

War Diary.

11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy  
Q.P.15.

The following arrangements have been made for bringing back Convoy Q.P.15 (about 30 ships) from Kola Inlet. Capt. D.8 in FAULKNER with IMPULSIVE, ECHO, ICARUS and INTREPID will provide escort (sailed from Seidisfjord 1305/12) C.S.1 in LONDON with SUFFOLK, FORESTER and 2 other destroyers to be detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. will provide cover against surface attack (to sail from Seidisfjord p.m. 17) P.321<sup>32</sup>, P.216 and UREDD will patrol in northern waters. The latter left Lerwick at 1712A today.

An escorted outward bound enemy tanker was sighted at 1310 yesterday in 44° 25' N. 6° 10' W. and again at 2310 in 44° 14' N. 8° 51' W. The tanker appears to have been attacked by our aircraft in the early hours of today, and is reported to have entered Ferrol at midday today, damaged.

Operation  
S.N.17 A.

ADVENTURE sailed from Port Z.A. this afternoon.

Operation "Torch".

French  
Fleet.

German forces entered Unoccupied France today, ostensibly for the purpose of defending Southern France and Corsica against an imminent allied attack.

Endeavours are being made to get the French Fleet to leave Toulon and proceed to Gibraltar. The bulk of the fleet was still in harbour this morning. Orders were given to S.O. Force H. that the French ships were not to be treated as hostile unless they commit a hostile act. Broadcasts are being made from the U.K. inviting all French seamen at Marseilles and other ports to bring their ships over to us.

\* HECLA,  
VICEROY OF  
INDIA,  
NIEUW  
ZEELAND  
sunk.

\* by U.505  
(F.D.S.)

SS VICEROY OF INDIA (troopship 19,627 tons) returning independently from Algiers to Gibraltar was torpedoed and sunk at 0803Z in 36° 26' N. 0° 24' W.

073 → OTRANTO (20,025 tons, troopship) reported that two torpedoes missed her at 1035 G.M.T. in 36° 42' N. 1° 34' W. (35 miles east of Cape de Gata.) NIEUW ZEELAND (11,069 tons) returning independently from Algiers to Gibraltar was torpedoed about 1320 in 35° 59' N. 3° 45' W. and sank later. N.C.X.F. gave orders that no further ships were to be sailed independently. HECLA (Fleet Repair ship) was torpedoed at 2315Z in 35° 43' N. 9° 54' W. (about 180 miles west of Gibraltar) and sank next morning.

/U/B ...



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Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Operation "Torch" contd.

U/B  
sunk.  
*not confirmed by  
Com. Anobothland etc  
Lind. 6843*

URSULA reports that she sank a U-boat at 1041A in 36° 42' N. 1° 46' W. (about 35 miles east of Cape de Gata.) *Probably U.73 - undamaged.*

BATORY and MONARCH OF BERMUDA left Gibraltar today in a special convoy for the U.K. The latter has been damaged internally by shell fire.

Operation  
"Perpetual".

The landing at Bougie was unopposed; the Garrison Commander agreed to ships anchoring in the Bay and landing any troops and material in the port and taking over the airfield. Both convoys proceeded into the bay about 0930Z. Swell prevented landing at Jijelli, and the force was landed at Bougie and moved to Jijelli by road.

At dusk a heavy air attack took place on ships in harbour. ARGUS sustained damage to her flight deck and lost some fighters, but is still in operation. Monitor ROBERTS and transports CATHAY (became a total loss) and AWATEA were hit and seriously damaged and set on fire, the latter whilst leaving harbour westbound unloaded. BICESTER and PENTSTEMON went alongside but were unable to extinguish the fire and it is thought she will be a total loss. Constant air attacks hampered the disembarkation of vehicles. The enemy air attacks were aided by the failure to occupy Jijelli Aerodrome owing to the swell preventing the landing, and the consequent absence of fighters.

Aerial minelaying was suspected in the anchorage last night.

The Move on Bone was postponed last night owing to the uncertain attitude of the French and the impossibility of assault landing from destroyers anywhere except in a defended harbour. It is planned to carry it out tonight if the French are co-operating.

Algiers  
area.

SHEFFIELD and Minesweeper CADMUS were in collision at 0411 today. The former has her efficiency unimpaired, but CADMUS's bows were damaged, though she reports that she can operate normally in calm weather.

The organisation of the port proceeded today. Air defence is impressive; an enemy air attack was made on Maison Blanche Aerodrome last night, but caused no damage.

The torpedoed transport THOMAS STONE has arrived at Algiers in tow today.

/Oran ...



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SITUATION REPORT.

Operation "Torch" - contd.

Oran  
Area.

Oran surrendered today, but the port is partially blocked by sunken ships. The ports of Arzeu and Mers-el-Kebir are being used. By midnight 8 alongside berths were available at Oran and others in the anchorage.

Western  
Force.

The French Army forces at Casablanca capitulated at 0700 today, but the attitude of the French Navy is not known. At 2330Z N.C.W.N.T.F. reported that Naval elements agreed to cease hostilities, but searchlights from shore near Casablanca silhouetted ships, apparently deliberately. Unloading at the beaches is being delayed by casualties to craft. Air R/C shows two ships sunk at Port Lyautey. About 9 to 11 ships are sunk at Casablanca harbour, including 5 at the Quay Commercial.

A U-boat attack was made on the Fedala convoy area at 2000Z. U.S. Transport\*JOSEPH HEWES was sunk and U.S. tanker WINOOSKI and U.S. destroyer HAMBLETON were damaged: it is doubtful whether the latter can be repaired. \*L.S.I. (L.B. 1815)

North Atlantic.

SS SILVERWILLOW (torpedoed on 31 Oct.) was attacked again this afternoon and foundered in 37° 24' N. 10° 45' W.

South Atlantic.

SS VEERHAVEN independently routed from Rosario to Trinidad and U.K. reported that she was torpedoed at 0220 today in 3° 51' S. 29° 22' W. (about 330 miles W.N.W. of Natal, Brazil) The ship sank in approx. 3° 40' S. 30° W.

/s.o.(I) ...



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SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - contd.

S.O.(I) Freetown reports that SS PRIMROSE HILL was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-Boat of U-26 class at 1750/29 Oct. in 18° 58' N. 28° 40' W. The ship which picked up the survivors was sighted and hailed at 0300/4 by a U-boat of U.59 class in 17° 51' N. 29° 40' W.

S.B.N.O. Trinidad reports that M.V. FRANS HALS was unsuccessfully attacked at 0015 G.M.T/3 in 0° 29' S. 32° 6' W. by a submarine which fired 6 torpedoes. The ship opened fire and one of her 4-inch shells hit and exploded in the conning tower, destroying the after part. The U-boat was also hit by 40 rounds from Oerlikon and one depth charge was dropped within 100 yards.

In view of the possible attempt of the Vichy ships in Dakar to return to France R.A. W. Africa asks if he may retain TRUANT and S/M K.14 (which are on their way home to refit) temporarily for patrol off Dakar. The Admiralty did not, however, approve this, as it was considered, in view of the German Occupation of Vichy France, unlikely that the French ships in Dakar would attempt to return to France. Moreover, these two submarines are unreliable for operational patrol. TRUANT sailed for the U.K. on 13 Nov. and K.14 on 14 Nov. for Philadelphia. (K.14 had to return the same day with defects and sailed again on 17 Nov.)

SS VEERHAVEN, Buenos Aires to U.K. via Trinidad was shelled and sunk by one or two submarines today.

Mediterranean.

German E-boats are returning to base at Tunis and Bizerta: 6 have been sighted at Tunis and more are expected. Our aircraft were to have mined the entrances to these ports tonight, but the weather prevented this.

N.C.X.F. this morning ordered submarines to be redispensed to cut the enemy communications with Bizerta, Tunis and East Tunisian ports, neglecting any possible movements of the Italian Fleet to the westward. (Note.- N.C.X.F. is operating the 8th and 10th S/M Flotillas)

/Sollum ...



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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Sollum was occupied at 1640 today. A searched channel has been established at Mersa Matruh and discharge of cargo is proceeding satisfactorily: A.A. defences have been installed and there has been no enemy interference. M.T.Bs are maintaining patrol to intercept shipping to the west of Tobruk.

The bombing of the Sardinian aerodromes was continued last night.

Liberators and American B.2s bombed a southbound 5000 ton merchant vessel north of Benghazi today, claiming 4 direct hits and many near misses.

Elmas aerodrome was successfully attacked by Wellingtons last night.

Halifaxes and Wellingtons bombed Tobruk harbour last night.

East Indies.

RZN minesweeper BENGAL and refuelling tanker ONDINA, on passage from Fremantle to Colombo engaged two enemy raiders at 0534Z in 19° 45' S. 92° 40' E. (about 1500 miles N.W. of Fremantle).

HOKOKU MARU

- The larger raider was set heavily on fire; an explosion occurred on board, and the enemy ship was not seen again.

The second ship escaped. ONDINA was hit by 2 torpedoes and gunfire by the second ~~ship~~ <sup>ship</sup> but reached port. BENGAL was holed on the waterline fore and aft, but she arrived at Diego Garcia at 0212Z/17.

America and West Indies.

SS CITY OF RIPON was torpedoed and sunk at 0727Z today in 8° 40' N. 59° 20' W.



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

TUNA. My 1701/10 para (B). Amend to read TUNA vicinity 70° 05' N 15° 20' E diving by day to 70° 01' N 11° 59' E, then probably on surface through 69° 03' N 07° 58' E to Lerwick at 11 knots. (F.O.S. 0004A/11 to Admty.)

A.F.D.18. Cease sweeping and proceed to vicinity Milford Haven as additional escort. (C. in C. Plymouth 1025A/11 to BILSDEAN, BRECON CASTLE, BROCKLESBY.)  
R/V A.F.D.18 in tow 3 tugs expected ahead of schedule. Speed 6 knots, destination Corpach, at seaward end of Q.Z.S.184 at approx. 0930A/12. Relieve Plymouth escort BROCKLESBY S.O. Onward route from above will be signalled by C. in C. W.A. Codeword "Jovial". P.C.74 to Holyhead from position G. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1545A/11 to P.C.74. MAZURKA, PAUL RYKENS.) *N.T.A.M.D.*  
Cancel my 1319. BROCKLESBY rejoin "Jovial". SLAZAK proceed Dartmouth. KRAKOWIAK proceed Portland. (C. in C. Plymouth 1729A/11.)

CANTON. On completion of refit and satisfactory preliminary catapult tests about 26th Nov. request you sail CANTON for Clyde and F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange for 14 days working up practices and flying off trials prior to ship sailing to join Eastern Fleet. 2. Ship will be required to leave U.K. with convoy 15th Dec. (D.O.D. (F.) 1216A/11 to F.O.I.C. Southampton.)

W.A. Situation at 2002A/11. Details.  
Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1358A/11) See Lion Copy.

PRINCE On completion of refit and trials request you will  
ALBERT. sail PRINCE ALBERT to Southampton to join Force J. (C.C.O. 1432A/11 to F.O.I.C. London.)

JUNON My 1047/10. Arrived destination (Lunna Voe)  
*See p.437* (S.O. S/M Lerwick 1517A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

North My 1430/8.  
Atlantic Area Iceland. Amend destroyers to read 6.  
dispositions. Area Scapa. Amend destroyers to read 3.  
Operational Area. Amend destroyers to read 19.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1535Z/11 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

TORBAY My 1612/7. *N.T.A.M.D.* Sailing delayed. *See 9/11 - p.328*  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1630A/11 to Admty.)

HOWE. R.A.D. Home Fleet is requested to sail 3 destroyers to R/V with HOWE off entrance to Port HHZ at 1130A/13. and escort to Scapa.  
2. HOWE will carry out A/A and battle-practice target-firing on passage. E.T.A. Hoxa 1900/13. 3. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide A/S air escort from Cape Wrath. (C. in C. H.F. 1715A/11.) */P.216...*



# MOST SECRET

1358A/11th November.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN.

From: C. in C. Western Approaches

Date: 11 Nov. 42.  
Recd: 2145.

Addressed: Admiralty.

## Situation at 2002A/11th November 1942

### Section N.E.

1 M/V POLKA 53 26 05 22 To Methil 6

### Section S.E.

THUNDERBOLT CUTTY SARK 53 04 05 10 To Bishop Rock 11  
BRIGHTON Vicinity To Newport 15

CAMROSE Sails To Belfast 12  
CALGARY Londonderry approx. 0200A/12

LUNENBERG 55 18 08 15 To Clyde 12  
2 Auxiliary vessels 52 32 05 10 To Clyde 12

SHIKARI Sails Belfast To Londonderry 15  
approx. 0230A/12

B.B.34 P.C.74 53 01 05 04 To Bristol 8  
MAZURKA Channel

NORTHERN WAVE  
ANGLE  
PAUL RYKENS

H.M.63 MAID MARION 52 49 05 05 To Milford 8  
Haven

2 M/V's WAVENEY Sail Cardiff To Clyde 9  
2300A/11 To Helwick then 14.

CONVOY DERBY COUNTY 52 01 05 28 Northbound 7 1/2

### Section N.W.

(E)  
O.N.S.J.144 U.S.S.BIBB Hove to in position 60 49 23 16  
C.T.U. U.S.S.DUANE at 0901A/11.  
24.6.4.(E) U.S.S. INGHAM

R.U.48 KING SOL 61 50 13 21 To 59 58 14 40 7  
REIGHTON WYKE  
STAFNES

U.R.49 GAVOTTE 60 32 11 13 To 61 57 15 30 7  
HUGH WALPOLE  
QUADRILLE

O.N.S.144 POTENTILLA 57 00 19 38 To 57 28 21 39 6  
C.T.U. EGLANTINE thence  
24.1.4. MONTBRETIA 58 30 26 30  
ROSE  
VERVAIN  
ST.ALBANS

### Section S.W./



SECTION S.W.

BURZA		55 50 11 54	To O.N.145,	13
SHEBROOKE		54 43 20 15	To Londonderry	13
HURRICANE		54 00 30 50	To Argentina	12
WATCHMAN				
ANCHUSA				
DAHLIA				
GURMARD		51 42 26 18	To 52 01 25 59 thence 55 40 20 01	12½
K.M.S.3 (E)	BLACK SWAN 1 Sloop 8 Corvettes	54 18 17 18	To 53 30 19 59	7
K.X.6 (A)	LANCASTER WELLS 3 corvettes 4 trawlers	48 00 15 17	To 45 21 15 55	6½
O.N.S.142. C.T.U. 24.1.5.	FIRE Drake SUNFLOWER LOOSETRIFE ALISMA PINK	43 20 42 53	To 43 20 43 51 thence 43 03 51 08	6½
O.N.145 C.T.U. 24.1.3.	U.S.S. CAMPBELL U.S.S. BADGER ROSTHERN TRILLIUM	55 58 14 52	To 55 58 15 01 thence 53 32 22 28	8

1358A/11.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Ad. Ramsey (2)
- D.M.S.

5.



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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

P.216. Proceed forthwith to 064° 01' N 003° 50' E, thence as routed in my 1405/11 Nov. (Capt. S.9. 1805A/11 to P.216.)

Operations.

Patrols. My 1255/10. "Object" arrived 0718A/11. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0723A/11.)

Intend M.L.123 (S.O.) and R.M.L.532 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N between 1° 45' W and 2° 25' W tonight, leaving Weymouth at 1830 and patrol-line at dawn. Codeword "Cadger".

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1107A/11 and 1622A/11.)

N.T.A. Your 1040/11. M.L.106 (S.O.) 105, 100 (Type 252), 110. M.G.B.79 (S.O.), 80 (Type 252), 81. M.T.B.32 (S.O.) (Type 252) 30. E.T.D. No.53 Buoy 1815/11.

(BEEHIVE 1123A/11.)

Intend to sail M.T.B.344 at 1745/11 to the southward.

2. Request air escort at 0700/12 in A D 6895 when course will be 336° speed 18 knots.

3. Codeword "Arena".

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1145/11.)

M.T.B.55 (S.O.), 54, M.G.B.611, 615, 608, proceed tonight for sweep of enemy convoy route eastward from longitude 1° 30' W. Codeword "Object".

Between 1° 45' W and 2° 20' W on latitude 50° 20' N M.L.123 and R.M.L.532 from Portland are patrolling.

CHASSEURS 41 (S.O.), and 5, on E A 5 patrol.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1152A/11 to HORNET.)

M.L. patrol tonight.

- 2. Forces employed M.Ls 491 (S.O.), \*153, and 195. \* see below.
- 3. Patrol. 7 miles east and west of position 130° Start 20 miles.
- 4. Object to intercept E-Boats.
- 5. Information. E-Boats may work from Guernsey or Cherbourg.
- 6. Execution. Sail at 1600 today and passing through 180° Start 4 miles and 180° Start 13 miles proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight 12th and return to Dartmouth passing through same positions.

7. Codeword "Obstacle".

(C. in C. Plymouth 1415A/11.)

Your 1415/11. "Obstacle" sailed less M.L.153 plus M.L.157. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1618A/11 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Night 11/12. M.Ls 143 and 140 near C one Buoy.

(V.A. Dover 1814A/11.)

My 1152/11. Sweep cancelled. M.T.B.55 and M.G.B.608 will patrol 50° 15' N 0° 40' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1910A/11.)

Cable laying (ARIEL)

INT. 211.3. INT. 211.3. Your 1419/3 and 1636/10. Regret no date can be given as operation is dependent on weather conditions.

(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1000A/11.) To whom?

Operation "Upsilon"

My 1047/10. Sailed (JUNON) see p. 436 (S.O. S/M Lerwick 1120A/11 to A.C.O.S.)



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation Your 1424/10. Concur.  
V P. (A.C.O.S. 1847A/11 to F.O.S.)

TIGRIS (1) Patrol between 043° 01' 012° 30' and 043°  
Patrol. 59' 012° 29'.  
*see p. 463 -*  
*(Silent alarm)* (2) Leave patrol so as to cross 043° N at 2200Z/12  
and arrive in position A of Capt. S.8's 1204/10  
at 1700Z/14.  
(3) Cancel bombing restriction in Capt. S.5's 1117/6.  
(4) Total bombing restriction arranged within 40 miles of 043°  
30' 012° 30' forthwith until 0400Z/13.  
(F.O.S. 1946A/11 to TIGRIS.)

Mining.

Q.K.4C. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.K.4C  
tonight with 51st M.L. Flotilla.  
Supporting force combined unit of M.G.Bs and  
M.T.Bs. Whole force is to proceed together but, when run-in on  
silent engines is started, M.T.Bs are to part company and make  
for vicinity 51° 23' N 03° 00' E. After operation has been  
completed M.G.Bs may act independently if E/B activity develops  
to the northward.  
(C. in C. Nore 1040A/11 to BEEHIVE.)

Search of convoy route. Sail with all available ships of 9th M/S Flotilla  
to carry out search between new position of E A 5  
Buoy along intended new convoy route as far as  
C 1 Buoy, entering Newhaven on nights of 12th and  
13th returning Portsmouth on 14th.  
E.T.D. Spithead 0800/12.  
Codeword for each day "Service".  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1244/11 to TENBY.)

Iceland. A.M. 1724/8. Bad weather has prevented further  
exploratory sweeps since my 2310/6. Request  
instructions whether S.O. 15th M/S Flot. should  
sail for Liverpool tomorrow. 2 ships of Flotilla  
will have completed boiler cleaning before leaving  
Iceland.  
(A.C.I.C. 1519A/11 to Admty.)

Lyme Bay. Area completed. Negative results. If my 1858/10  
is approved, intend sailing 0730 tomorrow returning  
Portland 1500. Codeword "Scent".  
(M/S.4 1644A/11 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Intend DORINDA and LOCH BUIE at 0745A/12 to sweep route P  
to Portland. Codeword "Ounce V".  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1648A/11.)



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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Vessels. My 2202. Enemy has altered course to 090° approx. (A/C YHIK 0028/11 to 19 Group.)  
My 2339. 3 destroyers, 1 unknown, bearing 90° 3 miles, course 367°0', position 44° 06' N 6° 58' W. (A/C 0225A/11 to 19 Group.)  
Position of 1 enemy ship at 0640, 44° 07' N 08° 33' W, course and speed unknown. (A/C 0657/11 to 19 Group.)  
One tanker, course 180° speed 10 knots, position 43° 59' N 08° 10' W. (A/C 0825/11 to 19 Group.)

NEUMARK. 18 Bostons of 2 Group were despatched with fighter cover to attack the NEUMARK Raider reported to be lying alongside the Quai Oblique at Havre. On reaching the port, they found that the Raider had left. (H.Q.B.C. 1550A/11.)

German Main Unit SCHEER. Enemy warship with one triple turret aft and believed two forward reported in Lofjord on Nov. 1st. Source believed vessel to have been SCHARNHORST but there is no other evidence from her companion ships to support this. Graded B2. (N.A. Stockholm 1717/11.)  
O.I.C. Comment. (This report obviously refers to ADMIRAL SCHEER who was in Lofjord on 1st. Nov.)

GNEISENAU Gdynia 1415/11. Preliminary interpretation of photographs show -  
SCHARNHORST GNEISENAU has returned to former berth.  
GRAF ZEPPELIN SCHARNHORST in floating dock.  
PRINZ EUGEN GRAF ZEPPELIN in usual berth.  
NÜRNBERG Two Schlesien Class battleships present.  
LEIPZIG PRINZ EUGEN and NÜRNBERG have arrived.  
LEIPZIG has sailed. (D.D.I.C. 2147A/11.)

Allied Air Activity.

UNBEATEN.\* My 0514/11 para (B). This S/M was attacked at 0235. One Sunderland escorted by 2 Beaufighters are proceeding towards the above position (46° 55' N 06° 51' W) with object of escorting you should you be unable to dive. (F.O.S. 0739A/11 to UNBEATEN.)  
*See next page*

Bomber Command operations. On day 11th Nov. 18 A/C bombed the docks at Havre. On night 10/11 Nov. 35 A/C laid mines in enemy waters. (H.Q.B.C. 1550A/11.)

\* UNBEATEN lost, possibly by attack from friendly a/c, see p. 645-655.



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Unknown ship. Intercept 0642 G.M.T. 139° Gonio B. Approx. De GEZ AA. SOS GEZ AA. No further particulars. (Lands End Radio 0743/11.)

U-Boat.

S/Ms reported. My 2305. Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 46° 13' N (?longitude) at 2320. (A/C 0052/11 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 46° 55' N 6° 51' W.

(A/C 0216/11 to 19 Group.)

→ Following from SS. ST. MAGNUS. Submarine sighted acting suspiciously in 59° 18', 1° 55' W, steering approx. north at 2300/10.

(Kirkwall 0336A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

Submarines were sighted by aircraft in following positions.

(A) 046° 13' N 007° 40' W at 2120/10.

(B) 046 55' N 006° 51' W at 0216/11. This S/M was attacked at 0235.

(F.O.S. 0514A/11 and 0739A/11 to UNBEATEN.) *in previous page*

→ My 0336A/11. Master of ST. MAGNUS reports submarine appeared to be stopped or moving very slowly. He can give no idea of size owing to darkness. He confirms position of sighting submarine which was headed north.

(AXDO Kirkwall 0559A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

It is estimated that 2 U-Boats may be near you today.

(D.D.I.C. 1001A/11 to O.N.S.J.144.)

Am over submarine in 49° 52' N 10° 59' W. Enemy submarine previously reported was periscope only sighted and was on course 350°, near 2 unknown M/V 300 tons 2 kts. 350.

(A/C 158 Sqdn. 1040/11 to 19 Group.)

Submarine reported in 49° 52' N 10° 59' W course 350° at 1040.

(A.O.C. 19 Group 1240/11.)

Reliable fix and D.F. bearings of enemy unit 1538 G.M.T./11, probable U-Boat, 074° 10' N 029° 30' E.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1615/11.)

ST. MAGNUS reports sighting submarine on the surface at 2300/10 in 59° 18' N 01° 55' W. Aircraft reports sighting periscope feather and swirl but no periscope in 59° N 4° W RDYG at 0928/11.

(A.C.O.S. 1934A/11 to OAKLEY, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON.)

U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 49° 28' N 10° 52' W. (A/C 3 RLF. 1205/11 to 15 Group.) Enemy submarine was periscope only sighted course 090°.

(A/C 3 RLF 1207/11.)

Have attacked U-Boat with depth charges. No hits.

(A/C 3 RLF 1222/11 to 15 Group.)

Our 1222. U-Boat periscope depth at 1218. Further attack no hits. Resuming patrol.

(A/C 3 RLF 1226/11 to 19 Group.)



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

\* O.N.S. 142. Following originated by FIREDRAKE. Begins:  
EMPIRE At 0800Z/5th (?58) 53 N 26.40 W four bodies  
TURNSTONE. including Master picked up from raft from EMPIRE  
\* See p. 443 TURNSTONE torpedoed night of Oct. 22nd. 12 others  
also lost from same raft. T.O.O. 1116Z/9. Ends.  
L/2 (PORTSDOWN 0920Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

MALAYA. A.S. Rosyth 1150/10. It is strongly recommended  
that refit be extended to Dec. 7th. Ship need  
not be at 7 days notice during this period.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1155A/11 to Admty.)  
Request you will reply to A.S. Rosyth's 1150/10. Admty.  
agree in extension of completion date to 7th Dec. subject to  
your concurrence.  
(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1200A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)

HURRICANE. HURRICANE's speed reduced in rough weather by  
upper deck plating cracked amidships.  
\* See p. 442 WATCHMAN, DAHLIA, ANCHUSA detached. My P.C.S.  
1100Z/11 054° 45' N 024° 10' W, 256°, 4 knots.  
(HURRICANE 1213Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

SHIKARI <sup>/N.T. in N.D.</sup>  
My 1203A 27th Oct. Defects developed in both  
condensers. Sailing delayed probably until 13th  
Nov. depending on tests.  
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1803A/11 to Admty.)

SABRE <sup>/N.T. in N.D.</sup>  
A.M. 1451A/6. Para 2. Temporary repairs will be  
completed p.m. tomorrow. Intend sailing SABRE  
from Lough Foyle at 1800A/12. Arriving Liverpool  
1400A/13. Speed limited to 11 knots.  
(Cdre. Londonderry 1846A/11.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.S.3. Sailed LUNENBURG to overtake convoy K.M.S.3.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0536A/11.)

Q.P.15. Your 2358/10 para (7) complied with.  
(A.C.I.C. 0555A/11 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 2358/10. para five. 1750 tons oil fuel will be  
available at Kola Inlet.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1012A/11 to Capt. D.8.)  
Comply with my 1754/10. Submarines are to proceed to waiting  
positions as follows - P.312 070° 28' 021° 50'.  
P.216 070° 10' 021° 01'. UREDD 070° 55' 020° 10'.  
Final patrol position will be signalled direct to submarines.  
(F.O.S. 1129A/11 to Capt. S.9.)  
1. P.312 and P.216 proceed forthwith through following  
positions.  
(a) 067° 40' 009° 01' E. (b) 069° 58' N 012° 59' E.  
thence to following waiting positions - P.312 071° 28' 021° 50' E.  
P.216 071° 10' 021° 01' E.  
2. Total bombing restrictions to cover passage will be arranged.

/Submarines...



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.Q.P.15.  
Contd.

Submarines are to dive by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.

3. Final patrol positions will be signalled by F.O.S.

(Capt. S.9. 1405A/11 to S/Ms.)

F.O.S.'s 1129/11. Request you sail UREDD at 1700A/11 routed as follows -

(A) 090° Out Skerries 5 miles.

(B) 069° 38' N 009° 05' E. (C) 069° 59' N 011° 50' E, thence waiting position 070° 54' N 020° 11' E.

(2) Total bombing restrictions will be arranged. S/M should proceed dived by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian coast.

(Capt. S.9. 1429A/11 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

UREDD left Lerwick at 1712A/11 unescorted routed through positions A, B and C. thence waiting position 070° 54' N 020° 11' E. on surface at C.Os discretion till within 60 miles of Norwegian coast, thence diving by day.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1715A/11 to S/Ms.) (F.O.S. 1732A/11 to Admty)

Positions of submarines at 0800A/12 and movements for the following 24 hours.

O.15 vicinity of 75° N 08° E. Leaves patrol dawn 12th Nov. for Lerwick.

P.312 64° 26' N 5° 40' E proceeding on the surface through 67° 40' N 09° 01' E.

P.216 63° 55' N 4° 48' E proceeding on the surface through 67° 40' N 09° 01' E.

UREDD 62° 16' N 1° 36' E proceeding on the surface through 67° 38' N 09° 05' E.

(F.O.S. 1814A/11 and 0046/12 to Admty.)

Your 1005/7 and F.O.S. 1754/10. Do the Russians intend to occupy Area 2A during passage of Q.P.15.

(D.O.D.(H.) 1907A/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Q.P.15. Cruiser covering force. Object to provide cover against surface attack.

2. Convoy will sail at discretion of S.B.N.O. North Russia not earlier than 16th Nov. speed of advance 9 knots.

3. Composition of force LONDON, SUFFOLK, FORESTER and 2 destroyers to be detailed by R.A.D. H.F.

4. Force is to reach cover-position when convoy crosses approx. longitude 025° E. Attention is called to N R C i para 31, but Force is not to proceed east of 010° E unless acting on information of enemy movements.

5. Cruiser force is to return to Iceland (C) when convoy has crossed longitude 002° W unless enemy surface forces are in a position to attack.

6. Intend BERWICK to remain at Hvalfiord for present.

7. Request you issue necessary instructions to Cruiser Force.

(C. in C. H.F. 1909A/11 to C.S.L.)

O.15 is to be recalled to Lerwick after daylight tomorrow.

(F.O.S. 1916A/11 to Capt. S.9.)

Leave patrol after daylight tomorrow through position

(A) 072° 20' 008° 01' E. (B) 089° Out Skerries 5 miles, thence Lerwick.

2. Proceed on surface at C.Os discretion and report time of passing through position (A).

3. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange total bombing restrictions between parallels 073° 30' and 070° 30' and meridians 005° E and 011° E from 0900A/12 until further notice.

(Capt. S.9. 2305A/11 to O.15.)

Your 1909/11 para 3. ONSLAUGHT, OBDURATE detailed.

(R.A.D. 2348/11 to C. in C. H.F.)



11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.Firth  
of Lorne.  
Navigation  
Lights.Your 1845A/10. Concur.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0930A/11 to Admty.)

TJALDUR.

Request you will escort TJALDUR to Thorshaven  
instead of Sorvaag.  
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1050A/11 to CASTLETON.)

HINDUSTAN.

Admty. 1710A/10. Intend sailing HINDUSTAN speed  
12 knots at 1700/11 to Holyhead for onward convoy  
to Milford Haven. E.T.A. Holyhead 0800A/12.  
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 1055A/11.)

O.N.S.142.

*See p.441*Your 2020Z/9. Southbound ships dispersed 2100Z/10,  
044° 15' N 039° 28' W, except JAARSTROOM, BELGIAN  
FISHERMAN insufficient fuel to reach destination.Request instructions. BERMUDA suggested bunkering. Request  
rebroadcast of your 1835Z/9.  
(FIREDRAKE 1119Z/11 to Admty.)

LIMELIGHT

My 1048/8. LIMELIGHT delayed 16 hours due to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1244A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

F.N.863.

SLEIPNER I F F out of action. No I F F Guard in  
F.N. No.863.  
(VALOROUS 1328A/11 to C. in C. Nore.)Operation  
F BMy 1305A/4. <sup>/p.122</sup> Eastbound independent ship. Following  
casualties sunk. (A)\*JOHN LATLOD. (B) WILLIAM  
CLARK. (C) DEKABRIST. Possibly sunk RICHARD H.  
ALVEY. \*JOHN H. LATROBE *not found*(2) The 2 extra ships DALDORCH and BRIARWOOD recalled to Iceland.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1330A/5 to ST. KENAN etc.)My 1250/28 para 3. The following quantities of fuel oil were  
loaded into double bottom and spare bunker tanks of the following  
ships - R.H. ALVEY 1285 tons approx. JOHN WALKER 1285 tons approx  
HUGH WILLIAMSON 1231 tons approx.

(D.T.D. 1810A/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

E.N.61 M.  
W.N.60 S.  
(CONQUEROR)Act as A.A. escort to E.N.61 (Medium) which sails  
from Methil at 1600 tomorrow. Close escorts  
COVERLEY and TARANTELLA. Transfer to W.N.60 (slow)  
which sails from Loch Ewe at 1645 tomorrow. Close  
escorts HORNPIPE, BERKSHIRE.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1602Z/11 to CONQUEROR.)

K.M.F.3.

R/V 1200Z/15 055° 36' N 007° 35' W. R/V 1200Z/16  
054° 00' N 014° 00' W.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1759A/11 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)Sailed TOTLAND 2030A today. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 1430A/12.  
N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1412/10 and A.M. 1222/7 refer.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2100A/11.)

/A.M. 2041/6...



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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - con/11.

- K.M.F.3. A.M. 2041/6. Para 1. US. BORINQUEN will take  
Contd. place of SS. ESPERANCE BAY.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 2133A/11.)
- M.K.F.1. Following are ports of destination in U.K. for  
K.M.F.4. vessels of M.K.F.1. To Liverpool, DUCHESS OF  
BEDFORD, OTRANTO, DERBYSHIRE, SAMARIA, VICEROY OF  
INDIA, TEGELBERG, ANTENOR, MALOGA and VOLENDAM.  
Remainder to Clyde.
2. Request you arrange for NIEUW ZEELAND to proceed to New York  
in G.U.F.I.
3. Vessels of M.K.F.1. except STRATHNAVER and MOOLTAN will be  
required for K.M.F.4. sailing approx. seven days after arrival  
U.K. i.e. 27 Nov. Request urgent confirmation that vessels will  
be able to maintain this turnround.  
(D.S.T. 1807A/11 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)
- LEINSTER. LEINSTER due Clyde about 20/11 is required to be  
ready to sail again on 27 Nov.  
She will embark to full capacity at Tail of the  
Bank on 26 Nov and 27 Nov.  
(D.S.T. 1816A/11.)
- LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE due Clyde about 20/11 will  
(D.S.34.) comprise convoy D.S.34 sailing 28 Nov.  
2. Vessel will embark to full capacity at Tail  
of the Bank on 27 Nov and 28 Nov.  
(D.S.T. 1817A/11.)
- O.N.145. My P.C.S. at 1700Z/11 055° 35' N 011° 38' W, 274°,  
BURZA. 12 knots. Expect overhaul (?ships escorting)  
O.N.145 at approx. midday 12th.  
(BURZA 1831Z/11 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)
- H.M.62. H.M.62 presumed anchored west of Breaksea.  
Dense fog.  
(N.C.S.O. Barry 1910A/11.)
- Russian M/Vs for Iceland. A.M. 1957/4 para 2. Recommend Russian Merchantmen  
should be sailed independently forthwith at 15  
hour intervals by the following route:  
A. 73° 35' N 45° 35' E. B. 74° 53' N 27° 01' E.  
C. 73° 42' N 19° 05' E. D. 73° 43' N 03° 48' W.  
E. 67° 21' N 8° 22' W. thence 068° Langes 5  
miles, and coastwise to Akureyri.
2. Estimate enemy air effort will be on a reduced scale, but the  
submarine threat remains.
3. It is advisable to cross meridian of Bear Island during  
darkness.
4. Sailings should cease 24 hours before Q.P.15 sails.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1941A/11 and 1550A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)



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11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch".

R/C of Spezzia. P.R.U. Sortie C/600 dated 10th Nov. time 1315 hours shows:-  
 Spezzia:- No main units present. Minor units shows increase of two destroyers one of which may be damaged and one T/B since 19th Sept. while four U-Boats departed. Naval units now present comprise two destroyers 350 ft. both of which probably damaged three destroyers 280/300 ft. three T/Bs 240/260 ft. six U-Boats 200 ft. three of which in dry dock and one U-Boat 130 ft. Nine M.A.S. as well as usual auxiliary units. Merchant shipping shows increase of two M/Vs 370 ft. one of which is damaged. Tanker 450 ft. and liner Mario Polo type are still present. One M/V 240 ft. seen approaching port.  
 Spezzia S/P/B:- Twelve Z506 B and three Z501 afloat.  
 Genoa:- Port not photographed.  
 (P.R.U. Benson, 0005A/11 to Admty., Air Min., Bomber, Coastal Fighter (Int.), Army Co-operation Commands, Medmenham, 8th U.S.B.C.)

\*AVENGER, ARGUS. Fly off up to 11 Hurricanes to R/V over ARGUS at Bougie, 6 at 0730Z, 5 at 0830Z.  
 \* *imp/2.448, 452* ARGUS modify this programme if it is not suitable. (N.C.E.N.T.F., 0022Z/11 to AVENGER, (R) ARGUS, S.O. 10th C.S.)  
 Your 0021Z (presumably 022/11). Request surface A/S escort at entrance of swept channel at 0615? today Wednesday, 11 A/C cannot take off with overloaded tank and will have no running endurance left on arrival over ARGUS.  
 (? AVENGER, 0309Z/11 to N.C.E.N.T.F., (R) ARGUS, C.S.10.)

Operation "Perpetual". Just received both landings will now be opposed. Adhere to original plans except all attacks at Bougie to Duff White.  
 (S.N.L.O. Sector D, 0036Z/11 to 81 F, 92 F, 94 F, 103 F, ships in company.)

Situation report. 01, 11th.  
 Have despatched 36 Inf. Bde. Group Assault (? Forces) to capture Bougie Port and Jijelli Aerodrome on morning 11 Nov. regardless of French opposition. Move on Bone postponed owing to uncertain French attitude and impossibility of assault landing from destroyers anywhere except defended harbour. Plan to carry out move on Bone by sea night 11th Nov. if French co-operating by then. Slight enemy bombing Maison Blanche. No damage.  
 (C.G. ?E.T.F., 0040Z/11 to A.F.H.Q. C.P., Abfer London, (R) W.O., M.O.4, A.F.H.Q., Adv. Gp.)

R/C of Toulon. Photo R/C Toulon a.m. 10th Nov. STRASBOURG and DUNKERQUE still in dock. PROVENCE has left dock. Other changes since 9th Nov. One 6" cruiser has docked and 2 submarines have left.  
*imp/2.472*  
 (D.D.I.C., 0055A/11 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, R.A.A.H.F., N.C.E.N.T.F., N.C.C.N.T.F.)

/Following ...



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Following from C.T.F. 34 "Desire Patron 73 and 92 arrive early 12th Nov. Report if field will be ready. Have U.S.S. \*BARNEGAT and CONTESSA entered. Comnavu pass to Comatrons 72 and 93, Cominch, C. in C. Lant and N.C.X.F. 1116Z/10". Pass to Admiral Bieri from McAdam. This is not clear as to destination of Squadron 73.

(D.S.O., 0100A/11 to N.C.X.F.) \* *See pp 458 & 460*

THOMAS STONE.

*See pp 449, 454*

*1954 at 123 - See p. 392*  
Cancel my 1945/10 (N.T. in W.R.) Have made good 6 knots. E.T.A. 000° Algiers 12 at 0500 passing through 000° Algiers 20.

(WISHART, 0125Z/11 to N.C.E.N.T.F., (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Algiers, HENGIST.)

Aircraft  
for Algiers.

1st C47 left Gibraltar 0014/11th Nov. rest follows at intervals.

(Gibraltar, 0220/11 to Algiers W/T.)

39 C47s coming at first light to Maison Blanche and 18 Bisleys to Blida.

(?N.C.X.F., 0715A/11 to N.C.E.N.T.F.)

1 unknown vessel bearing 090° 2 miles course 080° position LBDW 1005.

(VERITY, 0233Z/11 to Gib. Port Wave.)

My 0233Z. 1 unknown is friendly.

(VERITY, 0300Z/11 to Gib. Port Wave.)

RODNEY.

Return to off Oran where (? troops) will be relieved.

*See p 459**(Oran area)*

(S.O.C.N.T.F., 0338/11 to RODNEY, (R) S.O. Force H, N.C.X.F., "Torch" Naval Force.)

When escort is relieved at 1200 proceed (? rejoin) Force H north of Algiers.

(N.C.C.T.F., 0821Z/11 to RODNEY, (R) S.O. Force H, N.C.X.F.)

Cancel my 1921/10.

(C.C.N.T.F., 0628/11 to RODNEY.)

RODNEY with FARNDALE, AVON VALE, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE in company will pass through 036° 45' N. 000° 20' E. at 1530Z/11th Nov. Course 70° speed 16 knots. Unless R/V is received intend to reverse course at 0001Z/12th Nov. and to be in 037° 20' N. 003° 00' E. at 0630Z/12.

(RODNEY, 1231Z/11 to S.O. Force H.)

375. My 0120/12 (sic). GLAISDALE sailed at 0353Z/12 (sic).

(F.O.C.N.A., 0348Z/11 to VINDICTIVE, (R)

ALBRIGHTON, Admty., GLAISDALE, MARNE, PRESCOTT, SALVONIA, VENOMOUS.)

/Your ...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Your 1859A/10. All available landing craft tanks are required as soon as possible. (N.C.E.N.T.F., 0545Z/11 to N.C.X.F.)  
Your 1848Z/10. Landing ships tanks are not required for present as no berths are available. (N.C.E.N.T.F., 0558Z/11 to N.C.X.F.)

Request your P.C. and S.  
(VANOC, 0604Z/11 to SCYLLA.)

My 2256/10. Following proceed Mers-el-Kebir K.27, K.34, K.(?24), K.32, K.39 remainder to Arzeu.  
(C.N.T.F., 0607Z/11 to Escort of Convoy K.M.S.2, "Torch" Naval Force.)

VICEROY OF  
INDIA.*see pp 455*

Intercept at 0508 G.M.T. de GLVX S S S S 36° 26' N. 00° 24' W. VICEROY OF INDIA torpedoed. (Port Patrick Radio, 0608/11 to Navycharge, Greenock.)

VANSITTART and tug are being sent to assist. VICEROY should be towed to Arzeu if possible.

(S.O.C.N.T.F., 0732Z/10 to BOADICEA, (R) N.C.X.F.)

VICEROY OF INDIA sunk in 036° 24' N. 000° 35' W. have 425 survivors on board am proceeding to Gibraltar.

(BOADICEA, 0803Z/11 to N.C.C.N.T.F., (R) VANSITTART, N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation  
"Perpetual".

Landing at Duff White unopposed. Bougie signal station in Vitedus (has been?) entered. Offer was ignored. \*AWATEA approaching Bougie. Previous Jelli (?Jijelli) landing impossible owing to swell. \* *see pp 453, 455, 456*

(S.N.O.L. Sector D, 0621Z/11 to S.O.E.N.T.F.)

Two destroyers have entered port to try and ascertain whether offer of entry into port was genuine. Duff White beach only was used. Am closing into the port with both convoy and (coorrupt group). About (group missed) military have (group missed) delay in Duff White beach.

(S.N.O.L. Sector D, 0755Z/11 to S.O.E.N.T.F., (R) C.S.10.)

Garrison Commander Bougie has agreed ship's anchoring in bay and landing any troops and material in the port and taking (? over) airfield. He wishes to remain neutral and French Municipal Authorities to remain in control. Both convoys proceeding into bay now.

(S.N.L.O. Sector D, 0925Z/11 to S.O.E.N.T.F., (R) 10th C.S.)

Am sending WILTON into Bougie harbour to investigate.

(C.S.10, 0712Z/11 to S.O.E.N.T.F., (R) S.N.O.L. Sector D.)

Landing Bougie successful and unopposed. Swell prevented landing at Jijelli.

(? S.O. Inshore Squadron, 0815Z/11 to N.C.X.F.)

(? Italian) A/C carried out R/C of Bougie (? at) 0738Z.

(C.S.10, 0816/11 to S.O.E.N.T.F.) \* *see pp 455, 456*

/Capitulation ...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Capitulation French Army Forces Casablanca capitulated 0700/  
of Casablanca. 11th Nov. No information yet available regard-  
ing Naval Forces.

N.C.X.F. pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C.  
Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. L(ant?).

(N.C.W.N.T.F., 0738Z/11 to N.C.X.F.)

French Army Forces Casablanca capitulated 0700/11th Nov.  
(Gibraltar, 0928/11 to Algiers W/T.)

Operation "Perpetual". 2 destroyers are to be detailed to return to  
Algiers by 1600Z to escort STRATHNAVER if they  
require fuel they are to oil from ENNERDALE on  
arrival.

(N.C.E.N.T.F., 0805Z/11 to BICESTER, (R) S.N.O.L.D., C.S.10,  
KARANJA.)

STRATHNAVER sailing 1900Z tonight with orders to adjust speed  
to arrive Hatton 0500Z/12 routed 6 miles off all salient points.  
(S.O. Inshore Sqdn., 1702Z/11 to S.N.O.L.D.) *see p. 453*

Your 0554. Remain at Algiers.  
(SCYLLA, 0815Z/11 to \*AVENGER, (R) C.S.10,  
N.C.E.N.T.F., ARGUS.)\* *see pp 445 7 452*

CADMUS SHEFFIELD and CADMUS were in collision glancing  
damaged. impact at 0411/11. CADMUS bows damaged. She  
reports she can operate normally in calm weather  
but temporary repairs are necessary before ship  
is fit for rough weather. SHEFFIELD's damage only above upper  
deck and her efficiency is unimpaired.  
(C.S.10, 0823Z/11 to N.C.E.N.T.F., (R) S.O. Force H, N.C.X.F.)

Signal whether sea conditions Algiers Bay  
likely to be suitable Sunderland morning 12th.  
(A.O.C., 0830Z/11 to BULOLO.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and  
estimate no hits.  
(A/C call sign TK7, Duty 'B', 0830Z/11 Gib.  
M/F D/F (Malta Command).)

Letter to Petain, Hitler has announced orders  
given to ? occupy South France and Corsica.  
(Algiers W/T, 0840Z/11 to Gibraltar W/T.)

From Eisenhower to Anderson for General Clark.  
Every task I assign to you is done better than  
I could perform it. You are handling difficult  
situation beautifully. Without waiting longer  
I am requesting G.C.M. to act in your case.

/Hitler ...



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Hitler has broadcast a notice stating that his army is occupying Southern France and that terms of Armistice no longer apply under these conditions. Darlan, Juin, and Giraud should all telephone promptly to Admiral Esteva at Tunis urging him to seize all Axis personnel and equipment, declare for us and hold on while we rush air, supplies and troops to his assistance. We have a big chance here and should exploit to the full. Urge necessity of all French getting together with us and building up a formidable force to whip the Axis. Tell Darlan to get the (? fleet) to Gibraltar. Acknowledge.  
(N.C.X.F., 0841Z/11 to C.G.E.N.T.F.)

S/MS.

Re-dispose S/M as you consider most effective to cut Axis communications with Bizerta, Tunis and East Tunisian Ports. Possible movements of Italian Fleet to westward need to be catered for.  
(N.C.X.F., 0927Z/11 to Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. MED., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1.)

LEEDSTOWN, 2 Messages. 1500Z/10. (Begins): LEEDSTOWN  
\* THOMAS STONE. sank in about 20 fathoms. Captain and survivors  
\* ~~2-446, 454~~ in Algiers. Casualties believed light. My  
1148/9th now find landing craft crews of THOMAS  
STONE are in Algiers but ship is not. Unable to ascertain her whereabouts. Bombing and/or torpedo plane attacks continue morning and evening. Message 1904Z/10. (Begins): Casualties in ex-LEEDSTOWN light mostly consisting of firemen on watch. Expect accurate check tomorrow. No Army casualties but 90% of cargo went down with ship.  
(Comtransdiv, 0949Z/11 to Comdre. U.S.N. Force in Europe, Navy Dept., Comamphorlant.)

GARLINGE.

Understand navy (? collier) (?G)AR(?LIN)E (corrupt group) sank. Request substitute as soon as possible.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1 ? /11 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.N. A., F.O.C. Inshore Sqdn.)

Jijelli.

When will Jijelli be occupied and when will petrol be available.  
(S.O.E.N.T.F., 1000Z/11 to KARANJA.)  
Servicing Commando, R.A.F. and petrol must be on Jijelli aerodrome by daylight 12th. KARANJA pass to 36 Brigade.  
(78 Division, 1045/11 to 36 Brigade.)  
6 (? officers) 60 O.Rs. and 50 tons stores ex Maison Blanche 10th Nov. for Jijelli on PENSTONE. M.B.J. have been disembarked at Bougie owing to rough sea at Jijelli. Request sufficient transport and rations be despatched at earliest opportunity.  
(M.L.O. Bougie, 1400Z/11 to BULOLO.)

/Proceed ...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Proceed with moderate despatch to join Force H routed 82.80 12.19 as ordered by S.O. Force H. (N.C.X.F., 1010Z/11 to D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, PORCUPINE, (R) F.O.C.N.A., Capt. S.8, S.O. Force H.) *See p. 452 & 453*

3 cruisers, 4 destroyers approaching you.  
(Capt. (S) 10, 1010A/11 to UNA, (R) N.C.X.F.)

\*OTRANTO attacked. *by U.73.* S S S S 36° 42' N. 1° 34' W. Attacked two torpedoes passed astern. (OTRANTO, 1035 G.M.T./11.)

\* *See p. 456 - (M.K.F.1.)*

Mines to be laid off Tunisia. 90. Request you will arrange with A.O.C. Malta for aircraft minelaying if possible, with magnetic mines in entrance to Bizerta and Tunis priority Tunis, tonight 11th Nov. Mines should not be sterilized. (N.C.X.F., 1040Z/11 to V.A. Malta, (R) Admty.)

Force Q. *See p. 462 & 466* 91. Force Q sail at 1600/11 and escort BATORY and MONARCH OF BERMUDA to U.K. routed through A. 36° 16' N. 09° 20' W. B. 40° 20' N. 17° 10' W. C. 43° 00' N. 18° 15' W. then as ordered by Admty. S. of A. 16 knots. (N.C.X.F., 1041Z/11 to NORFOLK, (R) Admty., CUMBERLAND, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, D.17, S.8, ORIBI, OFFA, C.S. Gibraltar.)

Sitrep No.4 to 2400/10. 1. Naval operations proceeding according to plan. Some losses due to enemy submarines and air action. First follow up convoys entered Med.

2. Algiers. Armistice continues, no reported change in troop dispositions. General Clark conferred with French Officials who have ordered French land, sea, and air forces in Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, to cease hostilities. Algiers port being opened with French co-operation.

3. Oran. During early morning hours 1st Divn. and Combat Command B closed on city for final assault. Co-ordinated attack was scheduled for 0730Z. At 1111Z elements of Combat Command B were in city. At 1200Z Oran capitulated. General Fredendall received surrender at 1230Z. Battleship bombarded Ft. Santon, while destroyer FARNDALE supported east flank of army with gunfire. Entrance to harbour blocked by sinking 3 ships. Salvage vessels sailed to Oran.

4. Unloading continues at Mehedia, Fedala, Safi. Beach heads extended. French naval units in Casablanca still resisting. Western Naval Task Force continues to support army.

5. Air. Gibraltar. 34 A/S sorties 2 sightings, 1 attacked, 1 Hudson crashed off Oran, crew saved. 24 U.S. Spitfires dispatched to Oran, 7 R.A.F. Hurricanes and 6 Swordfish to Algiers, 37 U.S. Troop Carriers conveyed in British paratroops and 4 Fortresses arrived from U.K. 2 P.R.U. sorties unsuccessful, due weather. 1 Beaufighter reconnaissance of Casablanca area successful.

/Algiers ...



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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Sitrep No.4  
to 2400/10.  
(Contd.)

Algiers. Axis air activity on reduced scale, own source 1, probably 1 damaged. 68 R.A.F. fighters serviceable at end of day.  
Oran. 20 C.47 Troop carriers with U.S. Parachute Infantry being prepared for move to Algiers.

No other Air Situation Report received.  
Casablanca Area. 43 U.S. land based fighters landed port Lyautey from aircraft carrier.  
(Commandeth Gibraltar, 1121Z/11 to A.F.H.Q.)

*See p. 453*

My 1203Z/10 not to F.O. Oran. Army Coaster ALPERO failed to sail in T.E.3. Leaving Gibraltar 1400Z escorted by WOODSTOCK routed through 70 2 speed of advance 8 knots, E.T.A. position 2 1700Z/12. WOODSTOCK is to return to Gibraltar on arrival at swept channel.  
(N.C.X.F., 1123Z/11 to F.O. Oran, (R) N.C.C.N. T.F., F.O.C.N.A., Capt. (S) 8.)

WOODSTOCK.

My 1107/11th on completion of task return to Gibraltar. Route through 93 13 8. S. of A. 12 knots.  
(N.C.X.F., 1127Z/11 to WOODSTOCK.)

SOBIESKI.

Alter course forthwith to pass through 036° 22' N. 001° 34' W. thence direct to Gibraltar.  
(N.C.X.F., 1131Z/11 to SOBIESKI, (R) S.O. Inshore Squadron.)

Your 1116Z/10th. When do you desire V.P. Squadron to arrive and at what fields.  
(N.C.X.F., 1133Z/11 to N.C.W.N.T.F.)

U/B sunk by  
URSULA.

*not confirmed by  
Com Robotham  
and 6/24/42  
(Probably 473  
undamaged.)*

10000 tons D.E.M.S. unknown nationality course and speed (?250) 13 painted grey similar IBOQ (LIGURIA) in 36° 42' 01' 46' at 1200A possibly connected with 2 - 500 tons (? U-Boats) one of which I sank at 1041A. All torpedoes expended.  
\*(URSULA, 1200A/11 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Capt. S.8, Naval Cdre. X.F., (? S/Ms on Patrol).)

*\*See p. 454.*

Forenoon  
visuals 11th  
November.

Tunis no shipping La Goulette blocked. Bizerta two submarines, three medium merchant ships, four torpedo boats block ship not completely effective. Naples, cloudy. Augusta, cloudy. Messina Taranto no change. Ferryville one large destroyer, one submarine.

2. Three cruisers, four destroyers 037° 48' N. 015° 16' E. course N. 25 knots at 0900.  
(V.A. Malta, 1244A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.C.E.N.T.F., N.C.C.N. T.F., S.O. Force H, V.A.C.N.A., C. in C. Med., Adnty.)



