R. 4/12).

Intelligence.

Following from secret source B.1.
(1) Warships and Naval Units at Dakar from 17/11 to 26/11 included RICHELIEU, GEORGE LEYGUES, MONTCALM, FANTASQUE, LE MALIN, D'ENTRECASTEAUX, CALAIS, five S/M's named VENGEUR, MONGE, L'ESPOIR, SYBILLE, PEGASE. Two Oilers GARONNE and LOT.
(2) RICHELIEU under repair at her berth, two repair ships arrived recently one for submarines based on Dakar the other bringing materials and apparatus necessary for repair of RICHELIEU. According to the Chief Engineer in Charge of the work repairs to RICHELIEU will be completed by 15/12 when she can again be placed in service (3) One Submarine supposed German entered Dakar on 24/11 and sailed again same day. This Submarine was very small and of a type which made it impossible to be French. (4) Everyday one or two planes leave Kayes carrying one or two tons of gold to the North. (C.in C. S.A., 1617/3 to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

My 1535/2 and F.O.C.N.A. 1832/1. F.O.C.N.A. requested to divert EDINBURGH towards Gibraltar to R/V with and provide ocean escort for ARGUS, JAGUAR, KELVIN and FRANCONIA which ships are to be sailed for U.K. Orders. (D.O.D.(F), 2258/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SERPA PINTO.

My 1500/2 SERPA PINTO not yet left Santos, expected to sail 4/12. Request if oil fuel available for her Freetown. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1109/3 to S.O.I. Freetown).

BERWICK.

Your 2322/1. Repairs are in hand. Effect on dockyard. Anticipated that with certain exception all items affecting fighting efficiency will be completed by 16/12. He refers to his 1852/7/8. (A.S. Gibraltar, 1702/3 to Admty.)

CACHALOT, Patrol.

CACHALOT leaves Clyde 3/12 to patrol off Ponta Delgada. Route. (F.O.C.N.A. 2120/3).

3.12.1940.

Tuesday. 75



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

FURIOUS,
DIDO,
FORTUNE,
FOXHOUND,
JAGUAR,
KELVIN

FURIOUS, DIDO escorted by FORTUNE, FOXHOUND are to leave Freetown at 1730/3 and proceed (route) to arrive position A at 0800/11/12 B.S.T. F.O.C.N.A. requested to sail JAGUAR and KELVIN to R/V in accordance with Admty. 0046/25/11. C.in C. W.A. requested to issue onward route from A for DIDO. FURIOUS to detach FORTUNE and FOXHOUND to return to Freetown to arrive 0630/5. (C.in C. S.A. 0959N/3 to FURIOUS)
Vessels left. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1825N/3).

Operations,
and FURIOUS

Report whether you consider FURIOUS carried maximum number of A/C in operation "Stripe" and whether any suggestion for improving arrangements for a similar operation. (D.N.A.D. 1158/3 to FURIOUS).
Your 1158/3. Suggestions for similar operation in future. (FURIOUS, 1410/3 to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.4 A.

CORNWALL, PRETORIA CASTLE arrived escorting W.S.4 A. PRETORIA CASTLE sailed for Capetown e.t.a. 0700 Z/5. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1303Z/3 to Admty.)

Wreckage.

BOSWORTH reports sighting wreckage probably from a British ship at 0630/17/11 in 002° 40' N., 016° 07' W. Consisted of wood work, hatch covers, 3 life raft and several lockers. No boats were seen.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1507 E/3 to Admty.)

A/S Vessels for
Mediterranean.

My 1705/2 para. 2. Secretary for Defence informs me guarantee suggested will not meet difficulty. If conditions acceptable request authority to settle details locally in order not to delay programme. Arrangements intended will be communicated as soon as possible. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1831B/3 to Admty.)

ITAPE.
removal of
Germans.

Your 0111Z/2/12 and CARNARVON CASTLE 1531Z/2/12 H.M. Ambassador considers that ITAPE incident though entirely supported by him coming on top of unsettled incidents of Brazilian ships SIQUEIRA CAMPOS and BUARQUE has created unfavourable atmosphere in which ~~visit~~ of CARNARVON CASTLE were better cancelled if other fuelling arrangements can be made. (?Proposed) to conform with policy suggested by Admiral Harwood's 1940Z/14/12 para. 2A that no visit take place immediately before or after a capture near the same coast. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1325/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)

See above next page

/ Your 0111Z/2.

3.12.1940.

Tuesday.



War Diary.

76

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 0111Z/2 German Military Attaché Rio de Janeiro today certainly conveyed impression to U.S. Military Attaché that among Germans taken in ITAPE was a German General. Can this be verified? My records cover only 21 of men. (N.A., Rio de Janeiro, 1655/3, to R.A.S.A.D.)

CRAGPOOL.

My 1806/29 (Overdue shipping) CRAGPOOL arrived Buenos Aires 3/12. (S.O(I), Freetown, 1706/3).

CARNARVON CASTLE

After transfer of prisoners QUEEN OF BERMUDA remain in K 33. CARNARVON CASTLE's visit to Rio de Janeiro cancelled. CARNARVON CASTLE is to proceed so as to enter Montevideo for 24 hours 0900 (zone plus three) 9/12. I will arrange visit. CARNARVON CASTLE is subsequently to return to K 33. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is to leave K 33 so as to enter Montevideo 16/12 as arranged. Naval Attache Rio de Janeiro send CARNARVON CASTLE's mails to Montevideo to arrive 9/12. 2330Z/3.

HERMES,
DRAGON

Departure 1700/3 HERMES and DRAGON on Patrol. (S.O(I), Freetown, 1823N/3).

Mediterranean.

Submarine Raids.

Suggestions for. (1 S.L. to C.in C. Med., 1242/3 - docket No. P.D. 09304/40). See Med. Vol.

Greece.

Operational Summary No. 21. (B.A.F.G., 1845/3 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Italy.

Policy and morale. (N.A. Madrid, 1850/3, 1925/3). See Med. Vol.

MANCHESTER
UTMOST.

MANCHESTER is expected to leave Malta p.m./4 South of Skerki Bank and be near position 037° 40' N. 006° 30' E. at 0700 - 1 on 5/12. She has been informed that your anticipated position at that time will be 037° 45' N. 006° 15' E. on course 081 degrees. (V.A. Malta 0921/3 to UTMOST).

Submarines.

Admty. 1228/29. Is it intended that the three submarines of First Flotilla are to be relieved by a further three "U" class from Fifth Flotilla or that they should be sent when URSULA, UPRIGHT and UTMOST are ready for service at Malta. (C.in C. Med., 1111/3 to Admty.)

/ Valona bombed. ...

3.12.1940.

Tuesday.War Diary.

77

FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Valona bombed.

1. ^{Greece.} ~~GREECE~~. Day 2/12. (as H.Q. B.A.F. Greece 1751/2). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1156/3).

Enemy Intelligence.

Preliminary report air reconnaissance a.m./3. (V.A. Malta, 1401/3 to Med. Fleet).

My 1401/3. Photographs show following. West Outer Harbour one CAVOUR Battleship one large merchant vessel. East Outer Harbour two medium merchant vessels. Three medium merchant vessels outside.

Inner Harbour, one eight inch and one 6 inch cruiser both in dock one 6 inch cruiser alongside. 5 destroyers one medium merchant vessel. (V.A. Malta, 1835/3).

Malta Raid.

Air raid alarm 1255 to 1302 on approach of enemy aircraft to 15 miles north east of Malta. 4 Hurricanes up but enemy did not cross coast. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1710/3).

Oil Fire Defence.

Your 1805/28. The term Oil Fire Defence refers to the use of burning oil against landing craft. Details have been sent to you in M/L.D.01407/40. (D. of L.D. 1816/3 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria)

Taranto Attack.

Italian A.N.A. informed American N.A. following result of attack on Taranto. CAVOUR hit two torpedoes, very seriously damaged, repairs several months. LITTORIO hit three torpedoes, not so seriously damaged. ANDREA DORIA hit one torpedo. Both ready few weeks provided nothing interferes with repairs. Other battleships moved Port Adriatic. Straits of Otranto heavily mined. Attack brilliantly planned and executed but would not have been so successful if Italian force had been alert. Italian A.N.A. was rather drunk. Consider can accept this as fairly reliable. (N.A., Madrid, 1850/3 to D.N.I.)

370. A.O.C. Mediterranean urging Air Ministry (a) that Wellingtons if they are to continue to operate from Malta should be formed into a properly constituted unit permanently based here.

(b) that fighter force should be increased by a second squadron as soon as possible.

I most strongly support these proposals especially the latter. (Reasons). (V.A. Malta, 1915/3 to C.in C. Med.).

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

78



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Continued)

GLASGOW,
torpedo air
attack.

GLASGOW was hit at anchor in Suda Bay at 1540 today 3/12 by two aircraft torpedoes. Full details not yet known but ship in no danger of sinking and capable of steaming. She has been ordered to remain at Suda Bay due to bad weather forecast. (C.in C. Med., 2205/3, to Admty.) *See p. 62.*

East Indies.

Suspicious Vessel.

Following received. QQQQ CITY OF EDINBURGH 15° 29' N., 92° 01' E. being followed by suspicious vessel possibly raider now steering N. 0310 G.M.T. T.C.R. 0353. (Admiral Colombo, 0415Z/3 to Admty.) My 0415/3. Message has been cancelled. (Admiral Colombo, 0459Z/3). CITY OF EDINBURGH in 015° 29' N., 092° 01' E. at 0310 G.M.T. 3/12 made QQQQ message. Subsequent signal show this a false report. (C.in C. E.I. 0534/3 to E.I. Squadron).

B.N.10.

Departures 2330Z/2. CARLISLE, AUCKLAND, KIMBERLEY, INDUS, CHANTALA, S/M X 2 with B.N.10. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0424Z/3). Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Aden 0820/3)

Whalers.

Admty. 1712/20/10. Request arrangements be made for LL Whalers to fuel at Beira on passage from Durban to Mombasa. Had intended Oiler OLCADES to accompany them but anxious to get her to Mauritius as soon as possible. (C.in C. E.I. 1126Z/3 to Admty.)

DUNERA
NIEUW HOLLAND.

Your 1724/1, DUNERA, 1400 tons capacity should give 20 days endurance at average daily consumption of 70 (? tons) NIEUW HOLLAND, 1350 tons capacity 22 days at 60 tons per day. (S.S.T.O. India, Bombay 1240Z/3 to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

Mines.

Your 0301/24/8. Shipment of mines, including some to Singapore for Dutch authorities. (D.D.O.D.(M) to C.in C. China, 1214/3).

Shipping,
Japan.

Request decision on my 0223/17/10, re withdrawal of shipping from Japanese waters. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 0257Z/3, to Admty.)

LAMOTTE PICQUET
DUMONT D'URVILLE

Saigon reports departure 3/12 Cruiser LAMOTTE PICQUET, understood to be joining Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE in Gulf of Siam near Thai frontier. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 2303Z/3, to Admty.)

3.12.1940.
Tuesday.

79

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies."Town" Class
Destroyers.

St. Johns N.F. arrival 2/12 ~~SALIN~~ ^{ST.} CROIX,
NIAGARA, ~~SAINT~~ CLAIR. (S.O.I.), Halifax
0901/3 to Admty.)

CARADOC
DIOMEDE

In view of slow advance of German ships,
CARADOC proceed 15 knots to patrol Florida
Strait about longitude of Havana. After
fuelling Jamaica, DIOMEDE leave daylight 4/12
and proceed 15 knots to patrol Yucatan
Channel. (C.in C. A.W.I., 1208/3, to
CARADOC, DIOMEDE).

Florida Straits
Patrol.

Bermuda departure. Oiler WAR BRAHMIN for
Florida Straits speed 10 knots. Ordered
to patrol between 8 and 20 miles 270° from
north Bimini light ready to fuel
Netherlands Gunnery Training Ship
VAN KINSBERGEN or CARADOC when required.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1503/3).

Swedish Ship.

Intercepted Air letter G Biorklund Buenos
Aires to Stockholm Office states Swedish
ship ANNIE JOHNSON scheduled to leave
Buenos Aires 6/12 or 7/12 for Vladivostock.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1603/3).

PENNLAND,
T.C.8.

Request you will sail PENNLAND due Kingston,
Jamaica 2/12 so as to arrive Halifax not
later than 12/12.

Following vessels total capacity 7,200
available for T.C.8.

PASTEUR (3,100), CAPETOWN CASTLE (1,500),
PENNLAND (2,593).

In addition to BERGENSFJORD anticipate
further opportunities for embarking drafts
in independent sailings will occur late
December. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. A.W.I.,
1853/3).

In order to arrange ocean escort for next
S.C. Convoy propose to cancel S.C.15 and
sail these ships with S.C.16 from Halifax.
Report if this will entail an undue number
of ships sailing in S.C.16. (A.C.N.S.(T)
2116/3 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

New Zealand.HOLMWOOD.

(No trace in Lloyd's). Due at Lyttelton
N.Z., from the Chatham Islands on 25/11,
has not arrived and must be presumed lost
or captured by an enemy raider.
(D.O.R. 4/12).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.

Tuesday. 80

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HANS BORNHOFEN

Required assistance at 1520 G.M.T./3, stated she was making for calm water in Kalmarsund, Sweden. (D.S. 456.)

ORINOCO.

New York Press states taking in supplies at Tampico and Captain awaiting arrival of clearance papers on 3/12. (D.S.456).

KLAUS SCHOKE
(captured 2/12)

Your 2328/2 passed to F.O.C.N.A. Put armed guard on board. Do not tow ship owing to danger from submarines, but visit ship occasionally. Do you consider boiler room and engine room could be pumped out if diver and tug were sent? (D.D.O.D.(F) 0451/3 to CALIFORNIA).

CALIFORNIA's 2328/2. Can you get CALIFORNIA's prize to Gibraltar? (D.D.O.D. (F) 0455/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0451/3. Have taken off own party when they could do no more as ship entirely abandoned by Germans whom I rescued. (c) Yes provided calm enough to apply pump power externally. Main inlet cover is off and ship has no auxiliary power or pump appliances left available. Ship still floating naturally at light draught. (CALIFORNIA, 0648/3 to Admty.)

316. Your 0455/3. CALIFORNIA's reply to your 0451/3 has not been received. Please pass this. (F.O.C.N.A. 0828/3 to Admty.)

Admiralty's 0455/3. Am sailing ENCOUNTER forthwith to stand by prize. Fleet Tug ST. DAY with naval crew will be sailed p.m. today Tuesday. (F.O.C.N.A. 1040/3, to Admty. and CALIFORNIA).

My 1040/3 ENCOUNTER expected time of arrival at position $38^{\circ} 28' N. 22^{\circ} 15' W.$ 1900 zone minus one 5/12. Amend position to ENCOUNTER as necessary. (F.O.C.N.A. 1540/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Your 2328/2. Did German ship KLAUS SCHOKE use her wireless before capture? (F.O.C.N.A. 1622/3 to CALIFORNIA).

Your 1622/3 No. (CALIFORNIA, 2044/3).

My 1040/3. Fleet Tug ST. DAY sailed 1900/3 speed of advance 9 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1902/3 to CALIFORNIA, ENCOUNTER).

/ ENCOUNTER



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

3.12.1940.

Tuesday.

81

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

ENCOUNTER speed 16 knots sailed 1400/3
Fleet Tug ST. DAY speed 9 knots sailed 1900/3
both for position 038° 28' N. 022° 15' W.
(F.O.C. N.A. 1951/3).

REGENSBURG
BURGENLAND

Yokohama 2/12 REGENSBURG anchored outside
the harbour.

Master Greek ship reports 27/10 German
ship apparently BURGENLAND being fitted
with Torpedo tubes and loading large
quantities of provisions.

(Capt. O.S., Singapore 0822Z/3, to Admty.
etc.)

Tanker.

German Tanker may have left Saint Nazaire
recently probably westbound.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1631/3, to S. and A.
N. Atlantic).

PORTLAND.

Following from Navy Dept. From Santiago
de Chile. German ship PORTLAND sailed
from Coquimbo 2200/30. Destination
unknown. (N.A. Washington, 1934/3,
to Admty. etc.)

Your 1656Z/30. (No news of German ships
for some time). Little activity since
my 1715/20/9 other than reported in my
1735/13/11, 1501/26, 1732/26, and 1700/26.

MONTEVIDEO.

Present position as follows: at Rio Grande
De Sul MONTEVIDEO under embargo in
ballast fuel for auxiliary purposes only
crew being distributed.

WINDHUK
DRESDEN
BABITONGA

At Santos WINDHUK under embargo crew being
distributed no cargo probably half fuel.
DRESDEN cargo not ascertained but light,
ample fuel. BABITONGA, 4600 bales of
cotton seed 400 sacks Zirconium, ample
fuel.

MACEIO
BOLLWERK

At Bahia MACEIO reported expected to
sail for Rio De Janeiro 168 tons tobacco
220 tons Castor seed recently received
150 tons coal from BOLLWERK but may be
still short. BOLLWERK in ballast short of
coal.

NORDERNEY.

At Para, NORDERNEY has 250 tons coal on
board 750 tons coal on deposit. No cargo
awaiting 1000 tons cotton seed.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro to Cdre. S.A.D.,
1605/3).



War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

Clyde arrivals LADY MADELINE, ACTIVE with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0821/3)

SAGUENAY
(Torpedoed 1/12)

Following damage to SAGUENAY. Description Casualties. No Officers, 21 ratings missing Five Officers and 85 ratings on board HIGHLANDER. Must part company dawn tomorrow Wednesday for fuel. (HIGHLANDER, 1100/3 to Admty., etc., amended 2035/3)

Your 1030/3 (No trace Admiralty) Tug ENGLISHMAN is to be detached and instructed proceed Ardrosan, to Coal. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1223/3 to HIGHLANDER)

LOCH RANZA
CONCH
FORFAR
(Torpedoed 2/12)

My 1800/2. My position course and speed 054° 47' N., 014° 46' W., 080° 5 knots. Trying to make Lough Swilly LOCH RANZA making water in No two hold and listing to starboard. Request rescue tugs. Have following survivors on board- complete crew 53 from steamship CONCH. Three officers and 18 ratings from FORFAR. Only two patterns depth charges remaining. Request instructions for LOCH RANZA and relief. Weather. (ST LAURENT 1400/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

LOCH RANZA in position 54° 57' N., 14° 46' W., at 1400 today. Course 080° speed 5 knots. ST LAURENT standing by. SALVONIA keeps constant W/T watch on 500 Kc/s. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1823/3)

Your 1400/3 Tug SALVONIA is trying to find you. Remain with LOCH RANZA who is to proceed to Clyde. (C. in C., W.A. 1956/3 to ST. LAURENT)

Your 1956/3. Tug THAMES assisting LOCH RANZA. Tug SEAMAN proceeding RAJAHSTAN (ST. LAURENT 2102/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

W. HENDRIK (connection)
WILHELMINA

Convoy (H.X. 90) Attacked by 1 Wolff Condor W. HENDRIK bombed and on fire. Can be salvaged. Request tug. Survivors on board GENTIAN. Correct 2251/2. WILHELMINA (British, 6725 tons) only torpedoed and sunk, 56.32 N., 11.37 W., (FOLKESTONE, 1201/3)

/Proceed.....



War Diary

3.12.1940
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

W. HENDRICK

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of SS W HENDRICK in position 56° 52' N., 11° 37' W., at 1201/ today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1740/3 to ASSURANCE)

Sailed tug ASSURANCE from Campeltown at 1840 in accordance with my 1740 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1933/3 to C. in C., W.A.)

Submarines Reported

- 2334/2 D.F. probable U-Boat 61 to 62.30 N., 17° to 19° W., (D.D.I.C. 0033/3)
- 1500 A.F. message 57° N., 17.11 W., at 1400 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1815/3)
- 1150 39.10 N., 14.10 W., at 1050 G.M.T./3 (F.O.C.N.A. 2159/3)
- 1459 54.50 N., 16.40 W., position indefinite. (D.S. 456)
- 2225 N.W. of Hebrides, indefinite position of Italian U-Boat. (D.S. 456)
- 2046 Between Brest and W of Ireland, indefinite position. (D.S. 456)
- 2145 ^{2 LES} Abeam Cape Spartel. Reported by Officer of armed guard from French SS MES GEMEAUX which arrived Gibraltar 1245/4 (S.O.(I) Gib. 2118/4)
- 1638/2 HESPERUS, CROOME, HURRICANE expect to arrive in a position mentioned in C. in C., W.A.'s 1638/2 (position where several U-Boats operating) at daylight 4/12. (HESPERUS, 0057/3 to HAVELOCK) See p. 58
- 1400 G.M.T. Enemy submarine 57° 1, 17° (?11) (WAIRANGI, 1400/3 to Ships, Orkneys and Shetlands, etc.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 was 70 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent at 1200/2.
1 probably Italian was 240 miles west of Lisbon at 0530/2.
2 in Bay of Biscay nearing Gironde.
1 about 56° N., 21° W. at 0205/3.
1 near Rockall.
Probably another north of 55° N.E. of 20°W.

/German.....



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions-
Contd.

German- 1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 was about 52° N., 17° W., at 0623/3,
possibly bound for Lorient.
1 South of 55° N., and West of 20° W.,
1 between 54° 30' N., and 55° N., 15° W.,
and 17° W.
1 was in 55° 43' N., 15° 06' W., at 2126/2
probably following H.X. 90.
1 off North Coast of Ireland.
1 in area 58° N., to 59° N., 16° W., to
19° W.,
1 North of 61° N., East of 20° W.,
(D.D.I.C. 1351/3, V.A.S., 1539/3)

Submarines Attacked

KELVIN

317. My 1150/2. Report of submarine.
U-Boat dived and was attacked by KELVIN
who reports 18 charges dropped, air
bubbles and oil seen and considers vessel
was possibly sunk. (F.O.C.N.A. 0950/3 to
Admty.)



War Diary

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Operation D.N.

ARETHUSA, AURORA and destroyers returned to Scapa this afternoon. The sweep between Jaederens Point and Lister Light was without result.

SAGUENAY

(Torpedoed 1/12) arrived in tow in Rothesay Bay today.

Submarine
Hunt

KASHMIR, KIPLING, JUPITER, PUNJABI left Plymouth at 1619 today to hunt for a small U-Boat believed to have been in about 49°N 11° W., at 1200 today proceeding to Lorient.

Warning to
Merchant Shipping

Masters of merchant ships are to be warned that warships and disguised raiders are adopting a policy of attacking without warning and defensive armament must be brought to a state of instant readiness whenever a strange vessel is sighted.

Submarines may now be encountered not only in Home Waters, but in the Atlantic east of 45° W., in the Mediterranean, Red Sea and Indian Ocean, including the Persian Gulf.

Outside these areas all possible care should be taken before opening fire on a submarine to make sure that it is an enemy submarine.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Bad weather curtailed operations last night and the only Naval objective attacked was the dock area at Dunkirk. Weather conditions were again unsatisfactory today

Coastal Command

R.C aircraft operated over the North Sea to the Faroes, from Trondheim towards Iceland, over coastal districts from the Humber to Western Approaches, and over Eire.

Blenheims today carried out several attacks on shipping off the Coast of Norway and off the Channel Ports. Results in most cases were not observed owing to bad weather.

Patrols in the central North Sea were not flown today. R.C's of the coast of Norway were flown from Stadlandet to Lister and from Lister to Horn's Reef.



4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Dover was attacked today. Rescue tug LADY BRASSEY was slightly damaged by a near miss. No other naval damage is reported.

A number of aircraft from Squadrons previously associated with minelaying and attacks on shipping have arrived at Sylt. This may indicate increased activity on the North East Coast.

Mining

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place between 1800-2100 today in Falmouth Bay and Bristol Channel. Minelaying was carried out in the Thames Estuary last night.

Plymouth was opened at 1632 subject to local restrictions. One mine detonated spontaneously.

Tyne was opened this morning.

8 mines and 1 explosive cutter were found in the Dover area.

Milford Haven was closed this evening.

A mine, apparently moored, was sunk 2 miles off Ardnamurchan Point this morning.

HELENE
Mined

Belgian trawler HELENE was mined today off Milford Haven.



War Diary

MOST SECRET 87

4.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Convoy
Delays

C. in C., S.A. reports that the discrepancies between signalled and actual requirements of fuel and water are causing delays in convoys' programmes. The signalled requirements of Convoy W.S. 4 B were fuel oil 6,000 tons, water nil. The Amounts actually supplied to enable ship to reach Durban were fuel oil 9,200 tons, water 4,690 tons. He asks that water expenditure in transports be limited to 6 gallons per man per day; it has varied between 5 and 14 gallons per man. Rationing of water has already begun on shore at Freetown, and a 14,000 ton tanker is to be included in Convoy W.S. 5 A.

Mediterranean

B.A.F. Greece report that a destroyer reported to be shelling Greek forces from Sarande was put to flight at the sight of 2 Blenheims which secured a hit on the bow and one on the stern.

East Indies

The Indian Government have approved for 3 A/S vessels RATNAGIRI, PARVATI and NETRAVATI, to operate under the S.N.O. Red Sea.

America & West Indies

CARADOC is ordered to proceed into the Gulf of Mexico to search for IDARWALD and RHEIN. VAN KINSBERGEN is to assist CARADOC.

DESPATCH left Gibraltar this evening for A & W.I. Station.



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.

Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Possible Enemy
Air Attacks on
Fleet.

Information. Berthing of Ships and general arrangements should be such as to preclude as far as possible a successful attack. (1st S.L. 1539/4 to C.in C. W.A., Portsmouth, Nore, Rosyth).

Faroes.
Examination of
Ships.

N.O.I/C. Faeroes 1846/3. The issue of merchant ship identification signal from S.P. 02296 is considered most desirable to avoid possibility of merchant ships already examined in Faeroes being taken to Kirkwall by trawlers when boarding is impossible. The only alternative is for N.O.I/C. Faeroes to signal direct to Northern Patrol trawlers the names of ships examined in the Faeroes but as reception by trawlers of Thorshaven W/T Station is unreliable this is not recommended. Propose that examination officers should hold a copy of S.P. 02296 on board his vessel or in his office and should extract the identification signal before boarding the merchant ship. (F.O.C.N.P. 1554/4 to F.O.C.O.S.)

N.O.I/c Faroer's 1846/3. Request your remarks observing that it can be arranged for N.O.I.C. Faroer to inform you of particulars of vessels that have been examined and passed. (F.O.C.O.S. 2006/4 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/4. (D.C. 1155/4) At 2030/4
(D.C. 2044/4) At 2330/4 (D.C. 2345/4)

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

Shetlands.
A/A Defences.

Your 1107/30. Request you send Representative to examine with Air Ministry Works Dept. your proposals for new Runways at Scatsta and Aerodrome in Unst. (5th S.L. 2030/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Movements.

KIPLING, KASHMIR,
PUNJABI.

Left Plymouth 1715/3. (C.in C. W.A. 0034/4). Return to Plymouth. (C.in C. W.A. 1034/4 to KASHMIR).

NELSON, DOUGLAS,
VIMY, KEPPEL.

Arrived Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0610/4 to Adty.)

Nore Command.
Ships out of Action.

My 0940/2. Delete WINDSOR, HOLDERNESS, PELICAN. (C.in C. Nore 0731/4).

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Nore 0800/4).

/ LA PERNELLE)
JOUBERG).....

4.12.1940
Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LA PERNELLE)
JOBURG)

Your 1629/3 and my 1526/25/11.
 LA PERNELLE sailed 16/11. JOBURG
 expected to sail about 8/12.
 (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1004/4 to Adty.)

PEGASUS)
VOLUNTEER)

Your 1207/3. Arrived. (N.O.I.C.
 Dartmouth 1030/4 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

C.S.2.

You were reported by Enemy A/C at 1030.
 (D.D.I.C. 1126/4 to C.S.2).

PEGASUS
VOLUNTEER
WOLVERINE

1. PEGASUS escorted by VOLUNTEER is to sail from Dartmouth for Belfast at 1600 today proceeding by route as in my 2314/2.
2. WOLVERINE is to pass Gate at 1630 and join in position 170°. Start Point 4 miles at 1800/4 and is to be detached to arrive Londonderry by 1600/6.
3. VOLUNTEER is to be detached so as to arrive 180° Tame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 1730/5. (C.in C. W.A. 1222/4).

Your 1222. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1615/4 to C.in C. W.A.).
 WOLVERINE sailed 1630 as by my 1222/4.
 (C.in C. W.A. 1911/4 to Adty.)

FORMIDABLE.

Your 1815/3 approved. (A.C.N.S.H. 1225/4 to FORMIDABLE).
 Detail 2 Destroyers to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 1800/7 to carry out exercises A.M./8 and thence to Greenock P.M./8. (C.in C. W.A. 1638/4 to D.12).
 Adty. 1524/2. (Escort to Scapa to work up.) R.A.D. H.F. is to sail 3 destroyers for this duty, to arrive Greenock A.M./10.
 (C.in C. H.F. 1914/4).

Op: D.N.
ARETHUSA)
AURORA)
SOMALI, MASHONA)
BEDOIN, ESKIMO)

Arrived Soapa (A.C.O.S. 1312/4).

Portsmouth.

Movements for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1313/4).

Dover.

Dispositions for Night 4/5. (V.A. Dover 1358/4 and 2024/4).

Rosyth.

Movements for Night 4/5. (C.in C. Rosyth 1536/4, 2332/4, and 1538/4).
 Arrivals and Departures 4/12.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 2324/4).

SWONA)
SKUDD 3, 4, 5.)

Sailed as by Adty. 1134/22/11.
 (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1637/10).

SKUDD 6.)
POLAR V.)

Now arrived Ardrossan. Expected ready to proceed 8/12. Request confirm destination Freetown. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1736/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

DOUGLAS)
KEPPEL)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

4.12.1940.

Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Continued)

DOUGLAS)
KEPPEL)

ASPHODEL)
CALENDULA)

Sailed 1803 from Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 1811/4).

Sailed as by my 1731/3. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2143/4).

Operations.

Unidentified
Surface
Vessel.

Plot placed this vessel in 54° 13' N. 00° 10' E. at 2359/3 steering 324° at 12 14 knots. One ship of escort should proceed to investigate but must rejoin convoy before daylight. (C.in C. Rosyth 0146/4 to VANITY).

Am proceeding to comply. (WESTMINSTER 0245/4 to VANITY) Nothing sighted. Visibility one mile. Am rejoining. My position 54° 47' N. 1° 6' W. (WESTMINSTER 0540/4 to VANITY).

Flash off
Cadgewith

Coastguard Cadgewith reports flash as of Gunfire 110° Cadgewith very distant at 0637. (C.in C. W.A. 0714/4 to KASHMIR) At 0830 my position 49° 53' N. 4° 13' W. and at 0630 was 110° Lizard Head 30 miles. Nothing seen. (KASHMIR 0902/14)

Troop embarkation
in GLENGYLE,
GLENROY

Your 1855/2. Request that 2 Battalions which were to be embarked at Largs be now embarked at Gourock on 6/12. (A.D.O.D. C.O. 0933/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Operation D.N.

Nothing to report. (C.in C. H.F. 1707/4 to Adty.)

Iceland.

As 'LL' Sweepers are urgently required at home, it is proposed that EBOR WYKE and VARANGA be sailed without relief to Liverpool. LACENNIA and NAB WYKE will operate from Granton but will be held in readiness to proceed to Iceland if Magnetic mines are laid there. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.H. 1718/4 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Submarines.

Area A.

Cancel my 1259/2. After dark 4/12 resume patrol in areas previously ordered. (F.O.C. S/M's. 1139/4 to S/M's Area A).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/5. (V.A.S. 1721/4).

URGE.

Request Escort Barrow to Clyde 10/12. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2102/4 to C.in C. W.A.).



HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Hatston.

816 and 825 cannot yet be considered as sufficiently trained for re-embarkation in a carrier and are at present carrying out intensive training in night flying and torpedo work. 3 aircraft are proceeding to Arbroath at a time for A.S.V. fitting. Request you will report what training these squadrons could carry out from Hatston if sent later. (D.N.A.D. 0012/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Patrols.

My 2240/30. Following ordered to be flown A.M. today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0300/4).
St. Kilda Patrol and Rona Patrol are being flown daily A.M. weather permitting. Particulars. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/4).
Routine A/S Patrols flown 4/12. (200 Group 1800/4 to Air Ministry).
St. Kilda and Rona Patrols will be flown throughout daylight tomorrow. (C.in C. Rosyth 2250/4).

Operation.

Repeat tonight operations ordered for 53, 59, and 812 Squadrons for Night 3/4. (H.Q.C.C. 1440/4 to 16 Group, Thorney Island.)

Liverpool.

Admiralty 1307/2. F.O. i/c Liverpool, suggests that complete dousing of all A.A. lights will hamper close range A.A. fire against minelaying aircraft and reduce chances of seeing where mines fall. 2. Request consideration may be given to use of A.A. lights over sea in patrol areas during patrol subject to angle of elevation being less than 15°. (D. of L.D. 1748/4 to Air Ministry).

M/V attacked.

At 1455 in 51°03' N. 2°22'E. A/C attacked one M/V. 6000 to 7000 tons moored between Moles. 4 Bombs. All missed. (Chatham 1900/4).

Enemy Air Activity.

Lowestoft.

At 1507 A/C dropped 4 Bombs in water of Herring Basin and one on North Pier extension. No damage. On civilian casualty. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1543/4).

Chatham.

Air Attack at 2000/3. Details of damage to Dockyard. 8 killed, 11 dangerously injured and 42 slightly. (C.in C. Nore 1616/4).

Dover.

One A/C dropped 14 Bombs at 1340/4. 3 fell in Granville Dock area, 3 in harbour, and rest in town. One Naval Officer injured. (V.A. Dover 1826/4).



HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

LADY BRASSEY.

Will be out of action for about 3 days as result of Near Miss from Bomb while in harbour (V.A. Dover 1558/4 to Adty.)

Humber.

Your 2152/3. (Attack on G.H. Auxiliary Patrol by A/C. Matter has been referred to Home Forces and Air Ministry with request that instructions be issued for guns that will bear to engage in future. (D. of L.D. 1926/4 to F.O.I.C. Humber) (D. of L.D. 1927/4 to Home Forces, Air Ministry).

Sylt.

A number of A/C from Squadrons previously associated with Minelaying and attacks on shipping have arrived at Sylt. This may indicate increased activity on N.E. Coasts. (D.D.I.C. 1626/4 to C.in C. H.F.)

Portsmouth.

Details of damage done approx 2000/3 (Supt. C.E. 1650/4).

Mining.

Operation G.R.

Your 2240 approved. Lights will be arranged. (C.in C. W.A. 0002/4 to KASHMIR).
Your 1704/2 (Op. G.R. carried out by ICARUS) returned to Dartmouth. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1000/4).
My 1704/2. Op. G.R. to be carried out night 4/5/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1050/4 to ICARUS).
Cancel my 1050/4 (C.in C. W.A. 1250/4 to ICARUS).

Oban.

My 2020/3 SOUTHERN SPRAY reports mine sunk 230° Ardnamurchan Point 2 miles about 1550/3. Mine appeared to be moored. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1030/4).

JOLLY GIRLS.

Mined N. of channel into Tyne at 1756/2. Consider enquiry should be held on conduct of Master, re loss of ship. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1047/4 to Admtty.)
My 2311/2. Wreck in 55° 00' N., 1° 23' 00"W. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1502/4).

Tyne

Port open. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1141/4).

Plymouth.

Cancel my 1632/30. Port open subject to local restrictions. (C.in C. W.A. 1248/4)
Since my 1817/2 1 mine detonated spontaneously 202° Breakwater Fort 1600 yards. No vessels near. (C.in C. W.A. 1823/4).



HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation
G.Q.2.

ADVENTURE to lay mines 46° 10 miles from 48° 35' N., 09° 44' W., night 6/7/12. Destroyers of 5th D.F. to be detailed later as escort. Orders re route etc. (C.in C. W.A. 1348/4 to ADVENTURE).

HELENE.

(Belgian Trawler) Mined in 51° 41' 3"W. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.1624/4).

Operation
J.H.

Destroyer escort will not now be available until night 7/8/12 at earliest. (C.in C. W.A. 1404/4 to Admty.)
C.in C. W.A. 1404/4. ICARUS to be sailed for Portsmouth if possible night 4/12. Will be available at discretion of C.in C. Portsmouth for repetition of operation J.H. D.D.O.D.(M), 1614/4 to C.in C. W.A.) Your 1614/4 ICARUS will sail 1800/5 e.t.a. Nab 0800/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1752/4 to Admty.)

Dover.

Routine sweeps to 0800/4. QZX 247 search sweep by 4 Oropesa Trawlers Southwest Gate to Sandhead Buoy 8 mines and 1 explosive cutter found between No. 4 and A. Buoys. (V.A. Dover, 1455/4).

Milford Haven.

Port closed, mines by enemy A/C. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1946/4).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boat.

One in 52°15' N. 2° 5'E. (WORCESTER 0012/4).
E-Boat escaped to S.E. (WORCESTER 0039/4).

GRIEF)
FALKE)
WOLFE)

^{T/A's}
(Enemy Destroyers) Good indications that they arrived off Boulogne at 0639 today, probably proceeding Eastwards. (V.A. Dover 1057/4 to Adty.)

1 Destroyer)
3 Flak Ships)

At 0925 sighted in 58°58'N. 5°23'E. steering South. A/C report. (F.O. S/M's 1141/4 to S/M's Area A).

TALISMAN
Report of 25/11 and
2/12.

At 1000/25 three Mowe class destroyers in position 220 Penmen 15 ~~course~~ 290°. At 1503/25 attacked camouflaged tanker in a position 265 Penmen 13 course 90° result uncertain. At 1300/2 one unidentified destroyer in position 260 Penmen 20 miles course 300°. Pen Marche lit at full power on 5 nights. Daily A/S trawlers sweep but no air patrol. (TALISMAN 1201/4 to S.2).

4.12.1940.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)Motor Ship.

One 6000 ton Motor Ship sighted by A/C at 1144 in 62° 8' N. 5° 5' E. steering South at 9 knots. (V.A.S. 1224/4 and 1331/4).

Sloop.

Sighted by A/C at 1130 in 61° 45' N. 5° 5' E. steering 225° at 15 knots. (H.Q.C.C. 1130/4 and V.A.S. 1239/4).

5 M/V's.

Aircraft report two merchant ships of 6000 and 2000 tons 062° 15' N. 005° 32' E. course 350° 10 knots at 1130. Also 3 merchant ships 062° 04' N. 005° 10' E. course 227° 10 knots at 1130. (V.A.S. 1304/4).

Convoy of 17 M/V's.

At 1447 in 51° 5' N. 2° 29' E. A/C saw a Convoy of 17 M/V's and 4 E-Boats steering 065° at 6 to 8 knots. (Chatham 1900/4)

Warships.

One large and several smaller Warships reported to have passed Northwards through Vattlestraum in Bergen area at 1100/l. Graded C.3. (D.D.I.C. 2200/4 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Technical.U-Boat D/F Frequency.

Experiments in s.s. BEACHY have been unsuccessful. Further experiments to be made in 2 Liverpool Destroyers on normal Escort Duty. Particulars. C.in C. W.A. to report names of Destroyers detailed. (A.C.N.S. T. 1939/4 to C.in C. W.A.).

4.12.1940.

Wednesday.



War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

REFAST.

(British Tanker, 5189 tons) Arrived in tow. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1637/4).

SUNBEAM.

(Motor Boat) Delayed by engine failure towing EILEEN M. from North Goodwins. (SUNBEAM 1645/4).

DALEBY.

(British, 4640 tons) Grounded in Tees mouth, north of Channel, 315° South Gare at 1945/4. Tugs failed to float and will attend again at 0600/5. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 2255/4 to Adty.)



HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

O.B.254.

Sailed SANDWICH and GARLAND escorting O.B. 254. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1005/4).

H.G. 47.

ROCHESTER arrived with H.G.47. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1125/4).

W.N. 48.

CUROCOA left Scapa 1204/4 for W.N.48. (A.C.O.S. 1235/4).

H.X.90.

Request obtain all available information from Commodores and Masters with regard to attacks on Convoy. Forward reports to Admty. and C.in C. W.A. (C.in C. W.A. 1254/4 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

ALVARADO? → Arrived ROOKLEY, JERSEY, HANNINGTON COURT, ALVARO, CORBIS. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1715/4).

My 1254/4. Request Capts. D. may be associated with these enquiries from point of view of any escorts present at these attacks. (C.in C. W.A. 1930/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Clyde arrival GENTIAN with 64 survivors of H.X.90.

Intend sailing her Liverpool 1200/5. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1945/4).

F.S.52.

My 2159/3. Humber still closed. NIGER and WINDSOR referred to in my 1730/3 and 1537/3 will not now join F.S.52. (C.in C. Rosyth 1509/4).

4 M.V's,
ST. CATHAN, (A/S T.)
~~()~~
PEARL. (A/S T.)
~~(575 tons)~~

Your 1410/3 and C. in C. Portsmouth 1917/3. 4 M.V's and ST. CATHAN, PEARL arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1136/4).

FOUYER QUARTIER,
SCHELDT
(Br. 497 tons)

My 1257/4. Sailed (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 1735/4).

O.B. 256.

Route. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1225/4).

S.C.14.

My 1116/2 for FORFAR read SALOPIAN. Escorts have been informed of your movements. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1603/4, to PORPOISE).

Positions.

Ocean convoys at 0900/4, p.c. and s. (D.T.D., 1352/4 to C.in C. H.F.).

H.X. and S.C.
Escorts.

Cancel instructions in my 1801/11/3/40 and substitute - H.X. and S.C. ocean escorts returning to base are to part company 24 hours before arrival at R.V. (D.T.D., 1923/4 to R.A.3 and C.O.A.C. Halifax).

C.W.19.

Route. (C.in C. Nore to B.C.S.O. Thames, BERKELEY, CLEVELAND, ACACIA, 1816/4).

/LORD ESSENDEN,

4.12.1940.

Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)LORD ESSENDEN,
VICTRIX

My 1137/4 (re sailing A/S Trawlers LORD ESSENDEN, VICTRIX escorting 4 M/V's) sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1750/4).

6 M.V's

Intend sailing 1800/5 for St. Helena Roads 6 M/V's including 2 tankers and 2 H.M. Balloon vessels escorted by BOUCLIER and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE e.t.a. QZS 0815/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

H.X.88.*** PARTHENIA**On time at R.V., all ships except DIPLOMAT (straggler) torpedoed and sank and *** PARTHENIA**, sunk in collision in North Channel. (D.T.D. 1719/4).H.X. 87.On time at R.V. 7 stragglers due to continuous gales. All now arrived except CHARLES F. MEYER (straggler) damaged by torpedo (D.T.D. 1720/4). *arrived at Rothesay Bay see page 94.*H.X.93.S.H.X.93.

Sailing telegram. Escorts AURANIA B.H.X., MALOJA, S.H.X., ELK and HUSKY. (N.S. Dockyard, Halifax, 1118/4) Greek ELENI sailed with W/T sealed (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1300/4).

S.C.13.

Estimated position at 1600. (C.in C. W.A., 1630/4, to WELLINGTON).

H.X.91.

Your 1116/4. Expect to arrive R.V. 2300 G.M.T./6. PACIFIC, SPAR, ELENI, AROSA straggled and not informed of changed route. (REVENGE to A.C.W.A., 1746/4).

E.N.36.

H.M.T's ELLESMERE and CAPE ARGONA. Additional escort JASON. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2231/4).

O.B.C. 254.

Sailed. Escort HEARTSEASE, BLYSKAWICA, CHEVREUIL. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2110/4).

U/B and
Air Attack,
Precautions.Admiralty 1146/4/6, 1858/29/8 and A.M.S.I.183 cancelled and following substituted:-
With reference to D.M.S. Part I (B.R. 136(1) Article 53, it is now considered clear that in submarine and air operations the enemy has adopted a policy of attacking merchant ships without warning. Warships and disguised raiders are acting in a similar manner and Masters of ships must be on the alert and the defensive armament brought to a state of instant readiness whenever a strange vessel is sighted. In opening fire Masters should be guided by the instructions contained in subparagraph (b) of the above article, and as regards E boats by the special instructions contained in A.M. 1720/24/11.

/ Following



4.12.40.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

MARECHAL JOFFRE.
(French M/V,
11732 tons)
Repatriation.

*May's give
tonnage as
12063 1940-41.*

Shortly leaving Indo China for France via Madagascar should be intercepted and taken into British Port. On arrival cargo should be reported to Admty. and ship detained pending instructions (Hd. of M. 1552/4 to C.in C. China).
Your 1845/30/11. Regret safe conduct cannot be granted. Against our policy to allow troops or foodstuffs to enter Vichy Colonies. May also be Free French Troops on board being taken to France for trial and internment. (Hd. of M. 1555/4 to N.A. Madrid).

ILE DE FRANCE.
(French M/V,
43450 tons)
Repatriation.

My 0531/30/11. Amend arrival to read 26/12, due altered itinerary since departure Singapore. (R.A. Malaya, 0515/4 to Adty).

VILLE DE
VERDUN.

S.O.(I) Capetown 1023/28 and S.O.(I) Gib. 1052/3. If VILLE DE VERDUN intercepted without escort she should be sent in to a British Port.
(D.E.W.D. 1128/4 to C.in C. S.A.)

French ship VILLE DE VERDUN passed Straits of Gibraltar Westbound 29/11 believed bound for Madagascar. If encountered and not escorted she is to be sent in to a British Port.
(C.in C. S.A. 2013/4 to NEWCASTLE, HERMES, DRAGON, FURIOUS, DIDO).

North Atlantic.

EDINBURGH.

My 0540/4 (to EDINBURGH) and Adty. 2258/3. R/V with DESPATCH, ARGUS, Motor A/S Boat 24 escorted by FORESTER, VELOX, ECLIPSE, (position at 0900 zone - 1 on 6/12. Onward route, from R/V through (position) thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. KELVIN and JAGUAR will join later and relieve local escort. DESPATCH will part company when you join.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1054/4 to EDINBURGH amended by F.O.C.N.A. 1524/4.)
Admty. 1349/4. Proceed to Gibraltar report E.T.A. (F.O.C.N.A. 1638/4 to EDINBURGH)

DESPATCH.

Gibraltar departure 1800/4 e.t.a. Bermuda 0600 (zone + 4) 13/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1802/4 to C.in C. A. & W.I.)



WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ARK ROYAL.

My 1020/30. (Minor defects ARK ROYAL.)
ARK ROYAL now at normal notice for steam.
(S.O.(I) Force H. 0600/4).

KELVIN.
JAGUAR.

My 0552/4. (not to Adty) KELVIN, JAGUAR
return at best speed.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0900/4).

South Atlantic.

ROSS.
(Br. 4978 tons)
CLAN MACWHIRTER.
(Br. 5941 tons)

Cancel my 1105/2. Arrived Capetown.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0935/4).

FURIOUS.
DIDO.

Adty. 2258/3, 0046/25/11, 1531/25/11,
C.in C. W.A. 2138/27/11 and my 0959/3.
Request information as to arrangements for
escort FURIOUS and DIDO from latitude
Gib. to 304 since JAGUAR and KELVIN appear
to be no longer available. Adty. 2258/3.
(C.in C. S.A. 1153/4 to Adty).

EDINBURGH.
FURIOUS.
DIDO.
Etc.+

C.in C. South Atlantic 0959/3 and my
2258/3 neither to all addressees. In
order to economise escorts, EDINBURGH,
FURIOUS, DIDO, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, KELVIN
and JAGUAR are to proceed to U.K. in
company. FURIOUS to Liverpool,
EDINBURGH and DIDO to Scapa, ARGUS and
FRANCONIA to Clyde. My 2258/3 is to be
amended accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) 1349/4 to C.in C's S.A. W.A.
F.O.C.N.A.)

Water
Rationing.

Your 1941/1/12. This water tanker will be
of great assistance. It had already been
decided to ask for a tanker to bring
water from Takoradi during the dry season
and it is proposed that the tanker with
WS5A shall be retained for this purpose.
Water situation will otherwise be acute
later. Rationing has already begun on
shore.

(C.in C. S.A. 1345/4 to Adty.)

HERMES
DRAGON

C.C.S.A. 1905 N 4. See East India, 4 pages on →



WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoys,
Fuel and
Water.

Your 1756/27/11 gave requirements of convoy W.S.4.B. at Freetown as fuel oil 6,000 tons, water Nil. The amounts actually supplied to enable ships to reach Durban with a margin of two days were fuel oil 9,200 tons, water 4,690 tons. With such discrepancy between signalled and actual requirements it is impossible to avoid delays. Water expenditure per day in the various transports varied between 5 and 14 gallons per man. Request measure to (a) give a more accurate forecast of requirements (b) limit expenditure of water in transports to 6 gallons per man per day.
(C.in C. S.A. 2009/4 to Adty).

Mediterranean.

Malta.
Air Report.

Sunderland reconnaissance, and Swordfish A/S patrol. No other operations due to weather. No enemy air activity. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/4).

Proposed
Operation.

For Force H. and aircraft from ARK ROYAL C.in C. Med. 1548/18 and Adty. 1558/28. Observations. (S.O. Force H, 1801/4). See Med. Vol.

C.S.3.
Glasgow.
GLASGOW.

My 2205/3. At 2300. C.S.3. reported he was returning to Alexandria, GLASGOW in company, speed 16 knots. (C.in C. Med. 0849/4).

Spezzia
Docks.

My 1835/3. Ref. plan in C.B.1712. Spezzia No.6 dock has been lengthened and and now holds 8-inch gun cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1131/4).

EAGLE.
Cruisers,
fast
minesweepers.

Situation referred to in Adty 1917/24/11 has raised certain considerations. (C.in C. Med. 1959/4 to Adty). See Med.Vol.

WAR DIARY.4.12.40.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Mine.

Floating mine reported in an Italian broadcast 13 miles E. of Pantellaria. (D.5. 457).

Movements.A.N.8.A.S.6.A.N.9.

Summary 173. Convoy A.N.8. escorted VOYAGER and VENDETTA, Left (position) for Kaso Straits and Piraeus. CALCUTTA left A.N.8. to meet A.S.6. and will leave A.S.6. south of Kaso Straits to rejoin A.N.8. GLOUCESTER meets YORK 1200/5 to cover convoy. DEFENDER escorting A.N.9 leaves a.m./5 for Suda Bay. ILEX leaves Alexandria to meet DEFENDER 1200/6. (C.in C. Med. 2247/4).

Enemy Air
Targets from
Malta. ✓

Your 1501/30. Signal was addressed to V.A. Malta as connecting link with A.O.C. Mediterranean vide additional signal 1752/26. The change in policy to that in para.7(a) of your 2015/22/8 was realised and considered justifiable in present circumstances. Final decision however is left to you. (1st S.L. 0002/4, to C.in C. Med.)

UPRIGHT.
CHAMPOLLIN.

UPRIGHT has nothing of interest to report in area North of Palermo. CHAMPOLLIN and one other French liner sighted off Ustica bound for Bonifacio. No major defects. Will be ready for patrol (date) (N.O.I.C. Malta. 1135/4 to C.in C. Med.)

UPHOLDER.
USK.
UNIQUE.

Your 1111/3. The three Submarines from 1st Flotilla will be relieved by UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE from 5th Flotilla. (D.O.D.(H) 1222/4 to C.in C. Med.)

Supply Ship
Bombed.

Operational Summary No.177 up to 1200/4. Greece. Day 3/12. 3 Blenheims dive-bombed enemy supply ship in Sarande Bay all bombs falling 50 yards astern, 1 Blenheim also machine gunned ship damaged unobserved. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1338/4).



WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RATNAGIRI.
PARVATI.
NETRAVATI.

Adty. 1732/28. Government of India have approved three A/S vessels to operate under S.N.O. Red Sea. Ships selected RATNAGIRI, PARVATI, NETRAVATI date they will be ready to proceed will be reported as soon as possible.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0504Z/4 amended 2230Z/5).

W.S.4.B.
Escort.

My 1154 30/11. Para.2. Cancel and substitute: CORNWALL and KANIMBLA will escort to position G then proceed to Aden. Para.6. Cancel last sentence and substitute SHROPSHIRE will escort to position W (See para.9) and then proceed to Aden. DEVONSHIRE will escort until relieved by SOUTHAMPTON. SOUTHAMPTON will escort to position W and then proceed Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 0720Z/4 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

B.S.91.

Request ANTENOR be sailed to give cover to B.S.91 ships proceeding Bombay. ANTENOR should arrive 0170 N., 0700 E., at dusk thence proceed Colombo through 0080 N., 0640 E., to arrive a.m. 14/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 0738Z/4 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

U.S.8.

Your 2142/30/11 para. 2. As transhipment of troops at Trincomalee will apparently be a regular practice request urgent consideration may be given to proposal in para.3. of my 1254/22/11. Application for use of tug SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL for forthcoming operation has already been made but no answer yet received. Fuel and water requirements can be met. Re military Embarkation staff.
(C.in C. E.I. 0744/4 to Adty).

Guns at
Diego Suarez.

Your 0704/25, my 1143/23, para.two (q), for 380 mm. guns read 80 mm. guns. Number not known but further information may be obtainable later.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0904B/4 to C.in C.E.I.)

WAR DIARY.4.12.40.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)TEDDY.

Master of British ship HAIYANG reports on 3/12 in position 005° 30'N., 082° 05'E., he passed through patch of fuel oil $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long, breadth unmentioned. Having previously passed through another and smaller patch near by. This might be cargo of Norwegian tanker TEDDY vide S.O.(I) Singapore 0145/22/11 rather than of OLE JACOB in view of Capt:O.S. Singapore 0348/14. No wreckage seen. (C.in C. E.I. 1152/4).

OROPESA.
(Br. M/V 14118
tons).

Your 2203/22. OROPESA did not call Aden for water as water was conserved. Master's report shows that even then consumption was considerably above minimum regulation allowance. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 1251/4 to D. of S.T.)

Air Escort.

Operational Summary No. 175 for 24 hours ending 1500 4/12. 6 Blenheims 203 Squadron provided Fighter escort 3 for convoy B.N.10 and 3 for B.S.9 $\frac{1}{2}$. 1 returning aircraft reconnoitred Assab Harbour 0740 - no shipping changes. No casualties all times G.M.T. (A.H.Q. Aden 1742/4).

→ B.S.10.

Convoy sailing telegram. Escorts GRIMSBY, CLIVE. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1719/4).

HERMES.
DRAGON.

Admty. 1917/24/11. HERMES and DRAGON sailed Freetown 3/12 proceeding to St. Helena by way of neighbourhood Ascension, carrying out air search south of lat. 005 degrees South. Then operate St. Helena area until (date) when will refuel and replenish aviation spirit at St. Helena subsequently operating Western side edge St. Helena Cape route. (C.in C. S.A., 1905N/4 to Adty). *(Should be South Atlantic)*

→ B.S.10.

Departure GRIMSBY 0630/4 with B.S.10. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 2203/4).

MOST SECRET.4.12.40.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.Dutch
Staff
Talks.

For Chiefs of Staff from C.in C. Far East and C.in C. China. In continuation of our 01412/28, following is report of Staff conversations with Officers of Dutch East Indies on 26/11 to 29/11.
(C.in C. China, 0241Z/4) See Operations Vol.

Far East
Policy.

Your 1003/28/11. C.O.S. Far East appreciation memo (4) 592 was forwarded with Admiralty Letter M.017692/40 of 8/9 per H.M.T. BRITANNIC to Capetown thence per S.S. ISIPINGO to Colombo arriving there 10/11 (Approx). Captain in Charge, Ceylon has been asked by wire re method of onward despatch. C.O.S. memo 40 (605) was forwarded with Admiralty Letter M/P.D. 09175/40 of 30th/10 per S.S. ADRASTUS bound for Shanghai and due Capetown 1/12. Copies Nos. 1-6 of tactical appreciation of Malaya, referred to in your 0253Z of 19/10 have been received. No message 0911Z of 1/11 and no copies of Singapore Conference report yet received. Only Telegraphic Summary of report Parts 1-10 as contained in your 1031Z/31/10.
(Hd. of M. 2008/4 to C.in C.China).

America and West Indies.U.S.Bases.

Question of security in connection with U.S.labour. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1133/4).

CARADOC.
VAN KINSBERGEN.

CARADOC proceed to arrive in 024° 00'N., 085° 50'W., by 0700 R/5. Netherland Gunnery Training Ship VAN KINSBERGEN R/V with CARADOC at above time if IDARWALD not intercepted 4/12. CARADOC should then take VAN KINSBERGEN under her orders and endeavour to intercept enemy ships.
(C.in C. A. & W.I. 1221/4).



WAR DIARY.

4.12.40.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MORMACWREN.

U.S. Ship MORMACWREN from South America Port to Boston called at Bermuda 26/11. Had on board several hundred bags of Coffee from Theodor Wille of Santos Brazil (W T L Black List) for U.S.A. Request instructions whether goods consigned to or from firms on Black List should be removed at Bermuda from U.S. ships bound between North and South America.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302/4 to Adty).

"Town Class"
Destroyers.

Reference 1615/29/11 S.O. Halifax Force. SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, SAINT CLAIR. Expected time of arrival Point B. 1130 G.M.T. 10/12. Admiralty pass to C.in C. W.A. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1639/4 to to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

My 1639/4. Destroyers sailed from St. John's N.F. 1530 G.M.T. today.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's 2021/4).

PENNLAND.

D. of S.T. 1853/3. Request amount of refrigerator cargo space for cured meats and ordinary cargo space which will be available in PENNLAND. Full number of 2593 personnel will be embarked at Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1126/4 to N.O.I.C. Kingston).

Australia.

Mined
Area.

A danger area of 30 miles radius has been declared off Cape Otway. (D.S.457).

Your 0829/28. Para? (2) of D.S.T's 2117/2. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA will require at least four days to coal, clean ship and embark troops. She cannot therefore sail before (date). Not possible to say whether she can be fitted additional accommodation until inspected on arrival. In these circumstances and to avoid appropriating AWATEA (which is required for transport of Australian and New Zealand reinforcements for Fiji) suggest sailing from Wellington be fixed for (date).
(N.Z.N.B., 0129Z/4, to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.4.12.40.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.PORTLAND.

Arrived Talcahuano this morning.
(Puffin, Callao, 0905/4).
(N.A, Santiago de Chile, 1000/4)
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1108/4).

RHEIN
IDARWALD.

Positions at 1200 Z plus 5 and 1400 Z plus
5, 3/12. (C.in C. A & W I 1951/4 to
CARADOC, VAN KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE etc.)

NORBURG.

Left for Russia. (Macrae, Galatz, 1140/4).

GERMANIA
CHARLOTTE
SCHLIEMANN
MADRID.

Your 1800/29. Am unable to ascertain
reason for GERMANIA's arrival at Las
Palmas but vessel has been moved to stern
of German Oil Tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN
and is being refuelled. Informed ship
is loaded with gasoline estimated quantity
13000 tons. Provisioning of MADRID
continues including large quantities of
fresh meat and vegetables.
(Consul Las Palmas 1745/4 to Adty).

KLAUS SCHOKE.
(Captured 2/12).

My 0648/3. Position is less favourable.
Details. Have 3 officers and 9 ratings
on board who have knowledge of ship and
work done to remain as navigating party.
All Germans removed. Must stand by
ship until arrival of ENCOUNTER and
cannot make R/V ordered by V.A.N.P's
1414/2.
(CALIFORNIA, 2004/4 to F.O.C.N.A., V.A.N.P)

Following is a repetition of my 1005/4.
Ref: 1540/3 from F.O.C.N.A. position at
2000/3 038° 15'N., 022° 12'W., with
tendency to drift westward. Prize will
show white all round light (ends) Amended
by my 1451/4 giving position 037° 57'N.,
022° 21'W., drifting 200 degrees one knot.
(CALIFORNIA 2314/4 to F.O.C.N.A.
ENCOUNTER).

MOST SECRET.4.12.40.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.FRANCO
MARTELLI.

Your 1220/3. It is confirmed that cargo was paid for yesterday. The guard was removed in afternoon but local formalities for final release are not yet complete. (Consul, Pernambuco 1004/4 to N.A., Rio de Janeiro.)

Port Limon.

N.A. Washington 1824/29 Port Limon supplies to Italian ships over the normal for requirements of crews. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1221/4 to Adty).

AEQUITAS.

My 1535/9 and my 1450/20. I earnestly advise that passage of Italian AEQUITAS which passed Pernambuco 2/12 southbound under Brazilian escort is not interfered with in any way by us. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1728/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)

VITTORIO VENETO.
INEZ CORRADO.

Bahia Blanca reports VITTORIO VENETO with 6,500 tons wheat on board commenced unloading today at the rate of 300 tons per diem delivery to Merixe Hermanns. When she has finished INEZ CORRADO 7,366 tons wheat will do likewise. (N.A. Buenos Aires, 1801/4 to Cdre. S.A.D. etc.)

German
French Merchant Ships.MINERVA.

Master of ANNEBERG (Finnish) received instructions from charterers agent Trapp & Co., Newcastle on Tyne deliver cargo to French Consul Las Palmas. MINERVA now alongside ANNEBERG transshipping parts of cargo. Understand 2 other French Trawlers will come from Casablanca to load rest of cargo. (Consul, Las Palmas. 1340/4).

MOST SECRET.4.12.1940.
Wednesday.WAR DIARY.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.Ships Attacked.WILHELMINA.
(torpedoed 2/12).

34 survivors landed Greenock. 5 are missing. (D.5. 457).

H.X.90.

Clyde arrival GENTIAN with 64 survivors of H.X.90. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1945/4).

STIRLINGSHIRE
VICTOR ROSS
(torpedoed
2/12).

STIRLINGSHIRE torpedoed in 055 42' N., 016° 13' west, at 1734/2 and VICTOR ROSS torpedoed in 056° 04' N., 018° 30' W., at 0853/2 may still be afloat. Investigate and report. (C.in C. W.A., 0114/4 to HURRICANE, HESPERUS).

VICTOR ROSS.

Proceed with despatch to assistance of S.S. VICTOR ROSS in position 56° 04' N., 18° 30' W. at 0752/2. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0950/4 to ENGLISHMAN)

Sailed tug ENGLISHMAN from Ardrossan at 1324 in accordance with my 0950/4. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/4).

Your 0114. Am searching for STIRLINGSHIRE HURRICANE in company. Shall be unable to reach position of VICTOR ROSS during daylight today in present conditions. Weather report: (HESPERUS, 1030/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

SAGUENAY
(torpedoed
1/12).
RAJAHSTAN
(torpedoed
2/12).

On passing Mull of Kintyre one trawler is to continue escorting SCHELDE and SAGUENAY to Barrow in Furness. The other two are to proceed to Londonderry to refuel and then to escort RAJAHSTAN with SEAMAN and Tug THAMES. Position course and speed at 0001/4 was 054° 50' N., 015° 10' W 080° 3 knots. (C.in C. W.A. 0132/4 to FOXTROT).

Following received F.O.I.C. Greenock from SCHELDE. Have anchored SAGUENAY in Rothesay Bay and am connecting; propose proceeding Barrow in Furness 0400 tomorrow. Out -- view threatening weather, suggest second tug be sent from Holyhead or Campbeltown immediately to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/4 to Adty. etc.)

AMSTERDAM.

Your 1550/ . Rescue tug AMSTERDAM will be sailed from Holyhead to your assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1949/4 to SCHELDE amended 2340/4).

WAR DIARY.4.12.1940.
Wednesday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.SAGUENAY,
details of
attack.

Attack on SAGUENAY while escorting H.G.47 1/12. Disposition of escorts, HIGHLANDER day position O for A.S.V., ROCHESTER astern. SAGUENAY having been stationed in day position P had lost touch and was on post quarter of convoy. Convoy speed 7 knots, no zig-zag. 0350 visibility 2 miles, SAGUENAY speed 12 knots sig-sagging was hit right forward port side. U/Boat fired red bombette which broke into three green stars very shortly before SAGUENAY was hit. U/Boat was then sighted red 120 about 1,000 yards from SAGUENAY who fired two rounds at it. First round may have hit. SAGUENAY had been keeping listening watch only and heard nothing. Probable approach of U/Boat was from port quarter, and because no other ships were attacked he probably retired the way he had come. Information from SAGUENAY is hearsay from Officer of the watch and other officers, and should be confirmed by C.O. Recommend that A/S transmitting at night should be re-instituted forthwith. (Capt: D. Liverpool, 1901/4, to Adty).

LOCH RANZA.
(torpedoed 2/12).

Report situation and your position. THAMES has LOCH RANZA in tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0910/4 to SALVONIA).

LOCH RANZA
CONCH.
(torpedoed
2/12).

Your 0825/4. (No trace in W.R.) Tug THAMES has made contact with LOCH RANZA Proceed forthwith to carry out search for CONCH in position 55° 40'N., 19° 00'W., at 0645/2 and VICTOR ROSS in position 56° 04'N., 18° 30'W. at 0752/2 SUPERMAN also searching. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1150/4, to SALVONIA).



War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2145/3.

O. i/c armed guard in French schooner .
LES GEMEAUX reports having sighted U-boat
at 2145/3 off Spartel steering due West,
graded A.2. (F.O.C.N.A., 1717/4, S.O.I.
Gib., 2118/4).

2029.

D.F., very unreliable fix 47.30 N. to
48.30 N., 09.00 W. to 10.30 W.
(C.in C. W.A., 2106/4 to KASHMIR,
amended 2258/4).

1200

Small U/B believed about 49° N., 11° W.,
proceeding to Lorient, speed 8 to 12 knots.
Orders to CACHALOT, THUNDERBOLT, TRIBUNE
for destruction of U/B. (C.in C. W.A.,
1450/4 amended 2038/4 to KASHMIR, KIPLING,
KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER for information,
KASHMIR to cancel operation if weather
unsuitable.)

Tangier.

Tangier reports 2100/4 both Italian U-boats
still in harbour. (S.O.I., Gib., 2118/4).

Estimated U/B
dispositions.

Italian 1 about 250 miles West of Lisbon
1200/3
1 off Portugal Northbound.
3 in N.W. Approaches one of
these in vicinity of Rosemary
Bank one about 56° N. 21° W.
at 0205/3.

German No news of the one in Cape De
Verde area
1 about 49° N. 11° W. bound for
Lorient 1 about 51° N. 11° W.
outward bound.
1 south of 55° N. West of 20° W.
1 in about 54° 50' N. 16° 40' W.
at 1459/3
1 in 57° N. 17° 10' W. at 1500/3
may have moved a little South.
1 in about 56° N. 14° W. at 1007/3
1 in about 56° 30' N. 10° 40' W.
at 1448/3
1 may be patrolling about 150
miles south of Iceland.
(D.D.I.C. 1316/4).



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

RODNEY

RODNEY left Scapa this morning escorted by 4 destroyers to cover homecoming Halifax convoys. A/S air escort was provided.

Convoy C.W. 19 Shelled

Enemy Coastal batteries fired 101 rounds at Convoy C.W. 19 this evening. Five fell in Dover harbour, causing one slight naval casualty.

Concentration of Enemy M/V's off Wilhelmshaven.

Aircraft on reconnaissance sighted at least 50 merchant vessels off Wilhelmshaven apparently sailing. These ships may be sheltering and in view of the unfavourable weather forecast it is considered very improbable that these ships constitute an immediate threat, but air reconnaissance has been ordered for dawn tomorrow. "Deluge" signal in all areas at 1130 and 2330 today was 3.

U-Boat hunt

KASHMIR, JUPITER, KIPLING and PUNJABI returned to Plymouth at 1345 today.

Ships in Distress

Four or five ships are in distress due to heavy weather.

Shortage of M.A/S.B's at Plymouth

Only 3 of the 8 vessels of the 3rd M.A./S.B Flotilla at Plymouth remain effective. This is not sufficient to deal with the E-Boat attacks on merchant vessels, and C. in C., W.A. asks that a further flotilla may be sent to him if possible.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Blenheims last night attacked docks and shipping at Calais, Ostend and Antwerp.

Coastal Command

A Sunderland left Sullom Voe at 0300 today to reconnoitre Narvik but returned on account of bad weather. Aircraft in the N.W. Approaches were recalled during the afternoon.

Five aircraft made individual attacks today on shipping off the German coast and off the Norwegian coast, but only in one instance is it thought that a possible hit was obtained on a ship.

This morning Blenheims successfully attacked the Naval docks and power station at Lorient.



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

THISTLE
Damaged

Examination vessel THISTLE was damaged by attack at Lowestoft this evening.

M/S Trawlers
off Dover

2 aircraft dropped bombs near M/S Trawlers off Dover this afternoon. No damage resulted.

Attack on
Portsmouth
CAMERON
Destroyed

Portsmouth was attacked this evening. CAMERON (Town Class destroyer) was hit in No 8 dock and it is thought she will be a total loss. Some damage was caused to Clarence Yard, VERNON and DOLPHIN, and there were some casualties.

Mining

One or two enemy aircraft were minelaying off the Harwich-Clacton area between 2100/4 and 0100/5. Minelaying last night also took place off the S.W. Coast.

Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Plymouth.

The Humber was opened early this morning

Milford Haven was opened about noon subject to local restrictions.

Operation
S.N. 10.A.

R.A.M.L. with 4 minelayers escorted by 4 destroyers left Port Z.A. at 1530 to lay mines in Denmark Strait. REPULSE with 4 destroyers left Scapa at 1735/5 as cover escort. ARETHUSA from Scapa provided escort.

Swedish
Waters

N.A. Stockholm reports that a Swedish fishing vessel was mined on 6/11 off North SKagen and three others at the southern end of German declared area since then. On 1/12 Danish fishing vessel VICTORIA was sunk off South Skagen.

Bomber Command aircraft laid mines successfully last night off an enemy occupied harbour.



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD sailed today to patrol off the Azores.

German SS KLAUS SCHOKE sank today.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE
Action with Raider

CARNARVON CASTLE was in action at 0800 today with a merchant ship raider using complete director system which escaped behind smoke at 0910 and was last seen at 1400 G.M.T. in position 31° 0' S., 43° 15' W (500 miles South of Rio de Janeiro) steering 40° at 19 knots.

CARNARVON CASTLE is proceeding to Montevideo to make good extensive damage. She has fired 500 rounds and estimates at least 10 hits on the enemy and that the raider, which had two serious fires, was considerably damaged.

CARNARVON CASTLE was hit 23 times and will have to undergo dockyard refit before being fit for further service.

Mediterranean

British Naval and Military Missions in Turkey are to be established as soon as the consent of the Turkish Govt. has been obtained.

China

OLE JACOB

The Norwegian tanker OLE JACOB, which made a raider distress message at 1347/10/11 arrived at Kobe today flying the German flag with a German prize crew on board.

America & West Indies

"Town"
Destroyers

The remaining 6 U.S. Destroyers, hitherto manned by R.C.N. care and maintenance parties were commissioned today by R.N. crews- SALISBURY, NEWMARKET, RICHMOND, NEWARK, WELLS, NEWPORT.

/Australia.....



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Australia

SS NIMBIN (1052 tons) was sunk today between Newcastle and Sydney, near the Coast. The survivors are convinced that the explosion was external.

1. The 1st and 2nd Squadrons of the Fleet Air Arm will be placed under the temporary operational control of C. in C. R.A.F. and stationed at either the Base or the Depot.

2. Either the 10th or 15th Sqn., or part of them will be placed under the temporary operational control of C. in C. R.A.F. and stationed at Plymouth or Clyde.

3. A.S.S. will give instructions regarding the number of aircraft to be detailed in accordance with A and B.

4. C. in C. R.A.F. will order reliefs as necessary.
(Int S.L. 1200/5 to C. in C.)

5. Training of 816 and 825 Squadrons.
(Int C. - S.L. 1200/5 to A.S.S.)

6. Your 1200/5. Disposition of German A/C sent to enemy torpedo boats as follows.
(Int. C. 1200/5 to C. in C. R.A.F.)

Your 1740/5. Can particulars be given of any known form of floating mine which might be dropped by aircraft to illuminate anchorage. (C. in C. R.A.F. 1740/5 to A.S.S.)

7. Status of Fleet Air Arm. Of three A/C B Flotilla only three remain effective. Three are undergoing large repairs and remaining two have defects which will take four weeks. This is not sufficient to deal with the threat attacks on Merchant Vessels and a further allocation, if possible of B Flotilla is required.
(Int. C. 1740/5 to A.S.S.)

Current Air

Allocation

Merchant Vessels

5.12.40.
Thursday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Northern
Patrol,
A/S Trawlers.

Your 2006/4 and VANP. 1554/4.
Examination Vessel not yet ready. If essential, propose A/S Trawlers attached to Faeroes be supplied with Key Memoranda. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0930/5 to A.C.O.S.)

Administration
of Cruisers.

As from 6/12 all cruisers in Home Waters are placed under the administration of C.in C. H.F. Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands will be made as follows when it is necessary to station them in the South for anti-invasion or other duties:

A. Either the 2nd or 15th C.S., or part of them, will 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 will be placed under the temporary operational Control of C.in C. W.A. and stationed at Plymouth or Clyde.

C. Adty. 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.
(1st S.L. 1400/5 to C's in C.)

Aircraft at
Hatston.

Re training of 816 and 825 Squadrons.
(C.in C. H.F. 1539/5 to Adty).

Possible Air
Attack on
Fleet.

Your 1223/3. Disposition of German A/C able to carry torpedoes is as follows.
(D.D.I.C. 1800/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

Your 1746/3. Can particulars be given of any known form of floating flare which might be dropped by aircraft to illuminate anchorage. (C.in C. H.F. 1913/5 to Adty).

Western Approaches.
Further A/S
Vessels requested.

Of third M A/S B Flotilla only three remain effective, three are undergoing large repairs and remaining two have defects which will take four weeks. This is not sufficient to deal with the E/Boat attacks on Merchant Vessels and a further allocation, if possible of a Flotilla is requested.
(C.in C. W.A. 1852/5 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 1130/5. (D.C. 1140/5). At 2330/5.
(D.C. 2352/5).

M/V's Off. e
Wilhelmshavn.

At least 50₂M/V's reported by A/C off Wilhelmshavn at 0853 today apparently sailing. In view of weather, unlikely to constitute an immediate threat. H.Q.C.C. requested to confirm this by R/C at dawn tomorrow. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2016/5 to C's in C.)

Movements.

RODNEY.

One Battleship or HOOD is to be sailed as soon as practicable to cover incoming Halifax Convoy. Ship will not enter Halifax. (1st S.L. 0122/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

RODNEY screened by 4 Destroyers to sail at 0830/5 towards Halifax. Route to 60° N, 25° W., whence Destroyers are to return to Scapa at best speed. Request A/S air Escort as far to Westward as possible. (C.in C. H.F. 0344/5 to C.in C. Rosyth).

A/S Escort is being provided by 1 Hudson which will be relieved by another Hudson about 1230. (C.in C. Rosyth 0854/5 to RODNEY).

Sailed at 0900 RODNEY with ESCAPADE, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE, and SIKH. (A.C.O.S. 1006/5).

RODNEY to R/V with Convoy HX.93, escort Convoy homeward to about 25° W., and then part company and proceed to Scapa. C.in C. H.F. requested to arrange A/S Escort accordingly. (V.C.N.S. 1652/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.
JUPITER.
PUNJABI.

Sailed 1619/4 from Plymouth. (C.in C. W.A. 0152/5).

Nore Command.
Ships out of
Action.

My 0940/2/12. Amend as follows.
(C.in C. Nore 0736/5).

DOUGLAS. KEPPEL.

Arrived Port ZA. 0845/5. (TRELAWNEY 0853/5 to R.A.D. H.F.)



WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

→ FRANKLIN.

Sailed Yarmouth with A/T IRVANA at 0850.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0900/5).

JACKAL.

Arrived Humber 0915/5. (F.O.Humber
0924/5).

DUNEDIN.

Is at 4 hours Notice for full power until
1600/6. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1239/5).

Dover.

Dispositions for night 5/6. (V.A.Dover
1258/5).

Portsmouth.

Night Movements. (C.in C. Portsmouth
1447/5).

FORMIDABLE.
BEVERLEY.
BURNHAM.

Cancel my 1638/4. BEVERLEY, BURNHAM are to
escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 1800/7
to carry out Flying exercises a.m./8
thence proceeding Greenock. On conclusion
FORMIDABLE is to detach BEVERLEY to
Liverpool, BURNHAM to Londonderry.
(C.in C. W.A. 1510/5 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

→ SHELDRAKE.
FRANKLIN.

Arrived Harwich 1509/5. (F.O.I.C.Harwich
1514/5).

Orkneys.

Movements for night 5/6 (A.C.O.S. 1541/5).

WIDGEON.

My position at 1720, 53° 9'N., 1° 14'E.
proceeding down Q.Z.S.40. (WIDGEON
1722/5 to EGRET).

ASHANTI.
FAME.

Your 1146. (completion dates). ASHANTI
5 to 6 months. FAME 9 to 10 months.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1731/5 to C.in C. H.F.).

KENYA.

C.in C. W.A. 1129/5. Request you defer
sailing KENYA till after arrival of
NIGERIA at Scapa and transfer of flag.
(V.C.N.S. 1843/5 to C.in C. H.F.)



WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

GLENGYLE. }
GLENROY. }

My 0933/4. Date of embarkation at Gourock is now either p.m./7 or a.m./8. (A.D.O.D. C.O. 1159/5 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

BERKELEY.

VANOC, FERNIE, WITHERINGTON will be patrolling south of Convoy Route. Try to locate them by A.S.V. and record result. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1417/5 to BERKELEY).

VANOC }
FERNIE }
WITHERINGTON. }

Will patrol to South of Convoy Route to-night between Owers and Royal Sovereign returning Portsmouth at daylight. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1427/5 to Adty).

Operation "Monsoon"
MONSOON.

Cancel my 1531/25. (Re-fit of FURIOUS) (D.O.D.H. 1851/5). My 1349/4. FURIOUS, will carry out repeat of operation ~~SHIP~~ to be known as ~~MONSOON~~. FURIOUS to be ready to sail by (date). (D.O.D. H. 1852/5 to C.in C. W.A.) See Operation Vol

Iceland.

CHITRAL arrived and sailed 2200 G.M.T. LETITIA arrived 2230 G.M.T. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2301/5 to V.A.N.P.)

Dover
Shelled.

Batteries at Calais, Wissant, and Gris Nez fired 101 rounds at C.W.19 between 1806 and 2011, of which 5 fell in Dover Harbour. One Naval Rating slightly wounded. No other casualties or damage reported. (V.A.Dover 2044/5).

Submarines.

UPHOLDER
USK
UNIQUE.

S.5. is to sail UPHOLDER 10/12 and USK and UNIQUE 11/12 for Gibraltar. Route. (V.A.S. 1258/5).

URGE.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2102/4. P.C.74 is to arrive Barrow p.m./9 to escort URGE to Clyde 10/12. (C.in C. W.A. 1316/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

My 2102/4. URGE delayed until 11/12. Request Escort may arrive Barrow 0830/10. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.5.12.40.
Thursday.
WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines. (Contd.)SUNFISH.

Leave patrol at 1800/7. Route to Gap A. (S.6 1555/5).

WHITE BEAR.

Expected time of arrival Holy Loch 1200/8. (S.9. 1619/5).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/6. (V.A.S. 1649/5).

SEALION.

Arriving Blyth 1305. (SEALION 1850/5).

TALISMAN.

Arrived. (F.O. Greenock 2140/5 to Adty).

British Air Activity.Reconnaissance of Narvik.

Sunderland left Sullom Voe at 0300. (C.in C. Rosyth 0334/5).

Patrols.

My 2244/30. Following Patrols ordered today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0548/4). 2 A/S Patrols carried out. (200 Group 1730/5 to Air Ministry).

Operation "Specimen."

Three aircraft are at Aldergrove and will move to Sydenham Belfast tomorrow. One aircraft is unserviceable, and spare aircraft is being flown to Sydenham from Donibristle tomorrow Friday. (R.A.N.A.S. 1658/5 to Adty).

Calais.

Docks and shipping attacked on Night 4/5. (H.Q.B.C. 1707/5).

Rosyth.

My A.169/21/10. Rosyth Area now reverts to normal Defended Area conditions. (H.Q.F.C. 1910/5 to Air Ministry).



WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Marchwood.

Air-Raid Night 1/2. Damage about £3000
Details. (Supt:C.E.Portsmouth 1015/5).

C.W. Convoy.

Being shadowed by 1 aircraft in
51° 18'N., 1° 13'E. (BERKELEY 1530/5).

Lowestoft.

At 1823 aircraft dropped about 18 bombs
in and near Hamilton Dock and machine-
gunned P.W.S.S. Few civilian casualties.
Examination Vessel THISTLE damaged.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1905/5).

Dover.

2 aircraft dropped bombs near M/S Trawlers
off Dover at 1450 today. No damage
(V.A.Dover 2044/5).

Air Raid
on Portsmouth.

Air Raid on Portsmouth 1814 - 2030
Following damage to Admiralty property so
far known. VERNON damage. 29 Casualties.
Direct hit by H.E.Bomb on CAMERON in No.8
Dock. Vessel seriously damaged and oil
fuel burning. Some casualties.
Clarence Yard fire. Minor damage in
DOLPHIN. Suspected U.X.B's at
Eastney and Dockyard.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 2200/5).

Mining.

Humber.

Open. (F.O. Humber 0522/5).

Ardnamurchan
Point.

Your 2118/4. My 2020/3 to F.O.I.C.
Greenock reads as follows. Master of
Northern Lighthouses Vessel HESPERUS
states Moored Mine ~~behind~~ German sighted
1000/3 about 2 miles W. of Ardnamurchan
Point. Fired 400 rounds S.A.A. but
mine did not sink. (N.O.I.C. Oban
1000/5 to Adty).

Operation
G.Q.2.

Your 1348/4. Intend to lay from
48° 33'N., 9° 44'W., as in Adty. 1013/26,
not 48° 35' as in your 1348/4.
(ADVENTURE 1125/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

My 1348/4, para.6. Add after 6° W,
keeping to N. of 47° 45' N.,
(C.in C. W.A. 1216/5 to S.O. 5th D.F.)

Milford Haven.

Open, subject to local restriction.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1205/5).

MOST SECRET.5.12.40.
Thursday.
WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)PORT NAPIER.

As Board of Inquiry has not elucidated nature of Explosions causing loss of ship, consider investigation desirable. Assistance of experts necessary. (R.A.M.L. 1259/5 to Adty).

S.N.10A.

Departed Port ZA at 1530/5, R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BATH, KEPPEL, DOUGLAS, ST. ALBANS. (TRELAWNEY 1532/5 to Adty). REPULSE with SOMALI, MASHONA, ESKIMO, BEDOUIN left Scapa 1735/5 as cover escort (A.C.O.S. 1805/5).

Thames Estuary.

Explosions and Fireworks seen during night 4/5. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1545/5 to C.in C. Nore).

ICARUS.

C.in C. W.A. 1812/4. Sailed to anchor in Brixham Roads. She will weigh 2300/5. Expected time of arrival Nab 0815/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1801/5 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

M/V's Mined
off Skagen.

Your 1301/3.
(1) One Swedish fishing vessel mined North Skagen 6/11. 3 others southern end of German declared area since then.

(2) On 1/12 Danish fishing boat VICTORIA sunk off (? Valinby) South Skagen due to pear-shaped mine. (N.A. Stockholm 1052/5 to Adty).

*No trace in
Lloyd's* →

Enemy Intelligence.German
Torpedo A/C.

Your 1223/3. Disposition of German A/C capable of carrying torpedoes is as follows. (D.D.I.C. 1800/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

M/V's off
Wilhelmshavn.

Aircraft report at 0853 today at least 50 M/V's off Wilhelmshaven apparently sailing. (A.C.N.S.H. 2016/5 to C's in C.)



WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Laying-up
Reports.

Request you will call for a short report from all cruisers, destroyers and sloops now under your command under the following headings and covering the period 1/8 to 1/12.

(a) Name of Commanding Officer or Officers.

(b) Periods, giving dates, during which ship has been laid up for any cause other than enemy action, excluding routine boiler cleaning.

(c) The reason for the ship being laid up in each of the periods given in (b).
(1st S.L. 0123/5 to C.in C. H.F. Portsmouth, Nore, W.A.).



WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

EXYMANE.

(M/S Trawler) Rescue Tug NORMAN sailed 0825/5 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0848/5 to Adty).

TAYGETOS.

(Greek 5687 tons). Want immediate assistance. (TAYGETOS 0929/5). Position at 0919 about 54° 9'N., 12° 40'W. (C.in C. W.A. 0954/5 to WELLINGTON).

HEARTSEASE.

Asdic out of action. E.T.A.Londonderry 1330. (HEARTSEASE 1040/5 to C.in C.W.A.)

SALTWICK.

(British 3775 tons) Steering gear broken in 57° 10'N., 26° 30'W. (Valentia Radio 1324/5). Require immediate assistance. (SALTWICK 2017/5 to Adty).

M.L.125.

Screw disabled. Being towed by VINCIA into Ramsgate. (BERKELEY 1537/5 to C.in C. Nore). Arrived (N.O.I.C.Ramsgate 1715/5 to Adty.)

AGHIA EIRINI.

(Greek 4330 Tons). Steering gear broken. Want help at once. (Valentia Radio 1708/5). Main Engine broken too. (Valentia 1726/5). Position 52° 21'N., 23° 40'W. at 1658. (Port Patrick Radio, Recd. 1921/5)

LADY BERYL.

(A/S Trawler) Collided on 4/12 with Middle Pier at Granton. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1737/5 to Adty).

SALVONIA.

(Tug) Arrived Campbeltown with Engine defects (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2158/5 to C.in C. W.A.)

SOUTHERN STAR.

(A/S Trawler) Has returned to Belfast with D/G defects. (F.O.I.C.Belfast 2330/5 to N.O.I.C.Oban).

EMPIRE THUNDER.

(British, 5965 Tons). Main Engine disabled in 59° 9'N., 14° 40'W. Strong gale. Require immediate assistance. (EMPIRE THUNDER 2343/5).



WAR DIARY.

5.12.40.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

PORT NAPIER.

As board of enquiry has not elucidated nature of heavy explosions resulting in the total loss of PORT NAPIER consider investigation desirable. Part of vessel is still above water and some evidence therefore remains. Assistance of experts is necessary.
(R.A.M.L. 1259/5).

STANBURN.

Keep a good look out for STANBURN estimated position at 1200/5 055° 10'N., 012° 12'W last heard of steering 080 degrees at about three knots. CALENDULA or ASPHODEL report position if sighted.
(C.in C. W.A. 1311/5).



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

Estimated Positions 0900/5

(D.T.D. to C. in C., HF., 1401/5)

O.B. 252

Hove to (position) O.B. 252 scattered by gale yesterday and have lost touch with Commodore and HARVESTER during night. Oil fuel tank split and leaking. (HAVELOCK, 0945/5)

O.G. 46

Gibraltar arrival 0700/5. DEPTFORD, WISHART ERIN and HAARLEM escorting O.G. 46. (S.O.I. Gib., 0952/5)

E.N. 37 }
W.N. 50 }

GLEANER to act as additional A/A escort. Code words "Might" and "Mutual" (C. in C., Rosyth, 1025/5) Details (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1612/5)

O.B. 254

Sailed VESPER at 0700/5 to comply with C. in C., W.A., 1440/3. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1032/5) Amended route. (C. in C., W.A. 1540/5 to GARLAND, SANDWICH, etc.,)

S.L. 56

My 1414/2, delete CALIFORNIA. Orders to CALIFORNIA (F.O.C.N.P., 1254/5, 2200/5)

6 M.V's

My 2236/4. Escort will be VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE (N.O.I.C., Dartmouth, 1300/5)

H.X. 90 B.

FOLKESTONE, VISCOUNT, VANQUISHER arrived with H.X. 90 B. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1555/5)

H.X. 93

RODNEY to R.V. and escort to about 25° W. (D.O.D. (H) 1652/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

W.N. 50 O

Code "Limited" Escort unappropriated. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1901/5)

S.L. 56 }
S.L. 57 }

Situation report at 1200/5. (D.O.D. (F) to CACHALOT, 2235/5) Orders to BULOLO and CANTON (C. in C., S.A., 1905/5- see South Atlantic)

S.L. 58

KENT to escort (C. in C., S.A. 1905/5- see South Atlantic)

H.X. 94

RAJPUTANA as ocean escort, returning to Halifax. Corvettes WINDFLOWER and TRILLIUM will also sail with H.X. 98 and to Clyde. (B.S. 3. 1759/5)

/F.S. 54.....

War Diary5.12.1940
ThursdayHOME COMMANDS.Convoys-Contd

F.S. 54

Shipping

Sailing Methil 1400/6. Expected to exceed 50 large ships. Hunt class destroyers to be sailed to meet between Outer Dowsing and Flamborough and act as additional escort to Sheerness. WOLFHOUND will continue S.O. of Escort. (C. in C., Nore 1830/5, to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

H.G. 48

Your 1128/4. Commodore should be privately instructed not to delay H.G. 48 to keep NETTIE in company. (D.T.D. to F.O.C.N.A., 1158/5)

S.C. 15

CILICIA leaves Clyde in O.B. 255 p.m./6, to act as ocean escort to S.C. 15 in about 44° W., (V.A.N.P., 1222/5 to CILICIA)

H.X. 93

Cancel route after B.H.X. junction and proceed as follows. RODNEY should meet you in about 40° W., When met AURANIA is to return to base. (D.O.D. (H) 1651/5 to AURANIA)

B.H.X. 94

Arrival ALAUNIA. Departure in accordance with my 1631/3 heavy ocean escort B.H.X. 94 returning St. John' N.B. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1043/5)

GUDRUN MAERSK

Admty 1157/15/11. Routes required for GUDRUN MAERSK, Oban for Capetown, speed 13 knots (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1020/5)

Spanish and Portuguese Ships

Trading to U.S.A. (See America and West Indies)

SATURNUS

Swedish tanker. Cable instructions received from Swedish F.O. (N.C.S.O. New York, to Admty. 1844/5)

Troop Convoys

W.S. 5 A.

Provisional embarkation arrangements. (D. of S.T., 0800/5)
In order that T.L.C's can be embarked and ships ready to sail (date) following movements of M.T. ships should take place as soon as they have completed loading. (D.O.D. (H) 1200/5 to C. in C., W.A. F.O.I.C. Cardiff)

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

MARECHAL JOFFRE. Your 1552/4 and 1622/4 and my 0345/5. Please see my 0313/21. I am still of opinion it would be very much to our disadvantage to provoke French naval forces in Indo China into taking retaliatory action against our shipping in China Sea. Suggest therefore that interception should not take place on China Station. (C.in C. China, 04412/5, to Admty.)

CHARLES PLUMIER. Officers and crew of French CHARLES PLUMIER refuse to navigate ship to U.K. Possible that crew might be provided here but this would presumably entail seizing ship and cargo at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1210/5 to Admty.)

Policy re
French Merchant
Vessels.

Request confirmation that following is the policy at present in force regarding French Merchant Vessels. Escorted convoys. The policy of stopping occasional French escorted convoys laid down in Admty. 2327/19/10 has been modified. The interception of these convoys is only to be carried out when ordered vide Admty. 2110/19/11 para.(A). French territorial waters may be infringed. Unescorted ships. All unescorted ships except those about which special instructions have been received, are when encountered by our warships outside territorial waters to have an armed guard on board. Such ships will be diverted to U.K. if possible, otherwise to Gibraltar. When owing to weather or other circumstances it is not possible to place an armed guard on board, ships are if practicable to be escorted to U.K. preferably, otherwise Gibraltar. If French force subsequently disputes possession of ship under British escort she is to be surrendered unless British force present is overwhelmingly superior in which case action is to be taken as Admty. 2327/19/10 para. 4 last sentence but British are not to fire first shot. (F.O.C.N.A. 1224/5 to Admty.)

CUBA
INDO CHINOIS
ANNE DE
BRETAGNE

Admty. 2326/11 and my 2053/18/11. Merchant seamen volunteers and men ex CUBA INDO CHINOIS and ANNE DE BRETAGNE have now volunteered to serve with Free French Forces in West Africa to man the French merchant vessels now in Free French Ports including Casamance, Baoule and Adrar. Propose to send these to Duala at first opportunity and not to U.K. (C.in C. S.A., 1617/5 to Admty., amended 1201/6).

5.12.1940.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.ARGUS,
Operation
"White."

When will report of Board of Enquiry ordered in A.M. 1915/20 reach Admty.? (1 S.L. to F.O.C.N.A., 0217/5)
Your 0217. Will be despatched in ARGUS, no earlier opportunity. (F.O.C.N.A. 1030/5).

Las Palmas,
Germans.

2 German passenger aircraft arrived here 3/12 brought number of Germans. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1625/5).

RENOWN,
docking.

My 2128/30. Necessary for ship to be at 24 hours' notice on one shaft to complete refitting of bearing.

RENOWN is now seven months out of dock and requires bottom cleaning, speed being reduced by about one knot.

Ship can be docked without delaying BERWICK 4 days after receipt of Adty. approval.

In view of detachment of SHEFFIELD and as there are no known commitments in immediate future present time seems appropriate to improve steaming capabilities. (S.O. Force H, 1411/5 to Admty.)

Your 1411/5. Approved to prepare dock. Further signal follows. (D.O.D. (F) 2037/5) Cancel my 2037/5. (1 S.L., 0155/6).

ARK ROYAL.

Intend ARK ROYAL and screen proceed to sea A.M./9 for 48 hours for flying training. (S.O. Force H. 1501/5 to Admty.)

SHEFFIELD
Azores Patrol.

SHEFFIELD is to be sailed A.M./5 to carry out Azores Patrol in accordance with A.T. 1615/27/10.

Ship is to be informed of A.T. 1633/1. and V.A.S. 2124/1. (1 S.L. 0014/5 to F.O. Force H).

Gibraltar departure 1500/5 SHEFFIELD in accordance with Admty. 0014/5. (S.O.I., Gib., 1516/5).

PALMELLA,
O.G.46.

Intercepted message indicates that Spanish S.S. NAVEMAR has picked up 28 survivors of British Ship PALMELLA (OG.46) and expects to arrive Lisbon P.M./10. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2102/5).

PALMELLA said to have sunk after an internal explosion, no time or position given. (D.S. 458.) See P.26.

RAMILLIES
ECLIPSE
EDINBURGH

RAMILLIES and ECLIPSE are to be sailed for U.K. in company with other ships named. C.in C. H.F. requested to order destination of ECLIPSE. Further instructions will be issued as to destination of RAMILLIES. Anticipated she will be docked on arrival. EDINBURGH is to proceed forthwith to Scapa without calling at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) 2222/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

5.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with Raider.

CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201Z/5 is repeated to you. Have received no earlier report. Have you any information?
(C.in C. S.A., 2001/5, to Admty.)

Heading for Montevideo.

Request permission be obtained for ship to spend 48 hours in Monte Video to make necessary repairs for seaworthiness. Pending your instructions I am heading for Monte Video.
(CARNARVON CASTLE 1415/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Position of Raider.

CARNARVON CASTLE was in action with Raider who was last seen at 1400 G.M.T./5 in position 031° 00' South 043° 15' West, Course 040 degs. 19 knots. (Cdre. S.A.D. 1621Z/5, to Admty., C.in C. S.A., and QUEEN OF BERMUDA). Position about 500 miles south of Rio de Janeiro.

R.V. with ENTERPRISE.

Your 1201Z/5. R/V with ENTERPRISE in position 033°30' S. 049°25'W. at 1000 G.M.T./6. (R.A.S.A.D. 1629/5, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Damage.

My 0201/5. Casualties are 5 ratings dead, 3 Officers wounded including one seriously; 5 ratings seriously wounded, 24 slightly. CARNARVON CASTLE hit twice on waterline and several holes above waterline. Two compartments flooded and considerable damage elsewhere.
Raider (description). Very similar to ELIA ESSBERGER. (CARNARVON CASTLE, 1740Z/5, to R.A.S.A.D.)

Montevideo arrangements.

Following from CARNARVON CASTLE (begins). Requests permission to be obtained for Ship to spend 48 hours in Montevideo to make necessary repairs for sea worthiness (ends). Request you will make necessary arrangements. (C.in C. S.A., 2015/5, to N.A. Buenos Aires).

My 2015/5, proceed to Montevideo.
(C.in C. S.A., 2023/5, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

To R.V. ENTERPRISE.

Act in accordance with R.A.S.A.Ds' 1629/Z/5. (Re CARNARVON CASTLE to R.V. with ENTERPRISE). (C.in C. S.A., 2335, to CARNARVON CASTLE).

CUMBERLAND.

Adjust speed so as to arrive in position 030° S. 040° W. as early as possible consistent with having 50% fuel remaining on arrival there.
(R.A.S.A.D., 2301Z/5, to CUMBERLAND).

5.12.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)DORSETSHIRE
defects.

DORSETSHIRE 1915/2 (defective propeller shaft). Examination by divers has not revealed cause. Essential to dock the ship. Arrangements being made to undock ASTURIAS a.m./6 and to dock DORSETSHIRE a.m./8. Time required for DORSETSHIRE in dock uncertain. (S.N.O. Simonstown, 0955B/5).

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE.

My 1232/3. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE sailing for Freetown). Request route for DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1044/5 to Adty.)

LL Trawlers.

Simonstown arrivals. SOTRA, SVANA, SARNA, SOIKA. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1003Z/5, to Admty.)

NORSEMAN.

Cable ship, now proceeding 7° 49' S. 34° 42' W. (S.O.I.), Montevideo, 1349Z/5).

ENGLISH TRADER,
damaged.

ENGLISH TRADER reports Rudder carried away position 022° 08' N. 021° 20' W. at 0200/5. Suggest ocean going tug from Saint Vincent to assist. Only Warship available at Freetown BRIDGEWATER. (C.in C. S.A., 1025/5 to Admty. etc.)

Your 1025 N/5. No Ocean going tug available St. Vincent. Have asked Portuguese Authorities here to send Port Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1705/5 to C.in C. S.A.)

My 1705/5. Can get no definite reply from Portuguese authorities but consider improbable that they will allow Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO to assist. No other vessel. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 2250/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

Oiler for Hunting
Forces.

Oiler LARISTAN originally sent to fuel whalecatcher is being retained at St. Helena during operations of Force L. Though Force L will not be operating after December it is considered very desirable that for the present and whilst policy and operation detailed in Admty. 1917/24/11 and 0036/25/11 are continuing an Oiler shall be kept at St. Helena to provide another fuelling centre for forces that may be in the neighbourhood with particular reference to "D" Class cruisers.

Requested that an R.F.A. Oiler with oiling at sea gear and some aviation spirit as well as fuel be made available to relieve LARISTAN as convenient or alternatively that LARISTAN be retained as long as required. (C.in C. S.A., 1615/5 to Admty.)

/ RESOLUTION

5.12.1940.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)RESOLUTION
VINDICTIVE
FORTUNE

RESOLUTION, VINDICTIVE escorted by FORTUNE proceed at 1000/6 through position (1) 011° 30' N. 020° 00' W. (2) 014° 00' N. 020° 40' W. (3) 029° 00' N. 020° 00' W. (4) 035° 40' N. 007° 40' W. thence to Gibraltar speed of advance 10 knots. (C.in C. S.A. 1621/5.)

ASTURIAS

Delayed at Simonstown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1903/5 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BULOLO,
CANTON,
KENT,
Convoys.

Your 0143/30/11 BULOLO and CANTON ocean escorts to S.L. 56 and 57 at present on passage have instructions to remain in a lane in the centre of the convoy unless weather conditions render this undesirable when ship is to proceed independently. KENT sails as escort to convoy S.L. 58. Request may be informed of any special orders regarding route and escort, after ocean duties are completed. (C.in C. S.A. 1905/5 to Admty.)

CANTON,
ARAWA,
ALCANTARA,
MORTON BAY
MOOLTAN.

Your 2005/22 and my 2252/29.
In view of following forecast of dates when A.M.Cs may resume service, do you still wish CANTON to fit catapult on completion of present duty or would you prefer to defer this work under February? Expected completion Dates for ARAWA, ALCANTARA, MORETON BAY, MOOLTAN. (D.O.D.(F) 2224/5, to C.in C. S.A.).

5.12.40.
Thursday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Turkey.

Decided to establish British Naval and Military Missions in Turkey as soon as consent of Turkish Govt. obtained. You will be appointed Head of British Naval Mission when formed. Outline of policy. (1st S.L. 0259/5 to N.A. Ankara for Admiral Kelly). See Mediterranean Vol.

Roumanian Ships.

Reply to N.A. Angora's 1225/28 from Ministry of Shipping. Would welcome any means of getting these vessels out of Black Sea. (D.T.D. 1201/5 to N.A. Angora).

TRUANT.

Operation B.⁵ Orders for patrol. (Capt: S.1. 1555/5 to TRUANT).

Personnel.

Your 2245/24. Urgency of dilution of personnel. Details. (D.P.S. 1618/5 to C.in C. Med.)

Convoy A.N.9.

Date and route. Escorts. DEFENDER from Port Said, ILEX from Alexandria. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1244/5).

French S/M. Beyrout.

My 0859/2 (1001/2 intended?) Third French S/M has now returned. (Consul Gen, Beyrout to Admt. 1915/5).

Cable Communication.

In view of para.1 and 2 of F.O. Force H's 1629/1 it appears prospects of successfully carrying out this work in winter are slender. Far too heavy a programme of operations in prospect to be able to spare support. (C.in C. Med. 0031/5 to Adty).

830 Squadron Policy.

Your 2327/4 (Calling for 1305/23 referred to in 1501/30). Following is a repetition of my 1301/27 which is message referred to in my 1501/30. (begins). V.A. Malta 818 repeated R.A.(A) Med. A.O.C. Med. from C.in C. Med. I should like following policy to govern employment of 830 squadron. 2. (a) Primary duties should be dusk or night attacks on warships (? or) merchant vessels at sea priority being given to Libyan Convoys passing to West of Malta. (b) Opportunity should be seized to attack shipping concentrations in harbour. (c) Priority should be given to seaches and location of targets suitable for attack, by the squadron before routine patrol or anti-submarine

MOST SECRET.5.12.40.
Thursday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)830 Squadron
Policy.
(Contd.)

duty. 3. Operations on above lines should start now and mining operations against Tripoli as soon as consider practicable. (Ends).
(C.in C. Med. 1015/5 to Adty).

Italian
Destroyer
Attacked.

Operational Summary No.22. At Mid-day 4/12 30 Squadron provided 2 Blenheims to attack destroyer reported to be shelling Greek Forces (? from) Sarande. Destroyer put to flight at sight of our aircraft by 2 hits one bows one stern.
(B.A.F. Greece 1835/5).

East Indies.SOUTHAMPTON
(joining
EI Station.

Request you will sail SOUTHAMPTON to Mombasa with all convenient despatch early a.m./7. Pass Guardafui in darkness and reconnoitre Mogadishu evening 9/12.
(C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/5, to S.N.O.Red Sea).

GERMANIA.

Your 9033 4/12. There are two tankers GERMANIA. One, a German, last reported at Las Palmas, 1/12 but may have recently sailed for unknown destination. The other a Norwegian has recently changed her name to INDIA. Latter sailed for Bahrein 2/12 for Capetown.
(C.in C. E.I., 0726Z/5, to M.I.C.E.)

U.S.7.

Colombo arrival 0850Z/5 PERTH and CAPE TOWN escorting convoy U.S.7.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0936Z/5).

S.W.3.

SHROPSHIRE escorting S.W.3. arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1126Z/5).

U.S.8.

A.M. 0301/29 and 2142/30. Request names of on-carrying transports for (a) Colombo (b) Trincomalee. Suggested dates of arrival.
(C.in C. E.I. 1130/5, to P.S.T.O. India).

Mediterranean~~050~~

MESSAGE 2125/5th December.

MOST SECRET

IN

From Air Ministry.

Date 5.12.40.

CYPHER

Addressed H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.

IMMEDIATE

X.76 5/12.

*RAF
through
Middle
East.*

Personal for A.O.C. in C. from C.A.S. Your A.477 29/11. We must anticipate that by Spring of 1941 further extensions of operations will take place in Balkans and/or Turkey and the main sphere of operations may move there from Africa. We are now considering the possibility of further reinforcements, additional to those promised, and have in mind very tentatively 6 Fighter and 6 Medium Bomber Squadrons. Can you present administrative and depot organisation maintain these additional squadrons without heavy reinforcements to these services. These further Medium Bomber and Fighter squadrons would be sent to you as opportunity occurred but would not be allowed to interfere with existing programme. In order to make use of fine weather opportunity medium bombers might be flown out from end of December onward and would have to be stored until the squadron personnel arrived about end of February or March. Will inform you when final decision is reached but at present you cannot rely upon these 12 squadrons.

In our X.527 25/11 and X.975 28/11 we have referred to the necessity of pressing on with aerodromes in Turkey and in Greek islands and mainland. Plan these to make it possible to operate a high proportion of your force now in Egypt together with the Air Forces now in Greece and such reinforcements as we may be able to provide, say, a sum total in the Balkans of 10 fighter, 10 medium and 3 heavy bomber squadrons. Greeks and Turks must be urged to prepare at once all-weather aerodromes with at least 1300 yards runways and if possible up to standard stated in X.527 25/11, approach roads, telephonic or telegraphic communications and as many as possible of the other necessary facilities and services. In conjunction with Greek aerodromes should be inspected and buildings earmarked for personnel, stores etc. Stocks of fuel and bombs should be available in Egypt ready for despatch to these aerodromes when required. It must be impressed upon Greeks that the extent of our air assistance will depend largely upon the adequacy of aerodromes and facilities available. Your O.734 and O.737 1/11 have given us latest information on aerodromes in Crete and Turkey. Request you report now and fortnightly on progress of all aerodromes on Greek mainland and islands. If necessary for the security of our forces in Egypt you have authority to withdraw one Gladiator Squadron from Greece

though you should consult us if ^{without previous sanction from us,} time permits.
(Air Ministry to HQ, RAF, ME, 2125/5).

*Propose to insert this copy
in Liaison file only*

- 2 -

without previous sanction from here, though you should consult us if time permits.

2125/5.

Advance copy D.O.D.(F), Duty Capt., D.D.I.C.

Received from Air Ministry 0225/6/12.

1st Lt. Col.
1st S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
C.S.O. to 1st S.L.
D. of P.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.O.D (F)
D.O.D.(H)
D.N.I.(4)
D.S.D.
D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
I.P.
W.D.
Duty Captain
Head of M.
D.T.S.D.
D.D.I.C.
E.P.S.

MG

135

MOST SECRET.

5.12.40.
Thursday.



WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

OLE JACOB.

Reporting Officer Kobe reports Norwegian Tanker OLE JACOB arrived 5/12 flying German flag with German prize crew on board. She appears to have full cargo of oil. (S.O.I. Shanghai, 1103Z/5. to C.in C. China) (Raider distress message from OLE JACOB was received on 10/11 in a position approx. 480' E., of Ceylon).

Kuang Chow Wan Trading Policy.

Governor, Hong Kong's telegram 782 to Colonial Office. As Kuang Chow Wan is under Japanese control, I have treated it in same way as Indo China. If urgently necessary to avoid a shortage of rice at Hong Kong, I have no objection to Kuang Chow Wan being used as an exchange port, provided goods sent there are not challenged export license. I have no doubt Admiral Decoux is anxious to re-establish trade on his conditions but firm basis of my policy is no discrimination against British ships in Indo-China ports. (C.in C. China, 1407Z/5 to Adty).


America and West Indies.

EUGENA CAMBANIS

British URLA reports she is proceeding to St. John's N.F. with crew of EUGENA CAMBANIS. (Greek 3470 tons), which was in Convoy S.C.13 with lumber. Ship is presumed to have foundered on 28/11. (D.O.R. 5/12). My 1733/2. KATHAROTISA BERNHARD and URLA arrived at St. John's N.F. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1640/5 to Adty.)

A.M.C. Escorts.

Admty. 0217/28. Allowing 2 ships refitting 17 A.M.C's would be required for H.X. and B.H.X. Convoys and 3 for S.C. Convoys, total 20. (C.in C. A. W.I. 1052/5 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.
WAR DIARY.5.12.40.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)ALAUNIA.

Arrival. ALAUNIA. Departure in accordance with my 1631/3 heavy ocean escort B.H.X.94 returning St. John N.B. (date).
(C.in C. A. W.I. 1043/5, to Adty).

"Town Class"
Destroyers.

Halifax 5/12. Departures, RAMSEY, READING, RIPLEY.
(S.O.I. Halifax 1355/5).

BARON
YARBOROUGH.

My 2119/3. (Piston broken but proceeding under own steam). BARON YARBOROUGH arrived at St. Johns N.F. 3/12.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1456/5).

PRINCE
ROBERT.

In view of increased activity of German ships National Service Headquarters has agreed that you remain on South American Coast for the present. Fuelling arrangements, BISHOPDALE. Immediately after fuelling resume patrol off Callao with minimum possible delay.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1832/5 to PRINCE ROBERT.)

Spanish,
Portuguese
Ships to
U.S.A.

Your 1302/28/11. In accordance with policy of Navicert system, Portuguese and Spanish ships trading with U.S.A. and holding ship Navicerts are exempt from intermediate calls for control unless permitted to carry mails in which case they are required to call at Bermuda where mails are to be landed for examination. Without delaying ships advantage should be taken of such calls to ascertain as far as possible that cargoes agree with manifests and no un-manifested cargo is carried. Passengers in such ships will have been approved by British Authorities at port of departure so need not be examined unless special grounds for suspicion exist.
(D.E.W.D. 2048/5 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.AQUITANIA.

Your 2117/2. AQUITANIA. In time available work has been put in hand to fit additional 400 to 500.
(A.C.N.B. 0332Z/5 to D. of S.T.)

WAR DIARY.5.12.40.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia. (Contd.)Suspicious Ships.

WAIPAWA reports following sighted:-
 (a) Vessel resembling number 99 WAKAMA in O.U.63 29 (i) with grey hull red funnel black top in position $010^{\circ} 19'$ S., $135^{\circ} 00'$ W., about 0200Z/6/10 steering South-West. Speed about 12. WAIPAWA at 17 knots attempted close vessel which altered to south. WAIPAWA resumed his course 252 degs. without obtaining further particulars.

(b) In position $027^{\circ} 10'$ S., $172^{\circ} 40'$ E. at 1400Z/15/11 in bright moonlight a 2 funneled ship steering easterly at high speed.
 (A.C.N.B. 1140Z/5 to N.Z.N.B.)

NIMBIN.

British 1052 tons sunk 0530Z/5 in position $033^{\circ} 15' 30''$ S., $151^{\circ} 47'$ E. Explosion between engine room and number 2 hold. Survivors convinced explosion external. 13 survivors 7 missing.
 (A.C.N.B. 1445Z/5).

New Zealand.AORANGAI.

MONOWAI escorting AORANGI left Auckland for Suva.
 (N.Z.N.B. 0610Z/5 to Admty.)



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

KLAUS SCHOKE
Captured 2/12)

ENCOUNTER relieves CALIFORNIA p.m/5
Fleet tug ST. DAY position, course and
speed 1200/5 036° 50' N., 013° 05' W.,
277° 9 knots, proceeding to KLAUS SCHOKE.
SHEFFIELD sails 1200/5 to patrol off
Azores speed 18 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/5
to CIRCASSIA, DERBYSHIRE)

German ship sunk (CALIFORNIA, 1732/5 to
F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1732/5 and my 2004/4 and your 1414/2
(WORCESTER^{SWIA} and CALIFORNIA to R/V with
convoy S.L. 56) My position, course and
speed, 037° 45' N., 022° 44' W., 010°
altering to 360° on reaching 022° West
speed of advance 15 knots at present.
Request course and speed of convoy to
enable me to overtake if possible or
alternatively instructions. Oil re-
mainder 1400 tons. (CALIFORNIA, to F.O.C.N.P.
1828/5) See p. 126.

ENCOUNTER

My position course and speed at 2000/5.
(ENCOUNTER, 2110/5)

KLAUS SCHOKE has sunk. Return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2007/5 to ENCOUNTER)

SPEZIA

Departure 4/12 SPEZIA for Marseilles.
(Valencia, 1345/5)

PORTLAND
OSORNO

Reliable information states that PORTLAND
left Coquimbo with GRAF SPEE fugitives on
board numbering approx. 20. Also stated
that these had crossed the Andes with
Arab mule loads of equipment some of mili-
tary nature. To avoid possible transshipment
of above to other German Ships anchored in
Talcahuano, Ambassador has requested M.F.A.
to hold all German ships in Talcahuano
until they have been searched. Naval
Authorities are going to do this. Most
likely ship to attempt escape is OSORNO
which has fuel and also on account of
cadets on board ex training ship PRIWALL.
(N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1810/5)

RHEIN
IDARWALD

RHEIN, 022° 10' N., 094° 23' W., course
and speed 345° 5 knots at 1400 Zone + 5
on 4/12. IDARWALD reported 023° 36' N.,
089° 15' W., course & speed 075° 6 knots
at 1430 Zone + 5 on 4/12. Consider longitude
of IDARWALD should probably be 088° 15' W
at above time. Check being obtained.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 1811/5, to CARADOC, VAN
KINSBERGEN, DIOMEDE)

War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

SAGUENAY
(Torpedoed 1/12)

AMSTERDAM proceeded Ramsey, Isle of Man.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0900/5)

SAGUENAY arrived and berthed (N.O.I.C.
Barrow, 1708/5)

SILVERPINE

Har Shm Argo

(British 5066 tons) Ship of Convoy tor-
pedoed position 054° 14' N., 018° 08' W.,
(HARVESTER, 0255/5 to C. in C., W.A.)
(see S/M's Attacked)

→ LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

S.O.S. received from LOCH RANZA in position
15 miles east of Inishtrahul at 1044.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1124/5)

→ LOCH RANZA
CONCH
CALEDONIA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 1346/5. My position is 055° 32' N.,
008° 02' W., THAMES has LOCH RANZA in tow
by stern. Trying to reach shelter in
Lough Foyle. Making about one knot in
South West gale. THAMES has 25 men from
LOCH RANZA on board. 73 survivors from
CONCH and CALEDONIA here. After LOCH RANZA
has reached shelter propose taking THAMES
passengers on board and proceeding Clyde.
(ST. LAURENT 1400/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

THAMES (Dutch tug) towing LOCH RANZA re-
ports tow parted and situation critical.
LOCH RANZA drifting between Tory Is. and
Inishtrahull. Proceed with all despatch
to their assistance as soon as weather
moderates. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2035/5 to
ENGLISHMAN)

RAJAHSTAN
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Noon position 058° 07' N., 009° 49' W.,
engine speed 3 knots. Vessel is not
steering, if weather conditions continue
Tug necessary to assure arrival.
(RAJAHSTAN 1400/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Following received from RAJAHSTAN. Correct
position 1900 G.M.T. 055° 21' North 008°
24' West. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/5 to Admty)

JEANNE M.
(Torpedoed 2/12)

My 0943/2 Ship sunk was British ship
JEANNE M. and not SEABANK SPRAY. Ship was
in O.G. 46 and was torpedoed and sunk at
0545 B.S.T./2 in position 039° 19' N., 013°
54' W., Master has arrived at Gibraltar
with remainder of survivors. My 1753/5/12
gives list of casualties. Re confidential
books and W/T log. (F.O.C.N.A. 1746/5)



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 0255 Enemy submarine in position 54° 14' N., 18.18 W., at 0255 (C. in C., W.A., 0522/5) (D.T.D., 0600/5)
- 0403 55° N., 19°- 21° W., indefinite position (D.S. 457)
- 0926 About 46.30 N., 5° W., indefinite position Italian Submarine (D.S. 457) (V.A.S. 1053/5)
- 1949 D.F., probable U-Boat 43°-44° N., 9°-10° W., unreliable fix (D.D.I.C. 2036/5)
- 1650 52°-54° N., W. of 18° W., indefinite position (D.S. 458)
- 2107 48°- 48.30 N., 8° - 8.30 W., Indefinite
2217 Position (D.S. 458)
- 2352 Off coast of Portugal (Italian) Indefinite position (D.S. 458)
- 0001 Master of KYLOE reports that at midnight of the 4th, 10 miles N.W. of Smalls saw a vessel right ahead both starboarded and switched-on lights. At that moment sighted submarine under his bows on surface following wake of other vessel. Submarine then crossed KYLOE's wake and disappeared in a Squall. No explosions heard. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1638/5)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- One slower than estimated entering Gironde today or tonight.
 1 off Cape Spartel at 2145/3 outward bound
 1 in vicinity of 60° N., 10° W., on the 3rd possibly still patrolling.
 1 or probably two more in N.W. Approaches probably North of 55 N., and West of 20 W.

German- 1 arriving Lorient after midnight.
 1 in vicinity of Porcupine Bank outward bound.
 1 in 54. 14 N., 18.08 W., at 0255/5.
 1 about 55 N., 20 W at 0403/5.
 1 or probably 2 in area 55 N-57 N., 10 W-15 W.
 1 in area 56 N- 58 N., 15 W - 19 W.
 1 about 100-150 miles Northwards of Rockall.
 1 probably patrolling North of 61 N., East of 20 W.
 (D.D.I.C. 1359/5)



War Diary

5.12.1940
Thursday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN
SITUATION REPORT

Submarines Attacked

KASHMIR, KIPLING, JUPITER and PUNJABI arrived Plymouth 1158/4 and left 1619/4 (for attack on U-Boat) (C. in C., W.A., 0152/5)

0255

0255

My 0255/5 (Ship of convoy torpedoed) Made good attack 14 charge pattern on U-Boat shortly after SILVERPINE sunk. Convoy was widely separated contact not yet regained. Am searching. 9 British 10 Chinamen picked up at daylight. Weather. (HARVESTER, 1145/5 to C. in C., W.A.)

1310

Obtained A/S contact in position 284° Cape Wrath 53. Contact not regained. Rough sea (KINGSTON ONYX 1310/5 to S.O. Trawlers, Northern Patrol)

My 1310 Regained anti-submarine contact. Fired further charges circling position. No further gain obtained. No wreckage seen. (KINGSTON ONYX, 1410/5)

Your 1310. Submerged wreck is in position 287° Cape Wrath 51 miles. (A.C.O.S. 1533/5 to KINGSTON ONYX)

Northern Patrol trawler KINGSTON ONYX attacked contact probably non-submarine in position 58.50 N., 6.40 W., at 1310. (A.C.O.S. 1709/5)



War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Waters

Destroyer
Patrol

Three destroyers from Portsmouth patrolled last night to southward of the convoy route between the Owers and Royal Sovereign L.V's. They had nothing to report.

Ships
in Distress

A gale is blowing. Some 17 merchant vessels made distress signals today. Some minor warships are involved. BLYSKAWICA returned to the Clyde with damaged steering gear. HURRICANE has all her guns out of action, all boats lost and other damage.

F/S CHEVREUIL anchored at Rothesay with engines disabled.

Submarine UNBEATEN broke adrift from TITANIA and after collision with a merchant ship went ashore at Holy Loch.

Town Class
Destroyers

With the exception of the 4 ships allotted to R.A.M.L. all Town class destroyers are to join the Western Approaches Command when ready for service.

Channel
Striking Force

The German destroyers operating from Brest have proved themselves faster than the 5th D.F. of the Nore Command which is temporarily operating from Plymouth. The Admiralty propose that the 6th D.F. (Tribals) with the Home Fleet should change places with the 5th D.F. as the Channel Striking Force. Neither C. in C., H.F. nor C. in C., W.A., are in favour of the exchange, however.

U-Boat
Tactics

The Admiralty today sent a message to N.C.S.O.'s at home and abroad concerning the tactics of U-Boats now operating in the Atlantic.

Administration
of Cruisers

As from today, all cruisers in Home Waters are placed under the administration of C. in C., H.F. Provision of cruisers for other Home Commands will be made as follows when stationed in the South. The necessary instructions being given by the Admty., reliefs being detailed by C. in C., H.F. as necessary.
A. Either 2nd or 15th C.S. or part of them will be placed under temporary operational control of C. in C., Nore and stationed either at the Nore or Humber.

/B.....



War Diary

MOST SECRET 143

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Waters

Administration
of Cruisers-
Contd.

B. Either 10th or 18th C.S. or part of them, will be placed under temporary operational control of C. in C., W.A. and stationed at Plymouth or Clyde.

Orkney
Defences

The Orkney defences are to be brought to a strength of 3 Hurricane Squadrons. Air Attack on the Fleet as reprisal for Taranto is anticipated.

Enemy Air Activity

Dover
Bombed

A stick of bombs was dropped in Dover Harbour this afternoon. No damage resulted.

Portsmouth
Attacked

There was another air raid on Portsmouth this evening. Some damage was caused in the dockyard.

Convoy F.S. 53
Attacked

Convoy F.S. 53 was attacked near the Shipwash L.V. this morning. No damage is reported.

Mining

Minelaying activity by enemy aircraft last night was considerably more than of late. 42 aircraft nearly all of whom were presumably minelaying, were operating between 1800 and 2100/5 off the coast between Yarmouth and Southwold, the Lincolnshire coast, and between Aldeburgh and the Thames Estuary.

Mines and explosive cutters were found in the Dover area. Seven ground mines self detonated off St. Anns Head (Milford Haven area)

SS SUPREMACY (554 tons) in Convoy F.S. 51 was mined in the Thames this evening and sank.

Falmouth was opened this afternoon for steam propelled vessels only.



War Diary

MOST SECRET

144

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Operation "Ration" is to be put into force as soon as possible.

Portuguese coast watchers in San Miguel Azores last night sighted two suspicious vessels to eastward of Ponta Delgada and two others to westward, one of which appeared to be a man of war. SHEFFIELD which left Gibraltar at 1500/5 for Azores Patrol has been ordered to proceed with despatch and EDINBURGH, returning to Scapa from Freetown after escorting Convoy W.S. 4 B has been ordered to proceed round St. Miguel. Submarine CACHALOT is on patrol in this area.

A raider report was made by ROBERT MAERSK at 2245, and a cancellation about an hour later is regarded with suspicion. CIRCASSIA on Western Patrol is investigating.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE
Action with
Raider, 5/12.

Investigation is being made as to why no signal concerning this action was received at Freetown until CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201/5 four hours after action was joined.

Shipping sailings from the River Plate are not being suspended

A request has been made for CARNARVON CASTLE to visit Montevideo on 9/12 for 24 hours, which may possibly be extended.

ENTERPRISE is searching for the enemy raider and QUEEN OF BERMUDA is proceeding to fuel at sea prior to resuming patrol.



War Diary

6.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Air Attack
on Valona

7 Blenheims attacked Valona this morning. The munitions dump and M.T. park were hit.

Blenheims were despatched to machine-gun enemy troops on the coast road west of Sarande.

Greek
Advance

Santi Quaranta was occupied by Greek forces at 1030 today.

East Indies

Air Attack
on Assab

3 Blenheims unsuccessfully attacked Assab today.

Suspicious
Ship

A suspicious vessel was sighted this morning by BRITISH DUCHESS in the South Mozambique Channel. SHROPSHIRE left Durban about 1200Z/6 to cover shipping there. CERES is in the North Mozambique Channel.

America & West Indies

U-Boat Campaign

FORFAR (A.M.C. sunk 2/12) was struck by 5 torpedoes between 0353/2 and 0455/2. the last exploding the H.A. magazine.

WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Channel
Striking
Force.

German destroyers operating from Brest have proved themselves faster than the destroyers of the 5th D.F. It is for consideration that in view of their extra speed, the 6th D.F. should change places with the 5th D.F. as the Channel striking force. Request your remarks. (1st S.L. 1810/6 to C.in C. H.F.)

Town Class
Destroyers.

With the exception of the four ships allocated to R.A.M.L., all Town Class Destroyers will join the command of C.in C. W.A. when ready for service. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2326/6).

"Deluge"
DELUGE.

Defence of United Kingdom.

At 1130/6. (D.C.1201/6). At 2330/6. (D.C.2355/6).

Milford Haven
Balloon Defence.

My 1136/3. Understood Air Ministry object to balloons being flown on eastern part of convoy anchorage. Case for balloons (details).

Milford Haven is the convoy assembly port for Bristol Channel and ports in Western English Channel, one of the principal areas remaining open to shipping. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1222/6.)

Movements.

KASHMIR
JUPITER
KIPLING
PUNJABI.

Arrived Plymouth 1345/5.
(C.in C. W.A. 0012/6).


WAR DIARY.6.12.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)ICARUS.

Your 1801/5 arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0858/6). Intend sailing ICARUS for Immingham tonight E.T.D.1700 E.T.A. N. Goodwin 2359 please signal further instructions. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1143/6). To be sailed to pass N. Goodwin at 0815/7. Route. Speed. Fighter cover will be arranged Code word "Alpha". (C.in C. Nore 1302/6), (C.in C. Portsmouth 1623/6).

RODNEY.

Expect escort by Sunderland aircraft from about 1200 until 1500. (C.in C. Rosyth 0916/6 to RODNEY).

EDINBURGH.
SHEFFIELD.
TROUBADOUR.

Adty. 2222/5. EDINBURGH. (Left Freetown 1600/30/11)
Route to Scapa. (C.in C. W.A. 1234/6)
Informing Western Patrol of movements of EDINBURGH and SHEFFIELD. (F.O.C.N.P. 1130/6). See URGE (Submarines).

→ RAMILLIES)
FURIOUS)
ARGUS)
CALIFORNIA)
FRANCONIA.)

Your 2222/5. Re destroyer escort. (C.in C. W.A. 1255/6) (See Operations Volume). C.in C. W.A. 1255/6 and Adty. 1734/6. Request you will sail 2 destroyers for this duty. (C.in C. H.F. 2006/6 to R.A.D.)

BRIDPORT.

My 1204/5. Sailing delayed 24 hours due to stress of weather. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1110/6).

MORETON BAY.

F.O.C.N.P. 1646/3. Route to Tyne. (C.in C. Rosyth 1355/6).

→ RAMILLIES.

After arrival at Clyde to sail to Portsmouth for docking and leave. To be ready to sail (date). (D.O.D.(H) 1719/6).

DUNOTTAR.
CASTLE.
CILICIA.

DUNOTTAR CASTLE from Belfast is to sail 8/12 escorted by two destroyers of 10th or 11th Escort Groups to be detailed by D.12. CILICIA from Clyde can be included in convoy if this is early enough. (C.in C. W.A. 1512/6).

Rosyth.

Movements. (C.in C. Rosyth 1518/6).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler line occupied tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1524/6).

6.12.1940.
Friday.
WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)Western
Channel.

Night report (C.in C. W.A. 1556/6, 2102/6).

Orkneys.

Position 2000/6 (A.C.O.S. 1558/6).

FORMIDABLE.My 1815/3. Work delayed by gale.
Expect to sail 0800/9. E.T.A.Greenock
1600/9. (FORMIDABLE 1712/6) Please
rearrange escorts as necessary.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1739/6 to C.in C. W.A.)M.T.Ships.Adty. 1200/5. Report as early as
possible to F.O.I.C. Glasgow and F.O.I.C.
Greenock E.T.A. Greenock of the M.T.Ships
allocated to Clyde.
(D.O.D.(H) 1757/6 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).Operations.Patrol South
of Convoy
Route.My 1427/5 has nothing to report.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1107/6).A.P.Patrols.Ref. my 0920/6. Patrols not covered to-
night unless weather moderates.
(S.O.A.P. Harwich. 1606/6).ARGUS.To sail in Convoy WS5(A) (date) Reason.
(D.N.A.D. 2252/6 2253/6). See Operations
Volume.Operation "monsoon".
"MONSOON".My 1852/5. Revised sailing date for
FURIOUS (D.O.D.(H) 2325/6 to Air Min.)
(See Operations Volume.)Submarines.UNBEATEN
URGE.My 1731/3. Re use for an operation.
(V.A.90018/6). See Operations Volume.


WAR DIARY.6.12.1940.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Submarines.URGE.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/5. Cancel my 1316,
5. TROUBADOUR is to escort URGE.
(C.in C. W.A. 1236/6).

Positions and
movements.

1800/7 (V.A.S. 1653/6).

SEALION
attack on
tanker 25/11.

SEALION reports only one aircraft seen.
At 1111/25/11 carried out unsuccessful
snap attack on large northbound tanker in
approx. 61° N., 4° 10' E., in heavy weather
(V.A.S.1907/6).

Lorient
to be
attacked.British Air Activity.

AP6 40 6/12. Available aircraft Nos.
53 and 59 Sqns. to attack tonight
submarines and docks Lorient.
(H.Q.C.C. 1316/6).

Training of
816 and 825
Squadrons.

Request your remarks on Adty. 0012/4
to C.in C. H.F. and A.C.O.S. and C.in C.
H.F.'s reply 1539/5 * which are being
passed to you.
(5th S.L. 1355/6 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Brest to be
Attacked.

AP/641 6/12. Repeat tonight attack with
Tims on Power Station and Naval Dockyard
at Brest with available Aircraft of No.
217 Sqn.
(H.Q.C.C. 1419/6).

Reconnaissance
of Kiel
Ordered.

As soon as weather conditions are
suitable one A/C 235 Sqn. is to carry out
a photographic r/c of the shipping at Kiel
in following priority:-
(Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1440/6).

Re S/L's.

217 6/12. Your A.951 5/12. Object of
keeping searchlights doused under certain
conditions is, etc. Orders can be issued
for appropriate searchlights to comply
with request if these factors are
appreciated and possible risk of inviting
air attack is accepted. Request your
decision.
(H.Q.F.C. 1530/6 to Air Min.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.12.40.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Defence of
Scapa.

X 179 6/12. Admiralty anticipate air attack on Fleet now at Scapa as reprisal for Taranto. C.in C. Home Fleet and Admiralty consider that Orkney defences should be brought up to three Hurricane Squadrons in addition to 232 Flight and the F.A.A. Fighter Sgdn. Consider and report proposed action on this request.
(Air Min. 1555/6 to F.C.)

A.11 6/12. Your X.179 6/12. Three Hurricane Squadrons will be available in Kirkwall Sector and 232 Flight Adjacent if required. Request authority to increase 232 Flight to full Squadron.
(H.Q.F.C. 2300/6 to Air Min).

Reconnaissance
Spartel to 4° W.

X.7437.A.295 6/12. Surface R/C area covered Spartel to four degrees west.
(200 Group 1720/6).

Air Escorts
7/12.

(C.in C. Rosyth 1924/6).

Attack on
Portsmouth
5/12.

Enemy Air Activity.
My 2200/5. Clarence Yard fire now out. Damage not so serious as anticipated
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0723/6).

Report from
Sheerness.

Following received from X D O Sheerness - Control Station 26 reported hearing low flying plane and at 1847 observed 1 way galve Swings on guard loop and M1 and M2 all occurring practically simultaneously.
2010/5/12.
(C.in C. Nore 1051/6).

Convoy F.S.

Enemy aircraft attacking F.S.Convoy.
52° 3'N., 1° 46'E.
(VORTIGERN 1123/6).

My 1123. One Dornier. 17 dropped bombs; hurried Eastwards and returned to shadow height.
(VORTIGERN 1132/6).

MOST SECRET.6.12.40.
Friday.
WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)CAMERON.
(attack on
Portsmouth
5/12.

A Number of men in CAMERON owe their lives to having their torches close to hand as all lights went out and ship fell over on her side on bomb exploding. It is for consideration that this point should be brought generally to notice. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1147/6).

My 2200/5 fire in CAMERON is now out. Ship turned over on side and probably a total loss. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1448/6).

Portsmouth attack
6/12.

Air Raid on Portsmouth 1940/2000. Dockyard damage not great. Victualling Yard slight damage. DOLPHIN very slight damage. No casualties. (C.in C. Portsmouth 2338/6).

CRAIGMILLER
(Damaged
19/11).

Sheerness 1600/6. Departure H.M.T. CRAIGMILLER for Southend for onward routing to Lowestoft. (Cdre. i/c Sheerness 1601/6).

Dover attacked.

Enemy aircraft dropped a stick of bombs in Dover Harbour at 1656/6. No casualties or damage reported. (V.A.Dover 1644/6).

KILGERRAN
CASTLE.
(Bombed 2/12).

Has since sunk. (D.S.458).

Flares dropped
by enemy aircraft.

Reply to C.in C. H.F. 1913/3. (D.T.S.D.2011/6).

Berthing of
Vessels.

It is considered likely that the Germans may launch attacks by torpedo carrying aircraft on an increased scale. This should be considered when berthing vessels. (D.D.I.C. 2324/6 to C's in C at home).



WAR DIARY.

6.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.Q.2.

My 1348/4. Operation postponed for 24 hours due to weather.
(C.in C. W.A. 0710/6 to ADVENTURE KASHMIR KIPLING PUNJABI JUPITER.

Mines detonated Sheerness.

Group Officer in CAPRICORNUS reports
(a) At 2020/5 one mine detonated by LL 220° Knob L.V. three cables.

(b) at 2345/5 one mine detonated by S.A gear 234° Knob L.V. 1 mile bearing ahead two cables.
(Capt: M/S Sheerness 0925/6).

Dover.

No routine sweeping to 0800/6 in Q.Z.X.247 exploratory sweep between south west Gate and Sandhead Buoys. Four sweeps cut by explosive cutters. One mine found 160° South Foreland 2.3 miles.
(V.A.Dover 1207/6).

Request following may be broadcast:-
Port of Falmouth open for steam propelled vessels only. Diesel engined ships should not repeat not be routed to Falmouth except by special arrangements with N.C.S.O. Instructions for approaching.
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth 1304/6).

Operation J.H.

Your 1149/2. Weather and moon unfavourable. Do not intend to repeat operation.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1537/6 to Adty).

Milford Haven.

Seven mines (ground) self detonated. Positions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1817/6).

Plymouth.

Since my 1823/4 two mines detonated spontaneously one at 1848 on approx. bearing 220 degs. Breakwater Fort and eastward of Penlee Point and one between Shagstone and Mewstone.
(C.in C. W.A. 1825/6).

MOST SECRET.6.12.40.
Friday.WAR DIARY.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Surface
unit off
Naze.

By D/F at 0954/6 unknown enemy surface unit, probably destroyer or larger unit was near The Naze. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1031/6).

Units in
Bay of Biscay
ports.

Summary of reconnaissance of enemy naval units in Brest, Lorient, St. Nazaire, Gironde, (V.A.S. 1711/6 to S/M's Area B).

Reports when
ships are laid
up.Miscellaneous.

A.M.0123/5. Request confirmation that reports are required to cover all ships and vessels including A.P.Vessels M.T.B's etc. (C.in C. Nore 1429/6 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.6.12.40.
Friday.WAR DIARY.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.ENGLISH
TRADER
(3953 tons).

Ex Convoy O.B.245, rudder carried away, about 450 miles S.W. of Canary Is. See South Atlantic.

BRITISH
PRINCE.

Ex Convoy HX91. In distress 550 miles West of Hebrides. (D.O.R.)

S.S. EMPIRE
THUNDER.
made S.O.S.
2343/5).

Intercept at 2321 S.O.S. bad fading message unread. Believe call sign begins with G.N.? Immediate assistance required, no further particulars. (North Foreland Radio 0048/6).

Following received. S.O.S. S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER main engine disabled strong west gale require immediate assistance. 59° 0'N., 14° 40'W. 2343/5 G.M.T. (North Foreland Radio 0054/6).

Proceed with all despatch.
→ (S.O.N.T. 0135/6 to KINGSTON ONYX).
Proceed with all despatch to position 59° 09'N., 14° 40' W. to assist S.S. EMPIRE THUNDER.
(S.O.N.T. 0740/6 to NORTHERN SUN).Sail ST. OLAVES to assist EMPIRE THUNDER disabled position at 2340 was 59° 09'N., 14° 40'W.
(A.C.C.S. 1406/6 to N.O.I.C. Kirkwall).It is possible you may find EMPIRE THUNDER already in tow. If so report immediately in order that tug may be recalled.
→ (A.C.C.S. 1949/6 to KINGSTON ONYX.)S.S.
BECHEVILLE.
(4228 tons).

S.O.S. BECHEVILLE off Skerryvore both anchors gone require immediate assistance. (Lyness W/T 010/6)

CQ V.GPK. S.O.S. BECHEVILLE QUM.
T.O.R. 0522 Ends.
(Scapa W/T 0545/6).

Following received from Cdre. E.N. 35:- In S.S. BECHEVILLE, cruising in Lee of Colonsay having affected temporary repairs to engines, lost both anchors, Captain intends proceed Clyde when weather moderates. T.O.O. 1713/6 (N.C.S.O. Oban 2230/6).

WAR DIARY.6.12.40.
Friday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. SERINGA. Distress signal at 0306/6 in
57° 52'N., 23° 56'W. Requires assistance.
(C.in C. W.A. 2350/11).

S.S. MARY N. From MARY N. Strong gale broke left
lifeboat other parts missed sea water
is rushing inside in the engine room.
(Valentia Radio 0249/6).

S.S. NYLAND. S.O.S. aground West rock ship breaking.
(~~Swedish 3378~~
tone) (Norwegian 1375 tons) (NYLAND T.O.R. 0750/6).

S.S. HOPESTAR. HOPESTAR ashore Bally Macormack point
(5267 tons). near Bangor Bay Belfast Lough require
immediate assistance.
(Lyness W/T 0756/5, HOPESTAR 0817/6).

HOPESTAR. British HOPESTAR driven ashore
ACCOMAC. Ballyholme Bay Belfast Lough tugs
unable to approach until weather
moderates. No immediate danger. British
ACCOMAC also ashore and after boiler
explosion apparently total loss.
No casualties, crew landed.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1832/6).

N.C. Following received from Wick Radio:-
S.S. ICELAND. From S.S. ICELAND Begins Naval Control
Steamer ICELAND required two tugs been
badly damaged by other steamer no
steering gear Ends. Endeavouring
communicate with vessel.
(Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0835/6).

S.S. QUINEAN Driving lee shore Turnberry Point.
(5205 tons). Require assistance.
(S.S. QUINEAN via lands End Radio
0845/6 Port patrick Radio. No T.O.O.
or T.O.R.)

Driving ashore Turnberry Point Firth of
Clyde. Ship unmanageable. Heavy
gale. (QUINEAN via Port patrick Radio
No T.O.O.)

Following has been read Cleethorpes W/T.
Situation bettering do not consider
vessel in danger, master 1217/6 G.M.T.
(QUINEAN T.O.R. 1331/6).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.6.12.40.
Friday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

S.S. TAYGETOS
(Greek 4295 tons)
(made S.O.S. 5/12).

Following has been read:-
317° Gonio B. de TAYGETOS rudder smashed
lifeboats swept away require immediate
assistance to abandon ship no position.
(Lands End Radio 0910/6).

S.S. ADAMAS.
(Greek 4144 tons).

Position 10 miles NW Tory Island.
Damaged number one hold, lifeboats and
steering gear. Require assistance.
(S.S. ADAMAS via Malin Head Radio
0915/6 via Lyness Radio 0921/6).

? MARICHANDIS.

*not Greek MAKI CHANDIS
destroyed in July 1940*

Following has been read from ?SVYE
MARICHANDIS. S.O.S. Out of Control
drifting towards land bearing from A
GPK 297.
(Port Patrick Radio 0944/6).

S.S. STOLWEK.
(Dutch 2489 tons).

S.O.S. Three miles from Tory Island
25° true lost rudder.
(STOLWEK 0754/6).

S.O.S. STOLWEK fear to run against rocks
near Tory Island very soon want
assistance.
(Port Patrick 1120/6).

S.S. CITY OF
OXFORD. (2759
Tons.)

CITY OF OXFORD, unmanageable drifting
close to land, bearing from Malin Head
Radio 017°.
(Malin Head Radio 1027/6).

TABARISTAN.
(6251 tons).

The following has been received.
From TABARISTAN steering gear carried
away position approx. 55.47 N., 7.20 W.
Require immediate assistance.
(Port Patrick Radio 1122/6).

M/S Tr.
RAYMONT.
TORNADO.

Harwich departure Tug NORMAN at 1125/6
to assistance of M/S Trawlers RAYMONT
and TORNADO near Sunk L.V.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1127/6).

Cont:-

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.

Friday.WAR DIARY.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

M/S. Trs.
RAYMONT.
TORNADO.
 (Contd.)

Harwich 6/12 arrivals Rescue tug ST. MELLONS towing TORNADO at 1730 Rescue Tug NORMAN towing RAYMONT at 1703. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1744/6).

AGHIA,
EIRINI.
 (made S.O.S. 5/12).

Have 29 men on board (Valentia Radio 1159/6) Proceed to assist. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/6 to ESPERANCE BAY, CATHAY).

My 1200. Position of AGHIA EIRINI now reported as 052° 19'N., 022° 25'W. At 1244 unreliable D/F of enemy S/M between 052° and 053° N., probably West of 020° W. Do not remain in the vicinity of AGHIA EIRINI to search for her. (A.C.W.A. 1422/6 to CATHAY, ESPERANCE BAY).

Your 1410 6th. Cancel my 1200 6th. Do not close position of AGHIRA EIRINI. (C.in C. W.A. 1738/6 to ESPERANCE BAY, CATHAY).

SAINT CROIX, NIAGARA, and SAINT CLAIR may investigate and assist AGHIRA EIRINI reported in distress in 52° 19'N., 22° 25' miles W. (C.in C. W.A. 1900/6 to Adty).

S.S. AGHIRA EIRINI reported in distress in position 52° 19'N., 22° 25' W, at 1800Z/6. S.O. of ships addressed is to take ships addressed under his orders, investigate and render any possible assistance reporting to C.in C. W.A. who will issue any further instructions. (D.O.D.(H) 2039/6 to ST. CROIX, NIAGARA, ST. CLAIR.).

NEURALIA.

SLAVOL collided with NEURALIA in gale last night. NEURALIA cut from upper deck to waterline and required immediate docking. Please inform D. of S.T. if she can be repaired in time to catch convoy. (P.S.T.O. Clyde 1239/6 to S.I.O. Glasgow.)

MOST SECRET.6.12.40.
Friday.
WAR DIARY.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)S.S. LLANGIBBY
CASTLE.

Following received in M.N.C.R. from Lands End M Radio at 1945. 54° 34'N., 22° 31'W. D.G. disabled doubt whether able to repair. Request instructions. (LLANGIBBY CASTLE 1305/6).

BLYSKAWICA.

Lost contact with Clyde section. Steering gear damaged. Compelled to return to Clyde. My noon position approx. 056° N., 008° 30'W. Wind W.N.W. force 10 sea 88 visibility 5 miles. (BLYSKAWICA 1308/6).

FOREMOST 18.

Great Yarmouth departure tug KROOMAN to assistance of S.S. FOREMOST 18. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1321/6).

FOREMOST 18 is riding to sea anchor position 2 M.S. 50° E., 6 buoy. KROOMAN will endeavour to take her in tow. FOREMOST has run out of fuel steering gear broken down. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2138/6).

HURRICANE.

My approx. p.c. and s. 056° 07'N., 022° 40'W. 290° 3 knots hove to, following are no further use after prolonged gale. Both dynamos, gyro-compass, all guns, A/S set, cooling circuit and all boats. 50% of guard rails missing. Can steer by main engines. Forecastle deck slightly stove in. Gale continues no barometer wind W.N.W. 10 sea 87. When possible intend returning at best speed. Touch lost with HESPERUS when steering by main engines at 1020/6. (HURRICANE 1331/6).

When weather conditions permit close HURRICANE (p.c.s.) to Liverpool if necessary. (C.in C. W.A. 1930/6 to HESPERUS).

Your 1930/6. HESPERUS in company. Both Dynamos and steering gear repaired. Can make Liverpool without escort. (HURRICANE 2114/6).

WAR DIARY.6.12.40.
Friday.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

Following has been read:-

S.S. MOUSSE
LE MOYEC.
(French
2038 tons).

MOUSSE LE MOYEC 5 miles S.W. Hartland Point drifting Lee Shore want immediate assistance. Cleethorpes W/T (T.O.R.1332) (Burnham on Sea Radio. Recd. 1229 G.M.T.)

MOUSSE LE MOYEC ashore off Hartland Point requires immediate assistance. (Lyness 1415/6).

The following has been read.
Cancel distress re GMPM (MOUSSE LE MOYEC) 1414/6 de GKU. T.O.R. 1535/6.
(Lands End Radio Rec. 1545/6).

S.S. RUDLOE.

No trace in Lloyd's
RUDLOE. Received 1313 G.M.T. de GMPM. Ashore on Hartland Point require assistance. (Burnham on Sea Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1432/6).

UNBEATEN.

~~3/11~~ UNBEATEN broke adrift from H.M.S. TITANIA at 0700/6 during gale of hurricane force and after collision with merchant vessel went aground. Apparent damage from collision slight. Hope to refloat her at 1700. N.O.I.C. Greenock has been asked to provide tugs but boat work in Holy Loch is at present impossible.
(Capt: (S) 1531/6).

Captain (S) 3's 1531/6 is passed to you for information.
(V.A.S. 1921/6 to Adty).

Unknown M/V.

Intercept at 1640 G.M.T. DE G.M.H. Please keep lookout for unknown merchant vessel which is reported to be out of control and drifting 10 miles N.N.W. Malin Head at 1555 G.M.T.
(Port Patrick Radio 1642/6).

YOUNG FISHERMAN.

Drifter YOUNG FISHERMAN (engagement 6) grounded alongside railway pier Oban on 28/11 since capsized and become total loss a.m. today.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1655/6).

S.S. GORSETHORNE.

Disabled and requires immediate assistance 5337' North, 0344' West.
(T.O.R. 1656/6).



WAR DIARY.

160
MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

ORCHIS
TULIP
HOLLYHOCK
CAPE MARIATO.

Bar heavy gale this morning ORCHIS aground at 0700 and is still ashore. Hope to tow her off tomorrow high water. TULIP dragged collided HOLLYHOCK slightly damaged TULIP considerably damaged upper works of HOLLYHOCK. TULIP grounded 0828 since refloated slight damage CAPE MARIATO dragged and grounded now refloated no damage apparent. (Cdre. WESTERN ISLES 1741/6).

FAIRPLAY. I.

Your 1430/6/12. Tug FAIRPLAY I is sheltering in Coldingham Bay near St. Abbs Head. One barge has sunk approx. 3 miles 090° from Eyemouth. The other is afloat in the same position moored to the sunken barge by the towing span and will be recovered a.m. 7/12 if weather moderates sufficiently. (C.in C. Rosyth 1809/6 to N.C.S.O. Middlesboro.)

S.S. BARON
CARNEGIE.

Following received from S.S. BARON CARNEGIE anchored Loch Indial, Islay awaiting weather moderating. P/V. damaged. T.O.O. 1412/6. Ship left Oban in O.B.254 at 0130/5 for St. John N.B. in ballast. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1815/6).

Assistance to
Ships in
distress.

As soon as conditions permit every endeavour should be made to assist to nearest place of safety the ships in difficulties due to present severe weather. If necessary search by Tugs for ships recently damaged by enemy action should be postponed. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1842/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Unknown.

From unknown station begins. Ship inside Inishdary Island breaking rapidly. (Burnham on Sea Radio T.O.R. 1843).

NAIAD
DIDO.

On return of BONAVENTURE intend to sail NAIAD to Rosyth for repairs as in my 1536/20/11. Work will occupy about three weeks intend ship should give leave. Propose refit be carried out concurrently with above special items. On return of PHOEBE propose DIDO be taken in hand for stiffening and other work generally as in PHOEBE. Request repair Yard for DIDO be allocated. (C.in C. H.F. 2226/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.40.

Friday.WAR DIARY.CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)CHEVREUIL.

Previous instructions cancelled. When weather permits proceed with all despatch to assist F.S. CHEVREUIL reported drifting west at 3 knots with engine disabled in position 56° 21'N., 9° 21'W., at 1045. Report when you proceed.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2315/6 to tug ENGLISHMAN).

My 1040/6. Cancel. Am anchoring Rothesay. Engines now completely useless also W/T request tug to proceed to Greenock 7/12.
(CHEVREUIL 2100/6).

BELMONT.

Have following defects beyond capacity of ships staff to repair. Am proceeding to Milford Haven E.T.A. 0900/7.
(BELMONT 2315/6).

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.6.12.40.
Friday.Shipping.Convoys.→ S.L. 56.

Estimated positions 0900/6 (D.T.D. 1333/6 to C. in C. H.F.).

When weather permits proceed to meet S.L. 56. Route. (C. in C. W.A. to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE 1126/6)

W.N.51.

Code "Material". Escorts unappropriated (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1206/6)

O.B. 257

Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1240/6)

E.N. 37.

H.M.T's NORTHERN PRIDE, LADY ELSA, WOLVES. Additional escort GLEANER. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1950/6) (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/6) Route (R.A.D.H.F. to CURACOA, 1948/6).

O.G.47.

Date and route.(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 2200/6)

F.N. 50.

Arrived with LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN (C. in C. Rosyth 2305/6)

F.N. 55.

Sails 0800. Corvette escort SHEARWATER (C in C. Nore 2000/6). Will probably exceed 60 ships. Hunt class destroyer to form additional escort under orders of EGRET. (C in C. Nore 2116/6).

S.C.15.

Route (D.T.D. 1812/6 to CILICIA)

F.S. 54QUORN as additional escort to ^{SHEARWATER}~~SHEARNES~~ (C in C. Rosyth 1731/6).S.C. 13.

Only ship seen was MARCREST hove to Not seen CITY OF OXFORD or LOCH RANZA. (WELLINGTON 1840/6).

O.B. 255

Delayed 24 hours (VETERAN to CAMELLIA, ROTHESAY, 1615/6)

H.X. 91

Important Cargoes. Additional escort if possible (D.T.D. 1253/6 to C.inC. W.A)

F.N.F.S.

Forecast of sailings (C. in C. Rosyth 1019/6).

→ S.L. 56.

My 1414/2 WORCESTERSHIRE is not to join S.L. 56 Proceed Clyde (route). (F.O.C.N.P., 1610/6).

→ Your 1126/6. Am shortly fuelling for meeting and escorting SL.56 convoy from 8/12. My approx. p, c and s 054°30' N 020° 30' W 340 degrees. 5. Intend to proceed to Lough Foyle when weather permits, to refuel HARVESTER 2107/6 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.L. 57)
S.L.S.57)

Route (F.O.C.N.P. to Western Patrol 1434/6)

/S.L.58.....



War Diary.

6.12.40.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping

Convoys contd.
S.L.58.

KENT is to act as ocean escort to convoy SL 58 routed in accordance 1944/30/11 and N.C.S.O. Memo. Admiralty requested to issue instructions when KENT is to leave convoy and route to port selected. My 1905/5 refers. (C. in C. S.A. 1317/6 to KENT).

W.N. 49

CURACOA left Scapa for convoy W.N. 49. (A.C.O.S. 1409/6)

Part company from Oban portion of W.N. 49 at 0800/7 and proceed to meet Clyde portion estimated off Rattray Head at 0800. C in C. Rosyth 1855/6 to JASON)

W.N. 50.

Retard sailing 25 hours weather (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1032/6) My 1025/5. Amend third sentence to read 'on passing Dunnet Head GLEANER proceed to Scapa'. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail GLEANER as necessary to meet W N 50 due Cape Wrath 0700/9 and Duncansby 1700/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 2355/6 to GLEANER A.C.O.S.)