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

NIEUW ZEELAND sunk. *See p. 456 (m.x.f.1)*  
 S S S S NIEUW ZEELAND 35° 36' 4° 50' torpedoed. (NIEUW ZEELAND, No T.O.O.)  
 Proceed with all despatch to pick up survivors of torpedoed ship in 035° 59' N. 003° 45' W. Hudson co-operating.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1210Z/11 to D.S. ISAAC SWEERS, PORCUPINE, (R) S.O. Force H, N.C.C.N.T.F.)  
 Over sinking ship position 035° 59' N. 003° 45' W. (A/C TRIT, 1250Z/11 to Gibraltar D/F M/F (Malta Command).) Intercept at 1203 G.M.T. de Gibraltar Radio. SSSS de PFKR (NIEUW ZEELAND) unread 35.64 4.50 torpedoed. (Port Patrick Radio, 1303/11 to Navycharge, Greenock.)  
 \*\*ALBRIGHTON is to escort NIEUW ZEELAND in tow tug SALVONIA to Gibraltar. \*ISAAC SWEERS and \*PORCUPINE are to carry out an A/S search breaking off in time R/V with S.O. Force H a.m. 12th as ordered by S.O. Force H. *\* See p. 450 next page*  
 (N.C.X.F., 1311Z/11 to ISAAC SWEERS, (R) PORCUPINE, A.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt. S.8, F.O.C.N.A., Force H, ALBRIGHTON.)  
 (? Corrupt group) NIEUW ZEELAND has sunk. Pick up survivors. Aircraft circling. Position 035° 59' N. 003° 45' W.  
 → (N.C.X.F., 1525Z/11 to PORCUPINE ?) \*\* *See p. 458*

C.S.10. \*AVENGER with 4 fast merchant ships escorted by 2 destroyers will be sent to R/V with you in 037° (?00') N. 002° (?15') E. at 2130Z/12th. On AVENGER joining, sail for (? Gibraltar). SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS being detached to join Force H. (S.O. Inshore Sqdn., 1343Z/11 to C.S.10, (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H.) \* *See pp. 445, 448*  
 Your 1343/11. R/V further west at daylight on 13th is most desirable owing to danger of making R/V after dark in waters where U-Boats are operating.  
 2. Force O has been attacked by torpedo aircraft at late dusk for fourth night in succession and I would prefer to be further west tomorrow night.  
 3. SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS had at 0800/11 44 and 46 per cent oil fuel remaining respectively.  
 4. SCYLLA has IBIS survivors on board. *See p. 454*  
 (C.S.10, 1833Z/11 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn., (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H.)

All L.C.T. and 18th trawler group are to be sailed to join T.(?E) 3 for passage to Algiers. (N.C.X.F., 1401Z/11 to N.C.C.N.T.F., (R) F.O.I.C. (? Qran), F.O. Inshore Sqdn., Cdre. Algiers, AUBRETIA.)

French Fleet. Personal for V.A. Syfret. Endeavours are being made to get French Fleet to leave Toulon and proceed to Gibraltar. Visual R/C today shows bulk still in harbour. If met they should not be treated as hostile unless they commit a hostile act. (N.C.X.F., 1441/11 to S.O. Force H.)

/PRINSES ...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

PRINSES BEATRIX. My 1911/10th PRINSES BEATRIX is to be sailed to (corrupt group) Algiers by 2300/12. She is to take all British military and other personnel for Algiers no longer required at X and Y beaches. Report in due course personnel (? for) (2 groups missing) Algiers remaining your beaches. Acknowledge. (N.C.C.T.F., 1453/11 to S.N.Ls X and Y, (R) PRINSES BEATRIX.)

*See p. 459 (Oran Area)*

R/C of Dakar. Dakar P.R.U. 0900/11 no change major unit. (R.A.W.Af., 1517Z/11 to Admty., N.C.X.F., W.N.T.F., Air H.Q. Gibraltar.)

TON 7 para. 10 (A). No further ships are to be sailed independently. (N.C.X.F., 1528Z/11 to N.C.C.N.T.F., Cdre. Algiers.)

BLACKFISH (on patrol off Dakar) Request you will inform R.A.W.A. estimated date for BLACKFISH to leave patrol and route by which you intend her to withdraw until latitude 20.00 N. is reached after which route will be ordered by N.C.X.F. (N.C.X.F., 1542Z/11 to N.C.W.N.T.F., (R) R.A.W.A., Admty.)

*See p. 463. (Situation)*

ANTELOPE. Join escort of fast convoy proceeding Gibraltar at 1700 today Wednesday. (S.O.C.N.T.F., 1620/11 to ANTELOPE, (R) BRILLIANT)

Brief situation report for area west of Algiers 2002Z/11. S/MS expected. (1) K.M.F.2, 36° 23' 00° 06' W. through 89 thence to Algiers 13. (2) T.E.3 36° 07' 03° 52' W. through 70 7. (3) K.M.S.2, 36° 37' 00° 51' E. to Algiers 7. (4) T.E.3, 36° 49' 01° 41' E. to Algiers 7. (5) WOODSTOCK, one merchant ship 36° 05' 04° 30' W. through 70 and 2 to Oran 8. *See p. 451* (6) ISAAC SWEERS, PORCUPINE from vicinity of 35° 57' 03° 45' W. through 82 80 and 12. (N.C.X.F., 1630Z/11 to S. and A. in Area G.) *See p. 450 7452*

Situation report 1630/11th. Hatton landing progressing unopposed. Garrison Commander will remain neutral with French Municipal authorities co-operating in control. Airfield handed over to us. STRATHNAVER sails for Hatton tonight with balance of troops and stores. *See p. 448*

(2) Hayfield landing from \*AWATEA prevented by weather. These troops transferred Hatton. \* *See pp 447, 445*  
(3) Flagship party delayed here last night. Sailing tonight in LAMERTON, WHEATLAND.  
(4) Unloading progressing satisfactorily. No westward sailings tonight. Sailing fast and slow convoys Thursday night.

/(5) ...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.Situation  
report  
1630/11th.  
(Contd.)

- (5) Arrival P.217, <sup>/align</sup> \*THOMAS STONE in tow WISHART and ~~S~~ DAY both a.m. today, T.E.1 p.m. 10th.
- (6) Flares and suspected aerial minelaying in anchorage during night 10th/11th, sweeps still negative. \* *see pp 444, 449*
- (7) Force O attacked 10 miles north of port dusk 10th with bombs and aerial torpedoes. ARGUS 2 bomb hits, still serviceable, some fighters destroyed. IBIS hit by bomb and aerial torpedo, capsized and sunk. Survivors 5 officers 98 ratings. C.O. died of wounds. Destroyer shot down one aircraft. *see p. 452*
- (8) LORD NUFFIELD's U-Boat was not one attacked by WILTON. (S.O. I.S., 1652Z/11 to N.C.X.F.)

Provide protection against surface attack on Arzeu anchorage during dark hours as arranged by JAMAICA. At daylight destroyers join A/S patrol and cruisers anchor. (N.C.C.T.F., 1700Z/11 to BOREAS, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, JAMAICA, AURORA.)

Naval  
Aircraft.

My 1447/11 not to all addressees. It is requested that the following changes in squadrons may be made before VICTORIOUS leaves for U.K.

809 with 6 Fulmars and 832 with 6 Albacores from VICTORIOUS to FORMIDABLE. 884 with 6 Seafire from VICTORIOUS to Gibraltar. FORMIDABLE to reorganise 820 and 832 squadrons into two of nine Albacores each. VICTORIOUS to reorganise 817 squadron into twelve Albacore.

Nominal lists to be forwarded by air mail as soon as possible. Any surplus aviation spirit not required for the passage home is to be landed at Gibraltar.

(D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1700A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) VICTORIOUS, FORMIDABLE, R.A.(A) H.F.)

*Operation  
"Reservist"*

Following received from N.C.C.T.F. (Begins). Operation "Reservist" Captain F.T. Peters R.N. slightly wounded. Lt.-Cdr. G.S. Elliot R.N.R. of HARTLAND unhurt. Lt.-Cdr. P.C. Meyrick R.N. missing believed killed. Approx. 150 survivors. Details as soon as possible. 2207/10. (Ends). (2) Next of kin not informed. (N.C.X.F., 1706Z/11 to Admty., (R) Adml. Ramsay.)

S/M Situation  
W. Meditn.  
2000Z/11.

- (1) P.54, 36° 33' N. 02° 38' W. URSULA 36° 42' N. 01° 58' W. both on surface 8½ knots proceeding to Gibraltar 10 (as received) off the coast of Spain. *see p. 451*
- (2) P.51, P.222, P.228 off Toulon.
- (3) STURGEON 36° 36' N. 02° 17' diving by day 2 knots on surface by night 9 knots through 180° de Gata 5 and 135 Cape Palos 5.
- (4) CLYDE 37° 53' N. 08° 01' E. diving by day 2 knots on surface by night 11½ knots course 295°. *see p. 455*
- (N.C.X.F., 1709Z/11 to S. and A. in Area G.)

/Your 1832 ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Your 1832Z/11th convoy will now rendezvous in position 037° 00' N. 000° 40' W. at 0700Z Friday 13th.

(F.O. Inshore Sqn., 1729Z/11 to F.O.C. 10, (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H.)

Situation report No.7. (1) Bougie assault successful and unopposed Jijelli assault frustrated by swell.  
(2) Algiers. Organisation of port proceeding satisfactorily and air defence impressive.  
(3) Oran. Surrendered but port partially blocked by sunken ships. Ports of Arzeu and Mers-el-Kebir being used.  
(4) Casablanca. Army capitulated but no confirmation of Navy's attitude. Two Vichy destroyers made sortie on 10th Nov. but both retired after sharp engagement under cover of JEAN BART. One damaged. Unloading over beaches delayed by casualties to craft. Air R/C shows two ships sunk at Lyautey but Casablanca apparently clear.  
(5) Ref. para. 3 of Situation Report No.6. These survivors were from an Italian U-Boat which surrendered to LORD NUFFIELD in position 235 Cape Caxine 12. U-Boat sank.  
(6) \*VICEROY OF INDIA and NIEUW ZEELAND routed independently Algiers to Gibraltar sunk by U-Boat in 36° 26' N. 00° 24' W. and 35° 59' N. 03° 45' W. respectively. \* *p-447*  
(8) Discharge of fast assault convoys expected complete p.m. 11th and slow assault convoys p.m. 12th.  
(9) IBIS hit by aircraft torpedo at 1002/10 ten miles north of Algiers capsized immediately and sank. 6 officers and 96 ratings saved but captain has since died.  
(N.C.X.F., 1731Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D., A.F.H.Q.)

Afternoon visuals. 1. Taranto, Naples, Palermo no change.  
2. Messina 5 cruisers, 4 destroyers.  
(V.A. Malta, 1735A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.C.E.N. T.F., N.C.C.N.T.F., S.O. Force H, C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., Admty.)

Air attack on Bougie. Heavy bombing attack on ships in harbour L.S.I. (L) AWATEA hit (corrupt groups) on fire whilst leaving. CATHAY and ROBERTS seriously damaged and on fire. Further details following.  
\*AWATEA destroyed. One plane shot down.  
CATHAY destroyed. (S.N.O.L.D., 1740Z/11 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)  
ROBERTS damaged. AWATEA on fire forward alongside CARB. PENTSTEMON unable subdue fire have taken off ship's company.

\* *p-447, 453* (PENTSTEMON, 1810Z/11 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn., (R) S.N.O.L.D.)  
My 1740Z/11. BICESTER, WILTON were in company with AWATEA when last seen on fire forward. \*CATHAY in tow underwater damage and making water fast. Bomb hit on forecastle and unexploded bomb in pantry. Extent of damage in ROBERTS not yet known yet TYNWALD standing by.  
(S.N.O.L.D., 1824Z/11 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn.) \* *p-457*

/AWATEA ...



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

<p>Air attack on Bougie. *AWATEA destroyed. CATHAY destroyed. ROBERTS damaged. Contd.</p>	<p>AWATEA bombed 3 times and set on fire about 1700Z/11 off Bougie harbour have 26 survivors PENTSTEMON between 2 and 300 and MULL 3 boat loads. PENTSTEMON and BICESTER went alongside but unable to subdue flames in forward hold which spread aft. Ship now in approx. 310° Cape Carbon 2 (?drifting) towards shore. Estimate will be a total loss. *BICESTER and *WILTON are searching for survivors both then closing KARANJA. * <i>see p 447, 455</i> (BICESTER 1840Z/11 to Algiers W/T. S.O. Inshore Sqdn. (R) N.C.X.F. S.N.O.L. Sector D.)</p>
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\* *see p 447, 453*  
*455*

About 1700/11 ROBERTS was hit by (?one) or probably 2 bombs. Casualties about 7 dead, 12 seriously injured, 24 minor injuries. Numbers approx. Names and official numbers will be signalled as soon as known. Damage so far ascertained a hole in (?port) (?side) above armour about 10 feet by 6 feet flat above machinery space wrecked funnel up take hole number 5 Oerlikon gone considerable damage to superstructure amidships, ship completely steamable after minor repairs particularly to up take and ventilating also after hole side has been made seaworthy.  
(ROBERTS 2245Z/11 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bougie. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A. C.S.10.)

Your 1445Z/11. Vehicles are to land X beach. Do not sail M T ships or escorts without further orders.  
(N.C.C.N.T.F. 1757Z/11 to (?S.N.O.L.) X.)

Following are local facilities available. Oil fuel, PACIFIC EXPORTER, DERWENTDALE both flying destroyer flags. Before leaving PACIFIC EXPORTER (800 tons) bread JAMAICA limited ready use of supply. Potatoes, certain large personnel ships have stocks.  
2. Ships should take early advantage of P.Es fresh water since ships will sail shortly.  
(N.C.C.N.T.F. 1806/11 to Escorts of Convoys K.M.F.1. K.M.F.2. K.M.S.1. K.M.S.2.)

Convoy M.K.F.1.

*see p 459*

Following are ports of destination in U.K. for troopships of M.K.F.1. To Liverpool DUCHESS OF BEDFORD. \*OTRANTO. DERBYSHIRE. \*VICEROY OF INDIA and TEGELBERG. Remainder to Clyde. \* *see p 450*  
2. Request you arrange for NIEUW ZEELAND to proceed to New York in G.U.F.1. *see p 452, 455* \* *see p 455*  
3. Vessels of M.K.F.1. except \*STRATHNAVER and MOOLTAN will be required for K.M.F.4 sailing approx. seven days after arrival U.K. i.e. 27th Nov. Request urgent confirmation that vessels will be able to maintain this turnaround.  
(D. of S.T. 1807A/11 to P.S.T.O.X.F.) \* *see 1807A page*



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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Special U-Boat estimate east of 26° W. Weather forecast. Eight estimated Casablanca to Gibraltar. 7 W. Med. Admty. also reports approx. 27 Italians vicinity invasion area. 9 Southbound off Portugal. 3 homeward. 38° N 18° W. 45° N 17° W. 46° N 20° W. 4 Northbound. 05° N 17° W. 06° N 21° W. 27° N 21° W. 32° N 20° W. Refuelling sub. near 49° 10' N 25° W by D/F 0900Z/11. Possible enemy supply ship or tanker 48° 30' N 24° W by poor D/F 0058Z/11. 1 Westbound 52° N 20° W. 6 not recently located E of Azores. Possibly 2 vicinity Dakar. 1 13° 30' N 25° W by poor D/F 2114Z/10. 1 10° 50' N 20° 30' W by poor D/F 2247Z/10. 3 patrolling 03° N 08° W. 03° N 06° W 02° N 03° W. (FRDN)(as received) attack and sinking 8 Nov. Total Atlantic area 98. Weather forecast Atlantic Coast Morocco Wed. and Thur. Partly cloudy to cloudy. Winds Nly. becoming N.E. 14 knots slightly decreasing visibility 12 miles. Base low clouds 3000 ft. Swell North mod. to slight. Azores 0000Z Wed. swell N.N.E. 2 to 3 ft. period 8 seconds sea slight. (Cominch 1809/11 to Admty. T.F.34. C.T.F.38. C.T.F.39. (R) Cinclant. C.T.F.30.)

Bougie occupied. Situation at 1800/11. Have occupied Bougie with Brigade group less personnel of STRATHNAVER. Disembarkation of vehicles slow and hampered by constant attack. Population apathetic and terrified. Your 1815/11 part one received. Your 1000A/11 received. Advance delayed by lack of transport. (36 Infantry Brigade 1820Z/11 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn. pass to 38 Division.)

*\* In Manual Page*

In view of ABERDEEN requiring refit and loss of IBIS a relief is required when ABERDEEN sails with M.K.S.1. In order to avoid breaking into 40th E.G. propose to retain PELICAN. Intend to sail LOWESTOFT shortly after temporary repairs. (N.C.X.F. 1828Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

*\* See p. 464.*

ITHURIEL *See next page* C. in C. H.F. 1511A/10. Is there any objection to retaining ITHURIEL for H.F. I should then like to keep MILNE to provide a second Capt. D in Force H. (N.C.X.F. 1828Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

R/C of Toulon. P.R.U. Gib/W1/11 Nov. Sortie G 236 1137/11. shows on cloudy distant oblique photos Toulon. Only La Seyne Bay distinguishable where there is no apparent change in shipping. (P.R.U. Gibraltar 1830Z/11 to Admty. Air Min. H.Q.C.C. P.R.U. Benson. C.I.U. Medmenham.)

/Following...



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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Following from Comtaskfor 34 Action Comtask 34.8.  
Information Compatrons 73 and 92.  
Cominch, Cinclant N.C.X.F. and BISCAYNE.  
(Begins) 1116Z/10. Desire patrol plane squadrons  
73 and 92 arrive early tomorrow Wednesday.  
Report if field will be ready. Have U.S.S.

BARNEGAT and SS. CONTESSA entered. (Ends.) *See pp 446 & 460*  
N.C.X.F. pass to C. in C. A.F.

R.A.W.A. pass to BISCAYNE and Compatron 92.  
(D.S.O. 1848A/11 to N.C.X.F. R.A.W.A.)

Following from Comtaskfor 34.8. Action Comtaskfor 34  
(Begins) 101905 Your 101116. Army stopped P.40 planes due  
poor condition airfield. Am now awaiting report General Cannon  
who is inspecting airfield before directing U.S.S.\*CHENANGO  
landing remainder P.40s. It is possible that field will not be  
ready to receive patrol plane squadrons 73 and 92 Wednesday.  
SS. CONTESSA is in lower river and is expected to arrive at  
airfield before daylight. U.S.S. BARNEGAT will proceed to  
airfield after CONTESSA. (Ends.) *\* See p. 480*

N.C.X.F. pass to C. in C. A.F.

R.A.W.A. pass to BISCAYNE and Compatron 92.  
(D.S.O. 1849A/11 to N.C.X.F. R.A.W.A.)

F.O.I.S. 1156/11 not to all addressees. Cancel  
TON 7 para 10 (d). Small group of ships can be  
accepted at Gibraltar at night.  
(N.C.X.F. 1917Z/11 to All British S and A  
concerned in Operation "Torch". V.A. Malta.  
(excluding ships refitting in U.K.)

K.M.S.A.2. K.M.S.A.2 approaching through positions 12 and 74.  
S of A 8½ knots E.T.A. 0630.  
(ROCHESTER 1922Z/11 to N.C.E.N.T.F. (R) Cdre.  
Algiers.)

Destroyers. Your 1054/9 and C. in C. H.F. 1311/10 neither to  
all addressees.  
1. \*ALBRIGHTON and BLEAN may be retained instead  
of two fleet destroyers. *\* See p. 452.*  
2. Of the two fleet destroyers released OPPORTUNE should be one.  
3. Suggest these two together with MARNE, ESCAPADE and \*ISAAC  
SWEERS should provide escort for DUKE OF YORK and VICTORIOUS  
to U.K. *\* See pp 450, 452, 453*  
4. Anticipate \*ITHURIEL will arrive Gibraltar about 20 Nov.  
5. If not suitable for escort duty request you will sail  
CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, and \*GLAISDALE, for Plymouth as soon as they  
can be spared. *\* See p. 446*  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1943A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. H.F. C. in C.  
Portsmouth. C. in C. Plymouth. C. in C. Nore. C. in C. W.A.  
F.O.C.N.A.) *\*\* See previous page.*

Force O Force O position at 2000Z/11 037° 10' N 002°  
54' E course 270° 17 knots during the night.  
(C.S.10 1947Z/11 to All British S and A concerned  
in Operation "Torch". V.A. Malta. (excluding  
ships refitting in U.K.)

/MARNIX...



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.MARNIX  
CATHAY

(?When) empty <sup>X</sup>MARNIX and <sup>\*</sup>CATHAY are to be escorted into Algiers to await onward escort. (S.O. Inshore Sqdn. 1951A/11 to S.N.O.L.D.)

<sup>X</sup>MARNIX VAN SE ALDEGONDE \* *see p. 455*

Movements  
Oran  
Area.

Oran (?area) arrival K.M.S.2 and K.M.F.2.  
→ Departure DERBYSHIRE, WARWICK CASTLE, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, DURBAN CASTLE, TEGELBERG. *see p. 456*  
(N.C.C.N.T.F. 1954Z/11 to Fairmiss (R) N.C.X.F.)  
Oran area arrival: AVON VALE, PUCKERIDGE, WIVERN, WESTCOTT, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, (5 groups missing) WESTRAY, KINTYRE, FOULA, ROUSAY, JURA, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, (?REST)IVE, SAYONARA.

Departure for Algiers: <sup>\*</sup>PRINSES BEATRIX, DELHI. *\* see p. 453.*  
For Force H, <sup>F</sup>ARNDALE, AVON VALE, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE. *see p. 446*

→ For Gibraltar: BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, VANSITTART. Insert after Force H, <sup>R</sup>ODNEY. *\* see p. 446*

(N.C.C.N.T.F. 2002Z/11 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Anchor convoy as convenient and as near breakwater as possible. S.O. Escort enter harbour by Northern entrance and berth alongside BULOLO. Remainder of escort patrol to seaward of convoy until further instructions.

(Cdre. I.C. Algiers 2138Z/11 to S.O. Escort K.M.F.2. (R) MALCOLM.)

→ TON 7 DURBAN CASTLE, TEGELBERG, WARWICK CASTLE, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD from Z beach Oran 1700/11 routed 86.13 8 E.T.A. Gibraltar 1100/12. Escort BRILLIANT, ANTELOPE, VANSITTART.

(N.C.C.N.T.F. 2315Z/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.C.E.N.T.F.)

Capt. S.8. V.A. Gibraltar. A.O.C. Gibraltar.) *see p. 456*

Broadcasts  
to French.

Broadcasts are being made at once from here inviting all French seamen at Marseilles and other French ports to bring their ships over to us. They are being advised to proceed either to Algiers or any French port to the west of Algiers or to Gibraltar. They are also being instructed to scuttle themselves if in imminent danger of capture by the enemy. We are asking Americans to arrange similar broadcasts by French Authorities in North Africa. S.O.E. have instructed their agents to induce as many ships as possible to go over but if the ships are in imminent danger of falling into enemy hands they are to destroy as many as possible. S.O.E. have given first priority to getting away salvage vessels. (Head of M Approved V.C.N.S. 2000A/11 to N.C.X.F. 151. (R) V.A. Malta. C. in C. Med..N.C.E.N.T.F. N.C.C.N.T.F.)

Following from Comnavue. for Admiral Beiri from Kirk. Still no orders for Patron 73. (D.S.O. for D.C. 2027A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.C.W.N.T.F.)

T.C.A.O.11. Intended A/S air escort 12 Nov. All dawn to dusk. Force H K.M.S.2 T.E.3 one C each. (?Al San Pero) one H. A/S air patrol Oran one Swordfish. A/S air searches 5 H a.m. 10 H p.m. areas W (?K) and W A. 5 H. a.m. areas W R and W F.

(N.C.X.F. 2016Z/11 to All British S and A concerned in Operation "Torch" (excluding ships refitting in U.K.) V.A. Malta. except W.N.T.F.) /Convoy...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Convoy U.G.S.2. In accordance your message of 10th Nov. will sail U.G.S.2 to arrive Casablanca D plus 22 day as scheduled. Should later developments make change desirable request for delay should be received by Cominch prior to midnight 12 Nov. Escort this convoy consists of only six destroyers and therefore convoy can not be sailed in sections or split en route.  
(Cominch 2029/11 to C. in C. A.F. Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. Cinclant. C.T.F.34. C.T.G.31.8. Chief of Staff U.S. Army.)

Request escort C.A.O.11. Intend A/S air escort 12th Nov. All dawn to dusk. Force H escorts of K.M.S.2 escorts T.E.3 one C each. Alpers one H. A/S air patrol Oran one Swordfish. A/S air search 5 H a.m. 10 H p.m. area W K and W A. 5 H a.m. area W R and W F.  
(N.C.X.F. 2032Z/11 to All British S and A concerned in Operation "Torch". V.A. Malta. negative W.N.T.F.)

Intend A/S air escort 12th Nov. one Catalina on station dawn to dusk.  
(N.C.X.F. 2046Z/11 to Escorts of U.G.F.2 (R) N.C.W.N.T.F.)

N.C.X.F. pass to R.A.W.A. U.S.\*BARNEGAT U.S. ship \*BISCAYNE (?comma) W.N.T.F. and Comnavu for Cominch, Cinclant. Following is paraphrase of my 1647/11 passed in error U.S. (?code). P.B.Y. squadrons desired as follows. From U.K. V.P. 73. Condition (?U.S.) BISCAYNE from Freetown area, V.P. 92. To arrive Lyautey as soon as practicable and to (?make) initial landing by daylight. North south runway best.  
(C.W.N.T.F. 2114Z/11 to N.C.X.F.)\* *See pp 446, 7458*

U/B  
attacked  
by  
VERITY

*See p. 446*

Have attacked a further R.D.F. and A/S contact. Have only 10 charges left. Require 25 light 25 heavies complete with carriers, cartridges, (?detonators) etc.  
(VERITY 2234Z/11 to N.C.C.N.T.F. (R) WESTCOTT. N.O.I.C. (?Oran))

Shipping.

When sailing ships or convoys to call at Gibraltar request you will instruct master to hand to boarding officer a list showing  
(a) bunkers and water essential to reach U.K.  
(b) personnel or stores to be discharged.  
(N.C.X.F. 2245Z/11 to Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oran. (R) F.O. Inshore Squadron, N.C.C.N.T.F.)



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.R/C  
Dakar.P.R.U. 1515/11 Dakar completed covered no change  
major units no interception or A.A. fire.  
(R.A.W.A. 2247Z/11 to Admty. N.C.X.F. Com.  
W.N.T.F. A.H.Q. Gibraltar.)HECLA *torpedoed*:  
(sunk. on 12th)  
*by U. 505.*  
(F.D.S.)HECLA torpedoed at 2315 position 023° 43' N 010°  
17' W W S 180° 16.  
(Ship at sea 2325/11 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
Have been torpedoed by a submarine torpedo.  
My P.C.S. (?at) 23(716)Z 035° 42' N 009° 54½' W both (?boiler  
rooms) flooded no immediate danger of ship sinking.  
(HECLA 2345Z/11 to Gibraltar.)  
My 2315 MARNE and VENOMOUS standing by HECLA my P.C.S.  
035° (08') N 009° 44' W 087° 17 knots.  
(VINDICTIVE 2345Z/11 to Gibraltar W/T.)Western  
Area.  
Situation  
2200/11th.At 2000Z sub attack on Fedala convoy area.  
(Your 1826Z refers) JOSEPH HEWES sunk by torpedo.  
WINOOSKI and HAMBLETON torpedo damage. No  
immediate danger of sinking. Visual contact with  
submarine. Hit conning tower and depth charged.  
Force Commander informed about 0700 that French  
Army ceased hostilities. This force then withheld plan of attack  
on Casablanca in support of troops. At conference to arrange  
terms attended by Hewaitt Patton Keyes Hall Nogues Michelier  
and others it was (?agreed to) hostilities ceasing. Details  
were not agreed upon (?pending) receipt of information concerning  
agreement between Eisenhower and Darlan of which (?Nogues) declared  
he had telephoned information from Darlan. Nogues expressed  
desire to await arrival of copy despatched by air mail by Darlan  
before final agreement. Advise. Casablanca Harbour capacity  
greatly reduced by about 9 to 11 ships sunk including 5 at Quay  
Commercial full details on completion of survey. Patton H.Q.  
Miramar Hotel Fedala. Naval elements agreed to cease  
hostilities but searchlights from shore vicinity of Casablanca  
silhouetted ships appeared deliberate. N.C.X.F. pass to  
C. in C. U.S. Fleet Atlantic Allied Force.  
(N.C.W.N.T.F. 2330Z/11 to N.C.X.F.)



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11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

VICEROY OF INDIA torpedoed. Intercepted 0434 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de VICEROY OF INDIA SSSS 36.28 N., 00.15 W., VICEROY OF INDIA torpedoed, controlling station Lands End Radio. (Burnham Radio T.H.I. 0536 B.S.T./11)  
Following received: Intercept 0509 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. SSSS 36.26 N., 00.24 W. VICEROY OF INDIA torpedoed. 0610/11. Lands End Radio.  
(C.C.O. Plymouth, T.O.R. 0615/11 to Admty).  
W.D. Note - Difference in position.  
Received 0453 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. de GLVK (VICEROY OF INDIA) Did GLW (?G.L.D. Lands End Radio, intended) get it? Unable contact GYW (Gibraltar Radio) SSSS apparently not received. Lands End Radio.  
(C.C.O. Plymouth 0555/11 to Admty).  
Recd. at 0459 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de GYW. SSSS at 0434 G.M.T. Lands End Radio.  
(C.C.O. Plymouth 0600/11 to Admty).

U/B Am over enemy S/M in position 36.00 N., 01.30 W. (A/C call sign TK7 Duty B, 0845Z/11 to Gib. M/F D/F).  
Enemy submarine previously reported was when first sighted on course 180° estimated speed 6 knots.  
(A/C call sign TK7 Duty B, 0850/11).

Movements Arrivals H.M.S. NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, ONSLOW, Force Q. OFFA, ORIBI. (F.O.C.N.A., 0934/11 to Admty). *See p 450-9466 (Force Q)*

DUNCAN, ANTHONY. Left Ponta Delgada 2300 G.M.T./10th after repair. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1010/11 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty). *see next page (Submarine)* \*? see further info

KHYBER H.M. Indian ship KHYBER arrived Ponta Delgada 1020 G.M.T./11th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1035C/11 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty).  
KHYBER left Ponta Delgada 1915 G.M.T./11th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1747/11 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty).  
My 2359Z/10th, delete position A. (F.O.C.N.A., 1203A/11 to R.A.W.A. KHYBER (R) Admty).

U/B attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 36.48 N. 01.01 W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C U A 1 duty W 1052Z/11 to Gibraltar D/F M/F).  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate no hits (A/C U A 1 duty W 1110Z/11 to Gibraltar D/F M/F).

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 36.28 N., 00.27 W., when first sighted was on surface course 090° and observed to submerge. (A/C T V 5 Duty U 1055/11 to Gibraltar D/F M/F).

/ANTARKTIS...



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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

ANTARKTIS,  
MAX ALBRECHT,  
NORD ATLANTIC.

Consul Vigo reports tanker ANTARKTIS now has degaussing gear fitted "internally". German expert now in Ferrol to complete tanker MAX ALBRECHT and will presumably do NORD ATLANTIC on return.  
(N.A. Madrid 1111/11 to Admty.)

RECHOU.

Your 1015/6. Seize Spanish RECHOU and cargo. Your letter 240 para 6. hold all original documents.  
(D.E.W.D. 1129A/11 to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar.)

Hospital  
Ships.

Arrival Hospital ships AMARAPOORA, NEWFOUNDLAND.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1200Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

\*P.54,  
liner  
report.

Unidentified liner similar to ORSHAKONDE U.S. (corrupt group) 036° 32' 002° 07' W. 270° 14.  
(P.54 1204C/11 to Capt. (S) 8th Sub. Flot.)

\* see p. 454

→ ARROW,  
ACTIVE.

Arrived Ponta Delgada 1400 G.M.T. 11th.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1225/11 to S.O.I. Gib. (R) Admty.)

ARROW and ACTIVE left Ponta Delgada 2130/11 G.M.T.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1940/11 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Situation,  
(?1955A/11th)

1. Italian safe conduct tankers ARCOLA, TAIGETE (East Africa) 21.11 39.26 252°.
- 2. PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, VIVIANA, SPHENE, 41.38 34.58 to Ponta Delgada 10.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1237Z/11 to Area Z.)

Situation report for Area Y, 2005A/11th.

- (1) C.F.7 (?\*ENTERPRISE), \*DUNCAN, \*ANTHONY, BRIDGEWATER 37.28, 26.50 through 38.01 27.01 and 40.01 25.01 thence 021° 11½

→ ARROW, ACTIVE rejoin convoy after fuelling at Ponta Delgada A.M./12th. BRIDGEWATER proceeds to Ponta Delgada when ARROW, ACTIVE rejoin. \* SHROPSHIRE intended. (Convoy of the time) \* see previous

- (2) KHYBER leaves Ponta Delgada p.m. 11th, 169° 10. see p. 462 Page
- (3) PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, VIVIANA, SPHENE, 41.38 34.58 to Ponta Delgada, 10.

- (4) SNOWDROP, 1 merchant ship 35.06 20.29 312° 8½.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1238Z/11.)

Situation 1959A/11th, Area X.

- (1) U.S. S/MS SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARB, on patrol line 283° Cape Sim at 20 miles, 60 miles, 100 miles, and 140 miles.
- (2) U.S. S/M BLACKFISH on patrol off Dakar. see p. 453
- (3) TIGRIS on patrol in vicinity of 44.01 N. 12.30 W. see p. 438
- (4) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising in area between Canary Islands and Port Au Prince 36.01 30.02.
- (5) JAUNTY, LEYLAND, 2 merchant ships, in tow, 37.48 10.18 040° 2½. see next page

- (6) \*Fleet unit HECLA, VENOMOUS, MARNE 35.12 11.33 through 35.13 11.30 and 35.49 08.38 and 35.50 06.03 thence Gibraltar, 12½. see p. 461

\* VINDICTIVE.

/(7) ...



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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - *W 1/5*

Situation, (7) U.G.F.2, Fleet unit, 9 destroyers, 34.17  
(?1955A/11th) 15.46 078° 14.  
→ (8) T.F.1, JONQUIL, LOUISBURG 35.44 06.45 259°  
7 to R/V St. Johns N.F. U.G.F. 2 at 1600A/12th.  
(See amendment 1752Z/11.)  
(9) NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, ORIBI, OFFA, 2 merchant  
ships 36.01 06.20 through 36.10 09.20 thence  
304° 16. *See p. 466*  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1240Z/11.)  
→ My 1240/11th delete para 8. Add para 10, JONQUIL,  
LOUISBURG, sailed 1900A/11th to R/V with U.G.F.2 in 35.05 10.15  
at 1600A/12th.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1752Z/11 to Area X.)

A/C Ship sunk carrying out A/S patrol through  
Report. 35.59 N. 03.45 W. BBM 1700Z.  
(A/C Call Sign TR 1D 1300Z/11 to Gibraltar M/F  
D/F.)

\*PELICAN, 1 S/M bearing 168° distance 9, unknown course and  
U/B. speed, my position 36.15 N. 01.55 W.  
(PELICAN 1300Z/11 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
My 1900 (1300 intended), submarine observed to dive, WIVERN  
searching area.  
(PELICAN 1549Z/11 to Gib. W/T.)

*\* See p. 457*

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 35° 59' N. 03° 45' W.  
(A/C TRIT T.O.R. 1312/11 to Gibraltar.)

U/B. Am over submarine in 35° 39' N. 11° 50' W. sighted  
on surface and observed to submerge; when first  
sighted was on course 150° estimated speed 8  
knots.  
(Gib. A/C 1335Z/11 to Gib. W/T.)

VERITY, One submerged submarine. Bearing 125°. Distance  
U/B. 9 miles. Course 040°, approx. position 36° 09' N.  
*See p. 460* 1° 40' W.  
(VERITY 1408/11 to Gib. W/T.)

SILVERWILLOW, SILVERWILLOW attacked foundered in 037° 24' N.  
ALASKA, 010° 45' W. at 1339A. Escort ALASKA with  
*See p. 466* LEYLAND, LEYLAND. Speed 4 knots. 4 days endurance oil  
JAUNTY water stores. Awaiting further instructions.  
*See previous page* (JAUNTY 1415A/11 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)  
*1415A/11* Your 1415/11th. Continue to Lisbon with ALASKA.

2. You will be required to sail in convoy from Lisbon to  
Gibraltar P.M.13th. 3. You are to embark in Lisbon sufficient  
fuel to reach Gibraltar with prudent margin. 4. LEYLAND is to  
patrol outside territorial waters to await convoy for which  
further orders will be signalled.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1627/11 to LEYLAND), JAUNTY (R) Admty.)

/U/B ...



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

- U/B attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 36.45 N. 01.30 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 060° speed 6 knots. Have attacked with depth charges.  
(A/C Call sign TR 1 A 1425/11 to Gibraltar M/F D/F)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in position 35.58 N. 01.37 W. on surface when first sighted was on course 150° and estimated speed 15 knots.  
(A/C C/S TR 1, Duty S, 1515A/11 to Gib. W/T.)
- GIL/ANES, Interception. Your 2006/30 and ORIBI 2355/1 (re interception of Portuguese ship GIL/ANES to search for German Agent) Person named landed at Gibraltar today. Now in custody of Defence Security Officer. Request instructions.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1608Z/11 to Admty.)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in position 36.36 N. 00.09 W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 255° 8 knots when first sighted.  
(A/C TRIS 1625/11 to Gibraltar M/F D/F.)
- CLYDE. Will not be in approx. position 037° 53' 008° 00' until 0800/12.  
*See p. 454*  
(CLYDE 1631A/11 to Capt. (S) 10, N.C.X.F. (R) Capt. (S) 8.)  
Your 1931. Proceed by route ordered in my 1940/9th to arrive Gibraltar 0930Z/16th proceeding on surface at your discretion on 16th.  
2. S. of A. 165 miles a day, 12 knots on 16th.  
3. Bombing restrictions arranged.  
(Capt. S.8 2100Z/11 to CLYDE (R) Capt. (S) 10, N.C.X.F., 8th (S) Flotilla.)
- K.X.4.?<sup>5</sup> K.X.4. arrived 1200A/10th. 27 ships plus H.M.S. VIENNA.  
*See 9/11 - p. 342*  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1744Z/11 to Admty.)
- Wellington Sqdn. for A/S N. Africa. AX 304 11th Nov. 42. For Air Vice-Marshal Robb from A.C.A.S.(O). In order to meet the threat of increased U-boat activity on the convoy routes to North Africa we have discussed with Admiralty the possibility of moving to Gibraltar as soon as possible a Light Wellington Squadron consisting of 16 + 4 aircraft. Will you consult with all concerned and state if and when this Squadron would be able to operate and when it could move to a North African aerodrome?  
(Air Min. 1800Z/11 to A.H.Q. Gibraltar.)

/Movements ...



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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Movements. Sailed 1700 NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, ONSLOW, OFFA, ORIBI with MONARCH OF BERMUDA and BATORY in accordance with N.C.X.F. 1041/11th. D.H. 920 S. 383 L. 52 X. 863 Y 361. (F.O.C.N.A. 1808Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)  
*see p. 464 (situation)*

Damaged German Tanker. Following from Guyatt. Heavy armed German Tanker some 10,000 tons, half laden, large hole starboard, bridge damaged, entered Ferrol midday Nov. 11th. (Consul Corunna 1930/11 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Enemy Unit. Encountered large (? enemy destroyer) holding ship's course westerly in 036° 31' 002° 36'. Weather report. (? P.54 2020Z/11 to N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8.)

LEYLAND, MIRROR. My 1627/11th ( <sup>/p. 464</sup>) Para. 4 LEYLAND is to R/V with MIRROR in position 235° Fort Bugio Light 5 miles at 1900Z/12th and escort routed coastwise to St. Mary thence direct to Gibraltar.  
(2) MIRROR is to sail from Lisbon as necessary to comply with para 1 above.  
(3) LEYLAND cancel para. 3 of my 1627/11th.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2226Z/11, 1006Z/12 to LEYLAND, MIRROR (R) JAUNTY.)

COXWOLD. Sailed cased petrol ship COXWOLD escorted by LORD HOTHAM, LORD NUFFIELD routed through 037° 10' N. 004° 00' E. 037° 05' N. 005° 00' E. speed 8 knots, E.T.A. 1200, fighter protection "neck". (Cdre. Algiers 2230A/11 to N.O.I.C. Bougie, C.S. 10 (R) F.O. Inshore Squadron, N.C.X.F, A.O.C. Maison Blanche.)

South Atlantic.

W. Africa, Shipping for troop transport. Position regarding shipping available for local movements along West Coast is now as follows:  
(a) THYSVILLE, HAI LEE, and CAP PADARAN, are all now in service on the coast.  
(b) NEW NORTHLAND is refitting in U.K. and should be available again about late January.  
(c) LAFONIA is being withdrawn shortly for refit in U.K. but will be returned as soon as possible.  
(d) CAP TOURAINE should arrive West Coast about early December.  
(e) HAI HING has been sunk en route from India.



11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlant ~~ic~~ - ~~con~~ ~~fr.~~

W. Africa, Shipping for troop transport (contd.) 2. In view of foregoing position and of assistance which has been given recently by homeward bound W.S. ships, request (i) Confirmation that your essential requirements have been covered (ii) Report whether and if so when you anticipate some of these ships especially CAP PADARAN and CAP TOURAINNE can be released for other essential trooping requirements.

3. Essential that troopships be used for movement of troops only and not for cargo.  
(D.S.T. 0430A/11 to G.O.C. in C. W. Africa, D.S.T.O. W.A.)

VEERHAVEN torpedoed. Following received: Addressed Admiral Plymouth, intercept 0522 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. SSSS VEERHAVEN, Dutch, torpedoed. Transmission breaks. (C.C.O. Plymouth 0626/11 to Admty.)

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 0543 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. SSSS VEERHAVEN Dutch ship torpedoed 03.51 S. abandon 29.22 W. 0220/11. Controlling Station GLD 0648/11. (Ends.)  
(Plymouth C.C.O. T.O.R. 0658/11 to Admty.)

DRAGON. Arrival 0600Z/11 Nov.  
(N.C.S.O. Duala 0831Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

TRUANT, K.14, Dakar Patrol. In view of possible attempt of Vichy Force in Dakar to return to France may I retain TRUANT and Neth. Sub. K.14 temporarily for employment on patrol in the vicinity of Dakar. (R.A.W.A. 0907Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. N.C.X.F.)  
Reply: Admty 1635/12.

U/B. One S/M reported by aircraft in 014° 30' N. 017° 43' W. at 0940Z/11th Nov. course 100° speed 12 knots.  
(R.A.W.A. 1111Z/11 to H.C.X.F. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, U.S. S/M BLACKFISH.)

PRIMROSE HILL (sunk 29/10) British ship PRIMROSE HILL sunk one torpedo by German U.Boat U.26 class 1750/29 Oct. in 18° 58' N. 28° 40' W. 46 survivors picked up by British ship (P SANSU) (as received) 6th Nov. sighted and hailed by submarine U.59 class 0300/4th Nov. in 17° 51' N. 29° 40' W.  
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1151Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.Trawlers,  
Defence of  
Congo.

Ref. Admty. 0037 18th July, request information when arrival of trawlers may be expected. Establishment of aircraft for assistance in defence of Congo River and shipping considered most important. Flying Boats or land planes could be operated for this purpose. (R.A.W.A. 1153Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. South Atlantic, B.N.L.O. West Africa.)

P.552.

*See next page  
(Dispositions)*

My 0800/10th. Prefix route from (D) to (E) 031° 00' S. 015° 00' E. (F) 033° 12' 30" S. 017° 37' E. thence by searched channels to (?Simonstown). You will be met by surface escort at position (E). Acknowledge to R.A.W.A. (R.A.W.A. 1157Z/11 to P.552 (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty., F.S. POMEROL.)

TURCOMAN  
Convoy.

(1) N.K. On dispersal of convoy F.T.T. 2 ships are to proceed to 1st position all moved 60 miles south thence to 2nd position all moved 120 miles south thence as routed.

2. FORT DE TROYON to omitted position (F).  
3. TURCOMAN to escort NEW BROOKLYN to prudent limit of endurance then return Freetown. Pass to Cmdre. (R.A.W.A. 1207Z/11 to TURCOMAN (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Jamaica, Connav.)

CATTERICK.

Sailed CATTERICK to Simonstown in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1230/11th.  
(2) E.T.A. 1500Z/13th. Speed 20 knots.  
(3) Shift to group S.L. at 0100Z/12th.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1221Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

WEST POINT.

*See p. 471*

Ref. C. in C. S.A.'s 0734C/11th, not to Admty. No route or instructions from C. in C. E.F. for WEST POINT have been received either by Alusna, Rio de Janeiro, or by me. Ship is due here today. (B.R.O. Rio de Janeiro 1229Z/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

ALDINGTON  
COURT,  
ÆGEUS.

Overdue shipping ALDINGTON COURT due Capetown ?/11 from Trinidad not arrived, Greek ÆGEUS due Capetown 7/Nov. from Trinidad not arrived. (C. in C. S.A. 1301/11 to Admty.)

/Dispositions ...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

Dispositions. <sup>see previous page</sup> P.552 05.35 13.05 143° 9. CORINTHIAN, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting 03.03 07.51 077° 10½ at 2001Z/11th. MILFORD escorting 05.04 01.03 East to Lagos 13. ASTURIAS, AMARANTHUS, 04.29 16.17 126° 12½. TAMARISK escorting 03.01 04.02 East to Lagos 8½. → FANDANGO, KELT, 3 M.Ls escorting off Lagos to South East 7. (R.A.W.A. 1347Z/11 to Area P.)

W.S.24. Alter course forthwith to pass through new position (A) 4° S. 27° W., thence to position (V). (D.O.D.(F) 1350A/11 to Escort of W.S.24, (R) R.A.W.A., Comsolantfor, C. in C. S.A., Connav, ILEX.)

MAGNOLIA, T.21. <sup>/N.T.W.3.</sup> My 1905Z/31st Oct. (Escorts of T.21 to Freetown) Intend MAGNOLIA to sail in the same convoy. (R.A.W.A. 1405Z/11 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

PLAUDIT, K.G.MELDAHL, CERION. Panama ship PLAUDIT torpedoed in approx. position 035° 55' S. 026° 40' E. at 2000Z/8th. 68 survivors landed Port Elizabeth. (2) K.G. MELDAHL torpedoed 10th in 034° 59' S. 029° 45' E. (3) CERION\* definitely identified by aircraft at 0623C/10th in 036° 23' S. 026° 21' E. speed 10 knots and apparently unharmed. (C. in C. S.A. 1516C/11 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.) \* W.D. Note.- Reported being torpedoed and gunned 9 Nov.

O.19. My 1642/24th Oct. Consider clutch ex O.21 can be repaired at Simonstown and fitted in O.19. O.21. Approximate completion mid February. Alternatively O.19 could proceed to U.K. about mid December on one diesel engine and both main motors. Request instructions. (Comdre. Supt. Simonstown 1536C/11 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival and departures 11th BENGALI, ST. WISTAN, M.Ls 244, 272, 285. Departures F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, FANDANGO, KELT, PICT. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 1642Z/11 to Admty.)

PHOEBE. Your 1425/10th. <sup>14.4/6</sup> Docking facilities in South Africa are already over strained and it is undesirable that lengthy hull repairs should be carried out here.

It may therefore be necessary to leave turret at Pointe Noire until an opportunity occurs for shipping it. PHOEBE is requested to report heaviest lift and total weight. (C. in C. S.A. 1717C/11 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. PHOEBE.)

/U/B ...



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

U/B. R.A.F. Aircraft reports sighting U-Boat on surface at 1500Z/11 in 04.50 N. 03.55 W. Course when sighted 360°. Consider reliable. (R.A.W.A. 1847Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Documents from grounded Catalina. 1916/13th from R.A.F. Durban, para. 4. (1) Consul General Lourenco Marques reports Chief of Cabinet of Governor General Portuguese East Africa handed over to him bag containing documents retrieved from Catalina which force landed in Lagoon 65 miles N.E. of Lourenco Marques. Consul General informed verbally bag had been kept under seal in custody of Captain of Port Lourenco Marques, who is very Pro-British, and that no unauthorised person had access thereto. (2) List of documents follows in my 1926/11th. (3) Copies of report on lines of C.B. form U two D, Article 9 are being forwarded by R.A.F. Durban to all addresses. (Com. 1/c Durban 1904C/11 to C. in C. S.A., Admty. etc.)

U.S. Air Corps Personnel. As an escorted sailing cannot be arranged, request you arrange for the 548 U.S. Air Corps personnel ex MAURETANIA to be moved from Durban to West Africa in returning W.S. ships subject to (a) There being not more than 250 U.S. personnel of all services on board any ship and (b) ships being not less than 15 knot speed. In ships of under 15 knots a total of only 100 U.S. personnel may be embarked. 2. Personnel will have to proceed to Freetown for onward conveyance to Accra. 3. Earliest possible arrangements should be made and your proposals reported. (D.S.T. 2023A/11 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. 3 unknown ships 34.40 N. 20.31 E. 190° 10 knots. (A/C C/S W5AC 0005/11 to 201 Group.)

P.C. and S. of 2 unknown vessels 32.30 N. 17.00 E. 080° speed unknown. (A/C C/S T6RV 0042/11, 0045A/11 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel and 1 unknown vessel 32.30 N. 17.00 E. 120° 10 knots. (A/C C/S T6RV 0130A/11 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

ERICA, U/B. My 2116B/10th. Still no contact, proceeding, E.T.A. noon tomorrow Wednesday. (ERICA 0017B/11 to S.N.O.L.A. (R) Beirut, C.C.C.O., N.O.I.C. PORT SAID, C.S.15.)  
/WEST POINT ...



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

WEST POINT. Your 2014/7 to D. of S.T. only. WEST POINT will proceed firstly to Bombay and thence to Suez. *See p. 468*  
2. E.T.A. Bombay is 5/12.  
(D.S.T. 0427A/11 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Black Sea. Your 0446/10th Nov. (W.R. signal requesting repetition of first part of N.L.O. Black Sea's 1125/5.) Following is repetition required. Tuapse no longer used as naval base. Small craft still land supplies there. During past week enemy advanced (?to) within 30 k/ms of port but now (?returned). (N.L.O. Black Sea 0901C/11 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 10th Nov. ROMEO, BEAUFORT, BOSTON, CROMARTY,\*MANXMAN, CROOME, ALDENHAM, DULVERTON, SNAPDRAGON, BURRA, BARFORD, M.L.357 T.L.C. 111, 113, T.B. Yugo Slav. DURMITOR, T.B. Yugo Slav. KAJMAKALAN, Greek Destroyer IERAX G.S. SAKTOURIS. Departure 10th Nov. CROMARTY, BOSTON, HARROW, PRESTIGE,\*GUSTY, HEDGEHOG, \*ESCAMPADORE,\*ARMADILLO, T.L.C. 116, 118, Landing craft M.98, 114, landing craft P.100, 105, 106, 112. (S.O.(I.) Alexandria 0942B/11 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
*\*not identified*

Enemy Move 5 miles 090°, 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers  
Units, northbound 25 knots.  
Orders to (Capt. S.10 1022A/11 to P.43, P.35 (R) N.C.X.F.)  
S/Ms.

Cositrep Air. Night 9/10 Nov. Torpedo aircraft from  
No.690. Malta attacked 3 cruisers, 5 destroyers east of  
Part 2. Sicily. 2 hits scored possibly on same cruiser.  
Remainder results obscured by smoke screen.  
Photographs 10th Nov. show 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers  
arrived in Sicilian harbour. Hurricanes patrolled over coastal  
area west of Matruh without incident.  
10th Nov. American B.24 and B.17s bombed shipping in Benghazi  
and Heraklion harbours. Results mainly unobserved at Benghazi  
owing to cloud and smoke from burning vessel in harbour. Near  
misses on a merchant vessel and hits on main jetty claimed at  
Heraklion. One Me.109 probably destroyed near Benghazi.  
Night 10/11 Nov. Halifaxes and Wellingtons bombed Tobruk  
harbour and closely packed M.T. on Tobruk-Gazala road. Two  
large fires started at Tobruk, bombs burst among M.T. on road  
starting some fires.  
(C. in C. M.E. 1100 G.M.T./11.)

/Bi-Weekly ...



11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Bi-Weekly Night 6/7 Nov. 8 Halifaxes, 46 Wellingtons  
Opsum No.72. bombed enemy M.T. between Sidi Barrani and  
Sollum, good concentrations found at Buq Buq and  
Halfaya. About 20 fires started, 2 buildings  
at Sollum demolished.

5 Liberators made dawn attack on Maleme aerodrome, Crete.  
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1108Z/11.)

9th Nov. Southbound tanker with 2 escort vessels sighted  
north of Crete by 1 Marauder. Further 2 Marauders despatched  
to attack did not locate. Second R/C Marauder reported 1  
medium merchant vessel southbound 30 miles west of Melos Island  
with escort 2 torpedo boats. 6 A.S.V. 1 bomber, 6 torpedo  
Wellingtons, 3 Beauforts despatched to attack merchant vessel  
during night did not locate.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1208Z/11.)

10th Nov. 5 B.24s attacked shipping in Benghazi.  
Harbour was partly obscured by cloud and smoke from a burning  
vessel and no results observed except for hits in Outer Mole.  
2 Me.109s attacked South West of objective, 1 Me.109 was  
probably destroyed last seen out of control and smoking.  
6 B.17s bombed shipping in Heraklion Harbour claiming near  
misses on a Merchant Vessel and hits on main jetty.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1228Z/11.)

Photographic R/C Tobruk 7th Nov. showed medium sized  
merchant vessel burning in harbour following B.17 attack 6th Nov.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1237Z/11)

Enemy B.3 owing to recent sinkings Germans are  
Tanker increasing escorts especially for tankers Mediterr-  
Escorts. anean and Black Sea.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1136C/11 to S.O.I. Med.)

\*MANXMAN, UTMOST returning to Malta, diving by day through  
036° 00' 016° 00' and 035° 12' 015° 10'. Due  
\* See previous searched channel 1016A/12th, informed of your  
page 3 p. 474 approach.

(V.A. Malta 1551A/11 to MANXMAN (R) C. in C.  
Med.)

French Fleet, (1) R/C of Toulon 10th Nov. shows following  
Toulon. changes: STRASBOURG and DUNKERQUE in dock,  
PROVENCE has left dock. 2 LA GALISSIENNIERE  
cruisers arrived from Hyeres.

- (2) Object of S/Ms off Toulon is still to report only.
- (3) Appeal has been made to French warships and merchant shipping  
to escape French ports and proceed to North African ports or  
Gibraltar.
- (4) German and Italian troops are moving into unoccupied France.  
(Capt. S.8, 1620Z/11 to 8 S/M F.)



War Diary.

11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Minelaying  
by A/C  
off Tunis.

Your 1040/11th.A.O.C. intends to lay 6 mines approximately 090° La Goulette group flash light 2.5 miles tonight Wednesday.  
2. Confirmed that mines will not be sterilized and will (?have) no time delay.  
(V.A. Malta 1622E/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)  
W.D. Note. Operation prevented by weather, see 0942/12.

Italian morale.

Extreme depression evident among official Italian Circles here. Air raids on Genoa have had particular effect due to stories of unpreparedness and lack of A.R.P. German attitude one of "icy calm" but recent events in Mediterranean are acknowledged as severe blow and probability of German Army having to fight allied troops in Roman Campagna in valley of Po is freely discussed. Fact.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1630C/11 to S.O.I. Med. (R) D.N.I.)

Orders to S/Ms.

Cancel my 2159A/10 and 2225A/10. Submarines are to move at 2100A tonight 11th with despatch to operate within 5 miles of following positions reference Chart 165 all from Cape Bon.

Submarine.	Through	To
P.37	Direct	060° 131 miles.
<i>See 1.471</i> → P.43	Direct	049° 103 miles.
P.44	A	Malta
P.45	313° 48 miles	255° 27 miles.
P.48	Direct	290° 53 miles
P.221	Direct	289° 22 miles
P.247	Direct	320° 22 miles
P.211	A	D
P.212	A	D
PARTHIAN	Direct	326° 140 miles
UNA	Reverse route	Malta

P.211 is to dive at C at 0400A/12th. P.212 is to dive at C at 0530A/12th. P.44 is to dive at B at 0530/12th. P.35 carry out railway demolition. Further orders follow.  
(Capt. S.10 1754A/11 to S/Ms on patrol (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., Capt.(S) 1, Capt.(S) 8.)  
My 1254A/11th (?1754A intended) Arrival at Malta UNA and P.44 1201/13th, P.44 should continue (? on surface) after daylight 13th to make R/V, bombing restrictions will be arranged. P.211 (?and) P.212 through E and 036° 41' 013° 04' to patrol off Susa and Kerkenah number 4 respectively. German E-boats are returning to base at Tunis and Bizerta. 6 sighted at Tunis and more expected, own aircraft minelaying entrances to these ports. P.35 remaining east of 015° 10' while endeavouring to organize 2 railway smashes on different nights and attack southbound shipping. On completion of withdrawal report results, intended course for Malta and (corrupt) remain.  
(Capt. S.10 2359A/11 to S/Ms on patrol (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)

/Transport ...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Transport  
of  
Prisoners.

Your 2025/4. Admiralty have now ruled that not more than 500 P.O.W. can be embarked in any troopships proceeding independently between South Africa and U.K. or U.S.A.

2. Propose that of the 1800 German P.O.W. in question - (a) 500 be embarked in MAURETANIA for passage to San Francisco. Guard would have to comprise personnel for U.K. for whom onward conveyance from North America to U.K. would be arranged. (b) 500 be embarked in HIGHLAND MONARCH for direct passage to New York. (c) Balance of 800 proceed from Middle East to Durban in two returning troopships. At Durban 500 would tranship into CAPETOWN CASTLE which is proceeding from India to New York via South Africa. Remaining 300 would have to await next convenient opportunity.

3. Request you arrange accordingly.

4. Agreed.

5. F.O.R.S.C.A. pass to P.S.T.O. Egypt and S.S.T.O. Suez. (D.S.T. 1824A/11 to P.S.T.O. Egypt (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. Capetown, F.O.C.R.S.C.A. etc.)

\* MANXMAN, (i) R/C p.m. 11th. Taranto 6 battleships, 16  
information. destroyers. Messina 2 8" 3 6" cruisers, 4  
\* *in bk 47, 472* destroyers.  
(ii) No other important Italian unit Eastern basin.  
(iii) No fighter code names received, will use "Turret" and  
"Pistol".  
(iv) Fighter protection arranged from 0600A in your estimated  
position 034° 27' N. 018° 52' E.  
(V.A. Malta 2002A/11 to MANXMAN (R) C. in C. Med. 201 N.C. Group)  
See C. in C. Med 0022/12, V.A. Malta, 0252/12.

I. 103 11th Nov.  
Malta C.S.R. Malta 10th/11th Nov. 1705 and 0221 hours,  
Air Report. 2 Beaufighters airborne for raids which turned  
back before reaching Malta. 1 intruder  
Beaufighter patrolled Trapani area and another  
patrolled N.E. Tunisian aerodromes but no enemy aircraft was  
seen. This aircraft reported artillery fire also machine gun  
fire between land forces near Tunis.  
Day 11th Nov. 0605 and 1350 20 Spitfires airborne for several  
raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 15 Spitfire  
sorties were made in R/C patrols North and West of Malta but no  
enemy shipping was seen.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 2126/11.)

TURBULENT.

Proceed on surface to 39.13 12.40 thence diving  
by day to patrol Approaches to Naples, position  
40.30 14.03 recommended.  
(Capt. S. 10 2235A/11 to TURBULENT (R) S/Ms on  
Patrol. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, N.C.X.F.,  
Capt. (S) 8, V.A. Malta.)



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ALBATROSS. 11th Nov. left ALBATROSS E.T.A. Tamatave  
0800Z/12th.  
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0201Z/11 to Admty., etc.)  
*See p. 477  
(Movement  
Summary)*

Ceylon Summary No.24 of 11th November.  
movements. (1) FALMOUTH and BOMBAY leave Bombay 16th  
Nov. escorting B.P. 60.  
(2) SUTLEJ leaves Bandar Abbas 16th Nov.  
escorting P.B.12.

(3) JUMNA and MADRAS leave Bombay 10th Nov. escorting B.P.59  
due Khor/Kuwai 15th Nov.  
(4) SONAVATI, HIRAVATI leave Bandar Abbas 10th Nov. escorting  
P.B.11.  
(5) ASTER leaves Colombo 10th escorting LAOMEDON to vicinity  
of Trincomalee, thence returning to Colombo. *See next page.*  
(6) MARGUERITE arrived Bombay 9th and leaves on 11th escorting  
2 tankers to Trincomalee.  
(7) D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN left Colombo 10th Nov. escorting  
M.B.17 to Bombay due 14th Nov.  
(8) LAUNCESTON arrived Addu Atoll 10th Nov. and sails on 11th  
Nov. escorting SINGU to Colombo. *See next page.*  
(9) PUNJAB and INVESTIGATOR escorting P.A.11 leaves Bandar  
Abbas 16th Nov.  
(10) TULIP left Bombay 6th Nov. escorting B.A.33 to (256°  
E. thence Colombo due 12th Nov.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 0709Z/11 to Admty., etc.)

Shipping Propose my 1030/7 should be cancelled in view  
diversions, of your 1232/9 because (A) There is a risk that  
reference similarly lettered positions given in both will  
positions. be in force simultaneously with consequent  
possibility of confusion. (B) Your positions  
18 - 26 inclusive cover all requirements for  
Indian Coastal Shipping mentioned in my signal. (C) Signal  
traffic will thereby be reduced.

2. If you agree N.C.S.Os will be told to act in accordance  
with para. (C) of your 1232/9 except that no reference position  
will be cited in Vesca. All Coastal positions given by N.C.  
S.Os would be lettered for week in which ship sailed.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 0839Z/11 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., F.O.C.  
R.I.N.)

Reply: C. in C. E.F. 1328/13.

BENGAL, Vessel being shelled by enemy ship in approx.  
action with position 019° 45' S. 092° 40' E. at 0540Z/11.  
raider. Attention is called to A.M.S.I. 71 to 73 and  
Admty. lettered message JC.  
*See p. 484* (C. in C. E.F., 0850Z/11 to B.A.M.S. Area 7B  
and 7C.)

BENGAL reported being shelled at 0534Z/11 in 019° 45' S. 092°  
40' E. No description of enemy unit but may be raider E.  
My 0707/3 (Position of unknown German unit) refers.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0924Z/11 to E.I.Stn.)

/By ...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - *cont'd*

BENGAL, By D/F on 16220 k/cs 0630/11th enemy unit believed  
action with SEICHU MARU and connected with submarines (?  
raider. bearing approx.) 120° 1st class from Mackenzie  
*See p. 484* Point, Mombasa. Call sign N.A.S.I.R.E.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0926Z/11 to Admty., etc.)  
By D/F on 16220 k/cs position of enemy unit at 0630Z/11 was  
023° S. 091° E. Call sign N.A.S.I.R.E. Believed to be one  
of unit engaged by BENGAL.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1302Z/11 to S. & A. E.I. Stn., (R) Admty., etc.)  
See also Australia.

Movements. Departure 0921Z/11th Nov. LAUNCESTON escorting  
\* R.F.A. SINGU. *See previous page.*  
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0922Z/11 to Admty.)

Arrival 11th Nov. DEVON CITY.  
(F.O. E.A. & Zanzibar, 1126Z/11 to Admty.)  
→ Colombo departures 11th Nov. 0500Z ASTER, LAOMEDON. *See previous page.*  
(S.O.I. Colombo, 1207Z/11 to Admty., etc.)  
*\* Not given as such in Navy List.*

U/Bs, Possibility U-Boats arrived Penang from south-  
TRUSTY. wards between 13th and 17th Nov. Proceed to  
Zone A.  
(S.O.(S) Colombo, 1113Z/11 to TRUSTY, (R)  
C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon.)

MARTABAN SS. MARTABAN torpedoed on 14th Oct. and abandoned  
(torpedoed by crew was towed stern first by ASTER from 007°  
14th Oct.) 59' N. 085° 10' E. to Trincomalee, distance  
salvage. (? approx.) 250 miles. Ship was in tow of  
ASTER for 6 days 14 hours.

(2) As MARTABAN is on charter to M.W.T. salvage  
agreement has not been signed but in view of value of services  
rendered by ASTER request permission for claim to be made.

(3) MARTABAN was berthed in Trincomalee Harbour by tug SAMSON  
(? owned by) Ceylon Govt. and C.405, Admiralty owned, both  
manned by personnel of C.N.V.F. (? Compared to) services  
rendered by ASTER, this amounts to little.

(4) If claim by ASTER is approved propose to forward form of  
appointment of Ships Agent (? for) ASTER to Admiralty by  
microgram for onward transmission to Agent. W.H. Glover Esq.  
is being appointed.

(5) Full report on salvage follows microgram.

(6) Request information regarding position of C.N.V.F. personnel  
in this matter.

(F.O. Ceylon, 1142Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Air Report. Intelligence Summary for 11th Nov.  
Part 1 for 10th Nov.

(A) Total 6 Blenheims bombed Akyab at intervals  
night 9th/10th, bursts along waterfront near jetty.

(B) Ships reported (our summary No.240 for 10th Nov. refers)  
9th Nov. attacked in Akyab Harbour by 2 formations 8 and 9  
Blenheims respectively with escort Mohawks a.m. and p.m. 10th  
Nov. One M/V 210 feet alongside jetty and coastal type M/V  
approx. 300 tons both believed damaged. Akyab town machine-

/gunned ...



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contri.

Air Report. (Contd.)      gunned. Paddle steamer in creek bombed - near misses. Strong fighter opposition encountered also light and heavy A.A. from shore. (A.H.Q. India, 1206Z/11.)

Addu Atoll cable.      A.M. 2105/6th and F.O. Ceylon 0420/6th. In view of reduced importance of Addu Atoll consider effort required to overcome difficulties attendant on diversion of this cable not justified.

(2) After diversion cable has been buoyed F.O. Ceylon is requested to sail cable ship to Bombay for onward routing to Persian Gulf. (3) FRITILLARY is to return Kilindini. (C. in C. E.F., 1330Z/11 to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C. R.I.N., S.N.O.P.G., N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll.)

Movements Summary No.22, 11th November.      1. BIRMINGHAM left Kilindini 8th Nov., due Bombay 13th Nov.  
2. HAWKINS diverted to R/V combined convoy W.S.23 and C.M.24 in 027° 30' S. 042° 32' E. at 1300Z/11th Nov. and relieve DAUNTLESS. DAUNTLESS return Durban due 13th Nov. CARTHAGE and HAWKINS escorting W.S.23 C.M.34 routed East Madagascar and West of Seychelles. S. of A. 12.7 knots.

3. CAPETOWN left Kilindini 9th Nov. due Durban 14th Nov. routed through Mozambique Channel.

4. ENTERPRISE escorting convoy M.C.1. 1 merchant ship, estimated position 0900Z/11th Nov. 017° 20' S. 053° E., due Durban 17th Nov. S. of A. 13 knots.

5. RANPURA left Bombay 6th Nov. escorting convoy B.A.33 relieved by CORNWALLIS in 015° 23' N. 055° E. at 1130C/11th Nov. RANPURA thence Kilindini.

6. ALBATROSS leaves Diego Suarez 12th Nov. due Tamatave 14th Nov., thence Tanga. *See pp 475, 476.*

7. NAPIER and HOTSPUR leave Kilindini 12th Nov. due Durban 16th Nov. routed through Mozambique Channel.

8. MARYBOROUGH and IPSWICH left Fremantle 3rd Nov. escorting one steamship due Diego Garcia 15th Nov. MARYBOROUGH thence Colombo due Nov. 20th, IPSWICH to Kilindini due Nov. 24th.

9. BENGAL left Fremantle 5th Nov. escorting one tanker for Diego Garcia and Colombo. *See pp 475 & 476*

10. WORCESTERSHIRE leaves Aden 12th Nov. due Kilindini 17th Nov. (C. in C. E.F., 1342Z/11 to Eastern Fleet etc.)

Convoy O.W., GAMBIA.      My 0949/10 (re GAMBIA from Colombo to relieve escorts in 095° E.)  
Request confirmation that ships will proceed from Fremantle to Abadan without intermediate call.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1407Z/11 to Admty.)  
Reply: D.T.D. 2153/12.

/ONDINA ...



11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

ONDINA.

Following has been read.  
De AJIT PGMT (ONDINA) MS G 15 15.15 14.00,  
still wanting urgent medical assistance.  
(Colombo W/T, T.O.R. 1546/11.)

SOLFONN,  
BRITISH  
CHEMIST.

A.M. 1945/2. Axis safe conducts for SOLFONN  
and BRITISH CHEMIST now granted.  
Axis informed SOLFONN will probably leave Abadan  
14th/15th Nov. E.T.A. Berbera 23rd Nov.; BRITISH  
CHEMIST leaves Abadan 13th Nov. E.T.A. Massawa

24th Nov. E.T.D. Massawa 26th/27th Nov. returning to Abadan by  
same route.

As SOLFONN will proceed to Aden from Berbera to discharge balance  
of cargo no safe conduct for her return is being requested.  
Tankers should be instructed to conform to above dates as  
closely as possible.

(M. Branch, 2143A/11 to S.N.O.P.G., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)



478<sup>A</sup>

# MOST SECRET

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

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

Protection of Shipping in Mozambique Channel.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 2210A/11th November OUT

Date 11.11.42.

To. C.in C. Eastern Fleet 297  
repeated C.in C. South Atlantic 109

*Received in W.D. 2 Feb.  
1943.*

Naval Cypher (S.P.02392) (32)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Your appreciation of protection of trade against attack by Japanese submarines in Mozambique Channel referred to in your 2004 of 21st September has been received and studied with interest.

2. There is very little recent experience as to effectiveness of co-operation of A/S vessels and aircraft in hunting groups, but in large area such as Mozambique Channel present Admiralty view is that in general the employment of available air and surface craft as escorts affords greater measure of protection.

3. Present U-boat situation off East coast of Africa with addition of U-boats in Cape area differs in various particulars from that dealt with in your appreciation. It appears that situation can best be met by co-ordinated employment of the limited number of vessels available in the two commands on escort repeat escort duties.

My 0046/16th October and 1329/29th October refer.

2210A/11

for Head of Military Branch (558)

Approved by V.C.N.S.

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
C.N.A.S.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A.1.S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.T.D. (3)  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D.A/S.W.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
Duty Capt. (2)  
I.P. (2)  
D.N.I. (4)  
D. of P. (2)

Hd. of M. (M.013416/42) (2)  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.N.A.D.  
Admiral Usborne  
Admiral Blake

/FK

*wb*



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Ottawa Conference, proposed London conference. Personal to C. in C. U.S. Fleet and C.N.S. Ottawa from 1st. Sea Lord. Ottawa's 2118/4 and C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1309/6 and previous signals concerning conference at Ottawa. I regret that owing to the fact that both A.C.N.S. Trade and C. in C. W.A. are being relieved at about that period it will not be possible for either Admty. or C. in C. W.A. to send representatives to conference on 19th Nov. and it is considered that discussion of general issues suggested in Ottawa's 1646/31 Oct. must be deferred.

2. On the other hand I am anxious as a matter of urgency to discuss further the reduction of Mid Ocean escort groups to ten since this would free one group for employment as reinforcing group, the value of which has recently been demonstrated. Despite welcome reinforcement of Mid Ocean groups by three U.S. destroyers, recent heavy losses in trans-Atlantic convoys emphasise desirability of strengthening all escort groups, but since this is at present impracticable employment of a reinforcing group appears to offer best practical alternative.

3. I therefore propose and hope you will agree that a conference should be held in London at the earliest convenient date to discuss question in para 2, and would be glad if you would suggest a date and nominate your representatives.  
(Sec. to V.C.N.S. Approved 1st. Sea Lord 0040A/11 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet. N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. C. in C. W.A.)

RYDE. U.S. S/M notice. RYDE leaves Narragansett Bay 1500Z/11 arrives New London 2000Z Gulf of Darien via swept channel Block Island Sound.  
*Not on L.B. 1815 (U.S. Dispatch)*  
(Cominch 0207/11 to All commands concerned with sub report in E.S.F.)  
U.S. S/M notice. (?correct) my 0207/11 and my 1537/11. RYDE departed Narragansett 1500Z/12 arrives New London Lower Harbour 2000/12 via swept channel, Block Island Sound.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2353Z/11 to All commands concerned with S/M report in E.S.F.)

U/B Intercept from Guantanamo Radio S/M sighted at 0315 G.M.T./11 in 12.53 N 67.22 W.  
(S.O.I. Kingston, Jamaica 0325R/11 to Admty.)

T.F.39. 0659/11. See Cominch 1531/12.

Convoy T.25, B.A.T.s Sailed trawlers ST.LOMAN, NORTHERN CHIEF, NORTHERN ISLES, escorting convoy T.25 E.T.A. Freetown 1000Z 24th Nov. S of A 9 knots.  
2. H.M. Rescue tugs BOLD (B.A.T.8) towing battle practice target and INTEGRITY (B.A.T.4) in company.  
3. Communications ST. LOMAN wireless watch in accordance with appropriate section or A.F.O. 1/42 remainder guard 500 K/cs (BOLD and INTEGRITY 2 operative period) shifting to read B.A.M.S routine.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0702Q/11 to S.B.N.O. W.A.)



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.

B.U.S.R.A. Your 1826/9 - concur. M.A.R.I. will be amended to  
amendment. conform.  
(D.T.D. 0835Z/11 to Connnav.)

U.S. Cominch's 1736/10 informs as follows:  
dispositions. Changes to Cominch's 2130/3 (N.T. in W.R.)  
Serial 47. TRENTON on patrol from Balboa.  
MARYLAND and COLORADO ~~to~~ sea.

LONG ISLAND is en route to San Diego. MEMPHIS is at Bermuda.  
PHOENIX is at Brisbane. OMAHA and MARBLEHEAD are patrolling  
eastward near the Equator.

RALEIGH is en route to Pearl Harbour. NASSAU is in South  
Pacific. RICHMOND on patrol from Callao. AUGUSTA, NEW YORK,  
TEXAS, MASSACHUSETTS, TUSCALOOSA, WICHITA, RANGER, SANGAMON,  
SUWANNEE, \*CHENANGO, SANTEE, BROOKLYN, PHILADELPHIA, SAVANNAH,  
CLEVELAND are in \*operational area. COPAHEE is repairing in  
San Diego.

(Connaveu 0846/11 to Admty.) \* op. "In L"

\*\* See p. 458.

U/Bs D/F bearings indicate submarines in your vicinity  
H.X.214. at 0824Z/11. Possibly sighting report.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0945Z/11 to C.T.U. No.24.18.3. C.O.A.C.  
C.C.N.F. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A. U.S. C.N.O.)

Tanker My 1050QR/7. U.S. Authorities have informed me  
escort. that escort will be available for convoy to  
Porto La Cruz on or about 19th Nov.  
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 0955QR/11 to Admty.)

COLORADAN Overdue Trinidad U.S. COLORADAN and British  
MARYLYN MARYLYN, overdue St. Thomas Norwegian SIRANGER.  
SIRANGER (S.O.I. Kingston 1011R/11 to Admty. B.A.D.  
S.B.N.O. W.A.)  
MARYLYN torpedoed, see 1441/12.

Attacks Connaveu 1034/11 to Admty.  
on U/Bs. See U-Boat Campaign.

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S.30 escort by B.Y.M.S.3 has returned to  
St. Johns from mid Atlantic with engine defects.  
B.Y.M.S.2 and 4 are returning in tow of rescue  
tugs FRISKY and TENACITY. A further two B.Y.M.S. have sailed  
from Halifax for St. Johns for onward routing to U.K. It is not  
known how many more are to follow. From preliminary investigation  
it would appear that the engine room personnel of these boats is  
insufficiently trained to operate somewhat complicated machinery  
except under the most favourable conditions of wind and weather  
and the prospect of the only two sea going rescue tugs in this  
Command being frequently employed throughout the winter in towing  
assorted B.Y.M.S. back to St. Johns is viewed with concern.  
It is requested that no further B.Y.M.S. be sailed to St. Johns  
pending full investigation on return of B.Y.M.S.2 and 4. Further  
signal will be made.  
(F.O.N.F. 1111Z/11 to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)  
Reply: B.A.D. 1621/12.

/Convoy...



War Diary.

11.11.1942.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Convoy  
Z.G.11.Sailing telegram. Escorts, U.S. Destroyers  
GOFF, TATTNALL, JADE, P.Cs 462, 464, 466 and 470.  
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal 1140R/11, 1152A/11 to Admty.  
etc.)SCHENCK  
S.C.108.This is my 1111Z/11 addressed U.S. destroyer  
SCHENCK for action. (?At) 1230Z/11 proceed in  
accordance with my escort order 82-42. Join Task  
Unit 24.1.12 escorting S.C.108 now on amended  
route. When C.T.U. 24.6.4. in <sup>GEORGE M.</sup> BIBB arrives  
report to him for duty.  
(C.T.U. 24.6. 1221Z/11 to C. in C. W.A. C.T.24.  
(R) Connav. C.T.U. 24.6.4. C.T.U. 24.1.12.  
C.T.U. 24.6.2.)BUTTERMERE  
WASTWATERCominch's 1655/10. Approved for A/S whalers  
BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER to escort LORD KELVIN  
while repairing break in Halifax/Bermuda cable.  
Delay in arrival on South Atlantic Station is

accepted.

2. It is requested that necessary arrangements be made.

(D.A./S.W. 1325A/11 to Cominch. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

A.M. 1325A/11. On arrival BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER at  
Bermuda (?request) you will make arrangements with N.S.H.Q.  
regarding escort for LORD KELVIN.(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2142/11 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) U.S.N.O.B.  
Bermuda etc.)FRANS HALS  
(escaped  
3 Nov.)Submarine unsuccessfully attacked M.V. FRANS HALS  
(Dutch) at 0015 G.M.T. 3rd Nov. in 00° 29' S  
32° 06' W firing 6 torpedoes. One 4 inch shell  
from ship hit and exploded in C/T destroying after  
part. Submarine also hit with 40 rounds from  
Oerlikon and one depth charge dropped within 100  
yards.(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1502Q/11 to Admty. (R) S.O.I.  
Jamaica.)

SALISBURY

Your 1542/10. (SALISBURY can be accepted at Navy  
Yard Charleston) Intend to sail SALISBURY to  
arrive Charleston 20th Nov. Further signal will  
be made.

(C.O.A.C. 1512Z/11 to B.A.M.R. (R) Admty. etc.)

U/B  
positions.S/M estimate Nov. 11th and U.S. S/M Notice.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1535/11, 1536/11, 1711/11,  
1712/11, 1713/11 to Admty.)Allocations  
of Tugs.

Your 1529/7 not to Admty.

(1) Your 1724/28 Oct. was answered by my 2223/30th  
Oct. to which Admty. 1628/2 agreed. See also para  
4 of my 1801/10.(2) Floating dock and \*CAIRO probably delayed until about end of  
December. Unless Captains of Dutch tugs can be spared without  
putting tugs out of action, propose conference be postponed\*Not ~~limited~~ - ~~sent~~ 8/142 /indefinitely...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - *11/11*

Allocations of Tugs. Contd. indefinitely. B.A.D. will signal date of conference after consultation with Captain MYLCHREST. (B.A.D. 1551Z/11 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad etc.)

U/B. S/M sighted by shore (?watchers) in 047° 55' N 065° 23' W at 1350/11. (C.O.A.C. 1607Z/11 to G.B.7A and A.G. (R) C.T.F.24. Connav. Admty. C. in C. W.A. etc.)

Use of Echometers. Your 1359/10 attention of Masters concerned should be drawn to C.A.M.S.I. 139. (D.T.D. 1715A/11 to B.R.L.O. St. Thomas.)

R.N. and R.C.N. Corvettes. Your 1151/5th.  
1. We will endeavour to place the 4 R.N. corvettes in the same group with 2 R.N. manned destroyers in order to implement your para 1.  
2. This is much appreciated. Normally boiler cleaning can be done at St. Johns N.F. If C.T.G. 24.7 concurs and it is not to detriment of training request periodic visits be arranged. Consider beneficial if all escorts of a group return to Londonderry in time for conference and training exercises periodically before sailing. (F.O.N.F. 1812Z/11 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

S.C.106. Average speed 6.78 knots. Uneventful voyage. Gales on 26th and 31st Oct. All arrived. (D.T.D. 1824Z/11 to Connav. N.S.H.Q.)

B.1. Escort Group. As ships of B.1 are likely to be delayed by weather request you will order them to proceed St. Johns N.F. (C. in C. W.A. 1830Z/11 to C.T.F.24. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F.\* HURRICANE. WATCHMAN. WALLFLOWER. DAHLIA. ANCHUSA. MONKSHOOD.) *See p 441*  
*\* See next page*

U/B Campaign. Connav Serial 11. VEERHAVEN torpedoed today 03.50 S 29.22 W. MARYLYN torpedoed sunk 30th Oct. 00.46 S 32.42 W. EDGAR ALLEN POE torpedoed 9th Nov. towed to Noumea, position attack unknown. (Connav 2058/11 to Connaveu.)

Sub. Attack and sighting summary. A. HOLMPARK torpedoed sunk 13.11 N 47 W 0610Z/24 Oct. MARYLYN torpedoed sunk 00.46 ?S 32.42 / 2240Z/30 Oct. VEERHAVEN torpedoed presumed sunk 03.51 S 29.22 W 0220Z/11. PBY(PBY) sights sub on surface 11.30 N 59.17 (T?) 1815Z/10. B.18 sights sub on the surface 12.53 N 67.22 W 0315Z/11 course 310.

/B. ANEROID...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - ~~cont.~~Sub.  
attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.  
Contd.

B. ANEROID later information 08.40 N 59.40 W  
0800/2 Oct.  
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE two torpedo hits.  
A 20 A sights sub on surface 11.57 N 67.10 W  
1443Z/20 Oct. course 270.  
C. R. REUBEN TIPTON U.88 Type number 33 on  
conning tower and 55 on hull.  
SC.513 attacks sound contact 11.52 N 62.52 W  
2228Z/12 Oct.  
Shore watcher sights sub 47.55 N 65.23 W 1350Z/11.  
(Cominch 2129/11 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

ATTACKER

ATTACKER expects to be ready to sail from San  
Francisco for Norfolk (Virg.) about Tuesday 24th  
Nov.  
(B.A.M.R. 2142Z/11 to Admty. Cominch.)

CUBA

Departure Charleston Nov. 10th U.S.A.T. CUBA  
unescorted, Bermuda Nov. 12th.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2158Z/11 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A.)

BATTLER

BATTLER expects to leave New Orleans about 12th  
Nov. for Norfolk (Vir.) calling Key West.  
(B.A.M.R. 2202Z/11 to Admty.)

→ WINCHELSEA

Ref. C. in C. W.A. 1815Z/11. Return to St. Johns  
N.F. forthwith at best prudent speed to refuel.  
Pass through position 052° 10' N 041° 13' W where  
distress flares were sighted 1100/10.  
(F.O.N.F. 2208Z/11 to WINCHELSEA. (R) C.O.A.C. C. in C. W.A.  
C.T.U. 24.1.4. Admty. C.T.24. N.S.H.Q.)  
E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1100Z/13th. Estimated position at  
0200Z/12 52.10 N 41.13 W. Weather report.  
(WINCHELSEA 2345Z/11 to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A. C.T.24.)

\*HURRICANE  
→ WINCHELSEA.\*See pp 441  
481.

HURRICANE's 1213Z/11 and your 1815Z/11. Since  
HURRICANE may be unable to sail with H.X.215 due  
to defects and in any case will probably be late  
in joining, should WINCHELSEA be held to augment  
escort of H.X.215?  
(F.O.N.F. 2231Z/11 to C. in C. W.A. (R) HURRICANE  
C.T.24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. C. in C. U.S.  
C.T.G. 24.7.) Concur: C. in C. W.A. 0932Z/12.



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War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Brisbane 10th Nov. U.S. Destroyer FARRAGUT. Melbourne 10th TAMWORTH. Port Moresby 10th ARUNTA. Sydney (N.S.W.) 10th ECHUCA.  
Departure Sydney 9th U.S. Destroyer FARRAGUT for Brisbane. (N.B. Melbourne 0226/11 to Admty. etc.)  
Arrival Vila U.S. ship ROAMER 10th Nov. (S.O.(I.) Wellington 0805Z/11 to Admty.)

BENGAL Following believed from BENGAL (begins) We are raider. being shelled, my position 295° 20' S 93° E. 22 0534Z.

See p. 475

(Cdre. W. Australia 0614Z/11 to A.C.N.B. Com. Sowestpac Unit. C. in C. E.F.)

See also East Indies.

3 further P/L intercepts by Perth Radio on 8290 K/cs (begins) MXW from BENGAL still firing one enemy raider burning strongly aft 0556Z/11 (ends).

2nd (begins) MXW from BENGAL still in contact enemy, my position 295° 20' S 93° E 22 0605Z/11 (ends).

Text 3rd intercepted same as 2nd. T.O.O. 0657Z/11.

(Cdre. W. Australia 0734Z/11 to A.C.N.B. C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon. Comsouwespac.)

→ You may sail KANIMBLA at your discretion to assist BENGAL. (A.C.N.B. 0841Z/11 to Cdre. Western Australia. (R) Comsouwespac Unit. C. in C. E.F.)

Passed to Admty. for information.

Your 0758Z/11. Holed on waterline fore and aft proceeding at 9 knots. Tanker hit and presumed lost. One enemy raider believed sunk, other not hit.

(BENGAL 1044Z/11 to Cdre. Western Australia.)

Situation. Digest Serial No. 292. Nov. 9th. Air R/C Buin Shortlands area morning 9/11 reported total 39 vessels of which 4 large warships possibly heavy cruisers, 2 large unidentified vessels, 1 possible seaplane tender, 26 other vessels, stationary, 3 possible light cruisers, 3 10,000 tons merchant vessels between Buin Faisi in line ahead formation course 300 30° (sic).

(2) 8 Maurauders bombed buildings and dumps Buna area, 9 Beaufighters strafed enemy targets Popondetta Sanananda area, and 6 Bostons bombed and strafed the area around Oivi in support of our ground activities 9th Nov.

(3) Enemy continues to resist strongly in Oivi Gorari area in spite of heavy losses.

(4) Enemy destroyer reported 6° 40' S 149° 5' E at 1300Z/9 course 90°.

(5) One B.25 attacked enemy schooner off Salamaua while another scored one 500 pound direct hit on 5000 ton merchant vessel near Cape St. George course 160° afternoon 9 Nov. Later vessel severely damaged and beached.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0658Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy. My 0656Z/6. Anticipate convoy sailing 23rd Nov. (A.C.N.B. 0824Z/11 to C. in C. E.F. (R) ADELAIDE. → KANIMBLA. VAN HEEMSKERCK. N.Z.N.B. Cdre. Western Australia. Comsouwespacfor. Admty.)

/AQUITANIA...



War Diary.11.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

AQUITANIA.

Cdre. Aden's 0742/6 to N.Z.N.B. only and 0738/6 to N.O.I.C. Sydney only report that AQUITANIA needs 10 to 14 days for urgent repairs in Wellington.

2. Request you arrange accordingly.  
(D.S.T. 2022A/11 to N.Z.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

At 1200Z/11 approx. positions.  
(D.D.I.C. 1343A/11, 1355A/11.)

Submarines Attacked.

U.S.  
Summary.

Cominch's 2008/10, addressed for action to Admty. and for information B.A.D. informs as follows:-  
This refers to Admty. 1059B/22/7.

On the surface, off Iceland, on Nov. 5th as S/M was attacked by a naval aircraft. The charges exploded apparently in contact with the after end of the submarine. Seven men who were on the deck kept swimming and were seen to drown. In the vicinity of the swimmers there remained bits of wood and oil patches. The pilot believed this S/M to be U.10. Many U.S. surface vessels attacked oil slick and sound contacts on Nov. 5. 6. 7. and 8 off Nantucket Light. Destruction is possible.

A submerging submarine was attacked off Solomon Islands by two planes from U.S.S. HORNET. This is from a belated report of Sept. 6th. With no forward motion, the S/M submerged vertically. A small amount of oil was observed.

In the attack reported in Cominch's 2006/5 Oct. off French Guiana, U.S.S. ELLIS rescued survivor after 10 days adrift and recently landed. The survivor testifies that he left submarine by escape lung. The S/M was flooded. The rest of the crew perished.

In the week ending 2400Z/18, 44 attacks were reported.  
(Comnaveu 1034/11 to Admty.)







487

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Operation "Torch" - Contd.Convoy  
M.K.F.1. (X)  
see p. 521

Convoy M.K.F.1<sup>(X)</sup> sailed from Gibraltar today with 11 transports returning to U.K escorted by DASHER, BITER, and 7 destroyers. In addition to casualties already reported (VICEROY OF INDIA, LEEDSTOWN sunk, AWATEA probable total loss). KAOANDA (?) is reported sunk, DEMPO damaged, CATHAY serious underwater damage and uncontrollable flooding (became a total loss), LLANGIBBY CASTLE structural damage caused by shell fire.

Bone.

Unopposed landings were made at dawn today by 6th Commando from LAMERTON and WHEATLAND, who left later to refit. British parachute troops were also dropped by air.

Bongie.

Heavy air attacks were made on the ships at Bougie last night and this morning. BICESTER reports that no friendly fighters were seen, though N.C.X.F. reports that fighter protection was effective at Bougie today (by fighters working at extreme range from Maison Blanche).  
KARANJA (Landing ship, infantry, large) was set on fire and beached and became a total loss; Naval H.Q. moved on shore, W/T communications being maintained by destroyer. U.S. light minelayer TRACY\* has been set on fire and is a total loss. TYNWALD (Auxiliary A/A Ship) is reported mined and sank last night. BICESTER has damage and casualties from her own gunfire. \*Later amended to CATHAY.

In attacks on enemy aircraft operating against our shipping between Bougie and Oran R.A.F destroyed and damaged several.

Algiers  
Area.

The Air France flying boat base has been taken over for naval aircraft. Walrus are based there and do continuous patrols.

It was expected that all ships of the assault convoys would be sailed for Gibraltar by p.m./today.

The Sloop STORK was torpedoed by a S/M at 0312 whilst on patrol 5 miles North of Cape Caxime (approx. 36° 40' N. 2° 45' E) She was seriously damaged but reached harbour.

Oran.

The harbour at Oran, which the French had blocked, was reopened today.

/Western..



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Operation "Torch" - Contd.Western  
Force.

The JEAN BART is reported sunk in Casablanca harbour, also 2 S/Ms, whilst the cruiser PRIMAUGUET and 2 destroyers are beached, and 7 or 8 merchant vessels are sunk. C.T.F. 34 states that the magnitude of the salvage problem and vital necessity of clearing the port indicate the need of salvage personnel and equipment greatly in excess of that planned.

Convoy U.G.F.2, due today was ordered to keep clear to seaward, except 8 ships which were sent to Gibraltar.

U. S. transports <sup>EDWARD</sup> RUTLEDGE, <sup>TASKER H.</sup> BLISS and <sup>HUGH L.</sup> SCOTT were torpedoed by U/Boats off Redala; the two first are reported to have sunk. The transport group departed to sea until A/S measures can be strengthened.

N.C.W.N.T.F. at 2001Z today informed C.T.G 34.1 that his covering group duties were completed and he should return to home waters. He intends to lay a minefield off Casablanca tonight.

North Atlantic.

It was reported on 16th November (B.O) that 2 damaged Italian S/Ms entered Cadiz today. At 1805/17, however, Cadiz had no confirmation though it was rumoured that two damaged submarines, nationality unknown, have entered Tarifa.

South Atlantic.

SS. ASCANIUS (10,0048 tons) reported being attacked by a S/M this morning in 34° 44' S. 22° 52' E.

/It....



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

It is reported that SS.MARYLYN was torpedoed and sunk at 2240Z/30/10 in 0° 46' S. 32° 42' W.

C. in C.S.A. reports that EMPIRE GUIDON which was torpedoed off Durban 31st October was unable to stream her A.N.D. gear on account of the deck cargo which she was compelled, inspite of the Master's protest to M.W.T. representative to ship at New York.

Mediterranean.

Italian  
Battleships  
leave  
Taranto.

Three "Littorio" battleships and 5 destroyers left Taranto last night. Four destroyers have left Messina, but no cruisers have sailed. Three battleships and 11 destroyers were sighted at 1545A today in 38° 35' N. 15° 46' E (25 miles North of the Straits of Messina) steering 40° at 14 knots (apparently making for Naples). TURBULENT was ordered to intercept them South of Bocca Piccola (Capri) Air attack was arranged for about 2200 hours but failed to materialise.

The presence of 6 enemy E-Boats at Bizerta is confirmed by aircraft report. The port is partly blocked, but merchant ships can still enter the outer harbour. Submarines are now disposed to intercept shipping to Tunisia. MANXMAN arrived at Malta this afternoon from Alexandria with 350 tons of food and 200 naval and military personnel.

Tunisia Aerodrome was bombed last night.

MANXMAN,  
at Malta.

*MANXMAN, which arrived at Malta today from Alexandria, was the first ship to reach the island for 12 weeks. (Speech of First Lord 13.7.43, The Times 14.7.43, p. 2 c.1).*

America & West Indies.

A/S Trawler ST.LOMAN reports having with another ship attacked and it is believed destroyed a U-Boat at 1409Z in 11° 6' N. 56° 55' W.

*Not confirmed by Lt. Roberts at Curacao...  
re LHM 6443.*



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Curacao reports U.S. Gunboat ERIE escorting T.A.G. 20 torpedoed and beached off Willemstad at 1700 QR today.

WINCHELSEA in 50° 50' N. 44° 35' W reports that she has 26 survivors from SS. HARTINGTON.

Australia & New Zealand.

Five or six Fortresses attacked shipping in the Buin Shortlands area early this morning and hit one 12000 and one 7000 ton merchant vessel and made a near miss on a 9000 ton ship. The warships apparently disperse at night. There were nearly 50 vessels dispersed in the area, including warships, loading or unloading activities appeared to be in progress.

Four Catalinas carried out a damaging attack on Buin Aerodrome tonight.

20 to 25 Japanese torpedo bombers with 8 fighters attacked U.S. transports unloading at Guadalcanal today. U.S. fighters shot down 16 torpedo bombers and 5 fighters, losing 4 planes. It is not known what losses the U.S. Transports suffered.



12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

River-class  
corvettes.

Consider River-Class Corvettes can not be worked up in A/S and M/S under one month. Request WEAR may be retained till 26th. (WESTERN ISLES, 1345A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

Use of  
Spanish  
Territorial  
waters.

Instructions in my 0140/9 October apply to large enemy M/V believed tanker which entered Ferrol 11th November as a result of damage from air attack. (V.C.N.S., 1720A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S. H.Q.C.C., F.O.C.N.A.)

Movements.

15th M/S  
Flotilla.

Your 1519A/11. 15th M.S.F. is to remain at Reykjavik until further orders, but should be ready to move at short notice. (D.M.S., 0016A/12 to A.C.I.C.)

and LLANDUDNO in compliance with Admiralty 2024A/12 at 0900Z/13. (S.O. M/S 15., 2328Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Iceland). *N.T. 21.2*

HOWE

LIMBOURNE with HAYDON, MELBREAK proceed 0530A tomorrow to R/V with HOWE in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1715/11. *p. 436* (R.A.D. H.F., 0937A/12).

A.F.D.18

My 1545A/11. Onward route from North Channel will be signalled by F.O.I.C. Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1019A/12). N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1545A/11.

Onward route through position (A) 055° 10' 005° 43'. (B) 055° 21' 005° 59'. (C) 270° Oversay 6 miles. (D) 180° Dubh Artach 8 miles (E) 090° Dubh Artach 10½. (F) 056° 17', 005° 48', thence through Firth of Lorne, Loch Linnhe, and Lochaber to Corpach. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1106A/12 and 1608A/12 to P.C.74, MAZURKA, PAUL RYKENS).

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1255/10.

1. Tugmasters concerned have asked:- (1) That a powerful twin-screw tug R/V with A.F.D.18 off MacArthur's Head and accompany thence to destination. Tug will be required to connect up astern for passage through Sound of Islay and subsequently to assist as required on remainder of voyage and when berthing.
- (2) That the second tug to assist with berthing should also join at MacArthur's Head and proceed in company to destination.
2. Request you will detail tug CALSHOT for requirement (1) and arrange as requisite regarding (2).
3. Overseas Towage and Salvage Company have agreed that Second Mate EMPIRE BASCOBEL should board Dock at MacArthur's Head to act as liaison between bow and stern tugs.
4. Master of EMPIRE LARCH who is in charge of tow should be notified of above arrangements. (D.S.T., 1231A/12 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.- Contd.

TIGRIS My 1814/11 and 0046/12 para (J) add -  
Leaves patrol so as to cross 43° N., at 2200/12  
thence to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.  
(F.O.S., 1037A/12).

CARNARVON  
CASTLE. On completion of defects about 28th November  
request you sail CARNARVON CASTLE for Clyde.  
2. Ship will be required to leave U.K. to rejoin  
South Atlantic Station about 2nd December after  
embarkation of passengers.  
(D.O.D. (F.), 1106A/12 to F.O.I.C. Northern  
Ireland).

SEALION. My 1829/10. Sailing of SEALION is postponed.  
(F.O.S., 1112A/12 to Admty).

W.A. Command. Situation at 1959A/12. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1355A/12) See Lion Copy.

SHROPSHIRE SHROPSHIRE should call at Greenock to disembark  
passengers before proceeding to Chatham.  
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail her  
for Chatham as early as possible on a date to be  
agreed with C. in C. Nore.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1811A/12 to SHROPSHIRE).

THUNDERBOLT,  
UNBEATEN. (1) THUNDERBOLT proceed forthwith in execution  
of previous orders.  
(ii) If UNBEATEN has not now been met CUTTY SARK  
is to proceed forthwith to Mounts Bay.  
(iii) UNBEATEN and CUTTY SARK are to R/V in 180°  
Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/13.  
(F.O.S., 1854/12).

TUNA <sup>INT. A. D.</sup>  
*See p. 497* Amend my 1831/12 as follows. Para. (E). TUNA  
68° N., 07° E., on surface for Lerwick, speed  
5 knots, probably increasing.  
(F.O.S., 2206A/12 to Admty).

NORFOLK,  
CUMBERLAND. A.M. 1736/12. Cruisers destination Scapa via  
Minches parting company in longitude 10° W.  
*See p. 514* (C. in C. H.F., 2223A/12 to NORFOLK).

GURNARD. E.T.A. at R/V 0800A/15 plus or minus 2 hours.  
Unless otherwise ordered will consider route from  
Point George to R/V safe through area Q.Z.X.202  
(GURNARD, 2358/12 to F.O.S.)



**MOST SECRET MESSAGE**

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

1355Z/12th November

FROM:- C. In O. Western Approaches

DATE:- 12.11.42.

RECD:- 2113

Situation at 1959A/12th November, 1942

Section N.E.

P. 311 TROOPER	LA CAPRICIEUSE	57 13 07 05	To Bishop Rock	11
ADVENTURE	Vicinity Cape Wrath to Port Z.A.	0001A/13		15
W.N.60	HORNPIPE BERKSHIRE	58 03 05 38	To Methil	7
1 M/V	POLKA	59 21 05 28	To Methil	6
MISTRAL		57 15 07 00	To Methil	18

Situation at 1959A/12th November, 1942

Section S.E.

P. 311 TROOPER	LA CAPRICIEUSE	57 13 07 05	To Bishop Rock	11
UNBEATEN CUTTY SARK		50 20 06 00	To Holy Loch	11
VERSATILE		57 00 07 10	To Greenock	15
RAMSAY		55 05 05 32	To Grimsby	14
2 Minesweepers	Sail Tobermory 2100A/12		To Aultbea	10
SABRE	Escorted	55 22 06 25	To Liverpool	11
1 M/V	CELANDINE ARVIDA	55 28 06 35	To Greenock	10
A.F.D. in tow 3 tugs	P.C. 74 2 trawlers	52 25 05 12	To Corrach	6
WESTON FOLKESTONE WELLINGTON GORLESTON	Sail Lough Foyle	2200A/12	to Greenock	12
GOATHLAND	Sails Greenock about 2000A/12		To Tobermory	15

ST. FRANCIS/.....



492 B.

ST. FRANCIS	Sails Greenock about 2000A/12	To London-derry	15
Convoy	SOUTHERN BREEZE 51 51 05 36	North-bound	8
H.M.64	LEEDS UNITED 52 53 05 04	Milford Haven	8
5 M/Vs	TOTLAND 53 54 04 42	Clyde	12
2 M/Vs	WAVENEY 51 26 04 20	Clyde	14

Situation at 1959A/12th November, 1942

Section N.W.

U.R.49	GAVOTTE 61 36 14 21 to 61 57 15 30 HUGH WALPOLE thence 63 01 21 25 QUADRILLE		5
R.U.48	KING SOL 60 09 15 08 to 59 58 14 40 REIGHTON WYKE thence 358 degs. STAFNES Butt of Lewis 6'		6
O.N.S.J. 144	U.S.S. BIBB 58 45 24 10 140 degs. U.S.S. DUANE		6½
C.T.U. 24.6.4.	U.S.S. INGHAM		
O.N.S.144 (E)	POTENTILLA 57 08 20 15 to 57 28 21 39 EGLANTINE		3
C.T.U. 24.1.4	MONTBRETTIA ROSE VERVAIN ST. ALBANS		

Situation at 1959A/12/11/42

Section S.W.

U.S.S. GURNARD	55 23 20 33 to 54 40 20 01 thence 56 30 12 45		12½
HURRICANE	53 35 31 08	St. Johns	16
WATCHMAN ANCHUSA DAHLIA	53 20 31 38	To St. Johns N.F.	10
O.N.145 C.T.U. 24.1.3	U.S.S. CAMPBELL 54 45 17 18 to U.S.S. BADGER 54 15 20 20 thence ROSTHERN to 53 32 22 28		7½
K.M.S.3 (E)	BLACK SWAN 53 47 13 55 to 53 30 19 59 1 Sloop thence 50 33 24 25 8 Corvettes		4½

K.X.6/.....



# MOST SECRET

- 3 -

K.X.6	LANCASTER	45	31	15	52	to	45	21	15	55	
	WELLS				thence		38	50	14	45	6½
	3 Corvettes										
	4 trawlers										

C.F.7	SHROPSHIRE	41	42	24	22	to	50	11	21	17	11¾
	ARROW										
	ACTIVE										
	DUNCAN										
	ANTHONY										

1355A/12

Advance copy sent Duty Captain D.O.D.(H) D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pin.
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- Duty Captain (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C.(3)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(C)
- D. of P.(2)
- Admiral Blake (2)
- Admiral Ramsey (2)
- D.M.S.
- D. of P.(2)

WARNING: THIS IS AN UNCLASSIFIED VERSION OF A SECRET  
 CYPHER OR CONTAINS A CYPHER. IF YOU RECEIVE THIS TEXT  
 MUST FIRST BE PARAPHRASED OR TRANSLATED TO COMMUNI-  
 GATE IT TO PERSONS OF THE UNITED STATES OR ALLIED  
 GOVERNMENT SERVICE.



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Patrols.My 1101A/11. "Cadger" returned, 0855/12.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0901/12).

→ 1. Intend M.G.Bs. 51 (S.O. and 50 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N., between 1° 45' W., and 2° 25' W., tonight, leaving Weymouth at 1815 and returning from patrol line at dawn. Codeword "Object".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1114A/12).

M.L. Patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.Ls. 184 (S.O.) 180, 259.

3. Patrol. 7 miles 065° and 245° from 120° Start 22.

4. Object. To intercept E-boats.

5. Information own. 3 M.T.Bs. leave Dartmouth for Southward at 1800 returning at daylight. Enemy E-boats may operate from Cherbourg or Guernsey.

6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1700 today and proceed on patrol. Leave patrol at daylight 13th to return to Dartmouth.

7. Codeword "Obstacle".

→ (C. in C. Plymouth, 1349A/12).

M.T.B. Patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.T.Bs. 235 (S.O.), 240, 231.

3. Patrol between positions (A) 040° Sept Iles Light 7 and (B) 285° Sept Iles Light 12.

4. Object. To intercept enemy shipping on coastal passage.

Details.

→ (C. in C. Plymouth, 1355A/12).

→ M.T.B. 56 (S.O.), 54, M.G.B., 611, 615 proceed to carry out sweep tonight as in my 1152/11. If any boat falls out, remainder are to patrol 50° 10' N., 1° 30' W., and are not to carry out sweep. Codeword "Advent". E.A. 5 patrol, CHASSEURS 15 (S.O.) and 5. Portland patrol M.G.Bs. 51 (S.O.) 50 on latitude 50° 20' N., between 1° 45' W., and 2° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1507A/12 to HORNET).

→ M.G.Bs. 51 and 50 patrolling 15 miles South St. Albans Head leaving Weymouth, 1815/12 and patrol line at dawn.  
2 CHASSEURS on patrol in vicinity of E.A. 5 buoy. M.T.Bs. 56 and 54 M.G.Bs. 611 and 615 patrolling to Southward passing Needles 1815/12 and 0745/13.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1547A/12).

Patrols tonight. 2 M.G.Bs. (L) Z 26. 2 M.G.Bs (L) Z 22.  
2 M.G.Bs. (S) Z 19. 2 M.G.Bs. (S) Z 16.

(C. in C. Nore, 1605A/12).

Your 1349A/12. "Obstacle".

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1704/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).

→ Cancel my 1355A/12. Weather unsuitable.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1747/12).

M.Ls. 220 and 207 patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit buoys, E.T.D. 1810, E.T.R. 0755/13.

(V.A. Dover, 1816A/12).

→ Your 1349/12. "Obstacle" returned owing to weather.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2016/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Dover...



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.Dover and  
Folkestone  
shelled.

Last night 11/12th between 2235 and 0406 enemy batteries fired eight single rounds, five in Dover Area and three in Folkestone. No casualties and slight damage at Dover. At Folkestone hit on A.A. Site caused five military casualties, four killed and one injured.  
(V.A. Dover, 1131A/12).

Unknown  
operation.

Your 1109 /10. Information obtained is of great value. A further run during next dark period more to the southward is desired. Request this may be arranged if possible.  
(C.C.O., 1430A/12 to F.O.C. Dover).

Allied Air Activity.A/C crossing  
South Coast.

A 358 12th November cancel my A.245 dated 10th November. Any aircraft compelled of necessity to cross the South Coast below one thousand feet is to give widest possible berth to places named in my signals A 767 dated 29th September A 337 9th October and A.587 14th October.  
(Air Ministry, 1727A/12).

Mining.

S.N.17 A

Operation S.N.17A completed.  
(ADVENTURE, 0730/12 to Admty).

Dover Area.  
Enemy Mines.

My 1840/9. Following daylight slack-water R/Cs for enemy minefields were made by M.G.Bs. and M.A.S.Bs. yesterday.  
(A) From D Buoy via Bassurelle Shoal to Vergoyer Bank. Two mines were sighted on this route in vicinity of Bullock Bank - which were probably drifting but this is being confirmed. Moored mines were seen within S.W. limit of Q.Z.X. 786 as well as several drifting mines.  
(B) In gap between Q.Z.X. 788 and 797 where further mines were sighted and though this gap was used on night of 10/11 vide my 1052 /11 further exploratory work is now necessary.  
(C) In South Falls Sandettie Area where one minefield was delineated between the tail of the Falls and charted position of "S" Buoy ten miles to north eastward. The southwest end of another field was found to be in position 135° North Foreland 20 and this presumably extends for about ten miles along the southeastern edge of the Sandettie Bank. All mines sighted were German "R" type moored shallow so that they are visible at slack water.  
It is suspected that another minefield may exist between Sandettie and Fairy Banks.  
(V.A. Dover, 1318A/12).



War Diary.

12.11.1942.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Dover Area.  
Enemy Mines.  
Contd.

My 1318/12. Request that 2 Areas enclosed by mines joining the positions given may be declared dangerous owing to presence of enemy mines moored on surface.

(A) (1) 051° 14' 42" N., 001° 48' 36" E.

(2) 051° 21' 54" N., 001° 58' 30" E.

(3) 051° 20' 36" N., 002° 00' 00" E. (4) 051° 13' 36" N.,  
001° 45' 36" E.(B) (1) 051° 11' 18" N., 001° 48' 42" E., (2) 051° 16' 54" N.,  
002° 01' 24" E. (3) 051° 14' 24" N., 002° 04' 06" E.

(4) 051° 07' 30" N., 001° 48' 18" E.

(F.O.C. Dover, 1319A/12, 1047A/13).

Lyme Bay  
sweep.

My 1858/10. Operation completed with negative results. Intend remaining at Portland 13th and 14th for coaling, storing, and maintenance repairs.

(M/S 4, 1759A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Off 55 A  
Buoy.

Mine exploded apparently acoustic 40 yards astern MENDIP in 185° 55 A Buoy 1.8 miles. No damage to MENDIP.

(Capt. D.21, 2050A/12 to C. in C. Nore).

U-boats.U-boats  
reported.

Am over S/M in 52.45 N., 20.57 W. When first sighted was on surface on course 043° 8 knots. Subsequently observed to submerge.

(A/C DU6J, 1034/12 to 15 Group).

Position at 1034 (752°) 45' N., 20° 58' W.

(A/C J. of 423 Sqdn. 1143A/12 to 15 Group).

U-boat sighted in 058° 48' N., 01° 55' W. Course 120° speed 5 knots.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1215A/12).

Casualties & Defects.

MISTRAL

Cmdre. Londonderry's 0934/12. Number 1 boiler out of action due to leaking tubes. Intend entering Aultbea to effect repairs. E.T.A. 0500A/13. Time required approx. 3 hours. (MISTRAL, 1624A/12).

SOUTHERN SPRAY

SOUTHERN SPRAY steering compass quite unreliable due to magnetised steel plate in deck. Compass essential for safe navigation. Propose sailing vessel to Oban on 14th November for removal of plate and onward routeing to Milford Haven. (WESTERN ISLES, 1846A/12 to Admty).