7 M.V.b.
(named)

Your 1200/5 as only trawlers could be provided as escort intend ships should be sailed independently so as to make the best use of their speed. Fighter cover being provided. (C. in C. W.A. 1522/6 to Admty)

Not met, 5854' N 1630' W. Weather. (WALKER 1601/6).

Not met. Will be in position 058° 35N 012° 00'W at 1000/7 WESTCOTT in company P F X one stated convoy dispersed in gale yesterday 59° 04' N 16° 17' W. Weather. (VANSITTART 1800/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X. 94

Departure 6/12 COMORIN to Bermuda RAJPUTANA, TRILLIUM, WINDFLOWER, ocean escort, ASSINIBOINE local escort H.X. 94. (S.O. (L), Halifax 1817/6)

SATURNUS

Your 1844/5. Admiralty routeing message quoted must not be passed to Swedish ship SATURNUS in plain language. If ship has ship navicert she will be allowed through patrols. (D.E.W.D. 1649/6 to N.C.S.O. New York)

Troop Convoys.
W.S.5.A.

Sailing date and details. Ocean escort FORMIDABLE, NORFOLK and DIDO class (D.O.D. (H) 2250/6 to C's in C. W.A. Nore, Portsmouth, H.F. etc).

T.C. 8.

Instructions for. Ocean escort REVENGE (D.O.D. (F) 2240/6 amended 1143/7)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

164

6.12.40.

Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoy Attack.
U/B Tactics.

From reports received from Commodores of convoys it appears that some Masters of ships in Convoy are not aware of the tactics of U-boats now operating in the Atlantic.

2. Daylight attacks by submerged U-boats on ships in convoy under escort are very rare, except on ships sailing independently or straggling from convoy.
3. U-boats are attacking convoys at nights and on the surface.
4. To counter these tactics. (Procedure)
5. Experience has shown that ships breaking out of convoy after attack at night are frequently sunk. Thus it is most important that convoy should maintain its formation after attack. To reduce the dangers of a salvo of torpedoes sinking several ships in convoy columns have recently been opened to five cables apart.
6. Ships must not hesitate to open fire on any U-boat sighted if range is clear. The temptation to withhold fire in the hopes of a subsequent easier shot must be resisted. The opportunity may never recur.
7. All the above points are to be emphasised and explained at Convoy Conferences.
(D.A/S. W. 1919/6 to N.C.S.O. 5.).

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Ships at Casablanca.

Reported at Casablanca 3/12, JEAN BART, GLOIRE, PRIMAGUET left with three t.b's 30/11, MILAN and EPERVIER. Three t.b's. S/M's CASABLANCA, MEDUSE and two others of MEDUSE class. AUSTRAL and twelve other small patrol craft. Transports MOGADOR arrived 29/11, and sailed with troops, HOGGAR 29/11 sailed with troops for Dakar, VILLE DE MAJUNGA due to sail with troops believed Indo-China, CONDE and ESTEREL 29/11 sailed with troops, VILLE DE VERDUN arrived 1/12 with aviators and sailors. Ships in port GUYANE, ZAZPIAKBAT, ATLANTA, ESPIQUETTE, PORT RICHEPANSE, SAINT LOUIS, MARGUERITE FINALLY, VILLE D'ALGER, BAMAKO, SAN PEDRO, ASIE, BRESTOIS, ARICA, PIERRE L.D. and EDEA sailed 29/11 EXPLORATEUR GRANDIDIER arrived 2/12 with passengers. In port British ship PENGREEP, Italian ship SAINT PIERRE, Danish ELSE, Norwegian RINGULV, another Norwegian, Norwegian JASPIS, Spanish SAC.?, two small tankers SURVIT and SURVILLE VICTORIA, two small Cherifien ships. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1453/6).

* French S/T. 235 tons *?

(? SAC 2^o)

WYOMING
OREGON
SAN FRANCISCO

French merchant ships WYOMING and OREGON with a small number of French subjects on board will be ready to leave Liverpool about 9/12 and 15/12 respectively. They should be sailed and routed in accordance with my 1913/28/10. Further signal will be made with reference to SAN FRANCISCO, who will be ready to sail about the end of December. (D.O.D.(H) 1651/6 to C.in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

CHARLES PLUMIER.

Your 1210/5. Ship and cargo should not be seized in prize at Gibraltar but should be sent to U.K. as soon as possible. Report if crew cannot be raised locally. French officers and crew should be asked individually whether they wish to join De Gaulle and those unwilling should be repatriated to Casablanca in French ship VICTORIA, if still available. (Head of M. 2013/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

French Seamen.

Your 1210/5 and my 2013/6. French seamen willing to join de Gaulle should be invited to sign following declaration. Men signing Declaration will receive any arrears of wages back to 8th May on French scale and will be paid in N.M.B. rates from the date of signing Declaration. (Head of M. 2014/6, to F.O.C.N.A.).

6.12.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.EDINBURGH.

Admty. 2222/5. Proceed in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1015 N/30/11 through position 2. C.in C. W.A. requested to amend route if desired.

(F.O.C.N.A. 0140/6, to EDINBURGH).

RENOWN.
Operation
"Ration".

Cancel my 2037/5. As it will probably be decided to carry out operation "~~REASON~~" "Ration" in the near future, docking of RENOWN must be postponed. (1st S.L. 0156/6 to S.O. Force H).

My 1411/5. Y shaft of RENOWN will be out of action from 0800/7 until 1200/8. (S.O. Force H, 11006, to Admty.)

My 0155/6. H.M.G. have decided that operation "~~REASON~~" is to be put into effect as soon as necessary forces are available. One convoy to be intercepted and a report made, when further instructions will be given. (D.O.D.(F) 1645/6, to F.O.C.N.A.)

TRIUMPH.

Leave patrol after dark today and return to Gibraltar. FAULKNER will meet you (position) during daylight 7/12 and provide escort. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102/6, to TRIUMPH amended 1740/6).

MANCHESTER.

Gibraltar arrival 1100/6 C.S.18 in MANCHESTER. (S.O.I., Gib., 1246/6).

MANCHESTER will be at 8 hours notice for steam for 24 hours from 0600/7 to repair brickwork. (S.O. Force H 1634/6).

FURIOUS

Admty. 2222/5. RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FRANCONIA escorted by KELVIN, ECLIPSE, WRESTLER, VELOX sail 7/12 to r.v. with you in position 037° 50' N. 017° 30' W. at 1030 zone minus one 9/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1730/6 to FURIOUS).

Azores,
Oil Stock.

Your telegram No. 1859 3/12 (Oil Stock to be available for ten ex-Norwegian whale catchers). Necessary request has been passed to consul Ponta Delgada Azores. For information, stocks fuel and diesel ample at Ponta Delgada and we welcome any opportunity to work them down on British approved business. (Consul Gen., New York, 1135/6 to Admty.)

/ Azores Patrol.

6.12.1940.167
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Azores Patrol,
SHEFFIELD
CACHALOT

My 2235/5 SHEFFIELD left Gibraltar 1500/5 to patrol Azores to prevent enemy occupation. She has been informed (a) that most probable objectives are Ponta Delgada, Horta and the Island of Terceira. (b) Of the more possible landing places in the Island. (c) That the enemy U-boats normally operate to the East of the Island. (d) Of the details of your patrol.

Her orders are:-

(i) that she should not enter territorial waters or make her presence more conspicuous than necessary.

(ii) that she should abandon patrol when it is necessary to return to Gibraltar at 20 knots to fuel and to report in due course when this will be.

(D.O.D.(F) 1758/6 to CACHALOT).

Suspicious
Vessels,
Azores.

Portuguese coast watchers in San Miguel, Azores, sighted two suspicious vessels last night to eastward of Ponta Delgada and two others to westward of which one appeared to be man-of-war. Portuguese destroyer patrolling round island saw nothing. Naval Authorities are alarmed over rumours of German raid on island. They would be reassured if vessels were British. Request information on this point. Portuguese destroyer will carry out patrol again tonight. (N.A. Lisbon, 1824/6, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A. 2346/6, 0316/7 to EDINBURGH, SHEFFIELD etc.)

Your 1824/6. These ships are not British. (D.D.I.C., 0005/7).

SWONA.

Instruct SWONA not to call at St. Vincent except in case of necessity, and report when instructions have been given. (D.O.D.(F) 2100/6, to Consul, Ponta Delgada).

ROBERT MAERSK,
false report.

Following has been read:-

RRRR 41. 00 N., 20. 22 W. ROBERT MAERSK attacked by two ships. (Gibraltar Radio, T.O.R. 2303/6).

Following has been read.

ROBERT MAERSK. Please cancel my RRRR 2245/6 G.M.T. (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 2352/6).

6.12.1940.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS:South Atlantic.CARNARVON CASTLE. Action with Raider, 5/12.

No signal concerning action received at Freetown prior to CARNARVON CASTLE's 1201/5. Request you ascertain and report when next breaking W/T Silence relevant details CARNARVON CASTLE's previous signal including T.O.O. and transmission frequencies used, to whom transmitted and by whom received if known. (C.in C. S.A., 0001/6, to R.A.S.A.D.)

My 0001/6. This information to be sent when convenient. (C.in C. S.A. 0830/6).

A.W.I. informed.

CARNARVON CASTLE was in action with raider who was last seen at 1400 G.M.T. Thursday 5/12 in position 031° 00' S. 043° 15' W. Course 040°, 19 knots. (D.D.I.C. 0007/6, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

R.A.S.A.D. 1625/5 and CARNARVON CASTLE 1740/5. Request description and last position course and speed be broadcast to Warships and Merchant ships in appropriate areas. (C.in C. S.A., 0016/6, to Admty.) Action taken (D.D.I.C. 0418/6, 0419/6).

Shipping Suspension.

In view of raider report should sailings from River Plate be suspended? (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1107/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1107/6 is being passed to you, reply "no" has been made. (C.in C. S.A. 1647/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Details Requested.

Unless W/T Silence is important report circumstances of encounter and what damage was inflicted on enemy. (V.C.N.S. 1325/6 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

Visit to Montevideo.

Your 2015/5 addressed B.N.A. Buenos Aires. Permission has already been requested for CARNARVON CASTLE to visit Montevideo for 24 hours on 9/12. H.M. Minister considers it advisable to delay asking for 48 hours until ship arrives when details of repairs can be supplied to Uruguay authorities. No difficulty is then anticipated in obtaining extension of time. Please advise E.T.A. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1340Z/6 to C.in C. S.A.).

/ Report of Action



War Diary.

MOST SECRET

169

6.12.1940.

Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Report of Action.

Note. Parts of this signal and of CARNARVON CASTLE's 2101/6 duplicate one another. Duplicate portions have been omitted in one or other of the signals.

Enemy opened accurate fire 0800 at 17,000 yards. Main aerial, fire control circuit and all communications cut early. Enemy was hit early, made smoke, on fire aft, twice reduced to one gun for short time.

23 hits on CARNARVON CASTLE. Structural damage extensive though superficial except as reported in her 1740Z/5.

CARNARVON CASTLE fired 500 rounds. Enemy expenditure greater. After immediate repairs at Montevideo, necessary for CARNARVON CASTLE to undergo dockyard refit before fit for service. Major defects including all circuit and piping. After visiting CARNARVON CASTLE I consider she put up spirited fights against well equipped enemy with high trained personnel. Failure of control and communications prevented greater success.

Raider motor ship about 5,000 tons, Flush deck, raised forecastle, raked stem, cruiser stern, two heavy masts, prominent cross trees, short squat funnel, passenger accommodation round lower bridge. Possibly of AHRENSBURG or CAIRO class. Broadside probably four 5.9 guns and two torpedo tubes. Complete director system. Speed about 16½ knots.

(R.A.S.A.D., 1714Z/6, to Admty.)

Your 1325/6/12. Unknown ship sighted at 0642/5/12 and chased steering S.S.W. Slowly overhauled and at 0757 signalled by searchlight to stop but as she did not do so fired one warning round, at approx. range 17,500 yards, which fell short. Enemy turned 030 degrees to port and fired 4 gun salvos, CARNARVON CASTLE turning to port and closing, but for 25 minutes (1714 says "20 minutes") enemy was out of our range, although she made good shooting.

At 14,000 yds. enemy was hit and for some time fired only one gun, being apparently on fire aft.

She reappeared from behind the smoke having turned to starboard and firing 4 gun salvos. At 0830 observed the track of 2 torpedoes on slightly diverging courses and latered course to starboard torpedoes passed about 50 yards on each side.

Enemy was being hit up to this point, but about this time all CARNARVON CASTLE's control circuit and voice pipe and ammunition hoist motor were shot away, and accuracy of CARNARVON CASTLE's fire diminished very greatly. However enemy was again badly hit and her salvo reduced to one gun.

She made smoke and again showed signs of being on fire aft, turning away and being temporarily lost to sight.

/ At 0844

6.12.1940. 170
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Report of Action.
(contd.)

At 0844 at a range of 8,000 yards she reappeared with her port battery bearing and CARNARVON CASTLE was repeatedly hit being reported on fire amidship and in number two hold. At 0911 (1714 says 0910) decided to lengthen range in order to bring fire under control.

Smoke was made and range opened the enemy continuing to make good shooting up to a range of 18,000 yards.

When out of range and fire under control course was altered to endeavour to regain touch, but the enemy made smoke and disappeared in the haze. The fires in CARNARVON CASTLE were not completely out till 1115, and in view of damage decided to steer towards Montevideo. Three compartments were flooded.

During the whole of the engagement the enemy appeared to avoid close action, and sustained at least 10 hits.

CARNARVON CASTLE suffered 23 direct hits two on the waterline and four others low enough to affect her seaworthiness. The weather was hazy and while it is certain that the enemy sustained considerable damage and had two serious fires it was not possible to ascertain details.

Enemy fire was very rapid, at times reaching three salvos to CARNARVON CASTLE's one.

All officers and men behaved in accordance with the highest tradition of the service.

(CARNARVON CASTLE 2101Z/6).

C.in C. South Atlantic's 0001/6 CARNARVON CASTLE commenced transmitting enemy reports on station H/F and 500 Kc/s at 1006 G.M.T. No signals were received by R.A.S.A.D. until 1228 G.M.T. and by QUEEN OF BERMUDA until after 1500 G.M.T.

N.O. i/c Falkland Isles and QUEEN OF BERMUDA report time of receipt and transmission frequency of any signals received from S. America Division Sth Atlantic Stn. between 1000 and 1800 G.M.T. Full report follows. (R.A.S.A.D., 2346Z/6, to C.in C. S.A. etc.).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ENGLISH TRADER
disabled.

Following received.
S.N.O. Freetown ENGLISH TRADER, require towing rudder post fractured. Drifting. Position 021° 08' N. 021° 12' W. 0015/6. (Ends.) (C.in C. S.A., 0212/6, to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

My 2250/5. Portuguese authorities unable to send Portuguese Sloop GONCALVES ZARCO. (N.C.S.O., St. Vincent, 1131/6 to C.in C. S.A.).

RESOLUTION
VINDICTIVE

Departure 1000/6 RESOLUTION, VINDICTIVE, FORTUNE, FOXHOUND for Gibraltar in accordance with C.in C. South Atlantic's 1621/5. (S.O.I.), Freetown 1037/6.) E.T.A. Gibraltar. (C.in C. S.A. 0859N/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Germans at
Fernando Po.

Arrival reported 1/12 at Fernando Po of SEAFox from Bata with eleven Germans on board. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1202/6).

ARAWA
MORETON BAY.

Your 2224/5/12. Now that catapult is not to be fitted in either ship will not date of completion of H.M.S. ARAWA and H.M.S. MORETON BAY be earlier than now given. (C.in C. S.A., 1205/6, to Admty.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA
ARNDALE
ENTERPRISE

Leave Patrol now, proceed to pick up Oiler ARNDALE at sea rendezvous BLUE. Take 600 tons fuel from her at anchor F O then patrol 1232, entering Montevideo as arranged. Send Oiler ARNDALE to sea rendezvous ORANGE on completion. In case fuelling proves impossible you should if necessary anchor F O and I will try to advance date of visit to Montevideo. ENTERPRISE is proceeding into K 32 D then to K 33 C. Report completion of oiling otherwise situation on P.M./10. (R.A.S.A.D., 1524Z/6, to QUEEN OF BERMUDA).

Enemy M.V's.

List of German and Italian M.V's which have recently sailed or may sail in near future. (C.in C. S.A., to S.A. Sqdn., 1927/6).

MOOLTAN.

Your 1239/1. Propose that MOOLTAN be transferred to administration of some suitable authority in U.K. whilst undergoing long refit. (C.in C. S.A. 2025N/6, to Admty.)



FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA

Under consideration to send MALAYA to join you, passing through Narrows about (date). Will you be able to co-operate about this date? Simultaneous return passage of 3 "Collar" M.T. ships also being considered. (C.in C. Med. to S.O. Force H., 1015/6).

Assistance to Turkey.

C.in C. Med. 1335/6 see Mediterranean Volume.

Air Reports.

H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1122/6. (No naval items). B.A.F.G., 1416/6 (No items. Weather very bad).

Spezia.

Your 1344/5 and my 1849/29/11. Information that dock at Spezia has been enlarged to take LITTORIO class battleships considered reliable. (D.N.I., 1439/6 to S.O. Force H).

GLASGOW.

Details of damage. Hoped to dock 8/12. Temporary repairs will take some weeks. Final repairs beyond capacity of station resources. (C.in C. Med., 1501/6) Torpedoing of GLASGOW. Although Italians claimed hitting 2 cruisers at Suda Bay, unlikely they have any confidence of hit at all, as ship proceeded Alexandria under own power and was not seen on passage. Consider incident should not be published nor a denial of Italian claim made. (C.in C. Med., 1503/6 to Admty.)

Lazaretto Base.

With arrival of "U" class S/M's, considered Lazaretto Base should become an independent command. Proposals. (V.A. Malta, 1543/6).

TETRARCH, TRITON

Orders for patrol (Capt. S.1, 1853/6).

UPHOLDER)
USK)
UNIQUE)

My 1222/4. UPHOLDER leaves Portsmouth 10/12 and USK and UNIQUE 11/12 for Gibraltar. Due there (date). (D.O.D.(H) to C.in C. Med., 1611/6).

Transport of Aircraft.

Your 1931/27. Arrangements for sending Swordfish and Fulmar a/c's to Gibraltar in ARGUS. (5 S.L., 1615/6, to C.in C. Med.)

Valona, bombed.

Operational Summary No. 25. At 1130 hours G.M.T. 6/12 7 Blenheim aircraft No. 84 Sqn. attacked the dockyards dumps and facilities at Valona. Munitions dump again hit also M.T. park. Black smoke seen from former target. 1 Battle Cruiser, 3 destroyers 1 15,000 ship and 10 smaller seen in harbour. (H.Q. B.A.F. Greece, 1720/6)

6.12.1940.
Friday.

173

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Greece.

Santi Spiranta occupied by Greek forces 1030 this morning. (M.A. Athens to C.in C. M.E., 2007/6).

W.S.5A.

Your 90325 (Q(M)2.) cipher 25/11. (Arrangements for shipment of 13 T.L.C.s in Convoy W.S.5A.) Confirm can accept thirteen in W.S.5A and balance in Routine Freighters. (C.in C. M.E., 1935/6 to W.O.)

10th M.T.B. Flotilla.

Your 1647/2. Tentative arrangements being made to ship the 10th M.T.B. flotilla, of 7 - 55 ft. boats to the Mediterranean. Extemporised arrangements for maintenance must be made locally. The possibility of sending out VULCAN as M.T.B. depot ship is being examined. (Hd. of M. 2133/6 to C.in C. Med.)

East Indies.BRITISH DUCHESS Suspicious Ship

Following has been received from Bombay Fort W/T Mauritius. 38R49E BRITISH DUCHESS suspicious vessel (part missed) when sighted. (Admiral, Colombo, 0505Z/6, to Admty.)

British ship BRITISH DUCHESS made following at 0503 G.M.T./6 (begins) Q Q Q Q 020° 44' S. 038° 49' E. suspicious vessel (portion not received) when sighted (ends). Neither an amplifying report nor a corrected version distress message have yet been received. (C.in C. E.I., 1024Z/6, to E.I. Sqdn.)

Dispositions.

My 1024/6 Following are dispositions of H.M. Ships in Mozambique Channel Area. (a) CERES in approx. position 011° 40' S. 050° E. ? (at) 0600Z/6 proceeding towards position 020° S. 040° E. at 18 knots. (b) SHROPSHIRE left Durban at 24 knots at about 1200Z/6 to cover shipping in Mozambique Channel as far (?north) as (? 020°) S. (c) COLOMBO due Durban p.m./6 refuelling and awaiting orders. (d) CORNWALL and KANIMBLA escorting W.S.4 A in approximate position 028° 50'S. 036 10' E. at 1030Z/6 speed 12 knots. (e) CARTHAGE boiler cleaning at Durban. (ii) Ships in paragraph one are to decode signals addressed to Force W. (C.in C. E.I., 1404Z/6, to E. Indies Sqdn.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1940.
Friday.

174

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

My 1024/6 BRITISH DUCHESS cancelled distress message at 0533Z/6.
Ships now proceeding as follows (a) SHROPSHIRE to Durban at 15 knots.
(b) CERES in accordance with my 1216/2 arriving Seychelles 9/12.
(c) COLOMBO revert normal notice for steam.
S.N.O. Durban is requested revert Oiler OLCADES to normal notice.
(C.in C. E.I. 1942Z/6, to E.I. Sqdn.)

U.S. Ships.

Your 1327/1st noted, but it is only at a few ports on E.I. station with searched channels in force that pilots board ships before entering the searched channel and of these Mombasa is the only one likely to be visited by U.S.A. Ships.
(C.in C. E.I., 0622Z/6 to Admty.)

SHROPSHIRE.

My 0534/6 (to H.M.S. SHROPSHIRE only.)
As soon as ready proceed at 24 knots to give cover to shipping in Mozambique Channel as far north as 020° South.
(C.in C. E.I., 0742Z/6).

Force T,
Oiler.

Admty. 1442/11, 1917/24 and 0036/25.
In view of the imminent formation of Force T and Strategic problem involved in providing protection for Shipping over long Ocean passages I consider another Oiler of good mobility is essential on East Indies Station. Details.
(C.in C. E.I., 1754/6 to Admty.)

Assab bombed.

Operational Summary 177 for 24 hours ending 1500, 6/12.
0915, 3 Blenheims attacked Assab transport yard probably doing no damage. Photograph reveals considerable structural damage due raids on same target on 24/11 and 25/11 besides destruction of 2 dumps by fires previously reported. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1845/6).

China.

Burma.

Japanese occupation of Thai air bases a possibility. Danger of air attack on Burma. (C.in C. Far East, 2051/6).

Singapore Conference. Your 2008/4. (Re Singapore Conference).

My 0911. (Received and circulated as 1911/31/10). First Nov. is my (NR)638.

M. de Schompre.

Enquiries lead me to believe De Schompre is quite suitable to represent De Gaulle in Far East. (C.in C. China, 0935Z/6 to Admty., etc.)



FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

PENNLAND
T.C.8.
NEW NORTHLAND.

My 1853/3 not to you or C.in C.S.A. Understand small quantity of cargo is being loaded in Jamaica by Royal Mail. Balance of space will be utilised at Halifax.

C.in C. A. and W.I. 1101/4. Understand fruit ships already programmed to load Jamaica with fruit for U.K. will do so and that to divert via Freetown would possibly spoil cargo.

If suggestion as to use of ships of Force K is unacceptable and there are no normal sailings to Freetown from Bermuda or Halifax only other opportunity would appear to be NEW NORTHLAND which will probably leave Halifax end of December for Freetown and which could be diverted to Jamaica. Undesirable that guard should come to U.K.

D. of S.T. 0129/6 to N.O.I.C. Kingston) Admty. 0129/6. Arrangements for sailing of fruit ships and payment for passage of troops. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1620/6 to Admty.)

D. of S.T.'s 0129/6 and my 1630/5 not to C.in C. S.A. Military guard will now be disembarked at Kingston. Naval party will proceed in PENNLAND. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1020/6 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

NEW NORTHLAND.

Request reply to my 1215/26 (re use of NEW NORTHLAND for troop carrying) in view of reference to NEW NORTHLAND in your 0129/6 indicating he is required. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1111/6, to D. of S.T.).

PENNLAND.

Your 1126/4 received 0045/6. No cargo space available. Refrigerated space 1992 cubic feet all of which is required for troops' provisions. (N.O.I.C. Kingston, 1125/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

"Town" Class
Destroyers

Remaining 6 ships additional to my 1717/26/11 commissioned yesterday 5/12 with H.M. Crew. SALISBURY and NEWMARKET divisional leader:- SALISBURY, NEWMARKET, RICHMOND, NEWARK, WELLS, NEWPORT. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 0937/6).

"Town" Class
Destroyers.

Expect READING (S.O.) RAMSEY, RIPLEY and STANLEY to sail from St. John's Newfoundland on 8/12 (route) to Belfast in absence of other instructions. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1138/6 to Admty.)

6.12.1940.

Friday.

176



War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Economic Warfare.

Your 1302/4. Following from M.E.W. Goods consigned to or from firms on War Trade Lists should not be removed from any repeat any Neutral ship plying between North and South America unless such goods are clearly of Enemy Origin. You will be informed immediately of any change of policy.

(D.E.W.D. 1936/6, to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE.

ADELAIDE left Sydney 2209Z/5 for Patrol off New South Wales Coast.

(A.C.N.B., 0628Z/6).

MANOORA.

MANOORA escorting local transport ZEALANDIA left Thursday Island 0740Z/5 for Darwin.

(A.C.N.B., 0930Z/6).

6.12.1940.
Friday.



War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

177

WINNETOU
ELSA ESSBERGER

German ships Kobe. WINNETOU and ELSA ESSBERGER left harbour 30/11. Former returned 5/12, no trace yet of latter. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0343Z/6 to Admty. amended 0754/10).

AEGINA.

2447 tons, last reported in Adriatic, is to be put into service between Spanish ports and Genoa for fruit transport. (D.S. 459).

MADRID.

About 40 Germans of seafaring type who arrived by air at Las Palmas 3/12 may man ships in port, presumably MADRID, which is preparing to leave. (D.S.459).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

OLTERRA

LAVORO.

Your 1708/5. Spanish authorities are being informed that transfer of flag is not recognised and that if met on the high seas ships will be liable to be seized. (Head of M. 2046/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OLIMPIA.

6040 tons, sent out S.O.S. 6/12 from a position somewhere in Adriatic or Eastern Mediterranean. (D.S. 459).

War Diary

6.12.1940 178
Friday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

FORFAR
(Torpedoed 2/12)

FORFAR Chronological Extracts from Narrative. All times G.M.T. Monday 2/12. 0330 Object sighted Starboard Beam and Captain called. 0353 ship struck by torpedo amidships starboard side abreast after funnel. Engines stopped due to damage immediately. Position 54° 19' N., 19° 54' W., At 0445 ship struck port side by second torpedo opposite position of first hit but higher. Ship began to settle. Third torpedo struck port side at 0450 further aft just under port cutter smashing this boat. Star shell fired by ship. At 0453 fourth torpedo struck port side under P. 2 boat. Third and fourth torpedoes were high. Ship commenced to split amidships on even keel. At 0455 fifth torpedo struck port side amidships H.A. magazine exploded. Ship breaking up, and two sections drifting apart and settling rapidly. Another smaller explosion reported two minutes later. From boats several groups star shell observed, presumed fired by submarine. At 0710 SS DUNSLEY sighted from boats, ship had become detached from Convoy H.X. 90 and had attempted to pick up survivors of another torpedoed ship. Whilst doing so ship had been shelled by a submarine and received slight damage, and some damage to cargo of pit props. 0930 two destroyers I 92 and H 83 made contact and were directed to position of rafts. Weather fine. Sky overcast slight S.W. wind and swell. Visibility moderate. 0106/6.

DUNSLEY

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 2035/5 LOCH RANZA in position 055° 35' N., 006° 58' W., (ST. LAURENT 0001/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Detach one corvette to stand by LOCH RANZA at daylight somewhere between 055° 32' N., 008° 02' W., and Inishtrahull. ST LAURENT and THAMES are in company. On relief by Corvette ST LAURENT is to proceed to Clyde (C. in C., W.A., 0033/6 to WELLINGTON, ST. LAURENT)

My 0033 correct position 055° 35' N., 005° 58' W., (C. in C., W.A., 0216/6)

C. in C., W.A. 0033 and 0245 Stand by LOCH RANZA in position 055° 55' N., (WELLINGTON 0320/6 to HELIOTROPE)

/LOCH RANZA.....

6.12.1940
Friday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

→ LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)
Contd.

LOCH RANZA 15 miles East of Inishtrahull.
(LOCH RANZA 0944/6)

Received at 1540 G.M.T. ~~N~~ LOCH RANZA. We are in Loch Indail, Islay, in immediate need of tug assistance, badly listed and not sure of anchorage. THAMES Tug is on the way here but cannot arrive before dark, Captain LOCH RANZA. (Port Patrick Radio, 1538/6 to Navycharge, Greenock)

LOCH RANZA reports she is anchoring off Loch Indail, Islay. Salvage tug THAMES proceeding to her. My position is Rue Point Rathlin Is. Steering back along route K 10 knots. Request instructions. (HELIOTROPE, 1545/6 to C. in C., W.A.)

RAJAHSTAN
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Following has been read from RAJAHSTAN. Funnel gone both boats smashed bearing from GPK 306 all from GLV 313 de GKU (Port Patrick Radio 0953/6)

S.O.S. RAJAHSTAN approx. position 55.48 N., 7.25 W., funnel stove in, can't steam, both lifeboats smashed, tugs necessary. (Port Patrick Radio, 1011/6)

(Unknown)
LADY GLANELLY
VICTOR ROSS
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Following ships were torpedoed and no further information has been received as to ships or survivors:-
54° 23' N., 20° 11' W., 0415/2 55° 00' W.,
0957/2 56° 04' N., 18° 30' W.,
(C. in C., W.A. 1126/6 to HAVELOCK,
HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE)

PALMELLA
(? date)

Ministry of Marine informs me that Spanish Vessel arrived Lisbon last night with 28 survivors of British steamer PALMELLA (N.A. Madrid, 1145/6) (Page 127)

GWALIA
(Torpedoed 2/12?)

It is possible Swedish GWALIA (O.G. 46) may also have been torpedoed in early hours of 2/12 N.C.S.O. Lisbon reports ship has not arrived there (F.O.C.N.A., 1604/6 to Admty.)

→ Loch RANZA.

Arrived ST LAURENT with about 100 survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1954/6)



U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 0225 About 60° N., W of 15° W., indefinite (D.S. 458)
- 1240 D.F., U-Boat in 52.00 N., to 53.00 N., and W. of 20.00 W., (C. in C., W.A., 1352/6 to HAVELOCK, HARVESTER, HESPERUS, HURRICANE)
- 1853 D.F., probable U-Boat, 55.20 N., 10.40 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1920/6)
- 1215 U-Boat sighted in 60.30 N., 08.54 W., at 1215 today. (A.C.O.S. 2140/6 Sighted by REPULSE, probably Italian, D.S. 459)
- 1809 About 52° N., 15°-20° W., indefinite position (D.S. 459)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 off Cape Spartel 2143/3 probably bound for Azores Area.
1 was 250 miles west of Lisbon on 3rd and may still be patrolling.
1 west of Spain bound for Bordeaux.
2 or possibly 3 in North West Approaches whereabouts unknown.
German- 1 in Finisterre Area probably bound for Lorient.
1 about 48° N., 6° West bound for Lorient
1 has arrived in area North of 55° N., and East of 15° West.
1 was in about 53° N., 18° W., to 19° W., at 1650/5.
1 about 55° N., 20° W., at 0403/5.
1 in area 60° N., to 60° 30' N., 16° W., to 18° W., at 0225/6.
1 probably patrolling north of 61° E., of 20° West.
1 more in North West Approaches whereabouts unknown (D.D.I.C. 1336/6)



War Diary

7.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

SEAL

A German broadcast today claimed that H.M.S. SEAL, which was captured after being mined in the Kattegat in May, has been commissioned for service as a U-Boat.

Cable to America

The cable communications between London and America were interrupted by severance of a land line by enemy bomb, *from 2345/6 to 0700/7.*

Convoy F.N. 53

This convoy, which sails at 0800 is expected to exceed 60 ships. Hunt Class destroyers are to form additional escort.

British Air Operations

Bomber Command

Successful attacks were delivered on Channel ports last night. Zeebrugge and oil tanks at Brest were bombed today; results were not observed.

Coastal Command

Brest, Lorient and Cherbourg were attacked this evening, the two former with success; results at Cherbourg were not seen.

Enemy Air Activity

Enemy attacks last night were delivered against the Bristol and Portsmouth areas.

Enemy air activity today was on a very small scale. No attacks on shipping are reported.

Mining

Operations
ZME 4
S.N. 10 A

ADVENTURE laid mines this evening in the declared area south of St. George's Channel. This operation was carried out today. (see 5/12)

M/S Trawler
CAPRICORNUS
Damaged

M/S Trawler CAPRICORNUS was damaged by near mine explosion this evening and was beached near Nore L.V.



SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

1200 French Foreign Legion are to be moved from Duala to Port Sudan in CASAMANCE and CAPO OLMO.

CARNARVON CASTLE
Action

C. in C., South Atlantic considers that CARNARVON CASTLE's action with a raider on 5/12 emphasises the importance of A.M.C.'s being fitted with longer range guns.

Mediterranean

Tripoli was attacked by 11 Wellingtons this afternoon, Castel Benito aerodrome, where several air craft were destroyed, being the principal objective.

Blenheims attacked Valona three times today In the first attack, a large ship was hit and bombs burst in the dockyard area.

Photographic reconnaissance of Naples today showed 2 battleships and 5 cruisers in harbour, and several destroyers in dry dock.

Italian
Reinforcements

R.C. today showed a large number of transports and merchantmen newly arrived at Valona (These were perhaps the ships described in R.C. yesterday as a "battle-cruiser", 3 destroyers and merchant vessels.) Many other ships, including large transports were seen disembarking troops at Krionees, in Valona Bay.

A large convoy escorted by several destroyers is reported to have left Trieste today for Albania (B.2)



SITUATION REPORT

China

The Norwegian crew of the tanker OLE JACOB (captured last month) have been landed by the Germans at Kobe and the ship sailed p.m. 5/12

Australia

The British ship HERTFORD was mined today in the Approaches to Adelaide and was towed to Spalding Cove, Port Lincoln.

America & West Indies

REVENGE reports she has not met Convoy S.C. 14 after a 24 hour search in poor visibility, and that bad weather persists. She has resumed her passage.

U-Boat Campaign

A preliminary investigation by Capt. D. Liverpool into the attack on H.X. 90 on 2/12 states that a U-Boat was probably destroyed by FOLKESTONE after torpedoing STIRLINGSHIRE.



War Diary.

Saturday.
7th December 1940.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Home Fleet.
A/A Precautions.

When in harbour ships are to be prepared to destroy floating flares. Details. (C. in C.H.F. 0931/7 to Home Fleet 76.Z).

ICARUS

On return to Immingham is to replace Gun Armament but not Torpedo Tubes (A.C.N.S.H. 1127/7 to F.O.I.C. Humber)

Plymouth
Air Decoy.

Sites to be settled and reported and work to proceed (D. of L.D. 1148/7 to C. in C. W.A.) Request representative of C.E. in C. Bath may visit Plymouth to give technical advise. (D. of L.D. 1150/7 to C.E. in C. Bath).

Comprehensive scheme has been prepared and is being put into effect. Request you concur all communications be arranged locally and subsequently reported (D. of L.D. 1219/7 to Air Ministry).

Channel
Striking Force.

Your 1810/6. It is understood that the designed speed of 6th D.F. is only half a knot higher than that of 5th D.F.

Whether 5th or
6th D.F.

2. Unless 6th are actually about 2 knots faster than 5th consider exchange would not be an advantage as the C.O.'s of 5th are now familiar with the conditions, and enemy's tactics, in the Channel and have benefitted from action experience.

3. As efficiency for night action is of the first importance for the Channel Striking Force, all destroyers in it should be fitted with A.S.V. or R.D.F. Two of 5th are fitted with A.S.V. Request that this may also be taken into account when considering the change. (C. in C. W.A. 1230/7 to Adty)

Your 1810/6 6th D.F. have an advantage in speed of one to one and a half knots which is not considered sufficient to offset the disadvantage of their larger silhouette and the loss of experience of the C.O's of the 5th D.F. in Channel waters.

The 6th D.F. are better sea boats and for that reason I would prefer to retain them for working with the Battle Cruisers. I suggest success or failure depends almost entirely on the standard of night fighting efficiency. (C. in C. H.F. 1601/7 to Adty).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40. 185
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy contd.

JACOB VAN

Dutch Warships.
HEEMSKERK
ISAAC SWEERS.

It has been arranged with the Dutch authorities that the Cruiser ^{JACOB VAN} HEEMSKERK and Destroyer ISAAC SWEERS, completing at Portsmouth and Southampton in February 1941 and March 1941 respectively, are provisionally allocated to the Command of C. in C. W.A. for service with the Plymouth Striking Force. (1st S.L. 1258/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

A/C at Hatston.

Your 1355/6 816 and 825 Squadrons are training.

3. Experience has shown difficulty of efficiently combining training and operations at Hatston, and it is strongly recommended that the squadrons be brought to a higher state of training before being employed operationally.

4. Consider that by mid January 816 Squadron should be sufficiently trained to move to Hatston for operations and 825 can complete their training at Hatston. Propose that both squadrons move to Hatston about 15/1. (R.A.N.A.S. 1316/7 to Adty).

4th M.A/S.B.
Flotilla.

C. in C. W.A. 1852/5. Propose boats of 4th M.A/S.B. Flotilla on completion of repairs be temporarily assigned to FOWEY. If approved it is essential that Oerlikon guns be retained. (R.A.C.F. 1640/7 to Adty).

Fishing in
Iceland.
Prohibited
area.

A.T. 0221/31/8. Reports have been received that fishing has been taking place, in particular by Icelandic and Faroese vessels, inside the prohibited area off the East Coast of Iceland.

2. It is of great importance that this area should not be compromised. Steps are to be taken to prevent fishing inside this area. Any permission given to fish within the area should be withdrawn.

3. Local craft may continue to be routed through this area in accordance with A.T. 2325/13/7. (Hd. of M. 1949/7)



7.12.40.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
~~DELUGE.~~

At. 1130/7 (D.C. 1151/7) At 2330/7
(D.C. 2340/7)

Scapa.
A/A Defenses.

Your X.179 6/12 and this Headquarters
A.11 6/12. Submit the request for
232 Flight to be brought to full
squadron strength be given urgent
consideration (H.Q.F.C.1735/7 to Air
Ministry).

Movements.

VANITY

E.T.A. 20. C. Buoy 0300/8 (VANITY
0931/7 to N.O.I.C. Tyne) My 0931
5 hours late (VANITY 1650/7 to N.O.I.C.
Tyne).

SABRE.

Arrived Londonderry 6/12 (Capt.D.
Londonderry 0053/7 to Adty)

ICARUS

Sailed E.T.A. North Goodwin 0815
(C in C. Portsmouth 0203/7) My 1302
Pass Aldeburgh Light Float at 1700/7
and arrive Humber Light Vessel not
before 0400/8 (C in C. Nore 0700/7
to ICARUS).

Nore.
Ships out of Action

My 0940/2. Delete GARTH. Insert
JACKAL, Humber, 1/1/41 (C. in C. Nore
0740/7).

QUORN.

Sailed 0745/7 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0751/7).

Nore.

Dispositions for Night 7/8 (C. in C.
Nore 0800/7)

SIKH
BEAGLE

Returned Scapa 0100 from Screening
RODNEY (A.C.O.S. 0931/7.)

RUBENS.
for Gibraltar.

On completion A/S trawler RUBENS is
to be sailed to Tobermory to work up
and then to Gibraltar in first available
convoy joining the 7th A/S Goup on
arrival. (D.A.S.W. 1040/7 to N.O.I.C.
Blyth).

FURIOUS.

My 1852/5. On arrival in U.K. to
proceed to Liverpool for boiler-cleaning
and repairs to brick-work. Should be
ready to sail 28/12 (V.C.N.S. 1142/7).

/COSSACK.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

187

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (contd.).

COSSACK.
SIKH.

Proceed, passing Switha 0900/8, to R/V in 55°N 22'W at 1000/11 B.S.T. with RAMILLIES, FURIOUS, CALIFORNIA, FRANCONIA, and provide additional Escort to Clyde. Adty. 2258/3 and 1734/6. C. in C. W.A. 1255/6 (R.A.D. 1357/7 to D.4.).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

To be moved to Rosyth westabout at earliest opportunity. Report date when ready to sail. (Controller 1159/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HECLA
TYNE
MAIDSTONE

HECLA has been allocated as Destroyer Depot Ship at Clyde and will proceed there as soon as possible without completing W/T equipment. TYNE will complete about 20/2/41 and it is desired to keep MAIDSTONE at Scapa till relieved by TYNE. Request your concurrence (V.C.N.S. 1259/7 to V.A.S.) Concur (V.A.S. 1749/7).

VOLUNTEER

Sailed 1020. E.T.A. Falmouth 1315 (C. in C. W.A. 1304/7) Arrived (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1330/7)

PEGASUS

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1422/7)

Orkneys

Movements tonight (F.O.C.O.S. 1536/7)

FORMIDABLE
DOUGLAS.
KEPPEL.
VIMY

FORMIDABLE's 1712/6 Cancel my 1510/5 BEVERLEY and BURNHAM are not available (C. in C. W.A. 1552/7 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) My 0957/5 You will be required with DOUGLAS and KEPPEL to escort FORMIDABLE from Clyde to Scapa leaving 10/12. (R.A.D. H.F. 2209/7 to VIMY) When released from present duties, proceed to Clyde and complete with oil-fuel. (R.A.D. H.F. 2223/7 to DOUGLAS, KEPPEL).

Portsmouth

Night Movements 7/8 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1557/7).

SHIKARI

Arrived Londonderry (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1645/7)

Western Channel.

Night Report. (C. in C. W.A. 1648/7)

RAMILLIES

My 1719/6 (Docking of Ship) For Portsmouth read Devonport. (D.O.D. H. 1711/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

/KENT.....



MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

188

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

KENT.

C. in C. S.A. 1317/6. To proceed to Devonport for repairs. Should be routed independently from 52°N. (Controller 1712/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

WOLVERINE

Sailed. E.T.A. Londonderry 0800/8 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1909/7).

ANTELOPE.

Sailed. E.T.A. Liverpool 0900/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2124/7)

Nore.

Movements to 1200/8 (C. in C. Nore 1200/7).

Rosyth.

Movements for Night 7/8. (C. in C. Rosyth 1614/7 and 1810/7).

Operations

Operation. "Monsoon".
MONSOON.

My 1852/5. FURIOUS will not now be required to sail for Operation ~~MONSOON~~ on 17/12, but should complete loading A/C and be ready to sail on 28/12. (V.C.N.S. 1142/7 to FURIOUS).

Admiralty's 1142/7 and my 1426/4. Escort by RAMILLIES permits boiler cleaning on passage. Estimate 12 boilers clean by 19/12 and ship ready to sail ~~MONSOON~~ next day.

If however Admiralty's 1142/7 stands request 150 seamen, 30 Royal Marines and 60 engine room ratings on arrival at Liverpool for embarkation of stores and aircraft, sentries, and manning close range weapons. (FURIOUS 2140/7 to Adty).

Raider sweep
to intercept.

My 0445/7 H.F. O.C.N.A. see North Atlantic. Request you will arrange for DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA and CALIFORNIA to carry out a sweep to the eastern limit of Areas F.3, G.3, and H.3. 2. Object to intercept possible raider. 3. Ships are to return to their present areas on completion. (D.O.D.F. 1318/7 to F.O.C.N.P). *Cancelled - See next page*

Carry out Adty. 1318/7 forthwith. (F.O.C.N.P. 1416/7 to DERBYSHIRE, CIRCASSIA, CALIFORNIA). *See next page*

/Your.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

189

7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Continued).

Your 1214/7. ROBERT MAERSK made raider signal when challenged. When identified was instructed to cancel raider signal and permitted to proceed. Today second vessel seen but not identified. (CIRCASSIA 1439/7 to F.O.C.N.P.).

Cancel my 1318/7 (D.O.D.F. 1841/7 to F.O.C.N.P.)
Cancel my 1416/7 (F.O.C.N.P. 2230/7.).

Knob Light Vessel.

Was boarded on 19/11 by the Trinity House Authorities. The crew of this Light Vessel had been previously withdrawn. On boarding it was found all deck house doors had been forced open. 2. Request. you report whether any of H.M. Ships boarded the Light Vessel, and if so under what circumstances, or whether you have any other information which could throw light on this matter. (D.O.D.(H) 1506/7 to C. in C. Nore).

Troop Embarkation.

Admiralty 1703/27/11 and 1501/9/11. ROYAL SCOTSMAN is to sail with GLENGYLE and GLENROY to Lamlash and is to act as overflow personnel ship as required. It is anticipated that up to 30 Officers and 300 men and 5 cinema operators may require accommodation. Ship is to remain at 48 hours' notice in accordance with A/T 1501/9/11 para 1. (D.O.D.H. 1507/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Iceland.

HONNINGSVAAG escorting TORDENSKJOLD sailed for Reydarbjordr (F.O. Iceland 1730/7 to Adty). Until further orders the Examination Service Vessel at Reykjavik will patrol in about Engey Bank Light 300° 6½ cables (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1835/7 to Adty).

Submarines.

TAKU.

My position at midnight 46°15'N 3°5'W
Full gale (TAKU 0101/7)

WHITE BEAR.

19 hours early (WHITE BEAR 0358/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock 2002/7 to S.9).

/URGE.....



HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Continued)

URGE.

Replace propellers being fitted, involving 24 hours delay. Intend sailing 11/12 (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1540/7)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/8 (V.A.S. 1714/7)

Greenock Area.

Positions (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1752/7)

O.14.

Request she be sailed Tobermory to arrive Dundee 22/12, and Escort provided (Capt S.7 1858/7 to WESTERN ISLES).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2244/50. Air Patrols to-day as follows. Also R/C of Narvik. (C in C Rosyth 0154/7. 2 Blenheim A/C leave Dyce at daylight to carry out sweep Flamborough Head and return (C. in C. Rosyth 0716/7 to ships) My. 0154/7 R.C. of Narvik cancelled (C. in C. Rosyth 0738/7) Cancel my 0850/4. Commencing 8/12 Following A/S Air Patrols will be flown A.M. daily, weather permitting. Sydero Patrol and Muggy Patrol. Details (C. in C. Rosyth 1500/7 to Ships) My. 2244/50. Amend preamble to read that Patrols decided upon will be signalled when it is known that they are likely to be flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1550/7). Assessments. (C. in C. Rosyth 1956/7).

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber.

Your 1927/4 (Attack on G.H. Auxiliary Patrol) Following report dated 5/12 from Commandeth York. (Hofo 0945/7 to Adty).

Portsmouth.

Your 1741/4. Air Raid of 1940 to 2000/6. Few small Bombs. Slight damage and few casualties. (C in C. Portsmouth 1000/7 to Adty).

Skelligs.

At 1525/5 Trawlers SLEBECM and WILLIAM DOWNS were attacked by A/C while fishing 5 miles W.N.W. of Skelligs. 7 Bombs and Machine-gun. Superficial damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1120/7 to Adty).



War Diary.

7.12.40.
Saturday. 191

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity (Continued).

Enemy A/C
daily over
Irish ports.

Many Skippers of Trawlers fishing off coast of Ireland report a German plane passes over Ballycotton and Irish ports at about 1330 daily, and a searchlight from Queenstown operates nightly. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1121/7 to Adty).

Your 1121/7 Request description of A/C be obtained. Also usual course and average height. (D.D.I.C. 1817/7 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Mining.

Z.
X.M.E.4.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1800 today, lay about 2030, returning Milford Haven 2300 (ADVENTURE 1018/7) Completed (ADVENTURE 2120/7)

SUPREMITY.
(mined 1900/6)

(British, 554 Tons) Reported mined. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1842/7 to C. in C. Nore) 1900/6. 3 cables W.S.W. charted position East oaze L.V. No. casualties (Cdre i/c Sheerness 1731/7).

CAPRICORNUS.

(M/S Trawler) Damaged by close Mine, now beached close East of East Cant Buoy. Request salvage party. (C in C Nore 2301/7 to Adty).

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ
BISMARCK.
Tank positions.

Following from Navy Department. From Berlin, dated 31/10. Air Marshal sent Foreign Naval Attache, it was learned TIRPITZ is at Wilhelmshaven and BISMARCK is at Gotenhafen TIRPITZ is camouflaged to represent the red brick building which is her background at pier. Masts, f.c. stations, stacks etc. are painted brick coloured with black squares two by three metres representing windows. Decks are painted to resemble a house top when seen from above. Large number of pontoons (Floats) large enough to transport tanks are being built at Wilhelmshaven. (N.A. Washington 1220/7).

/M.V's off.....



MOST SECRET.

7.12.40. 192
Saturday..

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence (continued).

M/V's off
Norwegian Coast.

Aircraft report 6000 tons motor ship at anchor Aalesand Harbour. At 1130 2000 tons Motor Ship 062° 33'N 006° 12' E Course 360° 10 knots. 4000 tons Motor Ship 062° 39'N 006° 41'E Course 260° 12 Knots. 2000 tons Motor Ship 062 45'N 006° 50'E. (V.A.S. 1441/7 to SUNFISH).

Brest

3 Destroyers and presumed Floating Dock (H.Q.C.C. 1715/7).

TEMPLAR.

My 0150/29. Report graded c.3. states crew on board by 18/11 and expected leave Hamburg by 30/11. (D.N.I. 1747/7) Reports graded C.3. state speed 14½ knots and fitted out as A.M.C. (F.O.C.N.P. 2251/7 to Northern Patrol).

TULANE.

(Norwegian, 5485 Tons) Report graded B.2. states is fitting out as A.M.C. Speed 16 knots. Probable armament six 4.1 inch Guns, A/A Guns, and searchlights. (D.N.I. 1747/7).



HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

ROYSTON.

(British, 2722 Tons) Ashore at Palling at 0056/7 G.M.T. Tug RICHARD LEE BARBER sent at 0240 and Tug LOWESTOFT from Lowestoft also being sent (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0310/7 to C. in C. Nore) Tug LOWESTOFT sailed 0815/7 (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0840/7 to Adty).

SANDWICH.

(Sloop) Have lost contact with O.B. 254. My position 55° 45'N. 7° 38'W. Asdic cabinet flooded and depth-charge release gear damaged. Am proceeding to Liverpool. (SANDWICH 0330/7 and 1000/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

CHEVREUIL.

(French Minesweeper) Arrived with Engine-Room defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0911/7).

TABARISTAN.

(British, 6251 Tons)

HARLESDEN

(British, 5483 Tons)

ADAMAS.

(Greek, 4144 Tons)

MERCHANT

(British, 4615 Tons).

(Convoy S.C.13)

Your 1840/6. Remainder of Escort should endeavour to locate Convoy and ship in distress. Positions of Ships as follows (C. in C. W.A. 0804/7 to WELLINGTON, CLARKIA, SCIMITAR). My position 55° 20'N 9° 20'W. Intend to pass through position of ADAMAS and Ships East of Inishtrahull in your 0804/7 and search along North Irish Coast. Must refuel this evening. (SCIMITAR 1000/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

AGHIA EIRINI.

(Greek, 4330 Tons) Your 2039/6. Am hove to in 55°N 35°52'W at 1051. Holds full of water. S.O.S. (Plymouth 1135/7) Request you sail Tug ASSURANCE to assist in 54°6'N 18° 18'W (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1738/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

VESPER.

Lost touch with O.B. 254 in severe gale. Flooded oscillator and punctured dome. Hove to in 56°N. 10°W. (VESPER 0900/7 to C. in C. W.A.).

UNBEATEN.

My 1531/6. Still ashore. Tug unable to help owing to weather which is now moderating. (VAS. 0951/7 to Adty) Particulars (VAS. 1522/8) Refloated (S.3. 2047/8. to V.A.S.).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

194

7.12.40.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

- STOLWIJK (Dutch, 2489 Tons). On rocks between Imishdovy and Imishborin, Ireland. Breaking up. No boat. Please take crew off. (F.O.Humber 1005/7 to Adty).
- HURRICANE. Cancel my 1930/6. (Escort for HURRICANE). Comply with my 1226/6. (C. in C. W.A. 1112/7 to HESPERUS).
- GUINEAN. (British, 5205 Tons). Sailed Tug PRUDENT to assist off Girvan. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1127/7). No longer needs help. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1622/7).
- GARLAND. Asdic out of action and stern compartment flooded in 55° 40' 30" N. 10° 55' W. (GARLAND 1130/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
- ASHCREST. (British, 5652 Tons) Proceed to assist in 55°N. 9° 8' W. Drifting at 0920. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1131/7 to ENGLISHMAN). Position at 1438 was 54° 50' N. 9° 7' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1720/7 to ENGLISHMAN). Rudder broken. S.O.S. (Valentia Radio 1848/7). A/C report position at 1353 today 55° 3' N. 9° 2' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1915/7 to STELLA POLARIS, ENGLISHMAN) Tug essential. Position at 0700 about 55° 10' N. 10° W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0710/8 to Adty). Proceeding to ASHCREST 7 knots (ENGLISHMAN 0825/8) Pumps unable cope with water. (ASHCREST 1019/8).
- TULIP. (Corvette). Damaged by grounding and collision. Details. Request dockyard destination. (WESTERN ISLES 1601/7 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).
- DIONYSSIOS STRATHATOS. (Greek, 5168 Tons). Lose rudder and stern-post. Rush assistance. Position 58° N. 26° 30' W. (Recd. via D.T.D.1605/7).(D.T.D.1312/8 to C. in C. W.A.)
- WALKER. Position 58° 10' N. 11° 40' W. Am damaged. Asdic compartment flooded and oil-tank leaking. Will probably require docking. (WALKER 1632/7 to C.in C. W.A.)
- GORSETHORNE Abandoned at anchor in 284° Bar Light Vessel 14½ miles, Liverpool Bay. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1801/7 to Adty).
- ROYAL SCOTSMAN. Vessel dragged her anchors yesterday and drove into ROYAL SCOTSMAN. Damage to bows. Every effort will be made to render her seaworthy in 24 hours from 1000/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1855/7 and F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2209/7 to Adty.) Completes temporary repairs 1000/9 at Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1919/8).



CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (CONTD:)

BRIGAND. (Rescue Tug) Arrived Kirkwall with defects. (A.C.O.S.1914/7 to Adty).

HOPESTAR. (British, 5267 Tons) Sailed Tug PRUDENT to assist in Belfast Lough (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2201/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

LORMONT (Ex-) } Lost by collision. (F.O. Humber 2310/7
Guardship) } to Adty).
CORTINA (M/S) } (F.O.Humber 1119/8).
Trawler) }

ACCOMAC. (347 tons) Ashore Belfast Lough. Boiler exploded. Total loss. (D.O.R.)



7.12.40.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys

Estimated positions 0900/7. (D.T.D. to C. in C. H.F., 1039/7).

W.N.49.

Your C707 (? FERNIE) sailed Aberdeen 2330 Northwards convoying W.N.49, O passed Buchaness 2315 convoying W.N.49, C passed Kinneard Head 0240.

(C. in C. Rosyth 0100/7 to BRIGAND).

My 1845/6 Clyde Section W.N.49 Bell Rock 12 miles at noon. E.t.a. Bell Rock 1300 May Is. 1530, Elie Ness 1710. (ULLSWATER 1230/7 to C. in C. Rosyth) Arrivals. SAON with W.N.49 Oban portion. ULLSWATER, RUMBA, JASON with W.N.49 Clyde portion. Carrier FOSSBECK, Boom trawlers DOCTOR LEE. IMELDA ex W.N.49 from Scapa. (C. in C. Rosyth 2355/7).

→ F.S.54.

Sailed 0200. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0202/7).

O.B.254.

Have lost contact with O.B.254 in heavy weather. Damaged. (SANDWICH, 0330/7 to C. in C. W.A.) (See also S.L.56).

→ F.N.52)

→ F.N.53)

→ F.S.53)

→ F.S.54)

Movements to 1200/8. F.N.52 Outer Dowsing 1200/7. F.N.53 Aldeburgh 2000/7. F.S.53 near Cromer Knoll 1200/7. F.S.54 Outer Dowsing 1800/7. (C. in C. Nore, 1200/7).

→ E.N.37)

→ F.S.55)

→ F.N.52)

Movements tonight 7/8. E.N.37 escorted by CURIOA, Banff 2000/7. F.S.55 Whitby 1900/7. F.N.52. e.t.a. 20 C buoy 0800/8. (C. in C. Rosyth 1614/7 amended 1810/7).

→ F.N.53

Departure to join F.N.53, 7/12 group 31 A/T's, CURTANA, BRACONMOOR, CARISBROOK, GEORGE ROBB at 1715. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1740/7). Departure 7/12 TARANSAY (Yacht) to join F.N.53 at 1725. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1757/7).

H.X.93.

Route amended. AURANIA returns to Halifax when relieved by RODNEY. Escort LUPIN. (D.T.D. 1203/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.14.

Your 1802/2. S.C.14 not met after 24-hour search. Visibility poor, bad weather persists. Passage resumed. (REVENGE, 2256/7).

F.N. 54.)

F.N. 55.)

My 1641/1 and 1019/6. F.N.54 cancelled. Amend escort to F.N.55 to read LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON, WOLFHOUD, WALLACE (C. in C. Rosyth 1537/7). See also p. 196

O.B.255

Sailed 1300/7. 8 ships (N.C.S.O. Mersey (1446/7)).



HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (Contd:)

E.N.38 Sailing 2200/8, 16 ships (11 overseas) escorts PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE (N.C.S.O.Methil 1652/7).

S.C.15 Cancel my 1222/5. CILICIA leave Clyde 2300/8 to R/V with S.C.15 (position) and act as ocean escort. Admty. requested to inform CILICIA of route time and position of R/V. (F.O.C.N.P. 1842/7 to CILICIA).

S.L.58 (Slow). Sailed 1300/7 G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1817/7).

H.X.91. Not met. 0300 059° 00' N. 013° 30' W. 119° (HONEYSUCKLE, 0440/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.13. Your 1840/6, remainder of escort should endeavour to locate convoy and ship in distress. (TABARISTAN) position at 1222/6 055° 47' N. 007 20' W. (HARLESDEN) position at 0745/6 20 miles S. of Skerryvore. ADAMAS position at 0921/6 10 miles N.W. of Tory Island. MERCHANT position at 1144/6 15 miles E. of Inistrahull. (C. in C. W.A., 0804/7 to WELLINGTON).

→ S.L.56. Return Londonderry refuel then proceed to meet S.L.56 further orders follow. (C. in C. W.A. 1012/7 to VESPER).

→ O.B.254
→ S.L.56. Proceed along track of convoy O.B.254 covering any stragglers then proceed to escort S.L.56 meet signal follows. (C. in C. W.A. 1020/7 to GARLAND, LADY LILIAN).

→ S.L.56 BULOLO to leave S.L.56 at Noon/8 and proceed independently to Greenock (route). (C. in C. W.A. 1438/7 to BULOLO).

Sail BEVERLEY, BURNHAM to meet S.L.56 when ready. (C.in C. W.A. 1554/7 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

My position 056° 27' N. 022° 28' W. Shall be unable to R/V with S.L.56 in daylight today. Intend meet them at daylight 8/12. If convoy is not late shall be able to remain with them for 48 hours before returning for fuel. (HESPERUS, 1220/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

→ S.L.56
→ S.L.57 C. in C. S.A. 1905/5 A.M.1142/6 instruct BULOLO and CANTON where to leave convoys and route them to Clyde. (D.O.D.(H) 1954/6 to C. in C. W.A.).



HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (Contd:)

F.N.52 Humber 7/12:- Departure M/S Trawler ORMONDE 0900 to join F.N.52 thence Aberdeen. (F.O. Humber 1202/7 to Admty).

S.L.58 Departures 1200 7/12 KENT (with BRIDGEWATER and TURCOMAN as local escort) escorting convoy S.L.58 in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1317/6. (S.O.(1).Freetown 1437N/7 to Admty).

F.N.54
F.N.55 F.N.54 cancelled. Ships will sail at 0300/9 as F.N.55 (Fast). Southend may sail up to 60 ships. Escorts LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON, WOLFHOUD, WALLACE. (C. in C. Nore, 1500/7 to N.C.S.O.Southend).
See also p. 196

Salvage Tug MESSUS will sail join F.N.54 9/12. (F.O. Humber 1555/7 to Admty).

E.N.38
W.N.51 Sail 1430 8/12 for Methil act subsequently as additional A.A. escort to E.N.38 sailing 2200/8. On meeting transfer to W.N.51 due Cape Wrath 2130/10 and Duncansby 1130/11. Keep steam at immediate notice off Methil and be prepared to slip cable as necessary to engage enemy aircraft. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2217/7 to FOWEY).

4 M.V's. Intend sail F.S. BRANLEBAS, A/S Trawlers VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE escorting 4 M/V's for Dartmouth. E.t.d. Needles 1715, e.t.a. Dartmouth 0815/7. Request for lights. Requested you take F.S. BRANLEBAS under your command on arrival. (C.inC. Portsmouth 1227/7 C.in C. W.A.)

My 1227/7. Sailed three M/V's escorted by F.S. BRANLEBAS. A/S Trawlers VICTRIX and KINGSTON ANDALUSITE. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1827/7 to Admty).

JOKULL Your 0029/27/11 and my 1200/1. Careful investigation by British Naval Authorities and Icelandic Maritime Court has acquitted JOKULL of deliberate breaking of seal. Method of sealing will be improved. (F.O.I.C. Iceland,1630/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

NALGORA. Proceed 1100/8 and escort S.S.NALGORA from Methil to Clyde sailing at about 1400 speed about 10 knots. On arrival off Toward Point part company and proceed to Tobermory. E.t.a. Clyde 2359/10. (C. in C. Rosyth 1711/7 to PELICAN).

7.12.40.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Gaboon.

Gaboon situation report.
Arrival of ships containing food etc., and early resumption of wood shipments would wipe our recent past and Gaboon should rapidly take its place amongst loyal F.F. colonies.
(20 M.M, Brazzaville, 0900/7 to W.O.)

North Atlantic.Azores.
ARK ROYAL.

F.O.C.N.A.0316/7, D.D.I.C. 0005/7 see 6/12. My 1501/5. Intend proceeding to sea in ARK ROYAL a.m. 9/12 to witness flying exercises, returning a.m. 11/12. (S.O. Force H. 0939/7 to Adty).

RAMILLIES.
ARGUS.
FURIOUS.
Sub. Etc.

RAMILLIES, ARGUS, KELVIN, ECLIPSE, VELOX, WRESTLER, ?FRANCONIA sail 1230/7 in accordance with Adty. 2222/5 and C.in C. S.A. 0959/3. R/V with FURIOUS, DIDO (position 1030 zone - 1, 9/12. VELOX? part company? darkness 9/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1232/7 to C.in C. W.A.)

Force H.
Proposed
Operations.

Ref. Admty. 1615/6 and C.in C. Med. 1015/6. Force H. re composition and proposed operations. (S.O. Force H, 1351/7 to C.in C. Med).
(See Med. Volume.)

Military Transport.

Admty. 2324/14/11. Re passage of convoys (proposals). (S.O. Force H, 2105/7 to C.in C. Med.)

Operation.

My 1344/5. Suggested operation and request for battleship re-inforcement (S.O. Force H. 2218/7 to Adty).
(See Med. Volume).



MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

200

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Suspicious
Vessels.
Azores.

Your 1824/6. These ships are not British (D.D.I.C. 0005/7 to N.A. Lisbon).

N.A.Lisbon's 1824/6 to be passed to you by F.O.C.A. SHEFFIELD proceed with despatch to Azores patrol. EDINBURGH is to proceed round San Miguel keeping out of sight of land and then in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 0140/6. (D.O.D.(F) 0031/7 to SHEFFIELD, EDINBURGH).

Suspicious
Signal.

Following was read Gibraltar W/T time of receipt 2349/6 (begins) From GNKG please cancel my R R R,R (ends). As this message had a totally different note from R R R R received by Gibraltar W/T at 2303/6 from **ROBERT MAERSK** and as no ship with signal letters can be found this cancellation should be regarded with suspicion. (F.O.C.N.A. 0033/7 to N.A. Station).

ROBERT MAERSK made distress signal when challenged by CIRCASSIA. The second vessel sighted was not identified. (D.O.R. 8/12).

Your 0033/7. An armed merchant cruiser from Western Patrol should investigate this matter. (D.C.0145/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

F.O.C.N.A. 0033/7. ROBERT MAERSK reported attacked by 2 ships at 2303/6 in 041° 00'N., 020° 22'W. Investigate and report. (F.O.C.N.P. 1214/7 to CIRCASSIA).

CANTON
M.V.
Intercepted.

Intercepted darkened small motor boat ship in position 029° 26'N., 021° 07'W at 0127 on course 120° not answering signal. Vessel altered to 110° and barely cleared convoy. Lost contact avoiding convoy. Am rejoining convoy. (CANTON 0210N/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation
"Ration."

Your 1615/6. Request information whether anticipated operation ~~will be repeated~~ will be repeated at such frequent intervals as to provoke French retaliation and thereby (a) Make routing of future Eastern Med. convoys close to French North African coast undesirable. (b) Make if necessary to strengthen the close escort for forces on such occasions. (S.O.Force H, 1303/7 to Adty).



MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.201
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Attack on
U/Boat.

Daily summary Operations. Aircraft on A.S. sweep sighted and bombed periscope in position 180 degrees Carnero Point 4 miles nil results. Destroyers dropped depth charges on doubtful contact. Nil results. (200 Group 1710/7 to Air Min).

South Atlantic.

Transport of
French Foreign
Legion.

1,200 French Foreign Legion with M.T. stores equipment etc., are to be moved as soon as convenient from Duala to Port Sudan. For the M.T. and stores N.C.S.O. Duala is holding French ship CASAMANCE. As INDO CHINOIS not available for conveyance of troops it is proposed to use CAPO OLMO. Arrangements. If suitable Admiralty has no objection to her inclusion in W.S.5A. (D. of S.T. 0107/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

ENGLISH
TRADER.

Ship is being sent to your assistance expected make contact A.M./11. Report to Freetown in Merchant Navy Code position at 0001 zone plus one 11/12 message being transmitted at that time (C.in C. S.A. 1004/7 to ENGLISH TRADER)

NEWCASTLE.

NEWCASTLE has had trouble with boiler tubes necessary have three days for boiler cleaning. Expect to sail 9/12 or 10/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1015N/7 to Adty).

PAN EUROPE.

Overdue ship. (PAN EUROPE) due Port Elizabeth 3/12 from Singapore not Shameen. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1035B/7).

KENT.

My 1905/5. KENT is not degaussed. (C.in C. S.A. 1101/7 to Adty).

Duala =
Contonou Cable.

Re. (G.O.C. West Africa, 0930/7 to W.O)
See Operations Volume.



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

202

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE.
Action on
5/12.

Action of CARNARVON CASTLE on 5/12 again emphasises importance of policy outlined in my letter 1453/125 of 30/10 and my 2005/22/11 especially as regards longer range guns. (? ALCANTARA) now refitting has guns with 14 thousand yards range and requires improved fire control, my 1931/27/11 refers. (C.in C. S.A. 1207/7 to Adty).

Here public knowledge CARNARVON CASTLE approaching Monte Video arrives 2000 G.M.T. Unaware whether there are prisoners onboard. If so shall we voluntarily release them and announce fact forthwith to Uruguayan Gov., thus anticipating any probable application by German Minister for their release. You will recall that GRAF SPEE intended from first release prisoners here and that this was in fact done without demur on an application from me to Foreign Minister (Millington Drake, Monte Video, 1200/7 to Adty) (Reply 0309/9).

Arrived Montevideo 1900/7. Expect to sail 1900/10. C.in C. S.A. pass to R.A.S.A.D. (CARNARVON CASTLE 1912Z/7).

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Your 1415/28. PRETORIA CASTLE will be ready to sail p.m./14 after completion of repairs and Gunnery practice. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C.Simonstown, 1215B/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

Seaward
Defence
Force.
(A/S Vessels
for Med.)

My 1831/3. Present position regarding seaward defence force A/S vessels is as follows. (1) Flotilla will be ready to sail from Durban on 0/12. (2) Re-manning. (3) Request very early information whether these and other conditions outlined in my 1705/2 are acceptable. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1233B/7).

French
Seaman
in CUBA.

Your 1947/2. Approved to give pocket money on following scales per month as from date of arrival:-
£5 to Officers, £3 to Ensigns,
£3 to Petty Officers, £1 to other ranks.

A small issue of service tobacco may be made. (Hd. of M. 1452/7 to C.in C. S.A.)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

203

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Your 1705/2. If personnel are transferred to R.N. there would be strong objections to paying them directly at S.A. rates. (arrangements) (Hd. of M. 1530/7 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

ARAWA.
MORETON BAY
Catapults.

Your 1205/6. Dates of completion communicated in my 2224/5 took into account the fact that catapults would not be fitted.
(D.O.D.(F) 1622/7 to C.in C. S.A.)

Cables.

Cable communication between Freetown and Duala is slow owing to necessity for routing via Nigeria land lines in order to avoid Vichy territories.

2. General De Gaulle requests break in cables between Libreville and Port Gentil and between Port Gentil and Point Noire may be repaired at an early date. Proposals.
(C.in C. S.A. 2113N/7 to Adty).

Supplies for
Army and R.A.F.
in Greece.

Requirements. Present arrangements unsatisfactory.
(C.in C. M.E. 0845/7 to W.O.)

Mediterranean.

Transport,
of A/C's.

My 1615/6, cancels first 2 sentences of my 1435/23/11. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1128/7).

Air Report.

Operational Summary 180 to 1200/7. Greece. A/C reported large number enemy warship North of Corfu at 1600 hours. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1206/7).



WAR DIARY.

7.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Spezia
Docks.

Your 1835/3 and my 1439/6. Request aerial photographs may be forwarded. (D.N.I., 1602/7 to V.A.Malta).

REGENT)
PANDORA.)

Operation B.S. Patrol orders. (Capt: S.I. 1701/7).

Suez Canal.

Your 1847/29. Desirable employees in Egypt should know the time position. H.M.A. Cairo taking up question. (Hd. of M, to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0017/7).

Cables.

Concur in S.O.Force H. 1629/1 operation by MIRROR. (C.in C. Med. 1148/7).

Convoy A.N.8.

Arrived Piraeus 1400/7. (N.C.S.O. Athens 1530/7).

Coast Defences.

C.in C. M.E. O 27285 of 24/11 W.O. recommended:-
Six-inch naval guns recently diverted to Haifa should be released to Turkey as originally intended. Diversion of two six-inch guns intended for Alexandria Barron (?scheme) to Mersa Matruh. Replacement of above should further six-inch guns become available. (? Concur). In present circumstances threat to ship borne attack on Haifa much reduced and Alexandria has adequate coast defence. Same deterrent coast defences are desirable at Mersa Matruh. (C.in C. Med. 1335/7 to Adty).

Intelligence -
Rhodes.

From Greek consul at Rhodes released end of November. Consider food shortage is not sufficient to force capitulation for long time.

Intermittent air communication by night with Italy.

Military morale poor. Natives eagerly awaiting landings. During raid Kalato 3/9 they cut all wires from aerodrome spontaneously.

Satisfactory damage to aerodromes. Church at Leros which (? was) hit contained ammunition.

MOST SECRET.7.12.1940.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Intelligence -
Rhodes. (Contd.)

Three rows of wire all vulnerable beaches. Last line well inland. Probably under water obstructions also. No A.T. obstacles on roads only wire barriers night. Tanks concentrated Soroni. Boom across harbour Rhodes; usually closed. (Wolffson, Beyoglu. 1430/7).

Naples
Reconnaissance.
Attack on
Tripoli.

Combined services report up to 1700/7 All times G.M.T. 10.05 - 14.38 Glenn Martin Photo Recco. Naples, outer harbour 2 Battleships, 4 Cruisers, inner harbour several Destroyers in dry dock, 1 cruiser. 14.12 - (1538 11 Wellingtons attacking Tripoli due to return from 1745 onwards. No enemy air activity over Malta today no Naval or Military Items. (H.Q. Malta. 1700/7).

Greek
A/S Training.

Re Adty. 1806/17/11 and tel. No. 1832 /23/10. (N.A.Athens 1930/7 to C.in C. Med.)

Greece.

2 Italian destroyers entered Jaranda today (? about) 1100 and 2 more cover them outside port. (Heywood Mission. No T.O.O./7).

East Indies.U.S.7.

Departure 0529Z/7 PERTH, 0842Z/7 CAPETOWN escorting U.S.7. (S.O.(I) Colombo 0958Z/7 to Adty). Sailing telegram. Escorts PERTH, CAPETOWN to 12° N., 45° E., thence Red Sea Force, S.O. CARLISLE. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1026Z/7).

B.S.10.

KANDAHAR left 0904/7 for B.S.10. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0911Z/7).

Kismayu.

My 1120/17. Air photographs 6/12 show 16 ships, including ASKARI and KIONGA. Observer describes additional ships as tankers, but photos. not yet examined in detail. (C.in C. E.I. 1054Z/7).

MOST SECRET.7.12.40.
Saturday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Routes to
M/V's.

For N.C.S.O. Routes given to merchant ships between any two ports (other than coast wise and voyages) are to be so ordered that full dispersion is achieved as soon after sailing as practicable, and is maintained until as close as practicable to port of destination.

(C.in C. E.I. 1102/7).

U.S.
Convoys.

Military authorities are pressing for a decision as to whether all U.S. convoys will in future tranship at Bombay or Ceylon. Can definite decision be given in view of my 0555/15/11.

(S.S.T.O.India (Bombay) 1108Z/7 to D. of S.T.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary No. 178 for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 7/12.
(A.H.Q. Aden, 1907 to Air Min.)

OLE JACOB.
Raider.China.

Norwegian tanker. (in enemy hands). Sailed p.m./5 to westward. (Capt: O.5. Singapore 0431/7). Consul-Gen., Kobe, reports Norwegian crew landed at Kobe while she was there. Description of raider which captured TEDDY and OLE JACOB and sunk AUTOMEDON in Indian Ocean. (C.in C. China, 1621Z/7).

"Town" Class
destroyers.America and West Indies.

My 1138/6. Expect ROCKINGHAM (S.O.) and ROXBOROUGH to sail from St. John's N.F. on 10/12. Similarly routed. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1109/7). Left Halifax for (St. John's N.F.?). (S.O.(I) Halifax 1900/7).

READING, RAMSEY, RIPLEY arrived here at 1700 G.M.T. today.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 1616/7).

COLOMBIA. Dutch to sail for U.K. in convoy and not independently.
(D.T.D. 1125/7 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET.



WAR DIARY.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

HERTFORD
Mined.

British ship HERTFORD struck a mine in position 035° 30' S., 135° 25'E at 1052z/7. Ship still afloat and no information yet available of casualties.