REIGHTON  
WYKE.

Dome and oscillator lost. Ship leaking. Returning to Reykjavik. My position 062° 40' 47", 023° 00' 00". (REIGHTON WYKE, 2330A/11 to A.C.I.C.)



12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

C.F. 7 Convoy C.F.7 comprising VOLENDAM, ANTENOR, MALOJA and SAMARIA for Liverpool and HIGHLAND BRIGADE for Avonmouth is due U.K. about 17th November.

(D.S.T., 0112A/12)

A.M. 1329/8. Destinations as follows VOLENDAM, ANTENOR, MELOJA and SAMARIA to Liverpool. HIGHLAND BRIGADE to Avonmouth.

2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange onward passage of HIGHLAND BRIGADE as requisite.

(D.O.D. (H.), 2009A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.F.3 Intend to sail WESTON, AZALEA, FOLKESTONE, WELLINGTON, GORLESTON from Lough Foyle at 2200A/12 arriving Greenock 0800A/13. C. in C. W.A. 1222A/7 refers.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0919A/12 and 1609A/12).

My 0919A/12, 1609A/12. Sailed.

(Cdre. Londonderry 2200A/12).

My 1222/7. ORONTES delayed till noon Friday. Request you will sail one "S" class destroyer as soon as possible to escort to Clyde.

(C. in C. W.A., 1420A/12 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

H.X. 215 Your 2231 concur.

(C. in C. W.A., 0932Z/12 to Cdre. N.F.)

*See p. 533*

Your 1213/11. Unless you can arrive at St. Johns N.F. in time to fuel and provide effective escort to H.X. 215 return to Londonderry (C. in C. W.A., 0936Z/12 to HURRICANE).

Operation  
F.B.

Following ships discharging Molotovsk - EMPIRE GALLIARD, HUGH WILLIAMSON, RICHARD ALVEY. Ashore Dvina Bar JOHN WALKER, hoped to refloat p.m. today. No sign of EMPIRE GILBERT. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1341A/12 to Admty).

A.M. 1957/4 and S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1636/11. JOHN H. B. LATROBE, has returned to Reykjavik. (A.C.I.C., 1819A/12).

Positions of submarines at 0800/13 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) O.15, approx. position 71° 20' N., 06° 58' E., probably on surface for Lerwick.

(B) P.312, 68° 05' N., 09° 50' E., probably on surface through 69° 58' N., 12° 59' E. thence to waiting position 71° 28' N., 21° 50' E.

(C) P.216 67° 40' N., 09° 01' E. probably on surface through 69° 58' N., 12° 59' E., thence to waiting position 71° 10' N., 21° 01' E.

(D) UREDD, 65° 50' N., 06° 30' E., probably on surface through 67° 38' N., 09° 05' E., and 69° 59' N., 11° 50' E., thence to waiting position 70° 54' N., 20° 11' E.

(F.O.S., 1831A/12).

Report delayed owing to poor W/T conditions. P.C.S. 070° 00', 003° 00' E., 190° nine. Nothing further to report. (O.15, 2000A/11 to F.O.S.)



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Q.P.15 Your 2358A/10. E.T.A. 1900A/16. Request groups P, Q and R from 0001A/16.

(Capt. D.8., 1030A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

C. in C. H.F., 2358/10, 1422/11, and my 1106A/9.

Q.P.15 will be ready to sail Dvina Bar 1400A/17 and will consist of following 24: British. TEMPLE ARCH (Commodore Meek) DAN-Y-BRYN (Vice Commodore of Convoy), EMPIRE TRISTRAM, EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE MORN (Cam), EMPIRE BAFFIN, GOOLISTAN, OCEAN FAITH. American. VIRGINIA DARE, SAHALE, NATHANIEL GREENE, EXFORD, WILLIAM MOULTRIE, PATRICK HENRY, SCHOHARIE, ESEK HOPKINS, SAINT OLAF.

Russian. KOMILES, ANDRE MARTI, TBILISI, PETROVSKI, BELMORKANAL. Total 22 merchant ships plus H.M.S. ULSTER QUEEN and COPELAND. S. of A. 9½ knots.

Ocean escort from Archangel. HALCYON (S.O.) BRITOMART, SHARPSHOOTER, HAZARD, SALAMANDER, BRYONY, BERGAMOT, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, Local escort as ordered by S.B.N.O. North Russia, This leaves in Archangel the following ships IRONCLAD, WHITE CLOVER, CAMPFIRE, MEANTICUT and LAFAYETTE short of fuel but which can (corrupt group) be refuelled from ships mentioned in Admty. 1819A/11th, and ships too slow for inclusion in convoy American HOLLYWOOD, CHARLES R. MACCORMACK (?Russian) VOLGA FRED (corrupt group) ENGELBERG, KUS(?IZZ) LESOV, and KUSBAS. These will be sailed independently to Kola in accordance with S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1705A/10 when Soviet escort can be provided. Ships ex operation F.B. now proceeding from Molotovsk EMPIRE GALLIARD, RICHARD ALVEY and HUGH WILLIAMSON. JOHN WALKER ashore Dvina Bar expect to refloat tonight and will discharge Molotovsk.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1440A/12, 1449A/12).

My 1449A/12 and C. in C. Home Fleet's 1352A/12. Add to ships sailing in Q.P.15. HOLLYWOOD, CHARLES R. MACCORMICK and any U.S. ships short of fuel and Soviet Ships which can be got ready in time. Further signal will be made. Speed of advance will be now 9 knots.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1537A/12).

Your 1907/11th. K.3., will (?patrol) area until 22nd Nov. allowing a day or two longer if required. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.,

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1608A/12 to Admty).

Seidisfjord departures C. in C. H.F.'s 2358/10 para. 2 at 1305/12th. Admiralty recypher and pass to Admiral Miles.

(A.C.I.C., 1747A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

My P.C.S. 069° 04' 008° 13' E., 203° 5 knots. No survivors operation F.B.

(TUNA, 1801A/12 to Capt. S.9). *See p. 492*

C. in C. H.F., 1909A/11.

(a) Intend to sail in LONDON at 2100/14 for Seidisfjord passing through 066° 10' N., 012° 35' W., with ONSLAUGHT and OBDURATE. E.T.A. 1330/16.

(b) SUFFOLK and FORESTER are to proceed southabout from Hvalfjord so as to arrive Seidisfjord a.m./16.

(c) Covering Force sails from Seidisfjord p.m. Nov. 17th to reach covering position p.m. Nov. 19th.

(C.S.1., 2145A/12).



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - *cont'd.*Q.P.15  
Contd.

Admiralty 1941/11 Russians have asked that four ships in Byelaya should be included in Q.P.15 but I hope for early agreement to sail them independently.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2150A/12 to S.B.N.O. Archangel, Admty. (R) Admiral Miles).

RANGITIKI,  
ORONENCE.

My 1048/8 and 1244/11. Intend sailing RANGITIKI escorted by WAVENEY at 1500/12, E.T.A. Clyde 1900/13. Also ORONENCE from Barry Roads at 1300/13 E.T.A. Clyde 1000/14, independently if escort is not available.

(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1214A/12).

Examination  
at Workington.As from 0001A/23 examination at Workington is waived for vessels bound for Whitehaven in as far as British ships bound from U.K. Ports, not calling at intermediate ports in Eire, are concerned, subject to the provision that their arrival at Whitehaven has been notified in advance through the Naval authority at the Port of departure. Entry into Whitehaven will be permitted subject to correct identification signal. Flags by day and flashing by night.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1643A/12).R.C. and  
R.C.N.  
Corvettes.

C. in C. W.A. 1147Z/5th and F.O.N.F's 1812Z/11 concur. Strongly recommend all ships of A and C groups assemble Moville at least 2 days prior to Convoy meeting for Conference and sea training (C.T.G.24.7. 1700Z/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

HINDUSTAN,  
ITHURIEL.Admiralty's 1710/10 and N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1711/11. ITHURIEL further delayed by gun defects. Anticipate sailing a.m./14th.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1931A/12 to Admty).D.S. 34,  
S.D. 34.Convoy D.S. 34 consisting of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE 13½ knots will be ready to leave Clyde 28th November for Reykjavik returning as S.D. 34.  
2. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange for two destroyers of 17th Division to provide Escort.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 2008A/12).



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12.11.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch".

Admty reencypher and pass to N.C.X.F.F. at Gibraltar for information. This is C.T.F. 34 dispatch 0408/12. "C.T.F. 30 (R) C.T.F. 38 TITANIA, C.T.G. 34.10, Connav C.T.G. 30.1, C. in C. Lant, C.T.G. 30.2, C.T.G. 26.5, Com Transport GRAMPHFORLANTFLT, N.C.E.F. from C.T.F.34. Have TITANIA leave Tank Lighters to replace losses other ships your group. Sail with COLE as escort for first 500 miles then proceed independently COLE returning Casablanca reporting to me. Routeing as follows subject to diversions by Admty. or Connav.  
 (A) 34 N. 20 W. (B) 30 N. 40 W. (C) 33 N. 65 W. thence Base H. Comtaskgroup 34.2 provide air coverage first day. Comtaskgroup 26.5 requested cover by air in vicinity Bermuda and report probable time of arrival in Sha Frontir to Comeastseafron based on air observation."  
 (Cominch 0010Z/12 to Admty.)

ISAAC E.T.A. with PORCUPINE in company at T S G O  
 SWEERS. position 12 is 1600Z/12. Request instructions for R/V.  
 (ISAAC SWEERS 0017Z/12 to S.O. Force H. (R) N.C.X.F., PORCUPINE.)  
 Your 0017/12 join force "R" at 1700Z/12 in approx. 037° 35' N. 001° 47' E. Top up with fuel and remain with them during the night.  
 (S.O. Force H. 0740/12 to ISAAC SWEERS (R) PORCUPINE, N.C.X.F. Force "R", C.S.10, S.O. Inshore Squadron.)  
 If Force "R" not met by dark keep west of 001° E. until 2100Z and join in 037° 30' N. 002° 00' E. at 0600Z/13.  
 (S.O. Force H. 1646Z/12 to ISAAC SWEERS (R) PORCUPINE.)

Going (?near) and anchoring near Aokas.  
 Request (?all possible protection) at daylight please acknowledge.  
 (Call sign 103F 0018Z/12 to S.N.O.L. Sector D.)  
 From 10 3 F. Following has been read S.N.O. L. Sector D. Anchored 6 miles from berth A.2 against coast in 6 fathoms of water. Request instructions and all possible protection from air attack.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 0138/12 to Admty.)

(MARNE torpedoes.  
 HECLA sunk.  
 by U. 505 515  
 see next 2 pp  
 12508

Following received (corrupt group) SALVONIA coming to assist HECLA. Report P.C. and S. (Gibraltar 0035Z/12 to Admty.)  
 Proceed forthwith with all despatch to assistance of HECLA torpedoes in 035° 43' N. 009° 54' W. at 2315Z/11.  
 (2) MARNE and VENOMOUS are to stand by HECLA.  
 (3) Keep constant watch on Gibraltar broadcast.  
 (F.O.C.N.A. 0054Z/12 to F.S. LA MALOUINE, LOBELIA, (R) Admty., VENOMOUS, N.C.X.F., VINDICTIVE, MARNE.)  
 MARNE and HECLA torpedoes.  
 (MARNE 0105Z/12 to Gibraltar.)

/Request ...



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - con. fr.

(MARNE torpedoed.  
HECLA sunk  
(contd.)  
by U.505

Request you will sail 2 destroyers to R/V with VINDICTIVE as soon as possible after daylight. VINDICTIVE P.C. and S. at 0700Z/12 estimated 035° 50' N. 007° 22' W. 087° 17 knots. (N.C.X.F. 0106Z/12 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) VINDICTIVE Capt. (S) 8, Cdre. F.)

MARNE has been torpedoed.  
(VENOMOUS 0115Z/12 to Gibraltar.)  
Add to my 0114 HECLA (?sunk) MARNE out of action my position 0001 035° 50' N. 009° 57' W.  
(MARNE 0120Z/12 to Gibraltar.)  
Proceed when ready with despatch to R/V as soon as possible after daylight 12th with VINDICTIVE estimated to be in 035° 50' N. 007° 22' W. steering 217° 17 knots at 0700Z/12 and act as escort to Gibraltar.

(2) Tug SALVONIA sailed at 0145Z/12 to assistance of HECLA torpedoed in 035° 42' N. 009° 54' W. at 2315/11. SALVONIA speed 10 knots.

(3) MARNE and VENOMOUS standing by HECLA.

(4) Communications: keep constant watch on Gibraltar broadcast constant watch on 138 k/cs, and loudspeaker watch on 2410.

(5) MARNE now reported torpedoed at 0105Z/12 in same position.  
→ (F.O.C.N.A. 0120Z/12 to GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON, (R) VINDICTIVE, MARNE, VENOMOUS, SALVONIA, Admty.)  
If comply with my 1846/11 proceed with all despatch to assistance of HECLA reported torpedoed in 035° 43' N. 009° 54' W. at 2315Z/11.

(2) MARNE and VENOMOUS are standing by HECLA and SALVONIA sailed at 0145Z/12 from Gibraltar to assist.

(3) Keep constant watch on Gibraltar Broadcast.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0141Z/12 to JAUNTY (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., VINDICTIVE, LEYLAND, MARNE, VENOMOUS.)  
Your 0035Z/12. Proceeding without escort. My P.C. and S. 035° 40' N. 009° 02' W. 086° 17.  
(VINDICTIVE 0145Z/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
My 0202Z/12th not to HECLA. \*JAUNTY estimated to be in 37° 48' N. 10° 18' W. at 2000A/11 may be proceeding to your assistance speed 12 knots. JAUNTY keeping constant watch on Gibraltar broadcast.  
\* see p. 52.0  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0218Z/12 to HECLA, MARNE (R) VENOMOUS, Admty., N.C.X.F.)  
Request you will sail PRES/COTT with all despatch to assist MARNE in 035° 50' N. 009° ?(057') W.  
(N.C.X.F. 0240Z/12 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Cde. (F) Capt. (S) 8, HECLA, MARNE.)  
Proceed as soon as ready with despatch to R/V as soon as possible after daylight with HECLA and MARNE both torpedoed in 035° 50' N. 009° 57' W.

(2) VENOMOUS standing by.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0246Z/12 to PRESCOTT (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., HECLA, MARNE, VENOMOUS, VINDICTIVE, GLAISDALE, ALBRIGHTON, JAUNTY, SALVONIA.)  
→ My 0120/12. ALBRIGHTON sailed at 0245Z/12. see pp 50, 1520  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0307Z/12 to VINDICTIVE (R) Admty., GLAISDALE, PRESCOTT, ALBRIGHTON, VENOMOUS, SALVONIA.)

/My 0120/12 ...



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - *cont'd.*

MARNE  
torpedoed.  
HECLA sunk  
(contd.)  
*by U-515*  
U-515

My 0120/12. H.M.S. GLAISDALE sailed at 0353Z/12.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0348Z/12 to VINDICTIVE (R) Admty.,  
GLAISDALE, MARNE, PRESCOTT, ALBRIGHTON, SALVONIA,  
VENOMOUS.) *see pp 500 & 520*

My 0246Z/12th. PRESCOTT sailed at 0440Z/12.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0431Z/12 to VENOMOUS, HECLA, MARNE,  
(R) Admty. N.C.X.F. VINDICTIVE, GLAISDALE,  
ALBRIGHTON, SALVONIA, JAUNTY.)

My 0221Z/12 to Admty. HECLA sunk. MARNE still afloat.  
VENOMOUS is getting short of fuel. S/M still in vicinity.  
(VENOMOUS 0650Z/12 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)

\*Your 0142/12. Trust you killed your submarine. Tugs  
JAUNTY and SALVONIA proceeding to your assistance and also  
PRESCOTT. Report whether HECLA and MARNE towable.  
(N.C.X.F. 0721Z/12 to VENOMOUS.) \*P. 502

Request you will sail LANDGUARD and LULWORTH to assist  
MARNE torpedoed in 35° 42' N. 09° 54' W. VENOMOUS return to  
harbour on relief.  
(N.C.X.F. 1052Z/12 to F.O.C.N.A. VENOMOUS (R) Capt. (S)  
8th, A.S. Gibraltar, MARNE, Cdre. F.)

Proceed at best speed to relieve VENOMOUS screening MARNE,  
in 035° 50' N. 009° 57' W. at 0001/12. SALVONIA, JAUNTY and  
PRESCOTT are proceeding to assist VENOMOUS. Reported U-Boat  
still in vicinity at 0650/12 VENOMOUS return to Gibraltar on  
relief.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1130Z/12 to LULWORTH, LANDGUARD (R) N.C.X.F.,  
E.G.40, VENOMOUS.)

Your 0121Z/12 (0221/12 intended) and my 0650Z/12. MARNE  
is towable. HECLA sunk. VENOMOUS has only 30 tons of oil  
fuel remaining. Intend to attempt oiling from MARNE in 035°  
27' N. 010° 00' W.  
(VENOMOUS 1330Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) ALBRIGHTON.)

Reported position of MARNE 1200/12 035° 36' N. 009° 43' W.  
(N.C.X.F. 1437Z/12 to VENOMOUS, PRESCOTT, SALVONIA.)

JONQUIL standing by MARNE until escort arrives. LOUISBERG  
has proceeded to join U.G.F. two. Am proceeding Casablanca  
forthwith. Request escort may join me at daylight tomorrow as  
fuel is probably insufficient. Have 380 survivors on board.  
My P.C. and S. (?034°) 27' N. 010° 00' W. 133° 12 knots.  
Request acknowledgment.  
(VENOMOUS 1608Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.W.N.T.F.)

Sailed 1343/12 LANDGUARD and LULWORTH to relieve VENOMOUS.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1712Z/12 to Admty. MARNE, VENOMOUS, PRESCOTT,  
SALVONIA (R) N.C.X.F.)

My 1251Z/18 and 1601Z/11. 12 Catalinas now at  
Freetown. They will fuel at Bathurst on way  
northward. Intend each to carry two depth  
charges if endurance permits when exact des-  
tination is known. Will sail BISCAYNE as soon  
as Catalinas leave.  
(R.A.W. Af. 0037Z/12 to N.C.X.F.)

/Convoy ...



12.11.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - contd.

Convoy My 2301/9 6 ships ex U.G.F.2 can be accepted  
U.G.F.2. at Gibraltar on 13/ November. Remainder of  
*p.516* convoy if they cannot be berthed at Casablanca  
should remain underway until harbour congestion  
clears. Oilers BULKOIL and SEAKALE can be berthed in addition  
to the 6 ships. Report your intentions.

(N.C.X.F. 0111Z/12 to N.C. W.N.T.F. (R) Ships escorting  
Convoy U.G.F.2.)

My 2330Z/11 port Casablanca heavily congested. 6 ships of  
your convoy and two oilers can be accepted. Gibraltar for time  
being. Divide convoy where convenient send Gibraltar section in.  
Arrive off Casablanca in early forenoon detach TERROR. Then  
remain at sea south of 35 until directed to return. TERROR  
should prepare to transfer mines to fill MIANTONOMAH on arrival.  
Approaches to Casablanca area clear at present. N.C.X.F. pass  
also to Cominch Comnavu Commander Task Force 38. (Your 0111Z/  
12 refers.)

(C.T.F. 34 0919Z/12 to C.T.F. 38 (R) N.C.X.F. Cominch,  
Comnavu, Cinclant.)

U/B Am attacking S/M 035° 40' N. (?009°) 56' W.  
attacked by (VENOMOUS 0142Z/12 to Gibraltar.) *See previous page*  
VENOMOUS.

Naval Personal from First Sea Lord.  
Aircraft A. Your 1605Z/10 has come as a shock as I was  
requirements. under the impression that Air Marshal Welsh had  
made arrangements for the necessary aircraft for  
working over the sea, as this is an R.A.F.  
responsibility, the Defence Committee having laid down that the  
Admty. are not to make any provision for F.A.A. squadrons of  
any type to operate from shore bases.  
B. In view of last part of A. above the result is that F.A.A.  
aircraft can only be provided for operating from the shore, even  
in an emergency, by immobilising one or more aircraft carriers.  
We cannot afford to immobilise our large carriers and the  
auxiliary carriers are urgently required to reduce the heavy  
sinkings in North Atlantic convoys due to reduction of escorts  
to provide for "Torch".  
C. It is of course necessary that you should have the necessary  
aircraft for "Torch".  
D. Your para. 4 is not clear but we are working on the total  
requirement contained in your 1605Z/10 as 42 aircraft.  
E. The one exception we can make as regards para. B is that 12  
Swordfish of 813 Squadron which belonged to EAGLE can remain and  
be maintained. This reduces your requirement of 30 and if the  
5 Walrus are counted in to 25.  
F. To meet this deficiency of 25 arrangements have been made to  
send you the following:  
(1) 20 Wellington A.S.V. and Leigh Light of 179 Squadron.  
Commencing to leave by air in about 7 days.  
(2) 6 Walrus.  
G. With regard to your para. 2 no F.A.A. fighters for operating  
from the shore can be provided for the reasons given in para. A  
and B.

/H ...



12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - *20/12/42*

Naval  
Aircraft  
requirements.  
(contd.)

H. Albacores are not available and for the reason given in Para. A the F.A.A. can no longer provide flare droppers.

J. The Albacores and Swordfish working in the Eastern Mediterranean are a wasting asset for the reasons given in A and B but if you should require more torpedo aircraft I could ask Harwood if he could spare any owing to our advance in Western Desert.

(Sec. to 1st S.L. 0202A/12 to N.C.X.F.)

(? It is) (2 groups missing) to direct return of my air groups to U.S. as soon as army air and naval patrol planes have arrived in sufficient strength probably 12th. I further intend to release the cover groups as soon as there is reasonable assurance of non interference by other Vichy naval aircraft. To Patton by hand.

(N.C.W.N.T.F. 0320Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) W.N.T.F. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet.)

Your 0320/12. Concur release of air group and cover group at your discretion.

(N.C.X.F. 1147Z/12 to N.C.W.N.T.F. (R) W.N.T.F., C. in C. Lant, Cominch.)

My 1104Z/9 (N.T. in W.R.) please send Coasters FIATRA and HILDAR to Port Lyautey as soon as possible under air coverage without awaiting convoy. C.T.G. 34.8 and C.G.T.F.Z. informed in U.S. system.

(?S.O.W.N.T.F. 0323Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.T.G. 34.8, C.G.T.F.Z.)

S/M sighted my P.C. and S. 037° 00' 002° 32' E. 089° 8½ knots.

(ROCHESTER 0400/12 to Gibraltar W/T.)

F.O.C.N.A's 1807/11 ("Berth 01" (not circulated)) Arrived Algiers before receiving Commander E.N.T.F's 0925/10 (presumably N.C.C.N.T.F's 0925/10 intended "Proceed Gibraltar with all despatch").

(ZETLAND 0600A/12 to N.C.X.F.)

Situation  
at Bougie.

*pp 504, 505*

Situation 0730. KARANJA on fire being beached. U.S. Light Minelayer TRACY\*still burning totally lost. TYNWALD mined and sunk. \*ROBERTS has steam but damaged, arranging for her to enter harbour. Have shifted my headquarters ashore. No W/T yet. *\* see pp 505 & 508*

(S.N.O.L. "D" 0736Z/12 to F.O. Inshore Squadron.)

\* Corrected later to CATHAY.

/Arrangements ...



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - 20/11/42.

Situation at Bougie (contd.)  
pp 503  
505

Arrangements being made to send petrol to Jijelli by L.C.M. Propose to sail \*MARNIX with survivors and GRPZ (STRATHNAVER) to Algiers as soon as possible.  
(S.N.O.L.D. 0744Z/12 to S.O. Inshore Squadron.)  
\*MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE

"Torch" (S) Para. 11 line 10 amend to read, all African bound vessels except local fishing craft are to be sunk.  
(Capt. (S) 10 0756A/12 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Petrol for Jijelli. No petrol at Jijelli. Landing L.C.Ms now to take it there.  
(S.N.O.L. Sector D 0825/12 to S.O. Inshore Squadron.)  
Petrol will arrive Jijelli by sea at 1300.  
(S.N.O.L. Sector D. 0920Z/12 to S.O. Inshore Squadron.)

Air attacks at Bougie. My 0810 (N.T. in W.R.) My position is 036° 44' 005° 08'.  
(BICESTER 0858Z/12 to N.C. Inshore Squadron.)  
Get in touch with Military and report (? to) BITER at Jijelli.  
(S.O. Inshore Sqdn. 0939Z/12 to BICESTER.)  
Am being attacked by 30 enemy A/C Bougie.  
(BICESTER 1215/12 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
Broad anchorage heavily attacked by 30+ aircraft between 1110A and 1200A no damage to ships at sea and it is thought that no damage to harbour. No friendly fighters were seen. Percentage of 4 inch H.E. remaining BICESTER 32, BRAMHAM 65, WILTON 24. Have following casualties due to rounds from Y hitting ZAREBA (corrupt group) X gun and bursting, 1 Officer, 4 ratings killed, 4 ratings (groups missed) wounded from \*KARANJA. Require 1 new Oerlikon mounting. Sailed with MARNIX for Algiers at 15 knots at 1230A request fighter protection on passage. \* pp 503, 505, 518  
(BICESTER 1252A/12 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn. (R) S.N.O.L. Sector D.)  
Am being attacked by 9 enemy aircraft off Bougie.  
(ROTHER 1023/12 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
Heavy attack by many Ju.88 on hand attack continuing no fighter present.  
pp 505 (SPEY 1050/12 to (S.O. Inshore Squadron (R) 104th D.D.)  
Am being attacked by enemy A/C HATTON.  
(GLENGYLE No T.O.O. 12 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
Following has been read from ROBERTS. Help HATTON.  
(Gibraltar W/T T.O.R. 1125/12.)  
Heavy air raid on port. STRATHNAVER military personnel disembarked. Unloading vehicles fast. Have sailed MARNIX and BICESTER to Algiers. MARNIX has 300 survivors (?AWATEA).  
(S.N.O.L "D" 1125Z/12 to Flag or S.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

/Situation ...



505

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - 402/12.

Air attacks on Bougie (contd.) *see pp 503 & 504*  
 Situation report 1200Z/12. Bougie heavy bombing attack at dusk 11th. (?ROBERTS) on fire seriously damaged. CATHAY serious under-water damage and uncontrollable flooding. AWATEA on fire and abandoned off Cape Carbon, crew saved. Ship was westbound unloaded. One bomber shot down. Report 0730A/12. TYNWALD sunk during the night, suspected mined. KARANJA bombed and on fire, naval H.Q. moved on shore. W/T communication via destroyer. No report of empty shipping leaving port yet. Earlier on the 12th ships shot down two certain and one probable of four torpedo aircraft whose attack failed. \*SPEY reported sighting S/M off Bougie at 0810A/12. A/S patrol believe still intact. \* *see previous page*  
 (2) Follow up shipping waiting for K.M.S.two and K.M.F.two for Bougie is held at Algiers.  
 (3) K.M.F.A.2 and K.M.S.A.2 arrived 0900/12. M.K.F.1 and M.K.S.1 sailed tonight with delayed portion following on Friday or Saturday. \*PRINSES BEATRIX arrived 10(?00) 12th.  
 (4) \*STORK torpedoed by S/M five miles north of Carbon (sic) at 0312 whilst on A/S patrol. Has reached harbour. Hit forward, hull seriously damaged. No casualties. \* *see p. 510*  
 (F.O.I.S.S. 1157Z/12 to N.C.X.F.)

State of Casablanca. (Admiralty re-encipher and pass to N.C.E.F. at Gibraltar for information.) "C. in C. Lant (R) C.T.F. 38, Cominch Naval Comdr. Expeditionary Force from C.T.F.34. JEAN BART reported sunk west side Quai commerciale four merchant vessels sunk east side SS PORTHEUS north end. One merchant vessel west of North End Transverse jetty. One or two in area between Quai Commerciale and Transverse jetty. Two submarines south of jetty Delure. PRIMAUGUET and two destroyers beached east of Transverse jetty. Magnitude of salvage problem and vital necessity of clearing port indicate need of salvage personnel and equipment greatly in excess of that planned. Recommend experienced salvage officer be flown in to assist in survey and to plan and supervise project". This is C.T.F. 34 dispatch 0441Z/12.  
 (Cominch 0905/12 to Admty.)

\* S.S. PORTHOS 12692 *F. 12. 42. P. 53.*

N.C.X.F. pass to R.A. W. Africa, U.S.S. BARNEGAT, BISCAYNE Comnavu, Cominch, Cinclant, C.T.G. 34.8. My 2114Z/11 need for P B Y Squadron urgent. Request estimated time of arrival Lyautey. (C.T.F. 34 0928/12 to N.C.X.F.)

A.M. 1848/11, A.M. 1849/11 C.W.N.T.F. 2114/11 received corrupt and Comtask 34 0928/12.  
 1. 6 Catalinas of V P 92 leave Freetown for Bathurst to refuel this afternoon they will leave Bathurst for Lyautey at 0100 tomorrow arriving about 1700.  
 2. Remaining 6 Catalinas will, leave Freetown noon tomorrow. They will leave Bathurst about 0100 Saturday arriving Lyautey about 1700. U.S.S. BISCAYNE will leave Freetown for Lyautey p.m. Friday.  
 (R.A.W. Af. 1557Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Comtask 34, Comtask 34.8.)

/A/S ...



506

War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday..FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - con/17.A/S  
Sweeps  
Force H.

I propose to fly Albacore anti-Sub. V sweeps tonight between 1830 and 2200 in an area between Algiers and Oran.

(2) Force H will keep west of 002° E. during these operations owing danger night air attack.

(3) Request you will inform me particular part of this area you wish searched with details shipping movements also if any bombing restrictions will be (? in force.)

(S.O. Force H. 0939/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) R.A.A. F.O. Inshore Squadron, N.C.C.N.T.F. Cdre. Algiers, C.S.10.)

Your 0939/12. Sweep in area between 00 and 03 east north of line joining the following positions 36° 30' N. 00° 00' and 37° 00' N. 03° 00' E. No bombing restrictions in force in this area. Only known shipping convoy T.E.2 position at 1800 36° 11' N. 00° 40' W. course 72° 7 knots. Cdre. Algiers is requested report any other shipping.

(N.C.X.F. 1435Z/12 to S.O. Force H. (R) R.A.(A) S.O. Inshore Squadron, Cdre. Algiers.)

Direct me over S/M in position LBXP 3955.  
(BULLDOG 0950/12 to A/C C/S HM9Y.)

Oran.

Can you berth one battleship, one carrier, 2 cruisers and attendant destroyer at Mers-el-Kebir without serious interference with unloading? (N.C.X.F. 0954Z/12 to F.O.I.C., Oran (R), S.O. Force I, N.C.C.N.T.F.)

Algiers.

Can cruisers be berthed at Algiers without serious interference with unloading? If so how many? (N.C.X.F. 0956Z/12 to Cdre. Algiers (R) S.O. Force H.)

11th Nov.  
to 2400  
Sitrep 5.Increased U-boat and Air attacks on shipping aided by temporary failure to establish fighters at Jijelli resulted higher casualties. Dawn landing of 36 Infantry Brig. Group at Bougie unopposed. Projected landing Jijelli abandoned owing swell. Force now landed Bougie and moving Jijelli by road. Algiers 10/11 Combat teams assembled removing guards from French Headquarters and barracks. City ~~clam~~ calm reception friendly and dock labour returning. THOMAS STONE arrived Algiers. *see pp 508, 510, 512,*  
Oran 1 blocked ship towed clear, available berths 8 alongside and gas at anchor. Subsequent reports indicate reservist force made gallant attempt to prevent scuttling from 2 sloops which succeeded in penetrating harbour, 1 reaching Western end as planned. Discharge of ships proceeding at Arzeu and Mers el Kebir. Casablanca area French Army capitulated 0700 hours. All landings continue weather conditions continuing favourable. Oued Sebou partially blocked by 2 ships but landing craft working from ships off coast to Port Lyautey. Air reconnaissance reported Fedala

/Force ...



507

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - 12/11/42

11th Nov. Force entering Casablanca, part of combat command  
to 2400 from Safi between Axemmour and Maxagan. Enemy  
Sitrep 5. reinforcements advancing from Marrakech, success-  
(contd.) fully repulsed, 10 November. Off Fedala transport  
destroyer and oiler torpedoed by submarine, former  
sunk later, two damaged. In Casablanca Harbour  
at least 9 ships sunk.

Air Gibraltar. 27 A/S Sorties during day. 7 submarine  
sightings, 3 attacks. P.R.U. Sorties to Toulon and  
Philippeville. Beaufighter R/C Casablanca area successful.  
Algiers area Axis air attack on Maison Blanche Aerodrome night  
of 10/11 November. No damage. 36 transport aircraft with  
British paratroops arrived Maison Blanche from Gibraltar dawn  
11 Nov. 12 transport aircraft also arrived from Oran with  
U.S. Paratroops. 14 Bisleys also arrived Blida direct from U.K.  
No air activity reported from Oran and Casablanca area.  
(Commandeth Gibraltar 1000/12 to Abfor.)

- Salvage. 1. Salvage equipment and personnel for harbours  
taken up with Navy. Nanf gave following  
memorandum to C.C.S. here.
2. "In anticipation of salvage requirements at the ports to be  
under U.S. control, 1 salvage vessel is now with Commander  
W.N.T.F, and 2 additional salvage vessels are en route to that  
port.
3. They are equipped to start operations and continue them for  
10 days to 2 months depending on nature of work.
4. Additional salvage supplies are either en route or available  
on East Coast. The exact status of this additional material  
is being investigated.
5. Captain Ellsberg has been loaned to the U.S. Army and is  
now in or en route to Turkey. The Army will make him available  
to Admiral Cunningham as soon as possible.
6. No other Naval Salvage ships are available on the East  
Coast. It is estimated that at least 2 Merritt-Chapman-Scott  
vessels can be made available to sail in about 2 weeks, equipped  
to perform 10 days and 2 months work, depending on amount and  
kind of work.
7. Additional gear and supplies can be made available on East  
Coast in 1 week to 10 days to support these operations for 2  
additional months of general work. An accurate estimate of  
date of arrival overseas of this material depends on the  
investigation of shipping space and movements of convoys.
8. No really constructive planning can be done until:-  
(a) Magnitude and nature of job is correctly estimated  
(b) Amount of supplies actually arriving in area is reported.  
(c) British capabilities are fully explored.  
(d) Material equipment requirements estimated".
9. Discuss this with Admiralty in London and ascertain British  
capabilities.
10. Relay that information to Commandeth and advise us.  
Orders have been issued to General Hyde at Accra to have Ellsberg  
now at Urban to fly to Oran without delay.  
(Agwar 1011Z/12 to Usfor.)

/Enemy ...



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". Contd.

Enemy report T.O.O. 0718, these 2 ships will be reconnoissanced at noon, since Tunis is blocked consider destination probably Bizerta.  
(Capt. (S) 10 1034A/12 to S/Ms on patrol  
(R) N.C.X.F.)

Situation  
Report No.8

1. Bougie. Enemy air attacks by about 50 aircraft resulted in  
(A) AWATEA being set on fire and abandoned.  
(B) ROBERTS considerable upper deck damage. *see pp 506, 510*  
(C) ARGUS damage to flight deck but still in operation. *see p. 507*  
French Port Authorities at Bougie co-operating.
2. Algiers. Port working improving. All ships of assault convoys should be sailed for Gibraltar by p.m. 12th November.  
\* THOMAS STONE arrived in tow. LEEDSTOWN now sunk. *\* see pp 506, 510*
3. Oran. 1 block ship at inner entrance towed clear and *512* outer boom obstruction removed. Berth now available for 8 ships in harbour. Remaining quays blocked by scuttled ships but hoped that majority can be raised.
4. WALNEY and HARTLAND had made a very gallant attempt to prevent this scuttling. Both ships entered harbour and succeeded in landing troops. WALNEY penetrated to western end of Bassin Gueydin before being sunk.
5. Discharge at Arzeu and Mers-el-Kebir proceeding rapidly using landing craft, landing ships, tanks and small landing ship infantry in addition to alongside berth. Intention is to open up Mostagnem and Nemours as soon as possible.
6. Fedala. Submarine attack sank transport JOSEPHUS (? JOSEPH HEWES and damaged destroyer HAMBLETON and Oiler PEBOOSKI (? WINOOSKY) Submarine counter attack hopeful. Nine or more ships sunk in Casablanca Harbour including five at Quai Commerciale.
7. HECLA and MARNE torpedoed by \*submarine in position 35.50 N. 09.57 W. at 0114/12. HECLA sunk. Tugs en route. *see pp 499, 500, 501*
8. Losses off Bougie largely due to failure to occupy Jijelli aerodrome by sea due to swell. Now occupied by land. Anti-submarine air patrols made three attacks on U-Boats of which one very promising. *\* U:505-575*
9. Situation appears favourable for rapid exploitation. A Commando embarked in two destroyers should reach Bone a.m. 13th. (N.C.X.F. 1051Z/12 to Admty. (R) V.A.M., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., B.A.D. A.F.H.Q. (London))  
N.C.X.F. 1017Z/12 see 1051Z/12 which gives the entire message.

Force R.

Intend to sail Force R for Gibraltar when both oilers are empty probably noon tomorrow 13th Nov. unless you require them sailed to Algiers to take advantage of their escort.  
(S.O. Force H. 1052Z/12 to N.C.X.F., (R)  
S.O. Inshore Squadron, C.S.10, Cdre. Algiers.)

/AURORA ...



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday..

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - contd.

AURORA.

*See p. 516*

Intend to sail Arzeu for Gibraltar at 1800Z routed through positions 13 thence direct. S. of A. 20 knots. (AURORA 1055Z/12 to N.C.C.N.T.F. (R) N.C.X.F. ? A.S. Gib.)

E.T.A. ?(17)00.  
(FLUELLEN 1100Z/12 to S.N.O.L. Z.)

U/B sunk by STARWORT.

*LOTUS # (Cmd. 6843)*

German S/M sunk by STARWORT 036° 07' N. 001° 00' W. (WESTCOTT 1104Z/12 to N.C.X.F.(R) N.C.C.N.T.F. F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)

My 1104Z. Prisoners taken as follows. STARWORT 1st Lieut. plus 28. VERITY 7. WIVERN Captain plus 8. Submarine was U ~~660~~ and sunk as result of depth charge attack by STARWORT.

(WESTCOTT 1150/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.C.N.T.F., F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)

Proceed to westward at best speed. Orders follow.  
(Gib. W/T 1105Z/12 to LANDGUARD.)

Naval aircraft.

A.M. 1700/11 not to S.O. Force H. F.O.C.N.A. I do not know A/C losses in Force H. or ARGUS but position here is as follows.

(1) FURIOUS no Albatrosses remain serviceable, 3 under repairs, 3 Swordfish earmarked to replace. Seafires 15 serviceable plus 5 repairable.  
(2) On shore Gibraltar. 833 squadron being completed to 6 Swordfish for local patrol. 3 Swordfish earmarked for FURIOUS. In reserve 19 Seafires, 8 Hurricanes, 4 Swordfish.  
(3) At Algiers and Oran 12 Swordfish 813 squadron.  
Para. 2 as soon as you can break W/T silence request you will propose programme which will effectively equip FURIOUS and FORMIDABLE for immediate further operation in Mediterranean and allow VICTORIOUS to return to U.K. with fighters not required by you and sufficient T.S.R. for essential A/S patrols.  
(N.C.X.F. 1107Z/12 to R.A.A. H.F. (R) (?Admty.) S.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1107/12. Propose:

- (a) FORMIDABLE takes 2 Albatrosses, 7 Martlets from VICTORIOUS, one Seafire from Gibraltar.
- (b) FURIOUS takes 6 Albatrosses from VICTORIOUS and 11 Seafires from Gibraltar.
- (c) FORMIDABLE with 12 Albatrosses, 27 Martlets, 8 Seafires and FURIOUS with 9 Albatrosses, 26 Seafires will then have normal aircraft complement which will make least difficulty in stores. These are also part of complement for the Med.
- (d) VICTORIOUS will have 9 Albatrosses, 4 Seafires, 7 Martlets, 5 Fulmars which is enough to go home with.

/(e) ...



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - con. 13.

Naval aircraft (contd.) (e) Aircraft from VICTORIOUS to be transferred without crews. Am strongly against transferring whole squadron or parting them as proposed as Admty's 1700/11. VICTORIOUS Squadrons should remain in their ships where they are now working efficiently. Any deficiencies of air crews should be made up from pool at Gibraltar.  
(f) Your 1208/12. VICTORIOUS and FORMIDABLE should be in harbour together to transfer aircraft stores and petrol.  
(R.A. (A) H.F. 1735Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Force H.)

Force O. Force O less AVENGER will be north of 37° 10' N. and west of 001° E. during tonight. S.O. Inshore Squadron 0729Z/12 not to Capt. (S) 8 refers.  
(C.S.10 1125Z/12 to N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H. S.O. Inshore Squadron, Capt. (S) 8.)

Air attack on Oran 8 Nov. Examination of aerodrome at Oran after attack by 8 Albatroses and 22 fighters F.A. dawn 8th Nov. shows.  
(A) Destroyed in hangar or on Tarmac nearby 9 (?Le) 451, 6 Bloch 175, 7 Dewoitine 520, 3 (light?) aircraft.  
(B) Destroyed on aerodrome 22, of which half twin-engine bombers and half Dewoitine 520. Total 47. Own aircraft one mark.  
(2) Hurricane and one Albatros Numbers B.F.665, G.B.W. 88799 both burnt out. Bombing was very accurate nearly all bombs falling inside hangars. This probably accounts for our complete immunity from air attack during (first entry?). All aircraft were bombed up alerted and ready to fly.  
(N.C.C.N.T.F. 1139Z/12 to N.C.X.F. FURIOUS (R) BITER, R.A.A. DASHER, R.A.N.A.S. Admty.)

Your 2019Z/11 (Not received) Retention <sup>\*</sup>KEREN is nor acceptable. Request should be made to Captain <sup>\*</sup>THOMAS STONE for use of that ship pending other arrangements.  
(N.C.X.F. 1153Z/12 to Algiers for Chief of Staff.)

*x see pp 506, 508  
\* see p. 508*

STORK My 1156Z/12 part 3 final.  
torpedoed. 2. Following up shipping of K.M.S.2 and K.M.F.2 for (?Bougie) is held Algiers.  
*see p. 505* 3. K.M.F.A.2 and K.M.S.A.2 arrived 0900/12.  
M.K.F.1 and M.K.S.1 sail tonight with delayed portion following on Friday or Saturday. PRINSES BEATRIX arrived 1000/12. *see p. 505*  
4. STORK torpedoed by S/M 5 miles North of Cape Caxine at 0312 while on A/S patrol. Has reached harbour. Hit (?forward), hull deriously damaged. No casualties.  
(S.O.I.S. 1156/12 to N.C.X.F.)  
Part 1 and 2 not received.



511

12.11.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - 10/11.

Three Italian Battleships at Sea. Morning 12th.  
 (1) Taranto photos. 3 Littorio battleships, 5 Destroyers have sailed, otherwise unchanged.  
 (2) Messina visual 4 Destroyers have sailed cruiser still present.  
 (3) Naples visual unchanged.  
 (4) At sea 2 merchant ships, 5 Destroyers 038° 00' N. 011° 30' E. course westerly 10 knots at 1015A.  
 (V.A. Malta 1216A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) E.N.T.F., C.N.T.F. S.O. Force H., C. in C. Med. F.O.C.N.A. Admty., MANXMAN.)  
 P.M. R/C. My 1216/12 (1) 3 Battleships, 11 destroyers 039° 54' N. 014° 19' E. at 2120A/12.  
 (2) Trapani 8 Italian E-Boats sailed.  
 (3) Palermo (?2) U-Boats sailed.  
 (4) Other ports no change.  
 (V.A. Malta 2211A/12, 2221A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Force H., Admty., E.N.T.F., C.N.T.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)  
 P.M. R/C. My 1216/12th.  
 (1) 3 battleships, 11 destroyers 039° 54' N. 014° 19' E. at 2120A/12th.  
 (2) Trapani, 8 Italian E-boats sailed.  
 (3) Palermo, 3 destroyers sailed.  
 (4) Other ports no change.  
 (V.A. Malta 2221A/12 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty. etc.)  
 You have no doubt considered possibility that Italian capital ships reported N. of Messina may be bent on blockading French Fleet or cutting them off if they sail.  
 (1st S.L. 1915A/12 to N.C.X.F.)  
 Your 1915/12 yes but I fear this is too much to hope for.  
 (N.C.X.F. 2135Z/12 to Admty.)

Ref. G.224. Appreciate necessity for information requested in your G.224, but reports not yet received from Task Forces.

Known that Oran is blocked by sunken ships and only 2 alongside berths so far available. No estimate yet available when further alongside berths will be cleared nor of state of cranes..

Estimate requested from C.T.F. Expect early report from Algiers and Bougie. No report from Casablanca. Command Post Party visiting Casablanca today.  
 (A.F.C.P. Gibraltar 1221Z/12 to Abfor.)

U-Boat attacked by A/C 035° 55' N. 008° 17' W. about 1230Z/12.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1255Z/12 to PRESCOTT, LANDGUARD, VENOMOUS.)

Mines off Tunis. Your 0942A/12. Yes please.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1300Z/12 to V.A. Malta (R) Admty.)

Your 1828/11. Important that services of \* PELICAN should be retained as C.O. of 45th Escort Group. Request you will keep FLEETWOOD in place of IBIS.  
 (D.O.D.(H) 1305A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

\* 12/12. 517

/Consider ...



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - contd.

Consider of vital importance that no public announcement be made of our forward movements nor any places mentioned since this is liable to produce immediate heavy scale of air attack. (F.O. Inshore Sqdn. 1320Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

THOMAS STONE.

*See pp 506, 508  
510*

Following for U.S. Naval Frontier Com. Oran from C.T.D. 11 (begins). U.S.A. THOMAS STONE requires major dry docking. Stern must be entirely rebuilt due to torpedo hit. Would it be practicable to repair her at Oran. Could you arrange to tow her there. Info. Com. E.R. E.U. For O.P. Navy and B.U. ships, ends.)  
(N.C.E.N.T.F. 1330Z/12 to N.C.F.C.N.T.F.)

My 2148Z/12 (as received). Also intend A/S air escort 13/11 dawn to dusk M.K.S. one, one C. (N.C.X.F. 1342Z/12 to S. & As Western Med.)

U/B attacked  
by VERITY.

*See p. 515*

C.A.F.O. 834/41.

(A) VERITY.  
(B) 1400Z/11.  
(C) 036° 01' N. 001° 12' W.  
(D) 28.  
(E) 1915Z/11.  
(VERITY 1345Z/12 to Admty., N.C.X.F., N.C.C.N.T.F. F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. (D) 13.)

Your 1315/10th confirmed.

(N.C.X.F. 1355Z/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Disposition (corrupt groups) my 1600 position 035° 38' N. 010° 25' W. Course 180°. Advance 12.3 knots.  
(U.G.F. 1402Z/12 JONQUIL.)

Brief situation report for area west of Algiers 2002Z/12 S/Ms excepted.

(1) T.E.3, 36° 15' N. 00° 15' W. to Algiers 7.  
(2) AVENGER, 4 M/Vs, 2 destroyers R/V in 37° 01' N. 02° 15' E. and sail to Gibraltar 2130Z/12.  
(N.C.X.F. 1410Z/12 to S. & As in Area G.)

/Bizerta ...



513

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - contd.

Bizerta.

R/C shows Bizerta partially blocked and appears probable that shipping must anchor off breakwater. Submerged attack by moonlight as early as possible appears hopeful, seaward patrols must be expected.

(Capt. (S) 10 1445A/12 to P.48.)

Cancel my 1445A/12 the outer harbour can still be entered by merchant ships.

(Capt. (S) 10 1535A/12 to P.48.)

Detach Oran section under escort which is to rejoin on completion. Do not wait for craft in my 1401Z/11.

(N.C.X.F. 1505Z/12 to LOTUS (R) F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Oran area arrival T.E.3 departures LETITIA, ORBITA, ETRICK, EMPIRE CONFIDENCE, ALAINOUS, WALT, WHITMAN, HAVILDAN, ST. ESSYLT.

(N.C.C.N.T.F. 1517Z/12 to Fairmiss (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C., Gibraltar.)

Situation  
at 1200/12.

An armistice has been signed in North Africa but German Air and Ground units are infiltrating into Tunisia. Our forward troops reached Bone today Thursday. The ports of Algiers, Bougie, Arzeu, Mars-el-Kebir and Fedala are working.

Ships have been sunk in ports of Oran and Casablanca which interfere with port working but this will I hope only be temporary. The assaults went with a swing, a fact of which we may well be proud. Next task is not finished. We must assist the Allied Army to keep up the momentum of their assault and reestablish our control of the Mediterranean.

(N.C.X.F. 1550Z/12 to All British S. and As concerned in operation "Torch", V.A. Malta (excluding ships refitting in U.K))

My 1209 (corrupt group). Consider arrival by nightfall 12 November of even one PBY or Catalina equipped for A/S of urgent necessity. Plane to patrol vicinity Fedala transports throughout night and co-ordinate attack with destroyer screen. Inform me of W/T and Voice call of plane. Unless otherwise informed transports will guard 3925 night 6666 day and 2410 Voice using call Viv for W/T and Dabchick Voice.  
(S.O.W.N.T.F. 1630Z/12 to N.C.X.F.)

FELIXSTOWE and CLACTON tonight return to anti-sub patrol off Arzeu.

(N.C.C.N.T.F. 1647Z/12 to EXE (R) RHYL.)

*See p. 516*

/S/M situation ...



514

War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - contd.S/M  
Situation in  
Western Med.  
at 2000Z/12.

1. P.51, P.222, P.228 off Toulon.
2. \*STURGEON 37° 57' N. 00° 13' W. diving by day two knots surfacing by night nine knots course 41°. *\* See next page*
3. CLYDE 38° 12' N. 07° 07' E. diving by day two knots, surfacing by night eleven and half knots through 38° 59' N. 05° 01' E. thence 270.
4. \*TRIBUNE left Gibraltar 1700/12 to eastwards on surface within 10 miles of Spanish (?group omitted) diving at dawn. (N.C.X.F. 1659Z/12 to S. & As in area G.) *\* See p. 521*

NORFOLK,  
CUMBERLAND.*See p. 492*

N.C.X.F. 1041/11 not to C. in C. W.A. or C. in C. H.F. Onward route through positions D. 52° 02' N. 18° 59' W. E. 55° 57' N. 13° 01' W. F. 55° 35' N. 08° 02' W. thence to Clyde.

2. C. in C. H.F. is requested to order destination for cruisers and position in which they are to part company.  
(D.O.D. (H) 1730A/12 to N.C.X.F. 167, C. in C. H.F. (R) NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, F.O.C.N.A. D.17, S.8, ORIBI, OFFA, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Tons 5. Request action as follows: N.C.C.N.T.F.  
(a) Was serial 2 complied with (?)  
(b) Initiate movement for serial 7.  
F.O.I.C. Oran.  
(c) Initiate movement for serial 4, 10, 11, 13, 14. E.F.G.  
(d) \*JURA and \*ROUSAY and 10th Trawler Group as required by F.O.I.S. in accordance with appendix 2.  
(e) Serial 9 may be deferred until Arzeu Bay is clear of shipping.  
(N.C.X.F. 1746Z/12 to N.C.C.N.T.F. Flag O. I/C Oran (R) F.O. Inshore Squadron.)

*\* See p. 516*

Do not return to Gibraltar.  
(FERMOY 1755Z/12 to WOODSTOCK.)

Special U/B  
Estimate,  
Weather  
Forecast.

Admty. pass to C.T.F.34. Special U-Boat estimate east of 26 West (all positions are North and West unless otherwise indicated)  
9 estimated Casablanca to Gibraltar.  
7 Western Mediterranean.  
In addition British estimate 27 Italians operating invasion area.  
4 Southbound off Southern Portugal.  
3 Southbound Area 41.15.  
4 Northbound.  
09.19 09.21 31.21 38.18 3 homebound 45.06. 44.14 from poor D.F. 0312Z/12.  
44.18 from poor D.F. 2016Z/11.  
2 Westbound 48.10 52.23. One locality 48.40.  
16.50 by D/F 1531Z/11.

/One ...



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch"- con/5.

Special U/B Estimate, Weather Forecast (contd.) One locality 40.40 21.30 by D/F 1042Z/12. One refuelling sub area 50.25. One area 47.07. One 46.24. 4 estimated Azores to Madiera. One Italian 22 21.30 by poor D/F. 0034Z/12. 2 off Dakar. 3 Patrolling. 0203. 03.06 02.09. Total Atlantic area 99. Weather forecast Atlantic coast Morocco Thursday and Friday. Partly cloudy. Wind light S.W. becoming Northerly 10 knots veering to N.E. Friday. Visibility 12 miles becoming poor with haze during night. Base of low clouds 5,000 ft. Swell N.W. slight to moderate decreasing. Light Azores 1200Z. Thursday swell long moderate N.E. 4 feet period 8 seconds sea moderate to rough. (Cominch 1815/12 to C.T.F.s 34, 38, 39 (R) Cinclant, C.T.F.30.) Passing action taken by W.R.

My 1216/12. (?ROYAL ULSTERMAN) and SALACIA should embark craft. Send remainder to Mers-el-Kebir with 8th Trawler Group. Tow them if practicable. (N.C.C.T.F. 1832Z/12 to S.N.O.L.'Y'.)

One destroyer and one large unidentified warship both darkened steering 180° 17 knots in 037° 50' 000° 21' W. at 1830Z.  
\*(STURGEON 1840Z/12 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) N.C.X.F.)

\* *See previous page*

WELSHMAN.

Remain off harbour entrance boat will be sent. (S.O.W.N.T.F. 1846/12 to WELSHMAN.) Sailed WELSHMAN at 1300Z/12 direct to Casablanca with Admiral Bieri U.S. Navy and small army staff to contact N.C.W.N.T.F. and General Patton expected time of arrival 1900Z. (F.O.C.N.A. 1956Z/12 to Admty.)

U.S. Cruiser AUGUSTA is inside harbour. She sent boat for party at 1945Z. Intend closing harbour at 0400Z/13 to re-embark party. (WELSHMAN 2015Z/12 to N.C.X.F.)

Possible torpedo passed under my stern approx. course 160° in 300 Capd(?) Aigu(?)ille at 1827Z.  
\*(VERITY 1850Z/12 to S.O. C.N.T.F. (R) WESTCOTT.)

\* *See p. 512*

Proceed in execution previous orders. (N.C.C.N.T.F. 1908Z/12 to AMERICA.) *Not Am Exp'd.*

U/B sunk by CLARE.

S/M sighted in 037° 41' N. 000° 10' W. at 1855Z. Observed to dive. CLARE attacked. (C.S.10 1910Z/12 to N.C.X.F.)

/Conditions ...



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch". - contd.

Condition of Casablanca. Your SVC 119. Condition of Casablanca Port appears satisfactory from aerial R/C. Communications with W.T.F. most unsatisfactory. Expected to improve this matter during day.

In meantime am dispatching Admiral Bieri and Liaison Group to area by fast surface vessel to transmit instructions and collect information. Air situation slowly improves but have not yet ordered 2 P.B.Y. Squadrons into Casablanca where I am anxious to place them for anti-sub purposes. At all ports, the subs are concentrating and we must use every possible counter measure. Am.  
(Gibraltar (relayed to Agwar) 1940Z/12 to Abfor.)

Following sent to C.T.G. 34.1 for action and Cominch and C. in C. Atlantic Fleet for information in another system is also information you (Begins). Covering group duties completed. Return home waters. Promulgate routing. (Ends) (N.C.W.N.T.F. 2001Z/12 to N.C.X.F.)

→ Movements,  
Oran area.

Oran area arrival \*ROUSAY, \*JURA, GUARDIAN.  
Departure \*AURORA, EXE, POLRUAN, RHODODENDRON, ABERDEEN, DEPTFORD, SWALE.  
(N.C.C.N.T.F. 2003Z/12 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Oran.) \* See p. 509 x p. 514

U.G.F.2.  
to be  
kept clear.

See p. 502.

Cancel my 0902Z/12. Request U.G.F. be diverted to clear this area until further directions. Request TERROR be detached to proceed to Casablanca from rendezvous to be designated by you under escort of 1 destroyer. Intend to lay minefield off Casablanca using TERROR, MONADNOCK, \*M(IG?)TONOMAH. N.C.X.F. pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet and Commaveu.  
(N.C.W.N.T.F. 2035Z/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Commaveu C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.T.F. 34.8.) \*MIANTONOMAH

Your 1647 <sup>/p 513</sup> passed via SWALE. If FELIXSTOWE and CLACTON are returned to patrol EXE and SWALE will be only effective escorts for convoy of 8 ships. RHODODENDRON, POLRUAN now with convoy insufficient, neither R D/F nor Asdic effective. Request further instructions.  
(EXE 2056Z/12 to N.C.C.N.T.F. (R) RHYL.)

(i) Intend SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS proceed to Gibraltar in company with Force O to refuel before joining Force H.  
(ii) E.T.A. 0100Z/14. Request arrangements be made to transfer 5 officers and 102 ratings ex IBIS from SCYLLA, including 2 seriously ill. SCYLLA also has one officer seriously wounded in leg.

/(iii) ...



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" .- contd.

(iii) ARGUS has 9 Seafire and 3 Hurricanes serviceable. *see p. 508*  
 (iv) CHARYBDIS requires 2 right and one left guns H.4 complete for pom-pom mark 7. *see p. 516*  
 (C.S.10 2103Z/12 to N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H. F.O.C.N.A., R.A.A. (R) SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS.)

Air France flying boat base has been taken over for Naval Aircraft. Details will be sent in writing. Walrus are based there and do continuous A/S Patrols. Request maintenance crews and store of disembarked aircraft be sent at very first opportunity. No stores available and all inspections being done by flying crews of aircraft.  
 (S.O.I.S. 2109/12 to S.O. Force H. (R) N.C.X.F. R.A.A.)

Request P.R.U. Naples at first light.  
 (N.C.X.F. 2136Z/12 to V.A. Malta.)

Request information whether French cable ships ALSACE and ARAGO are at Casablanca and if so whether serviceable.  
 (N.C.X.F. 2150Z/12 to N.C.E.N.T.F.)

E.T.A. Bougie 0100A/13.  
 \*(PELICAN 2200A/12 to N.O.I.C. Bougie (R) F.O. Inshore Algiers.) *\* see p. 511*

Cinclant has for infd. Admty. re-encypher and deliver to C.T.F. 34 for action C. in C. A.F. for info. Request following information to make estimate of requirements. Names of vessels sunk. Any available information as to damage sustained. How were they sunk. Are ships upright or capsized. How much of ships remain above water. Depth of water. Character of bottom. Is water clear or muddy. Salvage Officer Capt. W.A. Sullivan arriging Lyautey via Type 314 Boeing Flying Boat Tuesday 17th if landing conditions permit. Advise.  
 (Vice Opnav 2220/12 to Admty.)

Expected time of arrival 0600Z/13. Request acknowledgment.  
 (VENOMOUS 2222Z/12 to F.O. Casablanca (R) C.W.N.T.F.)

/RUTLEDGE ...



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12.11.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - contd.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE,  
TASKER H. BLISS,  
HUGH L. SCOTT  
torpedoed.

Following is C.T. Group 34.9 1440/12 passed you for information (Begins) RUTLEDGE, BLISS, SCOTT torpedoed. Have gone to sea. Left three D.Ms with disabled ships. (27 groups missing) (??) 35.33 N. longitude 10.23 W. Will await instructions (Ends). (N.C.W.N.T.F. 2345Z/12 to N.C.X.F.)

## Transports.

Your 1807A/11.

(1) BATORY, MONARCH OF BERMUDA left Gibraltar 11/11 in special convoy for U.K. M.K.F.1 sailed 12/11 consisting of WINCHESTER CASTLE, SOBIESKI, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, WARWICK CASTLE, DURBAN CASTLE, LEINSTER, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE for Clyde. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, OTRANTO, DERBYSHIRE, TEGELBERG for Liverpool. E.T.A. obtainable from Admty.

(2) NIEUW ZEELAND sunk.

(3) VICEROY OF INDIA, \*LEEDSTOWN, KACANOA sunk. AWATEA abandoned probable total loss. THOMAS B. STONE damaged arrived Algiers. DEMPO some damage. CATHAY serious underwater damage and uncontrollable flooding. LLANGIBBY CASTLE has structural damage engineers accommodation by shell fire. \*KEREN will sail in M.K.F.2. Further report regarding remainder of K.M.F.1 vessels will follow on as soon as information available. M.K.F.1 should be able to maintain turn-round. Agreed. (P.S.T.O.X.F. 1934Z/12 to D. of S.T.)

\* /? KARANJA  
\* See pp 503, 505, 508  
\* See p. 510

## Cables.

Ref. No. G.258.

1. Discussion was had with Admty. signals and cable and wireless London Office. Following submarine cable arrangements to serve Allied bases in N.W. Africa are suggested.
  - a. Provided Algiers-Gibraltar by joining Algiers-Marseilles number 4 to Gibraltar-Malta number 1.
  - b. Provided Casablanca-Gibraltar by relaying first 60 miles of Casablanca-Brest and tailing with 200 miles from Italian St. Vincent (Cape Verde) to Las Palmas.
2. Consideration given to connecting Casablanca to other point in cable system to give better outlet to U.S.A. and keep extra traffic off Gibraltar but difficulty of effecting necessary deep water linkage in winter conditions makes b. above seem best alternative.
3. Oran-Gibraltar has been mentioned for possible direct cable linkage and this might be effected by repair and diversion of Oran-Tangier. In view, however, of good land communication between Oran and Algiers, need for cable linkage does not seem pressing.
4. If you agree with foregoing, Admty. will take necessary action with cable and wireless to move cable ships and provide any additional operators and equipment found necessary.
5. At later stage restoration of Bona-Malta cables will be important. Desirable that Eastern Telegraph Company Office at Bona should be occupied intact among first objectives.



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War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - LHM/3:-

Cables.  
(contd.)

6. Understand French cable ship ALSACE and ARAGO at Casablanca. Please advise. These ships would be of great value to supplement Allied cable ship resources.

7. Brigadier Beadon has concurred for War Office. (A.F.H.Q. No T.O.O/12 to Commandeth Gibraltar.)

Your G.258. Proposals in your G.258 concurred in but consider value cable outlet from Africa alternative to Gibraltar is great and propose that Casablanca-U.S.A. cable be provided earliest practicable date. Intend to start work on Algiers-Gibraltar link next week and Gibraltar-Casablanca link immediately thereafter. Oran-Gibraltar link under consideration. Inquiries being made re ALSACE and ARAGO.

(Commander Gibraltar No T.O./12 to Eisenhower (A.F.H.Q.))



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- U/B Am over enemy S/M in position 36.39 N 00.05 W.  
(A/C C/S UM9Y 0808Z/12 to Gibraltar.)  
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 220° estimated speed 10 knots.  
(A/C C/S VM9Y 0847Z/12 to Gibraltar.)
- TIGRIS Route to Gib. as in my 1204/10. S of A 9½ knots to A, and thereafter 11 knots.  
(Capt. S.8. 0902Z/12 to TIGRIS (R) F.O.S. V.A. Gibraltar.)
- U/B Am over enemy S/M in 36.58 N 00.42 E sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 210° speed 10 knots.  
(A/C of No.3 Air Observer School (R.C.A.F.) 0910/12 to Gibraltar.)
- LEYLAND My 2226/11 para (1). <sup>N.T.A. 21.3. Sup p 466</sup> Delete NOLISEMENT.  
MIRROR (F.O.C.N.A. 1006Z/12 to LEYLAND.) Former amended.  
My 2226/11. NOLISEMENT will be at least 2 hours late. Inform MIRROR accordingly.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2050Z/12 to LEYLAND)
- JAUNTY Left ALASKA and LEYLAND in 038° 25' N 009° 30' W  
ALASKA at 0900. Proceeded with all despatch to R/V.  
LEYLAND (JAUNTY 1012A/12 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)  
*Sup p 500 + 501*
- VINDICTIVE Pass west of position P 254° 8.5 cables from  
ALBRIGHTON South Mole Light. Berths for fuelling only bow  
GLAISDALE south on tanker BRITISH LADY 430 feet long at  
*See pp 500 + 501* (2 corrupt groups). Destroyers west side 36  
berths, bow north.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1015Z/12 to Ships named.)  
Arrival 1430A VINDICTIVE, GLAISDALE, \*ALBRIGHTON.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2026Z/12 to Admty.) *\* See p. 522*
- NAGPORE My 1115/10. Survivors consist of 4th engineer,  
survivors. one gunner and 17 lascars. Engineer reports no  
knowledge of disposal of confidential documents.  
He stated at 0500 hours on Oct. 29th when lifeboat  
was just south of Azores they sighted tanker of about 5000 tons  
painted grey, single mast one gun on bow, supplying submarine.  
Latter subsequently came alongside boat and questioned engineer  
as to name of his ship, port of departure and port of destination.  
(Consul Tenerife 1112/12 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 35.55 N 08.17 W.  
(A/C C/S UA1S T.O.R. 1217/12 to Gibraltar.)  
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked S/M with depth charges. S/M has dived in 35.55 N 08.17 W.  
(A/C C/S UA1S No. T.O.O./12 to Gibraltar.)

/SCHARLACHBERGER...



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.SCHARLACH-  
BERGERGerman 55 left for France 0320 G.M.T. 12th.  
loaded iron ore.  
(Consul, Bilbao 1235/12 to Admty. (R) M.E.W.  
B.N.A. Madrid. S.O.I. Gibraltar.)U/B  
C.F.7.Inconclusive D/F bearings on 11068 K/cs at  
1042Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity.  
(D.D.I.C. 1254A/12 to Escorts of C.F.7.)

Movements.

PORTSDOWN, YES/TOR, VIVIANA, SPHENE 039° 37' 030°  
28' to Horta. Situation 2002A/12.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1317/12, 1625Z/12 to A.I.G. 65.)

U/B

Am over enemy S/M in 36.42 N 2.05 E, when first  
sighted was on course 90°.  
(A/C C/S TXCCK 1415/12 to Gibraltar.)Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen in 37.20 N  
00.00.

(A/C C/S TXCCF 1430/12 to Gibraltar.)

Convoy  
U.G.F.2  
JONQUILMy 1600 position 035° 38' N 010° 25' W course  
180°. Advance 12.5 knots.  
(U.G.F.2. 1432Z/12 to JONQUIL.)

U/B

Am over enemy submarine in 36.42 N 00.33 E 4233.  
when sighted was on surface and observed to submerge  
(A/C C/S TXCCK 1459/12 to Gibraltar.)

RECHOU

Your 1129 Nov. 11th. Spanish RECHOU ship and  
cargo seized.  
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 1600/12 to M.E.W.)

TRIBUNE.

*See p. 514*TRIBUNE sailed 1700Z/12 155 miles a day keeping  
5 miles north of route S S thence through 039°  
12' N 001° 14' E and 042° 50' N 005° 56' E to  
enter area B off Toulon at 0001Z/17.  
(Capt. S.8. 1646Z/12 to 8 S/M.F.)Salvage  
vessels  
Casablanca.Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 344.  
Ref. Eisenhower's No. 282, T.O.O. 2340Z/10.  
(Salvage vessels required to clear port of  
Casablanca.)A. Arrangements are being made to send in convoy  
leaving Nov. 23rd. the only two salvage vessels in British Isles  
capable of steaming to Gibraltar.

B. There is nothing in Spain or Portugal worth obtaining.

C. Special arrangements to induce French salvage vessels from  
unoccupied France to escape were put in hand.

(Air Min. 1755Z/12 to Britman, Washington.)



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

→ BRIDGEWATER. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0800Z/13 Nov.  
(BRIDGEWATER 1800Z/12 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) R.A.W.A.)  
See also South Atlantic 0043/12.)

VAL DE LA HAYE Master and crew of French SS. VAL DE LA HAYE 778 tons, now at Santandar and usually running to Bayonne wish instructions how to join us.  
Could she be met at agreed R/V if I can find out next time of sailing? Or should I direct her to proceed independently to British Port? She would probably be doubtful of arriving without escort.  
(N.A. Madrid 1949/12 to Admty.) Reply Admty. 0952/14.

Spanish attitude. N.A. Madrid 2112/12 see Lion Copy.

Convoy M.K.F.1(X) Sailed 1730A DASHER, BITER,\*ALBRIGHTON, CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, ACHATES, ESCAPADE, BOADICEA, VANSITTART with convoy M.K.F.1(X). QZH 909 S382 X859 Y359.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 2222Z/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

\* 520 p 520

South Atlantic.

→ BRIDGEWATER. On leaving Ponta Delgada proceed to 035° 01' N 032° 00' W thence along Meridian of 032° W as far as 010° N and thence Freetown. You should look out for blockade runners KOTA NOPAN and ANNELIESE ESSBERGER.  
Report expected time of sailing and S.O.A.  
(R.A.W.A. 0043Z/12 to BRIDGEWATER. (R) ASTURIAS. F.O.C.N.A. Comsolantfor (R.A. Commanding))  
Your 0043Z/12. Expected time of sailing 1800Z/13 which may be delayed up to six hours by condenser trouble. S of A 12 knots.  
(BRIDGEWATER 1830Z/12 to R.A.W.A. (R) ASTURIAS. F.O.C.N.A. Comsolantfor.)

ASCANIUS "S" Report. The following has been read. SSSS ASCANIUS. 34.47 S 22.45 E. Submarine on surface.  
(Simonstown W/T 0905 G.M.T./12.)  
Following has been read. S/M attack sig. ASCANIUS 34.44 S. 22.52 E. Still being chased apparently submarine.  
(Simonsotwn 0932 G.M.T./12.)

/ILEX...



SECRET

522A

2112/12 November.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

From: N.... Madrid

Date: 13/11/42.

Recd: 2130

Naval CShore Code C T P by Cable.

Recirculation at Request of D.N.I.

Addressed: Admiralty D.N.I. Repeated: F.O.C.N.A.

German reaction within Spain to change of opinion consequent on North African operations has taken form exciting extreme Falange to provocative acts (word omitted ?against) allies specially Great Britain. Falange leaders have forbidden this but certain elements particularly Falange students Union (S.E.U) are out of control.

S E U demonstration against this Embassy was staged for today but police prevented any gathering and have instructions to fire if necessary.

Some Anti-British leaflets have appeared,

General feeling of all classes is entirely on our side.

Many rumours current Axis demands but none appear to be true though Italians have suggested they should be allowed to occupy Balearic Is.

This was refused immediately.

German Ambassador is expected to present some demands or requests shortly.

All sources. B. two repetition B two;

2112/12.

Advance copy sent O.I.C. D.N.I.

1st Lord,  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.  
4th S.L.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.G.N.S.(F)  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
W.A. 1st S.L.  
P.A.S.(8)  
P.A.S.(0)  
O.D.(5)  
O.I.C.(3)

D.N.I.(5)  
D.S.D. 9 (2)  
M.(12)  
D. of P.(3)  
D. of P.(2)  
D.P.D.  
I.P.(3)  
W.D.  
Admiral Blake.

ocw.



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

ILEX My 1627Z/10. At limit of prudent endurance ILEX is to be detached to proceed Bahia thence Westomp as ordered by Comsolantfor.  
(R.A.W.A. 1036Z/12 to ROTHERHAM. (R) Escort of W.S.24. Comsolantfor. ILEX. C. in C. S.A. Admty. B.A.D.)

GLENEARN Situation report E. GLENEARN 035° 30' S 021° 30' E  
CATTERICK to Capetown 15 knots.  
CATTERICK 035° 40' S 025° 30' E to Simonstown 20 knots.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1044C/12.)

Vichy At 1226Z/11 Vichy Sloop\*A 75 in 4° 24' N 1° 08' W  
Sloops 253° 16 A.M. 11.Vichy Sloop\*A 72 in Konakry.  
(R.A.W.A. 1045Z/12 to Admty.)  
*\*Not his/23 m e. B. 1815.*

Lourenco Ref. 1730/5 from Lourenco Marques what is present  
Marques situation with regard to movements of shipping?  
(D.T.D. 1117A/12 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)  
Reply: C. in C. S.A. 0951/13.

D.18 to My 1411Z/9 (Re transfer of all A/S and M/S  
Command trawlers, Motor Launches, and M/L Base to command  
trawlers of Capt. D.18.) Intend to take place on 1st Dec.  
and 1942, and to appoint Capt. D.18 as Captain  
M.Ls. Freetown Escort Force from that date.  
(R.A.W.A. 1137Z/12 to Admty.)

Vichy Vichy convoy 6 M/V 2 E/V 1 A/P in position 016°  
Convoy. 10' ? N 016° 50' W at 1040Z/12 course 193° 6 to  
10 knots.  
(R.A.W.A. 1139Z/12 to Admty. N.C.X.F. C.W.N.T.F.  
Air H.Q. Gibraltar.)

158 and Your 1205/20 Oct. (N.T. in W.D.)  
164 It is assumed that 158th M.S.F. consists of the  
M.S.F. 5 vessels referred to in your 1816/10 Sept.  
Portion of the advance party for these vessels is  
on passage to U.S.A. and the remainder will leave  
shortly.  
(2) It is confirmed that necessary S.A.N.F. personnel will be  
sent to U.S.A. to fetch the 5 vessels of 164th M.S.F. and  
information is requested of approx. date on which delivery is to  
be taken.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1153/12 to Admty. (R) D.S.A.N.F.)



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

DRAGON. Cancel my 1959Z/8 not to N.O.I.C. Lagos. After refuelling at Lagos (Nigeria) proceed Freetown through following positions.  
A. 002° 10' N 002° 20' E. B. 001° 00' S 011° 00' W. C. 008° 06' N 014° 24' W.  
Report E.T.A. Freetown on sailing.  
(F.O.I.C. W.A. 1218Z/12 to DRAGON.)

Shipping  
W. Africa. In view of congestion at Takoradi request you will say whether it would be advantageous to route ships bound West African ports to Freetown and Lagos as holding ports for the coast.  
(D.T.D. 1253A/12 to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)  
Reply: R.A.W.A. 1259/14.

MILFORD  
TAMARISK Arrivals 12th.  
(R.N.O. Lagos (Nigeria) 1343Z/12 to Admty.)

EMPIRE  
GUIDON British ship EMPIRE GUIDON was unable to stream A.N.D. gear on passage New York to Alexandria via Durban on account of deck cargo shipped at New York in spite of Master's formal protest to M.W.T. representative. Consequently ship was torpedoed and sunk off Durban 31 Oct.  
(2) Consider action necessary to prevent repetition of such procedure.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1430C/12 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. Washington.)

Dispositions. Situation Report. BURDOCK, ARRAN, 1 M/L, escorting 09.22 14.14 to Freetown 10.  
ST. ZENO, 3 trawlers with A.T.21, about 0832/14 on passage to Freetown 8 at 2001Z/12.  
TURCOMAN escorting about 10.50 24.45 280° 8.  
(?LOUISBERG) 2 M/Ls escorting about 09.10 18.07 to Freetown 9.  
(R.A.W.A. 1531Z/12 to Area P.)

Dakar. No change 0915/12 Dakar P.R.U.  
(R.A.W.A. 1611Z/12 to Admty. Air H.Q. Gibraltar. N.C.X.F. N.C.W.N.T.F.)  
1645/12, P.R.U. Dakar. No change. Complete cover.  
(R.A.W.A. 2241Z/12 to Admty. N.C.X.F. C.W.N.T.F. Air H.Q. Gibraltar.)

TRUANT  
K.14.  
Dakar  
Patrol Your 0907/11. In view of the German Occupation of Vichy France it is now considered unlikely that the French ships in Dakar will attempt to return to France.  
2. Also in view of unreliability for operational patrol of two submarines you mention it is considered that their present programme should be adhered to.  
(V.C.N.S. 1635A/12 to R.A.W.A.)

/Shipping...



525

War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Shipping  
Keta.No objection - your 2134A/10.\*  
(R.A.W.A. 1649Z/12 to Admty.)  
\* (Concerning embarkation of produce at Keta.)

KHYBER.

F.O.C.N.A's 2359Z/10. Onward route from position  
(C) to (D) 12 North 20 West. (E) 09 North 16  
West.  
(R.A.W.A. 1815Z/12 to KHYBER.)Shipping  
reference  
positions.My 1639/7 ref. positions. Request reply to my  
Paras (2) and (3).  
2. Ref. C. in C. E.F. 1232/9 extra positions (A)  
to (D) given in my 1305/28 Oct. are preferred for  
general diversion purposes under present conditions  
for ships proceeding to S.A. Station from E.I. Stn.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1816C/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)  
Reply: D.T.D. 1425/14.~~KHYBER.~~~~F.O.C.N.A's 2359Z/10.  
Onward route from position (C) to (D) 12° N 20° W  
(E) 09° N 16° W.  
(R.A.W.A. 1815Z/12 to KHYBER (R) F.O.C.N.A.  
Admty.) in above.~~



12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

→ MANXMAN *see p. 529*  
 Your 2002/11th Nov. Codeword "Anger" in accordance with M H 1 appendix 3. (C. in C. Med., 0022B/12 to V.A. Malta (R) MANXMAN).  
 My 2002A/11th. Para. 4 amend position to 043° 40' N., 019° 32' E. (V.A. Malta, 0252A/12 to MANXMAN (R) C. in C. Med., No. 201 N.C. Group).

→ DULVERTON  
 Your 0310/12th C.O.I.S. Alexandria 00(?50) 12th position now appears very (?doubtful) Return to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 0501B/12 to ?DULVERTON (R) R.A.D. Med., 247 Wing, 201 Group, R.A. Alex. C.S.)

Enemy Units. Position of 2 Merchant vessels and 5 destroyers 38.00 N., 12.02 E., course 100° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/S X9QE 0718/12 to Hal Far) W.D. Note - Another version gives course 210°.  
 My 0718, enemy previously reported are 2 medium vessels of 6500 and 4500 tons respectively, 2 German planes (Me. 109s) 3 Italian planes (Cant. 506s). (A/C C/S X9QE., 0730/12, to Hal Far).  
 My 0718. Position of 2 medium vessels and 5 destroyers 38.00 N., 11.30 E. course 315° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/S X9QE 1015B/12 to Hal Far).

Movements Arrivals 11th Nov. CUMBRAE, BOREALIS, HEKTOR 7, T.L.C.153. Departure 11th Nov. MANXMAN, \*DULVERTON, \*ALDENHAM, \*CROOME, (?HURWORTH) BELVOIR, ROMEO, \*BEAUFORT, BURRA, ZINGARELLA, T.L.C. 101, 154, 107, 157. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0910/12 to Admty. C. in C. Med). *\*writing MANXMAN - see p. 422*

Minelaying by A/C off Tunis. My 1622/11th. Mines not laid owing to weather night 11th - 12th. (2) Do you wish them laid tonight? Request early reply. (V.A. Malta, 0942A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).

→ MANXMAN enemy Units. (1) 3 battleships and large number of destroyers have left Taranto. (2) 4 destroyers but no cruisers have left Messina. (V.A. Malta, 0944A/12 to MANXMAN (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., Admty).  
 My 0944/12th. Visuals Taranto at 0745A and Messina at 0830A. (2) Sea route between unseen owing to cloud. (3) 2 A/C searching North of your track and towards Taranto. (V.A. Malta, 1000A/12 to MANXMAN (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., Admty).

/Stream...



12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- 10/11.

MANXMAN  
Enemy Units.  
Contd.

Stream paravane before crossing 150 fathom line. HYTHE will meet you end of Q B B 288 and lead up channel if desired.  
(V.A. Malta, 1448A/21 to MANXMAN).

P.45

*see next page  
p.529*

Patrol in position 090° Cani/Rock 8 miles.  
(Capt. S.10., 1002A/12 to P.45 (R) Submarines on patrol N.C.X.F.)

P.221

*see next page  
p.529*

Proceed with despatch patrol position 060° Cani/Rock 18 miles. Move on surface at your discretion.  
(Capt. S.10., 1107A/12 to P.221 (R) S/MS on patrol).

P.35

Battleships have left Taranto, if within 20 miles C (for Charles) P.35 is to return there.  
(Capt. S.10., 1109A/12 to Submarines on patrol, (R) N.C.X.F.)

Aden  
movements.

Arrival BATHURST, 0553Z WORCESTERSHIRE.  
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1125Z/12 to Admty etc).

PARTHIAN

At 2000A/12th (corrupt group) to establish patrol in vicinity 300° Marettimo Light 4 miles.  
(Capt. S.10., 1217A/12 to PARTHIAN (R) Submarines on patrol)

P.44

*p.530*

While approaching Malta after dawn 13th Nov. listen out on local patrol wave and dive for blue warning.  
(Capt. S.10., 1222A/12 to S/M P.44).

UTMOST

Arrived.  
(V.A. Malta, 1240A/12 to Admty).

Cositrep  
No. 591.

Air. Night 10/11 Nov. A Wellington from Malta bombed a merchant vessel north-west of Benghazi scoring near misses.  
11/11. Full details of day's operations not yet available, but considered the most successful during present campaign. Our losses were seven fighters. Liberators and American B2s bombed southbound merchant vessel of 5,000 tons north of Benghazi, claiming four direct hits, many near misses.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1300 G.M.T./12, and No T.O.O./12).

"T" class  
RORQUAL.

Request approx. dates of arrival Malta T Class with petroleum, also RORQUAL.  
(Capt. S.10., 1413A/12 to Capt. S.1).



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.45  
P.221.  
*See previous page p. 529*

Move 10 miles 320° with all despatch.  
(Capt. S.10., 1509A/12 to P.45, P.221)  
See also 1916A/12.

Enemy Units. Following received addressed Malta from A/C C/S  
ITN:- 2 battleships 12 destroyers bearing 090°  
distance 2 miles course 325° in position 38.40 N.  
15.46 E.  
(Alexandria, 1619/12).

## Movements.

*See p. 530*

12th Nov. Port Said arrivals: TAKU, Greek  
S/M KATSONIS. Departures; SOUTHERN SEA,  
HYACINTH, SEAHAM, FALK, 2 Lighters 15 and 19.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1702B/12 to Admty etc).

→ Enemy Units. 3 Battleships 11 destroyers 38° 35' N., 15°  
46' E., course and speed 40° 14 knots at  
1545A/12th.  
(V.A. Malta, 1708A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.,  
Admty. C. in C. Med., N.C.E.N.T.F., N.C.C.N.T.F.,  
S.O. Force H).

French Fleet, Request news of French Fleet at Toulon.  
Toulon. (C. in C. Med., 1442B/12 to Admty).  
Your 1442B/12th Nov. Visual R/C 11th Nov.  
showed French Fleet at Toulon. Vichy broadcast  
1230 today states German authorities have  
decided that entrenched camp at Toulon will not be occupied  
and that Vichy warships will be safeguarded. Later Press  
report says Germans are occupying Toulon to safeguard Vichy  
Fleet but this report is considered not correct. Further  
information will be signalled.  
(N.I.D. 3 for D.N.I., 1715A/12 to C. in C. Med).

→ Enemy Units, At 1710A/12 3 battleships 11 destroyers 038°  
TURBULENT. 33' N., 015° 46' E., course 031° speed 15 knots.  
Intercept south of Bocca Piccola.  
(Capt. S.10., 1737A/12 to TURBULENT).  
Air attack on battle fleet intended about 2200,  
thereafter one aircraft will drop flares over  
enemy once every half hour until 15 miles south of Capri.  
(Capt. S.10., 1910A/12 to TURBULENT).  
My 1737/12. Battleships may use either entrance. I hope  
flares may inform you.  
(Capt. S.10., 2125A/12 to TURBULENT).

Enemy Units. At 1440A/12th. 1 merchant ship 2 T.Bs. position  
P.37. 039° 20' 013° 40'. course 192° speed 10 knots.  
(Capt. S.10., 1746A/12 to P.37).



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

E-boats, Bizerta. Presence of 6 enemy E-boats at Bizerta confirmed by aircraft report. (N.C.X.F., 1759Z/12 to Inshore Squadron (R) Cdre. Algiers).

Malta Intelligence Summary. Following for Gen. Eisenhower (R) Mideast from Governor, Malta. Intelligence summary for period 2000A/11th to 2000A/12th.

Naval. 1. Morning P.R.U. showed 4 destroyers absent from Messina and 3 Littorios and 5 destroyers absent from Taranto. Visibility prevented location until evening when submarines and air R/C reported battleships with 11 destroyers off Cape Viticano steering towards Naples.

→ 2. MANXMAN arrived Malta from Alexandria.

3. No other major change Italian dispositions.

4. Submarines are now disposed to intercept shipping to Tunisia.

Air. 1. R/C in accordance with out Operation Order No. 12 of Nov. 3rd. Significant movements as shown by photos:

Sicily. Increase of 23 SM 82s at Castelvetro.

Tunisia. No German aircraft visible on Sidi Ahmed. 15 Leo 45s have left Souk el Arbapd.

Sardinia. San Vera Milas Aerodrome has 10? 18 C 107s and 13 SM 79s.

2. Negligible enemy air activity.

3. Strikes. 1 enemy float plane destroyed, 1 schooner damaged by Beaufighters Cape Bon Area. Night Nov. 11th - 12th bad weather. 2 Wellingtons bombed El Aouina Aerodrome starting 1 fire. Day Nov. 12th Beaufighters shot down 5 SM 82s and 1 SM 79, probably carrying German troops in position S.E. Pantellaria, course north.

(A.F.H.Q., 1915Z/12 to Commandeth Gibraltar).

P.45, P.221. At 0300A/13 move to patrol within 5 mile following positions reference Cani Rock, P.221 002° 12 miles, P.45 110° 24 miles. *sub pp 527 & 528* (Capt. S.10., 1916A/12 to P.45, P.221 (R) Subs. on patrol)

U/B Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 37.49 N., 15.32 E. (A/C call sign 8TBZ 1920/12 to Air H.Q. Malta).

Situation Western Desert Sollum occupied 1640/11th Nov. Report Number searched channel at Mersa Matruh established, 292. discharge of cargo proceeding satisfactorily: A/A defences installed no enemy air interference. M.T. Boats maintaining patrol to intercept shipping to West of Tobruk.

→ 2. My 1852/10th Nov. MANXMAN has arrived Malta with 350 tons of food and 200 naval and military personnel. *sub pp 526 & 527* (C. in C. Med., 1934B/12 to Admty (R) R.A.D., Med., C. in C. E.F., C.S. 15 V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Red Sea Force, F.O.C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

/Malta...



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta I.104 12 Nov. C.S.R. Night 11/12 November.  
Air Report. 1920 hours 1 Beaufighter airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

Day 12 November. 0735 and 1355 hours 8 Spitfires up for several raids which approached but turned back before reaching island. Night Beaufighter Sorties. 16 long range and 12 short range Spitfire Sorties were made to protect arrival of friendly cruiser bringing food and supplies from Egypt.

(A.H.Q., Malta, 2045Z/12).

Part 2 of my I.104 12 November. Harbours:  
Tripoli Total 6 medium M/Vs one D/R.  
Licata no important shipping present.  
Porto Empedocle since 10 November 6 E-boats have departed.  
Naples. 3 D/Rs 1 Tanker 5/6000 tons have arrived 1 Liner 4,000 tons has departed.  
Messina. Since November 10, 1 S/M 4 E-boats arrived 1 T/B 1 Sloop departed.  
Bizerta. Since November 10, 1 S/M has departed; entrance to harbour does not appear to be effectively blocked.  
La Goulette. Harbour blocked by sunken M/Vs only small gap south side.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2055/12).

Day 12th November. Spitfire photographed Taranto 0645 hrs. Photos show 3 Littorio battleships and 5 D/Rs have departed, 1 liner 12,000 tons has arrived, since 11th November. 3 battleships and 11 destroyers visually reported 1445 hrs. 225° Cape Vaticano 5 miles course 030° 12 knots. Seven Beaufighters on offensive sweep in Trapani Tunis area intercepted 1515 hrs. 30 miles S.E. of Pantellaria 6 probable SM 82s. carrying German troops flying North. All enemy aircraft were shot down into sea and completely destroyed by cannon fire.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2127/12).

Enemy Units. Position of enemy (type unspecified) is 39.54 N., 14.19 E.

(A/C 8TB duty Y., 2120A/12 to Malta Air H.Q.)

Position course and speed of 3 battleships and 7 destroyers 39.35 N., 14.40 E., 340° 15 knots.

(A/C 8TB duty S 2130A/12 to Malta Air H.Q.)

Movements.

*See p. 528*

11th Nov. Port Said arrival GLOXINIA, WOOLWICH, ERICA, NUBIAN, SEAHAM, HYACINTH, SOUTHERN SEA, FALK. Departures KAI, GLOXINIA, ERICA.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2129B/12 to Admty etc).

\*P.44, UNA.

*\* See p. 527*

V.A. Malta's 1215/10th Oct. to F.O.C.N.A. para.6 In view of Q.B.B. 298, bearing of dividing line between S/M is amended to 230° from end of searched channel.  
(Capt. S.10., 2322A/12 to P.44., UNA (R) Subs. on Patrol).



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

[TAF]  
BENGAL,  
action with  
raider.  
AOKOKU MARU

H.M. Indian ship BENGAL reported being shelled at 0534Z/11 in 019° 45' S., 092° 40' E. No description of enemy unit but may be raider E. My 0707/8th refers.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0024Z/12 to S. and A. E.I. Stn).

→ K.A. 4

(1) Convoy K.A. 4 consists of SALWEEN and TAKLIWA containing A A P C and 300 Italian repatriates, E.T.D. Kilindini a.m./14th Nov. S. of A. 11 knots.

(2) Request you will arrange A/S escort. RANCHI has orders to part company and proceed independently to Aden when A/S escort has joined.

(C. in C. E.F., 0749Z/12 to VERITY (R) Admty. F.O.R.S.F., RANCHI).

W.S. 23 Z.

Your 1644/6th (N.T. in W.D.) W.S. 23 Z is not on East Indies Station. Admty. 1548/24th September was cancelled by Admty. 2352/12th October.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0835Z/12 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty. F.O.C.R.S.F., Cdre I/C Aden).

Movements

Summary No. 22, amend as follows.

- (1) Item 6\*ALBATROSS arrived Tamatave 12th Nov.
- (2) Item 7 is cancelled.
- (3) Add item 11 RANCHI leaves Kilindini 14th Nov. escorting convoy K.A. 4 - 2 ships - to Aden S. of A 11 knots.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0907Z/12 to Eastern Fleet etc).

\* See next page

7 R.M.  
Bn.

10536. For M.O. 2. Your 78146 (M.O. 2) 7th Nov. and my 10516 of 10th Nov. In view of pressing nature of this subject may early decision be given please.

(203 M.M. Pretoria, T.O.O. Nil, to W.O).

Your 10536 of 12/11. 7 R.M. will proceed Mideast next available sailing in accordance priority arranged Mideast's SD/70247 of 10/11 to Impeon Durban and Impeon's 8958 of 11/11. Bn will not take over guard duties Naval Depots. Admiralty instructing C. in C. S.A. accordingly.

(W.O., 1945A/12 to 203 M.M. Pretoria).

Movements

Colombo departure 12th Nov. 0745Z OKAPI, arrival 0252Z TULIP.  
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1231Z/12 to Admty etc).

AQUITANIA

D. of S.Ts. 2022/11. Delay to escort is regretted but there appears to be no alternative. Advantage is also being taken of this opportunity to reduce dangerous smoke of AQUITANIA.

(D.O.D. (F), 1259A/12 to C. in C. E.F., (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

/Shipping...



War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Shipping  
Diversion.

Cancel E.I. Station messages 429 (C) and 544 (C).  
C. in C. E.F.'s 1232Z/9 Nov. reference position  
Organization. These references positions are  
not required when vessels hold one ship  
recoding pad S.P. 02413 series.  
(C. in C. E.F., 1428Z/12 to E.I. Stn. C Message  
(978C) (R) Admty. F.O.R.S.C.A. Cdre. i/c Aden,  
C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

ALBATROSS

Arrived 12th Nov. from Diego Suarez.  
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave, 1502Z/12 to Admty etc).

*in previous  
page.*

U.S. Forces.

A.M. 1145/5th Nov. Following changes in  
disposition of U.S. Forces in the Pacific.  
\*PHOENIX at Brisbane. OMAHA and MARBLEHEAD on  
patrol. RALEIGH on passage Pearl Harbour.  
NASSAU on patrol South Pacific. RICHMOND on  
patrol from Callao. COPAHEE repairs at San Diego  
(D.O.D. (F) 1819A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

*\* See p. 539 (Movement)*

Convoy  
O.W.

Your 1407/11. These 3 ships have no cargo for  
discharge at any intermediate port.  
(D.T.D., 2153A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)



533

War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

T.F.39.

*See p. 535*

11th Nov. departures from Bermuda U.S. Task Force B.39. My 2332/9\* refers. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 0043Z/12 to Admty, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.I Jamaica).

\*Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. MAUMEE, MEMPHIS, BRANT, REDWING, YEW, eight P.Cs eight S.Cs, ten Y.Ms designated as Task Force 39.

U/B  
Positions.

Following is C.E.S.F's.1855/11.  
S/M Estimate 120800Q.  
(Comnav 0133/12 to Admty).

→ WATCHMAN.

My P.C. and S. are 54.04 N. 28.18 W. 256° 9 knots. Weather report.  
(WATCHMAN 0700Z/12 to Admty).

Your 2037/11.\* My P.C. and S. at 0800Z/12, 54.00 N. 28.55 W. 257° 10 knots. ANCHUSA and DALHIA in company. E.T. A. St. Johns 0800Z/16.  
(WATCHMAN 0800Z/12 to C.T.24. (R) C. in C.W.A. HURRICANE, F.O.N.F.).\*(N.T. in W.R.).

\* HURRICANE,  
WINCHELSEA,  
H.X.215.*\* See p. 496*

Your 2231/11th (Re escort for HX 215).Concur.  
(C.in C.W.A. 0932Z/12 to C. C.N.F.).

Your 0936/12th. Am proceeding St. Johns N.F. E.T.A. 16th Nov. Anticipate repairs require 10 hours. Have ordered WATCHMAN to

proceed St. Johns N.F. independently. My P.C. and S. 1000Z/12th 054.22 N. 027.18 W. 255° 16 knots. Weather report.

(HURRICANE 1112Z/12 to C. in C.W.A.(R) Connav, C.T. F.24. Admty N. S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C. T. G, 24.7).

Proceed to St. Johns N.F. in lieu of Argentia. All action addressees less HURRICANE report P.C. and S. and E.T. A. St. Johns unless already done during past 24 hours.

(C.T.24. 1213Z/12 to HURRICANE, WATCHMAN, WALLFLOWER, DAHLIA, ANCHUSA, MONKSHOOD (R) C. in C.W.A. C.C.N.F. Admty).

Your 1213Z/12th. P.C. and S. 1359Z/12th 050.17 N. 043.19 W 246° 12.5 knots. E. T.A. St. Johns N.F. 2201Z/13th U.S.D.\*MASON in company.

(MONKSHOOD 1359Z/12 to C.T.24 (R) HURRICANE, C. in C.A. F.O.N.F. Admty).

*\*not included*ZWARTE ZEE  
ESSO  
MANHATTAN.

Sailed ZWARTE ZEE escorted by U.S. S. OPHUR to assistance SS. ESSO MANHATTAN disabled in 16.42 N. 54.08 W. towing thence to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

2. Operation at request of Comcarrib through N.O.B. Trinidad.

(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1102Q/12 to S.B.N.O.W.A.(R) Admty etc).

/My.....



12.20.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

ZWARTE ZEE,  
ESSO  
MANHATTAN.  
Contd.

My 1102/12 and B.A. D's 2005/16 /10 (ZWARTE ZEE to assist with floating dock). If tow successful propose ZWARTE ZEE proceeds direct to New Orleans from San Juan.  
(2?) Advisable ZWARTE ZEE docks before undertaking Admiralty's 1808 /14/ 10; this cannot be done locally.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1112Q/12 to S.B.N.O.W.A.).

U. S. Fleet  
Unit  
sighted.

Panama (sic) reports sighting Force of one battle ship, one cruiser and 3 destroyers presumably U.S. at 1500Z 12th in 15° N. 70.6.W. course 250°. Submerged S/M seen 2 miles astern. Battle ship called. No answer received.  
(S.O.I. Kingston 122OR/12 to Com Panama (R) B.A.D. Admty, Opanav).

Force in S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica's

1220Q/12th is U.S.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 2108/12 to Admty, S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica).

U.G.S.2.

*See p. 536*

My 2029/11 (~~N. T. in W.D.~~). Following received from Comtaskfor 34 "In view of condition of Port and certain delay in handling U.G. F.2 strongly recommend sailing of U.G.S. - 2 be postponed until situation clarifies" advise promptly. (Admty please pass\* to C. in C.A.F., N. C.X.F., Comtaskforce 34, Comtaskgroup 31.8).  
(Navcom 1401/12, to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. Cinclant, Comtaskfor 37, Comtaskfor 34, Comtaskgroup 31.8).  
\*Passing action being taken by W. R.

MARYLYN.

My 1011/11. British MARYLYN torpedoed sunk 2240Z/30 Oct. in 00.46 S. 32.42 W. Chief Officer and 19 landed Trinidad, Master and six adrift, 15 missing.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1441R/12 to Admty etc) .

W.S.24.

Sail W. S.24 for Durban when ready via  
(K) 015.40 S. (032°) 20' W.  
(L) 018.01 S. 025.59 W. (M) 026.20 S. 016.45 W.  
(N) 033.40 S. 006.40 W. (O) 039.59 S. 005.01 E. (P) 040.10 S. 014.30 E. (Q) 039.40 S. 022.45 E. (R) 039.10 S. 027.30 E.  
(S) 032.30 S. 033.25 E. thence to destination, advise sailing time and S. of A.  
(Connav 1446/12 to Alusnob Bahia, (R) Comsouthlantfor, Admty, N.S.H.Q. R. A.W.A., C. in C. S.A. N.C.S.O. Durban).

HARTINGTON.

50.50 N. 44.35 W. 26 survivors from SS. HARTINGTON, 20 unaccounted for. One other boat got away. Searching 30 miles to Northward.  
(WINCHELSEA, 1515Z/12 to C. in C.W.A.(R) Admty, F.O.N.F.).

/Fuelling.....



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War Diary.12.10.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Fuelling  
Escorts  
at Sea.

C.T.F.24. 0345/12. (re fuelling of ocean escorts at sea) is being passed to you, for comment. (Connav 1525/12 to Admty (R) C.T.F.24). \*(N.T. in W. D.)

T.F.39.

*See p. 533*

Admiralty pass to C.T.F. 34 for action and to C. in C.A.F. Comnav for Info\* Refer to this as Task Force 39 0659/11 addressed to Cominch for action, Cinclant, C.T.F. 29 for

info. (Begins):-

Depart base M 1100Z Nov 11th. Arrive destination 1600Z/24 Nov.

Advance 9 knots. Air coverage as practicable requested.

Track in accordance with Cinclant secret serial 00492.

Reference positions (U) 40.01 N. 59.59 W. (V) 29.59 N. 50.01 W.

(W) 39.58 N. 40.01 W. (X) 30.01 B. 29.59 W. (Y) 40.01 N.

19.59 W. (Z) 29.59 N. 10.01 W.

(Cominch 1531/12 to Admty).

\*Passing action taken by W.R.

U/B  
Positions.

S/M estimate 12th November and U.S.S/M notice. (Cominch 1553/12 to Admty).

ST.LOMAN  
attack on  
U/B.

With (2 corrupt groups) attacked and apparently \*destroyed enemy S/M in position 011.06 N. 056.55 W. at 1409Z. 50 depth-charges expended. Much diesel oil and bubbles. (ST.LOMAN 1615Z/12 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

*\* Not confirmed by Lt. Trowbridge re Conn. 6843.*

B.Y.M.S.

F.O.N.F.'s 1111/11. (Insufficiently trained engine room personnel in BYMS sailing from St. Johns) Next group due to sail mid-December. Request your views after receipt of further signal from F.O.N.F. (B.A.D. 1621Z/12 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.).

U/B.

S/M sighted 043.35 N. 068.30 W. at 1504Z/12th (C.O.A.C. 1643Z/12 to G.B.7.A.(R) C.T.F. 24 etc).

R.N. & R.C.N.  
Corvettes.

C. in C.W.A. 1147Z/5 and F.O.N.F. 1812Z/11, concur. Advisable all ships of A. and C. groups assemble at Nov Mye (?Menville) at least before arrival of daylight prior to convoy meeting for conference and sea training. (C.T.G. 24.7. 1700Z/12, to C. in C.W.A.(R) Admty, Capt.(D) Liverpool, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q. Capt.(D) St. Johns, N.F. Capt.(D) Greenock, N.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Liverpool).



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Movements  
G.A.T.20.Arrival U.S. Dest. GREER, U.S. Ships TENACITY,  
P.C.491, P.C.492, P.C.494, escort G.A.T.20.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1752Q/12 to S.B.N.O.W.A.  
(R) Admty S.O.I. Kingston).

U/B.

Curacao W/T reports S/M sighted 012.05 N.  
068.55 W. at 2110 G.M.T./12th Nov.  
(Kingston Jamaica 1756R/12 to Admty).Special  
U/B  
Estimate.

Cominch 1815/12. See Operation "Torch."

RESTIGOUCHE.

F.O.N.F. reference 1555Z/28th. Oct.  
RESTIGOUCHE will unless otherwise ordered  
continue as C.T.U. 24.1.14.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.14, 1900/12 to F.O.N.F., C.T.24 (R)  
C. in C.W.A. ST FRANCIS, RESTIGOUCHE).ERIE  
torpedoed.Curacao reports U.S. Gunboat ERIE escorting  
T.A.G. 20 torpedoed and beached off Willemstad  
1700 Q. R. today S.B.N.O.W.A. informed.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 2041R/12 to Admty, B.A. D.  
F.O.I.C. Trinidad).Reports  
from  
M/VS.

Your 2246/7. Do not consider suggested change is any improvement over existing system. For example there would be no reduction in reports required from 15 knot vessels that are 3 hours ahead or behind schedule. Our experience indicates position reports are not particularly valuable. In view of the apprehension felt by Masters in making transmissions and the doubt indicated by Admiralty in stopping the reports from vessels routed via Cape Horn and the possibility of German Shore Stations taking DF bearings and transmitting positions to S/Ms at sea recommend HF reports be discontinued except those required approaching New York or U.K. Ref. para. 3 consider this proposal far too complicated and believe it will tend to increase the already confused situation with relation to war time calls and recognition signals. (Connav 2047/12 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U.G.S.2.

*See p. 534*Admiralty re-encypher and retransmit to N.C.X.F.  
Comnav, Comtaskfor 34, C. in C.A.F. Comtask-  
group. 31.8 Begins:-

Special Convoy U.G.S.- 2 estimated S. of A. 9 knots sails New York for Casablanca Nov 13 via following route:-  
(J) 36.50 N. 63.50 W. (K) 30.40 N. 50.45 W. (L) 30.02 N. 39.30 W.  
(M) 29.25 N. 28.20 W. (N) 33.55 N. 17.15 W. (O) 35.10 N. 09.55 W.  
thence to destination unless otherwise directed by N.C.X.F.  
Convoy composition given my 0922/11. Escort six destroyers.  
Commander C.T.F. 37 in TAYLOR. Med. Section to be detached under  
British escort to R/V designated by N.C.X.F. Diversions will be

/responsibility....



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.U.G.S.2.  
Contd.

responsibility of Cominch C and R West of longitude 40° W. of Admiralty 40° to 10° W. and of N.C.X.F. East of 10° W. (C. in C.U. S. Fleet 2114/12 to N.C. X. F.(R) CinClant, Comnav, Comtaskfor 34, C. in C.A.F. Comtaskfor 37. C.E. S.F. Comtaskgroup 31.8. Admty Port Director New York).  
Passing action being taken by W. R.

S/M Attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

A. NIDARLAND torpedoed sunk 11.41 N. 60.42 W. 1200Z/09. PBY 5A attacks Sub on surface 56.53 N. 27.45 W. 1615Z/12 Oct. Red Cross Gray Circle Conning Tower.

B. OLAF FOSTENES 2 S/MS U.45 types W.A. MACKENNY  
1 torpedo hit 10 shells. Attack 1025Z/6,

2151/4 Nov read 5th Oct.

C. SS. HAMILDOC sights S/M course East 09.54 N. 61.23 W. 0740Z/11  
U.S. Army Plane sights S/M 04.45 S. 37 W 1425Z/12 sinking tanker in vicinity.

D. Fisherman sights S/M on surface 43.35 N. 68.30 W.  
1504Z/12.

(C. in C.U. S. Fleet 2125/12 to Admty (R) N. S.H.Q.).

Refits..

Dates of various Canadian Ships.  
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 2125/12) See Lion Copy.

MIDLAND,  
COBALT.  
defects.

E.T. A. 0100Z/13 Boiler hours. MIDLAND has defective steering engine and broken R.D. F. universal in turning gear. COBALT requires repairs to decks, steering gear and R.D.F. Weather report.  
(MIDLAND 2214Z/12 to C.O.A.C.(R) D. Halifax).

Vice Cpnav 2220/12 see Operation "Torch."

Escort of  
Fast  
Transport.

Ref.escort of fast transport safe coastal zone, N.S.H.Q. has received no information from Admty or Cominch on this subject.

2. Only practical escort is by destroyer. All Canadian destroyers are at present allocated to

mid-ocean escort force or Western local escort force.

3. Due to convoy schedule it is not practical for destroyers in ocean escort group to take on further commitments.

4. Request you will discuss this point with Cominch and ascertain his views.

(N.S.H.Q. 2223Z/12 to N.M.C.J.S.(R) Cominch, Admty etc).



CONFIDENTIAL. MESSAGE. 2125Z/12th. November. IN.

FROM: C.O.A. Halifax.

DATE: 14/11/42.

RECD: 0426.

Int.Gen.X by W/T.

ADDRESSED: N.S.H.Q. Repeated: Admiralty N M C J S  
Washington, F.O.N.F. Capt.(D) Newfoundland  
D Halifax.

Reference N.S.H.Q's 1340/17 October, 1941.

H.M.C.S. MAHONEY	Halifax	Nov. 11th.	Nov. 16th.
H.M.C.S. KAMSACK	Liverpool	Nov. 12th.	Dec. 24th.
H.M.C.S. ST. CROIX	St. John N.B.	Nov. 12th.	Dec. 17th.
H.M.C.S. NEW WESTMINSTER	Halifax	Nov. 11th.	Nov. 13th.

My 1700/11 completion date H.M.C.S. LISCOMBE extended to Nov. 12th.

My 2100/24/Oct. completion date H.M.C.S. COLLINGWOOD extended to November 21st.

My 1500/7 completion date H.M.C.S. ST. CLAIR extended to November 18th.

Defects H.M.S. BUXTON and H.M.S. WANDERER completed.

My 1440/3/Oct. defects H.M.C.S. BRANDON completed ex Docking.

My 1530/9 completion date H.M.C.S. THUNDER Nov. 16th.

2125/12.

Requesting information be signalled when men of war are taken in hand.

2nd.S.L.  
 Controller.  
 Vice Controller.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F)  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 Naval Sec.  
 N.A. 1st.S.L.  
 Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hsc.  
 Ops. (3)  
 O.D. (5)  
 O.D. 8.  
 M. (2)  
 Mails.  
 Movts.  
 D.  
 D.N.C.  
 D.G.D. (2)  
 D.T.S.D.  
 D.N.C. (2)  
 D.S.D. (2)  
 E. in C.  
 I.P. (3)  
 S.D.G. (2)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 D. of S. (3)

D.C.D. Slough.  
 C.C.C.S.  
 C.W. (2)  
 N.  
 D.P.S. (2)  
 A.G.R.M.  
 D. of P. (3)  
 D.N.I. (5)  
 W.D.  
 I.P. (3)  
 O.I.C. (3)  
 D.M.S.  
 D.M.S. (Citadel.)  
 T/P for Dep. Cont. (3)  
 D. (4)  
 D.N.C. (2)  
 E. in C.  
 S.D.G. (2)  
 D.A/S.W. (2)  
 D.T.M.  
 D.N.O. (4)  
 D.A.S. (4)  
 D.E.E. (3)  
 D.S.D. (3)  
 S.W.R.  
 D. of S.

Bath.  
B.A. 976.



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War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

EMPIRE  
SUCCESS.                      Following is Connav's 1556/12 addressed to C.C.  
S.F. and Comnavu for information. EMPIRE SUCCESS  
reported at 1230 G.M.T./12 stopped for  
14 hours due to trouble with feed pump and  
requested protection giving her position as  
bearing 088° distant 208 miles from position (C) and the  
following is Cominch (C. and R) B.A.M.S. Area 2B 1530/12.  
For EMPIRE SUCCESS believe your area is relatively safe for the  
next 12 hours but do not use your radio until you are well  
clear from your present position unless you are unable to  
proceed within the above time.  
(Comnavu 2231/12 to Admty).

U/B.                              Possible S/M 046.37 N. 053.17 W. at 1830/12th  
(C.O.A.C. 2237Z/12 to GB7A).

Raiders,  
Blockade  
Runners.                        Cominch raider and blockade runner summary No.6  
(Cominch 2315/12) See Lion and Tiger copies.