(A.C.N.B. 1300Z/7 to Adty). ^{Page} See 292
A

MOST SECRET.7.12.40.
Saturday.War Diary.GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

- TEMPLAR. Expected to leave Hamburg 30/11. (See Enemy Intelligence).
- TULANE. Reported fitting out as A.M.C. (See Enemy Intelligence).
- MADRID. Has taken in further supplies of coal and fresh provisions. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1730/7).
- AUGSBURG. Reported 6/12 to have disappeared from Daizen. (D.S.460).
- REGENSBURG. Taken oil from another German ship and entered harbour at Yokohama on 6/12. (D.S.460).
- HAVELLAND. At Yokohama, engines dismantled. (D.S.460).
- BURGENLAND. { Re report (D.S.456) that BURGENLAND was being fitted with torpedo tubes.
- SAWERLAND. { Now reported that ship referred to is SAWERLAND. This ship arrived Hamburg on 10/8/39 from Far East, not reported since. The SAARLAND, 6725 tons, is, however, in Japanese waters and was reported sold to Japanese in October, 1940. (D.S.460).
- SAARLAND. }
- SPEZIA
ATLAS Imminent departure. (Barcelona 1834/7).
- ?IDARWALD. Intercepted message in Hapag Code DHNF ? IDARWALD to Hapag Agent Tampico. Begins Destroyers say neutrality patrol following me to limit of 300 including Gulf. Advise Berlin Everything will be done. (20(1) Kingston, Jamaica 1150/7).
- HERMONTHIS. My 1313/3/12 Believe HERMONTHIS intended to sail after completion of stores at 0300 G.M.T./2/12 and that proposed daylight sailing following day was bluff. (S.O.(1) Callao 1447/7).
- ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.
- LELLO. Left Valencia 6/12 for Genoa (Valencia 2330/7) Arrived from Valencia 7/12 (Barcelona 1834/7).
- MAURO / GROCE Arrived Barcelona from Genoa. (Barcelona 1834/7).



WAR DIARY.

7.12.40.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

FARMSUM.

Dutch. 5237 tons. SSSS 52.11. N., 22.56 W., FARMSUM torpedoed. (Base ship, Scapa 2144/7). Proceed to assist FARMSUM torpedoed in 52.11 N., 22.56 W., at 2147. (C.in C. W.A. 2226/7 to HAVELOCK).

RAJAHSTAN.
(torpedoed 2/12).

Arrived Rothesay 7/12 damaged forward. (D.O.R. 8/12).

BOTAVON
(reported
torpedoed 2/12)

Arrived Newport 7/12 undamaged. (D.S.460).

LOCH RANZA
(torpedoed 2/12).
BR 1337 States 1/12 page 102.

Cancel my 2204/6. No trace in War Reg. Return to assistance of LOCH RANZA. (C.in C. W.A. 0012/7 to HELIOTROPE).

Your 0955/7 proceed ^{Lochin Daal} ~~Loch Indira~~ to assist THAMES (Dutch tug) with LOCH RANZA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1246/7 to SEAMAN).

Report situation and whether Escort and tug SEAMAN have arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1750/7 to THAMES)

FORFAR
CONCH.
(torpedoed
2/12).

ST. LAURENT reports she has on board 3 officers and 17 ratings from H.M.S. FORFAR and 53 survivors from S.S. CONCH. No casualties or cot cases. 0127/7.

Ships Attacked.
H.X.90.
(on 2/12).

H.X.90 preliminary investigation. 2000/1 APPALACHEE torpedoed, survivors picked up by LOCH RANZA. No escorts in company at this time. 0100/2 several ships hit about this time including MODAVIA in position 55° N., 18° 30' W. 0130/2 VILLE D'ARLON observed showing not under control lights. She dropped astern and was probably torpedoed about 0145. 0230/2 warship thought to be ST. LAURENT passed through convoy on course 120. 0300/2 Star Shell seen by EMPIRE PUMA and other ships fired from three directions astern for 20 minutes. No Liverpool escorts fired this but ST. LAURENT may have done. FORFAR torpedoed about this time in position 54° 35' N., 18° 18' W. Survivors state she fired Star Shell after being torpedoed. 1200/2 FOLKSTONE joined convoy in approx. position 55° 31' N., 16° 58' W.

Lochin...

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.7.12.40.
Saturday.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Ships Attacked.
H.X. 90.
(on 2/12).
(Contd.)

She was first escort to arrive, 1430/2
LOCH RANZA torpedoed but was probably
astern of convoy. 1620/2 FOLKESTONE
attacked contact and sighted periscope.
Two and a half minutes later
STIRLINGSHIRE torpedoed. 1630/2
MODAVIA Captain sighted damaged U/Boat
lying on its side which came awash
three times and sank. This report is
being further investigated but
conclusion is that U/Boat fired
torpedoes at STIRLINGSHIRE immediately
before FOLKESTONE killed him. 2000/2
FOLKESTONE rejoined convoy. 2016/2
WILHELMINA torpedoed. FOLKESTONE
lost convoy while searching U/Boat
and did not rejoin until 0945/3.
VISCOUNT joined H.X. 90 before dawn on
3rd and was only escort. 0945/3
rejoined. Convoy attacked by Condor.
VISCOUNT and convoy opened fire and
aircraft then attacked WILLIAM
HENDRIK 5 miles astern, which sank.
1600/3 FOLKESTONE and VISCOUNT counter
attacked. MAGICIAN states he saw
torpedoes approaching HARPEFJELL, but
no hits.
(Capt: D. Liverpool 1521/7 to Adty).

* W. HENDRIK

Submarines
Reported.
0830.

Sighted on surface 56.57 N., 21.42 W.
(Lands End Radio, 0830/7).
U/Boat was in position 56.57 N.,
21.40W., at 0730 G.M.T. today. Keep
clear. (D.T.D. 1642/7 to G.B.M.S. Area 1
for PETER MAERSK) Italian seen on
surface by LLANGIBBY CASTLE (D.S. 460).

2040.

One submerged submarine bearing 170,
5 miles, course unknown, my position,
021, 39° N., 22° W., 47 (CIRCASSIA
2040/7).
U/Boat reported at 2040/7 in 39. 42N.,
21.40 W., steering 170° 5 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2136/7) Probably Italian.
(D.S. 460).

1310.

D.F. probable U/Boat 52.30N., to
53 N., 18.30 W., to 20° W.
unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1345/7).

WAR DIARY.7.12.40.
Saturday.Estimated U/B
dispositions.U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Italian. 1 off Cape Spartel on 3rd is probably proceeding to Azores.
1 approaching Gironde from West of Portugal.
Possibly another off Portugal or Spain.
1 probably Italian was in 60° 30' N., 8° 54' W. at 1215/6.
1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.

German. 1 probably approaching Lorient from Finisterre.
1 was in about 55° 20' N., 10° 40' W at 1853/6.
1 was about 52° N., 15° W., to 17° W at 0212/7.
1 may be about 60° N., 20° W.
1 may be still patrolling North of 61° N., and East of 20° W.
1 or possibly 2 more in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown.
No news of the one which was S.W. of Cape de Verde Islands on 30th.
(D.D.I.C. 1239/7 V.A.S. 1511/7).

~~X.7566. Z.60 6/18.~~

Personnel for C.A.S. from SLESSOR.
Have best possible reasons for thinking that persons most directly concerned would be more than willing to contribute to the shipping situation on the following lines. Make available all remaining 103 old destroyers as and when we can make them. Ditto 45 reserve merchant ships amounting to 3 to 4 hundred thousand tons. Ditto about 125 French and Danish ships now in American ports amounting to about 4 hundred thousand tons. Authorities sale or transfer of ships from the U.S. States coastal and inter coastal trade. Initiate big (LINDI)? island scheme for building. Donovan will explain.

~~2016 Received from Air Ministry 1015/7.~~

8.12.1940
Sunday
War DiarySITUATION REPORTHome CommandsNorwegian
Ore Trade

It is reported that small shipments of iron ore from Narvik to Germany will begin at the end of this month in German ships hugging the coast of Norway to the Kattegat and thence through the Kiel Canal. 200,000 tons a month is aimed at from February onwards.

SUNFISH
Report

SUNFISH reports that she sank a 4000 ton merchant vessel off Stadlandet 5/12 and probably obtained one hit with torpedo on a 4000 ton tanker off Stadlandet on 7/12.

Heavy weather
in N.W. Approaches

Shipping is experiencing heavy weather in the N.W. Approaches. HESPERUS, who has a leak in her forward magazine, met BULOLO, ocean escort of Convoy S.L. 56, none of which were in sight, having been lost to sight the previous evening; GARLAND and HARVESTER failed to meet the convoy and turned back to Louisa Foyle. Convoy H.X. 91 is scattered; WALKER and VANSITTART (escorts) have both sustained damage, and WALKER reports that nothing has been seen or heard of CANDYTUFF since the gale of 5/12.

British Air ActivityCoastal Command

Two special equipment aircraft patrolled the track of Convoy O.B. 254 in the N.W. Approaches last night.

Blenheims attacked the docks, shipyards and power station at Lorient this evening

Beauforts attacked Brest.

23 Convoys were escorted today.

Bomber Command

Boulogne and Calais were attacked last night, and aerodromes at Flushing and Ostend.

Owing to bad weather no day operations were carried out.



War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

YEWARCH in Convoy F.S. 55 was bombed and hit while at anchor off the Humber, and TREVERBYM was attacked in the N.W. Approaches today.

M/S Trawler CARISBROOKE is reported by F.O.I.C. Yarmouth to have been damaged by air attack (? in attack on Yarmouth 7/12)

The P.L.A. building was seriously damaged during a heavy attack on London tonight.

Mining

No minelaying by enemy aircraft was suspected last night.

Examination vessel MINNA was damaged by a mine in the Firth of Forth today.

WINDSOR was mined off Aldeburgh this evening and was towed to Harwich.

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE
Raider

It is thought that the raider engaged by CARNARVON CASTLE on 5/12 may be the LEVANTE, of Atlas-Levante Line, or a similar ship.

SS HIDLEFJORD

^{7639. 4. 10. 1940. g.w.s.}
(Norwegian 7659 tons) Table Bay to Freetown reported at 1511N/8 that she was being fired on by a "mysterious" ship 8 miles off, about 185 miles south of Freetown, which later disappeared.



War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

British Advance Begins

The Army commenced offensive operations against the Italians in the Western Desert today.

Naval Cooperation

TERROR, APHIS and LADYBIRD, supported by JERVIS, JANUS and NUBIAN cooperated off the coast west of Mersa Matruh.

America & West Indies

IDARWALD Intercepted

DIOMEDE today intercepted the German SS IDARWALD to the east of Yucatan Strait. The ship was abandoned and on fire, and DIOMEDE was unable to prevent her from sinking.

Australia

Raider

An enemy raider today attacked shipping lying off Nauru (Pleasant Is., Pacific). SS TRIADIC was seen on fire and possibly 4 other ships were attacked. Two vessels with Japanese markings were seen standing by TRIADIC, but no Japanese ship was expected at Nauru. A large vessel, presumed to be the raider, made off at 0510Z/9 in a south easterly direction.

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Portland.
4th M.A.S.B.
Flotilla.

With withdrawal next week of motor boat training flotilla to Northern waters no means will exist of meeting important local requirements such as interception of suspicious craft and all form of rescue work, for which this force has been utilised and for which with its essential speed it has proved of extreme value. I press for stationing forthwith a similar force at Portland observing that this is an eminently suitable base for operational work, and that maintenance for a force of equivalent numbers can be provided. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1227/8 to Adty).

F.O.I.C. Portland's 1227/8 and my 1243/7 to R.A.C.F. Now that Portland's cupboard is to be so bare much force is added to my proposal to base 4th M.A./B. Flotilla there. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2237/8 to Adty).

Request you retain one third of 4th M.A.S.B. Flotilla for work at Portland and send remainder to Fowey to operate as C. in C. W.A. desires. Oerlikon Guns should not be removed. (A.C.N.S. H. 1753/8 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

HUNTER.
Repatriation
of Survivors.

Following from N.A.

1. My 1544/23/10 . So far only six visas for transit through Russia have been obtained and chances of more seem rather remote.
2. Opportunity may occur to send some of 37 remaining men by sea passage to U.K. as crews of vessels referred to in Stockholm 1199/15/11.
3. Request your approval to make these arrangements and permission for naval ratings to receive same Bonus as Merchant Seamen, to be paid by steel control. (N.A. Stockholm 1550/7 to Adty).

PIORUN.

The Polish manned destroyer PIORUN has been allocated to your command and you are requested to report whether you consider she would be better employed with the Polish Division in the N.W. Approaches or with the Vth D.F. at Plymouth. (1st S.L. 2203/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

/N. class.....

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.
Policy (continued).N. Class.
Destroyers
for
Mediterranean.

It has been decided that Captain D. VII and the N. Class Destroyers NAPIER, NIZAM, NESTOR, NORMAN and NORSEMAN, shall when ready for service, join the command of C. in C. Mediterranean.

Defence of U.K.Dover Command.
Invasion Signals.

Following pyrotechnic Signals now in force by sea and land in Dover Command (V.A. Dover 1115/8).

"Deluge."
DELUGE

At 1130/8 (D.C. 1206/8) (D.C. 2003/8)
At 2330/8 (D.C. 2345/8).

Scapa.

Progress Report 8/12 (R.A. Scapa 2015/8).

Movements.SANDWICH.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0915/8).

ICARUS

Arrived 0900 (F.O. Humber 0926/8).

FORMIDABLE.
BURNHAM
PIORUN
VIMY.

Your 1552/7. Have Escorts been detailed Request air protection also. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0955/8 to C. in C. W.A.) As no Destroyers available from my command, should be grateful if H.F. Destroyers could escort FORMIDABLE Belfast to Greenock. Departure being delayed for this till 10/12. (C. in C. W.A. 1322/8 to C. in C. H.F.) Cancel my 1322. BURNHAM to escort FORMIDABLE sailing Belfast 0800/9 for Greenock. BURNHAM to Londonderry on completion. (C. in C. W.A. 1720/8 to C. in C. H.F.) My 2209/7. Proceed Belfast and (? Provide) addition escort for FORMIDABLE proceeding Clyde tomorrow. (R.A.D. H.F. 2115/8 to PIORUN, VIMY). See also p 223

KING GEORGE V.
NORFOLK.
MATABELE. BEAGLE.
BULLDOG. PYTCHLEY.

Sailed Scapa 0951 for trails of KING GEORGE V. (A.C.O.S. 1003/8)
Arrived Scapa 1840 (A.C.O.S. 1910/8).

Brightlingsea.

Disposition of Patrols 8/12 (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1010/8 to C. in C. Nore).

/FURIOUS.....

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (continued).FURIOUS
ARGUS
RAMILLIES
DIDO
COSSACK
CAIRO
SIKH
FRANCONIA
CALIFORNIA
ST. LAURENT
SKEENA
BRADFORD

Capt. D.4 in COSSACK with SIKH left Scapa 0900 to R/V with RAMILLIES, FURIOUS, CALIFORNIA, FRANCONIA (A.C.O.S. 1145/8). CAIRO to leave Clyde 2300 today with CILICIA, ST LAURENT and SKEENA to R/V with DUNOTTAR CASTLE as in my 1710/7. CAIRO and Destroyer Escort to meet RAMILLIES and ARGUS at 1000/11 B.S.T. (C. in C. W.A. 1150/8). FURIOUS and DIDO will R/V with RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, and 4 destroyers at 1030 Z + 1/9 in 37°50'N 17° 30'W. Whole Force expects arrive position A. 49° N 18° W. at 0900 Z -1/11. Arrange R/V for CALIFORNIA accordingly (D.O.D.F. 1303/8 to FOCNP). Leave Patrol to R/V in 39° 17'n 17° 30W at 1630 Z - 1/9 with RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FURIOUS, DIDO for inward Escort to Clyde (F.O.C.N.P. 1520/8 to CALIFORNIA).

Routes. Ships for Clyde E.T.A. Clyde 1130/14 (C. in C. W.A. 1800/8). Your 1303/8. Route in my 1800/8 omit position A. (C. in C. W.A. 1822/8 to Adty).

Nore Command.

Movements to 1200/9 (C in C. Nore 1200/8).

WESTCOTT.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1235/8).

ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(A/A Ship.)

Sailed from Troon 1315 for Penarth. E.T.A. Barry Roads 1030/9 (N.C.S.O. Ayr 1345/8).

Dover.

Dispositions for Night 8/9 (V.A. Dover 1402/8).

Orkneys.

Trawler Lines tonight, 5 Trawlers (A.C.O.S. 1523/8).

Western Channel.

Night Report (C in C. W.A. 1552/8, 1711/8 and 1752/8).

Rosyth.

Movements tonight (C in C. Rosyth 1600/8).

MANCHESTER.

Is to proceed to Scapa C. in C. W.A. requested to route. (D.O.D.H. 1653/8).

WELLARD.

Arrived (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1719/8)

/14th A/S S/F.

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.
War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements (continued).14th A/S S/F.

Sailed N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1816/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

GURKHA
LEGION
LIVELY
LANCE.

On completion should be sailed to Scapa to work up and will subsequently join C. in C. W.A. for Escort Duties in N.W. Approaches. (1st S.L. 2254/8)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Your 1159/7 11th December. (C in C Portsmouth 1737/8 to Adty) Ship to be transferred to Rosyth for completion. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to sail from Portsmouth P.M. /11 routed northabout. A/S Escort by all available Destroyers of 5th D.F. and A/A protection by 4 HUNT-class Destroyers, and one A/A Cruiser from Cape Wrath to Rosyth. (1st S.L. 2116/8) Request maximum possible Air Escort (D.O.D. H. 2117/8 to Air Ministry).

Operations.Operation P.V.1.

To destroy E.- Boats mineleying in Swept Channel. Particulars (C in C. Nore 1050/8) Proposed limits of Patrol O during times of Operation. (D. 16 1716/8 to C. in C. Nore) See Operations Volume.

KASHMIR.
KIPLING.
PUNJABI.
JUPITER.

To proceed at 1630 today to patrol between longitude of Eddystone and Wolf Rock keeping about 15 miles from coast, to destroy any Enemy Force that may threaten Convoy leaving Dartmouth westwards at 1700. Return Plymouth, passing 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0945/9 (C in C. W.A. 1255/8 to KASHMIR).

Operation "Monsoon"
MONSOON.

Your 2140/7. If A/C can be loaded by 18th is there any reason why FURIOUS should not sail with convoy W.S. 5A on that day (1st S.L. 1352/8 to FURIOUS) If Escort adequate to permit cleaning 3 Boilers in time on passage, can be ready to sail (date) (FURIOUS 1544/8).

Iceland.

MORDKAPP arrived Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1640/8).



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

STURGEON.

Leave Patrol at 1800/9 Route.
(Capt. S.6.0921/8).

O.21.

Leave Patrol 1800/10. Route (~~S.4.~~
1213/8).

L.26.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow
(A.C.O.S. 1421/8).

Greenock Area.

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1433/8).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/9
(V.A.S. 1612/8 and 2158/8).

TAKU

Your 0938/7. Cannot make R/V till
0500/10 (TAKU 2045/8).

SUNFISH.
Report.

Occasional daylight patrols off
Stadtlandet by 2 armed trawlers and
occasional off shore night patrols.
No airpatrols. Traffic rounding
Stadtlandet by day keep $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off
shore.

Sunk by torpedo, 1 merchant vessel
4000 tons off Stadtlandet 5/12.
Attacked 1 merchant vessel off Bud
6/12 no hits. Attacked tanker 4000
tons off Stadtlandet 7/12 1 hit
probable. (SUNFISH 2315/8 to S.6.).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2244/30/11. ^{"Stab"} STAB will be flown
today (C in C. Rosyth 0730/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

YEWARCH.

(British 827 Tons) Bombed off S9.
Buoy. Requires immediate help.
VALOROUS standing by (VERSATILE 0935/8
to N.O.I.C. Humber) Attacked by
Heinkel at 1700/7 Crew emphatic
no distinguishing marks (S.O.I.
Humber 2100/10).

Convoy "Arena".
ARENA

One A/C shadowing in 51° 58'N 1° 40'E
(WALLACE 1019/8).

TREVERBYN.

(British, 5281 Tons) Attacked in
55° 23'N. 14° 24'W (Lyness W/T 1021/8).
Still attacked (Valentia Radio
1046/8).

Yarmouth.

R.N. Barracks. Damage about 1200/7.
Details (Works, Shotley Gate 1119/8).

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (continued).Stornoway.

Heinkel 111. Course 155° (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1216/8 to A.C.O.S.).

Dover.

A/C dropped 5 Bombs off Admiralty Pier and some Incendiary Bombs on Shakespeare's Cliff at 1745 today. No casualties or damage. (V.A. Dover 1858/8).

CARISBROOK.

(M/S Trawler) Has been damaged by A/C (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1850/8).

W. HENDRIK.

(British, 4360 Tons) Attacked and set on fire by A/C on 3/12, now reported to have sunk. (D.S. 460).

Mining.Harwich.

Patrol H.O. reports heavy Explosion E. by N. of Patrol (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0024/9).

S.N. 10A.

Completed (R.A.M.L. 1120/8).

Falmouth

Open for steam-propelled Ships only. Precautions. (C. in C.W.A. 1242/8).

Thames Estuary.

Explosions and Fireworks Night 7/8. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1545/8).

Plymouth.

Since my 1825/6, S.A. Gear detonated Mine 338° Breckwater Fort 3.1. cables. 250 yards ahead of Sweeper. (C in C. W.A. 1705/8).

Buoying
of Mines.

(C. in C. H.F.1802/8).

~~?~~ ARCHEOLOGY
~~OF~~ ACTUALITY
sunk.

Skipper H.M.T. CRAIGMILLAR reports upon arrival here vessel astern of him struck a mine position 3 miles S.W. from Mouse L.V. Vessel similar Dutch M/V CONFELD believed named ARCHEOLOGY or ACTUALITY. CRAIGMILLAR searched but found no survivors. Position buoyed, convoy escort informed by V/S. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1812/8).

No explosion heard by Commander M/S Sheerness who was near (Capt. M/S Sheerness 2305/8).

MINNA.

(Examination Vessel) Engines seriously damaged by Mine in 319° Fidra Light, Firth of Forth, 1.82 miles. No casualties (C in C. Rosyth 2201/8).

/WINDSOR.



War Diary.

MOST SECRET. 221

8.12.40.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining (continued).

WINDSOR.

Mined at 2004 in 52° 12'N 1° 53'E.
Taken in tow by GARTH (C in C. Nore
2317/8 to Adty) Arrived Harwich
1352/9 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1352/9
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1357/9).

Enemy Intelligence.

SEAL.

German Broadcast 7/12 claims SEAL
commissioned for service as U.-Boat
(V.A.S. 1147/8).

War Diary.8.12.40.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.EMPIRE ELK.

(British, 4748 Tons) Engine disabled in 59°N 21°W. Require help. (EMPIRE ELK 0110/8 to Adty) Require assistance (EMPIRE ELK 1820/8 to Adty).

Formby Light Vessel.

Now adrift from station after collision with unknown vessel. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0223/8).

CURACOA

Forecastle breakwater partly carried away and deck leaking. Am proceeding towards coast S. of Buchan Ness. (CURACOA 0544/8).

NAPIER STAR.

(British, 10,116 Tons) In collision (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1005/8). *(Lloyds gives damage as 12,196)*

EMPIRE THUNDER.

(British, 5965 Tons) Request you sail Tug ST. OLAVES to EMPIRE THUNDER reported in Tow of Trawler at 1200/7 in 58°4'N 10°56'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1227/8 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway). ST. OLAVES sailed. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1529/8).

LINCOLN.

My 1337/8. Has defects which will probably take 48 hours to repair. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1751/8).

SCIMITAR.

Damaged dome. Requires docking. Request port (Capt. D. Londonderry 1900/8).

SHIRLEY H.

(Barge) Have her in tow (WESTON 2051/8 to C. in C. Rosyth).

BROKE.

Defect in port condenser. Request SALADIN relieve me early Monday AM. I may anchor, repair defect, and rejoin Convoy before dark (BROKE 2239/8 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

CALABRIA. *BR 1137. British ss 9518 Ex Italian* Have searched in vicinity (CALABRIA) for 7 hours and found no trace. Am proceeding Londonderry to fuel. My p.c. and s. are 052° 43'N. 017° 24W 060° 12 knots Heavy westerly sea and swell. Weather, Force of Wind 8. HAVELOCK 1501/9). *See Page 237.*

8.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys

Shipping

W.N. 52

Code "Metric" escorts unappropriated. (N.C. S.O., Greenock 1043/8)

S.L. 56

Not met. Searched line of advance since 2000/7. My p.c.s. Weather. (HARVESTER, 1130/8 to C. in C., W.A.,) My 1555/7. In view of gale warning, BEVERLEY, BURNHAM to proceed Londonderry and await orders. ↑ (C. in C., W.A., 1348/8)

S.L. 56 not met. Am in company with BULOLO who lost convoy last night. My position, fuel, weather. (HESPERUS to C. in C., W.A., 1504/8)

If fuel permits and if in vicinity join S.L. 56 as additional escort, position (C. in C., W.A., 1648/8 to ST CROIX, NIAGARA, ST. CLAIR)

On meeting S.L. 56 at 1000/9 I shall have 120 tons fuel remaining. Can remain with convoy only during daylight, 9/12. Submit in view of damage already sustained in gale HESPERUS should return to harbour now. (HESPERUS 2025/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 1720/8 (BURNHAM to escort FORMIDABLE) and R.A.(D) H.F. 2115/8. On relief by PÆORUN and IMY as escort to FORMIDABLE, BURNHAM is to be sailed to join S.L. 56 (route) (C. in C., W.A., 2248/8 to N.O.I.C. Belfast) *See p. 216*

C.E. 19

Intend to sail 1545/10 (C. in C., Nore, 1216/8)

O.B. 256

Sailed BROKE escorting O.B. 256. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1220/8)

H.X. 93

After turning over to RODNEY, proceed towards 54.34 N., 35.29 W., and search. (F.O.C., 3 B.S. 1306/8 to AURANIA) (See America & West Indies)

F.N. 53

Humber departure 8/12 19th M.S.Group to join F.N. 53 for Aberdeen at 1545 (F.O. Humber, 1653/8)

M.V's.

12 M.V's escorted by RUBY and BRANLEBAS (C. in C., W.A., 1255/8) Amended. Only 6 M.V's and RUBY have sailed. (C. in C., W.A., 1934/8)

/O.B. 255.....



War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

O.B. 255

Londonderry departure 8/12. VETERAN for O.B. 255 (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1717/8)

Routes

South Atlantic (C. in C., S.A., 1737/8- see South Atlantic.)

F.S. 54

Reported at Nore 29 ships for London (N.C.S.O. Thames 1445/8)

A.S. 6

Arrived (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1058/8)

O.G.M. 47)
O.B.M. 257)

Sailed 1430/8, 15 ships escorted by DERBY COUNTY. Sailed 1715/9, 14 ships escorted by LEEDS UNITED. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1549/8)

F.S. 56

Sailed 1400/8. 13 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil)

W.N. 51

Sailed 1855/8. 11 ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde Sub Office Greenock, 2014/8)

O.B. Convoys

Admiralty routes for O.B. Convoys. Orders. (D.T.D. 2251/8 to N.C.S.O. Glasgow)

H.X. 91

Shall be in position 058° N., 011° 20' W., at 0900/8. Request aircraft to assist search. Weather. (WALKER 0200/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

Am escorting BELLEROPHON course degrees 150 1 knots. VANSITTART and HONEYSUCKLE in company. BELLEROPHON reports convoy scattered. In view of gale warning consider it desirable already damaged destroyer to move south. Have heard or seen nothing of CANDYTUFT since gale of 5/12. Weather report. (WALKER 1500/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

HONEYSUCKLE and CANDYTUFT are to proceed to search between 57° N., 10° W., 12° W., to round up any ships of H.X. 91. (C. in C W.A., 2016/8)

O.B. 254

My 1815/6. Master of BARON CARNEGIE ex O.B.O. 254 anchored in Islay damaged reports he is sailing for the Clyde. Will be off Mull of Kintyre at 1900/8. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1515/8)

/E.N. 38....

8.12.1940
Sunday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd

Shipping

→ E.N. 38

17. Cancel my 1711/7 (PELICAN to escort SS NALGORA from Methil to Clyde) PELICAN to act as additional A.A. escort to E.N. 38 sailing from Methil at 2200/8. as far as Dunnet Head. Thence proceeding independently to Tobermory. E.T.A. Duncansby Head is 0830/10. Code word "Mission". ~~MISSION~~. FOWEY pass to GAVOTTE. (C. in C. Rosyth 1607/8)

E.N. 37

My 1600/8 (Movements tonight 8/9) E.N. 37 off Duncansby Head 1900 proceeding through Pentland Firth. (C. in C., Rosyth 1852/8)

O.B. 256

After making rendezvous with O.B. 256 return independently to Milford Haven. (c. in C., W.A., 2020/8 to ROSEMARY)

→ E.N. 38

H.M.T's PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE additional escort FOWEY 14 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2315/8)

Slow F.S.

Difficulty has been experienced by slow F.S. Convoys in maintaining accurate timetable in heavy weather. Sometimes impossible with a following wind and sea to avoid arriving at Aldeburgh Light Float some hours before daylight.

Request escort vessels may be informed that Orfordness light. Shipwash Light Vessel and Sunk Light Vessel can usually be exhibited for a limited time in emergency if asked for 4 hours before required. (C. in C., Nore. 2148/8 to C. in C., Rosyth)



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Indo-China.

Your 0441/5. Concur. (interception of French Naval Forces in Indo-China). (A.C.N.S.(F) 0030/8 to C.in C. China).

OREGON
WYOMING.

My 1651/6. German safe conduct for OREGON and WYOMING not yet received. Ships should not be sailed from U.K. until further orders which may be expected in about one week. (D.O.D.(H). 1304/8).

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration".
"Ration".

Your 1303/7. Until first Convoy has been intercepted and report asked for in my 1645/6 has been received it is not possible to answer your question. You must assume that it is not possible to provide additional Cruisers forces from outside the Mediterranean. This also applies to para. three of your 1351/7. (D.O.D.(F) 0125/8 to F.O. Force H.)

C.S.18.
MANCHESTER.

My 2120/7. Intend sailing MANCHESTER for U.K. at 1600 today. (S.O. Force H. 1214/8 to Adty).

C.S.18 in MANCHESTER sails 1600/8.
(route).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1436/8).

Departure C.S.18 in MANCHESTER at 1600/8. Routed through 041° N., 019° W. E.T.A. in this position 0230 zone minus one 10/12. Request onward routing instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1632/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Azores.

Situation report at 1200/9. All latitudes North all longitudes West, RAMILLIES, ARGUS, FRANCONIA, FURIOUS, DIDO and four destroyers 38½ 17½ 3580 15. CALENDULA and ASPHODEL 43° 20' 180 10.



8.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Azores. (Contd.)

SL 57 37° 20' 350° 8.
 SL 57 (S) 341° 20' 355° 7.
 DERBYSHIRE 41° 23' on patrol.
 CIRCASSIA 40° 22' on patrol.
 CALIFORNIA joining RAMILLIES.
 SHEFFIELD patrolling accordance with A.T. 1758/6.
 Four Whalers probably fuelling at Ponta Delgada.
 Submarine reported in position 39° 22' at 2040/7.
 (D.O.D.(F) 1824/8 to CACHALOT).

Anticipate SHEFFIELD can remain Azores patrol until dark 12/12 arrive Gibraltar daylight 15/12. Submarine suspected in position 037° 50' N., 022° 15' W., at 1000 /7 course unknown.
 (SHEFFIELD 1955/8 to Adty).

JERSEY.

Gibraltar departure 2200/8 JERSEY for Plymouth E.T.A. 0900 zone - one 11/12. (Route).
 (F.O.C.N.A. 2232/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

South Atlantic.

Transports.
Convoy C.M.7.

For troops from S.Africa to East Africa. Details of arrangements. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown. 1051/8, 1212/8).

French Seamen.

My 1530/7, request earliest possible reply. Is difficulty anticipated in obtaining volunteers if these terms are offered?
 (Hd. of M. 1127/8 to S.N.C. Simonstown).

CALVO
SOTELO.

My 1202/6. Author now informs me that passengers in Spanish ~~Sloop~~ CALVO SOTELO were 8 anti-British Frenchmen 7 of whom were sailors from French Sloop BOUGAINVILLE, not 11 Germans.
 (S.O.I. Freetown. 1134/8 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

228

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.

Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Raider
Action,
5/12.

From analysis of reports it appears possible that raider engaged by CARNARVON CASTLE may be LEVANTE of ATLAS-LEVANTE line or similar ship. (Description) (D.D.I.C. 1146/8).

CAPO OLMO
TOUAREG.

Your 0107/7. Re transport of remaining 600 Free French. (N.C.S. & Duala 1929/8).

Repairs to
CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Important to know state of CARNARVON CASTLE on leaving for Montevideo and urgency of docking and refit. Alternatives are Simonstown, which is not desirable owing to size of ship, Durban, or U.K., Freetown. If latter alternative ship might be used for Convoy escort unless efficiency too much impaired. (C.in C. S.A. 2031/8 to CARNARVON CASTLE).

ENTERPRISE.
CUMBERLAND.
NEWCASTLE.

Your 1015N/7. My 1436 Z/30. So as to permit essential visit of ENTERPRISE to Montevideo and my transfer to CUMBERLAND, request NEWCASTLE be sailed as early as possible so as to arrive in K 33 not later than 14/12 with as much fuel remaining as possible. NEWCASTLE should then patrol K.33 (c) and (d). (R.A.S.A.D. 1310Z/8 to C.in C. S.A.)

My letter 352 of 30/11. H.M. Minister at Montevideo telegram 1904, 6/12 to C.in C. Africa. My visit in ENTERPRISE must depend on general situation. Most likely dates 12th to 14th/12. (C.C.S.A.D. 1431Z/8 to S.O.I. Montevideo).

ARAWA
MORETON BAY.

My 1622/7. Change of priority should now enable ARAWA to complete 24/12 exact date for MORETON BAY cannot be given until ship is taken in hand. (D.O.D.(F) 1610/8).

HIDLEFJORD,
Raider
Report.

Following has been read: QQQQ Merchant Vessel Raider, from HIDLEFJORD. Fired on by mysterious ship 5 20 N., 12 33 W. 8 miles off. T.O.R. 1511N/8. (Freetown 1730/8).

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)Operation
"Monsoon".

Adty. 1142/7. May be found possible to sail FURIOUS for operation "Monsoon" (date) Request you arrange for either DELHI or DRAGON to escort FURIOUS from Freetown to Takoradi and back to Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C. S.A. 1832/8).

PAN EUROPE.

My 1035/7. (overdue ship). PAN EUROPE arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1930B/8).

Shipping
Routes.

Amendments to his 0908/22/11/40. Route for Merchant ships sailed independently from South Atlantic ports to U.K. direct. (C.in C. S.A. 1737/8 to S.O.I's Freetown, Capetown.)

Mediterranean.R.C. Tripoli.

(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 0745/8, H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1705/8).

Dodecanese -
Intelligence.

B.2. report up to 26/11. (a) Italian warships Dodecanese active between Leros Patmos Caidaro (b) Italian auxiliary vessels on night patrol came close to Samos (c) confirms shortage of food Dodecanese (d) German consul Samos probably passing information (e) Some indication of smuggling Turkish vessels with which I am dealing. (Wolffson 1025/8).

Naples.

Air recco. 7/12. Details. (V.A. Malta 0945/8).

Italian
Mines.

New types of moored contact mines recovered. (V.A. Malta 1125/8).

BULLFINCH.

Your 1645/24/11. Date of arrival E. Med. Possible second vessel will be required permanently in Med. (b) Re Port A/S Officer Alexandria. (Hd. of M. 1356/8 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

8.12.40.

Sunday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)MALAYA.

My 1349/7. If you concur para.2(b) consider MALAYA should pass through Narrows not later than (date) since M.T. ships leaving U.K. will pass Gibraltar (date). (S.O. Force H. to C.in C. Med. 1912/8).

Transport of aircraft.

S.O. Force H. 1844/8 See Med. Vol.

Valona Combined.

Operational Summary No.181 to 1200/8. Greece. Day 7/12. Following are results of attacks on Valona. 0915 hours. 8 Blenheims hit 1 large ship remainder of bombs bursting in Dockyard area. 1320 hours. 8 Blenheims despatched to bomb harbour but only 2 reached target owing to exceptionally bad weather conditions. Bombing results unobserved. 2 Blenheims crashed in Greek territory. 1445 hours. 6 Blenheims despatched to attack harbour. Results unobserved owing to cloud and enemy fighter interception. 3 Blenheims failed to return. Reconnaissance of Corfu-Valona area revealed a large number of transports and merchant vessels newly arrived Valona. These probably incorrectly described as warships in my A.847 7/12. Large number of ships including transports observed disembarking troops at Krienero (40° 25'N., 19° 20'E. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1214/8).

Troop Transports.PEARLEAF.

C.in C. E.I. 1754/6. (Re formation of Force T). As C.in C. E.I. wants Oiler PEARLEAF so badly I can/do without her for the present. (C.in C. Med. 1507/9).

Enemy Convoy.

My 1703/29/11. Large Convoy escorted by several destroyers left Trieste 7/12 for Albania. (B.2.) (Capt: S.I. 1721/8 to TETRARCH, TRITON).

8.12.40.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Submarines,
Personnel.

Adty. 1228/29 and my 1372/SM 9 of 10/10, para.3 propose that after arrival at Gibraltar each of these submarines in turn shall proceed to Portsmouth as soon as practicable between and without prejudice to patrols in order to adjust complement, observing that many ratings in the 1st Flotilla have been abroad for nearly four years. If approved in principle request C.in C. Med. may be informed that this opportunity will occur and that the crews of these submarines should be adjusted accordingly before departure for Gibraltar.
(V.A.S. 1241/8 to Adty).

Operation off
Mersa Matruh.

Movements summary No.174. TERROR, APHIS, LADYBIRD supported by JERVIS JANUS NUBIAN operating off coast west of Mersa Matruh.
(C.in C. Med. 2127/8).

East Indies.Kismayu,
Japanese Ship.

Information has been received that a Japanese ship with a cargo of petrol heavy and machine oils arrived at Kismayu on 19/11. Report dates on which COLOMBO was on patrol off this port.
(1st S.L. 0212/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

Adty. 0212/8. COLOMBO 8/8 to 14/8 and 20 to 24/8, 0/10 to 12/10, on 14/11, then from 17 to 20/11 and again 26 to 28/11. CERES from 29/11 to 1/12. All dates inclusive. No shipping seen on the move at any time during these periods. Patrols and reconnaissances were also made off Mogadishu in September October and November.
(C.in C. E.I. 1716/8).

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)WESTRALIA.

WESTRALIA is to leave Colombo at 0300Z/9 and proceed to position 005° N., 092° E., and then patrol between this position and 001° N., 077° E.
(C.in C. E.I. 0816Z/8).

RANCHI.

My 1456/6. Leave patrol so as to arrive Colombo 0230Z/10.
(C.in C. E.I. 0820Z/8 to RANCHI).

CERES.

On completion fuelling Mahe proceed patrol off Kismayu adjust speed to arrive patrol area a.m./12. N.O.I.C. Milindini inform Nairobi.
(C.in C. E.I. 1020Z/8 to CERES).

SOUTHAMPTON.
Kismayu
patrol.

My 0634/5. Cancel reconnaissance of Mogadishu. SOUTHAMPTON adjust speed now so as to arrive off Kismayu about one hour before sunset on 10/12. Keep outside hundred miles from shore while on passage. Two ships recently arrived at Kismayu and on 6/12 were lying almost midway between Mtanga Yo Papa and Kismayu Island at Northern end of Southern anchorage. If still there, they are to be sunk if this can be done without unduly risking your ship.
(C.in C. E.I. 2114Z/8 to SOUTHAMPTON).

*(attached on 10/12, p. 289)*Aircraft
engines.

Requirements.
(C.in C. E.I. (0822Z/8).

MOST SECRET.8.12.40.
Sunday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.China.French ships.

Reported. 1. ^{S.S.} D'ENTRECASTAUX^E is en route to Indo China and will be followed by MIN and CAPADARAN (presumably from France).

2. French ship SONTAY will be loading about middle November for France as well as Madagascar.

Independent source confirms (two) and gives date of sailing 24/11. (N.C.S.O. Saigon 0340Z/8).

Free French Representative.

Your 107 7/12. My opinion of S. Re his contemplated visits to gain first hand information. (C.in C. China, 0511Z/8 to Brit. Embassy Shanghai).

AUTOMEDON
(sunk by
raider 11/11).

Following message received from seaman of OLE JACOB which was captured by German raider in Indian ocean: - from Chief Engineer, AUTOMEDON. Ship shelled, (corrupt group) and sunk 11/11. Killed. (list) Rest safe and prisoners on board raider (Consul Gen. Kobe, 0320Z/8 to Adty).

TEDDY.

My 1621/7. Re description of raider which captured TEDDY in Indian Ocean. Norwegian tanker TEDDY was subsequently sunk.

(C.in C. China, 0443Z/8 to Adty).

Shipping Routes.

C.in C. East Indies 1102/7/12. Routes for Merchant ships. I have given similar instructions. (C.in C. China, 0425Z/8).

America and West Indies.Loop Laying.

Your 1051/28 and 1433/4. Tugs are urgent, proceed with alteration to Whaler. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1002/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

H.X.94.

20 ships. Names. (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1121/7)

B.H.X.95.

Departure. Ocean Escort VOLTAIRE returning to Halifax. Route. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1123/8).

WAR DIARY.8.12.40.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)Canso
Examination
Service.

W.J.A.20. An examination service will be established in Straits of Canso on 22/12. Instructions to ships. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 1129/8 to S.O.I. Capetown).

U/Boat
Tactics.

Your 1919/6. Re U/Boat attacks on Atlantic convoys. Neither N.C.S.O. Bermuda or myself have had any previous information regarding current (Tactics) of U/Boats except instructions contained in Adty. 1645/22/11. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/8/to Adty).

AURANIA.
"Town" class
Destroyers.

After turning over H.X.93 to RODNEY proceed towards position 054° 34'N., 035° 29'W., and search for ST. CROIX, NIAGARA and CLAIR. ST. CROIX reported hove to with weather damage at 0404/8 in this position and out of touch with NIAGARA and ST. CLAIR. Break W/T silence as necessary when clear of convoy to report E.T.A. in area. (F.O.3 B.S. 1306/8 to AURANIA).

S.C.15.

34 ships. Names and cargoes. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B.1535/8). Sailed 1400 G.M.T./8. Route. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1828/8). Draft sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Sydney 1412/8).

DIOMEDE.
CARADOC.
VAN KINSBERGEN.

If IDARWALD still unlocated DIOMEDE proceed position 019° 25'N., 084° 20'W., by 0600 R/9 ready to continue search at dawn. CARADOC on completion of fuelling proceed towards 024° 00' N., 083° 00' W., making good 15 knots. Netherlands Gunnery Training ship VAN KINSBERGEN remain off Havana for the present conserving fuel as much as possible. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1701/8 to DIOMEDE etc.)

B.H.X.86.

17 Ships. Names. (Bermuda 1201/8).

WAR DIARY.8.12.40.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.MONOWAI
AORANGI.

MONOWAI left Suva 1800Z/8 escorting AORANGI until 0600Z/10. Then proceeds on patrol to Northwest of Fiji Islands to cover shipping.
(G.W.R. Wellington, 2218Z/8).

Raider Attack.

On shipping off Nauru 8/12. (See 9/12).



War Diary

8.12.1940
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

IDARWALD
Intercepted by
DIOMEDE

Have intercepted IDARWALD. Ship abandoned and on fire in position 021° 43' N., 084° 08' W., Am going alongside to assist salvage. (DIOMEDE, 1447B/8 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Orders to DIOMEDE, etc., if IDARWALD still unlocated (C. in C., A.W.I., 1701/8- See America & West Indies)

Your 2015Z/8 (No trace in War Reg.) Plane sighted and circled IDARWALD then passed close to DIOMEDE position 021° 43' N., 084° 08' W., at 2200Z. Not seen since. (DIOMEDE, 1643/8, to N.O.I.C. Kingston)

Regret exceedingly to report that ship has opened fired with Lewis Gun from Bridge ahead of the boats, the after Lewis Gun opened fire without orders at boat killing four and wounding five, one very seriously. (DIOMEDE, 2131/8, to C. in C., A.W.I.)

AUGSBURG

My 0431/7. Dairen reports German crew are ashore, ship presumed transferred to Japanese flag. (C.O.S., Singapore 0541Z/8)

NORDERNEY

Para reports NORDERNEY has moved from anchorage to dock to load bunker coal. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1339Z/8)

Handwritten notes:
* ...
...
...
8.12.40

MOST SECRETWar Diary

8.12.1940

SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips AttackedLOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Your 2100/7. Inform master of LOCH RANZA that he should sail as soon as practicable as tugs will have to be withdrawn shortly for other work. Crew of LOCH RANZA not required for passage may be accommodated in tugs if desired., (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1057/8 to THAMES)

Sailed from Islay noon today, towing LOCH RANZA 7 knots expected time of arrival Rothesay tomorrow morning. SEAMAN standing by to carry out assistance. (THAMES 2140/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

DJURDJURA

French 4070 tons S/M Raider Signal. Following has been read. SSSS 53.06 N., 22.00 W., unknown vessel. (Valentia Radio T.O.R. 1637/8 G.M.T.)

Following has been read: SSSS 53.06 N., 22.00 W., DJURDJURA followed by submarine (Plymouth W/T T.O.R. 1645/8)

FARMSUM
(Torpedoed 7/12)

No trace of FARMSUM and search has also been made for ship reporting being followed by submarine in a position to 052° 27' N., 022° 00' W., at 1735/8. Intend locating convoy S.L. 56., though route given in your 1648/8 differs from that in your 1555/7. It is essential to fuel in Loch Foyle on 12th December latest. Weather. (HAVELOCK 2001/8 to C. in C., W.A.)

FARMSUM not found in contact HAVELOCK proceed to assistance of CALABRIA torpedoed in position 052° 43' N., 018° 07' W., at 2007 HESPERUS continue search for convoy S.L. 56. (C. in C., W.A., 2022/8 to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS)

CALABRIA
* *British (ex Italian)*
s/s 9,515 stated in
BR. 1337 torpedoed by s/m
8.12.40.

* (Swedish 1277 tons) Following has been read SSSS 52.43 N., 18.07 W., CALABRIA torpedoed (Lyness T.O.R. 2020/8)

Request you will sail Tug PRUDENT to assistance of CALABRIA torpedoed in position 52° 43' N., 18° 07' W., at 2010 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2259/8 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

/EMPIRE JAGUAR.....

MOST SECRETWar Diary8.12.1940
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNShips Attacked-Contd.EMPIRE JAGUAR

British 5186 tons. The following has been read. 51. 34 N., 17.35 W., EMPIRE JAGUAR Torpedoed (Plymouth 2339/8)

H.X. 90
(Attacked 2/12)

Your 1521/7. Incident at 0230/2. Enquiry shows that ST. LAURENT did not pass through convoy at any time and was not in sight of any ships at 0230/2. At 0530/2, 6 or 7 merchant ships steering 070° passed about 4 miles ahead of ST LAURENT who was steering 320°. Further enquiry is to be made to clear up this incident. (C. in C., W.A., 1938/8 to Capt. D. Liverpool)

Tactics of
U-Boats

A case has recently occurred of one of H.M. Ships sighting an object in waters where U-Boats were known to be operating and maintaining her zig-zag course and her speed until torpedoed 23 minutes later.

2. Following information on tactics now being adopted by U-Boats is promulgated for information (Abridged)

3. Reluctance to attack any ship under escort in daylight hours.

4. Where their speed permits U-Boats may be expected to shadow a likely target during daylight hours.

5. Attacks at night (Procedure)

6. U-Boats are not deterred by severe weather conditions from attacking on the surface. The latest U-Boats are probably fitted with some form of R.D.F. as an aid for locating their targets at night.

7. U-Boats will not dive at night unless forced to do so.

8. A pyrotechnic signal from a U-Boat after firing torpedoes should be taken to indicate the presence of another U-Boat.

9. Maintenance of an efficient look-out particularly abaft the beam of vital importance. A turn away at full speed from any object sighted should be effective in avoiding attack. (D.A.S. 0130/8)

2 D. 1075 W.

War Diary8.12.1940
SundayU-BOAT CAMPAIGNSubmarines Reported

0012 D.F., probable U-Boat 53.30 N., to 54.00 N
17° to 19° W., (D.D.I.C. 0057/8)

1137 D.F. Italian U-Boat., 50°-51° N., 15° -17°
W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1228/8)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- One has arrived on patrol in
Azores area and may have been in 59° 40' N.,
21° 35' W., at 2040/7.

1 should reach Gironde today.

1 in 51° N.m to 52° N., 15° W to 17° W.,
at 1137/8 is probably bound for Gironde.

1 may still be in vicinity of Faroe Bank.

German- 1 about 52° 30' N., 19° W., at 1310/
7.

1 about 54° N., 17° W., to 19° W., at 0012/8
1 may have been in 57° N., 21° 42' W., at
0930/7.

1 in area 60° N., to 62° N., 17° W., to
20° W.

1 in about 55° 20' N., 10° 40' W., at
1853/6 is probably patrolling within 120
miles of Bloody Foreland.

The U-Boat in Cape Verde Islands area on
30/11 is probably now northbound.
(D.D.I.C. 1411/8)



War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Destroyer
Patrol

Four destroyers from Plymouth patrolled last night off the coast between Eddystone and Wolf Rock, to protect convoy leaving Dartmouth yesterday evening westwards.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Naval targets attacked last night included docks at Flushing, Dunkirk and Gravelines, docks and shipping at Bordeaux and Lorient. A direct hit on a submarine at Bordeaux is claimed, and many fires and explosions were caused,

Coastal Command

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked targets at Lorient, Cherbourg and Bordeaux.

Mining

Mines were found today in the Bristol Channel (AA, ROYAL SOVEREIGN sunk off Cardiff); in the Tyne where SS HINDPOOL was mined at a buoy early in the afternoon and the port was at once closed; In the Firth of Forth where WOLSEY exploded a mine without harm, and at Sheerness.



War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD attacked a submarine with unknown results this afternoon close west of the Azores. She considers that a submarine patrol exists there.

Mediterranean

Bombardment
of Makgila and
Sidi Barrani

Last night, TERROR, LADYBIRD and APHIS bombarded Makgila and Sidi Barrani with F.A.A. and R.A.F. cooperation.

America & West Indies

Submarine
Sighted

A submarine is reported to have been sighted off the south coast of Cuba.

Town Class
Destroyers
Damaged

NEWMARKET, WELLS and NEWARK were damaged by mischance while manoeuvring in dock today and will have to be docked. READING RAMSEY and RIPLEY left St. Johns N.F. for U.K. 1930 G.M.T/8 but RIPLEY returned to St. John's this morning with steering defect.

Australia

A.C.N.B. today outlined their commitments and made proposals for reinforcement of the Station.

War Diary.9.12.40.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Fishing hours in
Moray Firth

On account of short days, hardship to fishermen and to increase food supplies request approval to allow fishing vessels to leave harbours in Moray Firth one hour before sunrise instead of at sunrise provided they steer directly away from the coast and are darkened until sunrise. Request early reply. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1001/9 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/9 (D.C. 1147/9) At 2330/9 (D.C. 2330/9).

Movements.FURIOUS
DIDO

Amend A.T. 1303/8 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1822/8 (D.O.D.F. 0013/9 to F.O.C.N.P.)

KASHMIR. KIPLING.
PUNJABI. JUPITER.

Sailed Plymouth 1650/8 (C in C. W.A. 0028/9).

Nore

Dispositions for Night 9/10 (C. in C. Nore 0800/9).

SABRE.

Sailed E.T.A. Belfast 1600/9 (N.O.I.C.)

FORMIDABLE.
PIORUN.
VIMY.

My 1712/6. Departure delayed by weather. Intend sail her 2030/9. ETA. Clyde 0900/10 (FOIC ~~SABRE~~ 1030/9) Cancel my 2358/8 (C in C W.A. 1410/9 to HQFC) Sailed ETA Clyde 0800/10 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2100/9).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Adty. 2116/8. 2 Destroyers will be provided from Nore and 2 from Portsmouth (C. in C. Nore 1116/9 D.21 1402/9) Request you consider use of a distant screen of M.A./S Boats, arranging with C. in C. W.A. (ACN.S.H. 1235/9 to C. in C. Portsmouth) My 1116/9. 2 Destroyers detailed are to leave Sheerness PM/10 so as to pass North Goodwin at dusk. Route to Nab Tower at 0800/11. (C in C. Nore 1510/9 to D.21). To allow time to sweep long Approach Channel request ship may arrive off Beamer Rock at 1330/14. Request ETA May Island be signalled. (C in C. Rosyth 1550/9 to Adty). R/V for H.F. Destroyers 52° 28'N. 5° 28'W at 1600/12. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to amend R/V if necessary. (C in C. W.A. 2016/9 to C. in C. H.F.) Request you sail 4

/Destroyers....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.
Monday.

243

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH
(continued).

Destroyers accordingly. CURACOA to provide A/A Escort from Cape Wrath to Rosyth (C. in C. H.F. 2231/9 to R.A.D.) Request full action on Adty. 2117/8. (Air Ministry 1810/9 to Fighter Command).

MANCHESTER.

Left Gibraltar 1600/8. Route to Scapa. (F.O.C.N.P. 1620/9).

ROYAL SCOTSMAN.

Your 1507/7. Proceeding P.M. today as ordered (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1220/9 to Adty).

SKUDD VI.
POLAR V.

Your 1124/5 To be sailed by following route to Freetown (C. in C. W.A. 1248/7 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

HURRICANE.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1445/9).

PELICAN.

My 1741/7 ETA now PM/10 (C in C. Rosyth 1501/9 to WESTERN ISLES).

Northern Patrol.

Lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/9).

KING GEORGE V.
MATABELE. BULLDOG.
ELECTRA.

Left Scapa (A.C.O.S. 1740/9).

EDINBURGH.

To avoid possible U-Boats keep West of $24^{\circ}W$ till North of $57^{\circ}N$. (C in C. W.A. 1808/9 to EDINBURGH).

HARVESTER.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1929/9).

Operations.

Operation. "Specimen"
SPECIMEN.

F.O.I.C. Belfast to sail PEGASUS to join O.G. 47 at a R/V arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool. As no additional sloop is available, Leith is to detail a corvette to attend on PEGASUS during flying operations. (C. in C. W.A. 1133/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast) R/V at 1325/10 in 000^o Altacarry 8 miles (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

Patrol AX.

2 A/S Trawlers to patrol AX (C. in C. W.A. 1446/9 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

/Operation
MCNSOON.

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd.

Operation "Thomson"
MONSOON Cancel previous instructions. FURIOUS to be sailed on (date) Re aircraft. (A.C.N.S. H. 1700/9 to C. in C., W.A.) See Operations Volume.

Landing
Exercise
at Lamash

One Corvette to be sailed to Lamash fath- with to receive orders from CO.GLENGYLE. She will be required for about one week. (1st S.L. 1745/9 to C. in C., W.A.) Arrange with Capt. D. to comply with Admty. 1745/9 (C. in C., W.A., 1933/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Submarines

TAKU

Delayed. R/V 300° Longships Light 5 miles at 0845/10 (S.2.0514/9 to CUTTY SARK) My 1612/8 Amend position of TAKU as follows (V.A.S. 1029/9)

UPHOLDER

V.A.S. 1258/5. Intend sail for Gibraltar at 1400/10. Route. (S.5. 0849/9 to Admty.)

UPHOLDER
UNIQUE
USK

Following Total Bombing Restrictions arranged. (S.5 1001/9 to UPHOLDER) UPHOLDER leaves Portsmouth 1400/10 and UNIQUE and USK at 1400/11 for Gibraltar. Routes (S.5 1635/9)

Bay of Biscay

To intercept Enemy vessels using Biscay Ports, the following temporary Patrol Zones are established. My 1103/28/10 to S.2. only is cancelled. Instructions. Spanish territorial waters are not to be violated. (V.A.S. 1512/9 to S. 2.)

URGE
TROUBADOUR

Sailed TROUBADOUR to arrive Barrow 0830/10 as escort for URGE to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1532/9)

Positions

For following 24 hours at 0800/10 (V.A.S. 1629/9)

L. 26

Will leave Scapa 1530/10 for Dundee, escorted by THIRLMERE (A.C.O.S. 1824/9)

/Bombing.....



A
244

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

Bombing Restrictions

Institute Total S.B.R. in Holyhead 0830 to 1730 daily from 10 to 14/12 inclusive and in Portsmouth Area 1530 to 1830 10 and 11/12. (H.Q.C.C. 1910/9)

British Air Activity

East Coast

2 Blenheims from Dyce Patrol East Coast to Flamborough Head and return 0830 to 1230 today. (C. in C., Rosyth 0738/9)

Patrols

My 2244/30/11. ^{"Stand"} ~~STAND~~ and ^{"Hornli"} ~~HORNLI~~ will be flown today. (C. in C., Rosyth 0754/9)
^{"Hornli"} ~~HORNLI~~ cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C., 1258/9)

Hatston

Your 1539/5. R.A.N.A.S. proposes that 816 and 825 Squadrons move to Hatston about 15/1. Admty. Concurr. with this. (5th S.L. 1931/8 to C. in C., H.F.)

Destruction of Enemy A/C off Irish Coast.

Enemy long range aircraft operates off the south west coast of Ireland. It is intended to intercept and destroy this aircraft and one section of Blenheims is to patrol between Old Head of Kinsale and Fastnet from 0930/10 to 1100 hours. Keeping within visibility distance of Irish Coast but outside territorial waters. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1947/9 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity

ST. ROGNVALD

^{Lloyd's 1940-41. Gives tonnage 932.}
(British, 1069 tons) Attacked off Sumburgh (Wick Radio 1055/9)

Deptford

Late p.m/8 two H.E. and many incendiary bombs dropped. Some damage and fires (Supt. R.V.Y. Deptford 1130/9)

London

Port of London Authority Building hit at 2140/8 by heavy H.E. Bomb. Serious damage and fire. No Naval casualties. (F.O.I.C. London 1200/9)

A/C over Irish Ports daily

Your 1817/7. Irish witnesses declare A/C German, but marking not seen by English witnesses (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1207/9)

MOST SECRET9.12.1940
MondayWar DiaryHOME COMMANDSEnemy Air Activity-Contd.Unst

Following received from N.O.I.C. Lerwick begins:- Aircraft which attacked St. ROGNNA-VALD later flew over Unst machine gunning Burra Firth, Haroldswick and Skaw. No damage or casualties reported so far but A.E.S. No 4. and R.A.F. station at Skaw attacked. (A.C.O.S. 1306/9)

MiningOff Aldeburgh

Mine detonated by WINDSOR at 2004/8 in 52° 11' N., 1° 54' E. (WINDSOR 0007/9)

Sheerness

2 mines detonated and 2 loud explosions heard. Report by Group Officer in MILFORD PRINCE (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1001/9 to C. in C., Nore)

Operation
Z.M.E. 5.

To be carried out on night 10/11 or as soon after as possible for 7 miles 119° from 51° 16' N., 5° 52' W., (D.O.D.M. 1149/9 to C. in C., W.A., and ADVENTURE)

Firth of Forth

Mine exploded at 1300 in 56° 1' N., 2° 22' W No damage to ship. (WOLSEY 1305/9 to C. in C., Rosyth)

MINNA
(Mined 8/12)

Details. Towed to Albert Wharf, Leith. No casualties. (C. in C., Rosyth 1530/9)

Tyne.
SS HINDPOOL
Mined

HINDPOOL (British, 4897 tons) mined at T.I. Buoy (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1317/9) Port closed owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1319/9)

Eagle Ship
Bristol Channel
SS ROYAL SOVEREIGN
Mined

At 1142/9 a Mine detonated by ROYAL SOVEREIGN (~~British 4897 tons~~) in 51° 23' 46" N 3° 8' 51" W., (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1805/9)

OSLOFJORD
(Mined 1/12)

Now reported total loss (D.S. 462)



War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Stavanger

3 M/V's and 2 Destroyers off Stavanger at 1315 steering N. at 8 knots. A/C report. (V.A.S. 1508/9)

BISMARCK
EMDEN

Battleship BISMARCK was reported to be between Danzig and Swinemunde proceeding west on 24/11(B.2.)
A cruiser with two funnels is reported to have been in dock at Danzig on 26/11. (C.2.)
This cruiser may be EMDEN. (D.D.I.C. 1827/9)

Bordeaux

At 2040/8 a ship burning in River Garonne just South of Dock Entrance (B.C. Int Summary No 590)



War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

- DUNNOTTAR CASTLE
(A.M.C.) (British 15,000 tons) Damaged by collision with MANCHESTER CITY in 55° 31' N., 6° 34' W No 4 hold flooded. Returning Belfast. E.T.A. 1115/9. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 0802/9 and 0910/9) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1325/9)

- BREADWINNER (Motor Cobble P.D. 215) Sunk by collision with Motor Patrol Yacht BRACKEN in Peterhead Harbour at 1715/7. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0700/9)

- SHIRLEY H. (Barge) Left derelict by Tug FAIRPLAY I and towed into Tyne by WESTON. Inquiry by D of S.T. proposed (C. in C., Rosyth 1339/9 to N.O.I.C. Leith)

- MANCHESTER CITY (British 5600 tons) Damaged in collision with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. Cannot use anchor Proceeding to Clyde. (MANCHESTER CITY 0915/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

- P.C. 74 Arrived with A/S gear out of action. Sails 1800. (F.O.I.C. Milford 0925/9)

- EMPIRE ELK Request you sail Tug BRIGAND to assist in 59° N., 21° W., at 0110/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1004/9 to N.O.I.C. Staroway) Cancel my 1004/9 Ship now able to proceed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2125/9)

- WALKER
VANSITTART E.T.A. Liverpool 0900/10. WALKER has following major defects, and VANSITTART considerable upper-deck damage (WALKER 1040/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

- GARLAND Arrived with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1253/9)

- YEWARCH
(Bombed 7/12) Arrived in tow of Tug SCOTSMAN at 1115/9 (F.O.Humber 1130/9)

- Knob Light Vessel Your 1506/7. Inquiries are being made. (C. in C., Nore, 1441/9 to Admty.)

/ST MERRIAL....

MOST SECRET9.12.1940
Monday.
War DiaryCASUALTIES & DEFECTS-Contd.ST. MERRIEL
VAVSuperficially damaged by collision at 0100/9
South of May Island. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1559/9)NIKOKLIS(Greek, 3576 tons) Anchored off St. Johns
Point, Donegal Bay. Proceed to assist her
to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1643/9 to
ENGLISHMAN) Am proceeding (ENGLISHMAN
1820/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)AGHIA EIRINIProceed with despatch to assist in 54° 6' N
18° 18' W., at 1212/8 (F.O.I.C. Greenock
2155/9 to MARAUDER) Sailed MARAUDER from
Campbeltown at 2322. (F.O.I.C. Greenock
to C. in C., W.A.)SS VILLE D'ARLON
Overdue(Belgian 7555 tons) New York to Liverpool
in Convoy H.X. 90, is reported by Lloyds
much overdue and is believed lost (D.S.462)

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.12.1940
Monday.HOME COMMANDSShippingConvoys

- Estimated positions 0900/9 (D.T.D. to C. in C., H.F., 1347/9)
- W.N. 50 Passed 58° N., at 0230, speed made good 8 knots. (KING SOL to A.C.O.S. 0231/9)
- 1520/9 BROADWAY, GLEANER left Scapa to R/V (A.C.O.S. 1706/9)
- E.N. Following from KINGSTON ONYX 0100/9 57° 50' N 10° 46' W., course 130° Suggest R/V with E.N. convoy E. of Barra Is. 0111/9. (S.O. Northern Trawlers 0247/9 to F.O.C.N.P.)
- Your 0111/9. Concur. ENDEAVOUR to R/V with E.N. convoy in daylight (S.O.N.T. 0249/9 to KINGSTON ONYX)
- F.N. 59 Departure 9/12 for Harwich BASSET with F.N. 55 (N.C.S.O. Thames 0931/9)
- H.X. 95 AUSONIA ocean escort returning to Halifax (R.A. 3rd B.S. 0934/9)
- H.X. 92 Meet H.X. 92, 24 ships unescorted (position) 11/12 (C. in C., W.A. 1202/9 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)
- E.N. 39 }
W.N. 52 } Sail 1430/10 for Methil and act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 39 sailing 1830/10. Transfer to W.N. 52 due Cape Wrath 0030/12 and Duncansby 1030/12 (C. in C., Rosyth 1231/9 to JASON)
- O.G. 47 C. in C., W.A. 1133/9 R/V for PEGASUS 000° Altacarry 8 miles at 1325/10. O.G. 47 routed (positions) (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)
- Sailed PERIWINKLE for Clyde for O.G.C. 47 sailed CAMPANULA for Oban for O.G.O. 47 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1330/9 to C. in C., W.A.) O.G. 47 left Liverpool 9/12 routed (positions) (V.A.N.P. 1616/9)(C. in C., W.A. 1208/9) HIGHLANDER sailed (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1302/9) FLEUR DE LYS, WILD SWAN sailed to R/V in 00° Altacarry 8 miles (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1750/9)
- S.L. 56 Sailed BURNHAM to R/V (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1315/9)
- F.S. 59 Act as additional escort sailing from Methil 2300/11 escorted by EGRET, VORTIGERN leave convoy (position) proceed to Harwich (C. in C., Rosyth, 1317/9 to WATCHMAN)

/H.X. 90.....

War Diary9.12.1940
MondayHOME COMMANDSConvoys-ContdShipping

H.X. 90.

INGER arrived Barry Roads for Sharpness. Left Halifax in H.X. 90 lost convoy in gale 20/11. Report TAI YIN, ULYSSES turned back. INGER not attacked during voyage. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1345/9)

Your 1938/8/12 Re investigation into attack on H.X. 90. Only witness who saw this was Mr. Crawford 2nd Officer of EMPIRE PUMA who made following statement. "0130 G.M.T. 2/12 a war vessel either destroyer or sloop passed close under my stern. She had two funnels and was heading over to starboard side steering 120°. She appeared to be travelling at considerable speed. About a quarter of an hour afterwards a white flare appeared from her direction. The foremost funnel was very close to bridge and after funnel quite a considerable distance further aft". Time given in my 1521/7 was B.S.T. (Capt D. Liverpool 1455/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

F.S. 56

Departures Humber 9/12 M.L's 106, 108, 110 at 1445/9 to Outer Dowsing thence with F.S. 55. (F.O.I.C. Humber 1502/9)

H.G. 49

Departures Gibraltar 1300/9 DEPTFORD, VIDETTE escorting H.G. 49 VIDETTE part company 13/12. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1714/9)

F.S. 58

R.A.D., H.F. 1521 BROADWAY will sail as additional escort to F.S. 58, leaving Methil 1400/10, part company at 62 D buoy and escort Humber portion into Spurn and proceed Hull. On arrival Methil BROADWAY should anchor close to WOLSEY for escort instructions from her. (C. in C., Rosyth 1753/9 amended by 2121/9 to BROADWAY)

My 1751/9. For F.S. 59 read F.S. 58. (C. in C., Rosyth 2125/9 to Admty.)

~~Sailed Humber to R/V (N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1315/8)~~

S.L. 56

Proceed join S.L. 56 hove to at 1348/9 in position 054° 48' N., 018° 38' W., proceeding when possible 064° and routed through 056° 00' N., 012° 00' W., (C. in C. W.A. 1754/9 to LEAMINGTON)

/O. B. Convoys....

War Diary9.12.1940
MondayHOME COMMANDSConvoys-ContdShippingO.B. Convoys

Your 1556/29/11 (Rescue ships requisitioned to sail; RATHLIN, TOWARD, COPELAND, HONTESTROOM) Request it may be confirmed these ships will have sufficient W/T operators to keep constant watch. (C. in C., W.A., 2006/9 to Admty.)

4 M/V's

Intend sail 4 M/V's escorted by LORD ESSENDEN and JASPER from Needles 1715/9 E.T.A. Dartmouth 0800/10. F.O.I.C. Portland requested arrange for Portland Light from 2330 to 2340/9 and from 0001 to 0010/9 and C. in C., W.A. for Barry Head Light from 0640 to 0650 and from 0720 to 1730/10. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1253/9 to Admty)

O.B. 256

Sailed 0052/9 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0104/9)

H.X. 94

Route RAJPUTANA returns to Halifax (D.T.D. to C. in C., W.A., 1946/9)

F.S. 53

Arrived except 7 ships (list of non-arrivals) (N.C.S.O. Thames 1806/9)

E.S. 54

Arrived. Non arrival CITY OF LONDON, reported coming in F.S. 56. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1521/9)

F.S. 55

Arrived except BLUSH ROSE and CHEVINGTON former reported arrived Hartlepool (N.C.S.O. Thames 1821/9)

O.G. 47

Sailed escorted by GARDENIA and LEITH (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1440/9)
O.G. 47 sailed 1330/9. 8 ships, Commander B.W. Fairbairn R.N.R. in EGYPTIAN PRINCE for Gibraltar. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1423/9)

E.N. 39

H.M.T's ULLSWATER, RUMBA, SAON, additional escort JASON, ALYNBANK, 31 ships (15 overseas) Cose "Usage" E.N.L. portion "Monitor". E.N.O. Portion "Mixture" (N.C.S.O. Methil 1655/9)

W.N. 52 O

Intend sailing 1230/10 escort STELLA CAPELLA, 10 ships to R.V. with "Metric" 0930/11 (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1619/9)

O.B.O. 256

Sailed 0600/9, 14 ships (list) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1745/9)

H.X. 92

Meet, 24 ships unescorted. Route (C. in C. W.A. 1156/9 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)

E.N. 38

My 2316/8. Add to paragraph (B) extra additional escort PELICAN. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0920/9)

War Diary9.12.1940
MondayHOME COMMANDSShipping-Contd.Ocean
Escorts

Cancel my 0143/30/11 to C. in C., S.A. All A.M.C's or other of H.M. Ships acting as ocean escorts for H.X. S.C. and S.L. convoys, whether returning to overseas base or proceeding to the U.K. should normally leave their convoy 24 hours before reaching the rendezvous with local escorts. C. in C., W.A. requested to signal direct to ocean escort the route to U.K. from position of parting company with convoy. (D.T.D. 1648/9 to C. in C., W.A.)

Troop Convoys

My 1238/3. Delayed one day. Revised dates (C. in C., E.I. 1150Z/9)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.Operation
"Ration".

Your 1645/6. Intend carrying out "Ration" 12/12 on completion of training referred to in S.O. Force H. 0939/7 which had already been arranged. (F.O.C.N.A. 0946/9).

^RMARAKECH
EDEA.

Navy Depot. state ^RMARAKECH left Dakar for Casablanca 6/12. EDEA arrived from (? Zanzibar) with troops 6/12. (B.N.A. Washington 1755/9).

Situation
of French
Ships at
Gibraltar.

CHARLES PLUMIER 31 officers and men refuse to navigate vessel to U.K. (my 1210/5) and ship has missed convoy. I am informed by De Gaulle officer that an attempt to sabotage or scuttle will be made if they hear vessel is eventually to be seized. Armed guard is on board. Auxiliary sailing vessel LES GEMAUX 52 on board all Vichy. Ship unfit to navigate to U.K. except under sail. Trawler LORAGE 5 Vichy. Suggest Casablanca may be asked to send ship repatriate all above Vichy element. Hope crew for CHARLES PLUMIER will be found from among free French element but doubtful whether crew can be found for future French ships which may be expected especially in view of impending operation "Ration" unless further survivors from torpedoed ships arrive from Lisbon. No suitable accommodation ashore Gibraltar for officer class awaiting repatriation. (F.O.C.N.A. 1724/9).



254
MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WRESTLER.

Owing fuel shortage have been detached by RAMILLIES at 1830/8 (position and route) to Falmouth or Plymouth. (WRESTLER 0703A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CACHALOT
Azores Patrol.

Would be of great assistance to CACHALOT if she knew SHEFFIELD had orders not to close within say 25 miles of Ponta Delgada during dark hours unless chasing the enemy.
(V.A.S. to F.O.C.N.A. 1028/9).

Azores
Patrol.

Details of sanctuary for submarine on patrol. (D.O.D.(F) 1729/9 to SHEFFIELD CACHALOT, F.O.C.N.A.)

Group 109.

Proceed at 1100 G.M.T./9 (B.C. Ponta Delgada 1020/9)

S.S. HERMES.

(? Butch)

My 1552/6. HERMES sailed 8/12 due Cape St. Vincent 1800/9 thence (route) to Curacao. Speed 7 knots. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1146/9).

Italian S/M's
at Tangier.

Names reported as ^{COMMANDANTE} FAADI BRUNO and BENEDETTO BRIN. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1550/9).

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

South Atlantic.

As far as known, there are no German prisoners on board CARNARVON CASTLE. (D.D.O.D.(F) to Millington Drake 0309/9).

CARNARVON
CASTLE.
QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

On leaving Montevideo CARNARVON CASTLE to R/V with QUEEN OF BERMUDA at F.O. and to embark prisoners from her. CARNARVON CASTLE report E.T.A. at F.O. My 1524Z/6 QUEEN OF BERMUDA to take 800 tons of oil from oiler ARNDALE.

(R.A.S.A.D. 0850Z/9 to CARNARVON CASTLE Adty).

My 2031/8 and CARNARVON CASTLE's reply T.O.O. received as 1214Z/8 request your remarks. Ship is in no condition for convoy escort and repairs should be effected as soon as possible.
(C.in C. S.A. 1039N/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MOST SECRET.9.12.40.
Monday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)CARNARVON
CASTLE,
QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.
(Contd.)

Broadcasting proposed by British Minister Uruguay has no support from me and am opposed to any such publicity. CARNARVON CASTLE 1241Z/9 to Adty).

Your 0850Z/9. E.T.A. at F.O. 0300Z/11 intend anchor and embark prisoners at daylight. C.in C.S.A. pass to R.A.S.A.D. and QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (CARNARVON CASTLE 2158Z/9, to R.A.S.A.D.)

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE
damaged.

Sailed E.T.A. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0250/9). Damaged in collision 55.31N., 06.34W. (DUNNOTTAR CASTLE 0802/9).

HIDLEFJORD,
raider report.

Have you any further information concerning raider report from HIDLEFJORD T.O.R. 1511N/8? (D.O.D.(F) to C.in C.S.A. 1131/9).

Your 1131/9 No further information but HIDLEFJORD due Freetown 9/12 when information will be obtained and signalled.
(C.in C. S.A. 1216/9 to Adty).Submarines.

C.A.F.O. (5) 515/40. (vii) There are no allied submarines operating on S.A. Station. (C.in C. S.A. 1045N/9 to S.A.Station)

SWONA.Your 2100/6. Delayed in transit and not received until 1025/9. SWONA having already sailed unable to communicate instructions.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1125/9 to Adty).8th Submarine
Flotilla

Admty. 1228/29/11. After arrival at Gibraltar each S/M of 8th S/M will return once to Portsmouth between patrols in order that ratings longest abroad may be relieved. Adjust complement accordingly before they are sailed for Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (H) 1130/9 to C. in C., Med.)



WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DORSETSHIRE.

My 0955/5 detailed examination in dock has revealed nothing that could have caused excessive vibration reported in DORSETSHIRE 1915/2. After minor adjustments have been completed ship will proceed to sea p.m./9 for full power trial with Dockyard officers on board. Further signal will be made after trial. (S.N.O.Simonstown. 1207B/9 to C.in C. S.A.)

COLOMBO
CARTHAGE.
C.M.7.

Durban departure 9/12 COLOMBO and CARTHAGE escorting convoy C.M.7. E.T.A. Mombasa 1400/15. CARTHAGE proceeding in accordance with C.in C. E.I. 0352/29/11 para. (ii). (N.O.I.C. Durban 1548Z/9 to Adty).

NEWCASTLE.

Your 1310Z/8. NEWCASTLE will leave Freetown 0530/10 and arrive K.33 (d) 16/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1323N/9 to Cmdre. S.A.D.)

NEWCASTLE to leave Freetown 0530/10 and proceed to Square X 33 D and between following route. NEWCASTLE is to come under the orders of R.A.S.A.D. on leaving position 3. (C.in C. S.A. 1735/9 to NEWCASTLE).

FORT DE
TROYON.

Your 0018/7. FORT DE TROYON is not at present available for commercial voyages to U.K. Six inch coast defence guns for Tata and Port Gentil and free French Merchant marine personnel all ex Freetown due to be transhipped to FORT DE TROYON at Lagos about 15/12. She will then call at Duala to collect essential cargo of foodstuffs and live cattle for same ports. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1738/9).



257
MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

HAWKINS
W.S.4.B.

Simonstown 9/12. HAWKINS arrived and after fuelling departed to rejoin DEVONSHIRE and convoy W.S.4.B. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1830Z/9 to Adty).

DORSETSHIRE.

Your 2240B/9 N/T in War Registry. DORSETSHIRE is to arrive Freetown 0700/18 (C.in C. S.A. 2215N/9 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DUNNOTTAR
CASTLE,
CANTON.

My 2224/5 and subsequent signals. In view of difficulty in forecasting accurately dates of completion and that DUNNOTTAR CASTLE will not be delayed presumed you will wish fitting of catapult in CANTON deferred. Request immediate reply. (D.O.D.(F) 2259 to C.in C. S.A.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA,
ENTERPRISE.

Your 2316/8/12 to R.A.S.A.D.. For Minister (- regret oiling of QUEEN OF BERMUDA and repairs to ENTERPRISE both essential at Montevideo within next few days. Endeavour will be made to fuel QUEEN OF BERMUDA at sea - if successful her visit can be postponed until 18/12. Please ask permission for ENTERPRISE's visit 12 - 14/12. (R.A.S.A.D. 0815Z/9 to N.S.O.(I) Montevideo).

ENTERPRISE
re visit to
Montevideo.

Following from H.M.Minister. Your 0815Z/9/12. I attach great importance from point of view of not killing goose in making the visit of ENTERPRISE 13/12 to 15/12 viz with the appearance of Cmdre. celebrating anniversary of River Plate battle by attendance at cemetery and memorial service on arrival of Lord Willingdon morning 15/12. Would it not be possible to postpone arrival till say 1300 13/12. If impossible no disadvantage in delaying application till I get your reply, rather the reverse. Really think it worthwhile. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2147Z/9 to Cmdre. S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.9.12.40.
Monday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Spezia
Docks.

Adty. 1602/7. Consider Nos. 5 and 6 docks can probably take CAVOUR battleship but not LITTORIO battleship. Further lengthening of either dock impossible owing to canal. (V.A. Malta 0925/9).

UPHOLDER
USK,
UNIQUE.

UPHOLDER USK and UNIQUE are to be transferred to 1st S/M F. as from date of arrival at Gibraltar. (V.A.S. 1504/9).

Naval Mission.
M/T Ships.
MALAYA.

Asking to ^{be} consulted before appointments are made. (N.A. Angora 1522/9). Your 1351/7. Proposed operations. (C.in C. Med. 1013/9 to S.O. Force H). (S.O. Force H. 1615/9 to C.in C. Med, 2011/9 to C.in C. Med) See Med. Vol.

Transport
of Aircraft.

V.A. Malta 1731/9. See Med. Vol.

2 Submarines,
1 Minesweepers,
2 Torpedo Boats,
1 escort vessel
at Beirut.

My 1915/5. All French warships left here this morning. One submarine returned later. (C.G. Beyrouth 1745/9 to Adty).

Bombardment
of Maktila
and Sidi
Barrani.

Night 8/9. by TERROR, LADYBIRD, APHIS. Blenheims and F.A.A. aircraft co-operated. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/9)

Matruh bombed
British air
operations.

Night 7/8. Enemy A/C dropped 5 bombs on Matruh. No damage, or casualties. 8/12, Bardia, Sidi Barrani and Buenina attacked. 9/12 Sollum attacked. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1832/9).

MOST SECRET.9.12.40.
Sunday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Turkish
Mission.

Following from Admiral Kelly. Your 0259/5 to N.A. Angora para. one. Request I may be consulted on composition of mission before appointments are made. (N.A. Angora 1522/9 to Adty).

East Indies.Asmara
bombed.

Night 7/8. 2 Wellingtons bombed Asmara. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1227/9).

Military
Mission 106.

Re operation of dhows. (C.in C. E.I. 1218Z/9).

Shipping
for troop
movements.

See Page 321 in W.D. 10-17.
D. of S.T. 1722/9 to P.S.T.O. Bombay. See Operations Volume.

W.S.4.A.

My 1238/3. W.S.4.A. delayed one day. New dates. (C.in C. E.I. 1150Z/9), to (S.N.O. Red Sea).

Foreign
Legion.

G.O./29294. Immediate supply of shipping to transport French Foreign Legion from Duala to Port Sudan. Most Urgent. Material and personnel to be embarked as follows. (C.in C. M.E. 1250/9 to W.O.)

Suspicious
Vessel.

Norwegian ship FOSNA in position 8° 4'N., 74° 48'E at 1905 G.M.T./9 reported a suspicious vessel. FOSNA fired one shot and vessel steered away. FOSNA reported all clear at 1940 G.M.T. (C.in C. E.I. 2044Z/9).



260
MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

IDARWALD.

DIOMEDE 0917/9, 1252/9, C.in C. A.W.I.
1242/9, 2011/9, N.O.I.C. Kingston,
1555/9 See German Merchant Ships.

RHEIN.

Orders to CARADOC. (C.in C. A.W.I.
2011/9) See German Merchant Ships.

HUSTLER
Lost.

Weather bureau Washington reports
wreckage picked up at Swan Island of
British sailing schooner HUSTLER lost in
hurricane off Cayman Islands in October
with fifteen persons on board. Hull
not located.
(N.A. Washington, 1031/9).

READING
RAMSEY
and RIPLEY.

Sailed for U.K. 1930/G.M.T./8. ^PRIPLEY
returned to St. Johns N.F. 1130 G.M.T./9
with steering defect.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1046/9).

PRINCE
ROBERT.
Orders.

*
My 1832/5. Enter Callao 14/12 to
embark fresh provisions. Leave there
15/12 and proceed to establish patrol
off Talcahuano on 19/12. Endeavour to
create impression at Callao that your
sister ship is also operating West Coast.
Oiler SANADOLFO relieving BISHOPDALE
will transit Canal about 24/12 and will
be ordered to R/V with you.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1251/9).

*Orders for PRINCE ROBERT in view of
increased activity of German ships.

French ships
at Dakar.

Following from Navy Dept., From Dakar
6/12. French ships HOGGAR and VILLE DE
TAMATAVE arrived. Latter from Madagascar
CARIMARE, WORT, CAP BLANC left for
Casablanca.
(B.N.A. Washington 1309/9).

* WORT no trace in Lloyd's.

MOST SECRET.

9.12.40.

Monday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Submarine
Sighted
off Cuba.

S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1544/9.
See U/Boat Campaign.

TILAPA,
BAYANO,
(Fruit
Ships.)

Re loading and sailing.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston, Jamaica 1545/9).

NEWMARKET
WELLS
NEWARK.

While trying main engine in NEWMARKET 9/12 manoeuvring valve jammed caused ship to surge ahead into dock wall taking with her WELLS and NEWARK. Items of all three ships damaged necessitating docking. Ref. your 0628/22/11. No stiffness in working of this valve was apparent during basin trials yesterday. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1648/9).

ROCKINGHAM
ROXBOROUGH.

Arrived here 1500 G.M.T. today.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1659/9).

4 5 French
Trawlers.

St. Pierre reports ^{four} ~~five~~ French trawlers ALFRED, URANIA, ~~J.P. DUHAMEL~~, ^{JOSEPH} SENATEUR DUHAMEL, ~~DUHAMEL~~, having obtained coal from Cape Breton will sail for Casablanca within the next 36 hours with cargo of fish.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 1717/9).

GESAIN
DESSANBUC
QUERCY
BEARN.

Following from Navy Dept. American Naval Observer Martinique reports. French ship *GESAIN DESSANBUC arrived with food supplies 24/11 owing to detention Fort De France. French ship QUERCY is to leave for France early in December. Personnel of BEARN has been reduced probably to between 250 and 400.
(N.A. Washington 1830/9).

*BELAIN D'ESNAMBUC

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.9.12.40.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia.New Zealand.MONOWAI,
patrol.

Arrival Suva 0656Z/8 MONOWAI, departed 1800Z/8 escorting AORANGI for Honolulu for 36 hours, then patrolling North West of Fiji Islands.
(S.O.I. Wellington 0045Z/9 to Adty).

→ Raider
off Nauru.

On 8/12 enemy raider attacked shipping lying off Nauru. TRIADIC observed on fire. Other vessels possibly attacked are TRIASTER, KOMATA, VINNI, TRIONA. 2 vessels with Japanese markings observed standing by TRIADIC. No Japanese ship expected at Nauru. Large vessel presumably raider made off at 0510Z at high speed in a south easterly direction. Description one funnel close to bridge superstructure amidships, funnel raked, 2 masts, counter stern, raked stem, hanger, 6000 tons.
(A.C.N.B. 0054/9 to Adty etc.).

→ Raider off
Nauru.

Your 70014Z/9. (0054 presumably)
Since approximately 1800/7, there has been no sign of VINNI TRIASTER KOMATA. TRIONA has not been sighted at all and should normally have reached here late p.m. 7th or early 8th. Have instituted continuous Watch on 500 k/cs. Look out is maintained half hour before sunrise to half hour after dark. Early a.m./9 visibility good no ships in sight. Following is description of two enemy vessels.
(R.O. Nauru 0538Z/9).

HERTFORD
Mined
7/12.

My 1300Z/7 HERTFORD successfully towed to Spalding Cove Port Lincoln. 2 men slightly injured only casualties.
(A.C.N.B. Melbourne 0630Z/9).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET ²⁶³

9.12.40.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

New Zealand. (Contd.)

Reinforcement
of Australian
Station.

Australian commitments. Proposals for reinforcement. (Naval Board, Melbourne 0710Z/9). See Operations Vol.

MELBOURNE
STAR.

My 0340Z/2. MELBOURNE STAR due Aden 17/12 thence Suez has following service cargo for M.E.
Request P.S.T.O. Egypt notify Governor Malta in accordance with D.S.T. 1636/1/9. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne 1104Z/9).

MOST SECRETWar Diary9.12.1940
MondayGERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSIDARWALD

Boarded 0650. Alongside 0725. Ship still floating but very deep. Water making in engine and boiler room but not appreciably in holds. Salvage tugs essential. Endeavouring to tow and beach in position 022° 02' N., 083° 49' W. (DIOMEDE 0917/9)

Your 0917/9. Unless you consider ship is definitely worth salvage and re-conditioning after beaching, you should sink her. (C. in C., A.W.I. 1242/9 to DIOMEDE)

IDARWALD has sunk. Am proceeding Kingston with 8 officers and 37 rating prisoners including 5 injured at 20 knots at noon (? today) (DIOMEDE 1252/9)

Cancel my 0400/9. DIOMEDE 1447/8 and 0917/9 *U.S.* salvage ship WILLET[^] will arrive in first position 1500R/10 and proceed to second position 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1555/9)

DIOMEDE 1447/8 IDARWALD sunk. DIOMEDE proceeding Jamaica to fuel and land prisoners (C. in C., A.W.I., 2021/9 to Admty.)

RHEIN

RHEIN position 026° 00' N., 086° 52' W., course 100° speed 7 knots at 1130R/9. Proceed at 20 knots to arrive approximately 026° 00' N., 084° 30' W., on farthest (? groups omitted) on circle at 0600R/10 and carry out independent curve of search Southwards to cover approximate sector between 090° and 170° from enemy's 1130R/9 position. (C. in C., A.W.I., 2011/9 to CARADOC)

SPEZIA

Left Barcelona for Genoa 7/12. (D.S. 463)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPSAEQUITAS

My 1450/20 etc., AEQUITAS under escort arrived Rio de Janeiro night 8/9. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1520/9)

FAUSTO

B.2. report FAUSTO at Montevideo has sold cargo and will unload shortly. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2228Z/7)



War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

U-Boat
Tactics

Admty. 1919/6, para 4. After 1645/22/11
add "Not to all addresses". (D.A/S.W. 2026/9)

Ships Attacked

O.B. 244
(Attacked 23/11)

Commodore O.B. 244 signal 0801/23 (No trace
in War Registry Message called for)
BLAIRESK not torpedoed this attack and
believed vessels torpedoed were OAKCREST
in addition to TYMERIC and ANTEN (C.O.A.C.
Halifax 1020/9)

LOCH RANZA
(Torpedoed 2/12)

Arrived Rothesay LOCH RANZA ex H.X. 90 in
tow of Rescue tugs THAMES and SEAMAN (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 1145/9)

CALABRIA.
(Torpedoed 8/12)

Have searched in vicinity CALABRIA for 7
hours and found no trace. Am proceeding
escorted to fuel. My p, c and s 052° 43' N
017° 24' W., 060° 12 knots. Heavy Westerly
sea and swell. Force of wind 8.
(HAVELOCK 1501/9)

PALMELLA
(Torpedoed 1/12)

Press report received that British PALMELLA
was sunk off Portugal. Survivors were
proceeding Lisbon in Spanish NAVEMAR.

GALLIA

Please report whether U-Boat casualty and
whether torpedoed or shelled and time and
position. Also any information about
Swedish GWALIA reported lost off Portugal.
(D.N.I., 1520/9 to N.A.Lisbon)

PALMELLA

Master of PALMELLA torpedoed on 1/12 in
40° 30' N., 13° 30' W., reports fore part
of ship was afloat after after part sank
and constituted danger to navigation.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1845/6)

HAVBOR

Master BENREOCH reports picking up raft
and four life belts from HAVBOR on 28/11
in 005° 54' N., 012° 29' W., no survivors
found.



War Diary

9.12.1940
Monday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

0730

A.F. message S/M sighted submerged, 38.03 N., 24.05 W., at 0639/9 (D.D.I.C. 1220/9, 1221/9) (ESPERANCE BAY 0730/9 F.O.C.N.A. 1140/9)

Panama reports from reliable source unknown submarine sighted off South Coast of Cuba between Manzanillo and Santa Cruz Del Sur. (S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1544/9)

1711

By D/F 49° N- 50° N., 13° W- 15° W., Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1746/9)

1315

About 200' W., of Ushant position indefinite. Italian (D.S. 462)

Caribbean

1157

Coast of Cuba, near Manzanillo, Unidentified submarine (D.5) (D.S. 462)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- 1 on 38° 03' N., 24° 05' W., at 0730/9.

1 about 48° N., to 49° N., 13° W., to 14° W bound for Gironde.

1 bound to outer N.W. Approaches was in about 51° N., 16° W., to 17° W., at 1945/8

1 should now be southbound from Faroe Bank area.

German- 1 in 52° 43' N., 18° 07' W., at 2007/8.

1 in 53° N., 22° W., at 1744/8

2 in N.W. Approaches one of which may be in area 55° N., to 56° N., 10° W., to 13° W and other possibly north of 54° N., and west of 18° W.

Possibly one near 60° N., 20° W. (D.D.I.C. 1355/9)

Submarines Attacked

By SHEFFIELD

Attacked firm contact with five depth charges at 1750/M., in position 039° 38' N 028° 09' W., Result unknown. Consider certain it was S/M and a patrol now exists West of Azores. (SHEFFIELD 1847/9)

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

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

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

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

- (a) Movements of H.M. Ships (prepared by Operations Division, Naval Staff) (23 February 1940).
- (b) Western Approaches (daily) Situation Reports (1 September 1943).
- (c) Dispositions and Movements (Foreign Stations) (1 September 1943).
- (d) Convoy Returns (Positions of convoys and composition of escorts, positions of independent ships and H.M. ships: from Combined Plot) (1 March 1941).
- (e) Daily Convoy Summary (Report made by Admiralty to 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.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation
"Specimen".

PEGASUS sailed early this morning from Belfast, for operations with Convoy OG47.

Convoy HX92.

The ocean escort and half of convoy HX92 have been dispersed by the gale.

British Air Activity.Coastal
Command.A Patrol was flown this forenoon to intercept the enemy long range aircraft which operates daily off the South West Coast of Ireland. *No interception was made.*

The W/T Station on Vikero Island, off Romsdalsfjord was attacked today.

Bomber
Command.

Bad weather on the Continent caused operations to be considerably reduced last night. Lorient was successfully attacked.

Enemy Air Activity.There ~~were no attacks on shipping or naval ports today,~~ and practically no offensive activity, whatever, though two convoys called for fighter protection.

MOST SECRET.10.12.1940.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.SITUATION REPORT.Mining.Operation.
2.M.E.5.

ADVENTURE reported this operation (minelaying in the declared area South of St. George's Channel) completed shortly before midnight today.

No minelaying by enemy aircraft was detected last night.
The Tyne and Thames are open, the latter with certain precautions.

South Atlantic.

The suggestion that Dutch ships in British convoys are guiding U /Boats to attack is made by N.C.S.O. Freetown today.

Mediterranean.REGULUS
lost.

REGULUS is 3 days overdue from patrol in the Gulf of Otranto and Adriatic and must be regarded as lost.

Air attack
on Valona;
ship hit.

5 Blenheims attacked Valona today. One ship was hit on the stern.

Advance of
the army in
Egypt.

Naval units are supporting the advance of the army, off the Coast of Egypt. Lighters are being used to ease the Transport difficulties of the army.

WAR DIARY.10.12.40.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies.

SOUTHAMPTON attacked shipping firing 7 salvos at a Japanese ship, at Kismayu today. Results were not apparent. The shore batteries fired accurately at SOUTHAMPTON up to 24000 yards, but caused no damage.

China.

The policy of gradual withdrawal of British and Allied ships from Japanese waters is likely to be accelerated in the near future.



MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Town Class

Allocation of
TOWN CLASS
Destroyers and
PIORUN.

Destroyers are allocated as follows:-
(A) LINCOLN, LEAMINGTON, to Londonderry for 1st or 2nd Escort Groups.
(B) GEORGETOWN to Clyde for 3rd or 4th Escort Groups.
(C) MANSFIELD, MONTGOMERY to Liverpool for 5th or 6th 7th or 8th Escort Groups.
(D) PIORUN to Clyde for 10th Escort Group. CHURCHILL to Clyde for 11th Escort Group.
(2) MANSFIELD is Norwegian manned.
PIORUN Polish manned.

(C. in C. W.A. 1942/10).

'Deluge'
DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/10 (D.C 1148/10) At 2330/10 (D.C. 2340/10).

Movements.

KASHMIR. KIPLING.
PUNJABI. JUPITER.

Arrived Plymouth 1035/9 (C. in C. W.A. 0020/10).

GARTH, CATTISTOCK.

C. in C. Nore 1510/9. Sail at 1430 today (D. 21 0631/10).

REPULSE.
SOMALI. MASHONA.
BEDOUIN. ESKIMO.

Proceed executing previous order (F.O. C. 2 C.S. D645/10 to REPULSE)
Expect arrive with Destroyers 1400 today (REPULSE 0902/10 to A.C.C.S.)
Arrived Scapa 1445 (A.C.O.S. 1457/10).

FORMIDABLE
PIORUN
VIMY

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0905/10)
Intend sail FORMIDABLE escorted by VIMY, DOUGLAS, and KEPPEL at 0745/11.
E.T.A. Scapa 1315/12. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1920/10).

NIGER, SELKIRK.
HUSSAR, FITZROY.
HARRIER. GOSSAMER.

Sailed 0900/10 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0914/10)
Arrived 1551 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1556/10).

NIGERIA.

Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 0920/10).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1550/9. Request you arrange passage of QUEEN ELIZABETH after passing North Channel to conform with C. in C. Rosyth's requirements. (A.C.N.S.H 1028/10 to C. in C. H.F.).
Adty. 2116/8 KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER have been ordered to arrive Nab 0830/11 and to return to Plymouth on relief by H.F. Destroyers. (C. in C. W.A. 1152/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Amendment.....

MOST SECRET.10.12.40.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements (continued).QUEEN ELIZABETH
(continued).

Amendment to his 1402/9 (D.21 1254/10)
(Re names of 2 destroyers detailed)
Adty. 1028/10. Propose that, after
passing through 58° 28'N 5° 28'W.,
Ship should adjust speed to pass May
Island at 1100/14 (C. in C. H.F.
1301/10 to C. in C. W.A.

SOUTHDOWN with EXMCOR, BRILLIANT,
PYTCHLEY proceed passing Switha at
2200 today to R/V with QUEEN ELIZABETH
in 52° 28'N 05° 28'W at 1600/12.

2. QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by all
available destroyers of 5th D.F. with
4 Hunt Class Destroyers from Nore as
A/A protection leaves Portsmouth
PM/11th estimated speed of advance
18 knots. Except for mark M. Pom
poms she is unarmed.

3. When met take over A/S escort
from 5th D.F. and continue escort
to Rosyth. Hunt Class Destroyers
from Nore will Remain in company until
clear of North Channel.

4. CURACOA will provide A/A protection
from Cape Wrath onwards.

5. Air escort is being arranged until
clear of North Channel and again on
passing Cape Wrath until arrival at
Rosyth.

6. QUEEN ELIZABETH is due to arrive
off Beaver Rock Rosyth at 1330/14
and speed after passing May Island
will be in accordance with H.W.O.

38 para 18. (R.A.D. 1414/10 to SOUTHDOWN)

HOLDERNESS, CATTISTOCK sailed Sheerness
1440/10. E.T.A. Nab Tower 0800/11.
C. in C. Nore 1542/10 to C. in C.
Portsmouth)

C. in C. H.F. 1301/10. Concur (C. in C.
Rosyth 1638/10 to C. in C. H.F.).

Adty. 2116/8, 1235/9, 1028/10 C. in C.
Rosyth 1550/9 C. in C. W.A. 2016/9.
Intend sail QUEEN ELIZABETH from
Spithead at 1600/11 for Rosyth,
escorted by KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI,
JUPITER, FERNIE, CLEVELAND, HOLDERNESS,
CATTISTOCK. Route Expect pass Duncansby
Head 2200/13 and May Island 0900/14.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1723/10 to Adty)

Following arrangements to be made to
provide Air Escort for Ships during
Daylight Hours (HQFC 1910/10).

/KASHMIR.....



War Diary.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (continued).

QUEEN ELIZABETH.
(continued).

KASHMIR, PUNJABI, KIPLING, JUPITER
sailed 1650. E.T.A. Nab 0830/11
(C in C. W.A. 2004/10).

Adty. 2116/8 and 2117/8. Fighter
Command to provide 8 Gun Fighter
Escort during daylight Lands End to
Rosyth in following sections, and
Coastal Command by day in areas not
covered by Fighter Command. Maximum
scale of protection throughout passage
of ship. Importance of operation is
emphasized (Air Ministry 2100/10).

My 1723/10 M.A./S.B's 53, 56, 58, 59
and and 60 will carry out a Covering
Patrol 10 miles to S. of QUEEN ELIZABETH
as far as longitude of Lizard, whence
they will return to Portsmouth.
(C in C. Portsmouth 2223/10) C. in C.
H.F. 1301/10 Concur (C. in C. W.A.
2226/10).

AMBUSCADE.

Sailed for Greenock (F.O.I.C. Glasgow
1131/10).

HESPERUS.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1226/10).

NIAGARA.

Position 56° 48'N 11° 30'W, course
066, speed 12 knots E.T.A. Position C.
at daylight (NIAGARA 1400/10 to C. in C.
W.A.).

HOLDERNESS.
CATTISTOCK.
FERNIE. CLEVELAND.

Your 2116/8. Propose that 4 HUNT-Class
Destroyers should proceed to Clyde
after escorting QUEEN ELIZABETH and
escort RAMILLIES to Devonport. (C. in C.
W.A. 1852 /10).

Approved (D.O.D. (H.) 2204/10).

PELICAN.

Arrived Tobermory (WESTERN ISLES
2115/10).

Operations.

Operation "Specimen"
SPECIMEN.

Sailed PEGASUS as by C. in C. W.A.
1133/9 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0420/10).

Troop Embarkation
at Lamlash.

Sailed GLENGYLE, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, FREESIA
for Lamlash (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015/10)
Sailed GLENROY for Lamlash. (F.O.I.C.
Greenock 1500/10).

/Proposed operation.

MOST SECRET.10.12.40.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. (continued).Proposed
Operation.(D.O.D.(H.) 1743/10 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).
See Operations Volume.Iceland.QUEEN OF THANET returned to Reykjavik
2300/10 (F.O.I.C. Iceland 2301/10).CIRCASSIAIn view of possible U Boat activity
off Azores, operate in following areas
leaving G.2. for F.2. at 1200/11
(F.O.C.N.P. 2230/10 to Western Patrol).Dover shelled.Five rounds from Coastal Batteries
between 1919 and 1952 today. 4 fell
near R.M. Siege Battery and 1 in Dover.
No damage or casualties reported.
(V.A. Dover 2234/10).Submarines.UPHOLDER.

Sailed 1433 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1503/10)

L.26.Sailed for Dundee, escorted by THIRLMERE
E.T.A. 0930/11 (A.C.O.S. 1540/10).SUNFISH.Arrived ^{Blyth} (S.6. 1635/10).Positions.For following 24 hours at 0800/11
(V.A.S. 1734/10).British Air Activity.Patrols.Following being flown today (C. in C.
Rosyth 0716/10).FRIESENLAND.A/C of 217 Sqn to attack this A/C
Security Vessel tonight in dry dock
at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1100/10 to 15
Group, St. Eval).Lorient.A/C of 53 and 59 Sqdns to attack
Power Stations, S/M's and Dockyard
tonight. A/C of 22 Sqn to attack S/M's
(H.Q.C.C. 1101/10 to 16 Group, Thorney
Island).Enemy Air Activity.Convoy "Season".
~~SEASON.~~Help. My position 51° 47'N. 1° 45'E
(HUSSAR 1125/10) Fighters have left
C. in C. Nore 1135/10 to HUSSAR)Convoy "Agent".
~~AGENT.~~Help. Position 57° 41'N (?Longitude)
(VERSATILE 1150/10).

/Orkneys.....

MOST SECRET.10.12.40.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. (continued.)Orkneys.

My 1349/9 At 1210/9 A/C attacked ~~Unstacs~~
~~UNSTACS~~ at Saxavord, station at Skaa,
and Haroldswick, and Surnburgh, and
Unst. Particulars. One slight casualty
in Unst. (A.C.O.S. 1707/10).

Spurn Head.

Adty. 1927/4. Reply as to failure of
A/A guns to engage Enemy A/C at 1710/3
(Antacor 2000/10 to Dacoast 4).

LONDONDERRY.

One A/C dropping Flares in 52°25N 2°E.
(LONDONDERRY 2333/10 and 2338/10).

Mining.Z.M.E. 5.

Intend leave Milford Haven at 1800/10
lay at 2230, returning about 000/11.
(ADVENTURE 1003/10) Completed
(ADVENTURE 2345/10).

Thames.

Open. Precaution (F.O.I.C. London
1055/10).

Thames Estuary.

Explosions and Fireworks on Night 9/10
(X.D.O. Sheerness 1215/10).

Dover.

Routine sweeps to 0800/10. One Mine
exploded $\frac{1}{2}$ mile West of No. 10 Buoy
in QZS 105 (V.A. Dover 1255/10).

Tyne.

Open (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1315/10).

ARETHUSA.

Arrived Scapa 1307 (A.C.O.S. 1457/10).

SOUTHERN PRINCE.(Op: S.N. 10A.)

Arrived Port Z.A. 1540/10 with
PORT QUEBEC, MENESTHEUS, AGAMEMNON,
BATH, and ST. ALBANS (TRELAWNEY 1548/10).

T.Z.R.I.

(Faroese Trawler) Mined at about
0400/10 in 65° 20'N 13° 40'W. May
be derelict or sunk. Abandoned by
crew. Crew safe. (F.O.I.C. Iceland
1742/10) Name was T.Z.R.I. (one)
not THORY. Skipper admits knowing
prohibited area but thought he was
outside it (F.O. Iceland 1603/12).

THURID (Faroese) S.V.
(British Mine)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown
Vessel.

1 small slow Vessel bearing 284°12' from Sumburgh at 2325/9. (A.C.O.S. 1607/10).

Warship
Among
HX 90
2/12.

Following statement by Mr. Crawford of EMPIRE PUMA in HX 90"0130 G.M.T./2. A War vessel either Destroyer or Sloop passed close under my stern. She had two funnels and was heading over to Starboard side steering 120°. She appeared to be travelling at considerable speed. About a quarter of an hour afterwards a white flare appeared from her direction. The foremost funnel was very close to bridge and after funnel quite a considerable distance further aft."

Request you interregate all Masters of Ships from HX 90 to obtain further information on this incident. (C. in C. W.A. 2000/10).

Boulogne.
BOULOGNE.

R/C at 1440/10 (PIU 2258/10).

BISMARCK
TIRPITZ

French press 23/11 quotes Voelkischer Beobachter announcing commissioning of these ships (A.N.A. Istanbul 1800/10) (N.I.D. Comment).



War Diary.

275
MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

EMPIRE THUNDER.

Your 1720/9. Search should be made back to 58° 4' N 10° 56' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0110/10 to ST. OLAVES) EMPIRE THUNDER returned from O.B.O. 253. Engines disabled (N.C.S.O. Oban 1215/10) EMPIRE THUNDER has arrived Oban (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1442/10 to ST. OLAVES).

LEAMINGTON.

Your 1754/9. Delayed owing to engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0230/10 to C. in C. W.A.) Expect to complete 14/12 (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1842/10 to C. in C. W.A.).

WALKER
VANSITTART

WALKER's 1040/9. WALKER and VANSITTART arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1012/10).

NYLAND.

(Norwegian 1375 Tons) Proceed to assist. Reported aground on West Rock 56° 14' 30" N 6° 27' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1202/10 to SCHELDE and SUPERMAN) SUPERMAN return to Campbeltown (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1610/10).

ORCHIS.

Aground at Tobermory Proceed to refloat (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1202/10 to SUPERMAN) Refloated. No damage as far as observed. (WESTERN ISLES 1825/10).

KEPPEL.

Asdic out of action. May require docking for repairs to dome (R.A.M.L. 0903/10) Repairs will be carried out on her return to Scapa with FORMIDABLE. (C in C. H.F. 1537/10).

HOLLYHOCK

(Corvette) Damaged in gale. Details Propose sail to Liverpool PM/11 → (WESTERN ISLES 1214/10 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).

TULIP.

(Corvette) Consider propellor only → damaged (WESTERN ISLES 1214/10).

AGHIA EIRINI.

Now ashore in Clew Bay. Crew all safe on Achill Island. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1713/10 to Adty).

CRAIGMILLER.

(M/S Trawler) Arrived 1400/10 (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft. 1410/10).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

276

10.12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS (continued).

ASSURANCE.

(Rescue Tug) Arrived. Unfit for sea
(F.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1217/10).

WINDSOR.

Intend sailing in tow of Tug ST. MELLONS
at 0915/11 for Sheerness, escorted by
WIDGEON (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1339/10).

MONA'S ISLE

(A/A Guardship) Collided with Pier
at entrance to Methil Docks today.
Request early survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil
1445/10).

NORTHCOATES.

Intend sailing in tow, escorted by
rest of 44th M/S Group, to arrive
Aberdeen 1200/12 (A.C.O.S. 1820/10).

HAVELOCK.

Position 55° 21'N 10° 48'W Details
of damage. Am proceeding to Liverpool.
(HAVELOCK 2112/10 to C. in C. W.A.).



277
MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Estimated positions 0900/10 (D.T.D. 1920/10).

F.N. 55

Arrived 0430/10 (N.C.S.O. Methil 0507/10).

H.G. 48.

Escorted by DEPTFORD and VIDETTE, position (F.O.C.N.A. 1420A/10) See also North Atlantic.

O.B. and O.G.

Order of sailing escort groups O.B. 260 - O.B. 266 and O.G. 48 (C. in C. W.A. 1528/10).

O.G. 47.

Sailed 0055/10, escort PERIWINKLE (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0101/10) Seaplane carrier PEGASUS sailed from ~~Belfast~~ Belfast at 0420/10 for operations with O.G. 47. (D.O.R.10/12) Route, to avoid S.L. 56 (C. in C. W.A. 1138/10).

H.X. 92.

Lost touch with HX 92 at 1000/8. Am now 200 miles from convoy return to Halifax. RODNEY position at 1400 G.M.T./9 058° 17'N 027° 10'W. 26° 3 knots. (MONTCLARE, 0132/10).

H.X. 92.

From Commodore. Ocean escort and half convoy dispersed by gale. Approximate position 0900 G.M.T. 000° 160 miles from "Horse" course 085° speed 8 knots N.W. gale. 11 ships in convoy. (ROTORUA 1106/10, to Admty).

F.N. 55.

Humber 10/12 departure Salvage Tug NESSUS at 0430 to join F.N. 55 thence Tyne (F.O. Humber 0921/10).

W.N. 52.

1015/10 HORNPIPE H.M. Trawler STELLA CAPELLA S.O. joining Oban R/V 2 ships. (N.C.S.O. 1033/10).

O.B.M. 258.

1645/11 H.M.T. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Seven (N.C.S.O. Milford. H. 1136/10).

F.S. 57.

Humber 10/12 departure H.M.T. ORPHEUS at 0300 to join F.S. 57 thence to Yarmouth. (F.O. Humber 1340/10).

/O.B. 257....

War Diary.

10. 12.40.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Convoys (contd.).

Shipping. (continued).

O.B. 257.

Sailed ANTELOPE escorting O.B. 257.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1422/10).

S.L. 557.

Route, to avoid U. boat (D.T.D. 1426/10).

O.B. 259.

Route. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1505/10).

4 M.V's

Your 1253/9 (Group of 4 M/Vs sailed escorted by LORD ESSENDEN & JASPER) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1526/10).

F.S. 58.

BROADWAY left with F.S. 58 for Hull
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1551/10).

H.X. 95.

Departures AUSONIA Ocean Escort and RESTIGOUCHE Local Escort HX 95.
(S.O.I. Halifax 1630/10).

S.C. 14.

"Robin"

Commodore S.C. 14 Master of S.S. ATHENIC has been requested to report estimated bearing and distance from "ROBIN" at 0900 G.M.T./12. When intercepted join Convoy providing position is West of 20°W then comply with F.O.C. N. P. 1210/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1900/10 to SALOPIAN).

E.N. 39.

1830/10. H.M.T.'s ULLSWATER, RUMBA, SAON. Additional Escorts JASON, ALYNBANK. 26 Ships 2. Ships for Clyde. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1925/10).

S.L. 56.

Add to my 1920/10 AMBUSCADE will sail as additional escort as far as Skerryvore subsequently to proceed to meet S.L. 56 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2332/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2343/10).

Troop Convoys.
W.S. 5A.

Admiralty 2250/6 para 5 A/S Escort for slow group of W.S. 5A. Request destroyers may be sailed as follows. From Portsmouth to Liverpool. From Nore to Greenock. From R.A.M.L. to Greenock. All to arrive A.M./17 if possible. (C in C. W.A. 1456/10).

Transport of Foreign Legion from Camerons in W.S. 5A (D.O.D. (F) 2353/10 see South Atlantic).

Dutch Ships.

Behaviour in convoy (see South Atlantic.)

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.12.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operations Against Vichy French.CHARLES PLUMIER.

Your 1724/9. So long as there is an armed guard on board CHARLES PLUMIER there can be no excuse for an attempt to scuttle this ship succeeding.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1646/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CUBA.

Your 1159/22. French N.A. was told in Vichy that CUBA is in Freetown. He write/s officially on behalf of French Admiralty: Submit polite to answer at more length than my present information permits, with some indication of future fate of passengers.
(N.A. Madrid to Adty). (1730/10)

French
Submarine
Reliefs.

Following from French Admiralty via N.A. (begins) Please inform Admiralty that S/M reliefs in Atlantic will take place shortly. First movement; S/MS LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE, ARETHUSE and ARCHIMEDE escorted by sloop COMMANDANT BORY will pass Gibraltar east to west 14/12, between 1000 and 1200 G.M.T. (ends) F.O.C.N.A. please inform F.O."H".
(N.A. Madrid, 1815/10 to Adty).

WYOMING
OREGON.

My 1304/8 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1645/8. Safe conduct for WYOMING and OREGON received. They should be sailed on 13/12 and 15/12, respectively routed in accordance with my 1913/28/10.
(D.O.D.(H) 2052/10).

North AtlanticPROTEUS.

Intend sailing PROTEUS for Portsmouth p.m./12. E.T.A. in position 041° 00'N., 012° 00'W, 2100 zone minus one 14/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1146/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Azores,
Patrol
S/MS.

The area within following limit is to be regarded as a sanctuary during dark hours for submarines on Azores patrol 037° 23'N., 025° 08' W., 025° 52'W the South Coast St. Miguel. This area is not to be entered between sunset and sunrise unless chasing an enemy.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1152/10).

CACHALOT.
TRIDENT.

CACHALOT home route. TRIDENT leaves vicinity Lands End. (date) to relieve you. (Capt: S.2. to CACHALOT 1632/10).

MOST SECRET.p. 12.40.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)ARK ROYAL
Defects.

ARK ROYAL reports S.2. boiler out of action due to fracture of studs. Repairs Estimated time required by ship's staff 15 days from receipt of heat resisting steel. Except for very short period high speed with five boilers is 28 knots.

(S.O. Force H. 1232/10 to Adty).

Minesweepers.

Instruct SWONA with SKUDD 3, SKUDD 4, and SKUDD 5 in position 31° N., 25° W. not to call at St. Vincent except in case of necessity. Whalers are keeping W/T watch in accordance with 1637/30 from N.O.I.C. Ardrossan.
(D.O.D.(F) 1258/40 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. to SWONA etc. 1531/10).

DERBYSHIRE.
ENCOUNTER.
H.G.48,
PROTEUS.
Trawlers.

DERBYSHIRE leave Eastern end of F.2 patrol area at 1800/10 routed through 036° 00' N., 011° 00' W to Gibraltar. ENCOUNTER will pass through position 036° 00' N., 010° 28' W at 1200/12, steering 270° and will escort DERBYSHIRE to Gibraltar. After meeting ENCOUNTER DERBYSHIRE is to adjust speed to arrive off Northern entrance of Gibraltar at 0800/13. Convoy H.G.48 escorted by DEPTFORD also by VIDETTE until dark 13/12 p.c.s. at 1200/10 035° 30' N., 008° 00' W., 257° 6½ knots routed through 035° 10' N., 010° 00' W., 039° 00' 017° 00'. PROTEUS sails from Gibraltar 1800/12. KINGSTON TOPAZ on patrol off Lisbon, KINGSTON JACINTH on patrol off Cadiz. Routed.
(F.C.C.N.A. 1420A/10 to DERBYSHIRE).

BERWICK.

My 1702/3 BERWICK will be completed p.m./16 and ready for sea a.m./17.
(A.S. Gibraltar 1630/10).

MOST SECRET.10.12.40.
Tuesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)Oil for
Norwegian
Whalers.

My 1135/6. (Oil for Norwegian Whale Catchers from stocks at Ponta Delgada). Inform British Consul Azores it is amending my 1130/6 to him which he could not decypher (begins) At request of Adty. and agreed by Jersey Company please arrange with Manager of Tagus Oil Co. deliver about 15/12 maximum 1000 tons of oil to ten ex-Norwegian Whale Catchers on passage to U.K. for requisitioning asking him to maintain secrecy as to why this supply of oil is required. Consul General (Ends).
(Consul-Gen. New York. 1720/10).

South Atlantic.DORSETSHIRE.

My 0955/5. (re Vibration in in DORSETSHIRE) Trial satisfactory. Ship appears to be in every way normal and will sail on 10/12 in accordance with your 2215/9.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0937B/10 to C.in C. S.A.) See next page.

ENTERPRISE
visit to
Montevideo.

Your 0947/10. Visit of ENTERPRISE to Montevideo though essential has had to depend on dates of arrival of CUMBERLAND and NEWCASTLE. QUEEN OF BERMUDA (corrupt group) CARNARVON CASTLE's repairs and disposal of prisoners. In view of your 1323/9 it is now possible to meet Minister Montevideo's wish. I intend therefore to visit Montevideo in ENTERPRISE 13-15/12 transferring broad pendant to CUMBERLAND at F.O. a.m./16/12 and sailing ENTERPRISE for Simonstown p.m./16.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1214Z/10 to C.in C. S.A.)

ARNDALE
ENTERPRISE.

Be at anchorage F.O. 2200 G.M.T. Sunday 15/12. ENTERPRISE will probably arrive shortly afterwards.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1215Z/10 to ARNDALE).

... CUMBERLAND

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.12.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.CUMBERLAND
Transfer of
Flag.

Leave K 33 (c) a.m. 13/12 and proceed to fuel from Oiler ARNDALE at anchorage F.O. at daylight 16/12. I will transfer you from ENTERPRISE there.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1226Z/10 to CUMBERLAND).

DORSETSHIRE.

Simonstown departures 1215/10.
DORSETSHIRE for Freetown by direct route.
E.T.A.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1230Z/10 to Adty.
etc.)

NEWCASTLE.
to S.A.D.

Departures 0800/10. NEWCASTLE to join S.A.D. in accordance with C.in C. S.A.'s 1735N/9.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1003N/10 to Adty).

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Request early reply to my 1039/9 and my 1125/8. CARNARVON CASTLE is leaving South American waters 11/12 and destination must be decided. If repairs can be undertaken and prisoners landed, Simonstown or Capetown would be best solution.
(C.in C. S.A. 1031N/10 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

CARNARVON
CASTLE.
CANTON.

Your 2259/9. It had been hoped CARNARVON CASTLE could be used for escort on passage to refit but this not desirable in view of extent of damage. Agree fitting of catapult in CANTON be deferred but consider the next A.M.C. suitable for cruising work should be taken in hand for catapult and general improvement in armament as soon as situation improves.
(C.in C. S.A. 1055 /10 to Adty).

... CARNARVON CASTLE



WAR DIARY.

283
MOST SECRET.

10.12.1940.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CARNARVON
CASTLE,
QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

After transfer of prisoners CARNARVON CASTLE is to remain in company with QUEEN OF BERMUDA pending instructions from C.in C. S.A. QUEEN OF BERMUDA on completion of oiling is to patrol L.32 and is to enter Montevideo for 24 hours, (date). I will arrange visit. QUEEN OF BERMUDA is subsequently to proceed to patrol K.33. (R.A.S.A.D. 1242/Z/10).

BULOLO.

My 1327N/20/11. Request BULOLO be sailed to arrive Freetown (date). (C.in C. S.A. 1103N/10 to V.A.N.P.)

Dutch Ships
in Convoy.

A number of reports have been received during the last two months of Dutch merchant ships in rear of Columns in convoy showing bright lights astern visible 10 or 12 miles. As a precaution, I am taking steps to ensure that in future no Dutch ship occupies a rear position in any S.R.Convoy, and Commodores are being warned that they should expel from convoy any Dutch ship dropping astern without valid reason. (N.C.S.C.Freetown), 1351/10 to Adty).

Free French
Volunteers.

My 1617/5 and 1201/6. Intend to send the Merchant Seaman Volunteers for Free French Forces referred to to Lagos in S.S. ADDA sailing a.m./11, onward passage to Duala arranged. (C.in C. S.A. 1331/10 to Adty).

Foreign
Legion,
Transport,
NEURALIA,
CASAMANCE.

Movement referred to in D. of S.T's 0107/7 is now urgent as contract of service for men of Legion expires 31/12 and unless moved from Cameroons some time before that date many may refuse to sign on again. D. of S.T. will allocate transport for troops from Duala to Freetown and C.in C. S.A. is requested to report when this movement can take place so that the troops may be transhipped into NEURALIA at Freetown (date). NEURALIA will be included in Convoy WS. 5A. and will become available after British troops have disembarked. Particularly desired that NEURALIA shall continue in WS 5A. C.in C. S.A. requested to arrange for the M.T. and stores to be embarked in CASAMANCE and vessel sailed independently for Port Sudan. (D.O.D.(F) 2353/10 to C.in C.S.A.)

MOST SECRET.10.12.40.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

D. of S.T's 2027/1 and 0107/7. My 1646/8 Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos' 1415/9. Sailing of CASAMANCE to U.K. by Nigerian Authorities necessitates substitution as mechanical transport to Port Sudan, FORT LAMY now at Duala. Arrangements.
(N.C.S.O. Duala 1819/10 to Adty.)

Your G.O./29294/9/12. Matter already in hand through D. of S.T. and Naval Authorities. D. of S.T. 0107/7/12 to C.in C. South Atlantic, etc. refers. Shipping is being arranged to link up with W.S.5A and date of sailing will conform with your requirements.
(W.O. 1910/10 to C.in C. M.E. etc.)

General de Larminat has received telegram from Duala stating that N.C.S.O. now says that Legion will embark on CAPO OLMO and not INDOCHINOIS and material on CASAMANCE which has now left port of Harcourt for unknown destination. CAPO OLMO expected Duala 19th not yet fitted for troops and even after fitting will only hold 650 men. Refer you Mideast tele. No. G.O./29294 of 9th. General de Larminat would appreciate earliest information when Legion can be embarked as a whole.
(20 M.Mission, Brazzaville, 2000/10 to W.O.)

Whalers.
South
African
Force.
manning
4 Whalers.

Admty. 1127/8. As result of Cabinet meeting this morning Secretary for Defence, states. Previous political objections not considered insuperable as ships will be employed in waters surrounding Africa provided they are based on port in Africa e.g. Alexandria. (Proposals) Consider enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) is essential to compliance with Naval discipline notwithstanding Union Defence Act (Amendment) Act and Dominion Forces Act 1932 Section 10, observing that S.D.F. is governed by military discipline code. Request

WAR DIARY.10.12.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

very early directions.
(S.N.O. Simonstown 2222/10 to Adty).

Mediterranean.ARK ROYAL.
Flight.

S.O. Force H. 1844/8 and V.A. Malta 1731/9
Fully concur with N.O.I.C. Malta.
(C.in C. Med. 1258/10 to S.O. Force H.)

Landing
Craft.

My 1936/13/11. Revised arrival
programme for landing craft and carriers
in Middle East. (D.O.D.(F) 1039/10 to
C.in C. Med.)

BURGONET
Bosporus Boom.

Adty. 1944/2. Anticipated BURGONET will
meet requirements at Suda Bay, provided
it does not become necessary to defend
another harbour. Important that Turks
should be able to lay Bosporus boom
rapidly and subsequently maintain it
efficiently. (C.in C. Med. 1325/10).

REGULUS
Lost.

3 days overdue from patrol in Gulf of
Otranto and Adriatic and regarded as
lost. (C.in C. Med. 1615/10).

Air Reconnaissance.

Tripoli harbour, 4 destroyers 9 M/V's,
5000 -8000 tons. Midday one hospital
ship escorted by one destroyer entering
harbour. No enemy air activity over
Malta. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta. 1700/10).

MALAYA
EAGLE.

Your 1941/4. Approved to send MALAYA.
Your 1959/4. Your offer appreciated but
EAGLE is not required at present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med. 2137/10).

H.M.S./M"X 2"
(formerly
Italian.) (GALILEO GALILEI)

Arrived Suez 10/12 (S.B.N.C. Suez Canal
Area. 2343/10).

galilei

WAR DIARY.

10.12.40.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Valona
bombed.

Operational Summary No. 183 up to 1200/10.

Greece. 9/12. 3 Blenheims made offensive reconnaissance Valona bombs falling on jetty and 3 large Customs houses. 22 ships were seen in the harbour of which 13 were between 5000 and 15000 tons.

F.A.A. Attacks
TERROR & APHIS
Maktila
BombardmentEgypt. 9/12. Blenheims and Bombays made sustained bombing attacks on Tobruk Bardia and Sollum to prevent enemy reinforcements reaching the Buq Buq area. F.A.A. aircraft also bombed the escarpment road at Sollum to cut off enemy reinforcements from Buq Buq and co-operated with TERROR and APHIS in bombardment of Maktila.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1255/10).Military
Advance,
Western
Desert,
Operations
in Support.

Following supporting operations are taking place in conjunction with attack in Western Desert.

TERROR and APHIS bombarded Maktila Camp and LADYBIRD the Headquarters Camp at Sidi Barani on night 8th/9th. R.A.F. and Fleet Air Arm co-operated, bombing and flaring. Three destroyers were in support. Bombardments are reported to have been successful aircraft reporting that all salvoes fell in target areas. Clouds of dust from TERROR's gunfire made observation results difficult. Stores have been sent to Mersa Matruh by X Lighter ready to put ashore behind advanced troops if necessary to ease army transport difficulties. TERROR and gunboats remain in support, BARHAM, VALIANT and destroyers proceeding so as to be able to bombard Sollum and Escarpment Roads should army require. WARSPITE is at short notice to support if desirable. ILLUSTRIOUS 3rd C.S. and destroyers proceeding to carry out night attack by aircraft on Eb Adam aerodrome returning so as to give fighter support to battleships. Intend issuing following communique:- During nights 8/12 and 9/12 Naval Units successfully bombarded Maktila Camp and Sidi Barani in support of Army operations.
(C.in C. Med., 1635/10 to Adty).Italian
Mines.

My 1125/8 para.3. Some (?surface) explosions of drifting mines are probably caused by hydrostatic safety switch on 6 horned Italian contact mines being rendered inoperative by marine growth.



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET 287

10.12.40.

Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Mines.
(Contd.)

This has occurred in 2 mines of this type which have been recovered. About half drifting mines in this area, 6 horned type.
(V.A. Malta 2011/10 to C.in C. Med.)

Movement
Summary No.
175.

Force 'D' comprising ILLUSTRIOUS 3rd C.S. four destroyers left Alexandria 1500/10 to operate off Libya night 10/11 and join Force (C) comprising BARHAM, VALIANT, COVENTRY seven destroyers in 032° 24' 026° 09' at 0700/11. Force 'C' left Alexandria 1600/10 for above R/V proceeding thence to operate off Sollum. TERROR, BAGSHOT, LADYBIRD. APHIS operating off coast between Matruh and Sollum ULSTER PRINCE escorted by DEFENDER left Suda for Kaso Straits p.m./10 E.T.A. Port Said a.m.12. DEFENDER parting company dark 11/12 to arrive Alexandria 11. Convoy A.N.10 escorted by HYACINTH leaves Port Said A.M.12 proceeding through 033° 30' 028° 02' to pass Kaso Straits 0001/15 then through 035° 47' 024° 50' to Piraeus. SALVIA and convoy leave Alexandria p.m.12 to join A.N.10 0700/14. COVENTRY and DEFENDER leave Force 'C' and Alexandria respectively p.m.13 to join A.N.10 0700/14. H.M.S. FIONA leaves Piraeus a.m.11 to arrive Alexandria p.m.13. H.M.S. AJAX and H.M.A.S. SYDNEY covering until East Gavdo Island then proceeding Suda. T.O.O. 2105/10.
(C.in C. Med. 2352/10).

MOST SECRET.10.12.40.
Tuesday.
WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Aden
Facilities.

S.N.O. Red Sea requests provision of following to improve unloading facilities at Aden. Request possibility of supplying any of these craft from Indian or East African waters.
(D. of S.T. 0426/10 to P.S.T.O. India).

U.S.8.

Your 1155/7 and D. of S.T. 1722/9. Desirable that ships selected for onward U.S. Convoys from Colombo should be capable of 15 knots at least. Request that faster ships than RAJULA and ROHNA may be selected for U.S.8. if possible.
(C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/10. to P.S.T.O. India).

MAHSUD.

Request you sail MAHSUD on 11/12 for Mauritius. (C.in C. E.I. 0812/10 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

RANCHI.

To leave Colombo 0400Z/12 and proceed Durban via $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ and Mozambique Channels calling at Mahe, Seychelles, for fuel. To arrive Durban (date)(C.in C. E.I. 0814Z/10 to RANCHI)

Suspicious
Vessel.

My 2044/9. (Suspicious vessel sighted by Norwegian ship FOSNA). Suspicious vessel was KATIE MOLLER. (C.in C. E.I. 0910Z/10)

SOUTHAMPTON.

My 2114/8. A.O. Nairobi is providing air protection for SOUTHAMPTON.
(C.in C. E.I. 1108Z/10 to Adty).

U.S.7.
CALEDON.

Departure 1100Z/10, CALEDON to join U.S.7. (N.O.I.C. Aden 1146Z/10).

Appointment.

Your 1846/18/11 approved. Necessary appointments being issued. (Hd. of C.W. to C.in C. E.I. 1546/10).

MOST SECRET.WAR DIARY.10.12.40.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)CARTHAGE.

My 1156/28. After leaving C.M.7
CARTHAGE is to proceed to patrol in area
between 26° and 030° S., and 037° and
044° E. CARTHAGE is to leave patrol to
arrive Durban (date).
(C.in C. E.I. 0816Z/10).

Whalers.

Your 1126/3. As these Whalers have
already fuelled at a Portuguese port it
is very undesirable that they should do
so again within three months. It is
considered that they can reach Mombasa
with a safe margin, subject to C.in C.
S.A. confirming that their passage from
St. Helena to the Cape was made
without re-fuelling.
(D.O.D.(F) 1257/10 to C.in C. E.I.)

PROTECTOR
defects.

My 0557/10. ~~...~~ Tug PROTECTOR
returned to harbour with minor engine
room defects. Expects to sail a.m./11.
(S.O.I. Bombay 1434Z/10).

Air Report,
Convoy
B.S.10.

Summary Number 181 and Operational
Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T.
10/12. 1200 to 1400 1 Blenheim 8
Sqdn. made armed photographic reconnaiss-
ance Jibouti, Zeila, Berbera Hargeisa.
Only opposition moderate inaccurate
A.A. from bofors position Hargeisa.
Bombs dropped at 2255 near this position.
Three Blenheims 203 Squadron provided
Fighter escorts to convoy B.S.10 1 using
advanced base Kamaran.
(A.H.Q. Aden. 2006/10).

Kismayu
attack,
SOUTHAMPTON.

SOUTHAMPTON reports as follows on her
attack on shipping at Kismayu p.m./10
Closed to 15000 yards and opened fire on
YAMAYURI MARU. Four guns from six inch
battery on Mtanga Papa Island opened
fire simultaneously first salvo cutting
Halyards. SOUTHAMPTON fired seven
salvoes but results not apparent.
Withdrew under fire of three batteries
which continued accurate shooting up to
24000 yards. No damage or casualties
in SOUTHAMPTON. Air report not yet
received.
(C.in C. E.I. 2020Z/10 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

10.12.40.

Tuesday.WAR DIARY.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)Aden Port
Facilities.

My 1654/2/11, shows a need for modernisation of Aden Port for war purposes. Port Trust have now produced a sketch plan. Fear their scheme would take too long and cost too much. Should appreciate your opinion as to quickest way to produce at least two leading berths, with extention to four if desired.
(S.N.O. Red Sea 175Z/10 to Adty).

China.

DAUNTLESS)
CRICKET)
TARANTULA)
GURNA.)

Nancowry 9/12 departure for Colombo at 0900Z. (C.in C. China, 0259/10 to Adty. and C.in C. E.I.)

Shipping
Withdrawal.

Your 0223/17/10 and 0257/3/12. The gradual withdrawal of British and Allied ships from Japanese waters is under constant consideration. Under (a) of your 0223/17/10, decision has recently been reached to requisition two vessels and Consul-General, Shanghai, has been so informed. Under (b), several ships have already been withdrawn and policy of "thinning" is likely to be accelerated in the near future.
(Hd. of M. 1143/10 to C.in C. China).

Raider
Description.

Addition to his 1621/7. Captain's name is Kapitän zur See Rogge.
(C.in C. China 1607Z/10).

America & West IndiesDIOMEDE.

On completion fuelling to proceed at 20 knots to Yucatán Channel.
(C.in C. A.W.I. to DIOMEDE 0932/10).

DIOMEDE arrived Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Jamaica, 1301/10) Left again 2210 zone plus 5. (S.O.I. Kingston 2210/10)

/ROYAL SOVEREIGN....

War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies, Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN

Arrived 10/12 from Gibraltar, (S.O.I.,
Halifax, 1630/10)

Loop Laying

In view of Admty. 1548/9, cancel my 1002/8
(C. in C., A.W.I., 0922/10 to Capt i/c
Trinidad)

U.S.S.
BADGER.
Grounding

Assistance by R.N. when aground at Bermuda
on 4/12. Propose not to claim salvage,
as similar circumstance may constantly
arise at leased bases. (C. in C., A.W.I.,
1034/10 to Admty.)

ST. CROIX
NIAGARA
ST. CLAIR

~~ST. CROIX~~ CROIX has proceeded southward to
obtain better weather conditions. She re-
ports unable to steer eastward due to heavy
following seas and frequent breakdown of
steering and has been unable to search
eastward for NIAGARA and ~~ST. CLAIR~~ CLAIR. Latter
ships have sufficient fuel to last midnight
13th-14th and had orders to proceed to
U.K. independently if separated. ~~ST. CROIX~~ CROIX
intends unless weather conditions alter to
return to Halifax via St. Johns N.F.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to Admty. 1018/10)

Report situation, breaking W/T silence at
your discretion to do so. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa
1253/10 to SAINT CROIX)

MONTCLARE
To Locate

My 1711/19. MONTCLARE endeavour to locate
ST. CROIX and escort her towards St. Johns
N.F. if in need of assistance. ST CROIX
report position course and speed via
Halifax W/T for information of MONTCLARE.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 1256/10 to ST. CROIX, MONTCLARE)

MONTCLARE
ST. CROIX

Your 2212/10 to F.O.C. 3rd B.S. only. Your
future action must depend on reply from
~~ST. CROIX~~ CROIX to my 1256/10 asking for his
p.c.s. Remain searching to southward and
westward of area given in my 1711/9 for
further 24 hours unless further signal is
received. Report your present p.c.s.
(F.O.C. 3.B.S. 2236/10 to MONTCLARE.)

SATURNUS

New York's 1944/5. Galveston reports master
of SATURNAS did not (?call for) route
instructions although agents were informed
that N.C.S.O's assistance was advisable
and available. No signal has yet been made
to SATURNAS. Request instructions (N.S.H.Q.
Ottawa 1259/10 to Admty.)
Further re routeing (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 1806/10
to Admty.)



War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Japan,
Communications

9/12. Have learnt Japanese authorities have prohibited postal communication between Marshall and Gilbert Islands. (Resident Commissioner, Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony, to Admty., T.H.I., 2110/10)

Raider

My 0054Z/9, (Shipping attacked by enemy raider off Nauru) No publicity of any kind yet released. Request you conform. (A.C.N.B. 1106Z/10, to Admty., etc.)

SILKSWORTH
(Mined)

HERTFORD intended (p.20)
British, 4921 tons. My 1300Z/7. ~~SILKSWORTH~~ was mined inside 100 fathoms line. She was fitted with paravanes and paravanes were inboard and not streaming at time. Action is being taken in Australian Station to warn masters of paravane fitted ships in terms of para 222 of D.E.M.S. part 1. (A.C.N.B., 1122/10 to Admty, etc.)

HERTFORD
(mined)

HERTFORD, British 10,923 tons, mined, has been towed into Port Lincoln, South Australia. (D.O.R., 10/12)



War Diary

10.12.1940
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

BABITONGA

B.3. report from Santos, may sail shortly.
(N.A., Rio de Janiero, 1730/10)

WINNETOU

Left Kobe 7/12. (Capt O.S. Singapore, 0754/10)

ANNELIESE
ESSBERGER

Correspondence intercepted in Canada from
Master states ship sold to Japanese. (Capt.
O.S. Singapore, 0754/10)

GLENGARRY
Sunk

Launched at Copenhagen 6/11/39 for the
British Glen Co. but taken over by Germans
was sunk on her maiden voyage early in
November between shipyard and Germany.
(D.S. 462, Air Min. D.S. 512)

ATLAS

Arrival 10/12. (Valencia, 1930/10) from
Barcelona. First movement of this ship
since 31/8/1939. (D.S. 463)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

LELLO

Left 9/12 for Genoa. (Barcelona, 1807/10)



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Coastal Command aircraft this evening attacked targets at Brest. The aircraft security ship FRIESENLAND, one of the targets had already left Brest by 11/12.

Air reconnaissance today showed 9 U-Boats in Brest.

Bomber Command

Enemy occupied ports in France and Belgium were attacked last night by a light force.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping

Most of the attacks made today on shipping were in the Thames Estuary and S.E. of Harwich. Convoy F.S. 57 was attacked in the forenoon and again in the afternoon and three small ships SS LANARK, SAXON QUEEN and TOR were slightly damaged but continued under their own steam.

Convoy F.N. 57 was attacked twice during the afternoon, but no damage is reported.

A/P Drifter JOHN ALFRED was attacked and damaged and was towed to Brightlingsea.

A Swedish ship was bombed but not damaged in the N.W. Approaches.

Mining

Apart from some black cylindrical objects dropped by aircraft in the Thames Approaches after dark this evening, there are no reports of enemy aircraft minelaying today or last night.

On account of acoustic mines, the maximum number of motor ships, both ocean going and coasters, are to use the East coast ports.

/British.....

War Diary

11.12.1940

WednesdaySITUATION REPORTMining-Contd.British
Minelaying

Bomber Command aircraft continued mine-laying activities off the west coast of France last night. Swordfish of the F.A.A. laid mines this evening at Brest, under cover of the operation carried out by Coastal Command.

Operations Against Vichy French

The present Admiralty policy regarding French merchant vessels is laid down in F.O.C.N.A. 1224/5 and Admty 1133/11)

Mediterranean

Sidi Barrani was captured by our troops today. Naval units cooperated with the Army and harassed the retreat of the Italians, ILLUSTRIOUS providing fighter protection, escorted by 3rd C.S. and destroyers. F.A.A. aircraft also carried out bombing operations at Sollum and the escarpment road.

America & West Indies

German SS RHEIN has been intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN north west of Key West. the RHEIN set herself on fire and had to be sunk by CARADOC.

C. in C., A.W.I. has made proposals for coordination of intelligence in the Jamaica area, as counter action to the highly organised enemy system.

He also reports that the situation in Trinidad and Jamaica with regard to the examination of passengers and cargo in transit is very unsatisfactory, and enemy agents and contraband are able to pass through.

War Diary11.12.1940
WednesdaySITUATION REPORTAustralia

A.C.N.B. has decided to release surface forces to operate against raiders on ocean trade routes. The method intended, is to escort as many ships as can be got together without imposing a long delay on shipping. The ships will be spaced at twice visibility distance apart by day and it is anticipated that these modified convoys will not be greater than 4 or 5 ships.



War Diary.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Dungeness.
6-inch M.N.B.D.O.
Coast Defence
Battery.

Request early relief of R.M. Personnel by Army Personnel until 2nd.M.N.B.D.O. formed. (V.C.N.S.1212/11 to War Office.)

SUNFLOWER,
WINDFLOWER,
TRILLIUM.

My 1312/2 and 1626/10. SUNFLOWER is allocated to Londonderry for 1st or 2nd escort groups in place of WINDFLOWER which is allocated to Greenock. for 3rd. or 4th escort groups.

Allocations.

2. WINDFLOWER and TRILLIUM are Canadian manned and it is therefore desirable that both should be based at Greenock. (C in C. W.A. 1350/11.)

VAILLANT.

Request report as to whether worth refitting. If not, crew will be discharged to COURBET for disposal. (DOD.H.1613/11 to C in C. WA.)

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/11. (D.C.1134/11 and 2033/11.)

Movements.

RODNEY.
MATABELE.
ESCAPADE.
ELECTRA.
BULLDOG.

R.A.D. to sail 4 Destroyers AM/11 to R/V with RODNEY in 59 32' N. 26 W at 1200/13 where RODNEY leaves Convoy HX.93 and proceeds Scapa. Alternative R/V if Destroyers unable make R/V in time. Route for RODNEY. C in C. Rosyth requested arrange A/S Air Escort during daylight 14th and 15th. (C in C. HF.0106/11 to R.A.D.)
MATABELE with ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, BULLDOG, proceeds passing Switha 1030/11 to R/V with RODNEY at 1200/13 and escort to Scapa as in C in C.HF.0106/11. (RAD.HF.0645/11).

FORMIDABLE.
AMBUSCADE.
DOUGLAS.
KEPPEL.
VIMY

My 2343/10. AMBUSCADE returns to Clyde after leaving FORMIDABLE at Skerryvore as by C in C.WA.0032/11. (FOIC.Greenock 0109/11 to Adty.)
Arrived DOUGLAS and KEPPEL.(FOIC. Greenock 0247/11.)

/Sailed.....



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

FORMIDABLE
AMBUSCADE
DOUGLAS
KEPPEL
VIMY- Contd.)

Sailed FORMIDABLE, VIMY, KEPPEL, AMBUSCADE as by my 1920/10 and 2343/10 to carry out Flying Practices on passage. (F.O.Greenock 0821/11 to Admty.)

Return to Campbeltown when detailed.
Report E.T.A. (D. 12 1147/11 to AMBUSCADE)

QUEEN ELIZABETH
SOUTHDOWN
BRILLIANT
EXMOOR

Comply with my 1301/10. (C. in C., H.F. 0117/11 to QUEEN ELIZABETH)

Your 1510/9 (Destroyers) Arrived (C. in C., Portsmouth 0937/11 to C. in C., Nore)

Your 2004/10. (Destroyers) All arrived (C. in C., Portsmouth 1018/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Your 1723/10. As it is possible a U-Boat has laid Mines in Q.Z.F. 15, request you order Destroyers of 5th D.F. to run T.S.D.S. between Lands End and Lundy Island. (C. in C., W.A., 1304/11 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

My 1723/10. Movements delayed. Intend ship pass gate 1830 today. Route as arranged. Speed dependent on weather. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1333/11 to Admty.)

My 1414/10. Owing to weather it is expected QUEEN ELIZABETH will be late at R/V. (R.A.D. H.F. 1745/11 to SOUTHDOWN)

Cancel my 1333/11. Movement will be carried out as in my 1723/10 plus 24 hours. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1817/11 to Admty.)

My 1745/11. QUEEN ELIZABETH 24 hours late Enter Greenock, complete with fuel, and R/V at 1600/13 as by my 1414/10. (R.A.D. H.F. 2156/11 to SOUTHDOWN)

My 2223/10. (M.A/S.B. Screen) Patrol cancelled owing to weather (C. in C., Portsmouth 1426/11)

E.T.A. 0815/12. EXMOOR and BRILLIANT in company. (SOUTHDOWN 2359/11 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

/A.110.....

War Diary.

11.12.40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

14th. A/S. S/F.

Arrived. (FOIC. Greenock 0237/11 to NOIC. Aberdeen)

NIAGARA)
ST. CLAIR.)
SCIMITAR.

E.T.A. Greenock 1500/11. (NIAGARA 0705/11). Arrived NIAGARA and ST. CLAIR. (FOIC. Greenock 1745/11).
→ Sailed Londonderry 10/12 for Belfast. (NOIC. Londonderry. 0942/11.)
Arrived. (FOIC. ~~Belfast~~ 1444/11.)
Arrived 1105 at Plymouth. (C in C.W.A. 1232/11.)

JERSEY.

VENOMOUS.

Sailed as by your 1902/10. (FOIC. Belfast 1452/11 to C in C.W.A.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (ACOS.1537/11.)

HAVELOCK.

Arrived. (FOIC. Liverpool 1601/11.)

LINCOLN.

Sailed. E.T.A. Scapa 0920/13. (FOIC. Milford Haven 1632/11.)

DIDO.
ECLIPSE .

Your 1800/8. Intend retain DIDO in company till position 7 in 10°W, and then route her through Minches. (RAMILLIES 1700/9 to C in C. WA.)
Adty. 2222/5. ECLIPSE is to proceed to Scapa in company with DIDO. (C in C. HF. 1751/11.)

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Sails Plymouth 1730/12 for Scapa via Irish Sea. Speed 18knots. (C in C.W.A. 1940/11.)

PYTCHLEY.

Arrived 2303/11. (FOIC. Greenock 2315/11.)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

301

11.12.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

A. 110 11/12 reference my A 102 of 10/12.
"Chain" ~~CHAIN~~ in company with four destroyers
leaves Portsmouth 1100/11 for Spithead and
remains at Spithead until 1600/11. Provide
protection from 1100/11 until 1600/11.
"Chain" ~~CHAIN~~ then leaves Spithead at 1600/11
provide escort from 1600/11 until dusk /11
as arranged in, par (a) of my A. 102 of
10/12. (H.Q.F.C. 0430/11 to 11 Group)

A. 120 11/12 reference A. 117 11/12.
Admiralty have notified postponement of
"Chain" ~~CHAIN~~. Expected time of departure Ports-
mouth not yet known. Further information
will be signalled as soon as available.
(H.Q.F.C. 2100/11)

War Diary.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.British Air Activity.Air Searches.

To-day SA.2 and SA.3. (C. in C. Rosyth 0710/11.)
 Assessments. (C.in C.Rosyth 2114/11.)

Fighter Patrol.

Patrol of Blenheim A/C from Buchan Ness to Flamborough and return.
 (C.in C. Rosyth 0712/11.)

Bordeaux.
Lorient.

AP/656 11/12. Operations for tonight 11/12 December. (A) Available aircraft of No. 22 squadron to submarine targets in No. 1 Basin at Bordeaux. (B) Available aircraft Nos. 53 and 59 squadrons to submarines and dockyard targets at Lorient.
 (H.Q.C.C. 1418/11 to 16 Group, Thorney.)

Brest.

No. 217 Sqdn. to attack FRIESENLAND in dock tonight. (HQ.C.C.1420/11 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Patrols.

^{"Bert"}
~~BERT~~ being flown this evening.
 (C. in C. Rosyth 1642/11.)

Arbroath.

Request very early action to render following positions available for Beacons. Night flying cannot start until this is done. (R.A.N.A.S. 1743/11 to Adty.)

Following from Air Ministry "X728 Cipher 10/12 begins:- Information received that kites are flown by some A A formation in conditions of good visibility by day from Branchester Beach 28 miles West of Cromer. Request full particulars of purpose and authority for flying if known. Pilots have not been warned of A A activities in this particular locality.
 Ends.

This appears to concern Admiralty.
 Request you reply direct.
 (DACOAST 4.2136/11 to Adty.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

303

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy
CONVOY
FS57.

"Booby"
~~BOON~~ attacked by A/C in $51^{\circ} 37' N. 1^{\circ} 14' E.$
(LONDONDERRY 1046/11) 2 A/C. 4 Bombs. No
hits. (LONDONDERRY 1056/11.)

Convoy.
CONVOY
FN57.

"Pilot"
~~PILOT~~ shadowed by 2 A/C in $51^{\circ} 33' N.$
 $1^{\circ} 7' E.$ (CONVOY 1058/11.) shadowed by
1 A/C. in $51^{\circ} 54' N. 1^{\circ} 37' E.$
(WESTON 1408/11.). Being attacked in
 $51^{\circ} 44' N. 1^{\circ} 25' E.$ (Rosyth W/T 1409/11.)
One A/C circling in $52^{\circ} 21' N. 2^{\circ} 1' E.$
A seaplane. (VIMIERA 1855 and 1910/11.)

LANARK.
(FS57)

(British, 1904 Tons) Attacked by A/C.
in Barrow Deep. (North Foreland Radio
1444/11.)

SAXON QUEEN.
(FS57.)

(British, 482 tons) Slightly damaged by
Air Attack today, but able proceed up
river A.M./12 under own power. (N.C.S.O.
Thames 1818/11 to C in C. Nore.)

TOR.
(F.S.57.)

(Swedish, ^{1052 Lloyd's}~~1130~~ Tons) Slightly damaged
by Air Attack today, but can proceed up
river AM/12 under own power. (N.C.S.O.
Thames 1818/11.)

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

CACHALOT.

Homeward Route Azores to Plymouth.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1106/11 to Western Patrol.)

SUNFISH.

My 2139/9. Reports sank one ship
at 1509/5 in 62° 7' N. 5° 6' E.; attacked
one ship at 1602/6 in 62° 58' N. 6°
50' E, no hits; and probably one hit
on ship at 1516/7 in 62° 10' N. 5° 5' E.
(VAS. 1211/11).

RUBIS.

To leave Patrol at 1800/13. Route.
(S.9.1417/11.)

L.23.

Sailed for Scapa escorted by THIRLMERE.
E.T.A. 0900/12. (S.9.1439/11).

STURGEON.

Arrived ^{By 17h} (S.6. 1522/11.)

UPHOLDER)
UNIQUE.)
USK.)

Sailed USK, UNIQUE 1442. E.T.A.
Gibraltar UPHOLDER 0700/17, USK
0700/18, UNIQUE 1200/18.
(C in C. Portsmouth 1607/11.)

PROTEUS.

Your 1146/10. Onward route. (C. in C.
WA.1634/11.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/12.
(V.A.S. 1736/11.)

O.21.

E.T.A. 0917/12. (O.21. 1920/11 to
N.O.I.C. Dundee.)



War Diary.

11. 12. 40.
Wednesday.

305

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

ROBINIA.
Fishing off
Iceland.

(British Mine)

(Trawler) My 1742/10. X.O. Seidio Fiord reports she trawled up one Mine which exploded and another Mine exploded on bow. Crew abandoned ship and she is presumed sunk, about 14 miles E.N.E. of Glettinganes. Master states he had permission from Grimsby to fish in this area. (F.O. Iceland 0932/11 to Adty.) My 0932/11. Master reports probably 11 other British Trawlers in same area. Am endeavouring to recall all British Trawlers fishing off East Coast. (F.O. Iceland 1734/11 to Adty.)

Thames.

My 1055/10. River now normal. (F.O.I.C. London 1501/11.)

Firth of Forth.

Local Searched Channel named "Grangemouth East" is established as follows. (C.in C. Rosyth 1534/11.)

B.S.47.

TEVIOT BANK escorted by ICARUS to lay on 14/12 or as soon after as possible for 6½ miles 328° from 56° 10' N. 1° 23' W. No mines to be laid North of 56° 16' N. (D.O.D.H. 1619/11.)

Harwich.

H.J. reports A/C has just dropped 2 objects in water 2 miles North of B.4. Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1910/11 to C. in C. Nore.)
A/C dropped 3 black cylinders 4 feet long in 200° 1 mile from B.8. Buoy, at 1310/11. (C. in C. Nore 2053/11 to Adty.)

War Diary11.12.1940
WednesdayCASUALTIES AND DEFECTSCASTLETON

After peak and tiller-flat flooded and bilge-suction choked. Position 53° 20' N 5° 40' W., May be necessary to proceed to Milford Haven. (CASTLETON 0815/11 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool) proceed to Milford Haven (C. in C., W.A., 1058/11 to CASTLETON) Intend sail CASTLETON for Portsmouth (F.O. Milford Haven, 1811/11 to C. in C., W.A.)
Your 1811 CASTLETON is not to sail until further orders. (C. in C., W.A., 2234/11 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

ADAMANT

(Admty Dumb Lighter) Ashore on Trinity Sands, Humber. Apparently undamaged. Will attempt refloat Friday. (C.S.O.H.A. Grimsby 0900/11 to F.O. Humber)

DIONYSSIOS
STATHATOS

Broken down in 58° 19' N., 22° 15' W., CAROLINA THORDEN standing by to tow. (EDINBURGH 1030/11 to A.C.O.S.) Crew abandoned ship, taken off by CAROLINA THORDEN. Master remains on board. (Valentia Radio 1504/11) Abandoned in sinking condition. All crew saved. (Valentia Radio 1751/11)

PETWORTH

(British 972 tons) Slightly damaged by collision with tug VINCIA a.m/5. (N.O.I.C Ramsgate 1130/11 to Admty.)