U/B  
Positions.                        C. E.S. F's 1913/12, giving 0800Q/13 S/M  
estimate.  
(Comnavu 2331/12 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation.                        Digest Serial No. 293.Nov.10th.  
Further increase shipping indicated Buin Short-  
lands area 10th Nov. where photo R/C reported  
at least 47 vessels at noon, including 2 heavy cruisers, 3  
light cruisers, 15 destroyers, 2 minelayers, 2 tankers, 2  
seaplane tenders, 2 M.L.C. carriers, 16 merchant ships, 3  
smaller craft, 3 flying boats and 27 floatplanes. Also 9 other  
vessels reported 7.30 S. 156° E. at approx. same time course 170°  
Further reliable report at 600Z(sic) indicates at least 61  
vessels Buin Shortlands including 4 heavy cruisers 2 light  
cruisers 2 sloops 33 destroyers and patrol craft, 18 M/Vs, 2  
tankers.

/2....



# SECRET

538<sup>n</sup>Lion  
AWISECRETMESSAGE

2315/12 Nov.

IN

Date 12.11.42.  
Recd.0839

From Cominch

NAVAL CYPHER U.S.X. BY CABLE

Addressed Admiralty Reencypher and retransmit  
(Cominch 2110/12), Comtaskforce 34  
for information, Cinclant, Comsopac, Comsouespac,  
Comsoeastpac for Comtaskforces 23 24 30 37  
38 and 39 also have for information.

IMMEDIATE

Cominch raider and blockade runner summary  
number six. Raider reported 1900Z/29 16 10N  
68 27E but doubtful. Raider or supply ship  
by D.F. off Sunda Strait 1419Z/7 possibly  
raider E returning to Indian Ocean from Far  
East Port. An S.O.S. transmission 1412Z/9  
giving position 24 30 N 46 28 W used call  
sign of S.S. SOUTH AFRICA which was sunk 8th  
June. STEPHEN HOPKINS sunk 27 Sept. about 28  
08 2S.20 O.I.W. by gunfire probably from raider  
H or raider J machine guns. BELGRANO and  
DRESDEN could answer above description. DRESDEN,  
THIRTEENFELS and KULMERLAND from Far East  
photographed in Biscay area last week. Other  
runners also may have arrived recently.  
KOTA HOPAN and ANNALIESE ESSBERGER sighted and  
unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft and last  
sighted seven Nov. former 46 51 N 11 24 W  
and the latter 45 40 N 10 50 W departing  
Bay Biscay probably for Far East. ERMELAND,  
PIETRO ORSEOLO, CATARACTE, and BELGRANO could  
now be in Pacific or Indian Ocean. BURGENLAND  
said raider used Salvo Fire six inch guns also  
shrapnel, incendiaries and machine guns and is  
believed to have been seriously damaged or sunk  
by four inch gunfire from Hopkins. This raider  
also said to be similar to German AMERI and  
Norg. WASHINGTON EXPRESS and could have been  
raider B or raider E. Hopkins raider accompanied by  
7,000 ton motorship painted dirty gray with  
CLIPPER BOW and TALL STACK at after end of high  
superstructure. Sequence mast funnel Kingpost  
mast. Inverted crosstrees. No booms showing.  
Boxlike structure on poop. Used and SILVERPLATA  
could now have reached Cape Horn or Cape Agulhas.  
Photos indicate white or light colored topsails  
on KULMERLAND, KOTA HOPAN, ANNALIESE ESSBERGER and  
BELGRANO.

2315/12

	Advance Copy	Ops.	O.D.	O.I.C.
1st Lord				
1st S.L. (2)		D.T.D. (4)		D. of P. (2)
4th S.L.		D.T.D. (M)		D.F.W.D. (2)
V.C.F.S.		D.T.D. (C)		Nav. Sec
A.C.N.S. (H)		O.I.C. (4)		
A.C.N.S. (E)				D. of P. (3)
A.C.N.S. (T)				D.A./S.W. (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)				I.P. (3)
N.A. 1st S.L.				W.D.
Capt. Pim, Admy. Hse.				D.P.D.
Ops. (3)				D.S.D. (2)
O.D. (5)				M. (2)
D.S.I. (4)				U.S.H. (3)



War Diary.12.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Situation Contd. 2. Fortress engaged in above R/C engaged approx. 10 Zeros near Shortlands, one shot down, one other possible. 8 Marauders and three Bostons with 7 Aircobras top cover attacked enemy positions Sanananda area morning 10th Nov silencing A.A.guns, 3 Beaufighters also attacked available targets Buna Kocoda area.

4. Our troops continue advance against enemy positions Oivi area.

5. One B.25 engaged armed R/C Talasea area attacked by four Zeros, one probably destroyed, one damaged, no damage to our A/C.

6. Seven enemy fighters operating from Lae Aerodrome 10th Nov. (G.H.Q. S. W.P.A. 0305Z/12, to Admty etc).

BELLATRIX. Departure Noumea 1900Z/11th U.S. Ship BELLATRIX for Wellington. E.T.A. 0200Z/16th. (S.O.I. Wellington 0447Z/12 to Admty).

Enemy Raiders. Your 0924Z/11th and 0926Z/11th (not to C. in C. S.A.) Consider probable that raiders SEICHO MARU AIKOKU MARU (YOSISU) and unidentified operating in Indian Ocean probably in association with submarines.

(A.C.N.B. 0625Z/12 to C. in C.E.F.(R) Admty, C. in C.S.A. C.O.I.S. Eastern Fleet).

N.I.D. Comment. AIKOKU MARU (10,500 tons) is known to be an A.M.C. and is believed to have operated in the Indian Ocean in June 1942. SEICHO MARU is not known as a merchant ship but vessel of this name and another name unknown were reported at Singapore 4th Nov and to be associated with S/Ms. Two latter ships may be submarine supply ships.

Movements. 11th Nov. arrival Brisbane U.S. Destroyer HELM. Thursday Island ARMIDALE. Departure Brisbane U.S. GRIFFIN, U.S. Destroyers FARRAGUT, HELM, and following ships on patrol HOBART, U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX, U.S. Destroyers MUGFORD, PATTERSON, BAGLEY, Fremantle KANIMBLA on patrol. Sydney N.S.W. U.S. Destroyer SELFRIDGE on patrol. ROCKHAMPTON, WHYALLA on escort duty, WAARNANBOOL for Melbourne, DELORADE, MILDURA for Brisbane on escort duty, BUNGAREE for Brisbane.

(N.B. Melbourne 0712Z/12 to Admty etc).

Situation. Digest Serial 294. 11th Nov. 5 Fortresses attacked shipping Buin Shortlands area early morning 11th. One hit scored on large M/V from which much debris and black smoke observed. Several other M/Ships well dispersed seen by flares but war-ships apparently dispersing at night.

2. M/Vs sighted in Empress Augustus Bay (West Coast Bougainville) and one M/V, one small craft in Buka Passage later same morning by air R/C.



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War Diary.

12.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Situation Contd. 3. 7 Beaufighters and 3 Bostons bombed and strafed enemy position between Oivi and Buna in 3 attacks during 11th.  
4. Enemy troops forced to withdraw from Oivi area; enemy force cut off in Gorari Argo destroyed with 150 casualties.  
5. In Timor 3 Hudsons bombed Bobonaro and 3 other Hudsons barracks and buildings at Maobisso scoring direct hits 11th. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1016Z/12 to Admty, etc).

Movements. U.S. Transport TASMAN arrived Townsville 11th.  
U.S. Fleet oiler TRINITY depart Fremantle 11th due Geraldton 12th.  
(A.C.N.B. 1501Z/12 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions at 1200Z/12.  
(D.D.I.C. 1505A/12, 1515A/12).



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Operation  
"Upsilon".

F.S/M JUNON sailed from Lerwick at 0830A today to carry out a special operation north of the Lofotens and then to patrol in area K.9.

Operation  
F.B.

JOHN WALKER was refloated today and proceeded to Molotovsk.

Operation "Torch".

Port congestion is giving trouble. The occupied ports have not berths available, and consequently big ships must be constantly and unnecessarily at sea. N.C.X.F. is going to visit Oran, about which he is not happy, and then Algiers, which appears to be going well. He states that he knows Casablanca is in a state of chaotic inefficiency.

Force H is still covering the forces operating off Algeria. N.C.X.F. states that the presence of DUKE OF YORK and VICTORIOUS is an over insurance and an embarrassment and he intends to sail them for the U.K. shortly. He intends Force F(a) DUKE OF YORK, FORMIDABLE, BERMUDA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS and 8 destroyers to arrive at Gibraltar p.m. tomorrow, enter harbour and fuel, and S.O. Force H transfer his flag to NELSON. SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS from Gibraltar to join Force H(b) under R.A.(A) H.F. a.m./15th. NELSON, FURIOUS Force H(a) sail eastward a.m./15. Force H(b) to arrive Gibraltar p.m./15. SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA to sail for U.K. tomorrow. AURORA is destined for the Mediterranean Fleet.

*but see pp 565 & 566.*

SHEFFIELD, ARGUS, AVENGER, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, WRESTLER, VANOC, CLARE, WISHART and VELOX arrived at Gibraltar this evening.

All undamaged ships in K.M. assault convoys had sailed westward by midnight today.

Casualties.

U.431/

Netherlands destroyer ISAAC SWEERS was torpedoed by a submarine and sunk at 0536Z today in 37° 23' N. 2° 12' E. whilst screening Force R.

/BLYSKAWICA ...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Operation "Torch" - cont.Casualties.  
(Contd.)BLYSKAWICA reports casualties and damage,  
~~presumably~~ from air attack at Bougie.

The position of MARNE (torpedoed yesterday), in tow of SALVONIA, at noon today was about 200 miles west of Gibraltar.

Bone.

LAMERTON and WHEATLAND, after reloading with troops at Bougie, returned to Bone this morning. There were continued dive-bombing raids on the port area at Bone this morning. LAMERTON reports that fighter aircraft are urgently required for protection and for maintaining the morale of the military and civil population. At 1120A LAMERTON reported that the Commandant stated that misses falling in the town were having a detrimental effect on the loyalty of the population and the Commandant had requested the destroyers to sail, which LAMERTON intended to do after dark, unless the situation further deteriorates. Parachute mines have been dropped outside the harbour. All troops and supplies have been landed and the military situation is in hand. Bombing continued this afternoon, but apart from minor damage to ALBACORE from near misses off the port no damage is reported. By noon today the working of the port was reported to be greatly improved.

Algiers.

The port is working well. Neither Algiers nor Oran is able to receive Force H or cruisers for oiling. All shipping of the assault convoy was cleared from Algiers p.m. today.

Centre  
Force.

Convoy K.M.2 is in process of unloading. The inner harbour is open to light vessels, with good prospects of larger vessels shortly. MARON (M.T. ship) was torpedoed in 36° 27' N. 0° 58' W. at 1620A by a \*U-Boat ~~BROWNING~~ off Oran.  
\*7042

Western  
force.

Port Lyautey was reported ready to receive ships today though 2 sunken ships reduce the available area. At Fedala only one berth is available and discharge is slow, mainly over beaches. At Casablanca 8 berths are available and prt of U.G.F.1 entered this morning. Three berths are available at Safi and discharge is going well. The Naval Air Group and Support Group have sailed for the U.S.A.



War Diary.

13.11.1942.  
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

ALASKA (see 31st October) has arrived safely at Lisbon under her own steam. It is reported that SILVERWILLOW (see 31st October) which was in tow of JAUNTY sank a.m. yesterday.

South Atlantic.

TRUANT sailed from Freetown for the U.K. today. (See 11th November).

Mediterranean.

V.A. Malta informed N.C.X.F. today that in view of the petrol situation the A.O.C. does not intend to carry out any more minelaying unless specially asked for.

Disposition  
of Italian  
Fleet.

3 LITTORIO battleships, 4 cruisers (2 under repair) and 8 destroyers were seen in Naples by R/C at 0830A.  
The 3 CAVOURS are at Taranto with 10 destroyers.  
At Messina there are 5 cruisers and 4 destroyers.

Tunis.

Four magnetic mines were laid just outside the entrance to La Goulette at Tunis in the early hours of this morning.  
Six aircraft made 12 sorties to attack El Alouina Aerodrome (Tunisia) last night. Photographs confirmed that severe damage was caused to workshops and a hangar.

PARTHIAN hit and probably sank an escorted enemy merchant ship off Marittimo at 1655 today.

Western  
Desert.

Tobruk was reported in our hands at 0930 today. The enemy left hurriedly and little demolition has taken place. The jetties are intact, other than those damaged by our bombing.  
Our troops occupied Sollum and Bardia today.



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13.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

SS. HILDA MOLLER reported being missed by a torpedo from a submarine about 0935 in 5° 55' N. 81° 4' E. Survivors report SS. LOUISE MOLLER torpedoed by a U-Boat at 0800 today in approx. 30° S. 38° 50' E. (about 600 miles east of Durban.)

America and West Indies.

B.Y.M.S.4 (disabled in Atlantic 7th Nov.) arrived at St. Johns at 1137 today under her own steam.

Comsolant reports that when escorts are available he is organising convoys between Trinidad and Rio de Oro and return, primarily for tankers. There will be no fixed schedule until more escorts are available.

Australia and New Zealand.

Seven Fortresses attacked shipping in the Buin - Faisi area early this morning and hit 2 light cruisers or destroyers and near missed a destroyer and a large transport. At 2040Z 3 Fortresses attacked a large and heavily escorted enemy convoy in 7° 45' S. 157° 20' E. and near missed and set on fire a 10,000 ton transport.



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War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

ABDIEL. 1. Proposals in ABDIEL's 1031/10 <sup>/N.T.N.D.</sup> are concurred in. If ready she may be required to arrive Milford Haven on 7th Dec. for operations under C. in C.Plymouth.

2. Request that the progress of working up practice be reported on 2nd December to enable decision to be made.

3. F.O.I.C. Newcastle pass to ABDIEL.  
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1215A/13 to C. in C.H.F.).

IRMA. Can decision regarding allocation of IRMA be given now please.  
(R.A.(D) 1725A/13 to Admty).

Movements.

GURNARD,  
BREDA. Intend to sail D.S. JAN VAN GELDER from Holy Loch at 1400A/14, for position 180° Barrahead 9 miles to R/V with GURNARD at 0800A/15th Nov escorting her thence to Clyde E.T.A. 2330A/15th Nov. speed 12 knots.

2. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation help messages on 385 K/Cs.

3. Communication A.F.O "S" 2/42 D.S. JAN VAN GELDER Table 3 (1) (one) line 3 GURNARD table 2 (3).  
(Capt.(S) 3 1025A/13 to A.I.G. 219 (Negative N.O.I.C. Lerwick Capt.(S) 9) Admiralty Cmdre, U.S. Submarine Squadron 50.)  
H.M. Yacht BREDA will meet you in 180° Barra Head 9 miles at 0800A/15th.  
(Capt.S.3. 1521A/13, 1443A/14 to GURNARD).  
\*See also Capt.S.3. 1404A/14. p.544

SHROPSHIRE. A.M. 1811/12th. Suitable tide for arrival of this vessel at Sheerness occurs from 22nd to 25th Nov. inclusive. Request proposed date of arrival may be communicated as soon as known to enable escort to be arranged. N.O.I.C. Greenock pass P/L version by safe hand to SHROPSHIRE.  
(C. in C. Nore 1046A/13th Nov. to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

SEALION  
\*P.47.  
\*DOLFEN.  
*See p.547*

No escort vessels being available from the 3rd or 7th Sub. Flotilla request 1 (one) may be provided to leave Clyde at 1730A/15th and escort SEALION and P.47 to 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles arriving 1900A/17th.  
(Capt.(S) 3 1157A/13 to C. in C.W.A.).

O.15. M.P.C and S. 068.20 001.10 E. 180°. 4 increasing to 9 weather permitting. Weather report 4862 1367 nothing further to report.  
(O.15 1200A/13).

CUTTY SARK. Remain in vicinity of R/V until dark 13th Nov then proceed to Holy Loch unless otherwise ordered. (F.O.(S) 1232A/13 to CUTTY SARK (R) C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C. Capt.(S) 3).  
/NORFOLK.....



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War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.NORFOLK,  
CUMBERLAND.

+My 1730/12. To avoid Southbound Convoy amend route to pass through C. 48.30 N. 19.15 W. then D and as ordered.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1313A/13 to NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND,  
(R) C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A. F.O.C.N.A.).

Situation  
2004/13.

C. in C.W.A. 1358A/13 1746A/13. See Lion Copy.

ITHURIEL.

A.M. 1710/10. and my 1931/12.

*2- p. 547*  
Intend to sail ITHURIEL to Milford Haven E.T.D. Needles 0445/14, speed 25 knots. Standard route E.T.A. Milford Haven 1630/14. Codeword "Artful"  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1445A/13).  
My 1445A/13\* Amend E.T.D. to 1300 /14 and E.T.A. to 0800/15  
(C. in C.Portsmouth 2232A/13). \* re sailing of ITHURIEL to Milford Haven.

SCIMITAR.

Leave Lough Foyle at 1800A/13th and comply with C. in C.W. A. 1038A/13 (Note:- See Shipping). *p. 546*  
(N.O.I.C.Londonderry 1452A/13 to SCIMITAR).

A.F. D.18.

Your 1231A/12th. Tow has been routed West of Islay as in my 1106A/12th. It is intended to send tug to Oban to meet Tow south of Lady's Rock.  
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1624A/13 to Admty).

HOWE.

Arrived Scapa.  
(A.C.O.S.1847/13).

Operations.JUNON  
?Operation  
"Upsilon."

F.S.JUNON passed through position 020° Out Skerries 7 miles at 0954A/13th routed through 069.25 N. 012.01 E. and thence patrols in vicinity 069.31 N. 017.26 E. On the surface at C.O.'s discretion when more than 60 miles from Norwegian coast and thereafter diving by day.  
(S.O.S/Ms Lerwick 0811A/13 to S/Ms operating N.of latitude 51° North.).

Pass to F.N.F.L. F.S.JUNON sailed for patrol.  
(S.O.S/Ms Lerwick 0830A/13).

Patrols.

1.Intend M.L.303 (S.O) and R.M.L.522 to patrol on latitude 50.20 N. between longitude 1.15 W and 2° 25' W tonight 13th Nov leaving Weymouth at 1800 and returning from patrol line at dawn.

2.Usual books will be landed. *2- p. 547*  
3.Constant W/T watch on 2300 K/Cs.  
4.Codeword "Object" 5.Request air protection be arranged.  
(F.O.I.C.Portland. 1200/13, to C. in C.Portsmouth (R) Admty,  
C. in C.Plymouth N.O.I.C.Dartmouth.)

/Tonight...



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1358A/13/November.

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Situation at 2004A/13th November 1942.

Section N.E.

E.N. 61<sup>o</sup> COVERLEY 58 43 03 40 To Loch Ewe 8  
TARANTELLA

Situation at 2004A/13/11/42

Section S.E.

P. 311 LA CAPRICIEUSE 53 40 05 11 To Bishop Rock 13  
TROOPER

A.F.D. in tow MAZURKA 54 42 05 12 To Corpach 6  
3 tugs PAUL RYKENS

UNBEATEN CUTTY SARK 51 31 05 02 To Holy Loch 11

O.N.S(M) ROSEMARY Sails Milford Haven  
146 0430A/14 To Belfast 7

H.M. 65 DERBY COUNTY 52 56 05 04 Southbound 8

CONVOY MAID MARION 53 07 04 52 Northbound 9

1 M/V SALADIN 51 38 05 18 To Clyde 18

Situation at 2004A/13/11/42.

Section N.W.

4 Minesweepers 62 35 21 27 To Liverpool 12

R.U. 48 KING SOL 59 40 12 41 358 degs Butt 6  
STARNESS of Lewis 6 miles

U.R. 49 GAVOTTE 62 27 18 11 to 63 01 21 25 5  
HUGH WALPOLE  
QUADRILLE

Situation at 2004A/13/11/42.

Section S.W.

U.S.S/M 56 10 15 32 to 56 30 12 45 thence  
GURNARD Barra Head 3 by day  
10 by night.

K.X. 6 LANCASTER 43 01 15 37 to 38 50 14 45 6 1/2  
WELLS  
3 Corvettes  
4 Trawlers

C.F. 7.....



546<sup>B</sup>

MOST SECRET

-2-

C.F.7	SHROPSHIRE ARROW ACTIVE DUNCAN ANTONY	47 42 22 12 to 50 11 21 17	12 1/2
K.M.S.3	BLACK SWAN 1 Sloop 9 Corvettes	52 28 19 40 to 49 00 18 00	.5
ON.145 C.T.U. 24.1.3.	U.S.S. CAMPBELL U.S.S. BIDGER ROSMERN DEANTHUS TRILLIUM BURZA	53 41 22 04 to 53 32 22 28 52 00 26 20	thence 7 1/2
2 M/V's	NORFOLK CUMBERLAND 3 Destroyers	43 03 18 16 to 52 02 13 59	16

1358A/13.

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (H) D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt Pim  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.C. (2)  
U.S.N.  
D.A./S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
D.T.D. (M)  
D.T.D. (S)  
D.T.D. (C)  
D.D.O.D. (M)  
D. of P. (2)  
D. of P. (Q)  
D.M.S.  
Ad. Ramsey (2)  
Ad. Blake  
D. of L.D.  
C.C.R.T.

.M.



# MOST SECRET

## MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

1746A/13th November

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 13/11/42  
Recd. 1345

W.A. Code O.T.T. by T/P (Secret) CORRECTION

Addressed (S. & A. Western Approaches), (Admiralty).

### IMPORTANT

Situation Report at 2000 Section N.W.

My 1341A/13th A. Amended course and speed 4  
minesweepers 063 degs. 04' 021 degs. 25' 13.

RU 48 (E) 059 degs. 22' 010 degs. 52' 8.

1746A/13.

\* Part three of C. in C. Western  
Approaches' Situation at 2004/13  
T.O.O. 1358/13.

Advance copies Ops., O.D., Trade.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Captain Pim
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Duty Captain (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A./S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.

- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- D.M.S.
- Admiral Ramsey (2)
- Admiral Blake
- D. of L.D.
- C.C.R.T.



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 13/11

- Patrols. (Contd.) Tonight 13th/14th Nov. M.T.B.55 (S.O.), 56, 50 M.G.B.611, 615 carry out sweep as in my 1152/11 Nov. Alternative patrol in 50° 10' N. 1° 30' W. may be ordered by signal. Codeword "Advent".
- Call sign whole force 3 O R D.
- M.L.303 (S.O.), R.M.L.522 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W. *see p. 546*
- CHASSEUR 41 (S.O.) and 10 on E.A5 patrol.
- PENYLAN stand by at Yarmouth. (i.o.w)
- PRINCE CHARLES leaves Gate 1730/13 for eastward. *see next page*  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1249A/13, 2226A/13 to HORNET, (R) S.O. 11th M.T.B.F., S.O. 18th M.G.B.F., D.1, X.D.O.(E), PENYLAN, Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, R.A.F. Tangmere, R.A.F. Thorney Island.)
- M.L. patrol tonight 13th Nov.
2. Force employed M.Ls 491 (S.O.), 195 and 157.
  3. Patrol. 7 miles 065° and 245° either side of position 110 Start 22 miles.
  4. Object. To intercept E-Boats.
  5. Information. Own. ITHURIEL passes Needles at 0445/14 to westward by convoy route. *see p. 546*
  - Enemy. E-Boats may work from Cherbourg or Guernsey.
  6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1700 today Friday and proceed on patrol. Leave patrol at daylight 14th and return Dartmouth.
  7. Codeword "Obstacle". Collective call sign 3 K M J.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1455A/13 to M.L.491, M.L.195, M.L.157, (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth, Admty.)
- Portsmouth night movements 13th/14th Nov.
- (4) 3 M.T.Bs and 2 M.G.Bs on patrol to the southward.
  - (5) 2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A5 buoy.
  - (6) 2 M.Ls patrolling south of St. Albans Head.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1725A/13 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Nore, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, H.Q.B.C., H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., 10, 11, 16 Groups, Tangmere, Thorney Island.)

Bay of Biscay S/M Patrol. My 1829/10th. SEALION and <sup>\*</sup>DOLFIN are to be sailed 15th Nov. for zone K.501 and K.505 respectively for operation in accordance with F.S.L.1.  
(2) S/Ms are to be routed through Bay via eastern route and are to be separated to avoid mutual encounter.  
(3) GRAPH is to be sailed for K.502 on 18th Nov. (F.O.(S), 1524A/13.)

*\* P. 47. see p. 545*

Allied Air Activity.

The following is extract of message A.358 12th Nov. received from Air Ministry:- "Any aircraft compelled of necessity to cross the coast below one thousand feet, is to give widest possible berth to places named in Admty. messages 1209A/30th Sept., 1127/10th Oct., 1716/14th Oct. and 1225/20th Oct."  
(D. of L.D., 1500A/13 to all authorities, Home.)



548

War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Minefield in Straits. Amending his 1319/12th.  
(F.O.C. Dover, 1047A/13.)

Boulogne to Etaples. A.M. 1430/12th. On completion of the operation offensive minelaying on the enemy route in this area was recommenced. Mines have been laid which are dangerous to small surface craft for a period of 40 days and access to coast between Boulogne and Etaples during next dark period will not be practicable.  
(V.A. Dover, 1308A/13 to C.C.O.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. Following has been read: Suspect E-Boat activity.  
(M.G.B. on position Z.19, 0045A/13 to N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)

It is suspected there are E-Boats in the Channel area.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2310A/13 to PRINCE CHARLES, CAMPBELL, E.D.O. East, E.D.O. West.) *\* see previous page*

LIDINGO ashore. Mining results.  
EMMA MARIE, (1) Southern Baltic, Press reports wreckage Swedish LIDINGO 5842 tons driven ashore Aaro November 9th.  
ADOLF, (2) Danish Waters. (A) October 10th small fast motor-boat mined near Buksor Odde. October 13th SONOERJYLLAND, Danish EMMA MARIE mined sunk in Laeso. October ELSE, Danish 17th German steam ADOLF mined sunk in Aebeltoft. PISCATOR, October 22nd Motor Ferry SONOERJYLLAND mined sunk AGNES, D.16, area Aaro. October 24th Danish fishing-vessel GUNTHER VON ELSE mined sunk near Vreseb in Great Belt. PLUSCHOU, October 28th fishing-vessel PISCATOR mined sunk ADELE, ESTHER mined. off Skagen. October 28th Danish fishing-vessel AGNES mined off Skagen. October 21st Danish minesweeper D.16 mined sunk off Fyns Hovgard. 30th September Aircraft Tender GUNTHER<sup>von</sup> PLUSCHOU mined sunk off Ronne.  
(B) Following vessels were also mined, but position are not known: German ADELE, Danish schooner ESTHER. All graded A.2.  
(N.A. Stockholm, 1717/13.)

U-Boats.

D/F bearings at 0938Z/13 and 1254Z/13 and 1646Z/13 indicate probably 3 U/Bs to westward of Reykjanes possibly southbound into convoy routes.  
(D.D.I.C., 1929A/13 to A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.)



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.Routes,  
Portland  
Bill to  
Dart Buoy.

The following routes between Portland Bill and Dart Buoy are established and should normally be used by all shipping as from 2359/13th Nov. All other routes excepting route 'O' (see my 1713/30th Sept.) are cancelled. D.C.133 is to be cancelled accordingly.

Route 'M' Dart Buoy to Portland. From Dart Buoy to position 50.27.30 N. 02.48.00 W. then by Q.Z.S. 293.

Route 'E' Portland to Dart Buoy. From western end of Q.Z.S. 293, through position 50.27.30 N. 03.01.00 W. and 50.23.00 N. 03.24.00 W. then to Dart Buoy.

2. P.W. convoys are to be sailed by route 'E' and W.P. convoys are to be sailed by route 'M'.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1343/13 and 1131A/15.)

Casualties and Defects.REIGHTON  
WYKE.

Reykjavik arrival REIGHTON WYKE at 1645A/12th returned damaged from R.U.48. (A.C.I.C., 1708A/12.)

SS. YEWKYLE.

SS. YEWKYLE with cargo of coal on passage from Southend to Shoreham went aground off Cuckmere at 0410/13 approx. 200 yards from cliff.

Unsuccessful attempts have been made to salvage at high tide with two tugs. Consider ship will have to be lightened to make salvage possible.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1731/13.)

Shipping and Convoys.

K.M.F. 3.

K.M.F.3. Request you will sail 1 "S" to R/V as required by N.O.I.C. Liverpool at B.L.V. about 1300/14th and escort 3 ships to R/V in

North Channel which will be signalled later. Destroyer to return to Londonderry on completion.

(C. in C. W.A., 1038A/13 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Cancel my 1759/11. K.M.F.3 S. of A. 12 knots. R/V 1200Z/15 055° 27' N. 009° 46' W., R/V 1200Z/16 052° 52' N. 016° 10' W., E.T.A. position G 1700Z/20th.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1101A/13 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

K.M.F.3 cancel my 1132A/12th not to SCIMITAR and substitute intend sailing SCIMITAR escorting CH. HUGENS, ANDES, BORINQUEN 1330A/14th for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles in accordance with A.M. 1950A/8th and C. in C. W.A. 1054A/13th neither to all addressees E.T.A. R/V 0400A/15th. S. of A. Q.Z.S.215 9 knots, 16 knots thereafter. Codeword "Master". Help call on 385 k/cs.

(2) ANDES will leave Bar L.V. 1500A/14th adjusting speed as necessary to overtake.

(3) N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail SCIMITAR in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1038A/13 not to all addressees.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1512A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

\* 3 p. 546

/K.M.F.3 ...



550

War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

K.M.F. 3. K.M.F.3 intend sailing Clyde portion passing Clyde Boom 1600A/14 R/V Liverpool portion in position (C) at 0400A bound thence in accordance with A.M. 1950A/8th. Codeword "Henbane".  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1804A/13.)

K.M.F.3.

- (1) Request you will arrange DORNOCH, FORT YORK and TADOUSSAC to sweep ahead of convoy to  $010^{\circ}$  W. then return to Londonderry.
- (2) Minesweepers should be sufficiently far ahead to allow convoy to make a bold diversion if necessary.
- (3) Route of convoy (C)  $270^{\circ}$  Oversay 6 miles at 0300Z/15th.
- (D)  $055^{\circ} 20'$  N.  $011^{\circ} 28'$  W.
- (4) Speed of advance 12 knots.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1807A/13 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Q.P. 15. Your 2150A/12. I have now 30 ships in Q.P.15. Would therefore much prefer these ships to be sailed independently.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1056A/13 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, (R) Admty., Admiral Miles.)

Your 1445/12 presumably made before receiving C. in C. H.F. 1352/12 accepting 30 ships plus ~~MINSTER~~ QUEEN and COPELAND. Request now includes as many as possible of 5 ships (corrupt group) of fuel and make balance with Russian ships awaiting passage to Iceland. Russians very anxious to include as many ships as possible of 4 now at Belushaya but will if necessary sail them independently. Selection of extra Russian? ships left to your discretion in conjunction with C. in C. White Sea, but must have sufficient speed. If any Belushaya ships included request arrange R/V convoy, Russians providing escort to R/V. C. in C. Northern Fleet has agreed to any such Russian craft to deliver convoy instructions to Belushaya.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1524A/13 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

From waiting position S/MS are to proceed direct to patrol vicinity of following patrol positions. P.312  $070^{\circ} 53' 022^{\circ} 06'$ . P.216  $070^{\circ} 52' 021^{\circ} 08'$ . UREDD  $070^{\circ} 32' 020^{\circ} 01'$ .  
2. Patrol areas are divided by longitude  $020^{\circ} 32'$  and  $021^{\circ} 40'$ . P.312 is not to proceed east  $022^{\circ} 40'$  in pursuit of enemy main units.

3. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to inform Soviet Authorities.

(F.O.S., 1526A/13 to Subs. operating North of lat.  $51^{\circ}$  N. (R) S.B.N.O. North Russia, Admty., A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.)

My 1511/16. Publications have not arrived and ULSTER QUEEN, BRYONY, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA and BERGAMOT and trawlers CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO, ST. KENAN, DANEMAN as escorts to Q.P.15 will proceed to sea with certain deficiencies. Latest publications held by vessels are as follows. Details.

2. Minesweepers hold all necessary publications.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1714A/13 to Admty.)

C. in C. H.F. 1909/11 and S.B.N.O. Archangel (?1449/12th. Concur sailing Q.P.15 to leave Dvina Bar at 1400/17th.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1738A/13.)

/Positions ...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Q.P. 15. Positions of submarines at 0800A/14 and movements for following 24 hours.  
(Contd.)

(A) P.312 70° 55' N. 18° 10' E. dived by day through 71° 28' N. 21° 50' E. to patrol vicinity 70° 53' N. 22° 06' E.

(B) P.216 70° 18' N. 15° 01' E. dived by day through 71° 10' N. 21° 01' E. to patrol vicinity 70° 52' N. 21° 08' E.

(C) UREDD 68° 50' N. 10° 30' E. probably on surface through 69° 59' N. 11° 50' E. and 70° 54' N. 20° 11' E. to patrol vicinity 70° 32' N. 20° 01' E. proceeding dived by day when within 60 miles of the coast. *See previous page.*  
(F.O.S., 1802A/13.)

You may sight EMPIRE SCOTT and EMPIRE SKY to eastward of 030° E. They are proceeding independently to Kola. Soviet submarines S.101 and S.102 may be sighted also between 019° 30' E. and 030° 00' E.

(? S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1858A/13 to Capt. D.8.)

Intend sailing Reykjavik from Dvina Bar 1200C/17th.

Following 8 British: TEMPLE ARCH (Commodore Meek), DAN-Y-BRYN (Vice Commodore of Convoy), EMPIRE TRISTRAM, EMPIRE SNOW, EMPIRE MORE (C.A.M.), EMPIRE BAFFIN, GOOLISTAN, OCEAN FAITH. 15 American: VIRGINIA DARE, SAHALE, NATHANIEL GREENE, EXFORD, WILLIAM MOULTREE, PATRICK HENRY, ESEK HOPKINS, SCHOHARIE, SAINT OLAF, HOLLYWOOD, CHARLES R. McCORMICK, MEANTICUT, LAFAYETTE, IRONCLAD, WHITE CLOVER. 7 Russian: MISTOMILES, BEANDRE, MARTI T. BILISI, PETSLOPOVSKY, BELLOMORE, FRIEDERICH ENGELS, KUSNETZ LESOV. Total 30 ships.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1950A/13.)

Operation My 1341/12. JOHN WALKER refloated and now proceeding to Molotovsk.  
F.B. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1107A/13.)  
JOHN WALKER, My 1819/12. American M/V JOHN H.B. LATROBE was  
JOHN B. apparently attacked by seven torpedo aircraft in  
LATROBE. approx. 74.40 N. 02.30 E. a.m./4th. Gunfire  
and evasive action resulted in no hits being  
scored. Captain then decided that as he had been discovered it was useless to continue his voyage. He therefore proceeded to west and south-west until he hit an iceberg. This flooded his fore peak and reduced his speed to 8 knots. He then steered for Iceland and when off the north coast hit a large submerged object. The result of this collision was the appearance of a large patch of oil. With the help of the keen oil-factory sense of the Chief Engineer it was decided this was diesel oil. Vessel anchored off Saebol p.m./10th made her name to the signal station and departed during darkness on the night of 10th/11th Nov. without further signal. She arrived off Reykjavik at 1500/12 with her speed reduced to 8 knots her cargo intact and all on board well.  
(A.C.I.C., 1327A/13.)

/SS. VAL ...



13.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

SS. VAL DE  
LA HAYE. N.A. Madrid's 1949/12 which has been passed to you, request you will order route for SS. VAL DE LA HAYE to Falmouth and arrange R/V and escort if practicable.

3. Admty. will pass details to N.A. Madrid.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1357A/13 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) H.Q.C.C.)  
Admty. 1357/13 not to all addressees.

Route as follows: By Spanish territorial waters to Cape Ortegale then along parallel 043° 50' N. to position 043° 50' N. 012° 30' W. thence up meridian of 012° 30' W. to 050° 00' N. 012° 30' W. thence to R/V trawler escort in 180 Bishop Rock 5 at 0800 G.M.T. Anticipated date of reaching R/V to be notified before sailing.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1823A/13 to Admty., (R) H.Q.C.C.,  
N.O.I.C. Falmouth, C. in C. W.A.)

MUSSOVIET, CHERNISHEVSKY, AZERBAIJAN. Propose to sail 3 Russian merchant ships MUSSOVIET, CHERNISHEVSKY and AZERBAIJAN now at Akureyri for Reykjavik escorted by CAPE PALLISER for inclusion in next R.V. (? R.U.) convoy. Request (? very) early reply.  
(A.C.I.C., 1359A/13 to Admty.)

System on which P.W. and W.P. convoys are run. Pass to ships concerned. My 1227A/23rd August. Schedule (A) is to be adopted. Pass to N.C.S.Os.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1505/13.)

K.M.F. 4. REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH will be required as escorts for convoy K.M.F.4 expected to sail from Clyde on 27th Nov.

2. Having completed boiler cleaning and made good any minor defects they should be ready in all respects for foreign service on the above date.

(D.O.D.(H), 1525A/13 to R.A.D.H.F.)

P.S.14. P.S. 14 cancelled.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1605A/13.)

Ships to be fitted with A.N.D. My 1146/6th June, para. 2, add:-  
OCEAN CRUSADER, OCEAN GYPSY, EMPIRE LAKELAND, EMPIRE LANCER and EMPIRE GERAINTE.  
2. My 1545/2 amend FORT YORK to read FORT FORK.  
3. Amendments will be numbered serially in future, this message being number 1.  
(D.T.D., 1702A/13.)

Russian M/Vs for Iceland. Your 1445/12 and my 1705/10. On completion present duty HARRIER and GLEANER and available trawlers may be used as well as any Russian ships you can collect to escort ships proceeding independently from White Sea to Kola.

/Please ...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - cont'd.

- Russian M/Vs. for Iceland.  
(Contd.) Please keep me informed of details. It will be necessary for minesweepers to fuel at Iokanka or from surplus bunkers in American merchant ships.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1732A/13 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
- K.M.S. 4,  
M.K.F. 2.  
(TAY) My 1040/11. No escorts allocated to convoys K.M.S.4 and M.K.F.2 are fitted with H/F D/F. TAY is available at Glasgow until 22nd Nov. Request immediate fitting of H/F D/F may be considered. If approved N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to allocate an H/F D/F officer to TAY for her first trip.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1809A/13 to Admty.)
- K.M.S. 3. K.M.S. 3 all present except LUNENBERG not joined. Your 1445 KONGSVERE in company.  
(2) My P.C. and S. 050° 25' N. (019°?) (24'?)  
(West?) (group missed) 7½, (? weather report ?651, 3472).  
(3) E.T.A. position (H) 1600Z Friday 20th.  
(4) 14th 0359 12th S.P.02485 found in package S.D.9999 which I have therefore instructed escort Group No.37 to open.  
(BLACK SWAN, 2003A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch".

Cancel my 2050/12. NOLISEMENT not now sailing.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0014Z/13 to LEYLAND.)

Regret to report Albacore Mark B F 665, G B W -  
F 8, 88799 found La Senia believed to have been  
shot down in flames. Crew killed.

(2) Pilot of single seater fighter name Rowland  
reported killed. No further information.

(N.C.C.N.T.F. 0027Z/13 to \*FURIOUS. (R) N.C.X.F.  
BITER. DASHER. *\*see p-55g*)

Your 1630Z/12 to N.C.X.F. information not given  
Patrol 73 prior to their departure.  
(Comnaveu 0032A/13 to S.O.W.N.T.F.)

Transports  
to keep  
clear of  
Casablanca.

Your 1940/12 direct 5 transports enter Casablanca  
between 1100 and 1600/14. Remainder remain at sea  
until further orders preparatory to entering  
Casablanca. Keep N.C.X.F. and me informed of  
routeing. Route New York to (?sail) (?further)  
2 destroyers. New York to promulgate routeing.  
C.T.G. 34.9. Acknowledge.  
(C.T.F. 34 0047Z/13 to C.T.G. 34.9. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Senior Military Officer abroad will warn O.C.  
place of which he is going that six C U 47 with  
escort will land not before 1300/13. All  
concerned (corrupt group) ? landings will be  
warned.

(E.T.F. 0105A/13 to WHEATLAND, LAMERTON.)

Torpedo fired 050° Carbon 3 from 100.  
(PENTSTEMON 0105Z/13 to "Torch" N.T.F. (R)  
S.O.I.S.S.)

Request escort which brings one section of  
U.G.F.2 to Gibraltar be used to escort FIATRA  
HILDUR to Mehedia if they have not already  
sailed. Escorts will then be returned to  
Gibraltar. N.C.X.F. pass to Comtask 38.  
(C.T.F. 34 0130Z/13 to C.T.F. 38. N.C.X.F.)  
Cancel my 0130Z/13. N.C.X.F. pass to C.T.F.38.  
(C.T.F. 34 1739Z/13 to N.C.X.F.)

STURGEON's 1840 STURGEON and TRIBUNE may encounter  
own surface force today. STURGEON acknowledge.  
(Capt. S.8. S/M.F. 0322Z/13 to 8th S/M.F.)

/Bougie...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Bougie

Left Bougie 0430A/13. Ammunition delivered in charge of ROBERTS who still had 60% fuel, other ships getting very low. Request fighter cover 1st light.  
(PELICAN 0435A/13 to F.O. Inshore Algiers.)

\*LOUISBERG  
ARCHER  
U.G.F.2.

\* *See p. 568*

Have lost contact with convoy. R.D.F. out of action. My P.C.S. at 0400 032° 18' N 012° (corrupt group) W 16. Returning over reciprocal course. Request instructions.  
(LOUISBERG 0530Z/13 to JONQUIL.)

Lost contact with U.G.F.2. Unable to maintain speed of convoy. R.D.F. out of action. My P.C.S. 1000Z 034° 00' 010° 50' 077° 14. Request instructions.

(LOUISBERG 1010Z/13 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) JONQUIL. Escort U.G.F.2.)

Am in company with convoy U.G.F.2 carrying cargo of 35 U.S. army air corps P.40 F A/C and pilots of 33 group. Only instructions received before leaving U.S.A. were that these A/C were to be catapulted off to a destination that would be made known to me. Request instructions as no further information received. My P.C.S. at 0800Z/13 031° 47' N 010° 26' W 000° 15.

(ARCHER 0600Z/13 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. W.N.T.F.)

ARCHER 0600/13. Request you will (?direct) ARCHER as to destination for her P 40 A/C.

(N.C.X.F. 1030Z/13 to N.C.W.N.T.F. (R) ARCHER. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Admty.)

Your\*1810Z (?13th) (N.T. in W.R.) (? return to) Gibraltar.

(?N.C.X.F. 1502Z/13 to LOUISBERG.) \*? 1010Z - *see above.*

Your 1030Z/13 affirmative. Shortly.

(N.C.W.N.T.F. 1709Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) ARCHER. ? N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Admty.)

My 2056Z/12 and your 1647Z/12 only 5 ships in (?locality) (? FELIXSTOWE) and CLACTON are returning forthwith.  
(EXE 0710Z/13 to N.C.C.N.T.F. (R) RHYL.)

U/B  
prisoners.  
U. 660. *See R 12/11.*

WESTCOTT 1104Z/12. Have German prisoners on board one officer 28 ratings no casualties.  
(STARWORT 0730Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Algiers. (R) Admty.)

Eisenhower  
Cunningham  
fly to  
Algiers.

For Chief of Staff. I am coming to Algiers for the day with Allied C. in C. Estimated T of A Maison Blanche about 1130Z.  
(N.C.X.F. 0815Z/13 to Cdre. Algiers. (R) S.O. 3rd. Detached Sqdn.)

C.S.10.

My 2103Z/12. Amend E.T.A. to 0600Z/14 F.O.C.N.A. acknowledge.  
(C.S.10. 0827Z/13 to N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H. F.O.C.N.A.)

/Bombing...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Bombing at Bone. \*LAMERTON and WHEATLAND being dive-bombed at Bone. (LAMERTON 0830A/13 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

Macalpine 6th Commando reports R W K 500 strong arrived 0706A/13 now moving into position agreed with C.O. 3 successive raids on port area (corrupt group) bomber A/C. Fighter A/C urgently required for protection and sustaining morale of French Military and civil population. All quiet Mano and Code. B L. \* *see p. 563*

(LAMERTON 0908A/13 to First Army (R) R.A. Burroughs.)

Your 0732Z/13. Destroyers being dive-bombed at half hour intervals. Commandant states that misses falling in town are having detrimental effect on loyalty of population. Parachute mines have been dropped outside harbour. Commandant has requested destroyers to sail. All troops and stores (?landed) and military situation in hand. Intend sailing after dark as per your 1816A/11 (?unless) situation further deteriorates.

(LAMERTON 1120A/13 to (Corrupt addressee) S.O. Spare Force (9))

Sail westward at your discretion.

(S.O. Inshore Sqdn. 1032A/13 to LAMERTON.)

Code and Mano in state of defence. Relations with local military commander improved considerably. Military commander meantime to urge speedy reinforcements. Particular anxiety regarding Lac Fetzara map (?vicinity) 63 and 73 as potential landing ground for enemy air borne troops. Enemy air R/C considerable. No attacks. Obvious that liaison with Constatine garrison commander would be welcome to French and of great value to us. Have not disarmed French garrison. Am convinced that little pressure is required to effect their complete fighting co-operation. Information regarding situation in Tunisia not precise. Denial of any German landings in strength. Sending French officer in plain clothes to Algiers by destroyer his information appears to justify such action. Enemy A/C fighters over Bone at 1700 (?12th) Twin engined planes escorted by (?fighters approx.) (?10) in all over Bone with wheels down at 1730 not identified.

(LAMERTON 1105A/13 to 1st. Army (R) Flag or S.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

COXWOLD is to be sailed to Bone at 1000Z/15 with (corrupt group) 200 tons aviation petrol and 300 tons army petrol. Will be unescorted and should be routed close inshore fighter. Attendance will be provided throughout the passage.

(S.O. Inshore Sqdn. 0845A/13 to S.N.O.L.D. (R) N.O.I.C. Bougie. N.O.I.C. Bone.)

My P.C.S. 036° 50' N 000° 35' W 090° 20 knots. (ZETLAND 0900A/13 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

Search for MARNE.

Searching area with PRESCOTT. Endurance 3 days fuel water food.

*see p. 561*

(JAUNTY 0907A/13 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)



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War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.ISAAC  
SWEERS  
sunk.*(by U.431)*

14. A<sup>vilers</sup> 0536Z ISAAC SWEERS while screening force (R) (~~corrupt group~~) (corrupt group) torpedoed by S/M and sunk in 037° 23' N 002° 12' E. FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE and trawler searching for (corrupt group) survivors. (S.O. Force H 0917Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. Inshore Sqdn.)

*ISAAC SWEERS sunk by U.431 which torpedoed her at 0615 CET  
(Information from F.D.S., Cdr. Samson, 5-11-44)*

E.T.A. 1230Z/13. Ships in company ABERDEEN, LETITIA, ORBITA, ETTRICK. *See p.560 & 562.*  
(DEPTFORD 0920Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) (?N.C.C.N.T.F.) F.O.C.N.A.)

The following is from C.T.F.34 (T.O.O. 0405/13)  
Action C.T.F.38 (R) N.C.X.F. C.T.G.34.1.  
C.T.G. 34.2. C.T.G. 34.9.

Until 8 hours 14th steer westerly courses keeping between latitudes 34 and 35. Assume your 1900 longitude about 0930 west. The Task Groups listed may be in your vicinity. N.C.X.F. pass to Action Addressee. Information Task Groups informed (Comnavu 0941/13 to Admty.)

Mining  
of Tunis.

3 magnetic mines set. No delay. Laid just outside entrance to La Goulette, Tunis night 12th/13th.  
(V.A. Malta 1014A/13 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.X.F. N.C.E.N.T.F. S.O. Force H.)

JAMAICA

*See p.565*

E.T.A. Gibraltar 2000Z/13 passing through position 22.  
(JAMAICA 1024Z/13 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F. N.C.C.N.T.F.)

Force H  
Situation.

Your 1218/12\*para 3. Aircraft serviceability 26 torpedo bomber R/C aircraft. 41 fighters. 5 Fulmars.

(ii) Fuel situation. All classes of ships with exceptions of Hunt can remain at sea for further 4 or 5 (?days) if speed 16 knots is not exceeded and allowing about 15 to 20 per cent fuel stocks remaining.

(iii) ASHANTI has defective distilling plant and must return to harbour in about 48 hours. AVON VALE has defective "A" bracket bearing, can steam 18 knots on one engine, being sent to Gibraltar with Force 'R'.

(iv) Last night A/S.V search unproductive.

(v) Force R will be detached at 1300Z in approx. 037° 27' N 001° 46' E to Gibraltar S.O.A. 10 knots route through position 76.

(vi) My intended position 0600Z/14 037° 59' N 001° 31' E.

(S.O. Force H 1111Z/13 to N.C.X.F.)

\* N.T. in W.R.

/Aircraft...



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13.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Aircraft minelaying. My 1014/13th. In view of petrol situation A.O.C. does not intend any more mining unless particularly asked for.  
(V.A. Malta, 1115A/13 to N.C.X.F.)

Algiers Assault Convoy. Expect to leave Arzeu with all ships of assault convoy tomorrow Saturday about noon. Request maximum A/S protection. 500 Squad. Tafaroui have been informed.  
(N.C.C.N.T.F., 1116Z/13 to N.C.X.F.)

Force R. Your 1052Z/12th (not to Capt. S.8). To Gulf of Cristiano please.  
(N.C.X.F., 1122Z/13 to S.O. Force H, (R) S.O. Inshore Sqdn., Cdre. Algiers, C.S.10, Capt. S.8.)

11 A/C patrolling (? 3) arrived Port Lyautey 0400/13.  
(BARNEGAT, 1130Z/13 to C.T.F.34, Comnavau, Pass to R.A.F. Station at Lyneham.)

A/S.V. Sweep. Intend to repeat A/S.V sweep tonight between 1800Z and 2130Z in areas (A) between 37 and 37.30 N. and 01.30 E. and 02.30 E.  
(B) between 00.30 E. and 01.30 E. and 36.50 N. and 37.20 N.  
Request summary of shipping and S/Ms movements in these areas.  
(S.O. Force H, 1156Z/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) French S.N.O. Ashore, Algiers, S.O. Inshore Sqdn., R.A.A.C., FORMIDABLE, French S.N.O. Ashore Oran.)

S/M Patrols. Your 1637/11 delayed in transmission. Agree but request approaches to Tripoli may be included in disposition ordered in your (?09)37/11th as soon as S/Ms are available.  
(C. in C. Med., 1215B/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. S.10.)

U.S. S/Ms. *See p. 568* Duty completed by order of C.T.F.34. Depart from station at 0001Z/14 proceed U.K. through following points as arranged with N.C.X.F.  
A. 32.00 N. 12.00 W. B. 35.00 N. 15.00 W. C. 36.00 N. 20.00 W.  
D. 43.00 N. 20.00 W. thence as ordered by Admty.  
(2) S/Ms are to proceed submerged by day until after passing position B. Submerged bombing restrictions will be imposed accordingly assuming S. of A. 11 knots on surface and 2½ submerged. Acknowledge to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty.  
Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe pass to Base 2.  
(C.S.S.50, 1219Z/13 to SHAD, HERRING, BARB, GUNNEL, (R) N.C.X.F., Comnavau, C.T.F.34, Admty., F.O.S., R.A.W.A.F.)

/Situation ...



War Diary.

13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

- Situation 124. (1) Bone. LAMERTON and WHEATLAND arrived  
Report No.9. a.m. 12th with troops and after reloading at  
Bougie returned a.m. 13th.  
(2) Bougie. Discharge of Assault Force including  
troops in STRATHNAVER completed, store ships  
completed from 13th. KARANJA and CATHAY total loss. \*ROBERTS  
seaworthy after minor repairs. Fighter protection effective  
on 12th when Ju.88 shot down. Working of port now greatly  
improved. *\* p. 567*  
(3) Algiers. Port working well except that French ships not  
yet sailed since must be treated as Allies.  
(4) Oran Area. No change reported but first follow up convoys  
berthed.  
(5) Port Lyautey. Port ready to receive ships. Convoy T.F.1  
due 15th.  
(6) Casablanca. AUGUSTA entered Harbour. Many berths blocked.  
U.S. Transports <sup>EDWARDS</sup> RUTLEDGE, <sup>TASKER</sup> BLISS and <sup>HUGH</sup> SCOTT torpedoed by submarine  
off Fedala, <sup>SWAN</sup> RUTLEDGE sank. Eight ships of U.G.F.2 ordered to  
Gibraltar remainder lying off to seaward. *U.660*  
(7) STARWORT <sup>LOTIS</sup> escorting T.E.3 sank German U-Boat in 36.07 N.  
01.00 W. 45 prisoners captured. URSULA almost certainly sank  
\* U-Boat off Cape de Gata. *U.660* \* CLARE claims to have sunk U-Boat in  
37.41 N. 00.10 W. <sup>12/11</sup> A/S air patrols made three attacks.  
(8) MARNE in tow. <sup>^</sup> STORK torpedoed on patrol off Algiers but  
reached harbour with damaged bow. *\*\* not confirmed*  
(9) Force H still covering area until Italian Battle Fleet  
settles. Neither Oran nor Algiers able to accept Force H or  
cruisers for oiling. Force R (Oilers) returning to Gibraltar  
empty.  
(10) Return convoys proceeding normally.  
(11) N.C.X.F. visiting Algiers today Friday 13th by air.  
(12) Admty. pass to A.F.H.Q. London.  
(N.C.X.F., 1220Z/13.)

*\* probably U.73.*

Your 2005Z/12. Landing effected in U K (2 corrupt  
groups) H.M.S. MONCK.  
(N.C.C.N.T.F., 1302Z/13 to ULSTER MONARCH.)

FURIOUS  
A/Cs.

My 1016/12th. Cancel my 2140Z/10. FURIOUS  
will be re-equipped with 9 Albacores. Sufficient  
Albacore stores to maintain this Squadron are to  
re-embark.  
(N.C.X.F., 1344Z/13 to F.O.C.N.A., FURIOUS, (R)  
R.A.A.)

Your 1735/12. Approved. Arrangement for transfer will be  
signalled later. Intend FURIOUS to embark A/C at sea.  
2. Your paragraph (E) no air crew pool at Gibraltar (corrupt  
group) (? but pilots and observers) asked for from U.K. for  
813 Sqdn. not yet arrived.  
(N.C.X.F., 1758Z/13 to R.A.A. (Corrupt Group), (R) S.O. Force H.)

/Convoy ...



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13.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Convoy 126. Request you will sail Convoy M.K.F.1(Y) at  
M.K.F.1(Y). 1600Z/14 routed through the following positions:  
*see pp 5578*  
*562*  
 D. 36.00 N. 10.00 W. E. 39.12 N. 17.01 W.  
 F. 45.25 N. 17.26 W. G. 50.35 N. 16.50 W.  
 H. 54.05 N. 13.37 W. J. 55.28 N. 08.30 W.

and report anticipated S. of A.