AGHIA EIRINI

On side on rocks one cable from Carraun Point, S. end of Achill Island with heavy seas breaking over her. Local view is that she will become a total wreck. (.F.O.I.C. Belfast 1703/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

NORTHCOATES

Arrived ^{Aberdeen} 1608 in tow of A/S Trawler CAPE NYE-METSKI (A.C.O.S. 1835/11 to Admty.)

2 Lifeboats

A/C report 2 lifeboats with survivors in 58° 58' N., 11° 18' W., at 1835. (C. in C., W.A., 1918/11 to VETERAN)

BURNHAM

Have sustained damage as follows. Position 55° 45' N., 13° 4' W., (BURNHAM 1921/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

ENGLISH TRADER

My 0212/6. BRIDGEWATER has been sent to assist. (C. in C., S.A. 2139/11 to Admty.)

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS-Contd.

Ships in
Distress

In the case of the following ships which have made Distress Signals it has not been possible up to the present to render assistance. Request I may be informed if any further information is received regarding any of these ships.

SERINGA at 0306/6 in 57° 52' N., 23° 56' W.
Damage not stated- Required assistance.

SALTWICK at 1424/5 in 57° 10' N., 26° 30' W
Steering gear smashed.

ASHCREST at 1019/8 in 55° 12' N., 10° 02' W
Ship unmanageable. Tugs assistance essential.
Search by aircraft and Surface Vessels has failed to locate.

MERCHANT at 1144/6 15 miles East of
Inishtrahull. Search has failed to locate.

NYLAND at 0750/6 Aground on West Rock Isle
of Hull. Tug SCHELDE has searched but
cannot locate.

(C. in C., W.A., 2350/11)



MOST SECRET 308

War Diary.

11.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

Situation at 0900/11 (D.T.D. 1107/11 to C. in C. H.F.).

H.X. 91.

Arrived less COMANCHEE, PACIFIC PIONEER, SALTWICK, SPAR, SKARAAS, TREKIEVE, (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1039/11).

F.N. 57.

Sailed 0818/11 20 ships (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1042/11).

F.S. 56.

Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames 0916/11).

O.B. 260.

Route (D.T.D. 1556/11).

H.X. 92.

About half convoy scattered (D.T.D. to C. in C. H.F. 1107/11).

S.C. 13.

37 ships, arrived, 7 Norwegian, 3 Greek, 1 Dutch remainder British (D.S. 463, 11/12).

E.N. 38.

All 7 ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Oban 1730/11)

F.S. 59.

Sailed 2300/11, 16 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 2335/11).

F.N. 61

F.S. 62

F.S. 63

Amend and continue my 1019/6, convoy forecast (C. in C. Rosyth 1437/11).

H.X. 95.

Sailing telegrams Escorts AUSONIA, VOLTAIRE (C.O.H.C. Halifax. 1120/11 1115/11).

W.N. 51.

Amend my 2041/8. Number of ships to read 10. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1511/11).

O.B. O. 257.

Escort NORWICH CITY (N.C.S.O. Oban 1045/11).

F.N. 55.

BULLFINCH sailed to Join F. N. 55 0005/11. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0007/11).

F.N. 57.

Southend 11/12 departure for Methil H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY with Convoy F.N. 57. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1051/11).

Great Yarmouth 11/12 departure Group 12 GRAMPIAN, DOROTHY LAMBERT, SUMA and JAMES LAY at 1707 to join F.N. 57. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1806/11, to C. in C. Nore).

/W.N. 51.....



War Diary.

11.12.1940.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (continued.)

Convoys.
(contd).

W.N. 51.

0933 CURACOA left Scapa for convoy
W.N. 51 (A.C.O.S. 1015/11)

O.B. 257.

Position course and speed of convoy
at 0830, 312° Mull Of Galloway, 19
miles 341° 8 knots. (ANTELOPE,
0901/11 to ACTIVE).

Liverpool and Milford Haven sections
of O.B. 257 expect to arrive at rendezvous
four hours late. Have sent HEATHER
and LADY MADELEINE to reinforce
ANTELOPE and retain ACHATES and PICOTEE
with Clyde and Oban sections who will
proceed at slow speed. Consider
unlikely all sections to join up
before tomorrow forenoon. Propose
ANTELOPE should proceed arrive
Londonderry in daylight today.
(ACTIVE 1115/11 to C. in C. W.A.).

Commodore requests you will turn back
so as to join before dark. My position
course and speed are 055° 19' N 005° 59' W
315° 7 knots. (ANTELOPE, 1250/11
to ACTIVE).

Estimate O.B. 257 will meet Clyde
portion of E.N. 38 about 2000 tonight
in 056° 00' N 007° 08' W. (C. in C. W.A.
1452/11 to ANTELOPE, ACTIVE, etc.).

H.X. 92.

See also next page

To keep clear of O.B. 256. After
passing through 59° 15' N 13° 44' W
H.X. 92 steer direct to splitting
position (C. in C. W. A. 1128/11
to VETERAN, WOLVERINE, CHELSEA, CAMELIA)

Cancel my 1128/11 To avoid U. boat
in 58° 30' N. 11° 00' W. amended route
for H.X. 92. (C. in C.W.A. 1252/11
to VETERAN., etc.).

F.S. 58.

Humber 11/12 Departure LL Trawler
HORTENSIA at 0920 to join F.S. 58 for
Yarmouth (F.O. Humber 1100/11).

/F.S. 58.
FRANKLIN.....



MOST SECRET.

11.12.1940 ³¹⁰
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping (continued)

Convoys
(contd).

F.S. 58.
FRANKLIN.

Adm. 1945/10 (re taking in hand of FRANKLIN) and FRANKLIN's 1746/10. If hydrographic instruction No. 15. is completed FRANKLIN should be sailed for Southend with F.S. 58 tomorrow Thursday. (C. in C. Nore 1210/11 to F.O.I.C. Harwich).

C. in C. Nore's 1210/11. Hydrographic instruction No 15 completed intend to proceed at 0830 tomorrow to join F.S. 58 at South Shipwash buoy. (FRANKLIN 1932/11).

→ E.N. 40.
W.N. 53.

Act as additional A.A. escort to E.N.40. sailing from Methil at 2230/12. On meeting transfer to W.N. 53 due Cape Wrath 2030/14 and Duncansby 1030/15. Code word for E.N. 40 ~~PADDLE~~ and for W.N. 53 ~~MONITOR~~. Keep steam at immediate notice off Methil 12/12 and be prepared to slip cable as necessary to engage enemy aircraft. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1315/11, to FLEETWOOD amended 1643/11).

→ W.N. 52.
→ E.N. 40.

On meeting transfer to Convoy W.N. 52, S.O. STELLA CAPELLA A.A. Escort JASON, due Duncansby Head 1050/12. On meeting convoy E.N. 40 sailing from Methil at 2230/12 and expected Buchanness 1200/13 transfer to that convoy. (R.A.D.H.F. 1353/11 to ALYNBANK).

→ E.N.40.

"PADDLE"

2230/12 H.M.T.'s KING SOL, ARAB. Additional escort FLEETWOOD. 23 ships (10 overseas). Code words E.N. 40 ~~PADDLE~~ E.N.L. portion ~~MONITOR~~ "Monitor" E.N.O. portion ~~MONITOR~~. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1551/11).

H.X. 92.

If not in contact with part of H.X. 92 proceed to position given by ROTORUA (C. IN C. W.A. 1516/11 to VETERAN) (See U Boat Campaign).

My 1516 If in company part of HX 92 detach one destroyer to hunt submarine and assist ROTORUA torpedoed in 058° 56' N 011° 20' W at 1400. (C. in C. W.A. 1618/11 to VETERAN).

/S.L. 57.

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Convoys-Contd.

Shipping

S.L. 57

My 1528/10. Destroyers of 3rd Escort Group are to escort BULOLO and WORCESTERSHIRE outward on 16/12 and are to rendezvous with S.L. 57 S at 1000/18 in position 54° 35' N., 17° 40' W. F.O.C. Northern Patrol is requested to route A.M.C.'s accordingly. Remainder of 3rd Escort Group is to be sailed to rendezvous with S.L. 57 at 1000/8. (C. in C., W.A., 1534/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, etc.)

S.L. 56

Cancel my 0032/11. When detached from FORMIDABLE proceed to meet S.L. 56 estimated position at 2000/11 055° 50' N., 013° 30' W., (route) Convoy is probably scattered. (C. in C., W.A., 1728/11 to AMBUSCADE)

Following ships in company. My p.c. and s. Have sustained damage (details) (BURNHAM, 1921/11)

C. in C., W.A., 1728/11. Cancel my 0130/11 (Capt D. 12. 2103/11 to O.1/c A/S Est., Campbeltown, etc.)

SATURNUS
Swedish Tanker

My 1844/5 and Admty. 1649/6. Orders from Swedish Embassy Stockholm diverted SATURNUS New York arrived 10/12 sailed 0530 G.M.T. 11/12 (route) due Petsamo (date) (1151/11)

Your 1259/10. Swedish Authorities have now ordered Swedish Ship SATURNUS to call New York for route instructions. (D.E.W.D 1903/11 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

Troop Convoys
W.S. 5 A.

Admty. 2250/6 (A/S escort for slow groups of W.S. 5 A) NAIAD, wearing the flag of C.S. 15 and BONAVENTURE have been detailed. (C. in C., H.F., 1753/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

Interception
of French Ships

Your 1224/5. Policy is confirmed, but French territorial waters may be infringed to intercept unescorted vessels as well as escorted ones. (Hd. of M. to F.O.C.N.A. 1133/11)

Martinique

Navy Dept. From Martinique. Admiral Robert left Fort de France p.m./8 in French A.M.C. ~~Gambet~~ BARFLEUR and arrived Point A Pitre a.m/9. Believed his stay will last two days. (N.A.Washington 1045/11 to Admty.)

Following further information received: BARFLEUR arrives back at Martinique today and will depart for French Guiana returning about 20/12. (N.A.Washington 1209/11 to Admty)

Dakar
Ships Arrived

From Navy Department. From Dakar 9/12 following French ships arrived from North VILLE DE VERDUN, CONDÉ, SOYESQUIEU and SAN PEDRO. Destination VILLE DE VERDUN is Madagascar. (N.A.Washington 1100/1)

COMPIEGNE

French ship COMPIEGNE will probably sail p.m./12 for Casablanca (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1141/11 to F.O.I.C. Gib)

My 1141/11 French COMPIEGNE sails from Lisbon 0500/12. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1524/11, F.O.C.N.P., 1930/11 to Western Patrol, F.O.C.N.A. 2117/11 to N.A.Stn.)

My 2117 COMPIEGNE will reach R.V. for escort at 3 miles limit off Lisbon at 0700/12 G.M.T. and will wait for escort if it is late. (F.O.C.N.A., 2335/11 to N.A. Stn)

My 2117 and my 2335. If COMPIEGNE is intercepted and unescorted she is to be sent in to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2337/11 to ENCOUNTER)

WYOMING
OREGON

Request you ask French N.A. whether his Government will agree to WYOMING or OREGON calling in at Gibraltar to repatriate 88 French merchant seamen and officers anxious to return to unoccupied France. WYOMING sails from U.K. for Toulon on 13/12 and OREGON on 15/12. (Hd. of M., 1225/11 to N.A.Madrid)

/French S/M....



MOST SECRET

313

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French-Contd.

French S/M
Reliefs

N.A. Madrid's 1815/10. Intend acting in accordance with your 2237/16/10. (French Forces proceeding to and from Casablanca Not to be interfered with) (F.O.C.N.A. 1724/11 to Admty.)

North Atlantic

BERWICK

Your 1630/10. (Completion of BERWICK) Very satisfactory. (1st S.L., to .A.S., Gibraltar, 1043/11)

Operation
"Ration"

My 0946/9. Force of 4 destroyers will be used, with RENOWN kept at short notice. (F.O.C.N.A., to Admty., 1230/11)

Rio de Oro

No suspicious activities. (S.O.I., Gibraltar, to Admty., 1544/11) See U-Boat Campaign)

Italian S/M's
Tangier

Your 1550/9 (re Submarines at Tangier) According to official notes to H.M. Ambassador from Minister for Foreign Affairs these submarines are ^{MIENHLE} #. A. BIANCHI and ~~BENEDICTO~~ B. BRIN. This confirmed from Spanish Ministry of Marine. (N.A. Madrid 1315/11 to S.O.I., Gib)

Fuel for
Norwegian
Whale Catchers

Following is text of C.G. New York's 1130/6 to you which you could not decypher: At request of Admty. and as agreed by Jersey Company please arrange with Manager of Tagus Oil Co. deliver about 15/12 maximum 1000 tons of fuel oil to ten ex-Norwegian Whale Catchers on passage to U.K. for requisitioning, asking him to maintain secrecy as to why this supply of oil is required.(ends) Your 1220/7 to C.G. New York was undecypherable by him. (Head of M. 1557/11 to Consul, Ponta Delgada)

/ARK ROYAL.....



MOST SECRET

314

War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

ARK ROYAL
FORMIDABLE

Para 5 A of your 1917/24/11. To enable FORMIDABLE to carry two fighter Squadrons at expense of torpedo spotter reconnaissances on certain operations propose ARK ROYAL disembark Fulmar or Skua Squadron at Gibraltar on being relieved by FORMIDABLE. If external long range tanks are applicable to Albacore request these be provided for FORMIDABLE's torpedo spotter R/C A/C. (S.O. Force H., 1924/11 to Admty.)

Intend putting ARK ROYAL at 6 hours notice until a.m./15 to make good defective joints in engine room. Consider this necessary in view of forthcoming operations. (S.O. Force H., 1926/11 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

CARNARVON CASTLE

To proceed Simonstown for repairs when ITAPE's prisoners have been embarked. (C. in C., SA 1031Z/11)

DEVONSHIRE

utilising
Request you consider/DEVONSHIRE on her return voyage to U.K. for escorting available homeward bound liners. (D.O.D.(F) 2140/11 to C. in C., S.A.)

ASTURIAS

Your 0920/27 (ASTURIAS taken in hand for urgent repairs) Request ASTURIAS may be sailed for square L. 32 when ready. (R.A.S., A D., 1238Z/11)

Your 1337Z/10 not yet transferred. On completion ASTURIAS is to be sailed for L. 32 to join South American Division S.A. Station. Then as ordered by R.A. S.A.D. (C. in C., S.A., 1019Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown)

Whalers

Your 1257/10. (Undesirable that Whalers fuel again within 3 months at Portuguese Port.) Whalers fuelled at Walvis Bay on passage St. Helena to Cape. (C. in C., S.A. 1021N/11 to Admty.)

/Enemy Unit....

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Enemy Unit

D/F Bearings at 2250Z/9 indicate probability of German surface unit near 021° 00' N., 031° 00' W. Further bearings at 2117/10 give slight indication unit has moved further south or west. (C. in C., S.A., 1125/11 to R.A.S.A.D., etc.)

Raider

C. 3. report German Raider after trying to escape to north is now approaching River Plate, she may R.V. a tanker off Argentine Coast. (S.O.I. Montevideo 1624Z/11 to Admty)

Seaward
Defence Force
S.A.

My 2222/10 para (C) (re enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) of personnel of A/S Ships to be based in Africa) Defence Dept. now definitely contend that Admiralty can by order in Council apply N.D.A. to S.D.F. under visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act, 1933, Section 4, and that enrolment in R.N.V.R. (S.A.) is unnecessary. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1235B/11 to Admty.)

Wreckage

Master BENWYVIS reports passing quantity of barrels, loaves of bread and tins between 0900 and 1400/9 in approximately 030° S., and 014° E., and on his course for Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1612B/11 to Admty)

CANTON

Your 1055/10. It is proposed that CANTON should return to Freetown without calling at U.K. unless you particularly wish her to do so. (D.O.D.(F) 1705/11, to C. in C., S.A.)

HIDLEFJORD
Suspicious Ship

Your 1131/9 and my 1216/9. Master of HIDLEFJORD has been interrogated. Suspicious vessel passed on nearly opposite course without altering course, five splashes like shots falling reported seen about two miles off when suspicious vessel was abeam, no guns heard or flashes seen. Vessel reported has two masts, 1 funnel amidships, dark hull, coal burner. Consider improbable that this ship was a Raider or fired shots though splashes in water cannot be explained. (C. in C., S.A., 1930/11 to Admty)

/ENGLISH TRADER,.....

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

ENGLISH TRADER

Position of ENGLISH TRADER at 0101/11 was 020° 57' N., 019° 05' W., Ship is being told to give her position to Freetown at 0400/12 unless you have found her by then (C. in C., S.A., 2013N/11 to BRIDGEWATER)

Foreign Legion
Movement

Spears Mission London for Admiralty and Ministry of Shipping. After conference with Governor Duala and Colonel Commanding Legion following proposals urgently submitted. (FORT LAMY, CAPO OLMO, TOUAREG, arrangements) (20 M. Mission Duala 1925/11 to W.O.)

Admty. 2353/10. Director of Nigerian Marine Lagos, states CASAMANCE now nearly fully loaded with cargo for U.K. has left with some cargo for Accra and Takoradi and will complete with cargo for U.K. there. Propose she should continue as arranged. If FORT LAMY proposed by N.C.S.O. Duala in his 1819/10/12 not considered suitable suggest CAPO OLMO due Freetown 12/12 proceed to Duala and take M.T. and Stores. Am arranging for troops to be ready by (date) (C. in C., Africa 1945 N/11, to Admty.)

Re movement of French Troops with equipment to Port Sudan, position now as follows: For Foreign Legion personnel British Transport NEURALIA. CASAMANCE not now available for M.T. etc., For French Brigade understood to be about 1600 personnel with full equipment regret no British ships available. Following French Ships are under consideration subject to your confirmation as to suitability. For personnel and some equipment TOUAREG and CAPO OLMO. For balance of equipment (including replace of CASAMANCE) TOMBOUCTOU, FORT BINGER, INDOCHINOIS and CHATEAUROUX. Proposals all subject to escort arrangements which cannot be considered by Admty until information as to availability suitability and speed confirmed. (D.S.T. 2102/11 to C. in C., S.A.)



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

PROTEUS

To sail for Portsmouth as convenient. (C. in C., Med. to F.O.C.N.A. 1125/11)

RORQUAL

Leave (position) to arrive Alexandria sanctuary (Capt. S.1. 1445/11 to RORQUAL)

Local Defence

Your 1559/18 and 1335/7. Concur to release of 6- in guns from Haifa to Turkey. Further changes. (D. of L.D., to C. in C., Med. 1707/11)

Support to Army
Western Desert

My 1635/10. TERROR in Sollum Bay commenced bombardment at 1030/11. Joined by APHIS and LADYBIRD at 1000, harassing enemy's retirement. Strong Westerly wind hampered gunboats' movements. 3 Destroyers in company. BARHAM and VALIANT under F.O.C.N.A. in close support and will also bombard if suitable targets presented. ILLUSTRIOUS with 3rd C.S. (? in offing) providing fighter protection. (C. in C., Med., 1101/11 to Admty.)

My 1635/10. TERROR, gunboats and 4 destroyers have been bombarding neighbourhood of Sollum during today, harassing enemy's retirement. TERROR now returning all ammunition expended. Gunboats continue harassing fire of Sollum tonight, and then returning Mersa Matruh to fuel from destroyers and re-ammunition. BARHAM, VALIANT and YORK bombarding Bardia and targets in vicinity at 0800/12 (C. in C., Med. 2225/11 to Admty) Press communique on this, see 12/12.

Proposed communique (C. in C., Med. 2250/11)

Valona Bombed

Operational Summary No 184 up to 1200 hours 11/12. Greece. Day 10/12. 5 Blenheims attacked Valona town and harbour. 1 ship received direct hit on stern. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1313/11)

/F.A.A. Attack.....

War Diary11.12.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSMediterranean-Contd.F.A.A. Attack,
El Adem,
Bardia.

Aircraft of F.A.A. also bombed El Adem. Bombays dropped 6,400 lbs of bombs on retreating enemy troops and M.T. vehicles in the Bardia area. F.A.A. aircraft successfully bombed the barracks at Bardia and the escarpment road between Bardia and Sollum. Army forces captured and occupied Maktilla Camp and invested Sidi Barrani on 10/12. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1316/11)

Greece
Degaussing

Your 2101/9. Sufficient information to enable merchant ships to be degaussed was supplied to Greek N.A. in London on 9/4. No objection to later and more detailed information being supplied nor to Greek Officers being trained at Alexandria. Greek ships are now granted D.G. facilities at all British ports, see A.M. 1844/15/11. (D.T.D. 1918/11 to C. in C., Med)

Submarines

454. Consequent on Admiralty 1228/29 it is intended to redispense of 1st S/M Flotilla as follows: (1) 'O' Class 'P' Class 'T' Class and H.M.S. RORQUAL based and operated from Alexandria (2) 'U' Class based at and operated from Malta. (C. in C., Med., 2117/11 to V.A. Malta)

M.N.B.D.O.
to sail in
W.S. 6.

Following for Cs. in C., from Chiefs of Staff. No 30. It has been agreed that the Royal Marine group of the M.N.B.D.O. will be sent to Middle East in W.S. 6. Decision is dependent on shipping as forecast being available. Details of R.M. group. Total M.N.B.D.O. Officer 248, O.Rs 4911. (W.O. 2215/11 to C. in C., M.E.)

Operations
Summary

Operations and movements period 15/11 to 21/11.
F.O.C. 1 B.S. in BARHAM with VALIANT and EAGLE and 7 destroyers left Alexandria 16/11 for Suda Bay to cover following movements returning 19/11. Fast convoy 5 ships 3 C.S. and SYDNEY left Alexandria 15/11 arrived Piraeus 16/11 with 3400 R.A.F. and Army Base personnel and stores, 1700 men being embarked in cruisers. 3 C.S. returned to Alexandria 17/11 except YORK

/who embarked...



FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean

Operations
Summary-Contd

who embarked one Battalion Black Watch at Port Said 18/11 disembarking them at Suda Bay 19/11. When returning to Alexandria YORK was unsuccessfully attacked by 3 T.B. aircraft at 1025/19 when 40 miles N.E. of Suda Bay. Convoy A.N. 7. of 8 ships left Alexandria and Port Said 15/11 arrived Piraeus 19/11. One M.T. ship left Port Said 19/11 arrived Piraeus 21/11.

V.A.L.F. in ORION with AJAX took general charge of these operations visiting Piraeus and returning to Alexandria 20/11. 4 destroyers carried out A/S operation from Piraeus to Kissamo Bay and North Coast of Crete 17/11. Greek troop movements in Aegean also took place under cover of those operations.

(2) Operation and movement 22/11 to 30/11. Operation M.B. 9 as reported in My 1307/29/11 and my 1657/2/12. Following additional convoy movements took place under cover of operation M.B.9 A.S. 7 8 ships left Piraeus 27/11 arrived Port Said 30/11.

(3) Operations 1/12 to 8/12.
3 C.S. based at Suda Bay to cover following movements. MANCHESTER leaving Suda Bay 3/12 for Malta. Convoys A.N. 8 5 ships leaving Port Said and Alexandria 2/12 A.S. 6 9 ships leaving Piraeus 4/12 A.N. 9 3 ships leaving Port Said 5/12. YORK proceeded in company MANCHESTER until dark 3/12 then returning to Suda Bay. GLASGOW hit with 2 torpedoes from 2 S 79 K aircraft in Suda Bay at 1540/3 reported in my 2205/3. GLOUCESTER escorted GLASGOW on passage to Alexandria until 1800/4. GLASGOW made good 16 knots arriving Alexandria 5/12. 3 C.S. then covered Aegean convoy returning to Alexandria 7/12. At 0837/6 and 0953/6 2 S 79 K torpedo bombers approached 3 C.S. in position 035° 45' N. 025° 20' E., retiring on both occasions when fire was opened at long range. V.A.L.F. with 7 C.S. left Alexandria 7/12 to cover convoy and to aill for Piraeus. 3 Swordfish disembarked to Heraklion carried out attack and diversion on Stampalia, Piscopi, Niscopi, Niseres and Kost on 1/12. (C. in C., Med. 1015/11 to Admty.)

War Diary11.12.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast IndiesB. S. 10.

3 Blenheims 203 Sqdn. provided fighter escort for Convoy B.S. 10 (Air H.Q. Aden 2330/10)

Mines

A.C.N.B.'s 1122/10 (re mining of SILKWORTH) Similar action taken on E.I. Station. (C. in C., E.I., 0530Z/11 to Admty)

HERTFORD intended see P292 P207

YAMAYURI MARU
to be
Intercepted

Japanese ship YAMAYURI MARU was at Kismayu on 10/10. If met at sea she is to be taken or sent under armed guard into convenient British Port for examination but see my 0824+ 25/10+(? 0812Z/25/10 intended giving danger zones in which shipping navigate at their own cost.) (Description) (C. in C., E.I., 0614Z/11)

SS
QUEEN ELIZABETH

British Ship QUEEN ELIZABETH has not arrived Trincomalee and is probably proceeding direct to Singapore as I advised her by W/T to do so if her fuel permitted My signal required a reply but none has been received. (C. in C., E.I., 0630Z/11 to Admty.)

GLIMMAREN

Admty. 1351/11/10. Suspected of carrying contraband. (C. in C., E.I., 0650Z/11 to Admty.)

Kismayu
Bombardment
SOUTHAMPTON

My 2020/10 Air Report. Inaccurate anti-aircraft fire encountered. No enemy aircraft seen. SOUTHAMPTON's fire observed but fading light and distance of aircraft prevented observation of result. All aircraft consisting 4 Hurricanes and one Glen Martin returned safely. (C. in C., E.I., 1006Z/11 to Admty.etc.)

My 1513/7. List of ships present in Kismayu. (C. in C., E.I., 1120Z/11 to Admty.)

/Troop Transports...

War Diary11.12.1940
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONSEast Indies *See Page 259*Troop
Transports

Your 1722/9. The ships which have been released are most suitable for Indian troops but not for British. Very few have refrigerators, and none are capable of the endurance required by you at present working on Indian requirements and the U.S. Convoys running every six weeks. All available ships now at my disposal are required. DUNERA now en route Suez and NIEUW HOLLAND acting as hospital ship Durban are the only ships which could be spared and have the endurance and speed required. (P.S.T.O. India 1234/11 to D.S.T.)

U.S. 7.

Departure KINGSTON to join U.S. 7 at 1730Z/11. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1734Z/11)

ChinaRaider

Additional information. Repetition of his 1607Z/10. (C. in C., China, 0557Z/11) Further, no gun mounted aft. (C. in C., China, 1039Z/11)

Tankers

Your 0551/1/11. Please confirm you have taken tankers 1 to 5 and report dates of sailing from Shanghai. (Min of Shipping 1721/11 to C. in C., China)

America & West IndiesNIAGARA
ST CLAIR

Your 1400/10. (p.c. and e.t.a. of NIAGARA) Is ST CLAIR in company? (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, to NIAGARA, 1914/11)

My 2236/10. NIAGARA now located. ST CROIX reported hove to in approx. position 420 miles 070° from Cape Nova Scotia at 0415/11. ST. CLAIR still unaccounted for. Endeavour to locate and escort ST. CROIX towards St. John's N.F. subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A. 3. B.S. to MONTCLARE 0916/11)

Your 1201/11 (not to F.O. 3 B.S.) Message 0705/11 originated from NIAGARA as agreeing with N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Position of ST. CLAIR not yet known. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1401/11 to ST. CROIX)

/Discontinue



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

NIAGARA
ST CLAIR-
Contd.

Discontinue search. Return to base.
(F.O. 3. B.S. 1952/11 to AURANIA, MONTCLARE)
Your 1306/8. Expect to arrive in this area
at 0800 G.M.T. 12/12. (AURANIA to R.A. 3
B.S. 2030/11) Your 2030/11. Continue
searching area until dark 12/12 and then
return Halifax. (F.O.3. B.S. to AURANIA,
1816/11)

IDARWALD

DIOMEDE firing incident (C. in C., A.W.I.
1024/11) See German Merchant Ships.

DIOMEDE

Arrived Kingston. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1500/11)

ROCKINGHAM)
ROXBURGH)

Cancel my 1109/7. Both ships developed
defects on passage to St. John's N.F.
(R.A. 3 B.S. to Admty. 1029/11)

REVENGE

Arrived Halifax. 11/12. (S.O.I. Halifax 1609/
11)

Intelligence
Jamaica

Proposals to coordinate intelligence in
Jamaica area, as counter action to highly
organised enemy system. (C. in C., A.W.I.
1511/11 to Admty.)

Contraband
and Security

Situation in Trinidad and Jamaica with
regard to examination of passengers and
cargo in transit very unsatisfactory.
Proposals C. in C., A.W.I., 1501/11 to
Admty.)

ARACATACA
Overdue

5378 tons, 13 knots, sailed for Jamaica
16/11 and is overdue at Liverpool since
1/12. This is the fourth boat to disappear
on this run. (D.S. 464)

AUSONIA
Collision

AUSONIA collided with BELTINGE on 5/12
due to parting of tow to after tug when
berthed alongside. AUSONIA undamaged.
(R.A. 3 B.S. 1655/11)

RHEIN

Intercepted and sunk. (See German Merchant
Ships)



MOST SECRET

323

11.12.1940
Wednesday

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS

Australia

Raiders,
Convoys in
preference
to hunting

Whilst likely scale of attack remains A.M.C. in Indian and Pacific Oceans it is considered shore-based aircraft provide reasonable measure of protection in coastal waters. It has been decided therefore that surface forces can be released to operate on ocean trade routes to which the enemy appears to be confining his attacks. As hunting offers little prospects of success it is proposed to employ these forces escorting as many ships as can be got together without imposing a long delay on shipping. Besides protection to ships escorted the consequent reduction on trade routes will reduce risk to unescorted ships. Ships escorted will be spread about twice visibility distance apart by day with object of locating enemy raider. Anticipated these modified convoys will not be greater than four or five ships. Request your views and whether you consider a concerted effort can be made on these lines in Indian Ocean. Similar arrangements are being discussed with N.Z.N.B. for Tasman Sea. (A.C.N.B. 0830Z/11 to C. in C's E.I., China, S.A.)

Reply from C in C E.I., p. 441.

New Zealand

Oil Stock,
Suva

My 0614Z/29. Governor, Suva, reports oil stock at Suva after departure of PINNA as follows:- No known probable dates or means of replenishment. Depth of water does not permit the use of Gold mine reserve pier by ACHILLES or MONOWAI. Estimated monthly consumption by New Zealand Naval units for routine visits escorting troop carrying vessels 600 tons. This does not include fuel required for raider searches which are becoming more frequent. (N.Z.N.B. 0501Z/11 to Admty.)



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

324

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPSBRAKE

Sailed from Vigo 0600 today. (Consul, Vigo, 1055/11, V.A.S. 1406/11, D.D.I.C. 1421/11)

RHEIN
Intercepted

(on 10.12.40,
M. 01878/41)

RHEIN intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN N.W. of Key West and has set herself on fire. Not yet known whether ship can be saved. (C. in C., A.W.I., to Admty. 0442/11) My 0442 VAN KINSBERGEN reports unable to extinguish fire in RHEIN. Ship has been sunk by gunfire from CARADOC. 43 prisoners on board CARADOC being taken Jamaica. VAN KINSBERGEN reports 1 German seaman killed owing to disobeying orders. Position when intercepted 24.55 N., 83.15 W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152/11)

CORDELIA
ARKADIA

Arrived. (Macrae, Galatz 1012/11)

ATLAS

Arrival 10/12 (Valencia, T.H.I. 0504/11)

BABITONGA

N.A. Rio's 1730/10. Subject to compliance with my 1226/10 you are at liberty to move into K.32. (R.A.S.A.D., 1033/11 to AMBERLAND)

PORTLAND

My 1834/30/11 (no trace in W.R.) Following from Navy Dept. PORTLAND arrived Talcahuano 4/12. (N.A. Washington 1625/6, received by cable 1038/11)

MADRID

Left Las Palmas proceeding north at 1900/11 Had recently taken in 1300 tons coal and is believed to have general cargo on board. (Las Palmas 1930/11, F.O.C.N.A., 0825/12, D.S. 464)

IDARWALD.
Firing Incident

My 0033/9 (refers to 2131/8 re DIOMEDE, enquiry will be held) Investigation shows that Gunlayer of after Lewis Gun heard a confused shout from irresponsible spectators who were unaware that after gun was not affected by orders given to foremost gun, to effect "When is after machine gun going to open fire" In the heat of the moment he mistook it for an order to open fire which had not been given. Am recommending to C.O. he should take very moderate disciplinary action. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1024/11 to Admty.)



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

ROTORUA

British, 10,890 tons. (In H.X. 92, Commodore Fitzgerald) S/M distress, 58.56N 11.20 W., ROTORUA attacked by submarine (ROTORUA, 1400/11) Following read. (position) ROTORUA torpedoed 1300 de MESN 1339/11 (Lyness, 1440/11) Crew of ROTORUA not yet rescued, (CARDITA 1441/11) If not in contact with part of H.X. 92, proceed to position given by ROTORUA (C. in C., W.A., to VETERAN 1516/11) My 1516. If in company part of H.X. 92, detach one destroyer to hunt and assist ROTORUA (C. in C., W.A. to VETERAN, 1618/11)

Request you will sail Tug BRIGAND to assistance of SS ROTORUA torpedoed at 1300 today in position 58° 56' N., 11° 20' W., (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/11 to A.C.O.S.)

In view of your 2158/11 cancel my 1520/11 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0015/12 to TRELAWNEY)

My 2235/10. Fleet Tug BRIGAND sailed Port Z.A. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 0914/11 to TRELAWNEY)

Keep well clear of position of ROTORUA torpedoed in position 058° 56' N., 011° 20' W., at 1400. (C. in C., W.A., 1554/11 to BROKE)

CARDITA

British tanker, 8237 tons. In convoy H.X. 92. S/M distress, 58.56 N., 11.20 W CARDITA attacked by submarine. (Lyness, T.O.R. 1505/11) No damage to CARDITA reported and she opened fire on enemy and claims direct hit on conning tower. (See S/M's attacked)

TOWA

Dutch 5419 tons. Torpedoed 58.49 N., 10.09W at 1900/11. Survivors picked up by MATABELE (See 12/12)

/In the.....



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

In the cases of the following ships which were torpedoed as shown such search as has been possible has failed to locate either ships or survivors. Request any further information:-

<u>LADY GLANELY</u>	0415/2. 55.00 N., 22.00 W.
<u>VICTOR ROSS</u>	0957/2. 56.04 N., 18.30 W.,
<u>FARMSUM</u>	2147/2. ^{intended} 52.11 N., 22.56 W.,
<u>CALABRIA</u>	2008/8. 52.43 N., 18.07 W.,
<u>EMPIRE JAGUAR</u>	2039/9. 51.34 N., 17.35 W.,

(C. in C., W.A., 2350/11 to Admty.)

H.X. 92

Following are survivors recovered, VETERAN 2, WOLVERINE 6. Further unknown by 2 trawlers EBOR WYKE and 1 other. Your 2034. Proceeded with WOLVERINE to overtake H.X. 92 and escort B portion to Liverpool. CHELSEA joins me en route 056° 30' N., 008° 00' W. (VETERAN, 2319/11 to C. in C., W.A.)

Submarines Reported

2320/10	D.F. probable U-Boat, unreliable fix, 50.50N 07.10 W., (V.A.S. to S/M's Area B. 0119/11)
1209	D.F. probable U-Boat, in area 50' radius from 58.30 N., 11.00 W., (D.D.I.C. 1254/11) (Capt S. 9. to L.23, 1609/11) Cancel my 1609 (Capt S.9. 1717/11)
1400	A.F. message, 58.56 N., 11.20 W., at 1300/12 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1523/11)
0636Z/10	D.F. bearings at 0636Z/10 indicate U-Boats operating Cape Verde Is. are probably to south westward. (C. in C., S.A., to KENT, etc., 1320/11)
2007	W. of Ireland, E. of 15° W., very indefinite (D.S. 464)
1553	S.W. of Ireland, about 50' N., indefinite (Italian)(D.S. 464)
1752	53°-54° N., 18°-20° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 464)
1741	49°-50° N., 17°-19° W., indefinite (Italian) (D.S. 464)
2008	About 53° N., 15° - 20° W., indefinite (German) (D.S. 464)



War Diary

11.12.1940
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

?

Your 0855/11. If contact has not been made return to Ardrossan. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1247/11 to PRUDENT)

Rio de Oro

My 1612/22/11 (Investigate report Rio de Oro or Canary Is. used by Italian U-Boats) and my 1558/27/11 (Report re Canary Is. Strongly doubted) Consul Teneriffe reports C. 1. that there are no suspicious activities on the coast of Rio de Oro (S.O.I. Gib, 1544/11 to Admty.)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian- No further information from Azores area.
1 may arrive Gironde during the night.
1 was in about 53° 25' N., 19° 30' W., at 1950/10.
1 outward bound possibly vicinity Porcupine Bank.
1 may be homeward bound off S.W. Ireland.

German- Situation remains obscure.
1 should arrive Lorient tonight.
1 may be S.W. of Ireland bound for Lorient
1 possibly 52° to 54° N., about 20° W.
1 may be N.W. Rockall.
1 was in 50° 50' N., 7° 10' W., at 2320/10 (D.D.I.C. 1216/11)

Submarines Attacked

1418

Direct on submarine, volume oil in air (CARDITA, 1418/11) See Ships Attacked

Detach portion of escort to deal with S/M reported hit by CARDITA in 58.56 N., 11.20 W. Aircraft cooperating. (C. in C., W.A., 1658/11 to BROKE)

Your 1658. SALADIN, SARDONYX anti- S/M out of action.
Consider reduction escort not justifiable. p.c. and s. Weather. (BROKE 1832/11)
No further information of enemy movements since CARDITA reported direct hit on U-Boat (C. in C., W.A., 1950/11 to VETERAN)

~~CARDITA~~.....



MOST SECRET

328

12.12.1940
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

For greater security from possible air attack QUEEN ELIZABETH left Portsmouth this afternoon for Rosyth, via the Irish Sea, escorted by 8 destroyers.

British Air Activity

Heavy attacks were made by Bomber Command last night on ports from Dunkirk to Dieppe.

Coastal Command last night attacked Brest (heavily) and Bordeaux. Two hits and a near miss were obtained on a 7000 ton merchant ship off the Helder this evening.

Brest was attacked again this evening.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 58, and a drifter and a patrol boat were attacked at various times today in the Nore area, without damage. The drifter and patrol boat drove off the enemy aircraft in flames.

Mining

Enemy minelaying aircraft were active last night, estimated number 50, but areas were identified.

Objects believed to be mines were dropped last night at the Nore.

The Humber was closed at 2307 on account of suspected minelaying.



MOST SECRET

329

War Diary

12.12.1940
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

APHIS 7 LADYBIRD

TERROR and the two gunboats, assisted by 4 destroyers continued the bombardment of the coast of Egypt last night during an important period.

A large number of naval units have been employed in taking supplies to troops in advanced positions and in evacuating prisoners of which there are reported to be 30,000. Strong westerly winds considerably hindered the work.

Aircraft of the F.A.A. last night successfully cooperated with the Army by bombing in the Sollum area and the escarpment road south of Sollum.



War Diary

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940

Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

330

Policy.

Northern Patrol. R.A. N.P. 1092/N P 3000 dated 29th November. I fully endorse my predecessor's view that it is important to maintain ten trawlers on patrol to cover Iceland Faeroes passage.

Request that until the number of Northern Patrol Trawlers can be augmented the four Kingston class trawlers may be exchanged with vessels more suitable for the strenuous conditions of this service.
(C. in C. H.F. 1412/12 to Adty).

T.B's G.13 and G.15.

Dutch Torpedo boats G13 and G15 are suitable for use as H.D.P.V's Belfast. Request that may be so allocated.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1621/12 to Adty.)

Destroyers for Mediterranean.

My 2250/6. Two destroyers of the 5th D.F. are required for an Operation in the Mediterranean and to remain there temporarily. One of these is to be JAGUAR. The other should be one of the two destroyers detailed in accordance with para.7 of my 2250/6. The second of these latter may return home from R/V. (1st S.L. 2157/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 2250/6. Two Tribal class destroyers are required for an Operation in the Mediterranean and to remain there on completion of this operation. Request they be sailed with W.S. 5(a). They may form part of the escort for FORMIDABLE.
(1st S.L. 2200/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

"Deluge".
DELUGE.

At 1130/12. (D.C.1150/12) At 2330/12
(S.C. 2330/12).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.

Thursday. 331

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

LINCOLN.

Sailed Milford Haven 1630/11. E.T.A. Scapa 0920/13. (C. in C. W.A. 0048/12).

WRESTLER.

E.T.A. Falmouth 0930/12. (C. in C. W.A. 0930/12 to H.Q.F.C.) Not to be sailed for Portsmouth until P.M./13. (C. in C. W.A. 1312/12 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth). Sailed (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1734/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Arrived SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, BRILLIANT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0752/12).

C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/11. Request passage be arranged so that E.T.A. May Island may be 1100/15 and Beamer Rock 1330/15.

(C. in C. Rosyth 1236/12 to Adty).

My 2223/10. Operation will be carried out tonight. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1454/12 to Adty).

My 1723/10 and 1817/11. Sailed at 1600.

E.T.A. as by C. in C. H.F. 1301/10 plus 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1617/12 to Adty).

My 2223/10. For Lizard read Start. Delete M.A/S.B. 59, 52, and 56. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1624/12).

QUEEN ELIZABETH proceeding to Rosyth screened by SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, BRILLIANT, and PYTCHLEY, is to pass through 90° Tiumpan Head 13 miles at 1630/14., and to pass May Island at 1100/15.

NIGERIA and CURACOA to meet QUEEN ELIZABETH in above position.

NIGERIA to provide close escort against surface attack as far as May Island thence returning to Scapa. CURACOA to provide A/A escort to Rosyth and then to proceed as ordered by R.A.(D) Home Fleet.

Except for mark M Pom-Pom QUEEN ELIZABETH is unarmed.

Air escort has been arranged on passing Cape Wrath until arrival at Rosyth.

(C. in C. H.F. 1747/12 to NIGERIA).

Weather permitting, one Hudson or Sunderland with A.S.V. will escort you from 2200/12 to dawn/13. (C. in C. W.A. 1812/12 to QUEEN ELIZABETH).

Sailed SOUTHDOWN, EXMOOR, PYTCHLEY, and BRILLIANT as by R.A.D's 2156/11.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1850/12 and 0753/13).

Pass through Nympebank minefield by QZF.18 entering channel West of 7° West. 5th D.F. to run T.S.D.S. in channel.

Estimate that R.V. with H.F. destroyers will be at 1600/13.

.....U-boat



HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Contd:)

QUEEN ELIZABETH.
(contd:)

U-boat reported by aircraft in 50° 26' N. 05° 20' W. at 1507/12 being hunted by LE TRIOMPHANT, JERSEY, WRESTLER, and MONTGOMERY.

Weather permitting a section of Blenheim fighters will escort you from 0800/13 when it is estimated your position will be 50° 58' N. 06° 45' W.

(C. in C. W.A. 1950/12 to QUEEN ELIZABETH)

ANTELOPE.

11/12 entered, fuelled, sailed. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1017/12).

FURIOUS. DIDO.
KELVIN. BRADFORD.
COSSACK. SIKH.

My 1800/8. KELVIN, BRADFORD, escort FURIOUS to Liverpool, thence KELVIN to Plymouth, BRADFORD to Londonderry. ECLIPSE escort DIDO to Scapa. Remaining destroyers escort convoy to Clyde thence COSSACK, SIKH as ordered by C. in C. Home Fleet.

(C. in C. W.A. 1134/12 to RAMILLIES).

KENYA.

Arrived ^{Plymouth} 1108. (C. in C. W.A. 1145/12).

SHEARWATER.

Sailed 1437/12. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1439/12).

FORMIDABLE)
DOUGLAS)
KEPPEL)
VIMY)

Arrived Scapa 1448. (A.C.O.S. 1535/12).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/12).

SHELDRAKE.

Arrived 1538. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1541/12).

EGLINTON)
WORCESTER)

Sailed 1700/12. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1702/12).

AMBUSCADE.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1903/12).

EDINBURGH.

Arrived Scapa 2147. (A.C.O.S. 2235/12).

BEVERLEY.

Sailed. E.T.A. Bar Ship 0900/13. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2331/12).

M.T.B's 104
and 107.

To be sent Greenock to arrive by P.M./17 at latest for service abroad with D.C.O. (V.C.N.S. 2212/12 to C. in C. Nore).

Operations.

Iceland.

WOLFE and CHITRAL. Routes to Reykjavik. (F.O.C.N.P. 1000/12).

Proposed
Operation.

Adty. 1734/10. Re supplies and equipment available. (F.O. Iceland 1620/12).



HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd:)

Operation P.V.1.

Will be carried out tonight from 2000 to 2200. (C. in C. Nore 1028/12 and 1245/12). Operation cancelled tonight owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 1913/12).

Operation P.Y.A.

1. Following operation to be known as P.Y.A. will be carried out when ordered by F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, and under his orders.
2. Two or more M/Ls to patrol during dark hours between 52° 22' and 52° 52' North on a line not less than 5 miles eastward of swept channel keeping to southeastward of the F.N. and F.S. convoys.
3. When P.Y.A. is ordered A/P patrol F.W.P. will be withdrawn and will re-inforce patrol F.W.U.
4. On nights when P.V. one is ordered P.Y.A. will not be carried out. (C. in C. Nore 1242/12).

Submarines.

PROTEUS.

Route to Portsmouth. (V.A.S.0056/12).

Bombing Restrictions. My 0056/12. Particulars. (V.A.S.0058/12 to PROTEUS).

TAKU }
TUNA }

TAKU arrived. TUNA sailed escorted by WHITE BEAR as by S.2.1656/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0937/12).

URGE.

Arrived escorted by TROUBADOUR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0950/12).

THUNDERBOLT.

Leave Patrol after dark 15/12. Route. (S.2. 0958/12).

TRIBUNE }
THUNDERBOLT }

My 0956/12 and 0958/12. Routes and orders. (S.2. 1001/12).

UPHOLDER }
UNIQUE }
USK }

My 1607/11. Should read E.T.A. Position E. UPHOLDER 0700/17, UNIQUE 1200/18, USK 0700/18 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1107/12).

SEVERN.

Your 1219/26. Intend sailing P.M./14. (C. in C. W.A. 1323/12 to V.A.S.)

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/13. (V.A.S.1539/12).

Sanctuary.

My 1418/2. Extend use of Sanctuary to P.M./13 (Capt.D. Londonderry 2300/12 to H.Q.F.C.)



HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

East Coast Patrol. Fighter Patrol of 2 Blenheims from Dyce 0830 to Flamborough, returning about 1200/12. (C. in C. Rosyth 0746/12).

Patrols. My 2244/30/11. ^{"Hornet"} ~~HERNLI~~ being flown A.M. today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0754/12).
"Hornet" ~~HERNLI~~ cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1102/12).

^{"Cento"} ~~CENTO~~ Patrol. My 1300/7. A/S Patrol along 100 fathom line between 62° 5' N. 8° 30' W. and 62° 30' N. 5° 30' W. will be flown occasionally as an alternative to ~~HERNLI~~ ^{"Magnum"}. (C. in C. Rosyth 1212/12).

FRIESENLANDT at Brest. A.P.660 12/12. Available aircraft of Nos. 53 and 59 Squadrons to attack tonight aircraft supply ship FRIESENLANDT in dry dock at Eastern End of Grand Bassin De Nord 'Est at Brest. Alternative target power station and docks. (H.Q.C.C. 1045/12). *See next page.*

Bordeaux. A.P.661 12/12. Available aircraft of No.22 Squadron to attack tonight 12th/13th December submarine targets in No.1 Basin at Bordeaux with Magnums. (H.Q.C.C. 1047/12).

A/S. Patrols. Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. One surface recco to west. 2 surface reccos to the east. Area covered 0100 west to 0530 west. (200 Group 1701/12 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.N.58. Aircraft bombing in 51° 53' N. 1° 7' E. (LONDONDERRY 1056/12). 2 Bombs, no hits. Aircraft damaged by gunfire. (LONDONDERRY 1057/12).

JOHN ALFRED.
EVENING PRIMROSE.
H.K.1. Patrol. Drifter JOHN ALFRED was attacked by aircraft at 1530/11. 1 near miss caused damage to hull, extent not yet ascertained. Vessel towed to Brightlingsea and awaiting slip. Drifter EVENING PRIMROSE and H.K.1 patrol report having been attacked by aircraft at 1055/12. A.A. weapons were successful aircraft disappeared Southward in flames. (C. in C. Nore 1547/12).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940 **335**
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

- Operation B.S.47. Intend sail from Spurn Point 1345/14, depart 21.D. Buoy at 1000/15, begin lay 1215/15, returning 21.D. Buoy. (50 M/L. Immingham 1007/12).
- Sheerness. BERNARD SHAW reports one Red Mine detonated by L.L. at 1952/11 in 225° B.4. Buoy 1.8 miles. (Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1136/12).
- Dover Area. Routine sweeps to 0800/12. 2 Mines about 168° South Foreland 2½ miles and 5 Explosive Cutters. (V.A. Dover 1253/12).
- Operation Z.M.E. 6. To be carried out on 14/12 or as soon after as possible. 7 miles in direction 119° from 51° 10' N. 5° 36' W. (V.C.N.S. 1312/12 to C. in C. W.A., ADVENTURE).
- Sweep of 117 Q.Z.S. Weather permitting intend sailing 5 fleet sweepers S.O. NIGER at dusk tomorrow Friday to carry out searching sweep of 117 Q.Z.S. Commencing sweep at South Falls 51° 19.5' N. 01° 43' E. at 0400/14 arriving position X at 0800/14. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1613/12).
- Humber. Closed. Suspected aircraft minelaying. (F.O. Humber 2307/12).
- Enemy Intelligence.
- GNEISENAU. Reported at Kiel 3/12. Graded C.2. (D.D.I.C. 1753/12).
- Brest. FRIESENLAND has now left since 8/12. M/V. 540 feet now in Grand Bassin Dry Dock. (P.I.U. 2124/12).
- Ice Report. N.A. Stockholm 1445/12.
- Casualties and Defects.
- EMPIRE ELK. Proceed to assist in 55° 56' N. 10° 12' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1608/12 and 2357/12 to PRUDENT).
- NIKOKLIS. Your 2316/11 and my 2337/11. Request you sail Tug SCHELDE with A/S Trawler Escort to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0129/12 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- MONTGOMERY. Arrived with oil-cooler defects. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2332/12).



HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

- Convoys. Estimated position 0900/12 (D.T.D.1154/12 to C. in C. H.F.).
- H.X.93. Meet. 29 ships unescorted. Position and route.(C. in C. W.A. 1142/12, 1442/12 to ANTELOPE, ACTIVE, ACHATES, PICOTEE, HEATHER).
- H.G.47. Has arrived. 30 ships, 19 British, 8 Allied, 3 Neutral. (D.S.464).
- E.N.40. KING SOL and ARAB, additional escorts FLEETWOOD, WATCHMAN.(N.C.S.O. Methil 2325/12).
- H.X.97. WORCESTERSHIRE may be required to meet H.X.97 sailing from Halifax 18/12 and not S.C.16. Change desirable owing to more Southerly routes of convoys. (D.T.D.1618/12).
- W.N.54. Code "Chitty". Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 6 ships (N.C.S.O.Greenock 1034/12).
- F.S.58. Arrived, all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1929/12).
- S.L.58. Route. (V.A.N.P.1810/12).
- F.N.56. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2355/12).
- O.B.258. Clyde portion including Commodore prevented from sailing, fog. Master of SCOTTISH PRINCE to be appointed Commodore. (C. in C. W.A. 2014/12).
- F.S.59. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/12).
- F.N.56. Arrived.(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1706/12).
- S.C.15. Amended route. (D.T.D. 1848/12 to CILICIA).
- B.H.X.96. Departure, ocean escort ALAUNIA. (N.O.I.C. Bermuda 1143/12).
- E.N.39. W.N.52 expected to pass Dunnet Head about 0915/12. Do not enter Pentland Firth with W.N.52. Submarine L.23 escorted by THIRLMERE passes Noss Head 0845 bound for Scapa. (A.C.O.S. 0104/12 to ULLSWATER).
- W.N.52.
- E.N.39. Departures at 0145/12 RICHMOND HILL escorted by WINDERMERE to rendezvous E.N.39 off Duncansby Head at 1000/12 after which WINDERMERE proceeds direct to Aberdeen. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0150/12 to A.C.O.S.)



12.12.1940.
Thursday 337

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys(Contd:)

→ S.L.56.

Estimated position from Aircraft of A Portion of S.L.56 at 0001/12 is 055° 50' N. 009° 00' W. steering 100°. Estimated position of BURNHAM in company 2 ships at 0001/12 is 055° 55' N. 012° 10' W. Course 090°, speed 8½ knots. Position of remainder of Convoy is uncertain. Aircraft is assisting to locate.
(C. in C. W.A.0158/12 to HIGHLANDER, VENOMOUS, AMBUSCADE).

F.S.58.

Harwich December 12th. FRANKLIN at 0847 to join F.S.58 for Sheerness, e.t.a. 1600.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0928/12).

O.B.C.259.

CAVINA and MARON leave Clyde p.m./14 in convoy O.B.C.259 for areas P.3 and Q.3 respectively (route).
(F.O.C.N.P.0950/12 to Western Patrol).

O.B.O.258.

Expect to sail O.B.258. 0145/13/12 escort VANQUISHER 7 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1000/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.B.O.258.

O.B.C.258.

Sailed VANQUISHER for Oban for O.B.O.258 and HIBISCUS for Clyde for O.B.C. 258.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1112/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.B.C.258.

Held up by weather. Proceed to rendezvous with Liverpool portion in accordance with previous orders.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1824/12 to HIBISCUS).

E.N.40.

My 1551/11. Add to para.(b) extra additional escort WATCHMAN. *See previous page*
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1007/12).

5 M.V's.

Intend to sail group of 5 M/V's and H.M.S. NORTHWIND escorted by French MELPOMENE and A/S trawlers St.CATHAN and LORD STONEHAVEN from Needles at 1715 for Dartmouth. E.T.A. 0815/13.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1117/12).

F.N.57.

Humber 12/12 departure A/S.M/S.Trawler OPHELIA at 0730 to join F.N.57 for Methil for onward routing to Tobermory.
(F.O.Humber 1120/12).

→ S.L.56.

Have not made contact S.L.56. Have searched 012° West and back. Proceeding as indicated by Capt.D. Request further information.
(AMBUSCADE 1202/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.16.

Due to sail 1100/15. Request information as to whether escort available.
(C.O.A.S. Halifax 1232/12 to Admty.etc.)



HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

S.C. 14.
O.B. 256.

S.C. 14.22 Ships. Position and route of S.C. 14 uncertain. Leave O.B. 256 in time to arrive $59^{\circ} 40' N 15^{\circ} 00' W$ by daylight tomorrow. Pending further information sweep towards North Channel Report if nothing met by 1200 tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1240/12, to BROKE, SALADIN, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE).

O.B. 256.

Cancel my 1240/12. Remain with O.B. 256 until limit of endurance returning to Londonderry at economical speed. (C. in C. W.A. 1702/12 to BROKE etc).

Your 1702 received too late. Escort returning to Londonderry in 3 sections (A) BROKE, ST.ZENO, VIZALMA (B) SALADIN, SARDONYX (C) LA MALOUINE, ST KENAN. (BROKE 1845/12 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.C. 14.

Your 1125/12 to C. in C. W.A. only. Ascertain from HARBERTON and report details as to position in which she left S.C.14 and by which route ships of that convoy are proceeding. (C. in C. W.A. 1324/12 to BURNHAM).

Your 1324/12. HARBERTON reports she lost convoy in $055^{\circ} N 032^{\circ} W$. 6 ships then in company with Commodore.(route). (BURNHAM, 1527/12).

S.C. 14 meet. (list). (C. in C. W.A. 1432/12, to BROKE, SALADIN, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE).

Leave HARBERTON and proceed forthwith to search for S.C. 14, 21 ships, Commodore Master of ATHENIC (position). (C. in C. W.A. 1914/12 to VENOMOUS).

O.G. 47.

S.C. 14 whose position is uncertain may be met during night passing to the southward. (C. in C. W.A. 1232/12, to LEITH, WILD SWAN, CAMPANULA, PERIWINKLE, FLEUR DE LYS, GARDENIA, PEGASUS).

My position at 1600 $056^{\circ} 20' N 015^{\circ} 20' W$. Hove to missed Convoy gale night 10th - 11th. Request instructions. (GARDENIA, 1441/12, to C. in C. W.A. repeated LEITH)

O.G. 47.
S.C. 14.

Your 1441/12. If you cannot rejoin O.G. 47 proceed to search for S.C. 14 estimated to be approaching from $055^{\circ} 20' N 015^{\circ} 00' W$. (C. in C. W.A. 1938/12 to GARDENIA).



MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

339

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

S.C. 14 not met. Am proceeding to N.P. 42. (SALOPIAN, 2515/12, to Adty etc)

H.X. 96.

Intend sailing RANPURA as ocean escort for H.X. 96 subsequently returning to Halifax. (R.A.3.B.S. 1602/12).

F.S. 59.

On completion of patrol 'O' tomorrow EGLINTON is to proceed to vicinity of Outer Dowsing and re-inforce escort of F.S. 59. EGRET is to be S.O. of escort (C. in C. Nore 1704/12 to D.16 etc)

W.N. 53.
W.N. 54.

^{1131/10 and}
My/1034/12 Retard sailing 25 hours. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1729/12).

H.X. 90.
(attacked 2/12)

Your 2000/10 Re war vessel passing under the stern EMPIRE PUMA - HX 90).

S.C. Convoys.
Naval Commodore

It is considered essential that a Naval Commodore and Staff should embark in charge of SC convoys. If there is no suitable ship available, a ship of the slower type which would normally have sailed in HX Convoy should be detailed. (D. T.D. 1158/12 to C.O.A.C Halifax)

S.L. 58.
ZUYDERBURG.
* ZUIJDERBURGH

Convoy S.L. slow 58 reports that Dutch ship* ZUYDERBURG No. 22 broke Convoy after passing Fairway buoy on leaving Freetown on Dec. 7th, dropped astern and was last seen steering 310° Convoy speed 7.5. knots. H.M.S. SPANIARD and H.M.S. KELT, escorting vessels, did not sight ship on return passage to Freetown. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1353/12).

Troop Convoys.
W.S. 5A.

Admty. ^{7?12} 1200/5 MAHSEER sailed ^{for} Greenock 0000/14. (N.O.I.C. Newport Mon, 1500/12 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow).

LEOPOLDVILLE speed 15 knots carrying 1584 service personnel, ready to sail from Clyde to Halifax on 18/12, should be included in Convoy W.S. 5 (A). Slow and remain in convoy to 25°W. whence routed independently to destination. Route both sections (D.T.D. 1709/12 to C. in C. W.A. etc).

^{See also next page}
EMPIRE ABILITY left Clyde p.m./7 for Freetown, unescorted, speed 13 knots, routed inside Azores and Cape Verde Islands. In view of her special cargo she is to be held at Freetown for onward passage to Middle East in Convoy W.S. 5A, 1852/12 to C. in C. (S.A.).

/W.S. 5B.



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1940.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

340

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).
W.S. 5B.

My 2219/26/11 Proposed to include following Naval, Military and R.A.F. drafts in Convoy W.S. 5B. (A) 6,700 Personnel in 3 ships for India. (B) 3,500 Personnel in 3 ships for Malaya To facilitate embarkation arrangements, War Office request early information as to route these vessels will follow after Durban. (D.O.D.(F) 1836/12 to C. in C. E.I).

FURIOUS.
LEOPOLDVILLE.
W.S. 5A

My 2250/6. FURIOUS will sail in fast group from Liverpool to Freetown. LEOPOLDVILLE speed 14 knots carrying personnel will sail from Clyde in slow group, breaking off to Halifax from R/V (X). CAIRO and A/A Sloop should return from R/V (X). FORMIDABLE and NORFOLK should join convoy in R/V (X). 2204/12.) (D.O.D. (H)).

SATURNUS.

Swedish Authorities inform me that SATURNUS which left Ambrose Light New York 0630 G.M.T./11 was given sealed orders stating on no account was she to signal position. Captain of SATURNUS reports he is now (? ordered) to signal position to British Admiralty every four hours and he asks for Official Communication. Request SATURNUS be informed your wishes which should be repeated to me for information to local authorities. (N.A. Stockholm 1054/12 to Admty).

Mine Warning.

Admiralty Message D.T. Attention of Masters is called to Defence of Merchant Shipping Part One Article 222. Mines may be encountered anywhere in the world. Commodores of convoy will issue instructions regarding the use of paravanes by ships in convoy. (D.T.D. 1155/12 to G.B.M.S. All areas.).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

341

Operations Against Vichy French.

COMPIEGNE.

My 1524/11. COMPIEGNE left at 0630/12. Reported French destroyer awaiting as convoy. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon to F.O.C.N.A. 1159/12).

North Atlantic.

SHEFFIELD.

My position and route to Gib. E.T.A. 0815. Sweeping for MADRID on passage. (SHEFFIELD 1800/12 to F.C.C.N.A.)

Italian
Submarines
Tangier.

My 1550/9 and N.A. Madrid no T.O.O./11. Now confirms that second Italian U/Boat is M. BIANCHI and not, ~~FAA DI BRUNO~~ BRUNO. (S.O(I) Gibraltar, 1102/12).

Details of repairs, reported both need to be placed in dry dock. Morale of crew stated to be bad. No shore leave for ratings given since last week. (Consul General Tangier, 0119/12).

South Atlantic.

Raider
Reports.

Following read from ANGLO-CANADIAN. Disguised merchant raider 7.30N., 14.30 W Suspicious fast vessel following, we steering 090° at 0820 G.M.T. (Freetown W/T 0835/12). Ref: message 0820 G.M.T. (contained in Freetown 0835) suspicious vessel now out of sight, have not been challenged, description impossible due to haze. (ANGLO-CANADIAN, 1048/12).

My 1125/11. Indication that this unit may have been at any point between Equator 20° W., and 15° N(?) 31 W at 1818Z/11. (C.in C. S.A. 1153N/12). Your 1153N/12. On what evidence is this signal based?. (D.D.I.C. 2213/12) Your 2213/12. My 1047/12 refers. (C.in C. S.A. to D.N.I. 1014/13).



WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Seaward
Defence
Force
S.A.

Your 1235B/11 agreed. Necessary action will be taken. (Hd. of N.L. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1202/12). 342

W.S.4.B.

Durban Arrivals. DEVONSHIRE, HAWKINS, escorting W.S.4.B. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1156/12).

VIKINGS.

French naval trawler, ^(D/V) arrived Freetown 12/12. (S.O.I. Freetown 1355/12).

CARNARVON
CASTLE.

My 1031/11. Desirable should refit concurrently with action repair. Report whether refit of main engine can be undertaken at Simonstown. (C.in C. S.A. 1739/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).
Remarks on her action with raider. (R.A.S.A.D.1238/Z/12).

Enemy Unit.

^{Ascension's}
~~ASCENSION'S~~ 1807/11. and 1810/11. The presumed German message was watched for at Freetown but not heard and if this was due to skip distance it is suggested in the absence of bearings other than from ~~ASCENSION~~ that the presumed German surface unit transmitting may have been between positions on the equator 20° W., and 15° N., 31° W at 1837 G.M.T./11. This may possibly refer to the unit concerned in Admiralty's message 0954/10 Dec. (C.in C. S.A. 1047N/12 to Admty).

CANTON.

Your 1705/11. Agree that CANTON returns to Freetown without calling at U.K. C.in C. W.A. requested to issue necessary instructions and route. My 1211/4 to D. of S.T. etc. T.124X ratings in GLOUCESTER CASTLE will be retained for CANTON. (C.in C. S.A. 1637/12 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

343

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Foreign
Legion
Movement.

Admty. 2353/10. Request whether you will be able to arrange for local movement from Duala to Freetown of Legion totalling 1275 all ranks. NEURALIA will be suitably stored in U.K. for conveyance of these French troops. Some of personnel arriving in NEURALIA from U.K. will require onward movement to Takoradi. Your 1945/11 and N.C.S.O. Duala's 1819/10. Agree use of FORT LAMY place of CASAMANCE. Ref. CAPO OLMO, see my 2102/11.

(D. of S.T. 1655/12 to C.in C. S.A.)

Your 1945/11. FORT LAMY expects to complete loading motor transport of Foreign Legion Duala 19/12 and arrive Port Harcourt to bunker 20/12. Further programme. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1717/12 to C.in C. S.A.)

D. of S.T.'s 2102/11, para.3 suggests an entirely new requirement of which I have no previous knowledge, request that I may be informed of details. As matter is getting so involved, intend to make no further suggestion until D. of S.T. has had time to clear up confusion. (C.in C. S.A. 1951N/12 to Adty).

PRETORIA
CASTLE.

Your 1257/10. (No trace in W.R.)
PRETORIA CASTLE is to be sailed p.m./14 via ST. Helena through J.35 (a) and (b) to patrol in J.34 (a) and (b), then to patrol in I 34 visiting Fernando de Noronha then to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1953/N/12 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

344

Dodecanese.

Inquiry. Chiefs of Staff No.31 to C.in C. (1st S.L. to C.in C. Med. 1236/12) See Med. Vol.

My 1241/17/11. (no trace). Reporting conversation with Admiral Ulgen of Turkish Delegation re future of Dodecanese. (C.in C. Med. 1651/11).

Western
Desert
Operations.

Air report. Operational Summary 185 to 1200/12. Aircraft of F.A.A. bombed Sollum and escarpment road south of Sollum. G.H.Q. B.T.E. state Sidi Barani captured and occupied 11/12. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1248/12).

My 2225/11. Bombardment of Bardia abandoned owing to low visibility. Many naval units now engaged in supplying forward troops and evacuating prisoners. Badly hampered by strong westerly wind. Reported to be 30,000 prisoners. (C.in C. Med 1347/12).

Submarines.

Admty. 1228/29 and 1222/4. Intend to transfer OTUS, PANDORA and OLYMPUS to 8 S.F. dates. (C.in C. Med. 1627/11).

Malta.

Air report. No operations on account of weather. No enemy air activity. (H.Q. F.A.R. Malta 1715/12).

Enemy
Intelligence.

From Greek Vice-Consul, Benghazi, prisoners Benghazi and Rome to 5/12, re movement of convoys to Benghazi, coast guns, seaplane base at Sebka El Bunta, etc. (N.A.Athens 1702/12).

Source reliability B 2 reports: Two destroyers in damaged state arrived Fiume on 26/10. Repair of one expected to last two months and other from four to six months. In Fiume harbour two tankers for Roumania and four tankers for Italy under construction. Each should be around 500 tons. Non delivery of materials from Germany has retarded



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

345

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy
Intelligence.
(Contd.)

construction.
(A.N.A. Belgrade 1838/12).

East Indies.

Kismayu.

(C.in C. E.I. 1902/Z/11 to Adty).
(See Operations Vol.)

Oil Tanks.
Suspected
sabotage.

Trincomalee 2/12 when Norwegian tanker THELMA discharging valve locking gear opened by an ill-disposed person, not necessarily enemy agent, and 650 tons of fuel lost. Sabotage probably committed by native employee. Improvement to valve locking gear and additional security measures in hand.
(Capt: i/c Ceylon 1316Z/12).

Aden
Equipment.

S.N.O. Red Sea. 1814/10/11 and 0656/19/11. Following equipment urgently required at Aden is available Rangoon and Bombay. Request approval to allocate (C.in C. E.I. to Adty. 0718Z/12).

U.S.
Convoys.

Your 0808/10 (i) Working on average number of ships required for onward U.S. Convoys and the ships at my disposal, not possible for them all to be capable of 15 knots. Regret no faster ships than ROHNA and RAJULA are available. If possible NEVASA 12½ knots, the slowest ship in the Convoy will be replaced by FELIX ROUSELX if this ship can be completed in time.
(P.S.T.O. India 0605Z/12 to C.in C.E.I.)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

346

East Indies. (Contd.)

Japanese
Ships,
Examination.

See Blanketing O/2213 of 1/12 and O/2265 of 8/12. I suggest intercepting the next suitable Japanese ship by Khor Kuwai patrol and sending complete mails to Karachi for examination. Request you amplify evidence in order to assist me in selecting ship.
(C.in C. E.I. 0618Z/12 to Adty).

SOUTHAMPTON
W.S.4.B.

SOUTHAMPTON is to leave Mombasa p.m./14 for Zanzibar to arrive about 0630Z/15. Mr. Hall British Resident Zanzibar and Governor Designate of Aden is to be embarked for passage Aden. As soon as embarked SOUTHAMPTON is to proceed so as to R/V with W.S.4.B. escorted by SHROPSHIRE and DEVONSHIRE in position 021° 20'S., 041° 10'W at 1100Z/17.
(C.in C. E.I. 0808Z/12).

SOUTHAMPTON
DEVONSHIRE
W.S.4.B.

Adty. 2219/26 and my 0720/4. SOUTHAMPTON is to rendezvous with W.S.4.B. in position 021° 20'S., 041° 10'E. at 1100Z/17, and relieve DEVONSHIRE. On relief DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Simonstown subject to concurrence C.in C. S.A.
(C.in C. E.I. 1212Z/12).

U.S.7.

Arrival 0800Z/12. CHAKDINA departure 1043Z PERTH to join U.S.7.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1044Z/12).

GAIRSOPPA
"Q"
Report.

British ship GAIRSOPPA when in position 8 N., 84 E at 1350Z/10 heard very faint Q.8. Message could not be read because of interference from call signs JAPD and JJAC. Consider interference unintentional and wireless operators report unreliable.
(C.in C. E.I. 1544Z/12).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

347

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air Report.

Summary No. 183. One Blenheim 203 Squadron provided Fighter escort convoy U.S.7. 4 Blenheims 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties two making A/S searches en route. (A.H.Q. Aden, 1736/12.)

China.

Raider.

Examination of photographs. Details. (C.in C. China, 1231Z/12).

Japanese
Fleet.
German
Raider.

Following received from Navy Dept. (Situation of Japanese combined fleet.) In Indian ocean in mid. November Nazi raider described as about 10,000 tons 18 knots six guns torpedo tubes several planes, appearance like P and O liner and has dummy equipment for changing silhouette. This raider captured Norwegian vessels OLE JACOB and TEDDY, sank latter, and sent former into Kobe where crew was placed on board S.S.SCHARNHORST. No definite moves as yet but considerable activity on German ships in Japanese ports. (N.A.Washington 1219/12)

America and West Indies.

A.M.C.
Armament.

Present main armament and fire control system of the 3 Canadian A.M.C's (4 6" Mark VIII guns on P III 20" mountings) would appear very inadequate against the type of enemy raider liable to be met with vide R.A.S.A.D.1714/6. (N.S.H.Q.Ottawa 1224/11 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

349

BATHURST.

H.M.A.S. allotted signal letters VLRB
Ship proceeds to sea 14/12.
(A.C.N.B. 1340Z/12).

KOMATA.
Raider
Attack.

1a

My 0054Z/9 attack by raider on shipping
off Nøuru. Oar marked KOMATA washed up
on Ocean Island 12/12.
(A.C.N.B. 1829Z/12)

Your 0054/9. Request details of
damage to shipping and port facilities.
(N.I.D.4 to A.C.N.B. 2208/12).



MCST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

349

MADRID.

Left Las Palmas 1900/11 in northerly direction. (F.O.C.N.A. to N.A. Station 0825/12). Description of MADRID. (F.O.C.N.A. 1033/12) Informing S/M's on patrol area B. (V.A.S. 1104/12).

ITHAKA.

Left with 720 tons of munitions from Germany for Persian Govt. via Batoum. (Macrae, Galatez 1140/12).

SALZBURG.

Departure in ballast. (Macrae Galatz. 1140/12).

WINNETOU.

My 0754/10. WINNETOU returned Kobe 12/12. Appears to have been under repair Upper post painted dark grey. (Capt: O.S., Singapore, 1148Z/12).

BRAKE.

German tanker without name supposed to be BRAKE arrived Ferrol 11/12, believed came from Vigo. (Coruna 2000/12, 2030/12).

HEINRICH ARP
ARP.

HEINRICH ARP took provisions and 100 tons bunkers 11/12 now painted black including funnel and is ready to sail. German Embassy motor car arrived at Ferrol morning of 11/12 left night of 11/12 probably with orders for vessels. (Guyatt S. Coruna. 2000/12).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

12.18.40.
Thursday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MAURO CROCHE.

MAURO CROCHE mentioned used to be named
GALLIPOLI.
(Barcelona, 1746/12 to Fairmiss, London).



WAR DIARY.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

CARDITA.
(attacked 11/12.)

Am escorting CARDITA to Clyde then proceeding Liverpool, E.T.A. Clyde 0140/13. (CHELSEA, 1930/12).

TOWA.
(torpedoed
11/12.)

Dutch 5419 tons. Your 1757/11. Have picked up 16 survivors in 2 boats from TOWA at 0100 in position 058 49'N 010 09'W. Master reports ship torpedoed at 1900/11, also Commodore's ship name ending in LEIGH and 1 tanker hit at 1300/11 but tanker not sunk. Am proceeding with my force to R/V. RODNEY. (MATABELE, 0631/12 to C.in C. H.F.)

ROTORUA,
TOWA,
(torpedoed
11/12.)

Proceed forthwith to assistance of ROTORUA in position 58° 56'N., 11° 20'W. at 1300/11 carrying out search on passage for TOWA and an unknown tanker in position 58° 49'N., 10° 09'W at 1900/11. Tug SUPERMAN is being sailed from Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1115/12 to BRIGAND).

Departure Port ZA 1710/12 Fleet tug BRIGAND in execution of your 1115/12. (Trelawney 1711/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Sailed Tug MARAUDER from Cambeltown at 1420 to assistance of TOWA in position 58° 49'N., 10° 09'W and ROTORUA in position 58° 56'N., 11° 20'W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1501/12).

102 survivors of ROTORUA landed Stornoway from EBOR WYKE, VARANGA and ALSEY. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1838/12).

Submarines
Reported.
0150.

Attack U/Boat reported by a/c in 50.21N., 05.51W at 0150 steering 008°. (C.in C. W.A. 0246/12 to MONTGOMERY).



WAR DIARY.

352

MOST SECRET.

12.12.40.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Reported.

0150.
(Contd.)

One Sunderland arriving vicinity of 58.58 N., 11.20 W. about 1200/12 to search for U/Boat.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0330/12 to Orkneys and Shetlands).

1007.
1108.

52°- 53° N., 17°- 20°W., say 300' W of Dingle Bay, very indefinite.
(D.S.464).

1330.

Am investigeting oil patch in 55-45N., 7-52 W.
(A/C, 1330/12 to Aldergrove).

1614.

D.F. probable U/Boat, 55°- 56° N., 10°- 13° N. unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1657/12).

1520.

Unidentified Submarine 55.32N., 6.59W at 1520/12 course 110° reported P/272. (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1910/12) (D.D.I.C. 2147/12).

2007.

D.F. probable U/Boat vicinity of Boyleagh Bay 54.50N., 8.30 W., reliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2135/12 and 2149/12 to N.A. Dublin) Reported by A/C.

1145.

About 54° N., 19°- 21°W., position indefinite (D.S.465).

1235.

No fix, repetition of 1145/12 position indefinite. (D.S. 465).

2020.

51°- 52°N., W. of 17° W. position indefinite (D.S.465).



U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Submarines
Reported.
(Contd.)

2014.

54°- 55° N., 11°- 14° W, position indefinite. (D.S.465).

Ferrol.

Spanish s.s. SANTA CLARA arrived Ferrol from South Spain reports having seen several submarines probably coming to escort German merchant ships. (Guyath.S.Coruna. 2000/12 to Adty).

Search
from
Milford
Haven.

Information. U/Boat reported in position 50° 50'N., 07° 10'W at 2320/10 and 50° 21'N., 05° 51'W at 0150/12 steering 080°. All available A/S Trawlers and Yachts are to R/V in position 000° Hartland Point 8 miles as arranged by F.O.I.C. Milford Haven and search area within 8 miles of the coast between Hartland Point and Trevoze Head being North of Hartland Point by 0800/13. Other Trawlers and Destroyers will be searching to S.W. of this area. Aircraft are co-operating Eight destroyers may be expected to pass North-eastwards through area during the early hours tomorrow Friday. (C.in C. W.A. 1155/12 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.C.I.C. Swansea.)

Sailed ROSEMARY, DERBY COUNTY to carry out purport of C.in C. W.A. 1155/12. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1716/12).

Search
from
Dartmouth.

1U/Boat reported in position 50° 50'N., 07° 10' W at 2320/10 and 50° 21'N 05° 51'W at 0150/12 steering 080°. Available A/S trawlers are to be sailed as soon as ready to search area to Northward of line joining Longships and Sevenstones to 50° 25'N. Other trawlers will be searching within 10 miles of North coast of Cornwall. Destroyers LE TRIUMPHANT and JERSEY will be operating to North and West of Trawler search. Aircraft are co-operating. Eight destroyers may be expected to pass north eastwards through area during the night. (C.in C. W.A. 1158/12 to N.C.I.C. Dartmouth.)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

354

12.12.40.

Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Search
from
Dartmouth.
(Contd.)

My 1158. The one available A/S trawler from each of Falmouth and Plymouth are to R/V off Lizard as arranged by Cdr. A/P Plymouth and proceed to search within 10 miles of North Coast of Cornwall as far as Trevoise Head. (C.in C. W.A. 1200/12).

Your 1158/12. Sailed LORD ESSENDEN, KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and PEARL. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1516/12 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarines
Reported.

Estimated
U/Boat
dispositions.

Italian.

1 or 2 near Azores.
1 in about 49° N., to 50° N., 17° W to 19° W, at 1741/11 outward bound.
1 in about 50° N., 12° W. at 1553/11 homeward bound.
1 probably west of Ireland.
1 in area 53° N., to 54° 19° W., to 20° W.

German.

1 in Cape de Verde Islands area.
1 may arrive Lorient tonight.
1 in about 52° N., 17° W. to 20° W.
1 in about 54° N., 17° W. to 18° W.
1 in about 54° N., 20° W.
1 commencing patrol may be about 55° N., 10° W. to 12° W.
1 in about 59° N., to 60° N., 15° W. to 17° W.
1 attacked convoy near 59° N., 10° W. to 11° W.
1300/11 and 1900/11.
(D.D.I.C. 1341/12). (V.A.S. 1552/12).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.12.40. 355
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines
Attacked.

1400.

Am over enemy submarine in 50.26N.,
5.20 W., course 110° have dropped
2 bombs. (A/C T.O.R. 1400/2 to
PEMBROKE) A/C attacked U/Boat in
50.26N., 5.20W., at 1407.
(C.in C. W.A. 1422/12 to MONTGOMERY).

Proceed as soon as possible after 1530
when channel is swept to attack U/Boat
in 50.26N., 05.20W at 1407.
(A.C.W.A. 1450/12 to JERSEY, French
L/C LE TRIOMPHANT) Ditto to WRESTLER.
(C.in C. W.A. 1455/12).

Report of air attack. First bomb
dropped 1,000 ft., second attack
700 ft. bomb failed to release. 1 direct
hit with bomb, explosion seen. S/M
submerged after first bomb dropped
no oil or air bubbles seen. 2 periscopes
observed and bomb appeared direct hit
between them. White framework seen on
surface after attack.
(Plymouth 1900/12 to H.Q. C.C.)



War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command

Night operations on 12/13-12 were cancelled owing to weather, and for the same reason all aircraft were forced to abandon their tasks today.

Coastal Command

Hudson aircraft on patrol off Den Helder scored a direct hit on a 7,000 ton supply ship last night. Blenheim aircraft off Norway scored 2 hits on a 2000 ton merchant ship off Utyoer Light. Bordeaux was raided this evening with good results.

Enemy Air Activity

Activity last night was on a small scale, and chiefly confined to minelaying.

The raid on Frater Mine Depot on the night of 11-12 caused only slight damage to fencing.

Mining

A very large number of mines were laid from aircraft near Thames Boom last night. The Thames and Medway were closed at 0403 today.

The Humber was opened this morning.

WINDSOR, Destroyer, mined on 8/12, arrived at the Nore in tow of ST. MELLONS last night.



MOST SECRET

357

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Operation
"Ration"

French SS AVANT-GARDE was intercepted off Cape Tresforças this morning and taken to Gibraltar. She was alone, outside Spanish territorial waters

North Atlantic

It was reported from Tangier this morning that both the Italian submarines sailed at 0430/13.

TRIDENT is to relieve CACHALOT on the Azores Patrol.

South Atlantic

NEWTON PINE, independently for U.K., reported today that she was being gunned by a submarine in the South Atlantic in 2° 6' N 22° 0' W., about 700' S.W. of Freetown.

ENTERPRISE arrived at Montevideo this afternoon on a 48 hour visit.

Passengers and crews from the French CUBA and INDOCHINOIS were removed today after having been kept on board at Freetown for several weeks.

Mediterranean

COVENTRY
Torpedoed

COVENTRY was torpedoed by a U-Boat this evening but was able to proceed to Alexandria at 13 knots.

TERROR
Bombardment

TERROR engaged in the bombardment of Bardia, was unsuccessfully attacked by an E-Boat last night.

Bardia & Tobruk
Bombed

Bardia and Tobruk were attacked by the R.A.F. and F.A.A. last night.

Main Fleet

BARHAM, VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, GLOUCESTER, YORK and 12 destroyers returned to Alexandria today from operations off the Libyan Coast in support of the Army.



MOST SECRET

357

War Diary

13.12.1940
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War Diary

MOST SECRET

358

13.12.1940
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

DESPATCH arrived at Bermuda this evening on her return to the Station, from which she had been absent since September.



MOST SECRET

360

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Dover
Dispositions

For night of 13/14 Dec. Weather permitting.
(V.A.Dover, 1242/13)

WORCESTER

C. in C., Nore 1440/12. WORCESTER to sail for Rosyth 1300/14, reporting E.T.A. Rosyth to F.O.I.C. Harwich before sailing. If Rosyth closed due to mining, WORCESTER is to proceed to Scapa direct reporting E.T.A. as soon as known. Route as in my 1258/13. (Capt. D. 16 1257/13 to WORCESTER)

Portsmouth,
Night Movements

No patrols except in Eastern Approaches. No passages, no convoys. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1307/13)

Northern Patrol

Trawlers line occupied tonight 13/12. (3 trawlers) (A.C.O.S. 1536/13)

M.A.S.B's

Request be informed of anticipated date of sailing these M.A.S.B's (C. in C., W.A. 1516/13 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

KASHMIR

On parting company with QUEEN ELIZABETH proceed with KIPLING, PUNJABI and JUPITER to carry out an A/S sweep through Q.Z.F. 15 and along N coast Cornwall. U-Boat was bombed in position 50° 26' N., 05° 20' W., at 1407/12. Continuous air search being maintained weather permitting. A/S trawlers, and yachts searching A. in Q.Z.F. 15. Within ten miles of coast between Lands End and Trevoise Head. North of a line Longships to Sevenstones to 50° 25' N. On completion of sweep continue hunt in area between coast of Cornwall and 7° W. (C. in C., W.A., 1246/13 to KASHMIR)

WOLFE
CHITRAL

My 1000/12. WOLFE's sailing delayed until 1600/14. CHITRAL to pass through 60° 50' N., 15° 00' W., at 1600/16. (1944/13)

/RAMILLIES.....



War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

RAMILLIES

Admty. 1719/6 and my 1852/10 request sail RAMILLIES escorted by FERNIE, CLEVELAND, CATTISTOCK and HOLDERNESS to Plymouth as soon as ready. (C. in C., W.A., 2336/13 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Operations

Operation

→ P.V.I.

(Ant E/S. Nore.)

P.V.One will be carried out from 2100 to 2300- 13. Aircraft will drop flares between these times. (C. in C., Nore 1020/13 to F.O.I/c Harwich, F.O.I/c Yarmouth, Cdre. Sheerness EGRET, VORTIGERN, EGLINTON, SHEARWATER, Admiralty 16 group, H.Q.F.C., H.Q.B.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Proposed
Operation

239. Your 1743/10 Paragraph 4. G.O.C. could spare eight of his Ski platoons if reliefs asked for by Norwegian Naval Liaison Officer from Norwegian Army Command are available. The other eight and their officer are required as Ski instructors in Iceland. Four Meteorologists including two W/T operators removed from Jan Mayer available here also. Numbers to complete could be found locally and made available after short period of training. Officer not available Iceland. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1307/13 to Admty.)

→ Operation
P.V.I.

My 1020/13 P.V.One cancelled on account of weather. (C. in C., Nore, 1645/13 to Admiralty, F.O.I.C's Harwich, Yarmouth, Commodore Sheerness, EGRET, VORTIGERN, EGLINTON, SHEARWATER.)

M.T.B.
Operation

Weather permitting M.T.B's are to operate between Flushing and Ostend tonight Friday. If considered practicable Flushing roads should be visited. Any vessel met East of 2° 15' E., may be attacked without challenge. Operation P.V. one will start at 2100 M.T.B's to be clear by that time. (C. in C., Nore, 1032/13)

Harwich 13/12 Departures M.T.Bs 29,32,34 at 1935. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1946/13 to Admty)



War Diary

13.12.1940
FridayHOME COMMANDSSubmarinesWHITEBEAR

Request may be sailed to arrived Tobermory a.m. 20/12. Netherlands S/M No 14 escorted by WHITEBEAR to arrive Dundee 22/12. (Capt. (S) 7, 1117/13 to Capt (S) 3) C. in C., W.A., 1110/13 On reaching W end Q.Z.F. 18 proceed in company to 170° Bishop Rock 23 miles thence TUNA to patrol by route ordered. WHITEBEAR to Plymouth and report 2 hours after parting company. A/S ships hunting to E 007° W. (Capt (S) 2, 1609/13 to TUNA, WHITEBEAR) Your 1110/13 received. Position (details), request instructions. (? WHITEBEAR, 1615/13 to C. in C., W.A.) WHITEBEAR escorting TUNA reported by Lundy Is. 1545/13 steering S.W. Evidently not received my 1110/13 (C. in C., W.A., 1740/13 to KASHMIR) Following is repetition of my 1110/13 (C. in C., W.A., 1820/13 to WHITEBEAR) Repetition of my 1615/13. Your 1110/13 received. (WHITEBEAR, 2130/13 to C. in C., W.A.)

Positions and Movements

For following 24 hours at 0800/14. (V.A.S. 1918/13)

British Air ActivityPatrols today

~~"C. in C."~~ ^{"Maggie Skel"} in lieu of ~~MUGGY STAB~~ (C. in C., Rosyth 1016/13)

Attacks for night 13/14.

AP/667/12. Available A/C of No 22 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M targets in No 1 basin at Bordeaux. (H.Q.C.C. 1310/13)

AP/664 13/12 P.R.U. reports six possibly seven S/Ms present at Lorient. Positions. Available A/C of 53,59 and 217 Sqdns. to attack tonight submarines and Naval Dockyard. Details of Bombs. (H.Q.C.C. 1235/13)

Enemy Air ActivityFrater Mine Depot

Air raid on night of 11-12/12 at Frater mine depot and Elson caused very slight damage. (Supt. C.E., Dockyard, Portsmouth 1445/13)



War Diary

MOST SECRET

13.12.1940 363
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Thames and
Medway

Thames and Medway closed owing to mines.
(F.O.I.C. London. 0403/13)

One low flying hostile A/C suspected
minelating plotted at 0303 over or near Mallet
Spitway East Swin and Barrow Deep (positions)
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0527/13)

My 0403/13 Traffic in the river to the
West of Southend Pier may be resumed as
far as Southend. (F.O.I.C. London, 1005/13)

My 0403/13. Vessels may proceed between
London River and the Medway via the
Switchway. Precautions. (F.O.I.C. London
1130/13)

Cancel my 1130/13. No ship to navigate
in River Thames below Scars Elbow. (F.O.I.C.
London. 1441/13)

Pyrotechnics etc., in Thames Estuary on
night 12/13 very large number of mines
were laid from aircraft near Thames Boom.
These have been reported in other signals.
Pyrotechnics were are follows: 1620/13

Cancel my 1130/13/12. Switchways has not
yet been swept and not to be used. (F.O.I.C.
London, 2028/13)

Thameshaven

At 2005 one parachute mine exploded in air
off Thameshaven jetty, a second parachute
mine fell in River 1 cable S. No 6 jetty
Thameshaven and exploded at 2045. Third
and fourth explosions in water 1 cable
S. Shell Haven at 2047. First and second
explosions parachutes were seen. No damage
to ships or jetties. (F.O.I.C. London.
2100/13)

My 2100/13. Further investigation shows
that no sweeping will be necessary. (F.O.I.C.
London, 2220/13)

/Sheerness.....



MOST SECRET

364

War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Cont.

Sheerness
Mines Dropped

My 0412 and 0833 mine dropped at 0455 (position) additional information now to hand gives further reports of 5 mines as follows. Further mines have been reported in Boom gates but not yet certain whether Thames or Medway Gate is involved. Further signal will be sent. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1155/13)

Sheerness

SUNLIGHT reports one mine detonated at 1957/12 by S.A. gear 231° B.3 buoy 2 miles ST. OLIVE reports one red mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 0555/13 280° E Spile Buoy 1.7 miles. Detonation accompanied by prolonged flash. (Capt M/S Sheerness, 1356/13 to C. in C., Nore)

Nore

Following received from ALOHA, via Foulness "A mine about 8 ft long and 3 ft. in -Diameter lies in position on Foulness Sands 1 mile S.E. (Mag) from West Buxey Buoy" 1931/13 ends. 2221/13

Humber

Humber open to navigation. (F.O. Humber 0738/13 amended 0810/13)

WINDSOR

Sheerness for Chatham 13/12 arrival WINDSOR in tow ST MELLONS and escorted by WIDGEON at 2010/12. (C. in C., Nore, 0910/13)

Minesweeping

My 1950/12 four M/S trawlers to be detailed to carry out exploratory sweep Q.Z.Y. 161 to position 000° Trevose Head 5 miles. Trawlers from Falmouth sweeping southern portion to this point. (C. in C., W.A., 1330/13 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven) Your 1617/10.

Acoustic
Mines

Safety cannot be ensured but best to avoid speeds at which vibration is heavy. C. in C., Nore has ordered M.L.s to proceed at more than 11 and less than 16 knots, recommending 1400 revs. For M.G.B's and fast M.B's a speed less than 20 and more than the lower critical is suggested. Zig zag at high speed is likely to explode mines the only safety being the chance of causing explosion at a distance rather than under. (D.M.S. 1915/13 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

365



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TARONGA.

Reported that Wilhelmsen vessel TARONGA
now being fitted out as auxiliary cruiser
at Oslo. B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1559/13).

13.12.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

366

<p>→ <u>PRUDENT</u> (Rescue tug)</p>	<p>In Lough Swilly main engine broken down will proceed as soon as repaired. Ship leaking badly fore and aft crews quarters flooded out. Repairs must be carried out before ship is seaworthy again. Urgent. (PRUDENT 0740/13).</p> <p>Your 0740/13. When main engine is repaired return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1204/13).</p>
<p><u>SCOTT.</u></p>	<p>Propose sail from Lough Foyle for Belfast A.M. 14/12 in view of Admty 1825/12. (SCOTT, 1004/13 to R.A. Minelayers).</p>
<p><u>KELLY.</u></p>	<p>My 1117/12 (sailing for Immingham Sunday) KELLY slightly damaged during D G trials programme will be delayed about three days. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1014/13).</p>
<p><u>NELSON to dock.</u></p>	<p>A.S. Rosyth 1945/12. Propose NELSON Docks 24/12. Intend shifting my Flag to RODNEY for this period. (C.in C. H.F. 1036/13.).</p> <p>Your 1036/13. Approved. (D.O.D.(H) 2120/13 to C.in C. H.F.).</p>
<p><u>OTTAWA.</u></p>	<p>Repairs completed 12/12. Ship sailed for Greenock a.m./13. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1048/13).</p>
<p><u>KALYPSO</u> <u>VERGOTTI</u></p>	<p>De KALYPSO VERGOTTI S.O.S. Ends. 1050/13 no further particulars. (Valentia Radio T.H.I. 1210/13).</p>
<p><u>FLEUR DE LYS,</u> <u>CAMPANULA</u></p>	<p>Your 1140/13 have detached FLEUR DE LYS whose A/S is broken down to escort CAMPANULA with defect in main engine to Londonderry. Escort for present consists of LEITH, WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE. Intend detail WILD SWAN, PERIWINKLE for "PEGASUS. (LEITH, 1445/13 to C.in C. W.A.)</p>
<p><u>O.G.47.</u> "Op: "Speciman".</p>	<p>See also p 369</p>
<p><u>DALEBY.</u></p>	<p>My 2255/4. DALEBY refloated 1519/13. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1535/13).</p>
<p><u>EDOUARD</u> <u>E. VAN VLANDEREN.</u></p>	<p>My 1138/11 ^{EDOUARD} E. VAN VLANDEREN delayed by collision. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1602/13).</p>
<p><u>EMPIRE ELK.</u></p>	<p>Sailed Tug SUPERMAN from Campbeltown 1530/13 to assistance of EMPIRE ELK in place of PRUDENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1610/13 to C.in C. W.A.).</p>

/ Position of

13.12.1940.

Friday.

War Diary.



CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd) 367

Position of EMPIRE ELK at 1127/13,
56° 12'N. 08° 38'W. Engines broken down.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2112/13 to SUPERMAN)

TYSA.

TYSA steering gear broken cannot repair
require tug assistance position 58° 5"N.
6° 2'W. (Wick Radio, 1745/13).

Following read Wick Radio from TYSA
My 1745/13 steering gear temporarily
repaired no more assistance required
ship under control.
(Base Ship Scapa, T.O.R. 2339/13).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.

Friday.

368

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Convoys.

H.X.91.

Estimated position 0900/13.
(D.T.D. 1159/13 to C.in C. H.F.)

COMMANCHEE has arrived, Liverpool.
This leaves only one ship, MEGARA,
British tanker, 7931 tons, unaccounted
for (D.O.R. 13/12).

26 ships of H.X.91 have arrived, 16
British, 5 Norwegian, 2 Dutch, 2 Greek,
1 Belgian. (D.S. 465 13/12).

W.N.52.

Arrived 0715/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil
0725/10).

O.G.47.

Route to avoid U/Boats.
(C.in C. W.A. 1334/13 to LEITH, WILDSWAN
etc.)

F.N.59.

Postponed 24 hours, fog.
(C.in C. Nore 0922/13 C.in C. Rosyth
1725/13).

F.N.57.

Arrived 1330/13. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1331/13)

H.X.89.

10 hours late at R/V delayed by weather
on 24/11. One straggler, engine trouble,
all ships arrived.
(D.T.D. 1407/13).

O.B.O.258.

Sailed 0145/13. Escort VANQUISHER,
5 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1305/13).

W.N.54.

Code "Chitty". Clyde portion 1 ship
escort HUGH WALPOLE. (N.C.S.O. Greenock
1224/13).

S.L.S.57.

Sailing telegram. Extract. (D.T.D.
1838/13).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.12.40.
Friday.

369

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

W.N.53.

My 1315/11/12. W.N.53 delayed 25 hours. Now due Duncansby 1130/16. After E.N. 40 has passed Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FLEETWOOD to join W.N.53 off Duncansby Head.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0957/13 to FLEETWOOD A.C.O.S.)

W.N.53.

1929/13. H.M.Trawlers MORRIS DANCE^r DRANGEY, 16 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 2044/13).

F.S.59.

Humber 13/12 departure SUTTON at 0945 to join F.S.59 thence Harwich.
(F.O.Humber 1009/13).

S.L.57.

PEGASUS and two Corvettes are to remain with*convoy until necessary to meet S.L.57 in position 53° 07' N., 16° 50' W at 1000/16. Remainder of escort remain with convoy till further orders. When clear of convoy WILD SWAN report Corvettes detailed for PEGASUS.
*(C.in C.W.A. 1140/13 to LEITHE, WILD SWAN, FLEUR DE LYS, PEGASUS). * See p. 366.

S.L.57.

My 1534/11. Amend R/V with S.L.57 S to read 53° 07' N., 16° 50' W at 1000/18.
(C.in C.W.A. 1142/13 to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

F.N.59.

F.N.59 GUILLEMOT^r Break off from Convoy at daylight and return to Harwich.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1246/13 to GUILLEMOT).

S.C.14.

Proceed direct to 55° 30' N., and sweep towards North Channel. Search for S.C. 14, 21 ships Commodore Master ATHENIC. BROKE and LA MALOUINE pass by V/S to trawlers in company.
(C.in C.W.A. 1318/13 to BROKE SALADIN, SARDONYX, LA MALOUINE). See also p. 415

F.S.57.

H.M.Trawler NOTTS COUNTY arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1509/13 to N.C.S.O. Thames. etc.)



MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

370

Shipping.

O.B.259.

My 1613/13 (Sailing ARABIS for O.B.M. 259) correct O.B.M.259 to read O.B.259. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 2350/13).

O.B.259.

Sailed O.B.M.259 (a) 1653/13 (b) H.M.Trawler LEEDS UNITED (c) 11 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven. 1719/13).

H.G.49.

Request you will issue necessary orders to LEITH for bringing back H.G.49. (C.in C.W.A. 1648/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

S.C.15.

My p.c.s. at 1900/13 G.M.T. 052° 10'N., 035° 33'W (?240° 090°) 10. Request R/V S.C.15. (CILICIA, 1910/13 to F.O.C.N.P.)

M.G.B.47.

Intend sailing M.G.B.47 for Fowey at 1100/14. E.T.A. position 173° Pecarro Head 2 point 5 miles 1500/14. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2215/13 to Adty etc.)

S.L.57.

S.L.57 is to keep well clear to Westward of U/B reported in position 49° 50'N., 20° 55'W at 1857/13. (C.in C. W.A. 2342/13 to CANTON).

Colliers.

Request you will sail SAPPHIRE and 3 French Trawlers to arrive Sand Head Buoy at 0700/15, where they will be joined by 2 small Colliers from Dover. Fighter protection from daylight 15th until arrival at Southend will be asked for. Route to be followed as in my 1302/6/12. (C.in C. Nore 1150/13 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

10.M/V's.

My 2239/11. Sailed 10.M.V's including 2 Tankers and one Tug for Hartland Gap. Escorts CAPE COMORIN, ST. CATHAN and VICTRIX. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1649/13).

MOST SECRET.

13.12.40.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

371

Shipping.

Troop Convoys.

W.S.5.A.

W.S.5.A.(slow) sails Bar L.V. 1600/18
R.V. Bristol Channel Ship 53° 38'N.,
3° 48'W at 1700/18. R/V Clyde and
Belfast 180° 5 miles Oversay 0930/19.
W.S.5.A. (Fast) sails Bar L.V. 0400/19.
R/V Clyde Ships 000 degs. 8 miles
Altacarry 1600/19 (Secret positions)
(N.C.S.O.Liverpool 1711/13 to Adty).

BERA
SVEADROTT
CASTOR.

Your 1231/15/11. (Reporting safe conduct
for Swedish Tankers BERA, SVEADROTT AND
CASTOR). This matter has been dealt
with between M.E.W. and the Swedish
Legation in London.
(Hd. of M. 1709/13 to N.A. Stockholm.)

Motor
Ships
East
Coast.

Cancel my 2227/11 Ministry of Shipping
requested to rearrange temporarily its
programme to ensure that minimum number
of ocean going motor ships will discharge
on East Coast South of Firth of Forth,
also that as many motor coasting vessels
as possible will be transferred from
East to West coast trading. There will
remain a number of motor ships essential
for maintaining supplies on East Coast
and, subject to Admiralty agreement,
these may proceed. Important
that ocean going motor ships should keep
their engine revolutions as low as
possible, consistent with navigability
in waters where acoustic mines are
suspected. Motor coasting vessels,
when approaching harbours and particularly
between Humber light vessel and
Grimsby roads and also between Sunk
Light Vessel and Southend, to reduce
their engine revolutions to half speed,
or as low as safety permits, although
this may entail temporarily parting from
convoy. Number of ocean going motor
tankers coming to East Coast ports
will be decided as at present by direct
consultation between the Oil Board and
Admiralty. Subject to above motor
vessels on East Coast now being held
should be allowed to proceed.
(D.T.D. 2212/13 to C.in C's and
N.C.S.O's).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

372

Operation "Ration". My 0946/9/12. FORESTER expected time of arrival Gibraltar 0130/14 with AVANT-GARDE intercepted.

French M/V AVANT-GARDE intercepted off Cape Tresforcas at 0930/13. (F.O.C.N.A. 1244/13 to Admty) Vessels arrived 0145/14 (F.O.C.N.A. 0202/14).

Your 0946/9. Was ^{"Ration"}~~"Ration"~~ carried out yesterday, 12/12. If so request you will report the result of the operation and whether French ships BAMAKO and AVANT-GARDE, reported passing from West to East escorted by a French Armed Trawler in S.O. (I) Gibraltar's 1633/12 were intercepted. (D.O.D. (F) 1255/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Your 1255/13. Yes see my 1244/13. Convoy was shadowed until dark last night at which time they were still in Spanish territorial waters and escorted. (AVANT-GARDE was intercepted alone outside Spanish territorial waters off Cape Tresforcas at 0930/13. French escort returning with other French merchant vessels is in straits now steering to westward keeping close to Moroccan shore. BAMAKO has not been located to-day Friday. Force now returning. (F.O.C.N.A. 1440/13 to Adty).

From your 1440/13 it does not appear that a ship which was actually being escorted at the time has been brought in. If not, ^{"Ration"}~~"Ration"~~ is to be continued until a test case has been carried out. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2100/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

OREGON.

Intend sailing French ship OREGON for Gibraltar for onward routing to Toulon routed in accordance with Admty 1913/28/10, 0900/15, speed 11 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0938/13).

French Submarines.

French submarines LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE ARETHUSE, ARCHIMEDE, escorted by French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY expected to pass east west between 1100 and 1300 to-morrow Saturday, destination probably Casablanca. They should not be molested. (F.O.C.N.A. 1603/13 to N.A. Stn).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

373

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Italian Submarines.
Tangier.

Tangier reports both Italian submarines have sailed (F.O.C.N.A. 0654/13). Consul General, Tangier, reports Italian U boats sailed 0430. Patrol outside territorial waters off Tangier reports having seen nothing. All available air and surface forces searching (F.O.C.N.A., 0800/13) 2 Italian U boats sailed from Tangier at 0430 (F.O.C.N.A. 0904/13 to SHEFFIELD PROTEUS).

CYMBELINE.

(Sunk by raider in 20°N, 35°W on 2/9) Wounded seaman landed St. Nazaire by REKUM (See German Merchant Ships).

Azores Patrol.

C. in C. Med. 1627/11 TRIDENT who will relieve CACHALOT on patrol will herself be due to leave patrol about (date) Intend TRIDENT should be relieved by one of 8th S/M F. (V.A.S. 1121/13 to Admty).

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. 2 Italian submarines left Tangier 0530 hrs. 13/12. Routine A.S. patrols in Straits. Four A.S. searches. Two reccos. to east co-operative with A.C.N.A. in bringing in French merchant vessels not in Spanish territorial waters. Ship seized AVANT-GARDE. Area covered 1° West of 6° 50' W. (200 Group 1700/13).

South Atlantic.

HAWKINS.

Sailed ^{Darlan} in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1257/11 (VENOMOUS, 11032/13 to Admty etc)

KOSMOS.

Reports received that Norwegian whaler KOSMOS has been captured by a raider and is now detained at Dakar. Report whether recent arrivals from Dakar have any knowledge. (D.D.I.C. 1128/13 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

ASTURIAS

Left Capetown 1230/13 for square L.32 in accordance your 1019/11 to R.A.S.A.D. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1303B/13 to C in C S.A).

/CUBA.....



MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

374

South Atlantic. (continued)

CUBA
INDOCHINOIS }
POITIERS.

Passengers and crews now being removed. Kept on board at Freetown since 7/11 and 19/10 respectively. Disadvantages of such delay. Request internment camps in the Colony be established (C in C. S.A, 1953/13 to Admty). Your 2211/28/11 and 1240/7. Hoped to send in Portuguese MOUZINHO and SERPA PINTO approx 670 Frenchmen from CUBA to Casablanca. Merchant Officers and crew are being repatriated as opportunity offers in accordance para 2a of your 1841/15/11 after the naval personnel have left. Merchant crews of POITIERS and INDOCHINOIS have been interned. See A.T. 1104/29/10 (C. in C. S.A. 1951/13 to Admty).

LARISTAN
damaged.

^{N.T. W.D.}
Your 2120/12 (requesting report on damage to LARISTAN) LARISTAN getting under weigh to come alongside me was in collision stern first with motor vessel PERU. LARISTAN'S rudder bent hard apart and top Gudgeon broke. Minimum number of dockyard and shipwright ratings being left to effect repair of LARISTAN which it is hoped will be completed by 14/12. T.O.O. 1515/10. Fuller report expected from HERMES on her return to St. Helena about 14/12. (C. in C. S.A. 1007/13).

PRAHOVA
SIRETUL
OLTUL
MIMOZA
BORIS
NADIN

Enemy ownership of following ships has been established. If met with at sea they should be captured and brought in as prize; PRAHOVA reported at Los Angeles 25/9. SIRETUL reported at Cadiz 13/10. OLTUL at present at Pernambuco. The following three ships have been requisitioned by Greek Government and previous instructions to capture them are therefore cancelled; MIMOZA, BORIS, NADIN. (C. in C. S.A. 1157N/13).

Foreign.
Legion
Movement.

Your 1738/9 of 10/12 and C. in C. S.A. 1531/10. Free French merchant personnel ex Freetown to be transhipped at Lagos to FORT DE TROYON, should on arrival at Duala together with Free French merchant personnel arriving Duala on CAPO OLMO, be sorted out to man FORT BINGER, FORT DE TROYON, TOUAREG, CHATEAUROUX, TOMBOU. In such arrangements please act in close touch with Capitaine le Terrier arriving on CAPO OLMO, and Master of FORT DE TROYON. If necessary complete with British personnel. (D. of S.T. 2119/13 to N.C. S.O. Duala).

/Your.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

375

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (continued)

Your 1951/12. It is confirmed that the movement outlined in A.T. 2553/10 holds good. For CASAMANCE read FORT LAMY. D. of S.T. 2102/11, the movement referred to in para. 3 is an additional commitment for which it is hoped the ships mentioned in para. 4 may prove suitable and capable for inclusion in W.S. 5A. You may be able to suggest alternative proposals. (D.O.D. (F) 2524/13 to C. in C. S.A).

Raiders.

Following Admiralty messages have been passed to C.S. 15:- 2250/6, 2252/6, 0033/9, 0034/9, 1629/12 and 1647/12.

Following have been passed to F.O. Force K:- 0033/9, 1742/12, 2156/12 and C. in C. Home Fleet's 1102/11 (D. O. D. (F) 1920/13 to C. in C. Med. Force H. etc).

CARNARVON
CASTLE
(raider action
5/12)

Your 001/6. Following enemy reports transmitted by CARNARVON CASTLE.

T.O.O.	Frequency Kc/c	Remarks
Alarm Report	500, 8330.	Commercial Broadcasting at 1006.
1005	500, 8330 12850	Broadcast at frequent intervals on alternate frequencies between 1015 and 1210.
1057	500, 8330 12950	Broadcast at frequent intervals on alternate frequencies between 1120 and 1210.

None of above signals received by R.A. S.A.D. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, or Falkland Is. W/T Station. Message 1115 broadcast at 1226 on 8330 Kc/s and received only by R.A. South America Division.

/At.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.

Friday.

376

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (contd).

CARNARVON
CASTLE
(raider action
5/12)
(contd).

At 1000 R.A.S.A.D. was approximately 400 miles from CARNARVON CASTLE, and QUEEN OF BERMUDA was probably within 300 miles. All times G.M.T. (R.A.S.A.D. 1359Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.).

Mediterranean.

Western
Desert.

Operational Summary No 186 to 1200/13. Mentions several attacks on Bardia, Gazala, Tobruk, etc., on lines of enemy retreat and landing grounds in Libya. Aircraft of F.A.A. also bombed Bardia and Tobruk. G.H.Q. M.E. report our ground forces crossed Libyan Frontier into Capuzzo area 12/12. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1323/13).

Summary of operations. Bombardment of Bardia by battleships and attack on El Adem Aerodrom had to be abandoned on 12/12 owing to heavy weather and low visibility. One Fulmar forced landed during operation and crew safe. Despite weather conditions supplies have been moved up coast and landed at Sidi-Barrani. One X lighter sank heavy weather. A ferry service of Egyptian vessels as well as Men-of-War is bringing back prisoners of which 7500 should have arrived by tonight. Stores and water being landed at Sidi Barrani and Mersa Matruh till Army can clear Sollum. Weather now improving.

TERROR recommenced operation at Bardia 2100/13, she was unsuccessfully attacked by E. Boat during the night. Gunboats co-operated at Sollum and are now joining TERROR for deliberate bombardment of Bardia during the next day or two. Destroyers covering operation. A/S Patrols, air and surface have resulted in sinking of Italian Submarine NAIADE as reported. Disembarked F.A.A. Aircraft have been co-operating throughout with flare dropping and A/S Patrols. 850 Squadron from Malta attacked Tripoli (Africa) night of 13/14. Four tons of bombs dropped two sticks burst among ships in mid-stream three direct hits on two ships alongside North Mole also on warehouses causing explosions. Swordfish failed to return. (C. in C. Med 1145/13).

/M.N.B.D.O.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

15. 12.1940.
Friday.

377

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (continued).

M.N.B.D.O.

For Cs in C. from Chiefs of Staff No 30. Agreed that R.M. Group of M.N.B.D.O will be sent to Middle East in W.S.6. Details of Group. Your 1055/13 and Admty. 1941/9 refer (1 S.L. 1645/13 to C. in C. Med).

BONAVENTURE
Personnel
Transport.

Admty. 1742/12 para 3 BONAVENTURE will carry 9 officers and 71 O.R. to Gibraltar where they are to be transferred to destroyers as arranged by S.O. Force H. for onward passage to Malta. These troops have no connection with Operation "Workshop" (D.O.D. (F) 2113/13 to C. in C. Med etc) Cancel my 2113/13 (D.O.D. F). 1531/15).

Dodecanese.

Your 1651/11. Name of one island is corrupt but presume Rhodes and Kos are intended. Please confirm (D.N.I. to C. in C. Med, 2214/13). *Can call - See 15/12. p 439*

Western Desert
Operations in
Support of Army.

My 1547/12. No bombarding operations carried out today owing to uncertainty of military situation on Sollum Escarpment where fighting is still in progress. PROTECTOR, CHAKLA, FIONA, destroyers, water and petrol carrier, KNIGHT OF MALTA and various Egyptian ships and small craft are operating between Alexandria and Mersa Matruh and Sidi Barrani in order to land provisions and stores and remove prisoners. Weather hampering these operations, but now improving. LADYBIRD and TERROR now proceeding to Gulf of Sollum to bombard tomorrow if required. Preliminary report of Sollum operations indicate TERROR and gunboats assisted by Capt (D) 14 in JERVIS, with NUBIAN, JANUS and HEReward did useful work by harassing escarpment road during an important period 0130/11 to 0100/12. All ships were fired on by shore batteries about 6 inch calibre but no hits. Gunboats used pompoms when enemy personnel left vehicles and ran. TERROR and gunboats fired (?practically?) (?continously). (C. in C. Med 2215/13 to Admty).

/Italian



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

378

Mediterranean. (continued).

Italian.
Supplies.
Albania.

Both Minister of War and Chief of General Staff in conversation yesterday stressed vital importance of British Naval action preventing Italian materials of War from reaching Albania. They stated although Italians had lost much War material had lost neither many prisoners nor casualties. This implied that they had succeeded in withdrawing successfully their troops, and they believed that it might be possible for them to reform and regain their morale provided necessary materials could be brought from Italy. Both Minister of War and Chief of General Staff doubt ability of Greeks to expel Italians from Albania unless conditions referred to above are fulfilled. (A.N.A. Belgrade, 1248/13).

Malta Air
Report.

All times G.M.T. 1043-1427 Glenn Martin on photographic reconnaissance Tripoli harbour and Pantelleria. Tripoli harbour - 7 destroyers - one fleet auxiliary - 9 M/V's 10,000 tons - 30 smaller Q/V's. Pantellaira not photographed due to enemy patrolling 1650 local time 8 Swordfish left to attack Tripoli. 1655 local time 4 Wellingtons left to attack Valona. If weather suitable at target further 4 Wellingtons will follow. No enemy air activity over Malta today. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1720/13).

BARBETTE.
Turkish Crew.

Your telegram 1539/10 (re B.D.V. BARBETTE) Turkish General staff agree to send crew to Egypt as soon as possible for instructions in similar class of ship so that BARBETTE can be taken over and commissioned under Turkish flag immediately on arrival. 1924/13 Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Submarines.

Intended that O, P. and R. class submarines should refit in U.K. owing to the urgency for carrying out modifications for noise reduction and to adjust complements. Your remarks requested together with proposed programme for their return. Assumed this would permit refitting your other submarines on the station. D.O.D. (F) 2237/13 to C. in C. Med).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

379

Mediterranean. (continued).

COVENTRY
reported
mined.

COVENTRY reports being mined in position 032° 27' N. 026° 44' E. at 2042. Proceeding to Alexandria at 13 knots. Destroyers and PROTECTOR joining her. Suspect (?Submarine) (C. in C. Med 2249/13 to Admtly) (Ship was torpedoed - see 14/12.).

East Indies.

Air Reports.

Operational Summary 186 part 3 (Sudan) and 4 (Kenya) No naval items (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1324, 1326/13) Operational Summary 184 No Naval items A.H.A. Aden 1608/13).

W.S. 5.B.

Admtly ~~18~~ 36/12 Intend ships to be detached from W.S. 5B north of Mozambique Channel and to proceed to vicinity of Ceylon whence ship bound for India and Malaya will proceed direct to destinations. (C. in C. E.I. 06582/13 to Admiralty).

B.S. 2 1/4

Your 1146/11. Yes Convoy B.S. 2 1/4 will be dispensed after passing Aden Request reply to my 1152/9 (C. in C. E.I. 07102/13 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Raider Actions

Request circumstances leading to encounters between ASCANTARA and CARNARVON CASTLE and respective raiders. Were the encounters entirely fortuitous or result of an organised search? (C. in C. E.I. to C. in C. S.A. 12042/13)

Whalers.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1021/11. He reports whalers can reach Lindi from Durban, where I can arrange their fuelling. (C in C.E.I. to Admtly 12062/13).

Pilgrim Ships.

Your 0544/2. Italians will not be informed officially but names of ships will be given wide publicity. Other details such as date of sailing and route will not be given. (Hd of M. 1458/13 to C. in C. E.I).

NETRAVATI
PARATI
RATAGIRI

My 0504/4. Dates when ready for service (F.O.C.R.I.N. to C. in C. E.I. 09302/13).



MOST SECRET.

13.12.1940.
Friday.

War Diary.

380

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Free French Movement.

Report from De Schompse for De Gaulle (C. in C. China 0413/13).

OLE JACOB.
(captured 10/11)

Raider which attacked OLE JACOB approached from Starboard bow signalling by lamp that she was H.M.S. ANTENOR wishing to examine OLE JACOB'S papers. Motor boat apparently containing three men left raider but on coming alongside ten more armed men appeared from under tarpaulin and seized ship. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0531Z/13 to Admty, etc.).

America and West Indies.

ST. CROIX.

Arrived here 1200 G.M.T. today (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1145/13).

French W. Indies Trade.

Your tel. No. 87 of 12/12 to C. in C. A. W.I. only. In view of present U.S. (?Cargoes) I agree no purpose served by embargo on shipments in small quantities from Trinidad to French West Indies of Petroleum products other than fuel oil, Under the circumstances I now have no objection to an occasional visit by a schooner to carry small supplies and agree that this should be at discretion of Captain in charge Trinidad, who should report any such shipments to me. (C. in C. A.W.I. to Governor Trinidad).

CARADOC.
DESPATCH
DIOMEDE.

CARADOC leaves Jamaica a.m./15 and proceeds Bermuda via Crooked Island passage, so as to arrive p.m./18. DESPATCH leaves Bermuda on completion of practice p.m./16 and proceeds Kingston Jamaica via Crooked Island passage so as to arrive a.m./20. DIOMEDE will probably leave Jamaica for Trinidad on relief of DESPATCH and will subsequently proceed Bermuda to make good defects on relief of CARADOC. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2232/13);

U.S. Bases.
Dues.

Governor Trinidad telegram 6126 of 10/12 to S. of S. for Colonies. I would urge most strongly that Colonial Government concerned be advised to waive custom dues on all gear and material required for construction and operational use of U.S. bases from now on. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2252/13 to Admty).



War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday 381

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

ATLAS

Valencia reports expects to sail tonight 12/13/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 0103/13 to C. in C., Med.)

REGENSBURG

B.2. report, took 1400 tons oil from other German ships, 1500 tons more will be taken from shore. B.3. report ship now taking large quantities apples and vegetables. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0831Z/13)

JOAO PESSOA

Has sailed from Vigo. Believed to have left about 1130 last night. (Consul, Vigo 1059/13) Informing submarines on patrol, area B. (V.A.S., 1554/13)

BRAKE

My 1406/11. BRAKE now reported at Ferrol (V.A.S., 1139/13)

BELLONA

Departure 13/12 believed bound for Valencia (Barcelona, 1714/13)

TARONGA

Following from prominent Norwegian. Wilhelmsen vessel TARONGA now being fitted out as auxiliary cruiser at Akers Works, Oslo. (B. 2) (N.A. Stockholm, 1559/13)

HELGOLAND

Italian broadcast on 12/12 claims HELGOLAND, which left Puerto Colombia on 28/10, has reached a German port. (D.S. 467)

REKUM

It is reported that German Tanker REKUM which sailed from Teneriffe 17/7 arrived St. Nazaire 8/10 and landed a wounded seaman from British CYMBELINE. CYMBELINE is known to have been sunk by a raider in 20° N., 35° W., on 2/9. REKUM has probably been acting as supply ship to this raider and may now have been relieved by another tanker. (D.D.I.C. 1544/13 to F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

CHIPKA

Bulgarian ship CHIPKA reported to be under German charter from Odessa Dec. 13th unloading 371 tons machinery proceeding to Batum, date of sailing not yet known. (Consul, Sumsun, T.H.I. 2040/13)



War Diary

13.12.1940
Saturday 382

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA

Departure tanker MAYA Batoum (Varna, 0935/13)

CONTE GRANDE

N.C.S.O. Santos reports received 300 tons oil fuel and 30 tons paraffin (A.1) (S.O.I Freetown, 1042/13)

MAURO)
CROCE)

Imminent departure for Genoa (Barcelona, 1714/13)

FORTUNATA

Previously taken in prize by French. Believed to be at Port Lyantey, where she was recently reported to have been unloading her cargo of Toluol. Report now received that an Italian crew for her has arrived at Larache via Spain. (D.S. 465, 13/12)

BALENA)
SARDELLA)
PESCE SPADA)

Trawlers, which left Horta, Azores on 25/9 and Vigo on 1/10, claimed in an Italian broadcast 12/12 to have reached a French port on the Bay of Biscay. (D.S. 467)



War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday

383

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

MANSEER

British, 7911 tons. SSSS 52.30 N., 05.21 W.
Submarine sighted. Vis. mod. W.X. overcast
(Via Lyness, 0154/13)

ORARI

British, 10,350 tons. SSSS, ORARI, 49.30 N.,
20.55 W., torpedoed (Lands End Radio 1857/13)

South Atlantic

NEWTON PINE

U.65

British, 4212 tons. SSSS 02.06 N., 22.00 W.,
NEWTON PINE gunned. (Freetown W/T 1818/13)

ROTORUA

Following received from N.O.I.C. Stornoway:-
Arrivals 12/12 EBOR WYKE, VARANGA and
ALSEY landed 102 survivors of British ship
ROTORUA T.O.O. 1838/12. (A.C.O.S. 0115/13 to
Admty., etc.)

ROTORUA

TOWA

(Torpedoed 11/12)

Your 1400/13. No further information.
ROTORUA believed sunk. If contact is not
made search should be made for TOWA and
unknown tanker in position 58° 49' N.,
10° 09' W., (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1617/13
to MARAUDER)

Survivors ROTORUA landed Stornoway. Chief
Engineer stated definitely ship sank.
(N.O.I.C., Stornoway, 1624/13 to MARAUDER)

My 1617/13. ROTORUA sunk. Carry out search
for TOWA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2138/13 to
MARAUDER, BRIGAND)

H.X. 90

(Attacked, 2/12)

Your 2000/10/12 (Report of War Vessel
passing EMPIRE PUMA whilst in Convoy) Have
interrogated master of EMPIRE KITE and
NEURALIA only ships from H.X. 90 in port
and they have no information as to incident.
(F.O.I.C., Glasgow, 1625/13 to C. in C.,
W.A.)



War Diary

13.12.1940
Friday 384

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported

- 1554 D.F., probable U-Boat 55.50 N., 20.30 W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1615/13)
- 1918 S/M reported 02.06 N., 22.00 W., at 1818/13 G.M.T. (C. in C., S.A. 1842/13)
- 1857 49.50 N., 20.55 W., (ORARI torpedoed) Convoy S.L. 57 is to keep well clear to westward. (C. in C., W.A., to CANTON, 2342/13)
- 1227 55°-56° N., 16.30- 19° W., indefinite (D.S. 466)

Search
W. Approaches

Discontinue hunt at 1730 at which time WRESTLER and JERSEY are to rendezvous as arranged by JERSEY. LE TRIOMPHANT is to proceed in execution of my 1632/11. JERSEY and WRESTLER are to proceed to cover shipping in the channel between Lizard and Start Point. JERSEY continue patrol until necessary to have to return to Plymouth. (C. in C., W.A. 1254/13 to LE TRIOMPHANT, JERSEY, WRESTLER)

A/S Trawlers and yachts are hunting U-Boat off North Coast of Cornwall. KASHMIR and three destroyers are joining them from Northward tonight. Aircraft are co-operating. (C. in C., W.A., 1844/13 to TUNA)

Estimated
U-Boat
Dispositions

Italian:- 1 or 2 near Azores.
1 bound for Gironde may be in about 45° N., 7° W.,
1 in area 53° N., to 54° N., 19° W., to 20° W
2 more in N.W. Approaches of which one may be W. of 20° W., in about 53° N.
German:- 1 in Cape de Verde Is. area or northbound therefrom.
1 off North coast of Cornwall
1 in about 52° N., 17° W., to 20° W.
2 between 54° N., and 55° 30' N., E. of 20° W one of which may have been about 55° 30' N., 17° W. at 1227/13.
1 in area off Bloody Foreland.
1 southbound in about 53° N., 12° W. may be slightly damaged.
1 may still be between 58° N., and 59° N., about 10° W.
Possibly 1 between 59° N., and 60° N., W. of 15° W. (D.D.I.C. 1312/13)



MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

385

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep by
M.T.B's.

Last night, M.T.B's carried out a sweep off Flushing and Ostend. No enemy ships were sighted.

British Air Activity

Coastal Command

Beauforts attacked submarines at Bordeaux last night, dropping heavy calibre bombs in the target area.

Routine and special patrols were on a reduced scale owing to unfavourable weather.

Bomber Command

Owing to adverse weather, operations were considerably reduced last night. A small force of heavy bombers attacked shipyards and dock areas in North Germany. Day operations were abandoned.

Enemy Air Activity

Apparent minelaying last night extended from the Thames Estuary to the Humber and Tyne areas.

Mining

17 enemy mines of various types were exploded by the weather, 10 in Falmouth Bay 5 in Penzance Bay, 2 off Fowey. Six were cut and exploded off Dover.

The Tyne-Blyth inshore channel, Great Yarmouth, Kyles of Bute, and Belfast de-gaussing range were closed.

ADVENTURE continued minelaying this evening in the declared area south of St. George's Channel.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

386

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping

Distress
Messages

To avoid doubt as to whether the cancellation of a Q., R., or S message is genuine, ships are to transmit a coded message cancelling the original report about one hour after cancelling the distress message in plain language.

North Atlantic

Azores
Patrol

Force H (less SHEFFIELD) is to establish a patrol to prevent any enemy attempt to capture the Azores. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar for this duty at 1030 today, and should arrive off the Azores p.m./16. Submarines UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE have been ordered to patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

Operation
"Ration"

Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders.

South Atlantic

Force
"Shrapnel"

C. in C., South Atlantic reports that to meet commitments for Shrapnel Force, MILFORD and DELHI must be recalled from Libreville Patrol, leaving no vessels for this patrol.



War Diary

14.12.1940 387
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Valona and
Bardia
Attacked

Valona was bombed by the R.A.F. this morning, and Bardia both by the R.A.F. and F.A.A. in conjunction with a bombardment by TERROR.

Tripoli
Bombed

F.A.A. Swordfish from Malta attacked Tripoli last night, and scored dive bombing hits on 2 ships alongside the North Mole, others in mid-stream, and on warehouses.

Crotone
Bombed

Crotone Harbour (entrance to Gulf of Taranto) was bombed (apparently for the first time) last night by 1 Wellington. All bombs were seen to burst along the waterfront.

NAIADE
Sunk

The Italian S/M NAIADA was sunk at 1850 today by a destroyer of the 2nd Flotilla N.E. of Derna. 47 Officers and men were taken prisoners.

Malta
Raid

Malta was raided at midday today, but no service casualties or damage were caused.

COVENTRY

COVENTRY, torpedoed last night, arrived Alexandria, and reports only slight damage, confined right forward. An Italian communique claims she was torpedoed by NEGHELLI.

MALAYA

It has been approved to send MALAYA to join Force H.



MOST SECRET

388

War Diary

14.12.1940
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

America & West Indies

In view of a possible break-out by the German ORINOCO from Tampico, CARADOC has been ordered to leave Jamaica to-morrow morning for Nassau, Bahamas, via Crooked Island Passage, to arrive on the morning of 17/12.

U-Boat Campaign

WESTERN PRINCE, sailing independently from New York to Liverpool with a special cargo, was torpedoed this morning in the N.W. Approaches. Mr. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions, and 3 of his staff were on board, but were rescued.



HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland.
Fishing in Prohibited
Areas.

My 1949/7. Add as follows to para. 3
(Head of M.1139/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Motor Ships
on East Coast.

My 2212/13 Admiralty Agreement for
coasting and ocean-going motor ships
to proceed may be assumed to have
been given unless specific signals
to the contrary for named ships
are made by the Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1635/14 to C. in C. Nore.)

Cancellation of
Distress
Messages.

Admiralty message D.V. Cases have
occurred of doubt as to whether
cancellation of a Q.R. or S, distress
message was genuine or whether the
signal cancelling the distress message
was originated by the enemy.

2. As an additional check therefore
a ship which has made a distress
message of the above type which she
wishes to cancel is to carry out the
following procedure:-

(a) Cancel the distress message in
Plain Language as at present.

(b) About one hour later transmit
a coded message cancelling the original
report.

3. This message (b) should be
prefixed "DR" and whenever possible
a different operator should transmit
it and the note of the transmitter
should be altered in order to reduce
the risk of compromising the ships
secret call sign. (A.Z.N.S.(T). 1949/14 to
British M/V's.) D.S.D. 103.

Clyde.
Docking.
Situation.

Apart from small ships, 4 destroyers
in dock, 4 others up river waiting.
At least 4 others at Tail of Bank
require docking. SUSSEX, SUFFOLK, HECLA,
and MANCHESTER CITY, should all be
docked this month. FIJI and WORCESTER-
SHIRE will also require docking soon.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2336/14 to Adty.)

"Deluge"
Defence.

Defence of U.K.
At 1130/14. (D.C.1135/14) At 2330/14.
D.C. 2356/14.)
Reference Air Ministry F.O.6. 1040/13.



War Diary.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

390

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. Contd.

→ QUEEN ELIZABETH will arrive Rosyth for docking 15th December and as far as can be foreseen there will be at least one capital ship present until mid February. Request arrangements obtaining while KING GEORGE V was in dock may continue until arrangements discussed at recent meeting of Recognition Committee come into force. (A.C.N.S.H. 1307/14 to Air Ministry.)

Your 1212/11. Understood retention of Bty again under consideration and therefore arrangements for relief of R.M. personnel held up. Relief can be arranged at short notice as soon as decision regarding guns received. (Hofof, London 1805/14 to Adty.)

Movements.

SALADIN. }
SARDONYX. }

Expect arrive 1030. (SALADIN 0831/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1251/14.)

FURIOUS.

Unable to enter harbour, owing to gale. Delay at least 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0850/14.)

→ QUEEN ELIZABETH.

My 2150/13. EXMOOR and BRILLIANT have now joined and 2nd Division Destroyers hve been despatched.

(QUEEN ELIZABETH 0945/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) 1 Battleship, 4 Destroyers, 260° Rudh Hunish 5 miles, steering 030 at 1455. (C.G.Kyle 1500/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

A/C. reports Q. ELIZABETH in 57° 9'40" W. at 1325. (C. in C. Rosyth 1650/14 to Adty.)

WOLFE }
CHITRAL. }

F.O.C.N.P. 1000/12. Two destroyers to sailed to escort, as required by F.O.C.N.P. (C. in C. H.F. 1057/14 to RAD.HF.)
CHITRAL arrived Reykjavik (F.O. Iceland 1612/14.) Sailed WOLFE at 1600/14. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1615/14.)

BONAVENTURE.

Request you sail for Clyde PM/16. C. in C. WA. 1145/14.)

TARTAR)
SEVERN)

My 1822/13. Delayed sailing 24 hours by weather. (C. in C. W.A. 1145/14.)

NELSON.

Your 1036/13 and Adty 2120/13. If preferred, can be docked at about 0900/23 if draught not more than 32½ feet and ship upright. (A.S.Rosyth 1229/14 to C. in C. HF.) Will arrive to dock 23/12. (C. in C. HF. 1905/14.)



War Diary.

Movements. Contd.

<u>RAMILLIES. ARGUS. CALIFORNIA,</u> <u>CAIRO. ST. LAURENT, SKEENA,</u> <u>COSSACK. SIKH.</u>	}	Arrived Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1410/14)
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Movements. (2).

<u>14th A/S.</u> <u>Striking Force.</u>	Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P. 0920/13. E.T.A. 24/12. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1417/14.)
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<u>VENOMOUS.</u>	C. in C. W.A. 1055/14. E.T.A. 0730/15. (VENOMOUS 1500/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
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<u>READING.</u> <u>RAMSEY.</u>	}	Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1530/14.)
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Northern Patrol.	Trawler Lines tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1536/14.)
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<u>KELVIN.</u>	Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/14)
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<u>M.L. 124.</u>	Sailed E.T.A. Milford Haven 1000/15. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1600/14.)
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<u>Town-class</u> <u>Destroyer.</u>	It is essential that a Town Class destroyer should be made available for at least four days for first of Class Torpedo Discharge Trials at Weymouth as soon as possible. Suggested BRIGHTON be detailed. (D.O.D. H. 1601/14. to C. in C.W.A D.O.D.(H.)
--	--

<u>M.T.B. 104.</u>	Cancel my 1834/13. Request you will arrange to send M.T.B.104 with crew to Greenock forthwith. She should be given priority over movement of 55ft. M.T.Bs. (A.C.N.S. F. 1602/14 to C in C. Nore.)
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<u>SCOTT.</u>	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1615/14)
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<u>QUORN.</u>	Sailed 1613. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1619/14.)
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<u>RAMILLIES.</u> <u>FERNIE, CATTISTOCK.</u> <u>HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND.</u>	}	Intend sail at 0700/15 for Plymouth as by C. in C.W.A. 2336/13, to arrive in Position stated at 1030/16. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1623/14.)
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<u>M.L. 162.</u>	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1706/14.)
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<u>FERNIE, CATTISTOCK,</u> <u>HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND.</u>	}	Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1707/14.)
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14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

392

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements 3.

WALKER.

Arrived 1745/14. (C.N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1807/14.)

M.A/S.B's.
Sailing date.

355. Your 1516/13. Letter is being forwarded proposing 10th January in order that slipping and refitting programme now arranged can be completed. All boats will then be ready for service. At present only one boat is available. It is strongly recommended that the whole Flotilla is transferred on the same date. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1846/14. to C. in C. W.A.)

SKATE.

Arrived from Belfast. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1950/14.)

TRIUMPHANT.

Arrived Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 1954/14.)

SOUTHDOWN.
BRILLIANT.
EXMOOR.
PYTCHLEY.

On completing present duty SOUTHDOWN and BRILLIANT to Scapa. EXMOOR and PYTCHLEY to Rosyth for boiler cleaning. (R.A.D. H.F. 2152/14.)

KINGFISHER.

To be lent for duty with D.C.O. for 5 days beginning 15/12. (V.C.N.S. 2215/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

M.T.B. 215.

Arrived 2217. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2244/14.)

29th A/S.
Striking Force.

If not in contact and no further information by dark to-night 29th A/S Striking Force and RUBY proceed to Dartmouth, JASPER proceed to Plymouth arriving in position 180° Rame Chapel 2.2 miles at 1030/15. (C. in C. W.A. 1155/14.)

Operations.

Sweep by M.T.B's.

Arrived M.T.B's 29,32,34, at 1010. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1032/14.) Sweep carried out from Thornton Ridge to Spleet Channel and back to Ostend. Thick fog off Flushing which cleared off Ostend. Nothing sighted. (C. in C. Nore 1220/14. to Adty.)

Western Channel Patrol.

(Operation "Major", see next page)

If not in contact and no further information available discontinue hunt in time to be off Lands End by 1900/14, and then patrol between Lizard and Start Point to cover merchant shipping proceeding westward. Return to Plymouth by 1030/15 being in position 180° Rame Chapel 2.2 miles at this time. (C. in C. W.A. 1200/14. to KASHMIR, KIPLING, PUNJABI, JUPITER.)



War Diary.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.

393

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations (Contd.)

Operation "Specimen."
SPECIMEN.

To keep clear of S.L.57 steer as follows. C. in C. W.A. 1233/14 to WILD SWAN). My 1140/13. Onward Route for S.L.57 as follows. (C. in C.W.A. 1246/14 to PEGASUS, WILD SWAN.)

Operation.
P.V.I.

Cancelled tonight. (C. in C. Nore 1731/14.)

Operation. "Major"

MAJOR.

My 0210/14 and 1200/14. Operation completed. Request cover for 4 Destroyers from daylight to arrival Plymouth. E.T.A. 1030/15. (C. in C.W.A. 1920/14 to H.Q.F.C.)

Operation in
OPERATION IN
Mediterranean.

Adty. 2200/12. MASHONA and ESKIMO detailed. (R.A.D. 2345/14.

Submarines. 1. Genta.

Bay of Biscay.

(A). There is a possibility that enemy accommodation transport may leave Bordeaux for Gijon.

(B). UPHOLDER proceed with despatch to patrol position 043° 44' N. 005° 32' W. THUNDERBOLT patrol vicinity 045° 34' N. 001° 34' USK 045° 21' N. 001° 56' and UNIQUE 045° 10' N. 002° 19' W. USK and UNIQUE should proceed with despatch up to meridian 004° W. (VAS. 0304/14.) Request Bombing Restrictions from 0600 to 1800/14 in following area. (V.A.S. 0331/14 to M.Q.C.C.)

My 0304 and 0306, Object of submarines off Loire and Gironde to attack, and then report enemy transports. Object of UPHOLDER to attack and then report enemy transports approaching Gijon in convoy from North Eastwards. UPHOLDER not to infringe Spanish Territorial Waters and great care to be taken not to interfere with Spanish Coastal Trade. (V.A.S. 0332/14.)

My 1918/13. Amend as follows. (VAS. 0442/14.)

My 0304/14. Amend position to read USK 045° 05' 002° 32' W. UNIQUE 044° 40' 003° 18' THUNDERBOLT may withdraw to south westward keeping at least 20 miles from position of USK should situation demand it. (V.A.S. 1047/14 to U.S.K., UNIQUE.)

V.A. (S) 0304/14 and my 0958/12. THUNDERBOLT is to remain on patrol until after dark 16th December and is not to report until west of 005°. TUNA is to remain in wait position 045° 32' 003° 03' W. until 0001/17

War Diary.

14. 12. 40.
Saturday.



HOME COMMANDS.

Bay of Biscay.

Submarines 1 Contd.

394

when she is to proceed to patrol vicinity of 045° 34' 00" 34' W without awaiting report from THUNDERBOLT. TUNA patrol in accordance with V.A.(S) 0332 and 1047/14. (Capt. S.2. 1401/14 to TUNA, THUNDERBOLT.)

Submarines 2 Contd.

WHITE BEAR)
TUNA.)

Your 1609/13. WHITE BEAR and TUNA parted company at 0200/14 5 miles South of Wolf Rock. (WHITE BEAR 0745/14 to Capt. S.2.)

PROTEUS.

Estimated in 43° N. 12° 40' W at 0800/15. Route to Portsmouth. (VAS.1558/14.)

Greenock Area.
~~GREENOCK AREA.~~

Movements (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1717/14.)

Positions.
POSITIONS.

For following 24 hours at 0800/15. (V.A.S. 1726/14.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

^{"Thuggy"} ^{"Sydra"}
~~MUGGY~~ and ~~SYDRA~~ cancelled today. (C. in C. Rosyth 0906/14.)
^{"Hornli"} ~~HORNLI~~, SA.2, SA.3, all cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1046/14.)
2 A/S Patrols, one surface R/C. East, one A/S sweep West. Covered from 2° W to 7° W. (200 Group 1735/14 to Air Ministry.)

Bordeaux
~~BORDEAUX.~~
~~BORDEAUX.~~
Lorient.

To be attacked tonight. (H.Q.C.C.1236/14 to 16 Group, Thorney Island) (H.Q.C.C.1237/14 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Operation.

~~YOUTH~~
"Youth & Beauty".

As in H.Q.C.C. Letter S.7017/22/1/ Plans dated 7/12/40 to 18 Group only. To be carried out on Night 14/15 or on first later night when weather suitable. (H.Q.C.C. 1238/14 to 18 Group, Lenchars, Wick.)

Bremen
Wilhelmsoord.

Bombed during night 13/14. (H.Q.B.C. 1920/14.)

Hatston.

Admiralty message 1931/9. Night art and alt at Hatston is undesirable as it involves formation flying in the defended area. Desirable therefore, that 816 Squadrons and 825 Squadrons should practice night art and alt before



British Air Activity. Contd.

Hatston.

arrival at Hatston on 15/41. Reference my predecessor's 0942/1. I am equally concerned over the lack of an effective striking force in this area. Has the possibility of reinforcing 42 Squadron with a detachment from 22 Squadron been considered. (C.in C. H.F. 1921/14 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa.

One A/C passed over Flow from S.E. to N.W. at 0958. (A.C.O.S. 1055/14.)

SCANIA.
(Swedish
1980 Tons.)

Attacked by aircraft at 1100/11 in 55° 30' N. 7° 00' W. Three bombs fell close to vessel but no damage or casualties. Vessel returned to Belfast on account of bad weather and inability to keep in touch with convoy O.G.47. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1100/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Humber.

Mining. 1.

Closed (F.O. Humber 0317/14.) Open. (F.O. Humber 1040/14.)

Great Yarmouth.

Closed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0831/14.)

B.S.47.

Postponed on account of weather (SO. M/L. Immingham 1029/14.) My 1008/13. Request 24 hours be added to all times (C. in C. Rosyth 1346/14 to K.Q.F.C.)

Operation.
Z.M.E.6.

Intend leave Milford Haven 1800/14, lay at 2030, and return on completion about 2230 (ADVENTURE 1149/14.) Completed. (ADVENTURE 2110/14.)

Falmouth
Area.

Mines have been exploded by weather between 2300/13 and 1400/14 as follows: Falmouth Bay 10, Penzance Bay 5, off Fowey 2. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1430/14.)

Dover,
Area.

Routine sweeps to 0800/14, QZS 190 Dumpton to Sandhead Buoys by single and double 'L' Trawlers 35 to 50 per cent nothing found. Clearance sweep Sandhead to 'A' Buoy by 5 Oropesa Trawlers found six mines and 8 explosive cutters. (V.A. Dover 1505/14.)

Mining 2.

Thames to
Medway.

Vessels proceeding from Thames to Medway or vice versa are to be routed by the Searched Channels. Cdre, Sheerness is requested to sweep as soon as practicable A Channel 3 cables wide to the Eastward of A line joining No. 3 Medway Bar Channel



War Diary.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

396

Mining. (Contd.)

Thames to
Medway.

Vessels proceeding from Thames to Medway or vice versa are to be routed by the Searched Channels. Cdre. Sheerness is requested to sweep as soon as practicable A Channel 3 cables wide to the Eastward of A line joining No.3 Medway Bar Channel buoy and No.1 Yantlet buoy.
(C.in C. Nore 1735/14 to N.C.S.O. Thames).

This will be done A.M. tomorrow in conjunction with sweep of Medway Approach Channel. (Comdre. Sheerness 1911/14).

Foulness Sands.

ALOHA reports a Mine about 8 feet long and 3 feet diameter on Foulness Sands one mile S.E. magnetic from West Buxey Buoy.
(C.in C. Nore 2221/13 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Dutch Coast.

Following received from Bomber Command at 2350/13 begins.

Two ships believed to be Cruisers or destroyers in position 52° 30' N. 04° E. Course N.W. with wake $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long, also three ships believed to be M.V's 3000 to 9000 tons, course North, wake same length ships, with 2 aircraft circling above and ahead, both at 1807/13. Two large ships about 5000 tons, stationary, in 53° 02' N. 05° 12' E. at 1815/13. Ends.
(D.C. 0019/14 to C.in C. Nore).

My 0019/14. Hudson A/C on R/C in this area between 0305 and 0605/14 reports nothing sighted. (D.C. 0940/14 to C.in C. Nore).

Norwegian Coast.

The following reports have been received.

1. (a) All lights in the fairway on the coast between Trondheim and Kristiansund North are now extinguished. Previously it was reported that all lights in the inner leads were normal except for sectors showing to seaward being obscured. Grade C 2. No reason for the change can be given at present.

1.(b) Recent orders issued to pilots instruct them to proceed on the inside of the minefield at Stadlandet. Grade C.2.
2. A German crew has arrived at Tonsberg 59 degs. 18' N. 10 degs 24' E. to take the Norwegian C.D. ship TORDENSKJOLD (C.B.1815 page 217) to Germany to have new guns mounted. She is expected to leave before Christmas. Grade B 2.

3. Germans are urging Finnish ship owners to arrange shipment of valuable cargo of 2000 tons of Titanium ore from Jossingfjord 58 degs 18' N. 06 degs 20' E. to a German Baltic or North Sea port. Grade A 1. No date mentioned but it is presumed cargo is ready to load. (D.N.I.2249/14 to C.in C. H.F.).

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

397

- IMPERIAL VALLEY. (British, 4573 tons) Ashore at 0738/14 half a mile N.E. of Roome Ness, 1 mile N.E. of Crail Harbour. Crew of 45 landed. No casualties. Ship holed and pounding on rocks. (C.in C. Rosyth 1845/14 to Adty.)
- SALADIN. Requires new oscillator. (SALADIN 0831/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- EMPIRE ELK. In tow in 56° 40'N. 8°W. Intend running for Tobermory if weather gets worse. Tug SUPERMAN expected. (LA MALOUINE 2230/14 to C.in C. W.A.)
- CAIRO. Following damage sustained during gale of Night 10/11. (CAIRO 1113/14 and 117/14) Requires docking. Above water defects will require about 10 days. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2336/14 to Adty.)
- INGINER M.N. VLASSOPOL. Ashore West of B.4. Buoy. Tug SUN ^(S/S 130) trying to tow her off. (VORTIGERN 1230/14 to C.in C. Nore).
- MONA'S ISLE. (A/A Guardship) Your 1443/10. Damage is extensive. Requires docking for at least 14 days. (A.S. Rosyth 1327/14 to N.O.I.C. Methil).
- CORUNDUM. (British, 929 tons) Has returned to Clyde with engine defects. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1811/14).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

398

Shipping.

Convoys.

F.N. 58.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0942/14).

S.L. 58.

My 1810/12. Amend speeds to 8 and 7 knots respectively (F.O.C.N.P. 1110/14).

F.S. 60.

Ships (list put into Tyne owing weather (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1501/14).

O.G. 47.

Sailing telegram (C. in C. W.A. 1730/14).

O.B.C. 259.

Sailed 2200/14. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2222/14).

W.N. 55.

Code "Rusty" escorts unappointed, 12 ships (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1156/14).

S.C. 14.

Since 2200/12 have swept westward along route of S.C. 14 i.e. 055° 20'N 014° 30'W thence north for 25 miles and eastwards to 055° 40'N 008° 50'W. From latter position at 0415/14 am steering mean course 302° 15 knots until 0800 then (? 157° 160° 263° or 270°) to continue search. (VENOMOUS 0445/14 to C. in C. W.A.).

See also p. 415

H.X. 93.

Ocean Escort informs me that H.X. 93 was in position 60°30'N 18.00 W. at 0900 and would be 8 hours late. (ACHATES 1035/14 to ACTIVE, ANTELOPE).

S.L. 57.

Meet S.L. 57, 21 ships unescorted 1000/16 53° 07'N 016° 50'W 060° 8½ knots (route). (C. in C. W.A. 1054/14 to WHITEHALL, WINGELSEA, VISCOUNT, VANQUISH, HIBISCUS, GENTIAN) (List of ships C. in C. W.A. 1746/14).

C. in C. S.A. 1637/12. Leave S.L. 57 24 hours before arrival rendezvous, return to Freetown (route). When well clear of convoy report convoy's estimated p.c.s. (C. in C. W.A. 1154/14 to CANTON).

S.L. 59.

CATHAY is to act as ocean escort to convoy S.L. 59, routed in accordance with Admiralty 1416/7. and N.C.S.O. memorandum O.S.L. (I) 14/12. (1231N/14)

H.X. 97.

WORCESTERSHIRE leaves Clyde escorted at 2200/15 to meet Convoy H.X. 97 and act as ocean escort as far as 23° West. (F.O.C.N.P. 1250/14).



MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

399

Convoys (contd).
E.N. 40.

HOME COMMANDS.
Shipping.

E.N. 40. scattered. Request in anticipation of approval they use Pentland Firth. 5 ships with me. (KINGSOL 1115/14 to A.C.O.S.).

5 ships and KING SOL 000° Dunnett Head at 1315, remainder scattered. (A.C.O.S. 1341/14 to Admty etc).

E.N. 38.

E.N. 38 not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1216/14 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

Only ship CAMEO arrived 13/12/40 (N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1348/14 to Admty and N.C. S.O. Methil).

E.N. 41.
W.N. 54.

My 1302/13 Act as additional escort to E.N. 41 sailing from Methil 1830/15. On meeting transfer to W.N. 54 due Duncansby 1400/17. Code word for E.N. 41, ~~CHITTY~~ and for W.N. 54, ~~CHITTY~~ "Chitty". (C. in C. Rosyth 1315/14 to FOWEY).

On completion of present escort duty proceed as necessary to cover E.N. 41 leaving Methil at 1830/15 and due Buchanness at 1200/16. (F.O. (D). H.F. 1525/14 to CURACOA).

F.S. 60.

Position 054° 59'N 001° 11'W making good less than 3 knots. Convoy taking shelter in Tyne. (LOWESTOFT 1246/14 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

LOWESTOFT, WOOLSTON and 3 ships of F.S. 60 entered Tyne. D.O. Whitby reports 7 ships proceeding south unescorted. (F.O.I.G. Tyne 1447/14 to C. in C. Rosyth)

Seven ships of F.S. 60 are reported proceeding South unescorted. LOWESTOFT and WOOLSTON should proceed at such a speed as to avoid damage to overtake and protect them QUORN has been ordered North to assist and should be off 62 D. Buoy at 2215. Ships in Tyne should wait for F.S. 61. (C. in C. Rosyth 1531/14 to N.O.I.C. Tyne)

F.S. 61.

Left with VANITY and WESTMINSTER (C. in C. Rosyth 2351/14).

/H.X. 96.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

400

Shipping.

Convoys (contd).

H.X. 96.

Departure 14/12 RANPURA, Ocean escort H.X. 96. (S.O. (I) Halifax, 1820/14 to Admty etc).

F.N. 58.

Arrivals. LONDONDERRY, VIVIEN with F.N. 58, includes Tanker BRITISH LADY from Sheerness, Trawler TERJE V (at Granton), on passage Aberdeen-Blyth. KEPPEL from Scapa. (C. In C. Rosyth 2351/14).

F.N. 59.

Southend 14/12 departure for Methil for Tobermory with convoy F.N. 59 H.M.S. TIERCEL (N.C.S.O. ~~THAMES~~ 0820/14)

For F.N. Convoy 59, 7 ships and 13 Trawlers join at 62 D. buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2329/14 to WOLSEY, VERDUN).

SHARAAS.

Departure 14/12 for Clyde, Norwegian tanker SHARAAS escorted by RUMBA. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1009/14).

Troop Convoys.

W.S. 5A.

Your 1711/13. Slow group should sail as arranged at 1600/18 and fast group at 1700/19. Route as in my 1709/12, (additions). (D.T.D. 1823/14 to N.C.S.O. Liverpool).

My 2204/12 Cancel paras. 3. and 4. Times of sailing from Liverpool of slow and fast groups as in (1823/14) Route. Destroyers should be detached to meet inward bound convoys as arranged by C. in C. W.A. Programme has been calculated on the basis of speed of advance of $10\frac{1}{2}$ knots for the slow and fast portions respectively so as to allow of continuous zig-zag from position (a) in my 1709/12. (D.O.D. (H) 2150/14 to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. F.O. Force K.).

Mine Warning.

Attention called to Defence of Shipping Part 1, Article 222, and that mines may be encountered in any part of the world, (D.T.D. 1719/14 "A" Message).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

401

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations against Vichy French.

Operation
"Ration".

Certain considerations (F.O.C.N.A. 0110/14 amended 0950/14) See operations Volume.

My 1244/13 (FORRESTER with French M/V AVANT-GARDE) Vessels arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 0202/14 to Admty).

Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. to Force H. 0156/14).

Intelligence.
Dakar.

Have received following Ambassador Falkland Islands regarding situation at Dakar.