(2) Convoy will consist of ETTRICK, ORBITA, LETITIA, ALMAACK, DEMPO and any other ships capable of maintaining 14 knots.

(3) Admty. is requested to signal destination.

(4) Escort will be detailed later. (See 1028/14.)

(5) A.O.C. Gib. is requested to arrange A/S air patrols.

(N.C.X.F., 1441Z/13 to V.A. Gib., (R) Comm. F.S. Eight, A.O.C. Gib., Admty.)

Algiers My 1501/13th part 3.\* final (3) Algiers T.E.3  
situation. arrived noon. STRATHNAVER arrived a.m. M.K.F.A  
and M.K.S.A. sailed p.m. This clears all  
shipping of assault convoy. Plan? of smoke  
protection of harbour being completed today. Meantime DELHI  
provides good screening if necessary. Berthing of K.M.F.2 and  
K.M.S.2 ships progressing well. French are moving ships out  
to anchorage which will give 4? more berths alongside. No  
bombing so far today.

(S.O.I.S., 1511Z/13 to N.C.X.F.)

\* Note. Part 3 only received.

Intend sailing 1600Z today (a) Personnel ship NARKUNDA

M.T. ships CITY OF NORWICH, OCEAN VISTA. (b) For Bougie.

(c) Route passing 10 miles off all salient points.

(d) Speed 9 knots. (e) Fighter protection required priority  
2 from 1st light 14th sector D.

(Cmdre. Algiers, 1534Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Bougie, (R) A.O.C.  
Maison Blanche, S.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.)

R. of P.s. to Reports of proceedings are required from all ships  
be rendered. taking part in Operation "Torch".

Reports are to be addressed to the task force

Commander concerned with a copy to N.C.X.F.;

latter copies to be forwarded on arrival at

Gibraltar. Reports from ships that have already left the  
station are to be forwarded as soon as possible.

(2) Ships due to return to U.K. in accordance with TON 5 are to  
land with N.C.X.F. for onward transmission copies addressed to  
the Task Force Commander under whom they have been working.

(3) Report of attack by U-Boat are similarly to be rendered to  
N.C.X.F.

(4) Report attack A/C are similarly to be rendered to N.C.X.F.  
in accordance with C.A.F.O.595 Section IV.

(N.C.X.F., 1527Z/13 to all British S. and A. concerned in  
Operation "Torch", V.A. Malta excluding W.N.T.F.)

French Ships From S.N.O.L.D. about 5 French M/Vs will sail  
from Bougie. for Algiers tonight 13th. They will be escorted  
by an armed tug from Jijelli.

(ROBERTS, 1602Z/13 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

/SS. MARON ...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.M.V.  
SS. MARON  
torpedoed  
off Oran.(M.V. ~~Maron~~)  
SS. MAR(?)ON (? torpedoed by) S/M<sup>+</sup> in 036° 27' N.  
000° 58' W.  
(MALCOLM, 1620A/13.) <sup>\*probably U.431</sup>ALBACORE  
bombed off  
Bougie.Attacked by 10 Junkers at 1250 off Bougie 4  
hits. Minor damage from near misses. Some  
repairs beyond capacity of ships staff.  
Percentage ammunition remaining 30 H.E., 50  
Oerlikon. E.T.A. Algiers 2230.  
(ALBACORE, 1620Z/13 to S.O.I.S.)JONQUIL,  
MARNE.Your 1449Z/13. My P.C. and S. 035° 23' 008° 30'  
076° 12. Expect to arrive Gate 0700Z/14.  
Have Capt. 9 officers and 57 ratings from HECLA,  
2 officers and 119 ratings from MARNE.~~1-1~~ p. 556  
+ 564  
Message from LANDGUARD addressed F.O.C.N.A., begins: MARNE in  
tow SALVONIA. JAUNTY standing by. My P.C. and S. 035° 12'  
009° 35' 070° 3 at 1100Z/13. LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, PRESCOTT all  
over 80% fuel remaining. T.O.O. 1058Z/13. Ends.  
Weather report 5481 1075.  
(JONQUIL, 1625Z/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)DEWDALE escorted by LORD HOTHAM and LORD NUFFIELD  
will be sailed after dark for Algiers.  
(S.O.I.S., 1625A/13 to S.N.O.L.D.)C. in C. Allied Forces directs (? 6th Dest.  
Flot.) (group missing) act under orders of  
N.C.W.N.T.F.  
(N.C.X.F., 1633Z/13 to N.C.W.N.T.F., (R) T.F.38.)C.S.10's  
force.Your 2103/12 report composition of force  
arriving. Is M.K.F.1 in company. S.O.I.S.  
1835/12 refers.  
(N.C.X.F., 1650Z/13 to C.S.10.)Your 1650Z/13. SHEFFIELD, ARGUS, AVENGER, SCYLLA,  
CHARYBDIS, WRESTLER, VANOC, CLARE, WISHART, VELOX. Also  
M.K.F.1 SAMUEL CHASE, LUFFMAACK, DEMPO. ~~1-1~~ p. 559  
+ 564(C.S.10, 2015Z/13 to N.C.X.F.) \*ALMAACK ~~1-1~~ p. 559  
+ 564  
Berth in following order at 20 minute intervals.AVENGER 43 bows south, SHEFFIELD 3 bows north, CHARYBDIS west  
side, SAN ADOLFO at 35, SCYLLA 47 on VINDICTIVE, ARGUS 52 on  
Tanker KAIA KNUDSEN. Last three bows south. Both baffles  
will be open. Destroyers 2 east\* side of 35, 2 each side of 36  
2 at 27. Pass E.T.A. AVENGER at gate to P.W.S.S. Merchant  
ships to close examination station for pilots.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2019Z/13 to C.S.10, Ships in company.) \*(?each)Your 0441/12. My Chief Salvage Officer, Commander  
J.H. Vine, is being sent by air at first  
opportunity.(N.C.X.F., 1659Z/13 to C.T.F.34, (R) Admty.,  
Cominch, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.)



War Diary.

13.11.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

2 Spitfires will be sent dawn 14th to carry out special R/C as requested.  
(C/S O8N?, 1700/13 to S.O.E.N.T.F., (R) C/S 90G.)

Fuel at Algiers.

My 1926/12 ENNERDALE has less than 1000 tons of oil fuel remaining and this is only supply available.  
(Cmdre. Algiers, 1705A/13 to (?N.C.X.F.), (R) F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

Minefield off Fedala.

Presume minefield laid off Fedala Nov. 8th will be promulgated in Q.K., series.  
(D.M.S., 1710A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A.C.N.A.)

Your 1156Z/13. None known Cmdre. Algiers is requested to confirm.  
(N.C.X.F., 1710Z/13 to S.O. Force H, (R) S.O.I.S. Admty., FORMIDABLE, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cmdre. Algiers.)

Special situation report of Western Task Force.

1. (Military).
2. Condition of airfields. Casablanca completely operational all types including R.D.F. and W. lighting. Port Lyautey operational north, south runways only. To be used refuelling only due to congestion. Rabat Sale operational for light types only.
3. Estimate of army casualties approx. 100 K., 275 W.
4. Will start unloading cargo at Casablanca today. Unloading berths estimated as follows: Casablanca 8, Safi 3, Fedala 1. Port labour assisting Fedala. 351 tons coal are available at Casablanca, also 6 tugs and 15 barges. Estimated 75% vehicles and 20% assault convoy unloaded 0430Z.
5. Hostilities ceased in all areas. Friendly reception received in Casablanca.

(Commandeth, Gibraltar, 1711/23.)

R/C between 2400Z/11th and 2400Z/12, 7 Ju.88s from Trapani were active. R/C undertaken as far as 4<sup>o</sup> W. and 1 aircraft to 40 miles S.E. Gibraltar. Shipping Gulf of Bougie reported by 2 aircraft and 3 others reported convoy west of Oran. 1 aircraft landed Elmas.

Long range bombers. Between 0400Z and 0700Z/12th, about 10 aircraft active Bougie area. Afternoon and evening Nov.12th, at least 30 Ju.88s and He.111s reported to have operated against shipping between Bougie and Oran.

R.A.F. destroyed 11 and damaged 5 in these attacks.

(Commandeth, Gibraltar, 1723Z/13.)

Movements.

Arrivals ABERDEEN, DEPTFORD with SS. ETTRICK, LETITIA, ORBITA.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1714A/13 to Admty., N.O.I.C. Oran.)

*imp. 557*



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Admiralty pass to C.T.G. 34.1.  
Following is C. in C. Atlantic Fleet's 1516/13  
for action C.T.G. 34.1 Cdr. 7th U.S. Cruiser Divn.  
for information C.T.F. 29 C. in C. U.S. Fleet  
C.T.G. 26.1. Com 5.

Replenish service ammunition at base H where you  
will proceed with your group. When security permits report ships  
in company with you. C.T.F. 34 despatch 1924/12 not to all  
addressees.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1715/13 to C.T.G. 34.1.)

Casablanca My 1715Z/13 Part 2 final.  
Situation. AUGUSTA,\*CHENANGO, HAMBLETON in Casablanca.\* *imp. 565*  
Present estimate doubtful HAMBLETON can be  
repaired. Harbour (?clearance) (?being) expedited.  
Safi group completed unloading today all safe being routed to  
U.S. Covering group and air group less CHENANGO and SANGAMON  
(?released) and routed to U.S. Before arrival of squadron of  
P.40s at Casablanca Airfield. Remainder port Lyautey. N.C.X.F.  
pass to C. in C. Allied Force Cinclant Cominch.  
(N.C.W.N.T.F. 1715Z/13 to N.C.X.F.)

LAMERTON Enemy aircraft bombing in position XTBJ 1823.  
*imp. 556* (LAMERTON 1753/13.)  
Enemy aircraft bombing in position XTAG 1837.  
(LAMERTON 1753/13.)

Appeal to My 1815C/13 (omitted) contains a moving appeal  
Admiral from Moreau serving in LEOPARD to his Father  
Moreau. Chief of French North African Squadron at Dakar.  
He requests  
(A) that it may be sent to his Father by broadcast  
or cable and  
(B) broadcast in Free French transmission if possible tomorrow  
Saturday night. Recording can be done in Capetwon and passed to  
B.B.C. by Beam Radio.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1800C/13 to D.N.I.)  
N.I.D. Comment. Admiral Moreau has recently been appointed  
"Admiral Sud" and so far as known is in Algiers.

Weather 11 estimated Western Med. in addition there are  
forecast. approx. 17 German U-Boats operating throughout  
and the Med. and based on Med. Ports of which 6 or 7  
Special refitting. 6 North (?Durazzo) to Tangier from  
U-Boat numerous D/F. One locality 34 north 10 west by  
estimates D/F 0850Z/13. Admty. pass all 4 parts of my  
E of 26 W. 1814/13 to C.T.F. 34.  
1 vicinity 33.50 N 11.30 W by D/F 0444Z/13.  
2 area 36 N 14 W probably heading S.E.  
1 vicinity 38 N 18 W by D/F 1010Z/13.  
1 37.30 N 19 W by poor D/F 0421Z/13.  
1 locality 40 N 17 W by D/F 1228Z/13. probably homeward bound.  
1 southbound area 42 N 12 W.  
3 northbound 13 N 20 W 14 N 22 W. 34 N 20 W.  
5 homeward bound 33 N 24 W 46 N 04 W 45 N 11 W 45 N 14 W 48 N  
24 W.

/3 westbound...



13.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch"-contd.

Weather 3 westbound 44 N 19 W 49 N (70?) W 53 N 23 W.  
Forecast 3 patrolling 51 N 23 W 37 N 23 W 41 N 23 W.  
and 1 46.30 N 25 W by poor D/F 0940Z/13.  
Special Possibly 2 off (Dakar?)  
U-Boat 3 estimated patrolling 03 N 01 W 03 N 08 W.  
estimates 05 N 11 W.  
E of 26 W. 12 Atlantic area (corrupt group) Weather forecast  
Contd. Atlantic coast Morocco cloudy, becoming partly  
cloudy. N.E. winds 9 knots. Visibility 12  
miles. Base low cloud 2 thousand feet. Sea  
moderate. Swell N.W. slight to moderate.  
Azores 0000Z Friday swell short heavy N.E. 5 and 6 feet period  
8 per second sea choppy very rough.  
Weather coast of Morocco next 5 days generally fair winds gentle  
to moderate N.Ely. some Nly. winds and probably short periods of  
fresh winds locally.  
Some possible showery conditions developing end of period not  
severe. Intense cyclonic storm preceded by strong to gale  
southerly winds and followed by extensive N.W. gales north of  
45 to 50 N probably centred 53 N 35 W Sunday and 58 N 25 W  
Monday.  
(Cominch 1814/13 to C.T.F.34. C.T.F. 37. C.T.F.39. C.T.F. 38.  
(R) Cinclant. C.T.F. 30.)

T.B.  
depot  
at  
Algiers.

Intend to establish torpedo depot in hangar of  
Air France flying boat station not being used by  
F.A.A. Office and store accommodation appears  
adequate. 110 direct current and 220 alternating  
current supply available. Fixed electric grid  
on water front and 12 feet water. Part partially  
equipped workshop is available. 45 by 36 yards.  
F.O. Inshore Squad concurs.  
(Cdre. Algiers 1815Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.  
Inshore Sqdn.)

JAUNTY return to harbour.\* XPRESCOTT, if not  
in company with MARNE, return to Gibraltar.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1830Z/13 to Admty. JAUNTY. PRESCOTT.  
N.C.X.F. LULWORTH. LANDGUARD. MARNE.)  
\* See N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1154/13 in North Atlantic.

*See p. 561.*

*\* See p. 568*

*p. 570*

Free French ST. CHARLES and trawler escort  
entering harbour from (?Jijelli) bound Algiers.  
(PENTSTEMON 1837Z/13 to S.N.O.L.D.)

M.K.S.1A  
M.K.F. 1A

*See p. 548*

TON 7. M.K.S.1A. 6 ships from Algiers, 2 from  
Bougie 3rd joining in position one at 0700Z/14  
routed thence 20, 76. Escort HUSSAR and  
SPEEDWELL from Algiers, ROTHER and SPEY from Bougie. E.T.A.  
daylight 16th. M.K.F.1A KEREN, STRATHNAVER,\*MARNIX, EXCELLER  
from Algiers 1900Z/13 Nov. routed 9, 76, escort XBLYSKAWICA, EGRET  
and PHILANTE E.T.A. p.m. 14th. My 1836Z/12 4 ships only sailed.  
(S.O.I.S. 1845Z/13.)

*\*MARNIX was ST ALDEGONDE*

*\* See p. 565A*

/Owing...



565

War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Owing to heavy rain and lack of accomodation between decks for 500 survivors intend to remain alongside \*CHENANGO who will accommodate them for night. Intend sailing daylight 14th.

N.C.W.N.T.F. concurs.

(VENOMOUS 1857Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) VULCAN.

V.A.C.N.A.) \* *see p. 563*

Request information when available as to condition of captured graving and floating docks and general state of shipyard workshops and local labour.

(D of P 1904A/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) D.C.N.X.F.)

BLYSKAWICA

Details of casualties and defects.

(F.O.I.S. 1920/13) See Lion Copy.

E.T.A. Gibraltar 1040 G.M.T./14. Oil fuel required 50 tons.

(WOODSTOCK 2000Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Capt. Dockyard and K.H.M. Gib.)

\*JAMAICA

*see p. 557*

Oran area departure 0800/13. JAMAICA for Gibraltar.

(N.C.C.N.T.F. 2010Z/13.)

Landing  
Craft  
casualties.

Following received from F.O.I.S. Begins.

N.C.X.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers from F.O.I.S.

176 craft took part in operations at Algiers.

Ships to Bougie were re-equipped at Algiers.

Total craft to Bougie 71. Total casualties to

craft in Algiers assault all caused by weather, 13 landing craft A, 25 LCP 13 LMC 1 LCM 3 1 LCS. Salvage proceeding and there are

already about ten safe but badly damaged including four LCM 1.

In Algiers now fifty per cent defective fifteen LCA 9 LCP 1 LCM

11 LCM 3 2 LCS all working at heavy load. Base Officer requires

more shipwrights. T.O.O. 2359A/12 Ends.

Additional shipwrights are being arranged.

(N.C.X.F. 2100Z/13 to Admty. (R) D.N.C.X.F. C.C.O.)

Intended  
movements.

136. K 168. Intend following movements -

(1) Force H. (a) DUKE OF YORK. FORMIDABLE.

BERMUDA. ARGONAUT. SIRIUS and 8 destroyers to

arrive Gibraltar p.m. 14th in daylight if possible.

(2) Enter harbour and fuel. S.O. Force H requested to transfer flag to NELSON.

(3) SCYLLA. CHARYBDIS from Gibraltar to join Force H.

(b) under R.A.(A) Home Fleet a.m. 15th.

(4) NELSON, FURIOUS, Force H.

(b) sail to eastward a.m. 15th.

(5) Force H.

(b) to arrive Gibraltar p.m. 15th.

(6) SHEFFIELD. \*JAMAICA. \*AURORA sailing for U.K. 14th. *see pp 566*

(N.C.X.F. 2101Z/13 to A.I.G. 259. Except W.N.T.F. (R) *2570*

Admty. V.A. Malta. C. in C. H.F.)

\* *see pp 566 p 572*

/138. Your...



**SECRET**

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

*BLYSKAWICA, damaged by etc of Bougie, 12/11.*

SECRET MESSAGE 1920/13th Nov. IN

FROM: F.O. Inshore Squadron. DATE: 14.11.42.

RECD: 0001

NAVAL CYPHER (D) BY W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty for Polish Naval H.Q. London.

IMMEDIATE.

Following received from Polish Ship BLYSKAWICA begins

(A) 2 Polish ratings and 1 British Signalman killed.  
Buried at sea.

(B) 6 Polish P.O.s and 27 ratings wounded and landed at Bougie. List of names etc. is being prepared.

(C) 8 slightly wounded on board require X ray within a few days.

(D) 1 fuel tank aft and 1 fuel tank forward holed, some others leaking, probably starved.

(E) A number of holes down ship starboard side.

(F) Anchutz gyro compass out of action

(G) R.D.F. 286 out of action 285 one aerial gone

(H) 1 main feed pump out of action ship cannot repair

(I) War head 1 torpedo damaged by splinters

(J) Right carvel of Y gun out of action

(K) After compartment (Store) flooded. Ends T.O.O.  
0751/13th.

1920/13.

Advance Copy C.W.(C)

Torch E 67 (D.N.I. for Polish N.A.)

Vice Controller

D.57

D.C.D.

D.N.C.

E. in C.

P.N.L.O.

W.R. File 0751/13

Dep. Cont. (3)

D.(4)

D.N.C.(2)

E. in C.

D.S.D. (3)

)

)

)Bath by T/P.

)

MG.



# SECRET

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1926/13th November,

From: Commandeth Gibraltar.

Date: 14.11.42.

Addressed: ABFCR London.

"LITERATED LITERAL TEXT"

SITREP 6. Situation report number 6 November 12th to 2400.

1. Eastern Task Force. Unopposed dawn landings at Bone by 6th Commando from 2 destroyers and 2 Companies 3rd British Parachute Battalion dropped by air. 3 Companies Infantry, 1 Troop Field Regiment and 1 Troop light Anti-Aircraft arrived Djidjelli noon by road. Aerodrome stocked with petrol by 1800. After assault at Bougie ships were heavily attacked by air resulting in loss of 3 combat loaders, damage to 1 carrier and 2 other warships. 1Bn from 36th Infantry Brigade left Bougie by rail for Setif due to arrive 0530Z 13th. Arrangements being made to use railway for carriage stores to Blida, Maison Blanche, Setif and Bone. Convoy KM 2 arrived Algiers noon. Algiers port working well. After signing of Armistice 34th Division returned Fort Lempereur to French. CT 163 occupies high ground overlooking Algiers with armed patrols in city to prevent sabotage. CT 39 protects Maison Blanche, radio at Maison Carree, important bridges and maintains 2 Rifle Companies at Maison Blanche in readiness to move by air. British units attached to 34th Division released at Armistice.

2. Center Task Force. Convoy KM 2 arrived Oran evening 11th. Oran port working well as can be expected in view of blocking.

3. Western Task Force. 3 transports torpedoed off Fedala. Hq ship now in Casablanca port. First follow up convoy standing out to seaward except for detachment to Gibraltar.

4. Air Gibraltar. 16 A/S during day. 5 submarine sightings, 2 attacks PE. 5 C-47's, 1 B-17, and 2 Bisleys arrived from United Kingdom but bad weather prevented any onward air movement to theater.

Eastern Air Command. 1 R.A.F. Fighter Squadron established at Djedjelli. Heavy axis bombing of Bougie during night 11/12 November continued intermittantly during following day. No appreciable damage or casualties reported ashore. R.A.F. maintained fighter protection over Bougie area during 12th November working at extreme range from Maison Blanche and destroyed 11 enemy aircraft and damaged 5, our losses 3 aircraft 1 pilot. 25 C-47's carrying 300 officers and men 2nd Bn United States 503 Parachute Infantry now at Maison Blanche ready for action. No air activity reported from Oran and Casablanca areas.

1926/13

TORCH 93  
(M 28 and for H.Q.C.C.)  
U.S.N. (5)  
C.C.L.S.

Advance Copy Ops., O.I.C.,  
O.I.C.

J.R.



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - cont'd.

Intended movements. 138. Your 0120A/13. (Repetition of A.M. 1805A/12 (Hush)) My trouble is Port congestion. Occupied ports have not berths available and in consequence big ships must be constantly and unnecessarily at sea for lack of harbour.

Am confident of dealing with any Latin conspiracy without DUKE OF YORK and VICTORIOUS whose presence is an over insurance and an embarrassment.

Intend sailing them for U.K. as soon as Shuffle set forth in my 2101/13 is complete unless for reasons of which I am not aware you wish to keep them evident in which case I suggest Freetown.

(N.C.X.F. 2103Z/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

141. Your 1943/11.

Para 1. ALBRIGHTON has already sailed for U.K. I can manage without her but BLEAN would be welcome in place of COWDRAY.

2. Para 2 and 3. OPPORTUNE will be sent. \*ESCAPADE has sailed. Remaining 2 unfortunately not now available. Scratch team of W.A. destroyers will be sailed.

3. I can probably manage without ITHURIEL unless we are unlucky but she would be a valuable reserve if she can be spared.

4. Intend to reorganize Ms Ls and Ps as 3rd Flotilla, Tribals and Qs as 6th. Has C. in C. H.F. any objection? H.M. ships AVON VALE, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, FARNDALE to be 59th Division.

(N.C.X.F. 2105Z/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F. C. in C. Portsmouth. C. in C. The Nore. C. in C. Plymouth. C. in C. W.A.)

142. Intend to sail SHEFFIELD, \*JAMAICA, \*AURORA for U.K. p.m./14th unless other destination ordered by you.

(N.C.X.F. 2107Z/13 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F.) \*See previous

Flag of C.S.10.

Personal. Is it your intention that 10th C.S. should transfer his Flag to a Cruiser remaining on this Station? Request immediate reply as SHEFFIELD ?sails 14th.

(N.C.X.F. 2111Z/13 to Admty. C. in C. H.F. 10 C.S.)

Force H.

Move your force to westward. Some ships required to reach Gib. about 1800/14. Signal following. (N.C.X.F. 2130Z/13 to S.O. Force H. (R) R.A.A. H.F. Capt. S.8. F.O.C.N.A.)

Air Activities.

TCAO 11. Intend A/S air escort 14th all dawn to dusk. M.K.S.1., M.K.F.1X., K.X.6., MARNE, convoy "Hankey". 1 C each. A/S air searches 4 H A.M., 8 H P.M. W.K. and W.A, 5 H A.M. area W.A, 4 H

A.M. and P.M. L B A/S patrol Q. A/S air patrol off Cape Caxine 1 Swordfish dawn to dusk.

(N.C.X.F. 2131Z/13 to All British ships and authorities concerned in Operation "Torch", V.A. Malta (excluding ships refitting in U.K.))

BRAMHAM  
BICESTER

Acknowledge. Leave Bougie to arrive Bone 1600Z tomorrow Saturday, and convoy French (?ships) COLOMBIE MARRAKECH and GALLIUM to Algiers. Finally (returning)? with the Commandant La Marine. GALLIUM may be left behind if speed of convoy will be seriously reduced by her inclusion. (S.O.I.S. 2154A/13 to BRAMHAM. BICESTER. (R) Lieut. Bougie.)

/Attitude...



War Diary.

13.11.1942.

Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Attitude of French in Africa. 139 Personal for First Sea Lord.  
 (A) Have just returned from Algiers where I went this morning with Eisenhower to take part in negotiations. The broad outcome is that Darlan, Nogues, Juin, and of course Giraud have come to an accord and agreed to play with us.

You will get full details in C. in C. A.F.'s signal to C.C.S.  
 (B) Darlan was almost embarrassingly cordial to me, shook me warmly by the hand and said "Thank you for Admiral Godfroy".  
 (C) In the course of conversation with him he assured me that De La Borde would not let the Toulon Fleet fall into German hands though he might not obey Darlan's orders to quit Toulon. I induced him to send a message to De La Borde telling him the Italian Fleet were on their way north and assuring him of our Fleet's support if he came out in consequence. Darlan also told me that he had communicated by telephone with Esteva at Tunis last night. Esteva assured him he was in with them but he had a tutor beside him presumably a German. Darlan said he thought Godfroy would come in with him but that his ships would require much time before they were fit for anything. I am not so sure about Godfroy's attitude.

(D) The arrangement in para (A) is most satisfactory and has been brought about by most excellent work on the part of the American Eagle and I am glad to say Dick has been of the utmost assistance to him.

(E) I propose going to Oran for a day and then Algiers for a day leaving Gibraltar in a Cruiser night of 15th Nov. Algiers Port appeared to be going well but I am not happy about Oran and I know Casablanca is in a state of chaotic inefficiency.

(F) I am aiming to establish an advanced Light Squadron at Bone as soon as possible to prey on Bizerta and Tunis traffic but I have to wait till the air is established.

(G) The Langhouat prisoners reach Algiers today or tomorrow.

(H) I have repeated para B and C to C. in C. Med.

(N.C.X.F. 2157Z/13 to Admty. 2159Z/13 to C. in C. Med.)

Most Secret. My 2157/13 to 1st Sea Lord I would be glad if you could indicate any line I should take with Darlan so that he can work on Godfroy.

(N.C.X.F. 2236Z/13 to C. in C. Med.)

Damage to ROBERTS. My 2245/11 additional damage.  
 Port bulges abreast engine and boiler room flooded.  
 Number 3 and 4 dynamo out of action, running on diesels. Middle section of fire main out of action. (Feed water) contaminated. Fresh water system out of action. Oil fuel filling system 50% shattered. Ship not yet steamable. Local resources being used.  
 (ROBERTS 2215/13 to S.O.I.S. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A. N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

Air R/C required. 143. My 1633/9 not to Admty and HE/4943 of 12th Nov. apparently from Malta received by Allied C. in C.

(1) Priorities for PRU NREU NRE now Naples, Palermo, Messina.  
 (2) I have requested Eastern Air Command to take over PRU of Tunis, Bizerta and Cagliari from 15th Nov. Will confirm if they can do so.

/(3) Day...



568

13.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Air R/C (3) Day R/C between Sicily and Sardinia only required. required from Malta if Italian Fleet are on the move.  
Contd. (4) As long as small naval forces and supply ships are operating in the Y one area it is most important to maintain night A.S.V. patrol between Cavolio and Marittimo. It may be possible soon for Eastern Air Command to base and refuel the aircraft from Malta now doing this patrol. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C. Med.  
(N.C.X.F. 2220Z/13 to V.A. Malta.)

U.G.F.2. Your 1003/13 British ship BLEAN and \*LOUISBERG ordered R/V with convoy U.G.F.2 at 1600/12 to take over escort of SEAKALE and (?BUCCANEER). Presume this escort did not (?arrive). Request you appoint R/V for tomorrow 14th for BLEAN and \*PRESCOTT to join Gibraltar section of U.G.F.2. LOUISBERG returning to Gibraltar.  
(N.C.X.F. 2222Z/13, 0701Z/14 to C.T.F. 38. (R) N.C.W.N.T.F. (Group mutilated) BLEAN. PRESCOTT.) \* *See p. 555*

*x ~~See~~ p. 564*

Tugs. 400 Pass to Commodore K.X.6. Tugs EMPIRE GNOME and EMPIRE MINOTAUR are required for service at Gibraltar and should remain with convoy.  
(N.C.X.F. 2300Z/13 to LANCASTER.)

BLACKFISH. Signal 1221Z/13 <sup>*p. 573.*</sup> to BLACKFISH acknowledged. Total bombing restriction ordered for 20 miles of track.  
(R.A.W.A. 2331Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. F.O.S. C.T.F. 34. BLACKFISH.) *See also p. 576*

U.S. C S S 50 T.O.O. 1219. You are to report to Admty. repeated N.C.X.F. your P.C. and S of A on crossing 036° N.  
S/Ms. *See p. 558*  
(N.C.X.F. 2352Z/13 to BARB. HERRING. GUNNEL. SHAD (R) Admty. F.O.S.)

Convoy. Following is a repetition of my 2155Z/12 addressed N.O.I.C. (?Bougie) begins. (corrupt group) (?slow) convoy to pass through 037° (19'?)  
*See p. 564*  
N 002° 48' E at 1700/14 where ships from Algiers will join for onward passage through 037° 14' N 001° 11' E 036° 26' N 002° 01' W to Gibraltar. Fighter cover will be arranged from 1st light. Escorts ROTHER. SPEY. SAMPHIRE. PENTSTEMON - 2155Z/12 Ends.  
(F.O.I.S. 2355A/13 to SPEY (R) ROBERTS. Cdre. Algiers.)



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13.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) 1800Z/12/11 <sup>/p.522</sup> (3) Nil  
 M.K.F.I. (4) 12½ (5) D.36.20 N., 09.20 W. E. 40.10 N.,  
*see p.561* 14.40 W. F. 43.10 N., 15.20 W., thence as  
 ordered by Admty. (6) DASHER (S.O.) BITER,  
 \*ALBRIGHTON, CLEVELAND, ESKDALE, ACHATES,  
 ESCAPADE, BOADICEA, VANSITTART. \* *see p.566*  
 Items 10 and 12. LEONSTER, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, WINCHESTER CASTLE,  
 LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, SOBIESKI, WARWICK CASTLE, Clyde. DUCHESS  
 OF BEDFORD, TEGELBERG, Liverpool, DURBAN CASTLE, Clyde.  
 DERBYSHIRE, OTRANTO, Liverpool.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 0712Z/13 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U/B Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in  
 36° 55' N., 0° 20' W. sighted on surface and  
 observed to submerge.  
 (A/C using call sign TXCCZ 0801/13).

U/B attacked. Following has been read: am over enemy S/M  
 in 36° 16' N., 2° 13' W. was sighted on surface  
 and seen to submerge.  
 (Aircraft using call sign UALC No T.O.O./13  
 Recd. 1346/13).

Following has been read. Have attacked enemy S/M with  
 depth charges. When first sighted was on course 070° estimated  
 speed 10 knots.  
 (A/C using call sign UALC No T.O.O./13th Recd. 1415/13).

Movements. BRIDGEWATER arrived Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./13  
*see p.571* SNOWDROP escorting BARON ELGIN arrived 1000.  
 (N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 1012C/13 to S.O.(I)  
 Gibraltar (R) Admty).  
 BRIDGEWATER left Ponta Delgada 1830 G.M.T./13  
 SNOWDROP escorting BARON ELGIN left 1900.  
 (N.C.S.O. P. Delgada, 1703/13 to S.O.(I)  
 Gibraltar (R) Admty).

Spanish. Under Secretary Spanish Mercantile Marine states  
 Shipping (a) Spanish ships still going to South France  
 and Italy.  
 (b) Bombardments of Genoa make Spaniards fear  
 that it may not be possible to maintain sailings  
 to Genoa. These services mainly carried goods  
 for Switzerland.  
 (N.A. Madrid, 1113/13 to D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I)  
 Gibraltar).

U/B. Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in  
 XTLZ 2245 (37° 22' N., longitude indecipherable)  
 was on the surface when first sighted on course  
 320° and estimated speed of 10.  
 (A/C using call sign TXCC, 1135/13 to Gibraltar).

/ALASKA...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Firday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

ALASKA arrived, ALASKA arrived safely under own steam.  
SILVERWILLOW, \*JAUNTY sunk a.m. on 12th. Am awaiting Lloyd's  
sunk. Reported that SILVERWILLOW which was in tow of  
survey report as to extent of damage.  
Apparently majority of cargo undamaged. All  
C.Bs. dropped overboard weighted when torpedoing  
took place. No casualties on ALASKA.  
Please inform Lloyds.  
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1154/13 to Admty (R) F.O.C.NA)

*\* See p. 564*

## Movements

PORTSDOWN, YES/TOR, SPHENE, and VIVIANA  
arrived 1000 G.M.T. First three now bunkered.  
F.O.C.N.A. is requested to supply immediately  
onward routeing instructions which not yet  
received.  
(V.C. Horta, 1200/13 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A.,  
N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

## U/B attacked.

Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges  
and estimate no hits in 37.53 N., 00.35 W.  
(A/C using call sign WD3D 1205/13 to Gibraltar).

Toulon  
R/C.

P.R.U., Toulon 0900Z, no result. 10/10th  
cloud. Commodore Algiers pass to C. in C.  
(N.C.X.F., 1215Z/13 to S.O. Force H, N.C.C.N.T.F  
Commodore Algiers, F.O. Inshore Sqdn. V.A.  
Malta, Admty).

## TRIBUNE

*See next page*

To keep clear of own surface force TRIBUNE  
after passing position 135° Cape Palos 10 miles  
is to proceed to keep within 10 miles Spanish  
coast through 135° Cape Cadiz 10 miles at  
0300Z/15th thence direct area B off Toulon  
to arrive 0800Z/17th.  
(Capt. S.8., 1218Z/13 to 8 S.F.)

## WELSHMAN

Arrived.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1232A/13 to Admty. N.C.W.T.F.)

## AURORA.

*See pp 565 &  
566*

Arrived.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1233A/13 to Admty. N.C.C.N.T.F.)

## U/B

Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in  
35.36 N., 1.50 W., sighted on surface and observed  
to submerge; when first sighted was on course  
360° estimated speed 10 knots.  
(Aircraft using call sign UALU 1235Z/13).  
Following has been read. Position of enemy  
is 36° 18' N., 2° 18' W.  
(Aircraft Using call sign UAL 1350/13).



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 37° 30' N., 1° 42' E. Have attacked with depth charges. Enemy S/M is still on surface. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (Aircraft using call sign TXCCS 1415Z/13 to Gibraltar).

\*TRIBUNE, STURGEON, CLYDE, P.217, P.51, P.222, P. 228. *\* see previous page*

S/M situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000Z/13th.

(1) TRIBUNE 036° 48' N., 001° 46' W. diving by day 2 knots on surface by night 11 knots through (7135°) Cape Palos 10 thence 10 miles off Spanish Coast to 135 Cape Overtime 10.

(2) STURGEON 039° (736') N., 001° 38' E., diving by day 2 knots on surface by night 9 knots course 041°

(3) CLYDE 038° 59' N., 004° 07' E. dive by day 2 knots on surface by night 11½ knots through 038° 59' N., 003° 05' E., and 038° 32' N., 001° 35' E., thence 239°.

(4) P.217 with convoy M.K.S. (71(one)).

(5) P.51, P.222, P.228, off Toulon. (N.C.X.F., 1420Z/13 to A.I.G. 262).

Disposition. Situation 2002A/13th.

Spanish Training Ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising in Area between Canary Islands and Point (7036°) 01', 030° 02'.

(2) BRIDGEWATER left Ponta Delgada a.m./13 166° 12. *see p.569*

(3) KHYBER 23.58, 29.50 106° 10.

(4) PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, VIVIANA, SPHENE arrive Horta a.m./13th 158° 10. *arrived - see previous page*

(5) SNOWDROP, One Merchant Ship arriving Ponta Delgada p.m./13th SNOWDROP fuel and they proceed in company through 38.18, 25.01 thence 026° 8½. *heard: + left - see p.569*

(6) Swedish relief ships CAMELIA, FORMOSA, EROS 36.01, 25.57 90° 12.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1427Z/13 to A.I.G.64).

P.51 attacked. Destroyer patrolling in my area since arrival. Depth charges dropped very close today, not seriously damaged am withdrawing for 24 hours to vicinity 042° 40', 005° 50' Weather report. (P.51, 1504Z/13 to Capt. (S) 8 (R) N.C.X.F.)

U/B Following read. Am over enemy S/M in 36° 5' N., 9° 45' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 060° and speed 9. (A/C using call sign TR1D, 1530/13).



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

JAMAICA

*See pp  
565 & 566*

Enter northern entrance and berth bow north in 2 berths. Tugs will assist. Berth A 6½ (?cables) on (corrupt group) buoy position marked by cross showing unreliable flashing white light.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1541Z/13 to JAMAICA).

U/B

Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in 35° 39' N., 1° 48' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 360° speed 10.  
(A/C using call sign UALU 1605Z/13).

Air Report.

Opsum for 24 hours ended 1800 13/Nov. U-boat attacks and sightings. Hudson D/608 1205 hrs. LBTQ 0025 CO 060/10 kts. attacked. Hudson C/233 1350 hrs. LBRN 1647 CO 070/10 TS attacked two hits. Hudson D/500 1630 hrs. LBTQ 0515 CO 060/9 kts. attacked. Swordfish from Algiers C/812 at 1235 hrs. XTLE 2245 CO 320/10 kts. not attacked. Hudson U/233 1335 hrs. NHJB 3620 (3610) CO 360/10 kts. not attacked. Hudson U/233 1405 (1705) hrs. NHJB 3912 CO 360/10 kts. not attacked.  
(2) No enemy activity over Rock.  
(R.A.F., Gibraltar, 2249Z/13).

U/Bs

TIGRIS.

9 U-boats within 150 miles of 035° 35' 015° 15' W., 6 in area Cape St. Vincent-Casablanca-Cape Spartel.  
(Capt. S.8., 2256Z/13 to TIGRIS).

South Atlantic.

WEST POINT

*See p. 565*

This is U.S. Naval Attache. Rio de Janeiro 2013/12th passed to you for information (begins) WEST POINT sailed 1930Z/12 for Bombay. Knots 21 E.T.A. L, 29.45 S., 34.15 W., 0200Z/14th. Part 2 follows. (Ends).  
(Opnav, 0110/13 to Admty C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. N.S.H.Q.) W.R. Note. Message already circulated as part of 1243/13 from Comnav.

DRAGON

Sailed 0730Z/13 Nov. E.T.A. Lagos 0900Z/14 Nov. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 0915/13 to Admty, R.N.O. Lagos).



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.CARTHAGE  
(lent to  
S.A. Stn).*See p 581*Your 0917Z/11 Nov. You are attached to Eastern Fleet as from 9th Nov. 1942, the date of leaving Durban.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0918Z/13 to CARTHAGE).Lourenco  
Marques.Your 1117/12. 1730/5 from Lourenco Marques not received. Shipping movements normal since 8th Nov.  
(C. in C. S.A., 0951C/13 to Admty).BLACKFISH  
(Dakar  
patrol).*See pp 568 & 576*Duty completed by (?order of) C.T.F. No. 34. Depart station at 0001Z/14th. Proceed through position 17.00 N., 20.00 W. thence position 43.00 N., 20.00 W., thence as ordered by Admty. S. of A. assumed 11½ knots. R.A.W.A. is requested to impose bombing restriction accordingly. Acknowledge to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. Comnavu pass to Base 2.  
(C.S.S. 50, 1221Z/13 to BLACKFISH (R) Comnavu, C.T.F. 34, N.C.X.F., Admty. F.O.S., R.A.W.A.)

Signal 1221Z/13 th BLACKFISH acknowledged. Total bombing restriction ordered for 20 miles each side of track. N.C.X.F. pass to (group omitted of above signal).

(R.A.W.Af. 2331Z/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty. F.O.S., C.T.F. 34 BLACKFISH).

U.S.A. S/M BLACKFISH leaves Dakar area 0001/14 passing through 017° N., 020° W. 043° N., 020° W. S. of A. 11½ knots.  
(R.A.W.A., 2347Z/13 to BISCAYNE).Dakar Air  
Patrol.

My 1801/31st to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A., (N.T. in W.D.)

(1) Patrol can no longer be maintained at present strength. Intend new patrol scheme as follows:-

P.R.U. once daily late a.m.

R/C. By day. 2 cross over patrols by Hudsons between 015° 18' N. 018° 28' W., 014° 59' N. 018° 22' W., 015° 42' N. 017° 10' W., 015° 23' N. 017° 03' W.

One cross over patrol by Sunderlands between 014° 56' N. 018° 32' W., 013° 14' N. 018° 22' W., 018° 20' N. 018° 02' W., 014° 50' N. 018° 52' W.

By night, Perimeter patrol 40 miles from Dakar by Sunderland. All patrols to work on A.S.V.

(2) In view of occupation of Vichy France return of Dakar ships to France seems unlikely, and I should be grateful for information whether R/C patrol can be omitted shortly so as to allow normal (?) A/S patrol to continue in (? lieu).

(R.A.W.A., 1247Z/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., W.N.T.F., Air H.Q. Gibraltar, 297 Wing.)

Your 1801Z/31st Oct. (Hush - N.T. in W.D.) Request you will reduce present intensive air patrol north-west of Dakar to meet your own requirements.

(2) Request you will continue to report daily P.R.U. of Dakar to N.C.X.F., N.C.W.N.T.F. and N.O.I.C. Casablanca until situation finally clarifies.

(3) Please thank A.O.C. W.A. for R.A.F. assistance.  
(N.C.X.F., 1630Z/13 to R.A.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

/TRUANT ...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

TRUANT. Intend sailing TRUANT at 1700Z/13th Nov. for U.K.  
 (2) Route (b) 012° 00' N., 021° 00' W., at 0200Z/16th Nov.  
 (c) 035° 00' N., 021° 00' W., at 0800Z/21st Nov.  
 (d) 044° 20' N., 015° 50' W., at 1500Z/23rd Nov.  
 (e) 047° 30' N., 012° 40' W. at 1400Z/24th Nov.  
 (3) Request onward route from position (e) be signalled and that bombing restrictions be imposed.  
 (4) TRUANT shifting to North Atlantic W/T organization at 2000Z/17th Nov. and to Home Station W/T organization at 0800Z/23 Nov.  
 (5) S.Ps. held.  
 (R.A.W.A., 1401Z/13 to Admty F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)\*  
 Departure 13th Nov. TRUANT, Q.Z.H. 920, L.52, S.383, X.863 Y.362.  
 (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1933Z/13 to Admty etc). See also 0926/14.

Technical My 1518/6. re hydrofins further invention by Hook.  
 (C. in C. S.A., 1419C/13 to Admty).

K.14 Intend to sail Netherland S/M K.14 for Philadelphia at 1700Z/13 Nov. (Route).\*  
 (R.A.W.A., 1435Z/13 to B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.A.)  
 Request bombing restrictions be imposed.

PICT, Arrivals 13th Nov.  
 ST. WISTAN. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1501Z/13 to Admty (R) R.A.W.A.)

DAUNTLESS, Sailed DAUNTLESS and KANARIS escorting Convoy  
 KANARIS. C.M.35 routed West of Madagascar in accordance with C. in C. E.F. 1628/9 (N.T. in W.R.).  
 S. of A. 9½ knots.  
 (2) Shift to group V at 1415Z/19th.  
 (3) KANARIS being detached to fuel at Diego Suarez thence as ordered by C. in C. E.F. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1511Z/13 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. etc).

ASTURIAS. My 0031Z/12. On arrival position  
*See next page*  
*(Dispositions)*  
 (X) 006° 20' N., 026° 55' W., at 1100Z/14th November. Patrol between positions.  
 (Y) 007° 27' N., 025° 36' W., and  
 (Z) 004° 35' N., 029° 00' W., Commencing Patrol towards position (Y).  
 (R.A.W.A., 1547Z/13 to ASTURIAS (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty. AMARANTHUS, BRIDGEWATER, Comsolantfor).

/Dispositions...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. \*HYDRANGEA, \*HOLCOMBE\* 2 Trawlers\* 2 M.Ls. with S.T. 42, 07.45, 14.01 127° 9½ \*ASTURIAS, AMARANTHUS about 05.34 24.10 to 06.21 N., (?26).55 W., to 07.27 N., 25.36 W., 12½. TURCOMAN escorting about 11.30 28.05 280° 8. P.552 00.05 S., 08.35 107° 9\*\* (?DRAGON) off (corrupt group) to Lagos 17. FANDANGO, KELT, 3 M.Ls. escorting FORCADOS to Duala, 7½, (R.A.W.A., 1609Z/13 to A.I.G 150). \* See previous page

\*\* See p.572

\* See next page.

Convoys,  
Trinidad -  
Rio de  
Oro.

When escorts are available I am organizing convoys between Trinidad and Rio de Oro and return which are primarily for tankers. Until we have more escorts will not have fixed schedule will inform you sailing dates when determined. Can (?pick up) ships en route. Pass to C. in C. S.A., Cominch, C. and R. pass to Admty. (Comsolant, 1658/13 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) Cominch C. and R. Alusna (?Rio de Janeiro).)

BISCAYNE.

Intend sailing U.S.S. BISCAYNE at 1800Z/13th Nov. for Port Lyautey. Route.

A. 009° 00' N., 015° 00' W.

B. 010° 00' N., 017° 00' W. All positions N.&amp; W.

C. 015° 00', 020° 00'. D. 023° 00' 018° 30'. E. 030° 00', 011° 30'. F. 033° 00' 010° 00' thence Port Lyautey. S. of A. 16 knots. E.T.A. Port Lyautey p.m./18th Nov. (2) Request instructions be passed to BISCAYNE before arrival off Port Lyautey.

(3) Wireless watch.

(R.A.W.A., 1703Z/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty etc).

ANDREAS  
survivors.

My 2105Z/9th Nov. R.O. Ceara (Fortelaza) now reports a life boat with 19 survivors including 2 Mates, Chief Engineer, and 2 Engineer Officers made landing 35 miles South of Fortelaza night 10th. Position of sinking given by Fortelaza's signal is 100 miles North of St. Paul's Rocks. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1745Z/13 to Admty).

Ref. Pernambuco's 2105/9th. Further 19 survivors from Greek ANDREAS landed near Ceara 10th, included Chief Engineer, 2 2nd Officers and 2 Engineer Officers. Position of sinking given as 100 miles north of St. Paul's Rock 2300 G.M.T./4th. Survivors stated Master and 1st Officer killed.

(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2205Z/13 to Admty).

Norwegian  
Shipping,  
scuttling.

Following for Norwegian Legation Cairo, Norwegian Consuls General, Consuls and Vice-Consuls in your areas (begins).

From Norwegian Ministry of Shipping London.

(1) When in the Atlantic Ocean south of Equator, in the Indian Ocean or in the Pacific, Norwegian Merchant ships attacked by surface raiders are to scuttle themselves rather than fall into enemy hands if it is highly probable that they are about to be boarded and capture is imminent, or if orders to abandon ship have been given.



13.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - ~~South~~

Norwegian  
Shipping,  
scuttling.  
Contd.

(2) The question of scuttling must be left to the Captain's discretion after he has duly considered the chance of saving his crew.  
(3) It is particularly stressed that loaded tankers must try to avoid their cargoes, in any circumstances, becoming available to the enemy.

(4) Please hand one copy of above instructions to each Norwegian Master calling at your port, informing him that the said instructions are Secret and must not fall into enemy hands. Kindly notify us names of Masters to whom instructions are given, using only date of message viz. 13th Nov. 1942 as reference. (Ends).  
(D.T.D., 1803A/13 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F., etc).

Movements

Departure 13th Nov. HYDRANGEA, HOLCOMBE, COPINSAY, ORFELY, M.Ls 265, 209, with STN 42.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1903Z/13 to Admty etc).

*See previous page (Dispositions)*

O.N. 145

Routes for West African Ships.  
(D.T.D., 1911A/13 to R.A.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Dakar

Visual R/C Dakar a.m./13th no change.  
(R.A.W.A., 1923Z/13 to Admty. N.C.X.F. Com. W.N.T.D., Air H.Q. Gibraltar).  
p.m./13th. P.R.U. Dakar. No change in naval units. Merchant ships now 30.  
(R.A.W.A., 2245Z/13 to Admty. N.C.X.F., W.N.T.F., Air H.Qs.)

Movements

Arrivals 13th Nov. ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN DUKE, COVENTRY CITY with T. 21, 41.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1935Z/13 to Admty etc).

BLACKFISH

U.S.A. S/M BLACKFISH leaves Dakar 0001/14th passing through 017° North 020° W., 043° N. 020° W. S. of A. 11½ knots.  
(R.A.W.A., 2347Z/13 to BISCAYNE, (R) Admty. C.T.F. 34, N.C.X.F. BLACKFISH).

*See p/p 528 &  
573*



# SECRET

576<sup>A</sup>

SECRET

MESSAGE 1925ZA/13th November.

IN.

From: G.O.C. in C. West Africa

Date: 14 Nov. 42.  
Recd: 0500.

CYPHER

Addressed: The War Office

01 IMMEDIATE.

083103. I/52218 cipher 13 Nov. Secret.

First. Presume you have been following Resmin telegrams to Foreign Office summarising situation in Vichy West Africa. 44 10th Nov. 47 48 49 all of 12 Nov. 53 and 54 13th Nov. also that Foreign Office will keep you informed since it is not possible to separate military factors from political ones.

Second. Vichy French Military attitude remains apprehensive of attack by us. Vichy military readiness maintained but measures taken appear purely defensive. No reliable indication any widespread military desire to join allied nations. Attempted liaison by fighting French mission showed that French Commander Togoland was not merely anti British but that he welcomes idea of German Air Forces operating from Tunisia against allied forces in North Africa.

Third. Reference paragraph one of Resmin Telegram 49. I hope there will be no question of asking for A quotes show of force unquote in this theatre. I am convinced that there is no sound intermediate military course between the following two alternatives.

1. To keep our force within our frontiers in accordance with orders you have issued and count on French joining our cause of their own free will.

2. To undertake deliberate military operations which would have to continue until resistance ceased in French West Africa. Unless directed to contrary by you I shall of course assume that alternative one repeat one will continue to be your policy. I would however appreciate early information regarding future H.M.G. policy towards Vichy Colonies if they continue adherence to a Franco which is occupied by the Germans. At present I have no information of our general policy towards Vichy West Africa.

Fifth. I understand Resmin is telegraphing Minister of Defence and Foreign Secretary pointing out unsatisfactory nature of present conditions of undefined responsibility as between Americans and British with regard to Vichy

West/



576<sup>B</sup>

SECRET

- 2 -

West Africa. I strongly support his request that this question may be settled at once.

1925ZA/T3.

Recd. from War Office COBO/15.

War Office circulation:

93 TORCH ( M(2) )  
P.A.S. (S)  
Secretary.

M.I.3.a. (for action)  
S. of S.  
C.I.G.S.  
V.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
D.D.M.O. (C)  
B. Plans  
D.M.I.  
D.D.M.I. (I)  
M.O. 1.4  
M.I. 3. a. 17.  
D.M.I. Admiralty  
Hd. of War Office Admiralty.  
A.C.A.S. (Air Ministry)  
A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry)  
Foreign Office (Mr. Cavendish-  
Bentinck)  
Brig. Jacob (War Cabinet Offices)

MES.



577

13.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

WORCESTER-  
SHIRE.

Departure 0314Z/13.  
(Cdre. Aden, 0615Z/13 to Admty., etc.)

Bardia.

Add to para. 1 my 1934/12th. Bardia reported cleared of enemy 1515/12th and water believed to be in good condition.  
(C. in C. Med., 0901B/13 to Admty., etc.)

Movements.

Arrival 11th Nov. CROMARTY, BOSTON, HARROW.  
*See next page.* Arrivals 12th Nov. SOUTHERN MAID, CUMBRAE, T.L.C.153, CROOME, ALDENHAM, DULVERTON, HURWORTH, BELVOIR, BEAUFORT, \*POTENTILLA, ERICA, GLOXINIA, \*KALANE.  
Departures 12th Nov. BRIGAND, C,307, JEDDAH, VALKYRIEN, CUMBRAE, PROTEA, M.L.1122, CALM, HAILSTORM, SNAPDRAGON, G.D. IERAX, G.S. SAKTOURIS, JERVIS, DULVERTON, ALDENHAM, CROOME, BEAUFORT.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0939B/13.)

*\* Operating in N. Atlantic. \* not identified*

Enemy  
Shipping,  
TRITON.

There are indications that shipping to Rhodes pass south of the island.  
(Capt. S.1, 1010B/13 to Greek S/M TRITON.)

Tobruk  
captured.

Special Sitrep. Tobruk reported in our hands 0930 hours 13th Nov. All informed.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1012 G.M.T. to W.O.)

Naples  
R/C.

Visual Naples 0830A/13th, 3 battleships, 4 cruisers, 8 destroyers.  
(V.A. Malta, 1020A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., S.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A., N.C.E.N.T.F., N.C.C.N. T.F., C. in C. Med.)

Cositrep 592.  
Part Two.  
Air.

1. 12th Nov. Westbound barges were also attacked between Tobruk and Gazala, one being blown up and another sunk.  
2. No enemy air activity reported.  
(C. in C. M.E., 1140 G.M.T./13.)

Italian  
dispositions  
a.m./13th.