One battalion Senegalese rifles from French Morocco has recently been embarked at Casablanca for Dakar. Other battalions will follow. Confirmed from excellent source that a large depot of gold belonging to Bank of France is buried in outskirts Dakar. French tanker and cargo steamers which passed through Straits of Gibraltar on 10/12 bound for Casablanca are on point of leaving for Dakar. Both loaded with Munitions of War. Aviation petrol coming direct from U.S.A. has recently been disembarked at Dakar. (Consul-General Tangier 1300/14 to F.O.).

French
Submarines.

My 1815/10. (Submarine reliefs in Atlantic) French Admiralty state movement postponed 24 hours. (N.A. Madrid 1220/14, to Admty) (F.O.C.N.A. to N.A. Stn. 2131/14).

OREGON.

Your 1225/11. (re OREGON calling at Gibraltar to repatriate French merchant seamen & officers). French Admiralty approves OREGON calling Gibraltar for this purpose on condition she transports no merchandise.

Beirut.

My 1745/9 (all French warships left. One Submarine returned later). Remaining Warships returned 12/12. They had manoeuvres off Tripoli. (Consul Gen., Beirut 1307/13 to Admty).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Azors.

Force H. to proceed to sea as early as convenient today and proceed towards Azors at 17 knots. Operation "Ration" is not to be carried out until further orders. (A.C.N.S. (F) to F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H. 0156/14).

My 0304/14. Patrol to north westward of Ile de Yeu in case expedition leaves St. Nazaire. (V.A.S. 0306/14 to TRIBUNE).

Force H.
(for Azores).

Your 0156/14. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and 6 destroyers will sail 0930. (S.O. Force H. to Admty, 0332/14).

My 0332/14. RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and available destroyers 6 in number proceeding 1030, departure having been postponed to enable all destroyers to complete with fuel. Request object of operation may be communicated. (S.O. Force H. 1025/14 to Admty).

Gibraltar departure 1030/14. S.O. Force H. in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, FAULKNER, FURY, FORESTER, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, DUNCAN (S.O.I. Gib. 1132/14).

Submarine.
Patrol.

Suggest for consideration that U class S/m's carry out patrol on way to Gibraltar. Object to endeavour to intercept 2 Italian U boats ex-Tangier in case they are proceeding to Bordeaux. (F.O.C.N.A. 1032/14 to Admty). UPHOLDER, USK and UNIQUE diverted to patrol in Bay of Biscay. Further signal will be made when they continue passage to Gibraltar. (V.A.S. 1026/14 to C. in C. Med F.O.C.N.A. Capt. S.I.).

Trawler.
Patrol.

KINGSTON JACINTH patrolling between "I" Channel and Cadiz KINGSTON TOPAZ leaves patrol off Lisbon 15/12 for Gibraltar. KINGSTON TURQUOISE leaves Gibraltar 16/12 to patrol in the area bounded by 295° Capo Roca 15 miles and 40 miles 235° Capo Roza 15 miles and 40 miles? 337° Capo Espichel 15 miles and 40 miles. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/14 to UPHOLDER, USK, UTMOST).

/TRIUMPH.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

403

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (continued).

TRIUMPH.

Gibraltar departure 1815/14 TRIUMPH to patrol south of Alboran Islands (S.O.I) Gib., 1816/14).

Hostile Aircraft.

Situation report. At 1135/12, Heinkel 111 over Rock, reported to have Spanish markings. Possibly Savoia with Spanish markings reported over Rock at 1415/13. Fire not opened. Unconfirmed report of tanks area San Roque (Governor Gib. to W.O. 2145/13 recd. from W.O. 1512/14).

MARIA JOANA
MAR AZUL.

Seizure of MARIA JOANA has had most beneficial effect. MAR ASUL which was sailing with contraband has cancelled her voyage and will unload her present cargo. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1706/14 to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

DELHI.

To return Lagos and embark ammunition from KUMASIAN (F.O.I.C.S. to DELHI, 1049/14).

ARAWA.

Is required Freetown (date) for escort duty. Request you sail her accordingly. (C. in C. S.A. 1259N/14 to N.O.I.C. Belfast).

Dispositions.

South Atlantic dispositions 1200/14 (C. in C. S.A. 1717N/14).

BULOLO.

Leaves Clyde escorted at 2200/15 for Freetown. Route (F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14 1304/14).

CATHAY.

To escort S.L. 59 (see Shipping) Further orders re arrival Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1231N/14).

Foreign Legion Movement.

C. in C. S.A. 1951/12 and proposal send Legion Middle East via Freetown. General de Larminat points out very desirable when ships arrive Duala to embark Legion they should then sail direct South to Sudan. Bad effect on morale of troops if they were to go to Freetown again and perhaps stay there some time. He attaches great importance to this being avoided if possible. (20. M.M. Brazzaville 0715/14 to W.O.).

/My.....



MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

404

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Foreign Legion Movement.
(contd).*

? CAPO OLMO

My 1951/12 your 1655/12 para. 1 and your 2102/11 para 4 and Admiralty's 2324/13 para 2 am arranging for TOUAREG and *CAPE OLIVE shall bring Legion to Freetown and it will not therefore be possible for French Brigade to join convoy W.S. 5A. (C. in C. S.A. 1943/14 to D. of S.T).

KOSMOS.

Your 1128/13 Recent arrival from Dakar confirms names of nine Norwegian Ships there as stated in G. in C. S.A's 1203/19 and has no knowledge of KOSMOS. Only information here referring to KOSMOS passed in my 1214/27/11 is still unexplained (S.O.I. Freetown to Admty).

Suspicious Ship.

F.O.C. N.A. 1251/14/11 SUTLEJ reports as follows 1015 G.M.T. 5/12 in 031° 06'N 021° 38'W sighted fully loaded tanker with Spanish colours painted on bows and quarters and word Espana on bridge structure and on board abaft funnel. Hull black, superstructure white, resembling CAMPOAMOR in Talbot Booth except had cruiser stern. Black funnel white band and device. Sighted 6 miles on port bow steering S. same course as SUTLEJ. Tanker altered W. closing within a mile, SUTLEJ then took avoiding action. Can you identify. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1434/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

PRETORIA CASTLE.

Simonstown departure 1540/14 PRETORIA CASTLE for patrol and Freetown in accordance with your 1953/12. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1543Z/14 to C in C. S.A.).

ENTERPRISE.

ENTERPRISE. arrived Montevideo 1415/13 leaves 1415/15 ~~1415/15~~ after making good defts: (R.A.S.A.D. 1615Z/14 to Admty).

"Shrapnel" Force.

Commander 102 R.M. Brigade requests latest information from Cumberlege may be communicated before any move of "Shrapnel" takes place. Commander is assuming his orders are as when he left England namely that if there is any opposition the operation is to be carried out as a war operation and by force. (C. in C. S.A. 1759/14 to Admty)

/Dispositions.....



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

405

South Atlantic. (continued).

Dispositions
NEPTUNE
DELHI
MILFORD
DRAGON
FURIOUS
BRIDGEWATER.

To make situation clear as to commitments in Freetown and West African area and Forces available, following is summary of position.

- (a) Patrol in Libreville area, NEPTUNE left for Freetown. DELHI and MILFORD remain. (b) Force L which includes DRAGON will be at Cape and helping.
- (c) "D" Class Cruisers required to escort FURIOUS to Takoradi and back (date)
- (d) Cruiser escort required for French Legion from Duala to Freetown (dates) DELHI should be able to (c) and (d) if taken off Libreville patrol.
- (C. in C. S.A. 1815N/14 to Admty).

"Shrapnel"
(e) "~~SHRAPNEL~~", 4 - 6 sloops or Corvettes required to replace destroyers. MILFORD. Libreville patrol require 6 days to reach Freetown. BRIDGEWATER arrived Freetown 12/12 and then acts as A/S escort for convoy. 2 Corvettes arrive (date) Freetown 4 more arrive (date). It will be appreciated that to meet these commitments MILFORD should be recalled from Libreville patrol now, DELHI to leave by (date) leaving no vessels for this patrol after that date. If MILFORD leaves at once 4 escorting vessels will be available for "~~SHRAPNEL~~" (date). Sloops are more suitable for this having larger armament. During "~~SHRAPNEL~~" there will be few vessels available for convoy escort. Intend to recall MILFORD to Freetown now and employ DELHI as outlined above. (C. in C. S.A. 1817/14 to Admty).

Troop
Transport.

Your 2353/10 and others request details troops to be disembarked from NEURALIA at Freetown. Disembarkation of a large number of troops and transhipment of French may delay convoy for about two days. (C. in C. S.A. 2017/14 to Admty).

14.12.1940.
Saturday. War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. 406

- MALAYA. Your 1931/13. Approved to send MALAYA to join Force H. (A.C.N.S.(F) to C.in C. Med., 0053/14).
- Aerodromes. Requirements for additional aerodromes, staff, Greece and Turkey. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 0859/14 to Air Min.).
- Air Report, Western Desert. Operational summary 187 to 1200/14. Shipping seen in Benghazi. No naval items. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1312/14).
- Movements. Summary No. 177. (C.in C. Med., 1641/14).
- Air Strength. Examination of means of employing the force you envisage (details). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1821/14 to Air Ministry).
- Base Defences. Eastern Mediterranean, re supply of material. (C.in C. Med., 1247/14).
- Crotone bombed. Four Wellingtons 148 Sq. despatched to attack Valona night 13/14th. Two returned with bombs. One jettisoned bombs in sea owing to ice formation. Fourth Wellington unable to reach main objective dropped bombs and incendiaries round Crotone Harbour. All bombs seem to burst along waterfront. (H.Q. Malta 0810/14).
- F.A.A. attack Tripoli. 8 Swordfish 830 Sq. F.A.A. despatched to attack shipping and facilities Tripoli Harbour night 13/14th. Dive bombing attack from 2,000 feet. Two sticks burst among ships in mid-harbour. 2 hits on ship alongside main north Mole. Warehouses on west of harbour well hit causing large explosions fire started on North Mole and a second ship alongside hit - followed by explosion. (H.Q. Malta 0810/14).
- Enemy Intelligence. Greek Vice-Consul Tripoli under open arrest Tripoli 30/10 to 25/11 ditto Rome to 5/12 arrived at Athens 10/12 reports:-
(a) Convoys at irregular intervals approached from westward. Destroyers often from north-eastward. (b) Gate open during daylight for traffic.
(c) Usually twelve or more Merchant vessels in harbour.
(d) Tankers berth alongside centre inside Karamanli Mole. Ships moored in Middle Harbour discharge petrol in barrels into lighters.
(e) Destroyers berth at western end of Naval Basin and inside northern end of Karamanli Mole. Sunset is usual time of departure.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.
War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)Enemy Intelligence
(Contd.)

407

(f) M.A.S. enter harbour at sunset and berth in north-east corner of Naval Basin also three hundred yards north-eastward.
(g) GOSO at eastern end of warehouses on Spanish Quay.
(h) Anti-aircraft batteries on Island one cable north-west central Power Station also one hundred yards north of point where railway cuts defended wall near Porta Benito also on roof of Grand Hotel. (Athens 1519/14, to S.O.I. Alexandria).

Malta
Air Raids.

Combined services report from 1700/13 to 1700/14. All times G.M.T.
14/12 0900 - 0918. Formation of CR.42's crossed the Island at 20000 feet evidently on reconnaissance. When engaged by A.A. formation broke up. 6 Hurricanes up but no interception. 1210-1237 enemy formations of 5 bombers and 10 fighters flew across the island and dropped a stick of bombs from Spinola to Flfla (sic) i.e. over inhabited area. 4 Hurricanes up but no interception. No service casualties or damage. Small number of civilian casualties but not serious. Appreciable damage to civil property. No naval or military items. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700/14).

Air reconnaissance report 14/12.

(a) Naples. Two Battleships five cruisers about 15 destroyers 8 large Merchant Vessels, berthed as reported previously. Convoy of five Merchant Vessels entering the harbour at 1000 (zone - approximate).

(b) Messina. Two cruisers two destroyers four submarines two one thousand ton Merchant Vessels leaving harbour.

(c) Tripoli (Africa). Four destroyers and three torpedo boats one large Merchant Vessel. No visible damage. Photographs not yet examined.

(e) Air Raid Malta no service damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1709/14 to C.in C. Med.)

COVENTRY torpedoed. My 2249/13 (undecypherable, repetition called for) COVENTRY arrived in Harbour. She was torpedoed by S/M. Damage confined to fore side of bulkhead and lower deck and below. Fore portion of stem unbroken below 16 foot water line. No apparent damage to machinery or equipment beyond loss of paravane clump and chain. Further signal after docking. (C.in C. Med., 1939Z/14 to Admt.)

Italian communique claims COVENTRY torpedoed by NEGHELLI (D.S., 468).



FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

408

KIRRIEMOOR,
Boom Defences.

My 1925/5/11. Expected that Boom Carrier KIRRIEMOOR loaded with 1.3 miles of A/S A/B for Suda Bay will be sailed from Rosyth for Port Said via The Cape on or soon after 18/12. (D.B.D., 2024/14 to C.in C. Med.)

Valona
bridgehead.

Yugo-Slav Government have information that Italians are organising a heavily defended bridgehead round Valona, whether to cover disembarkation reinforcements or evacuation they do not know.

(M.A., Belgrade, 2115/14 to W.O.)

Aerodromes,
Greece and
Turkey.

Policy, and means of employing the force you envisage. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., to Air Ministry, 0913/14).
See Mediterranean Volume.



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

409

Australia.

BATHURST.

Commissioned 6/12, left Sydney 0012Z/14 for Westernpost. (A.C.N.B. 1438Z/14).

U.S.8.

Sailing delayed (date) due to defect in CANBERRA, needing docking. (A.C.N.B. 0733Z/14).

East Indies.

Troop Convoys.

Your 1234/11. Cannot ships be made available for service U.K. to Middle East by replacing suitable ones at present in your service by ships already released. (D. of S.T. 0430/14 to P.S.T.O. India).

Air Reports.

Soudan. No naval items. (operational Summary 187. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1313/14 1314/14)

Aden. No naval items. (operational Summary 185 (A.H.Q. Aden, 1924/14)

Red Sea
Convoys.

Following programme Red Sea South bound convoys will be run.
B.S. 11 $\frac{1}{4}$., B.S. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$., S.W.4.A., B.S.12., S.W.4.B., B.S.13., contents and dates. (C.in C. E.I. 0742Z/14) (See operations Vol.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Your 1212Z/12. DEVONSHIRE has orders to proceed Durban on relief with W.S.4.B. (C.in C. S.A. to C.in C.E.I., 1105N/14).

RANCHI.

My 0814/10. RANCHI is to proceed now to Mombasa so as to arrive a.m./19. Call at Mahe is to be omitted. RANCHI is to proceed South of Seychelles. (C.in C. E.I. to RANCHI, 1150Z/14).



WAR DIARY.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

410

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Air
Strength.

Reply to appreciation of situation re possible Japanese aggression against N.E. India and Assam.
(Air Ministry to H.Q. R.A.F. India, 1435/14)
(See Original copy).

Red Sea
Force
Composition,
Aden
Force.

S.N.O.
Red Sea Force is ashore Aden with Flag in LUCIA. Red Sea Force consisting of LEANDER, PERTH, CALEDON, KANDAHAR, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, AUCKLAND, FLAMINGO, SHOREHAM, CLIVE, GRIMSBY, INDUS, HINDUSTAN, YARRA, PARRAMATTA.
Aden Force consisting of LUCIA, CANTALA, CHAKDINA, MOONSTONE, SAGITTA, AMBER.
Cancel C messages 616, 665 670, 691 and 744.
(C.in C. E.I. 0942Z/14).

Djibuti.

Conversations with Antoine 12/12. General Ayme refuses Italian instructions to disarm four battalions after British refusal to evacuate them and states that Italians must themselves disarm. Italians decided against on condition that French remained neutral and resisted all possible attempts of British expecting to be landed. General Ayme agreed and he and his Chief of Staff have left the country. General Ayme's anti-British feeling has increased. He considered return of Consul (other than Jakins) might be discussed if question of FREDERIC SOUVAGE (?transhipment) in time were reconsidered.
(S.N.O. Red Sea 1908Z/14 to C.in C.E.I.)

America and West Indies.

Fruit Trans-
port.

Your 1545/9. (loading of fruit in TILAPA, BAYANO). Concur in your proposals.
(D.S.T. to N.O.I.C. Kingston 0431/14).

U.S.Bases.

Re negotiations for lease of Morgan and Tucker Islands.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1141/14 to Adty).

For Liaison only
+108

1435/14th December

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From Air Ministry

Date 14.12.40
Recd. 1535

Cipher

Addressed H.Q. R.A.F. India

X.305 14/12

For A.O.C. in C. from D. of Plans. Your A.O.C. 12/10. Grateful for your appreciation of situation relative to possible Japanese aggression against N.E. India and Assam. Your para. 2. We agree your figure of 50 if attack were directed against India alone but do not think Japanese could operate as many as this if they were also engaged in operations against Malaya. Effort against you would be at extreme range and would not be sustained. Ranges of T.96 and T.97 which are latest known Japanese types are 1,100 and 1,250 miles respectively with full bomb load. This means:-

- (a) They could not reach N.E. India and Assam from any aerodromes in Indo-China in their present condition.
- (b) They could only reach Digboi from Yunnan if they succeeded in occupying Kunming or beyond: other places you mention would still be out of range.
- (c) They could only reach N.E. India and Assam from Thailand if they could use aerodromes in the North-West. And then only at extreme range.

Para. 2. If Italian type B.R.20 were available the radius of action would be increased by about 225 miles. But we do not think there are more than 10 of these aircraft available.

Para. 5. As regards reinforcement India must for the present be dependent upon our policy of generally building up our resources in the East. Our target programme for the Far East is 6 bomber, 4 fighter, 2 torpedo bomber, 7 G.R. landplane and 3 G.R. flying boat squadrons. As more immediate measures we are shipping direct to Singapore from U.S.A. 100 Buffaloes to form 2 or possibly 3 fighter Squadrons and a further 70 Buffaloes as a general reserve. Also, 48 American bomber aircraft. We are also re-equipping the Singapore and Vildebeest Squadrons with P.B.Ys and Beauforts respectively. We hope to achieve the foregoing substantially by April 1941. Foregoing does not prejudice 21 Squadron target programme for India.

1435/14

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Recd. from Air Ministry C550/15

1st Lord
1st S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.B.C.
A.C.N.S. (F)
Nav. Secy.
C.S. to 1st S.L.
Ops. (4)
C.D. (3)
O.I.C. (2)
D.S.D.S

D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (3)
D.N.A.D.
M. (2)
D. of L.D. (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
E.P.S.

14.12.40.
Saturday.

411


WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

HERCOGS
JEKABS.

S.O.I. Callao's 1200/14. This Latvian ship failing satisfactory assurance re American Coastal Trade only, to be sent into Esquimalt.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1633/14 to PRINCE ROBERT).

Force K.

Adty. 1917/24. Request policy for Force K may be communicated to me, particularly re acting under my orders when operating against raiders within A.W.I. Station.
(C.in C. A.W.I. to Adty), (2151/14).

T.C.8.

Your 2240/6 T.C.8. As maximum speed of PENNLAND is only 13½ knots propose that after meeting local escort REVENGE should weather permitting proceed ahead with GKYL (Signal letters undecypherable) and CAPETOWN CASTLE at 18 knots with five destroyers leaving three destroyers to escort PENNLAND and COLOMBIA at their best speed.
(F.O.3B.S. 1527/14 to Adty).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

412

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LARISSA

Arrived, 5000 tons of manganese ore from Russia. (Macrae, Galetz 1215/14).

ORINOCO.

My 2232/13. In view of possible break out by ORINOCO, CARADOC's orders amended as follows. Leave Jamaica a.m./15 and proceed Nassau via Crooked Island Passage so as to arrive a.m. 17. Fuel from Oiler WAR BRAHMIN and await further orders. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1001/14).

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

413

WESTERN PRINCE.

British 10,926 tons. (routed independently to U.K.) Following has been read: Position 59.32 N., 17.47 W. WESTERN PRINCE torpedoed 0702 (Lyness W/T, 0805/14). BRIGAND to proceed to assist (position) at 0802 today. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0820/14, to BRIGAND) Detach 1 destroyer to position. Report name. (C.in C. W.A., 0824/14 to ACTIVE) Reporting distress message received from C.S.O. 5 Corps (as above). (C.in C. Portsmouth 0915/14 to Admty). Your 0824. ACTIVE detailed. (ACTIVE 0920/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

Mackay Radio reports WESTERN PRINCE attacked. Request any information and we be kept fully informed as Mr. Howe, Minister of Munitions and three of his staff on board. (C.N.S. Canada, 1201/14 to Admty.)

Your 1201/14 WESTERN PRINCE torpedoed 0702/14 and feared sunk. Survivors are known to have been picked up. Further signal will be made when details are known. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2101/14 to C.N.S. Canada).

Most of the survivors of WESTERN PRINCE have been picked up by BARON KINNAIRD who is returning to Clyde having insufficient accommodation. On completing present operation shall continue searching although unlikely that submarine is in vicinity or BARON KINNAIRD would have been attacked before my arrival. Request instructions. (ACTIVE, 1645/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1645/14. Was Mr. Howe Canadian Minister of Munitions and Staff among survivors picked up by BARON KINNAIRD? (A.C.N.S.(T) 2201/14 to ACTIVE).

Your 1645/14. Rejoin Convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 2212/14 to ACTIVE)
See also under RAZORBILL.

ORARI
(torpedoed 13/12)

Detach 1 destroyer to meet and escort to North Channel ORARI torpedoed and now proceeding 51.20 N., 17.40 W. at 0435/14 course 050° 10 knots.

(C.in C. W.A. to WHITEHALL, 1312/14)
My 1312 ORARI reported position, course and speed 052° 00' N. 015° 31' W. 070° ten knots at 1050/14.

(C.in C. W.A. 1412/14 to WHITEHALL).
Your 1312/14th VANQUISHER detailed.
My position course and speed at 1500, 055° 57' N. 012° 38' W. 163°, 20 knots. (VANQUISHER, 1600/14 to C.in C. W.A.)



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

414

PETER MAERSK.

British, 5476 tons. S.S.S.S. 32.28 N., 23.28 N., 23.32 W., attacked by submarine. (PETER MAERSK, 1053/14) (D.O.R. 15/12) Position about 300 miles W. of Madeira (D.S. 467).

TOWA.

My 2138/13 (ROTORUA sunk, search for TOWA) Tug MARAUDER reports proceeding Stornoway to disembark injured man and to make temporary repairs. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1520/14, to C.in C. W.A.).

GWALIA
(torpedoed 1/12)

My 1604/6 VIDETTE reports having picked up 4 crew of Swedish GWALIA in position 037° 40' N. 014° 50' W. Ship is reported to have been torpedoed during daylight hours, 1/12. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1632/14).

EMPIRE RAZORBILL.

British, 5118 tons (ex D.B. 257) Following has been read. Submarine Raider. Position 69° 5' N. 18° W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL at 1915 G.M.T. torpedoed. (Wick Radio, 1933/14).

Corrected position now 59.31 N. 13.15 W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL now followed by submarine. (Wick Radio 1939/14).

Correct position now 59.31 N. 13.15 W. EMPIRE RAZORBILL now followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio 1942/14).

EMPIRE RAZORBILL Position 59.41 N. 17.50 W. at 1950 shelled and followed by Submarine. (Valentia Radio, 1958/14 Wick Radio 2001/14).

Detach one ship to attack S/M reported following EMPIRE RAZORBILL shelled in position 059° 41' N. 017° 50' W. at 2000. (C.in C. W.A. 2120/14 to ANTELOPE).

Your 2120/14 ANTELOPE detailed (?my position) 059° 55' N. 014° 50' W. mean course to 0900, 119° speed 7½ knots. (ANTELOPE 2230/14 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 2214/14. (See under WESTERN PRINCE) Found RAZORBILL at 2215 in position 059° 29' N. 018° 03' W. Only damage on board ? fire and no casualties. Ship reports submarine last seen 20 miles 345° from above position at 2020. Proceed to hunt. (ACTIVE, 2255/14, to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 2152/14 As convoy dispersed in 059° 48' N. 015° 45' W. RAZORBILL'S 2001 supersedes her 1939. Am proceeding to 017° 50' W. (ANTELOPE, 2311/14, to C.in C. W.A.).

Cancel my 2120/14 and 2152/14. (C.in C. W.A. 2356/14 to ANTELOPE).

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

415

Submarines Reported.0802.A.F. message 59.32 N., 17.47 W. at
0702/14 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0831/14)0904.D.F., approx. position of Italian U-boat
45.30 N., 05.20 W., probably proceeding
to Gironde. (V.A.S., to S/M's Area B,
0928/14).1729.D.F., Italian U/B in area 44.30 -
45.30 N., 8° - 9.30 W. (D.D.I.C., 1841/14)1053.32.28 N., 23.32 W., sighted by
PETER MAERSK (D.S. 467).Search for S.C. 14
W. App.My 1318/13. If nothing seen by 1000
return to Londonderry. BROKE and
LA MALOUINE pass by V/S to trawlers in
company.
(C.in C. W.A., 0855/14, to BROKE,
SALADIN, LA MALOUINE, SARDONYX). See p. 369Your 0445/14, discontinue search and
return to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A. 1055/14
to VENOMOUS). See p. 398My observed position course and speed
055° 37' N. 012° 15' W. 095° 10.
ST.ZENO and VIZALMA in company.
At 1020 spoke ELENI in 055° 34' N.
011° 55' W. straggler from H.X.93.
Weather.
(BROKE 1330/14 to C.in C. W.A.).Search,If not in contact and no further
information by dark tonight, 29th A/S
S.F. and RUBY proceed to Dartmouth,
JASPER proceed to Plymouth.
Merchant ships westward bound escorted
by trawlers and A/P vessels may be met
on passage.
KASHMIR and 3 destroyers will be operating
in the channel tonight.
(C.in C. W.A., 1155/14).Search from
Milford Haven.My 1155/12. If no contact or further
information discontinue hunt.
(C.in C. W.A. 1208/14 to F.O.I.C.
Milford Haven, etc.).Estimated U-Boat
dispositions.Italian
1 in 32° 28' N. 23° 32' W. at 1053/14.
1 near Azores
1 bound for Gironde was in about 45°
30' N. 5° 20' W. at 0904/14.
1 was probably still in area 53° N. to
54° N. 19° W. to 20° W.
1 or possibly 2 more in N.W. Approaches
whereabouts unknown.
German.
1 in Cape de Verde Islands area was
probably in 2° 06' N. 22° W. at 1818/13.
/ 1 possibly

14.12.1940.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

416

Estimated U-Boat
dispositions.

German (contd.)

1 possibly damaged about 50° N. 11° to 12°W.
bound for Lorient.

1 off North Coast of Cornwall.

1 was about 52° N. 18° W. at 2020/12 but
may be the one which was in 49° 50' N.
20° 55' W. at 1957/13 and has since moved
to southeastward.

1 was in about 55° 30' N. 17° W. at 1237/13.

1 was in about 55° 50' N. 20° 30' W. at
1554/13.

1 probably in area off Bloody Foreland.

1 was in 59° 32' N. 17° 47' W. at 0302/14
and may have moved to westward.

(D.D.I.C. 1353/14).

Submarines Attacked.

0455.

Have attacked S/M contact. My position
245° Hartland Point 8 miles. (MIGRANTE,
0455/14, to N.O.I.C. Cardiff) Join
MIGRANTE hunting U-boat in position 245°
Hartland Point 8 miles at 0455/14.
(C.in C. W.A. 0542/14 to KASHMIR).

Mediterranean.

NAIDE
sunk.

At 1850/14 by a destroyer under Capt. D.2,
32.03 N., 25.56 E., 064° Bardia 43'.
(D.S. 468). See Mediterranean 15/12.



War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

417

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

QUEEN ELIZABETH escorted by NIGERIA, CURACOA, and 4 Destroyers arrived at Rosyth at 1330 today from Portsmouth.

At 2105 tonight a single E-Boat torpedoed the Danish N.C. MONBERG of 2301 tons in convoy F.S. 60 when some 2 miles South of Smiths Knoll Light Vessel. The N.C. MONBERG subsequently sank and, though engaged at full speed by WOOLSTON, the E-Boat escaped behind a smoke screen.

Brest was attacked by our aircraft during the night 14/15 and 2 heavy Bombs were seen to fall in the Target Area. Lorient was attacked by 4 aircraft of the Coastal Command during the night and damage is believed to have been done to Submarines and the Dockyard there. Special importance is now attached to Rosyth, and the Coastal Command has ordered that all aircraft should be routed from today to avoid the defended area.

Great Yarmouth was opened to navigation at 0851 this morning, and one red Mine was detonated in the Thames Estuary at 2115 last night by LL Trawlers. ADVENTURE is complete with Mines and fuel and at 4 hours notice; and the Mining Operation B.S. 47 has been postponed for a further 24 hours.

An unknown ship was sighted by a Trawler of the Northern Patrol in 62° 32' N., 13° 35' W., at 1445 today, steering S.S.E; but contact with her was lost in the heavy rain.

Two mines were dropped by aircraft between the Castle and Fort Burgoyne at Dover at about 2100 tonight, causing only very slight damage and one slight casualty.



War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

418

SITUATION REPORT

Vichy French

French
Light Cruiser

French light cruiser MILAN and four French submarines passed Gibraltar west bound at noon.

North Atlantic

SHEFFIELD

The SHEFFIELD has arrived at Gibraltar from the Azores. The tanker ORANGE LEAF has sailed to join Force H.

South Atlantic

MILFORD

H.M.S. MILFORD (sloop) has been ordered by C. in C., S.A., to proceed to Freetown with despatch (see 14/12/40 force "Shrapnel") "Shrapnel" Force has been instructed that if opposition is encountered, the operation is to be carried through by force.

U-Boat

BRIDGEWATER while assisting ENGLISH TRADER reported a U-Boat at 0412 off Dakar which was chased for 30 minutes. Not known whether French or enemy

Mediterranean

C. in C., in WARSPITE is at Alexandria with VALIANT, ILLUSTRIOUS, 3rd C.S. and destroyers, due to leave for Crete. BARHAM (F.O. 1st B.S.) EAGLE and 19th Destroyer Flotilla will remain at Alexandria to conduct the operation along the coast.

Naples

On the night of 14/15, Naples was bombed by the R.A.F. and hits registered on a concentration of cruisers and destroyers and on a jetty where two battleships were moored.

/SOUTHAMPTON....



War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

419

Mediterranean-Contd

SOUTHAMPTON
PERTH

SOUTHAMPTON and PERTH (cruisers) have been ordered to join Mediterranean Fleet from East Indies, vice GLASGOW and SYDNEY (see Australia)

Adriatic

TETRARCH (submarine) sighted nothing while patrolling off Pelagosa Island.

Libya

Naval forces are continuing operations in support of the Army. PROTECTOR (netlayer), CHAKLA and FIONA (armed boarding vessels) and other craft are working between Alexandria and Sidi Barrani landing supplies and removing prisoners to Alexandria.

Bardia
Sollum

During the night of 14-15th Dec. Wellingtons bombed Bardia starting a very large oil fire. Blenheims bombed the barracks at Sollum.

East Indies

Assab

Supply depot at Assab was bombed by Blenheims and the barracks set on fire.

Traffic and
Convoy

C. in C., reports that there are generally some 350 merchant ships on the East Indies Station. The routes most exposed to raider attack are (a) Cape to Colombo to Achim Head (Sumatra) (b) Australia to Colombo (c) Australia to Cape. Route (a) is the densest, often carrying some 100 ships and must therefore have first call on ships available for protection. "A modified Convoy system as proposed is obviously not practicable on this route except possibly very occasionally from Colombo to Achim Head. More ships would be necessary before C. in C., could cooperate with the system on route (b) and (c).

H.S. Note. Distance from the Cape to Colombo via Mauritius is about 4400 miles. There were 7 cruisers and 6 armed merchant cruisers in East Indies Command on Dec.9. 3 of these cruisers were attached to the Red Sea Force, which absorbed a large portion of his ships, including 9 out of 12 sloops. For "Modified Convoy System" see Situation Report 11.12.40, Australia.



MOST SECRET

War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

420

East Indies-Contd.

OLE JACOB

Singapore reports that it is certain that the OLE JACOB was in company with raider on 16.11.40. (Note. OLE JACOB, Norwegian tanker 8306 tons was captured by a raider on 10.11.40 in 6° 30' N., 90° 13' E. (Colombo to Sumatra route)

Ships
Leaving

The following ships are leaving the East Indies Command. The SOUTHAMPTON (cruiser) for Mediterranean; the WESTRALIA (armed merchant cruiser) for Australia; the PERTH (cruiser, Red Sea Force) for Mediterranean. It is intended that four Hunt class destroyers shall join the Red Sea Force.

America & West Indies

Escorts

C. in C., considers three destroyers inadequate for PENNLAND and COLOMBIA and intends to attach one or two additional.

Force K.

C. in C., asks for information that Force K will act under his orders when operating against raiders in station limits.



War Diary

15.12.1940
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

421

Australia

WESTRALIA
SYDNEY

In view of increasing raider activities in Australian waters and to provide a relief for the GLASGOW damaged in Mediterranean the following redistribution has been approved by the Admiralty.

- (a) WESTRALIA (armed merchant cruiser) to return to Australia (from East Indies)
- (b) SOUTHAMPTON (cruiser) to join Mediterranean Fleet (from East Indies)
- (c) SYDNEY (cruiser) to return to Australia (from Mediterranean)
- (d) PERTH (cruiser) to join Mediterranean Fleet (from Red Sea Force)

The Australian Commonwealth Naval Board have been asked to agree to four Bathurst minesweepers being allocated to Mediterranean.



15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

422

Greenock.
Rescue Tug
Situation.

I have at present no Rescue Tugs available for service. Particulars. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1225/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Use of M.L's
for Air Rescue
work.

My 1526/14. As rough weather trials of M.L. 135 have proved these craft to be capable of withstanding bad weather it is intended to use the M.L's now becoming available in this command for air rescue work. As consecutive numbers of M.L's become available they will be transferred to their Flotilla bases being replaced by others assembling at Plymouth vide A.M. 2047/25/11. (C.in C. W.A. 1744/15 to Adty.)

'Deluge'.
DELUGE.

Defence of U.K.

At 1130/15. (D.C. 1153/15). At 2330/15 (D.C. 2331/15).

Dungeness.
Relief of MNBDO.

Your 1805/14. Disposal of equipment of Battery is being reconsidered but personnel are required now.

Personnel.

2. Request therefore that relief be carried out and guns manned until either. (a) the guns are required for other purpose; or (b) the personnel can again be relieved by R.M. unit now forming. (D. of L.D. 1220/15 to HOFORS 144).

Movements.

COSSACK)
SIKH)

Intend sailing 0905 today for Scapa. E.T.A. 2359/15. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0051/15) Sailed (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1004/15)

JERSEY

Arrived Plymouth 1122/14. (C.in C. W.A. 0032/15).

RAMILLIES

Approximate position at 0830/16, 50° 10' N. 6° 3' W. (C.in C. W.A. 0144/16) Sailed 0716 with FERNIE, CATTISTOCK, HOLDERNESS, CLEVELAND as by my 1623/14 and my 2109/14, routed by QZF. 18 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0821/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

DIDO)
ECLIPSE)

Arrived Scapa (A.C.O.S. 0245/15).

VENOMOUS

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0716/15).

WRESTLER

Your 1455/14. Arrived. (C.in C. Portsmouth 0928/15).

M.T.B. 107.

My 1912/14. Left Sheerness 0530/15 on lorry with Torpedo and Stores. (Cdre. Sheerness 0956/15).

/ RAMSEY)
READING)



War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

423

Movements. (Contd.)

RAMSEY)
READING)

Intend sailing 1600/16 for Plymouth.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1005/15).

KELVIN

Sailed for Plymouth (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1050/15) Proceed to Liverpool. (C.in C. W.A. 1202/15 to KELVIN) Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2115/15).

KASHMIR. KIPLING.)
PUNJABI. JUPITER)

Arrived ^{Plymouth} 1055. (C.in C. W.A. 1204/15).

BRIGHTON.

Your 1601/14. Concur. Hoped BRIGHTON ready leave Plymouth P.M./20 (C.in C. W.A. 1207/15).

FURIOUS.

Arrived (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1213/15).

CHITRAL.

Left Reykjavik 1300/15 G.M.T. E.T.A. Clyde 1300/18. (F.O. Iceland 1215 Z/15).

INTREPID.

To be sailed for Immingham on completing repairs. (A.C.N.S. H. 1222/15 to C.in C. Rosyth). Request you sail accordingly. (C.in C. Rosyth 1659/15 to N.O.I.C. Hartlepool).

HAVELOCK.

Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1237/15).

WITCH)
WITHERINGTON)

C.in C. W.A. 1456/10 and A.M. 2250/6. Intend to sail at 1700 today for Liverpool. E.T.A. 0830/17. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1247/15) Sailed (C.in C. Portsmouth 1733/15).

BROKE

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1315/15).

2 Tribal Destroyers)
for Mediterranean.)

Cancel my 2157/12 and 2200/12. (D.O.D. H. 1334/15).

12th M/S Group.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1342/15).

RODNEY)
MATABELE. ELECTRA)
ESCAPADE. BULLDOG)

Arrived Scapa 1330 (A.C.O.S. 1407/15).

QUEEN ELIZABETH)
NIGERIA. CURACOA.)
SOUTHDOWN. EXMOOR.)
PYTCHLEY. BRILLIANT)

Arrived 1330 (C.in C. Rosyth 1422/15).

NIGERIA. SOUTHDOWN.)
BRILLIANT)

Sailed for Scapa. (C.in C. Rosyth 1422/15) NIGERIA arrived Scapa 1840/15 (A.C.O.S. 2024/15).

AMAZON.

Sailed as by Capt. D. Greenock's 1740/14. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1556/15).

/ QUORN.



War Diary.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

424

QUORN

Arrived 1620. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1650/15).

CHURCHILL.

Sailed ^{Plymouth} 1717. E.T.A. Scapa 1000/17.
(C.in C. W.A. 1958/15).

WILD SWAN.

E.T.A. Lough Foyle 0900/17. (WILD SWAN 2033/15).

BULOLO

WORCESTERSHIRE

AMBUSCADE

)
)
)

Sailed as by F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14 and 1304/14.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2215/15).

Operations.

Operation

FYA

Intend sail M.L's 106 and 110 today to carry out FYA. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1205/15 to C.in C. Nore) Operation cancelled owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1435/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Operation "Specimen"

SPECIMEN

At 2000/15 PEGASUS and PERIWINKLE in 52° 30' N. (?19°) 40'W. steering 123° at 5 knots. (WILD SWAN 2033/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Convoy F.S. 60.

N.C. MONBERG

(Danish, 2301 tons)

torpedoed and sunk.

One Enemy War Motor Boat bearing 100° 2 miles course unknown, position 52° 44'N. 2°12'E. (WOOLSTON 2100/15).

One ship torpedoed. (LOWESTOFT 2113/15 to C.in C. Nore)

Trawler CAPE PORTLAND standing by. (LOWESTOFT 2121/15 to C.in C. Nore).

Tug KROOMAN leaving Yarmouth now.

(C.in C. Nore 2205/15 to CAPE PORTLAND)

Sailed Tug KROOMAN to assist. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2258/15).

*See also
p. 427*

At 2110/15 WOOLSTON reported one enemy war boat sighted 2 miles 100° from 52°44'N. 2°12'E. At 2113 Lowestoft reported one ship in F.S. 60 torpedoed. Enemy retired to eastward at 2127 H.M. Trawlers CAPE PORTLAND and LE TIGRE stood by the torpedoed vessel, Danish S.S. N.C. MONBERG 2300 tons. Later reported N.C. MONBERG sank in 25 fathoms position 52°40'N. 02°10'E. Trawlers returning to Harwich with survivors. LE TIGRE and survivors CAPE PORTLAND 2 - both unconscious. (C.in C. Nore 0655/16 to Adty.)

/ At 2105/15



HOME COMMANDS.

425

Operations. (Contd.)

At 2105/15 when two miles south of Smiths Knoll Light Vessel WOOLSTON on port quarter of convoy detected fast H.E. on Port Beam. Immediately turned towards and went full speed and at same time saw two torpedo tracks pass under ship. Torpedoes hit N.C. MONBERG third ship in Port column and vessel subsequently sank. Survivors picked up by trawlers CAPE PORTLAND and LE TIGER. WOOLSTON sighted and engaged target at range about 1500 yards. Target turned away at high speed and disappeared behind smoke screen and nothing further was seen or heard of enemy. Weather foggy, visibility at the time about one mile. (LOWESTOFT 1450/16 to Adty.)

Submarines.

SEAWOLF.

C.in C. W.A. 1513/12 to S.5. Intend sail unescorted at 1430/16. Route to R/V at 1030/17 in 110° Start Point 3 miles. (S.5. 0940/15).

THUNDERBOLT.

My 0958/12. Amended R/V for Escort at 0845/19. SBR postponed 24 hours. (S. 2. 1204/15 to THUNDERBOLT)

TRIDENT.

Intend sail from Clyde 0845/17 escorted by CUTTY SARK. (S.2. 1206/15).

SEVERN.

My 1158/15. E.T.A. Clyde 2100/16. (C.in C. W.A. 1318/15 to Adty.)

Greenock Area.

Movements. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1341/15).

L. 23.

Exercising in Scapa Flow tomorrow. (A.C.O.S. 1621/15).

UNBEATEN

Route to R/V with WHITE BEAR and to Barrow (S.3. 1737/15).

Positions.

For following 24 hours at 0800/16. (V.A.S. 1758/15 and 0334/16).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

~~"Centa"~~ being flown to-day instead of ~~MUGBY~~.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0326/15)
Patrol by Blenheim from Dyce to Flamborough and return. (C.in C. Rosyth 0828/15).
S.A.2 and S.A.3 ordered for today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0830/15).

Lorient)
Brest.)

53 and 59 Sqdns. to attack S/M's and Dockyard at Lorient tonight. Alternative Target, Power Stations and Dockyard at Brest. (H.Q.C.C. 1230/15 to 16 Group, Thorney Island).

/ Bordeaux)
Lorient)

15.12.1940.
Sunday. War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.

426

British Air Activity. (Contd.)Bordeaux)
Lorient)

217 Sqdn. to attack S/M's at Bordeaux tonight. Alternative Target S/M's at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1231/15 to 15 Group, St. Eval) (A.C.H.Q. Plymouth 1445/15 to Adty.)

Hatston.

C.in C. H.F. suggests possibility of reinforcing 42 Squadron with a detachment from 22 Squadron. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S. H. 1523/15 to Air Ministry).

Rosyth.
Special
arrangements.

A.271 15/12.

Owing to special importance attacking to Rosyth you are requested to repeat this requirement to any other authority affected. Admiralty request to signal immediately special situation ceases. Group controller is temporarily authorised to permit barrage fire against X raids which appear likely to threaten the vital area. In view of above conditions presume R.A.N.A.S. will make special arrangements about flying from ~~Qaril~~ Caril. (H.Q.F.C. 1630/15 to Air Ministry).

Ops 6 15/12. Special importance is attached to Rosyth from 15/12. All aircraft should be routed to avoid the defended area. Notification will be issued when necessity no longer exists. (H.Q.C.C. 2320/15 to 18 Group).

Mining.Great Yarmouth.

Port open. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0851/15).

Nore.

FENTONIAN reports one red mine detonated by L.L. Trawlers 2115/14, 226° B.7 Buoy, 1.5 miles near inside. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1029/15 to C.in C. Nore).

ADVENTURE.

To load and report when complete with mines and fuel and at 4 hours notice. (D.O.D.(H) 1209/15 to C.in C. W.A.). Your 1209/15. Loading and fuelling progressing satisfactorily expect to complete 2100/15. (ADVENTURE, 1724/15 to Admty.)

Your 1209/15. Completed with mines and fuel and now at 4 hours notice. (ADVENTURE 2130/15 to Admty.)

Operation
B.S.47.

Postponed another 24 hours (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham 1104/15 to Admty.) My 1008/13 and my 1346/14. Postponed a further 24 hours (C.in C. Rosyth, 1404/15 to H.Q. Fighter Command).



War Diary.

MOST SECRET.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

427

LÜTZOW)
SCHLESSEN)
TIRPITZ)
BISMARCK)

Positions on 14/12. (D.D.I.C. 1057/15)

Unknown Ship.

NORTHERN CHIEF sighted a ship in
62°32'N. 13°35'W. at 1445/15, steering
S.S.E. Contact lost in heavy rain.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1857/15 to WOLFE)

E-Boat

Bearing 100° 2 miles from 52°44'N.
2°12'E. (WOOLSTON 2100/15) See p. 424

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

428

ORION.

(Greek, 4798 tons) Steering broken in 50°55'N. 37°20'W. Help immediately. (Wick Radio 0028/15). AMICUS proceeding to assist. Expects arrive 1400 G.M.T. ORION bearing 63° from Cape Race. (Valentia Radio 0236/15).

EMPIRE ELK

In tow of LA MALOUINE at 2222/14 in 56°40'N. 8°W. Proceed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0140/15 to SUPERMAN, ANEMONE). Sailed ENGLISHMAN 0917/15 to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0943/15) off Barra, Course 150°, Speed 1 knot. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1620/15 to ANEMONE). Tow turned over to SUPERMAN. Am returning to base. (LA MALOUINE 1206/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

TYSA.

(Dutch, 5327 tons) At 0445 G.M.T. Steering gear broken again and now unrepairable. Require immediate assistance. (Valentia Radio, 0501/15) Ship is in 042° Skerryvore Light 8 miles. Can you send a tug. (Greenock 0556/15 to Adty.) TYSA not found. Visibility bad. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1630 (LA MALOUINE 1206/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

STORNEST

(British, 4265 tons) Leak developed. Doubtful if can control. Request urgent assistance. Position 51°07'N. 32°37'W. (STORNEST 1447/15) Leak partly under control. Still request somebody stand by me. Position at 1800 G.M.T. 51°16'N. 32°11'W. Course 070°. (Valentia Radio 1808/15).

BRITOMART)
SEAGULL)

(Fleet Mine-Sweepers) Both damaged in collision. Repairs to SEAGULL can be made locally. Request where BRITOMART should be sent. (A.C.O.S. 2001/15 to Adty.)

15.12.1940.
Sunday.



War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

429

Convoy Escorts.

Admty. 1223/13. Observations on strength of escorts and maximum numbers in convoys. (See Situation Report). (C.in C. W.A., 1608/15 to Admty.)

Convoys.

Estimated positions 0900/15. (D.T.D. 1101/15 to C.in C. H.F.).

→ E.N. 42.

Escorts STELLA, CAPELLA, HORNPIPE, additional escort LONDONDERRY. 10 ships, (7 overseas). Codes, "Mission", "Monitor", "Mixture". (N.C.S.O. Methil 1650/15).

F.N. and F.S.

Cancel my 1019/6. Forecast of sailings. (C.in C. Rosyth, 0947/15).

E.N. 41.

Escorts ANGLE, SALTARELLA, additional FOWEY, NOTTS COUNTY, OPHELIA. 28 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1935/15).

W.N. 53 O.

List. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1530/15).

E.N. 39.

List. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1300/15). Arrived less TYSA. (1630/15).

W.N. 54.

Sailed 1420/15. Escorts HUGH WALPOLE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1221/15, 1715/15).

O.B.M. 260.

ROSEMARY. 9 ships. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1431/15).

F.S. 61.

Sailed 1500/15. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1511/15).

S.C. 16.

My 1806/12. Doubtful if LACONIA can overtake. ROYAL SOVEREIGN to give cover up to 030° W. to this convoy and H.X.96 and H.X.97 (F.O. 3 B.S., 1114/15) Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O., Halifax 1405/15, 1409/15, 1538/15)

H.X. 96.

Sailing telegram. Escort RANPURA, B.H.X., ALAUNIA. (C.O.A.C., Halifax 1118/15).

F.S.60.

Am in company with QUORN and convoy position 053° 55'N. 000° 19'E. (LOWESTOFT 0201/15 to C.in C. Rosyth). Estimated position 053° 22'N. 001° 00'W. (LOWESTOFT 0307/15).

→ E.N. 42. }
W.N. 55. }

Sail 1030/16 for Methil, C.O. attending Conference there 1415. Act subsequently as additional A/A escort to E.N. 42, sailing from Methil 2200/16. After E.N.42 has passed Dunnet Head, proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. requested sail LONDONDERRY to join W.N. 55 due Duncansby 1400/19. (C.in C. Rosyth 1123/15 to LONDONDERRY).

15.12.1940.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping. (Contd.)

430

S.L. 57 S.

F.O.C.N.P. 1302/14. R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE and BULOLO at Gate at 2200. When detached by WORCESTERSHIRE take AMAZON under your orders and proceed to R/V with S.L. 57 S. and remainder 3rd escort group in 053° 07'N., 016° 50' W. at 1000/18. (Capt (D) 12, 1138/15 to AMBUSCADE).

O.B. 259.

Londonderry departures 15/12, SHIKARI, SCIMITAR, SKATE, MALLOW, WELLARD, NORTHERN DAWN for O.B. 259. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1505/15 to C.in C. W.A.).

H.X. 93.

ACHATES position, course and speed at 1200/15, 059° 47'N., 012° 42'W., 160° four knots, 8 ships and trawlers in company, (C.in C. W.A. 1756/15 to ACTIVE).

Am in company ACHATES and LADY MADELINE and 7 ships of H.X.93. You should try and join HEATHER who has 11 ships. (ACTIVE, 2030/15 to ANTELOPE).

S.L. 57.

ORARI has arrived Clyde; proceed to join convoy S.L. 57. (C.in C. W.A., 0726/15, to VANQUISHER).

S.L. 57.

Estimated p. c. and s. of S.L.57 at 1930. A. 051° 40'N. 021° 00' W. 060° eight knots. My speed of advance on route ordered in your 1154/14, 14 knots. Weather. (CANTON, 2101A/15, to C.in C. W.A.).

E.N. 40.
S.C.14.

Leave E.N. 40 and proceed escort ATHENIC and 7 ships ex S.C. 14 now at Stornoway but have been ordered to proceed South. Inform Commodore one trawler is to escort to Oban ships bound for E. coast ports, remaining ships to be escorted to North Channel by other trawler. Trawlers return to Belfast. (C.in C. W.A., 1812/15 to Trawlers KING SOL, ARAB).

F.N. Convoys.

For new few weeks F.N. convoys will sail from Southend at 0830 adjustment of timetable given in C.in C. Rosyth's 1943/24/11 is not considered necessary. (C.in C. Nore. 2122/15 to C.in C. Rosyth)

S.C.16.

Halifax departure 15/12. H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD, local escort S.C.16. (S.O.I. Halifax, 2125/15).

/ Raiders.
W/T watch.

15.12.1940.
Sunday.

War Diary.



HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping. (Contd.)

431

Raiders.
W/T watch.

Admty. message "D.W." Suspected that surface raiders are locating ships sailing independently by obtaining D/F bearings of oscillating W/T receivers. Whilst it is essential that W/T watch should be kept in these ships, any Master who suspects that his receiver may be oscillating should:-

Report to N.C.S.O., Owner or Agent at next port of call, pointing out that his ship is being endangered by the inefficiency of the equipment and request advice and assistance in remedying such inefficiency. Impress on Radio Officer the danger entailed in trying to read distant W/T stations with an indifferent receiver, especially in quiet W/T areas such as the South Pacific. (D.T.D. 1339/15 to G.B.M.S. (in all areas).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

432

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

OREGON.

My 0938/13 sailed OREGON. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1211/15 to Adty.)

CUBA.

My 1951/13. Total of 929 French from CUBA embarked MOUZINHO and SERPA PINTO which sailed 15/12. (C.in C. S.A. 1901/15 to adty amended 2255N/15).

North Atlantic.

Azores.

Force H less SHEFFIELD to establish Azores patrol to prevent any enemy attempt to capture these islands. See Admiralty 2146/30/10 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 1152/10/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 0200/15 to F.O.Force H).

My 0200/15. Secret information indicates that Germany may attempt to capture the Azores either by a seaborne expedition or by Transport aircraft either float planes landing at Horta, Timbay or Ponta Delgada or land planes landing on Terceiro aerodrome. Former might start from Bordeaux or Gijon in North Spain, latter from Bordeaux or Laon 60 miles south of Gijon.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0200/15 to F.O.Force H.)

RENOWN, ARK ROYAL and six destroyers will arrive in vicinity of Azores p.m. 16/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 0210/15 to CACHALOT F.O.C.N.P. to Western Patrol).

ORANGELEAF.

Request you will sail ORANGELEAF to join Force H.
(D.O.D.(F) 0216/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)



15.12.40.
Sunday.

433

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORANGELEAF.
(Contd.)

Adty. 0216/15. ORANGELEAF sails 1800/15 to comply with orders. (1144/15).

ORANGELEAF escorted by WISHART sailing 1800/15 route. KINGSTON JACINTH on patrol between Cape St.Vincent and Cadiz. (F.O.C.N.A.Station. 1155/15).

Gibraltar departure 1815/15/12 ORANGELEAF in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1155/15 escorted until dark 16/12 by WISHART. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2026/15 to Adty).

Whalers.

Arrived and left 14/12 H.M.Whalers SWONS, SKUDD III, SKUDD IV, SKUDD V. (British Consul S.t Vincent. 0900/15 to Adty).

SHEFFIELD
VIDETTE.

Gibraltar arrivals 15/12 0800 SHEFFIELD 0945 VIDETTE. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0952/15).

ASPHODEL
CALENDULA.

ASPHODEL, CALENDULA arrived Ponta Delgada 1500 G.M.T. 15/12. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1520/15).

Suspicious
Ship.

A loaded tanker with Campsa colouring and similar to CAMPOAMOR except she had cruiser stern was sighted in 31° 6'N., 21° 38'W at 1015 G.M.T. 5/12 course south. Name ESPANO on bridge structure and on board abaft funnel. Can this have been a Spanish tanker recently acquired? (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1656/15 to N.A. Madrid).

Daily Summary
Operations.

Two routine A.S.patrols. One surface reconnaissance to East, one reconnaissance vicinity Casablanca. (200 Group, 1730/15 to Air Ministry).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

434

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Oil
Supplies.

Your O216/15 and your 1205/5. Owing to large issue of diesel oil to A.M.Cs. reducing stock to very low level Oiler ORANGELEAF will be sailed with only (9250) tons of diesel on board. Quantity on board CAIRNDALE has been reduced to 200 tons but will be replenished on arrival of BRITISH UNION. (A.S.Gibraltar 1800/15 to Adty).

South Atlantic.

BRIDGEWATER.

U/Boat report while assisting ENGLISH TRADER. (See U/Boat Campaign.)

MILFORD.

Proceed to Freetown with despatch fuelling Lagos if required. (C.in C. S.A. 1101N/15 to MILFORD).

S.D.F..
S.A.

Admiralty's 1202/12. (Responsibility of Union Gov. for Flotilla based at Alexandria) Action by Admiralty not now necessary. My 1800B/13 para. two (B) Defence Dept: state term disability includes pensions to Widows and Dependents. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1202B/15 to Adty).

Suspicious
Vessel.

See Page 404.

Your 1434/14. (Sighting of suspicious ship). No, but almost certain not Spanish. Suggest possibly German SAMLAND. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1649/15 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

435

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Four Machine Guns shipped in FURIOUS for disembarkation at Freetown for ultimate delivery to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(D.O.D.(F) 1845/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

Foreign Legion Movement.

Your tel.T.two 13/12 ships should only be in Freetown one to two days. Unlikely ships available earlier if CAPO OLMO goes to Pointe Noire first as requested by Free French authorities. N.C.S.O. Duala has full details and instructions to arrange with French authorities. Question of escort has to be considered also.
(C.in C. S.A. 1143/15 to Military Mission Brazzaville).

"Shrapnel" Force.

Your 1759/14. Summary of latest information will be signalled. If opposition is encountered the operation is to be carried through by force. Your 1931/14 yacht SURPRISE completes refit (date).
(D.O.D.(F) 1953/15 to C.in C. S.A.)

CUBA, INDOCHINOIS repatriees.

My 1951/13 and 1955/13 MOUZINHO with 403 and SERPA PINTO with 526 passengers left Freetown 15/12 for Casablanca. Both ships granted Navicerts and both masters gave undertaking required by A.T.1939/10 to C.in C. S.A.
(C.in C. S.A. 2005N/15 to Adty).

Walvis Bay.

Your 1307/9 and related signals. Policy re Walvis Bay for use of Bunkering.
(D.T.D. 2318/15 to C.in C. S.A.)



WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

436

Mediterranean.

Press
Communique.

Intend issuing following (Communique on Western Desert operations in support of Army, sinking of Submarine NAIADÉ, F.A.A. attack on Tripoli night 13.14/12) (C.in C. Med, 1200/15).

TETRARCH.

Reports completely blank patrol, only sighting being 1 A/C. Majority of patrol spent vicinity of Pelagosa Island. (V.A. Malta 1205/15).

Operation
M.C.2.
M.C.3.

Intend following operation M.C.2. M.C.3. (C.in C. Med. 1315/15, 1407/15). See Med.Vol.)

TRUANT.

Remain to west of 18° from 0400/18 to 2000/19. British surface force will be operating in your area to East. (Capt: S.l. 1853/15).

SOUTHAMPTON
PERTH.

To join Med. Fleet SYDNEY and GLASGOW. (D.O.D.(F) 0120/15). See Australia.

BATHURST
Minesweepers.

Allocation of some to Mediterranean. (D.O.D.(F) 0121/15 - See Australia).

GLASGOW.

My 1501/6. Extent of damage. Temporary repairs 6 weeks. When complete estimate 20 knots. (C.in C. Med. 2229/15).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

437

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Naples bombed.

Special operational summary. Night 14-15 /12. 9 Wellingtons in 2 Echelons despatched to attack Italian Naval Units in Naples. 1615-2200 - 4 Wellingtons dropped 8,000 lbs. S.A.P. and 960 lbs. incendiaries on and around Naval Units and docks. Three sticks were seen to burst on Jetty where 2 battleships were moored causing fires which burnt for 15 minutes. 5 hits were registered on a concentration of cruisers and destroyers and nearby four large flashes appeared at one minute intervals. Other fires were burning when target was left. Weather at first fine - clear and brilliant moon - target easily identified. 2000 - 0115 Wellingtons despatched to same. Although target was located in fleeting glimpses through gaps in cloud - only one aircraft was able to drop his load on Port near battleship. A second Wellington was hampered by ice and after an unsuccessful attempt to attack shipping found himself over Naples aerodrome and released his load on and near this. 3rd Wellington after unsatisfactory attempts to attack ports - located Margellino Station and Junction. 3 large explosions and four fires were seen on and near railway. 4th Wellington identified large buildings resembling factory at Torre Annunziata and attacked same. All 9 Wellingtons returned safely. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 0845/15).

BARBETTE.
transfer to
Turkey.

N.A. Angora's 2140/13. Intend transfer of BARBETTE to Turks should take place at Port Said. Officers and higher ratings should proceed Alexandria for three days for instructions in B.W.V. MAGNET which should include at least one day at sea and demonstration of use of winches, rigging etc. Maltese crew of BARBETTE are to be sent to Malta. One British officer may proceed to Turkey in BARBETTE if Turks so desire and remain up to one month for instructional purposes. Desired that BARBETTE should arrive in Turkey as soon as possible, consistent with her being turned over in an efficient condition. (C.in C. Med. 0911/15).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

438

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Turkish
Personnel.

My 0911/15. (No trace in W.R.)
Presume Turkish Govt. will make necessary
arrangements for entry of their officers
and ratings into Egypt through Turkish
Ambassador Cairo.
(C.in C. Med. 0913/15).
Note. C.in C. Med. 1539/10 refers.

COVENTRY.

513. My 1939/14. (Torpedoing of COVENTRY)
Add: In view of limited damage and fact
that submarine has probably since been
destroyed it is proposed not to publish
this incident. (C.in C. Med. 1035/15)

NAIADE.
Sunk.

Italian submarine NAIADÉ was sunk in
position 032° 03' 025° 56' E at 1850/14
by destroyer under Capt:(D) 2. 5 officers
10 petty Officers and 32 men taken prisoner
In view of importance of keeping pressure
on failing Italian morale intend
releasing news of sinking now.
(C.in C. Med. 1115/15).

Valona
bombed.

Operational Summary No.188 up to 1200/15.
Greece. Day 14/12. 0915 hours. 8
Blenheims bombed Valona town starting a
fire in the barracks and hitting M.T.yard
causing clouds of black smoke. Other
bombs fell near military store. 6 ships
in Valona harbour. 1215 hours. 4
Blenheims attacked Valona aerodrome but
2 returned with bombs owing to failure of
release gear. 1 fighter on ground damaged.
Fighter Blenheims provided escort patrol
for convoy. 2 Sunderlands patrolled
south eastern Ionian Sea for enemy surface
forces.

Bardia
bombed
by R.A.F.
and F.A.A.
TERROR
bombardment.

2. Egypt. Day 14/12 0855 hours.
9 Blenheims 55 Squadron bombed Bardia,
results not observed as Squadron was
intercepted by enemy fighter patrols
totalling approx. 50 CR.42's.



FOREIGN STATIONS.

439

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Blenheims were vigorously attacked for 20 minutes but fought off the fighters. (Details). 0900 hours. 8 Blenheims bombed Bardia inflicting heavy damage and starting fresh fires among buildings and store dumps. All aircraft returned. F.A.A. Swordfish bombed Bardia in co-operation with bombardment by TERROR. Wellingtons Blenheims and further Swordfish later bombed Bardia by night demolishing barracks and warehouses. Large fires and an explosion were also caused. G.H.Q. M.E. report enemy still holding out in Halfaya Sollum and Capuzzo. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1228/15).

BONAVENTURE.

Cancel my 2113/13. (Officers and other ranks in BONAVENTURE). (D.O.D.(F) 1331/15 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

Malta Raids.

Combined services report Malta from 1700/14 to 1700/15. All times G.M.T. During night from 0234 to 0027 4 separate enemy aircraft raided Malta height approx. 11,000 feet. 3 sticks fropped in sea off Grand Harbour and 1 S.E. of the Island also in the sea. 1 stick inland near Yuqa aerodrome. 1 Hurricane up but no interception made. Difficulty of interception increased by raiders coming in same time as Wellingtons returning from Naples operation. At 0945 enemy aircraft plotted circling 15 miles South. 6 Hurricanes up but enemy did not cross the coast. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1725/15).

Air Reconnaissance 15/12.

- (a) At 1300 a convoy of 5 merchant vessels in position 20 miles north of Crotona proceeding south west along coast.
- (b) At 1415 one submarine on the surface in position 20 miles East of Syracuse steering 090 . Aircraft attacked submarine with machine gun fire.
- (c) Entering Taranto Harbour, one Littorio class battleship one 8 inch gun cruiser 4 destroyers and 2 large merchant vessels.
- (d) Taranto two (?damaged) Cavour class battleships in same position northern one with two destroyers alongside. In inner harbour one 6 inch (?gun) cruiser



WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

440

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

and one destroyer.
(e) Brindisi not visited owing to bad weather. Time zone minus one.
(V.A. Malta 1805/15).

East Indies.

WESTRALIA.
SOUTHAMPTON.
PERTH.

To return to Australia.
To join Mediterranean.
To join Mediterranean.
(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 - See Australia.)

"Hunt"
Destroyers.

4 to join Red Sea Force.
(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 - See Australia.)

C.M.7.

Convoy C.M.7. arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 0930Z/15).

W.S.4.B.

My 0808/12 and 1212/12. Sailing of W.S. 4.B. from Durban is delayed 24 hours, SOUTHAMPTON is now to R/V with W.S.4.B. in position 022° 20'S., 041° 00'E at 0700Z/18.
(C.in C. E.I. 0454Z/15 to SOUTHAMPTON, SHROPSHIRE, DEVONSHIRE . SOUTHAMPTON left. (R.O.Zanzibar 1115/15).

B.S.111.

My 0742/14. owing to W.S.4.B. being delayed one day, B.S.111 will now sail (date).
(C.in C. E.I. 0634Z/15).



WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

441

East Indies. (Contd.)

COLOMBO,
CERES.

COLOMBO is to leave Mombasa p.m./16 and proceed to patrol off Kismayu. CERES is to proceed to Mombasa so as to arrive with about 20% fuel. COLOMBO inform CERES of her route so that ships may meet if possible.
(C.in C. E.I. 0630Z/15).

Assab
bombed.

Summary No. 186. Following for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 15/12 following night sorties by 8 Squadron attacked supply dept., Assab 1715 1 Blenheim dropped low level stick overshooting target. Building in Barrack area hit and left burning. 2055 1 Blenheim dropped low level stick overshooting to south. Damage improbable. One Blenheim 203 Squadron proceeded Kamaran for convoy duties. All times G.M.T.
(A.H.Q. Aden 1549/15).

Trade
Protection.

Your 0830/11. There ^{are} was generally some 350 merchant ships on East Indies Stn. spread over say ten main ocean routes. Routes most exposed to raider attack are (a) Cape to Colombo to Achin Head. (b) Australia to or past Colombo (c) Australia to Cape. Route (a) is by far the densest for it often carries some 100 ships and it must therefore have first call on ships available for protection. A modified Convoy system so proposed is obviously not practicable on this route, except possibly very occasionally from Colombo to Achin Head area. More ships would be necessary before I could co-operate with the system on route (b) and (c). On sparse routes such as these I think system (if there are enough suitable escorts to operate it and sailings can be synchronized) has prospect of success but I suggest all ships should keep within visibility distance of escort otherwise some may be sunk without others knowing it. If object of system is to sink raider (as opposed to protecting ships) the escort must be capable of high speed, which A.M.Cs. do not possess. My 1548/12 refers.
(C.in C. E.I. 1750Z/15) *to ACN13*

15.12.40.
Sunday.


WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

442

East Indies. (Contd.)

"Q"
Report.

Following intercepted by Algoa Bay Radio at 1554Z/15. Q Q Q Q 028° 35'S., 039° 08' E being followed. Groups missing. Signal strength weak. (C.in C. E.I. 2018Z/15).

Cancel my 2018/15 ship was BERWICKSHIRE in touch with CARTHAGE. (C.in C. E.I. 2230Z/15).

America and West Indies.

ROCKINGHAM
STANLEY.

Sailed for U.K. 1345 G.M.T./14 (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 1210/15). Route (F.O.3 B.S. 1116/15).

REVENGE
PENNLAND
COLOMBIA.

Intend to comply with F.O. 3 B.S. 1527/14 so far as escort for REVENGE is concerned. Consider 3 destroyers inadequate for PENNLAND and COLOMBIA and intend to attach one or 2 additional. (C.in C. W.A. to Adty. 1908/15).

PRINCE
ROBERT.

Proceed at 0830/15 in accordance your 1251/9 (Callao 0835/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Force
K.

Your 1917/24. Request general policy for operation(s) of Force K (corrupt group) (? communicated to) me particulars on following points. (a) confirmation that Force K will act under my orders when operating against raiders within A. and W.I. Station limits, observing a considerable area of raider activity lies within these limits, particularly to N E of Leeward Is. (b) (?will) C.in C. S.A. (? or Adty.) initiate operation in refitting aircraft carriers (? used for operation) (corrupt group) is based Trinidad. (c) Whether it is intended force must always remain concentrated if



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

443

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Force K.
(Contd.)

presence of pocket battleship is suspected in the area, to have one eight-inch (? cruiser is considered) sufficient support for aircraft carriers.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2151/14 to Adty).

China.

Free
French
Movement.

From de Schompre for de Gaulle, reporting 80% of French population of Cochin China sympathetic to Free French movement and making certain suggestions.
(C.in C. China to Adty. 0559Z/15).

OLE JACOB
(Captured
10/11)
TEDDY
(sunk 14/11.)

My 0458Z/14. It is now certain OLE JACOB was in company with raider on 16/11. OLE JACOB encountered raider in position 006° 30' N., 090° 13' E on 10/11. TEDDY encountered raider in position 005 30'N., 086° 30'E on 8/11 was again in company with raider on 13/11 and was sunk 14/11. Positions approx.
(Capt: O.S. Singapore 0301Z/15 to C.in C. E.I.)

Burma
Road.

Your tel. of 16/11. Naval officer returning from Chungking reports Burma road in full operation. New diversion road and Mekong Bridge open. Old Bridge slightly damaged but apparently serviceable Salween bridge slightly damaged but open. Diversion road for new ferry above bridge being rapidly constructed. Some small bridges on road bombed but none out of action. Many bridges duplicated.
(C.in C. China, 0307Z/15 to Ambassador, Tokyo).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

444

China. (Contd.)

Japanese
Fleet.

Your 1219/12 W/T and direction finding intelligence during period referred to shows majority of combined fleet units in vicinity of Tokyo Bay. Request original source of your information and whether position at Sasebo is confirmed. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0356Z/15 to N.A.Washington).

French
General
Indo-
China.

My 0841/31. Intercepted letter from General Ayme in Djibouti to his wife in Saigon indicated he will relieve General de Rendinger and will travel via Madagascar or via Siberia. He has arranged plain language cable code with wife. Request any further information be signalled to me. (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0426Z/15 to S.O.(I)'s Colombo, Capetown etc.)

Australia.

A.C.N.B's 0710/9. In view of increasing raider activities in Australasian Waters, and to provide a relief for GLASGOW damaged in the mediterranean the following redispersions have been approved and are to be put into effect:-

- (a) WESTRALIA to return to Australia as soon as possible.
- (b) SOUTHAMPTON to join the Mediterranean Fleet on completion of her duties with Convoy W.S.4B, a.m. 1917/24 para. 5(b) (iv), a single cruiser escort being accepted on the Durban- Durban/Aden route.
- (c) SYDNEY to return to Australia on relief by SOUTHAMPTON.
- (d) PERTH from Red Sea Force to join the Mediterranean Fleet as convenient, a reduction in the scale of surface and A/A protection in Red Sea being accepted. It is intended that four HUNT Class destroyers shall join the Red Sea Force (date).
(D.O.D.(F) 0120/15 to A.C.N.B. C.in C. Med., C.in C. E.I.)



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

445

Australia. (Contd.)

A.C.N.B's 0710/9 and a.m. 0120/15).
Need for fast modern minesweepers to work with Mediterranean Fleet is particularly urgent at present, when our opportunities for taking the offensive are increasing. Owing to the large incidence of minesweeper casualties in Home Waters reinforcements from here are not possible. Hoped you will agree to the following allocation of BATHURST minesweepers:-

1st pair to Mediterranean.
2nd pair to remain in Australia.
3rd pair to Mediterranean.
(D.O.D.(F) 0121/15 to A.C.N.B).

FIONA
collision.

James Patrick steamer CARDROSS sunk following collision with steamer FIONA 34.07 S., 151.32 E. 1700Z/14. No lives lost. FIONA damaged but making port.
(A.C.N.B. 0500Z/15).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

446

RIO GRANDE
RHEIN
KLAUS
SCHOKE
PORTLAND
BRAKE
JOAO PESSOA
MADRID.

My 1927/6. German ships RIO GRANDE,
RHEIN, KLAUS SCHOKE all scuttled.
PORTLAND arrival Talcahuano from Coquimbo
4/12/-. (? Sailing from) Vigo German
tanker BRAKE 10/12 and (JOAO PESSOA 12/12.
(? departs) from Las Palmas MADRID 11/12.
(C.in C. S.A. 1551/15 to S.A. Sqdn.)

JOAO PESSOA.

Tel. No.83. JOAO PESSOA arrived from
Vigo 0300/15 Bilbao.
(Bilbao 1735/15 to Adty).

15.12.40.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships
Attacked.

447

WESTERN
PRINCE.
(torpedoed
14/12.)

Your 0932/15. (Not circulating - request-
ing report on WESTERN PRINCE) WESTERN
PRINCE sank about 0930 yesterday
Saturday.
(ACTIVE 1016/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

GWALIA
(torpedoed
2/12.)

My 1632/14/12. * Ship was torpedoed at
0530/2 in Convoy O.G.46 and sank in three
minutes. Presumed that books went down
with her. Information obtained from
the four survivors of crew of twenty.
My 1211/15/12 gives names of Survivors.

*(Re Swedish ship GWALIA).

ORARI
(torpedoed
14/12.)

Have searched along track of ORARI and in
the vicinity of Galway Bay without
result. Maximum visibility has been one
mile. Am standing by to seaward till
daylight. Request if possible more
recent position of ORARI.
(VANQUISHER 1750/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

DAPHNE.
(torpedoed
3/12.)

Swedish, 1513 tons, reported torpedoed
3/12 off S.W. Coast of Spain. 18 of crew
of 19 are missing. 1 survivor, picked
up by a Spanish ship, states DAPHNE
sank in half a minute, no time to
launch the boats. (D.S.468).

Submarines
Reported.
1639.

1639. 58°-60°N., 25 W, very indefinite.
(D.S.468).

1841.

W. or W.N.W. of Ireland, very indefinite.
(D.S.468).

0925.

60° to 61°N., 1° to 3° E, indefinite.
(D.S. 467).

0450.

14.59'N., 20.6'W, sighted by
BRIDGEWATER. (D.S.467).



MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

448

Submarines
Reported.

Search.

Cancel my 2212/14. (Rejoin Convoy
(ACTIVE searching for submarine))
(C.in C. W.A. 0008/15 to ACTIVE.)

Your 2311. Return to Convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 0036/15 to ANTELOPE).

Weather deteriorating rapidly, conditions
very bad for anti-submarine. Request
permission to abandon hunt at 0815 today
Sunday.
(ACTIVE 0242/15 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 0242 approved. Rejoin Convoy.
(C.in C. W.A. 0412/15 to ACTIVE.)

One submarine in sight bearing 270 degs.
distant 4 miles course 180 degs. my
position 293 15° N., 20° W., 7.
(BRIDGEWATER 0412/15 to Freetown W/T).

Submarine on surface at 0450 in position
014 59' North 020 06 West. Made away
at high speed course 185 quickly out of
sight. Chased 30 minutes then returned
to ENGLISH TRADER.
Suggest tug HUDSON sent to position given
to enable me maintain efficient screen.
Essential ENGLISH TRADER tow BRIDGEWATER,
asdic? is at present negative .
Request instructions.
(BRIDGEWATER, 0530/15).

My 2139/11 and BRIDGEWATER's 0412/15.
Following received from BRIDGEWATER,
T.O.O. 0530/15. (quoted).
Tug HUDSON joining BRIDGEWATER at best
speed Nationality of submarine not known
whether French or definitely enemy.
(C.in C. S.A. 1107N/15 to Adty).



WAR DIARY.

MOST SECRET.

15.12.40.
Sunday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

449

Estimated U/B
Dispositions.

Italian. 1 probably about 300 miles West of Madiera.
1 near Azores.
1 arriving Gironde.
1 may still be in Area 53° N., to 54° N., 19° W., to 20° W.
1 more in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 was in about 45° N., 9° W., at 1729/14 destination unknown, possibly Azores.

German.

1 was probably in 2° 06' N., 22° W., at 1818/13.
1 was in 14° 59' N., 20° 06' W at 0450/15.
1 bound for Lorient may be about 48° N., 8° W.
1 may be about 48 degs N., 14 degs W. bound for Lorient.
1 has probably left North Cornwall for Lorient.
2 between 55 degs N., and 58 degs N. 16 degs W and 21 degs. West.
1 probably North of 55 degs. N. East of 12 degs W.
1 in 59 degs. 48' N., 18 degs 13' West at 2015/14.
1 between 60 degs. N., and 61 degs N 1 deg E. and 3 degs East at 0925/15.
(D.D.I.C. 1251/15 V.A.S. 1426/15).

Submarines
Attacked.

1415.

By a/c 37° N., 15.45° E. 090° Syracuse
20' attacked by gunfire.
(D.S.468.)