Visuals.  
(1) Naples. 3 LITTORIOS 4 cruisers (2 under repair) 4 destroyers.  
(2) Pozzolo. 4 destroyers.  
(3) Taranto. 3 CAVOURS, 10 destroyers (photograph p.m. 12th).  
(4) Messina. 5 cruisers, 4 destroyers.  
(5) Cagliari. Nil.  
(6) Tunis photograph. 2 E-Boats.  
(7) Bizerta. 2 torpedo boats, 3 escort vessels, 2 S/MS.  
(V.A. Malta, 1302A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)



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13.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P. 37. All merchant shipping in the vicinity of Palermo is to be attacked.  
(Capt. S.10, 1515A/13 to P.37, (R) S/M on Patrol.)
- UNA, P.44. Arrived.  
(V.A. Malta, 1601A/13.)
- Air Patrol. Only Marittimo - Cavola night patrol will be flown tonight Friday.  
(V.A. Malta, 1728A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.O. Force H, C.E.N.T.F., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med.)
- Movements. 13th Nov. Port Said arrival JERVIS, DULVERTON, CROOME, BEAUFORT, ALDENHAM, G.S. SAKTOURIS, PROTEA, CUMBRAE. Departure DELPHINIUM, M.L. No.359, PROTEA, CUMBRAE, R.F.A. PETRELLA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1803B/13 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
*see previous page*
- R/C, Italian Ports. Afternoon visuals - (i) Naples - no change. (ii) Messina and Taranto - cloudy.  
(V.A. Malta, 1806A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- Coastal Forces. 20th Division with maximum extra fuel is to sail from Sollum at 0700 Nov. 15th for Ras-al-Hilil. First sub. division is to complete with fuel and is to proceed to attack shipping leaving Benghazi arriving Sollum soon after 2000 as possible and leaving for Ras-sl-Hilil at 0400 Nov. 16th, where it is to remain. 2nd sub. division after dumping fuel at Ras-al-Hilil is to return to Sollum arriving 0700 Nov. 16th. If Ras-al-Hilil is still occupied by enemy the division is to return to Sollum. 1 boat in each sub. division is to keep W/T watch on 2980 k/cs. N.O.I.C. Sollum pass to V.10. (C.C.F., 1830B/13 to V.10, (R) A.I.G.72, C.S.15, H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., M.T.B. Advance Base.)
- Destroyers & Corvettes for Greeks. C. in C. Med.'s 1547C/9th Oct. and 1403C/23rd Oct. (neither to F.O.C.N.A.) Propose that two "Hunt" class destroyers and two or possibly three corvettes manned by R.N. shall be paid off and transferred to Greeks. Subject to remarks of F.O.C.N.A. propose that corvettes shall be based on Gibraltar. Request C. in C. Med. will say whether the two Greek manned "Hunts" can be accepted in Eastern Mediterranean. If not, propose they should be based on Gibraltar. This is not intended to alter total number of corvettes or destroyers allocated to either Command. (Head of M. 1951A/13 to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A.)

/Operation ...



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War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Stoneage". Insert appendix 2.  
 AA 031° 34' N. 027° 21' E.  
 PB 032° 43' N. 023° 30' E.  
 CC 033° 55' N. 021° 56' E.  
 DD 033° 55' N. 019° 20' E.  
 EE. 035° 20' N. 014° 05' E.  
 2. Para. 14. M.W.13 is to pass seaward end Port Said searched channel at 1900D day seaward end Alex. searched channel at 0900D plus one thence through AA, BB, CC at 1900D plus 2 DD and E.  
 3. Para.18, cancel and substitute "Best possible speed should be maintained after dark D plus 2".  
 (C. in C. Med., 2051B/13 to all concerned Operation "Stoneage".

Malta Air Report. I.107, 13th Nov. 1942. C.S.R.  
 Night 12th/13th Nov. No enemy air activity.  
 Day 13th.

0744 and 1028 hours, total of 15 Spitfires up for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 16 Spitfire sorties were made on armed R/C patrols between Malta, Lampedusa and Tunisia to intercept Axis transport aircraft proceeding from Tripoli to Tunisia. Owing possibly to cloud no enemy aircraft were intercepted and no shipping sighted.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2057/13.)

Part 2 my I.107.

Harbours. Bizerta no change since 11th. Cagliari since 10th 2 medium M/Vs, 1 liner 2000 tons departed 1 medium M/V arrived. Palermo since 10th 3 D/Rs departed 1 F-Boat launched. Castellamare di Stabia since 3rd, 1 M/V 1/2000 tons arrived. Naples since 11th, 4 D/Rs, 1 M/V 7500 tons, 1 liner 5400 departed 3 D/Rs, 1 M/V 5/6000 tons, 1 M/V 7500 tons, 1 M/V 6/7000 tons, 1 liner 2500 tons arrived. Trapani since 10th 8 Italian E-Boats left. Marsala no shipping present.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2111/13.)

Shipping at sea (details of sights).

Night 12th/13th Nov. 4 Beauforts laid 4 - 1500 lb. mines off entrance to La Goulette Harbour. 1 flare carrying and 2 torpedo carrying Wellington 8s despatched to locate and attack 3 battleships and 11 D/Rs sighted 1445 hours see my I.104. Torpedo carrying Wellingtons found 2030 hours 230° Cape Palinuro 36 miles 3 battleships, 7 D/Rs course 340° speed 15 knots but owing to serious (?W/T) jamming they were unable to make request for flares and no attack could be made. Another Wellington 8 despatched to illuminate battle fleet for S/M attack found at 2113 hours 179° Capri 30 miles 3 battleships, 8 D/Rs course 010° and dropped 17 flares between 2130 and 2239 hours. 2 Wellington 8s on shipping R/C patrolled from Sicily to South Sardinia and over Straits of Messina but sighted nothing.  
 Day 13th. Visual R/C 0640 hours of 3 battleships, 4 cruisers and 4 D/Rs in Naples. 8 Beaufighters on fighter sweep intercepted 1500 hours 60 enemy transport and fighter aircraft flying north-east towards Marittimo and destroyed 5 Ju.52s, 1 Sm.81, 1 flying boat, also probably destroyed 1 Sm81 and 5 Ju.52.  
 1 Beaufighter is missing.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2206/13.)



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.→ P.45, Enemy  
Units.

1 merchant ship, 1 unknown ship, 2 destroyers in 037° 30' 010° 25'. Course 60° 10 knots, all torpedoes expended, am withdrawing to seaward. (P.45, 2102A/13 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Cables.

Admty. pass to N.C.X.F. and F.O.C.N.A. by L/T. Telegraph cables. Malta - Tripoli cable just tested and appears correct to within a short distance of the shore. Malta end can be connected and operated by existing staff. The latter would have to be augmented later. Instruments for Tripoli end could if necessary be sent from Malta, as could C and W Engineer to instal. Propose question of repairs to, and taking upon inter-service basis of, this cable be raised as soon as convenient. Para. 2. All cables to westward are cut in positions within fifty miles of Pantellaria. Suggest that use might be made of Gibraltar - Malta cables that run part Bona or Bizerta, and have not been cut further to the westward, by bringing them ashore at one of these places until they are required to be put through to Malta. Cable company here have asked Gibraltar for details of how far cables test correctly eastwards. (V.A. Malta, 2133A/13 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

→ Orders  
to S/Ms.

Move at 0300A/14th to patrol vicinity following positions reference Cani/Rock light. P.221 303° 15 miles, P.247 000° 18 miles, P.45 013° 9 miles. (Capt. S.10, 2325A/13 to P.247, P.221, P.45, (R) Submarines on Patrol.)

Enemy  
Units.

P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel, 2 destroyers 37.48 N. 10.57 E. 220° 10 at 2340. (A/C C/S 8TBZ, 2352A/13 to A.H.Q. Malta.)



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War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

New Fighter Squadron. Intend to form a new Fighter Squadron in Indian Ocean of Hurricanes Y II B with I E of 9 aircraft. It will be (corrupt group) (?in) East Africa and transferred subsequently to (?Ceylon) for embarkation for special operations as required. Request full maintenance crews be sent to Kilindini as soon as possible and squadron number allocated. Sufficient pilots will be available from fighter pool. Intend Lieut. N. Bailey to command.  
(C. in C. E.F. 0327Z/13 to Admty.)

ALBATROSS Left 13th ALBATROSS with 9 Officers and 61 ratings Fleet Air Arm. E.T.A. Tanga 0600Z/17th. (N.O.I.C. Tamatave 0520Z/13 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. S.O.I. Colombo. R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez. R.N.A.S. Tanga.)

Convoy M.B.17. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0602Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

CARTHAGE Your 0917Z/11 you are attached to Eastern Fleet as from 9th Nov. 1942 the date of leaving Durban. (C. in C. E.F. 0918Z/13 to CARTHAGE.)  
*See p. 573*

HILDA MOLLER missed by U/B. Following has been read. Submarine Raider Signal from HILDA MOLLER 05.55 N 81.04 E torpedo missed. (Colombo W/T No. T.O.O./13th.) Enemy S/M reported 005° 55' N 081° 04' E at approx. 0700/13. (C. in C. E.F. 0828Z/13 to S & A E.I. Stn.)

Movements. Arrival 0537Z BIRMINGHAM, departure 0845Z GAMBIA. (S.O.(I.) Bombay 1006Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

GLADYS MOLLER grounded, lost. GLADYS MOLLER which grounded during the night 6/7 Nov. on Rock in 007° 55' N 081° 35' E is now total (?structural) loss. Every possible effort by Fleet Salvage Officer with the limited slavage and towage facilities available was made but without success. No casualties.  
(2) Cause of grounding not yet established but charges appear likely against 2nd Officer under Section 220 (A) of Merchant Shipping Act. Also against some of crew under 225 (B) for conduct during Salvage Operations.  
(3) Full report will be forwarded.  
(F.O. Ceylon 1046Z/13 to Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

/Air Report...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Air Report. INT.92 13 Nov. Daily Intelligence Summary 243 for 13 Nov.  
(D) Akyab second attack p.m. 10 Nov. No major shipping seen. Blenheims attacked small craft. Photo 12 Nov. show smaller of 2 M/Vs sunk. Enemy losses now estimated 3 destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 6 damaged. U.S.A. Air Force report. (A) 9 Nov. six B.24s bombed Rangoon. Hits main docks and warehouses. Fires stated Rangoon and (Syriam or (R) Pyiam ?) heavy accurate A.A. 3 enemy fighters seen made 1 unsuccessful attack. Photos show departure 1 400 ft. M/V and two 200/250 M/Vs since 26 Oct. and arrivals 3 T700 S300/400 ft M/Vs. (A.H.Q. India 1221Z/13, 1332Z/13.)

Raider Situation No.15. (1) BENGAL escorting Dutch Tanker ONDINA Fremantle to Diego Garcia reported being in action with 2 enemy vessels 0534/11 in approx. 020° S 093° E. One enemy vessel believed sunk. BENGAL damaged. \*ONDINA hit and may be sunk. Enemy vessels believed to be Japanese auxiliaries. By D/F at 1419/7 position of unknown German Unit 008° S 104° E. \* See next page. No further information regarding raiders E H or J. (2) DRESDEN, TANNENFELS, and KULMERLAND have arrived Biscay from Far East. KOTA NOPAN and ANNELIESE ESSBERGER outward bound last reported 046° N 011° W (?on) 7th. (C. in C. E.F. 1243Z/13 to S & A E.I. Stn. F.L.O. Delhi.)

NAPIER HOTSPUR My 1321/7 para 2. Intend to sail NAPIER and HOTSPUR from Kilindini (?A.M.) 15th Nov. to arrive Durban 19th. (C. in C. E.F. 1314Z/13 to V.A. (2) E.F. Cdre. (D) E.F. N.O.I.C. Durban. C. in C. S.A. RESOLUTION. REVENGE. Admty.)

Shipping Bay of Bengal. Cancel para (D) of C. in C. E.F.'s 0914Z/17 Oct. 1942, 923C. (C. in C. E.F. 1322Z/13 to E.I. Stn. 979C.) (Circulated as 1914/17.)

Shipping Diversions reference positions. Your 0839Z/11 Nov. Concur in cancellation of your 1030/7 Nov. Section (2 corrupt groups) 923 C will also be cancelled. (C. in C. E.F. 1328/13 to F.O. Ceylon. (R) Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

LAOMEDON A.M. 1439B/23/7 and F.O. Ceylon's 1050Z/17/10 not to C. in C. E.F. Request estimated completion date for permanent repairs to LAOMEDON may be reported. (D.B.D. 1603A/13 to D.G.S.R. & S.C. Bombay. (R) C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Calcutta.)

/ONDINA...



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13.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

ONDINA (1) Following received at 1418Z/13th in P/L from  
 BENGAL Dutch Tanker ONDINA (Begins) Want immediate  
*see previous page* assistance. (Ends)  
 (2) Ship was in company with BENGAL (C. in C.  
 E.F.'s 0924/11 refers).  
 (3) ONDINA has been asked to report P.C.S. in merchant naval  
 code but in view of P/L message it is thought this may have been  
 dissociated (as received).  
 (F.O. Ceylon 1751Z/13 to KANIMBLA. (R) Cdre. Western Australia.  
 A.C.N.B. C. in C. S.A. Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C. E.F.)

P.552.

Your 0749/31. P.552 should arrive East Indies  
 Station in about a month's time.  
 2. Recent experience of ocean passages of ex-  
 American submarines has been generally unsatis-  
 factory and, if possible, P.552 should avoid the  
 double crossing of Indian Ocean.  
 (D.A/S.W.\*1955A/13 to C. in C. E.F.)  
 \* Approved by A.C.N.S.(F.)



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War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- U/B. Received at 0033 G.M.T 375 k/cs from Gallon Head Radio via Shergra Radio (begins) At 0025 from unknown station, submarines 12.05 N. 68.55 W. at 2100/12.  
(Wick 0135/13 to R.A.F. Wick, Admiral Lyness, C/Guard Wick.)  
(Port Patrick Radio, 0146/13 to Navy charge, Greenock.)
- U/B attacks. Curacao W/T reports S/M attack at 1947/12 in 12.09 N. 69.17 W. Also S/M attack in 12.05 N. 68.55 W. time unspecified.  
(Kingston, Jamaica 0135R/13 to Admty.)
- ATTACKER. San Francisco departed 1400/12 ATTACKER for trials.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0320Z/13 to Admty.)
- U/B. Shorewatcher reports seeing S/M submerge in vicinity of Maquereau light, 048° 12' N. 054° 46' W. at 0200Z/13th.  
(C.O.A.C. 0505Z/13 to G.B.7 A.G.)
- WATCHMAN. My P.C. and S. 52.22 N. 37.09 W. 250° 18 knots. Weather.  
(WATCHMAN 0700Z/13 to Admty.)
- U/B Attack. Received at 0618 G.M.T from Gallon Head Radio (begins) Heard at 0602. Auto alarm sig de P J C at 0630/6 C Q sub.attack 12.09 N. 69.16 W. 1934 (unread) position 12.09 N. 69.16 W. C Q sub. attacked 12.05 N. 66 (unread) 5 W (unread) 1109 G.M.T. (unread) position 12.05 N. 68 (unread) 5 W de P J C.  
(Wick Radio 0725/13 to Adm. Lyness.)
- U/B. Guantanamo W/T reports S/M sighted 0900 G.M.T/13th in 012° 45' N. 069° 40' W.  
(Kingston Jamaica 0857R/13 to Admty.)
- LEGARE. Arrival 13th Nov. U.S. Warship LEGARE.  
(Harbour Master Barbados 1036/13 to Admty.)
- HARTINGTON. Keep look out for boat load of survivors from HARTINGTON in vicinity of 050° 50' N. 044° 35' W.  
\*WINCHELSEA searching.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1037A/13 to \*HURRICANE, WATCHMAN, ANCHUSA, DAHLIA.)

*\* see next page*

/ST. LOMAN ...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

ST. LOMAN,  
U/B  
attacked. H.M. Trawler ST. LOMAN reports apparently successful attack on S/M in 011° 06' N. 056° 55' W. at 1409Z/12th Nov. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1952Q/13 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.) *Not confirmed - see p. 535.*

HOLMPARK. Connav's 2026/12 (Serial 12) informs as follows: HOLMPARK believed torpedoed and sunk 23rd Oct. 13.11 N. 47.00 W. (Commaveu 1056/13 to Admty.)

R.N.A.S.  
Dartmouth. Request information as to probable future utilisation of Royal Naval Air Section Dartmouth Halifax. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1134Q/13 to Admty.)

U.S.S. WEST  
POINT. Sailed for Bombay 1930Z/12. Route. (Commaveu 1243/13.) *see p. 572*

TATNALL  
P.C.590. Kingston (Jamaica) arrivals U.S.S. TATNALL and P.C.590. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1252R/13 to Admty. etc.)

B.Y.M.S.2  
and 4. My 1716/7 and 1531/9 H.M.R. Tugs FRISKY and TENACITY arrived St. Johns 1038Z/13 from search for B.Y.M.S.2 and 4. Latter arrived St. Johns 1137/13 under own steam. (F.O.N.F. 1339Z/13 to Admty.)

F.H.14. My 1911/12th F.H.14 late 24 due weather conditions. (N.O.I.C. St. John, N.B. 1355Z/13.)

S/M estimate  
13th Nov.  
& notice. Cominch 1544/13, 1545/13, 1615/13, 1616/13, 1617/13, Commaveu 2146/13.

HURRICANE,  
H.X.215  
WINCHELSEA. My 2231/11th. Intend to sail HURRICANE to overtake H.X.215 after effecting repairs. Propose WINCHELSEA sail with H.X.215 subsequently transferring to O.N.144 after HURRICANE joins. (F.O.N.F. 1548Z/13 to C. in C. W.A., Comtask 24, (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.T.F. 24.7, HURRICANE, WINCHELSEA.)

U/B. My 2237/12th. Amend positions to read 047° 38' N. 052° 52' W. at 1830/12th. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1659Z/13 to G.B.7 A.)

Arrivals ...



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War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Arrivals. U.S.S. MOFFETT, U.S.S. WINSLOW, U.S.S. BELKNAP, U.S.S. GREENE. \*Brazilian Sub. Chaser Number One escorting convoy B.R.N. Three. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1702Q/13.) \*C.S.I. (L.B. 1815)

O.N. 5142.

My 1739/13th<sup>1/N.T.L. H.D.</sup> Western local escort South T.U. Number 24.18.3 NIAGARA (S.O) LINCOLN, RIMOUSKI, EDMUNSTON, \*MUNSTON, \*\*MEHEATILLE sailed 0700Z/16th to relieve you at H.O.M.P. at 1900Z/16th. (C.O.A.C. Halifax\*1926Z/13 to Cmdr. T.U. Number 24.18.5 (R) Admty., Connav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Comtask 24 C.C.N.F., C.E.S.F.)  
\* Cancelled, see 1744/14. p. 640.

"Delay reports".

Your 1641/4. Request you will number delay reports consecutively repeating to B.A.D. Washington and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (D.T.D. 2010A/13 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

It has become necessary to obtain prompt information of actual or anticipated delay to British controlled shipping proceeding through or sailing from Panama Canal in either direction.  
2. A "delay report" should be signalled whenever necessary under the headings (a) Name of ship and destination for loading or discharge. (b) Cause of delay. (c) Expected date of sailing (and convoy) (d) Any special measures taken, or remarks.  
3. These reports are to be sent to Admiralty repeated B.A.D. Washington and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. They are required as often as needed to ensure that information is prompt or prophetic, and should be numbered consecutively.

(D.T.D. 2017A/13 to B.R.L.O. Cristobal.)

Tanker escort.

Your 0955/11. Shell endeavouring arrange for six lake tankers to be in position for this convoy. 2. Request you render (tanker message) all possible assistance to ensure readiness of these tankers. (D.T.D. 2018A/13 to B.R.L.O. Curacao.)

Washops 104.

Aleutians. A medium size transport and destroyer were sighted at Holtz Bay Attu Island on Nov. 11th. Japanese strength at Kiska estimated to be 9800 including 300 Naval personnel on shore. (J.S.M. Washington 2059Z/13 to Admty. etc.)

Sub.attack &amp; Sighting Summary.

Para. A. B.18 Radar contact attacks sub. on surface 13.10 N. 69.35 W. 1007Z/13 course 330.  
Para. B. Sub. sighted 12.45 N. 69.40 W. 0900Z/13.  
Para. C. Unidentified attacked 12.09 N. 69.16 W. 2334Z/12. Unidentified tanker 1425Z/12.

2125/12 cancelled. P.C.557. Attacks sound contact 43.19 N. 69.25 W. 2010Z/12. H.M.C.S. MEDICINE HAT attacks contact 47.40 N. 52.55 W. 2040Z/12. Shore watchers sight submerging sub. 48.12 N. 64.46 W. 0200Z/13.  
Para. D. Panair Plane sights sub. surfacing 15.30 N. 76 W. course 120 1500Z/12.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2117/13.)

/Ottawa ...



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Ottawa  
conference.

Personal for 1st S.L.  
Your 0040/11th. I shall be glad to send Capt.  
W.C. Creery, R.C.N. as my representative to  
proposed conference in London. Any date  
between 1st and 15th Dec. would be convenient.

(ii) It is hoped that the Ottawa conference will assist in  
clearing up a number of points and the question of 10 groups  
in mid-ocean escort force can be given preliminary discussions.  
(C.N.S. Ottawa 2153Z/13 to Admty.)

Your 0040A/11. Prefer to delay decision concerning  
future conferences until present scheduled conference in  
Ottawa completed and results reviewed. In view of proximity  
of majority of prespective conferees consider Washington most  
logical place for future conferences where matters of policy  
are to be reviewed.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1946/13.)

NIDARLAND.

Trinidad reports P. NIDARLAND torpedoed and  
sunk 1200Z/9th in 011° 41' N. 060° 42' W. Master  
and 32 landed Tobago missing one.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston 2301R/13.)



War Diary.13.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

MAURETANIA. B.A.D. Washington 1859Z/26th Oct. Australia representative of Cunard White Star Co. advises as MAURETANIA will then have done 14,000 miles since last boiler cleaning 8 days will be required at Auckland for this purpose.  
(A.C.N.B., 0039Z/13 to D. of S.T., B.A.D., N.Z.N.B.)  
Reply: D.S.T. 2144/17.

G.H.Q.  
Digest  
Serial  
No.295  
Nov. 12th.

Six Fortresses attacked shipping Buin Shortlands Area from 4 - 5000 feet early morning 12th direct hits scored on one 12000 ton and one 7000 ton merchant vessel one near miss on another 9000 ton merchant vessel believed damaged. Aircraft report approx. 48 vessels well dispersed in area including one heavy cruiser three other possible cruisers at least eleven other warships the majority destroyers, 22 merchant vessels eleven other unidentified vessels.

1. Loading or unloading activities appeared in progress with several merchant vessels.
2. One enemy submarine off Misima Island evening 12th.
4. Four Catalinas bombed runway Buin night 12th starting fires including one very large and probably destroying six enemy aircraft on the ground.
5. Three Beaufighters attacked enemy position Buna Kakenetta area morning 12th.

(G.H.Q. S.W. Pacific, 1211Z/13.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions.  
(D.D.I.C., 1425A/13, 1440A/13.)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

At 0915 today M.Ls 139 and 293 on Air-Sea Rescue Patrol off Dungeness were attacked by 5 F.W. A/C with cannon and M.G. fire, the steering gear of M.L.139 being damaged.

Operation  
F.B.

ST. ELSTAN arrived at Reykjavik today with 26 survivors from SS WILLIAM CLARK (sunk 4 Nov.)

Fifteen Fortresses and 9 Liberators attacked the submarine base at St. Nazaire today. Direct hits on the submarine pens and elsewhere are reported.

North Atlantic.Operation  
"Torch".

It is now reported that during the assault the Western Naval Task Force destroyed one cruiser and 4 destroyers. The JEAN BART is ashore damaged, but turret serviceable.

L.S.I.(L) WARWICK CASTLE in convoy M.K.F.1 was hit by 2 torpedoes at 0859A in 38° 44' 13" 0' W. WINCHESTER CASTLE was reported torpedoed at 0827 in 39° 12' N. 13° 25' W.(?) but the message was cancelled later.

2 damaged U-boats were reported on the surface in 36° 25' N. 0° 8' W. at 1231Z by an unknown H.M. ship. One of these may have been the U-boat attacked at 0255 today in 200° 25 miles from the above position.

SS ZAAN (petrol carrier) in convoy K.X.6 was torpedoed by U/B at 0730Z in about 39° 16' N. 14° 24' W. (about 230 miles W. by N. of Cape Roca)\* The convoy has become scattered in north east gale.

\* "The report was apparently incorrect. ZAAN arrived at Oran".

WELSHMAN sailed from Gibraltar at 1525Z for Malta via Algiers.



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14.11.1942.  
SaturdayWar Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.Recent  
sinkings.

It is reported that SS ZAANDAM was sunk at 1728 G.M.T/2 in 1° 17' N. 36° 40' W. with heavy loss of life and that SS MALOJA was torpedoed and sunk at 1615 S.A.T./8 in 11° 25' N. 27° 0' W. The Portuguese sloop BARTOLOMEO DIAS reports that she has picked up a lifeboat from SS DAGOMBA torpedoed 3 Nov. in 2° 30' N. 19° 0' W.

B.D.V. PANORAMA, which left Freetown on 28 Oct. for Bathurst is overdue and must be considered lost. U-Boats were in the area at the time. R.A.W.Af. recommends that PANORAMA be regarded as formally paid off on 30 October.

Mediterranean.Western  
Meditn.

SS LALANDE was torpedoed by U-boat early this morning in 36° 9' N. 3° 50' W. and SS BROWNING off Oran.

U/B  
destroyed.

Hudsons attacked a U-boat and drove it ashore where it was found today beached in 36° 16' N. 0° 32' E. (70 miles N.E. of Oran). A swarm of aircraft, both R.A.F. and Naval completed its destruction.

76 heavy bombers from the U.K. attacked Genoa last night.

SS NARKUNDA was bombed and damaged at 1720 in 36° 52' N. 5° 1' E. on the way from Bougie to Algiers, unloaded. The ship sank later. Orders were given to stop westward sailings in daylight.

BICESTER, whilst eastbound north of Bougie was attacked by 12 Stukas this afternoon in 37° 9' N. 7° 22' E. and shot down one and slightly damaged a second. BICESTER was undamaged.

It is reported that Bougie was bombed last night and that 2 French and one Allied ship were damaged; 7 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Enemy aircraft were persistent over Bone and Bougie today.

/Western ...



591

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Western  
Desert.

C. in C. Med. reports that Bardia and Tobruk were occupied by today. The jetty at Bardia is completely demolished and there are no alongside berths for any type of craft, but 5 landing craft can be discharged on the unsheltered beach.

SS SCILLIN  
sunk, 754  
British  
prisoners  
lost.

P.212 sank Italian SS SCILLIN northbound off Kerkenah No.1 Buoy at 2000A today. Military officer survivors state that there were 780 British prisoners of war on board: only 26 were saved. P.212 is returning to Malta with 53 British prisoners of war and Italians. She reported (15 Nov.) that British prisoners of war are being evacuated from Benghazi to Tripoli (Libya) in small coastal shipping. Capt. (S) 10, however, stated (15 Nov) that the westward transit of British prisoners is reported to be completed, and also that they invariably travel in steam ships.

It is reported from Istanbul that the sinking of 5 tankers for the enemy forces in Africa had a decisive effect on the campaign.

The German tanker OSSAG was torpedoed by a S/M off Karaburnu today but reached Istanbul.

East Indies.

SS EMPIRE DEFIANCE reported being missed by two torpedoes at 0821Z in 14.25 N. 81.1 E.

Australia and New Zealand.

Guadalcanal.

Since 11 Nov. numerous Japanese Task Forces have been engaged by U.S. Naval and Air Units to prevent attempted landings by groups of 10 to 12 transports. The U.S. claim substantial successes. No landings have been reported up to 0800 today.



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Post Office. Post Office Telegraph Ships may in emergency  
Telegraph require to enter any convenient port for  
Ships. fuelling, storing, etc. and should be provided  
MONARCH, with all available facilities as necessary.  
ALERT, ARIEL, 2. The particulars re these ships are as  
IRIS. follows:-  
i. They are styled H.M. Telegraph Ships MONARCH,  
ALERT, ARIEL and IRIS.  
ii. They are not registered under the Merchant Shipping Acts  
and have no Port of Registry.  
iii. They wear a Blue Ensign with the Post Office Badge in  
the fly.  
iv. Each ship carries a commission under the authority of  
the Postmaster and the Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office.  
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2038A/14.)

Defence of the U.K.

Lerwick Admty. 2320A/17th August 1942.  
H.A.A. guns. Further development of Lerwick as a Coastal  
Forces Base in addition to existing importance  
as a Submarine Base is considered to warrant  
the allocation of remaining four H.A.A. guns to complete the  
approved scale.  
2. Request consideration may be given to meet this requirement  
at an early date.  
(D.L.D., 1925A/14 to Air Ministry.)

Movements.

A.F.D. 18. Dock is to be towed to Oban before proceeding  
Corpach. Report E.T.A.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0958A/14 to MAZURKA.)  
Your 0958A/14. E.T.A. Oban 2100A/14th.  
(MAZURKA, 1105A/14 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
C. in C. Portsmouth's 1835/7. Arrived A.F.D.18 on passage to  
Corpach escorted by MAZURKA, PAUL RYKENS.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 2009A/14.)

FAME. Sail FAME p.m./18th to Londonderry to fuel,  
thence at best speed by Great Circle to Cape  
Race, thence to Halifax.  
2. If desiring to refuel at St. Johns, FAME is to report  
intentions during passage.  
3. After disembarking passengers and stores C.O.A.C. is  
requested to sail FAME as convenient to Argentia to join  
B.6 group.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1007Z/14 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

/SEALION ...



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

SEALION, 1. Intend to sail SEALION and DOLFIN escorted  
DOLFIN, by SCIMITAR at 1730A/15 from Holy Loch to 180°  
(P. 47), Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 1900A/17.  
SCIMITAR. 2. Thence SCIMITAR to Cardiff, E.T.A. 0700A/18.  
*See p. 596* Submarines southward.  
(Capt. S.3, 1127A/14.)

After making Oversay R/V a.m./15th SCIMITAR is to proceed to Clyde to fuel, thence Holy Loch to escort P.47 and SEALION in accordance with Capt. (S) 3 1157/13. SCIMITAR to Barry Roads on completion.

(C. in C. W.A., 1145A/14.)

Your 1524/13. Request you will use western route, and I would suggest taking departure from Fastnet Rock.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1301A/14 to F.O.S.)

Your 1301/14. Western route will be used. Intend S/Ms to break off in vicinity of 044° 30' N. 012° 30' W. for their area.

(2) I am not in favour of Fastnet Rock route for following reasons:-

(a) S/Ms and escort will be further from fighter protection and their escort vessels are very lightly armed.

(b) In the event of breakdown off Eire coast S/Ms may have to seek shelter in neutral waters.

(c) Movements of S/Ms are liable to be reported to enemy from Eirean sources.

(d) If R/V with incoming S/Ms is delayed escort have no port in the vicinity in which to wait.

(3) Unless you have serious objections intend routeing S/Ms in normal way via Bishop Rock to vicinity of 049° N. 012° W., thence southward.

(F.O.S., 1529A/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

ST. ALBANS. After refuelling, ST. ALBANS is to proceed at best speed to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1154A/14 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

SAVORGNAN Your 1625/13 and WESTERN ISLES 2254/13.  
DE BRAZZA. When ready for sea SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA should be sailed to Clyde to work up under the direction of Capt. (D) Greenock. On completion C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA as convenient to join F.O.C. West Africa's Command. My 2330/22nd October para. 3, applies.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1306A/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

PRESIDENT On completion of working up request you will  
HOUDUCE. sail PRESIDENT HOUDUCE as convenient to join F.O.C. West Africa's Command.  
A.M. 2330/22nd October para. 3, applies.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1307A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.A. Situation at 1858A/14. Details.  
Command. (C. in C. W.A., 1357A/14.)  
See Lion Copy.

/GURNARD ...



593A

# MOST SECRET

1357A/14th November.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches. Date. 14th Nov. 1942.

*SITUATION-REPORT*

Recd. 2008

Addressed Admiralty.

### Situation at 1858A/14th Nov. 1942.

#### Section N.E.

QUICKMATCH		58 13 06 06	To Greenock	18
R.U. 48	KING SOL STAFFNESS	58 05 05 45	To Loch Ewe	8

### Situation at 1858A/14th Nov. 1942

#### Section S.E.

QUICKMATCH		58 13 06 06	To Greenock	18
U.S.S/M GURNARD		56 33 10 31	To 180° Barra	2 by day Head 9 miles 8 by night
ITHURIEL			Off Trevoise Head To Milford Haven	18 0130A/15
1 Auxiliary vessel		53 50 04 52	To Loch Broom	8½
O.N.S.M. 146	ROSEMARY 2 trawlers	52 03 05 26	To Belfast	7½
3 M/V's	SCIMITAR	53 56 04 48	To 270 dogs	Oversay 16 6 miles
Convoy	LEEDS UNITED	52 44 04 56	Northbound	8
H.M. 66	SOUTHERN BREEZE	53 00 05 04	To Milford Haven	8
K.M.F. 3	WESTON 6 sloops	55 23 05 00	270° thence	Oversay 6' 12 55 20 11 28 and 52 00 17 30

/ 1 M/V .....



593<sup>B</sup>

- 2 -

Section S.E. contd

1 M/V      FILLA                      54 14 05 12    To Liverpool    6

Situation at 1858./14th Nov.1942

Section N.W.

4 Minesweepers                      59 07 13 33    To Liverpool    12½

S.C. 108	BROADWAY	59 00 24 51 to 59 10 20 02	7½
C.T.U.	SHERWOOD	thence 58 15 13 58	
24.1.12	CRILLIA		
(E)	PRIMROSE		
	POLYANTHUS		
	MORDEN		
	PICTOU		
	U.S.S.SCHENCK		

H.X. 214	HIGHLANDER	58 44 19 22 to 57 04 14 38	9½
C.T.U.	ANEMONE	thence 56 30 08 28	
24.1.8	CLOVER		
	BEVERLEY		
	ABELIA		
	PERRYWORT		
	BORAGE		

U.R. 49	GAVOTTE	62 42 20 03 to 63 01 21 25	4
	HUGH WALLFOLE	thence Reykjavik	
	QUADRILLE		

Situation at 1858./14th Nov.1942

Section S.W.

U.S.S/M GURNARD	56 33 10 31	To 180° Barra Head	
		9 miles	
			2 by day
			8 by night

ST. ALBANS	56 13 13 31	To Londonderry	1
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/ O.N. 145 .....



# MOST SECRET

Section S.W. contd.

O.N. 145	U.S.S. CAMPBELL	51 46 27 05 to 50 00 32 00 9
C.T.U.	U.S.S. BADGER.	
24.1.3	EASTERN DIANTHUS TRILLIUM BURZA	

C.F. 7	SHEROPSHIRE ARROW	52 09 19 08 to 53 30 17 30 12½
	ACTIVE DUNCAN ANTONY	thence 55 10 10 15

K.M.S. 3 (E)	BLACK SWAN 1 sloop 9 corvettes	47 45 18 00 to 38 00 18 00 7½
-----------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------

2 M/V's	NORFOLK CUMBERLAND	49 21 19 10 to 52 02 18 59 16
	3 destroyers	thence 55 57 13 01

1357A/14.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(T)  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. in.  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
Duty Capt. (2)  
U.S.N.  
D.A./S.W.  
H.C. of M.  
D.D.I.C.(3)  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.  
D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(3)  
D.T.D.(C)  
D.N.I.(4)  
Ad. Blake.(2)  
Ad. Ramsey (4)  
D.M.S.  
D.D.O.D.(M)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- GURNARD,  
→ BREDA. <sup>1p.545</sup> My 1025A/13. For JAN VAN GELDER read Yacht BREDA. BREDA sails Rothesay 1600A/14. (Capt. S.3, 1404A/14.)
- P. 34. P.34 is to be sailed for Plymouth as convenient on 16th November.  
P.34 will be available for diving (? gunnery torpedo) trials and A/S exercises at Plymouth until required for refit at Chatham about 12th December. (F.O.S., 1438A/14.)
- BREDON,  
INKPEN,  
DUNKERY,  
DUNCTON,  
INDIAN STAR. Sail BREDON, INKPEN, DUNKERY, DUNCTON, and INDIAN STAR in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1756A/14 and 1032A/15. *N.T. in N.S. of either.* (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1456A/14.)
- ITHURIEL. <sup>pp.599-601</sup> My 2232A/13. Sailed ITHURIEL. Separate signal been made to N.C.X.F. and F.O.C.N.A. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1600A/14 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)  
My 1456A/14. ITHURIEL passed Needles 1750/14 for Milford Haven. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1756A/14.)
- CHESHIRE. Your 1835/9. When ready for sea about 18th November request you will sail CHESHIRE for Clyde for working up practices.  
2. After embarkation of passengers ship will be required to leave U.K. with convoy sailing 15th December from Clyde. (D.O.D.(F), 1740A/14 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- OTWAY. Intend to sail OTWAY escorted by BREDA from Rothesay at 0900A/17 to arrive Plymouth at 0730A/20. Thence OTWAY to Portsmouth. Passage on the surface as arranged Capt. (S) 5th. (Capt. S.7, 1744A/14.)

Operations.

- Search for  
Blockade  
Runners.  
SHEFFIELD,  
JAMAICA.  
AURORA. Your 2107/13. Route of blockade-runners appears to run east and west between 042° N. and 045° N. between Bay of Biscay and about 035° W. Propose SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA, \*AURORA carry out sweep in this area West of 018° W. whilst on passage. (C. in C. H.F., 1045A/14 to N.C.X.F.)  
My 1045/14. For 042° N. and 045° N. read 043° N. and 046° N. (C. in C. H.F., 1152A/14 to N.C.X.F.)

\* *see p.607 - 14120 609-615*

/Patrols ...



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Patrols. → M.T.Bs 50 (S.O.) and 54 proceed tonight to patrol near 50° 12' N. 0° 40' W. passing F buoy at 1815 and 0745. Codeword "Object".

Return to St. Helens if weather unsuitable.

PENYLAN standing by at Yarmouth.

→ CHASSEURS 41 (S.O.) and 10 on E.A5 patrol.

Portland patrol of M.G.Bs 51 (S.O.), 50 on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1113A/14 and 1241A/14 to HORNET.)

1. Intend R.M.Ls 532 (S.O.) and 497 to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 25' W. tonight, leaving Weymouth at 1800 and patrol line at dawn. Codeword "Advent".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1114A/14 and 1803/14.) ✓

M.T.B. patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.T.Bs 235 (S.O.), 240, and 231.

3. Patrol. Between positions (A) 040° Sept Iles Light 7 miles and (B) 285° Sept Iles Light 12 miles.

4. Object. To intercept enemy shipping on coastal passage.

5. Information. Own. 6 M.Ls leave Dartmouth 1715/14 to patrol 7 miles from 100° Start Point 27 miles.

6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth 1800 today to reach position (A) about 2200. Leave patrol as required to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light. In case of breakdown not less than 2 M.T.Bs are to carry out patrol. Codeword "Occasion".

→ (C. in C. Plymouth, 1407/14.)

M.L. patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.Ls 491 (S.O.), 195, 157, 184, 180 and 259.

3. Patrol. 7 miles 075° and 255° from 100° Start 27 miles.

4. Object. To intercept E-Boats.

5. Information. Own. 3 M.T.Bs sail Dartmouth 1700/14 for southward returning so as to be within 20 miles of the coast by daylight. W.P.248 passes Dart Buoy about 1700/14.

Enemy. E-Boats may operate from Guernsey or Cherbourg.

6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1715 today and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight. M.Ls 491, 195 and 157 return to Dartmouth, Remainder part company in 110° Start Point 10 miles and proceed to Falmouth by convoy route.

7. When in company codeword "Obstacle" collective call sign 3 F O V. After parting company Falmouth M.Ls codeword "Obstacle".

8. Attention is called to Q.Z.X.834, which is not to be crossed unless in sight of or chasing the enemy.

→ (C. in C. Plymouth, 1413A/14.)

→ 1. M.T.Bs 50 and 54 passing F buoy 1815/14. E.T.R. 0745/

15. Patrolling to southward.

→ 2. 2 Chasseurs patrolling off E.A5 buoy.

→ 3. 2 M.G.Bs patrolling 15 miles south of Anvil Point.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1456A/14.)

M.Ls 220 and 207 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and N.E. Spit Buoys. E.T.D. 1805. E.T.R. 0800/15.

M.Ls 143 (S.O.) and 293 near C one buoy.

M.Ls 104, 210, 213, 128, 102 and 101 supported by M.G.Bs 329 and 324 carrying out operation N.L.72. E.T.D. 2220. E.T.R. 0540/15. Route via 'D' buoy each way.

(V.A. Dover, 1703A/14.)

→ Your 1413/14. Sailed "Obstacle".

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1734A/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

→ Your 1407/14. Sailed "Occasion".

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1814A/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Biscay ....



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Biscay S/M F.O.S. 1524A/13. SEALION and DOLFIN pass 180°  
Patrol. Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1900A/17, thence diving  
SEALION, by day as follows.  
DOLFIN. (2) Following positions are established:  
*see p. 593*  
 (A) 047° 52' 008° 38'. (B) 045° 15' 004° 34'.  
 (C) 044° 32' 007° 02'. (R) 047° 51' 007° 50'.  
 (S) 045° 04' 003° 57'. (T) 044° 04' 007° 02'.  
 (3) SEALION pass through (A) at 1800A/18 (B) and (C) E.T.A.  
 0230A/21 to zone 501, S.O.A. 135 miles per day.  
 (4) DOLFIN pass through (R) at 1500A/18 (S) and (T) E.T.A.  
 1900A/21st to zone 505, S.O.A. 125 miles a day.  
 (Capt. (S) 3, 1317A/14 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth,  
 C. in C. H.F., F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., DOLFIN, SEALION.)  
 DOLFIN sailed to patrol in Bay of Biscay p.m. 15th  
 November.  
 (Capt. S.3, 1341A/14 to Admty.)

BODO. BODO is to be sailed as soon as possible after  
2000 tonight to proceed by route given in my  
1330/13th.

Lieut.-Commander Marstrander will be acting on previous  
instructions and he is to arrange that any ships of returning  
convoy should if possible fly Norwegian Ensign at ensign staff  
and whit coloured flag at foremast and also display L.N. in  
white letters on bridge top as aircraft identity letters.  
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1610A/14 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)  
 BODO sailed.  
 (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2141/14.)

Exercises.

Pendine It is under consideration to conduct tank landing  
Sands. trials on Pendine Sands shortly.  
Tank My 1920/5 refers.  
Landing 2. Request I may be informed whether four L.C.T.  
Trials. (3) could be berthed in Burry Port for a few  
days and whether such an arrangement would be  
acceptable.  
 (C.C.O., 0940A/14 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Exercise Operation completed.  
"Blanket". (C. in C. Nore, 1225A/14.)

Exercises Admty's 2249/8/9. These restrictions will not  
in Loch be required after departure of TITANIA and  
Cairnbawn. ALECTO on 20th November.  
 (F.O.S., 1344A/14 to Admty.)



War Diary.

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Search for A/C Barges. Reported sighting at 1349A/13 in 054° 13' N. 016° 27' W. square-sided metal barge containing 1 Lockheed Lightning A/C tipped on nose and at 1456 in 054° 13' N. 019° 05' W. a similar barge with Lockheed Lightning A/C in normal position. No sign of life on either craft, both reported to be drifting 135°, speed 1 to 2 knots. Request you will sail SAMSONIA as soon as possible to recover these barges. No escort available. A/C co-operation will be arranged.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1509A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
Sailed SAMSONIA to comply with your 1509A/14. SAMSONIA hopes to maintain 14 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1914A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Bomber Command operations. On day 13th November 2 A/C were sent to attack the NEUMARK raider at Flushing. Both A/C failed to return, and another which carried out a search for them, is also missing.  
On night 13th/14th, 56 A/C bombed Genoa and a further 19 A/C attacked the Ansaldo Works there..  
(H.Q.B.C., 1620A/14.)

Enemy Air Activity.

M.L. 139 damaged. At 0915 today M.Ls 293 and 139 on Air/Sea Rescue patrol off Dungeness were attacked with cannon and machine gunfire, by five F.W. 190s. M.L.139 sustained damage to steering and two ratings slightly wounded. No casualties or damage in M.L. 293.  
(V.A. Dover, 1144A/14.)

Mining.

Operation Q.L. 9. (1) Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L.(9) with available M.Ls of 51st Flotilla tonight.  
(2) Supporting forces:-  
(a) 8th M.G.B.F to position 52° 10' N. 03° 05' E. If no E-Boat activity develops, unit is to R/V with M.Ls and proceed with M.Ls as close support. Unit has freedom of action on completion of lay.  
(b) One unit 4th M.T.Bs vicinity Hook of Holland.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1038A/14 to BEEHIVE.)  
Departures M.T.Bs 32, 30, 69. M.G.Bs 81, 79, 80, 60, 58.  
M.Ls 100, 110.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1738A/14.)

Lyme Bay sweep. Your 1656A/13. "Ounce V" arrived at 1550.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1557A/14 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)  
Intend to sail FINESSE, PATTI, and CONCERTATOR sweeping route 'F' to Dartmouth at 0730 tomorrow. Codeword "Ounce VI".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1605A/14.)

/Intend ...



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Lyme Bay sweep.  
(Contd.)

Intend to sail at 0740 tomorrow MILFORD DUCHESS and CYPRESS via Q.Z.S. 381 and 293 sweeping to N.1 Buoy. Codeword "Sharp III".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1612A/14.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Tromso.  
FRIESENLAND.

Russian Grade F report states:-  
That at 1411/13 there were present in Tromso Catapult ship FRIESENLAND, 2 minesweepers, 4 M.T.Bs, 5 auxiliary vessels, and 8 landing craft.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1648A/14 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

EMPIRE CHUB torpedoed.

Following received from Port Patrick Radio intercepted at 0109 G.M.T. from EMPIRE CHUB. S O S vessel out of control, required stand by off Dunnet Head bearing south 9 miles.  
(Port Patrick Radio, 0209A/14 to Admty.)  
Received at 0239 G.M.T. bearing 327° from EMPIRE CHUB. Begins. Unreliable. Now making slow headway. Dunnet Head now bearing about 146°. Ships head 220. Ends.  
(Wick Radio, 0341/14.)  
Received at 0420 G.M.T. from EMPIRE CHUB. Begins. Vessel under control but making no headway. Dunnet Head bearing 124°. Ships head 259° true. Ends.  
(Wick Radio, 0523/14.)  
TARANTELLA has been detached from E.N.61 to stand by EMPIRE CHUB 323° Dunnet Head 15 miles and escort to Scrabster.  
(A.C.O.S., 0731/14 to C. in C. Rosyth.)  
D/F bearing distress 198° class 3 SSSS from 33 torpedoed.  
(A.C.O.S., 0750/14 to Admty.)

U-Boats reported.

By D/F at 1152Z/14. U-Boat estimated to be in vicinity of 61° 30' N. 28° 00' W. Unreliable fix.  
(D.D.I.C., 1405A/14.)  
Inconclusive D/F bearings at 1423Z/14 suggest U-Boat in vicinity of convoy C.F.7, possibly reporting it.  
(D.D.I.C., 1655A/14 to SHROPSHIRE, ARROW, ACTIVE.)

Casualties and Defects.

SOUTHERN SPRAY.

Your 1846A/12. Approved.  
(D.A/S.W., 0123A/14 to WESTERN ISLES.)

PIROUETTE.

U.R.50. PIROUETTE defective. No relief trawler available.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 1201A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- Search for Dinghy. Proceed with all despatch pick up dinghy sighted by aircraft in 049° 33' N. 011° 11' W. at 1400. Dinghy will be instructed to show flare during night.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1419A/14 to SLAZAK.)
- My 1419/14. Proceed through 049° 45' N. 006° 55' W. where AQUILLA reported aircraft possibly in sea at 0550/14. Your attention is called to P.C.W.O.112 para. 30. Your codeword "Warrant".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1444A/14 to SLAZAK.)
- My 1419/14. Amend position 049° 19' N. 011° 14' W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1944A/14 to SLAZAK.)
- ITHURIEL. *See pp 594-9*  
601  
My 1931A/12. ITHURIEL sailed Needles 1750/14 for Milford Haven. B gun is still stiff when trained through red 15 to 25 and red 55 to 65. To cure this defect would have involved another 2 to 4 days delay.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1615A/14 to Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)
- RINGDOVE. RINGDOVE now at Port Edgar reports having grounded on 12th November. Damaging port propeller and ship's bottom.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1720A/14 to A.S. Rosyth.)
- M.T.B. 202. Your 1218A/14. M.T.B. 202 entered Portland 1713/14. Gear box defective.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1748A/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)
- Unknown Ship. Received at 1733 G.M.T. de Gallon Head Radio. Begins at 1719 FRAGMENT (unread) can only steer (unread) Capt. Ends.  
(Wick Radio, 1833/14 to Admiral Lyness.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- W.S. 25Q. BATORY and MONARCH OF BERMUDA are due Glasgow and Tail of the Bank respectively about 17th Nov. with no personnel on board.  
2. They will be included in convoy W.S. 25Q.  
(D.S.T., 0631A/14.)
- ORONTES. Clyde arrival ORONTES and SALADIN. SALADIN sailed for Londonderry.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0824A/14.)



600

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- Q.P. 15. My 2145A/12. All movement delayed 24 hours with the exception of ONSLAUGHT and OBDURATE who are to sail independently as previously arranged.
- (C.S.1, 0934A/14.)
- Capt. (D) 8th in FAULKNER with IMPULSIVE, ECHO, ICARUS, INTREPID, E.T.A. Kola 1900A/16 from north-eastward but may arrive earlier. Please pass this information to ships concerned in escort of merchant ships.
- (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1021A/14 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1407A/14 to CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO.)
- Proceed passing Switha 2100 today to Seidisfjord routed through positions (a) 062° 25' N. 004° 35' W. (b) 066° 15' N. 012° 20' W. (x) 065° 36' N. 013° 30' W. (y) 065° 21.5' N. 013° 27.5' W. (z) 065° 18.2' N. 013° 43.5' W.
- (2) Attention is called to Q.Z.L. 51 and 52.
- (3) On arrival act in accordance with C.S.1's 2145A/12 as amended by 0934/14th.
- (R.A.D.H.F., 1515A/14 to ONSLAUGHT, OBDURATE.)  
Your 1732/13.
- ↳ DANEMAN will not be available for duty with Q.P.15 but will be used for escort of independent ship to Kola.
2. If all Q.P.15 sails, CAMPFIRE with damaged steering gear, EMPIRE GALLIARD, RICHARD ALVEY, HUGH WILLIAMSON, JOHN WALKER, and SOVIET VOLGA will be only ships to be sailed for Kola Inlet. Expected date of readiness about 25th Nov. onwards.
- (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1637/14.)
- Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/15 and movements for following 24 hours.
- (A) P.312 vicinity 70° 53' N. 22° 26' E.  
(B) P.216 vicinity 70° 52' N. 21° 08' E.  
(C) UREDD vicinity 70° 32' N. 20° 01' E.  
(D) JUNON 67° 15' N. 08° 30' E. probably on surface through 69° 25' N. 12° 01' E. thence to eastward for patrol.  
(F.O.S., 1751A/14.)
- R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail MUSKETEER with ORWELL, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, OAKLEY for Seidisfjord to arrive a.m./19th and refuel.
- (2) Route: Position (A) 062° 25', 004° 55'. (B) 066° 15' 012° 20' thence by Admty. Mess. Q.Z.L. 51 and 52 to Seidisfjord.
- (3) Q.P.15 sails from Dvina Bar 1200C/17 routed in my 1937/23 October amended by my 1732/2nd copies of which are being sent to destroyers. Speed of advance 9 knots. C. in C. H.F. will signal progress of convoy.
- ↳ (4) MUSKETEER and destroyers are to sail from Seidisfjord to join convoy in position EE. Route from Seidisfjord through FF to EE.
- (5) Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER with ECHO, IMPULSIVE, INTREPID, ICARUS is to continue with convoy to prudent limit of endurance. Then to Seidisfjord to fuel and return Scapa.
- (6) MUSKETEER and 4 destroyers remaining with convoy to position HH. Provided situation permits destroyers are then to leave for Seidisfjord to fuel and return to Scapa.
- (7) Q.P.15 continues to Reykjavik with ocean escort detail in S.B.N.O. Archangel's 1449/12.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1943A/14.)



14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

HINDUSTAN, Admty. 1710A of 10th November. Intend sailing  
\*ITHURIEL. both ships 1330/15th. Codeword "Dinner".  
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1007A/14 to Admty.)

\* See pp 594 & 599

K.M.F. 3. C. in C. W.A. 1807/13. FORT YORK S.O.,  
TADOUSSAC, and DORNOCH will commence sweeping  
in position (c) at 0001A/15th at maximum speed  
of 9 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1104A/14.)

My 1512A/13 and 1514A/13. Sailed codeword "Master".

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1444A/14.)

K.M.F.3 sailed 1700/14th. P.15, P.18, P.22, P.19, C.B.21649,  
P.46, P.29, P.23, P.42, P.41, P.61, P.34, P.26, P.35, P.58.

(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1730/14.)

Sailed TADOUSSAC, FORT YORK and DORNOCH in accordance with  
C. in C. W.A. 1807A/13.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 2125A/14.)

K.M.S. 4, Your 1809/13. Approved to fit TAY with H/F D/F.

M.K.F. 2. (D.S.D., 1304A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

(TAY). Your 1345/12. WEAR is required as escort for  
K.M.S. 4. She should be sailed as required by  
C. in C. W.A.

2. Concur that one month's work up for River class corvettes  
is to be allowed where possible and that a minimum of 3 weeks  
shall be allowed.

(D.O.D.(H.), 2014A/14 to WESTERN ISLES.)

Operation Reykjavik arrival ST. ELSTAN at 1255/14 with 26

F.B. survivors from WILLIAM CLARK.

(A.C.I.C., 1349A/14.)

C.F. 7. (i) From position (L) proceeding through  
W. 054° 30' N. 016° 30' W. X. 054° 30' 014° 30'  
Y. 055° 35' 013° 00'. Z. 055° 35' 008° 00'.

(ii) Cancel positions (M) and (N).

(iii) Look out for barge mentioned in my 1509/14th.

(iv) Destroyers proceeding Londonderry on passing for onward  
routeing as follows - DUNCAN, ANTHONY to the Nore.

ARROW to Middlesbrough. ACTIVE to Newcastle-on-Tyne.

(C. in C. W.A., 1715A/14 to SHROPSHIRE.)

Isle of Commencing 16th November daily sailing, Sunday  
Man. excepted, between Fleetwood and Douglas Isle of  
Man will be resumed. Sailing time as at present.  
(N.O.I.C. Fleetwood, 1845A/14 to F.O.I.C.  
Liverpool.)

HOPEMOUNT. Your 1626/13. Request reason for continued  
detention of HOPEMOUNT and when she is expected  
to be released.  
(D. of Stores, 2004A/14 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)



War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.C. 108,  
S.C.L. 108.

Iceland ships are to detach at 0800Z/15 escorted by SCHENCK. C.T.U. No. 24.6.4 is to proceed to overtake S.C.L. 108 as soon as junction has been made with O.N.S. 144.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2045Z/14.)

M.K.F. 1.

Convoy M.K.F. 1 comprising WARWICK CASTLE, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, WINCHESTER CASTLE, SOBIESKI, LEINSTER and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE to Tail of the Bank, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, OTRANTO, DERBYSHIRE and TEGELBERG to Liverpool and DURBAN CASTLE to Glasgow is due U.K. about 19th November.

2. As far as is known no personnel are on board above vessels with possible exceptions of a few on board LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and LEINSTER. If any information received you will be advised.  
(D.S.T., 2140A/14.)



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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch".

NEW YORK,  
ROWAN,  
MURPHY.

Originator U.S.S. NEW YORK with U.S.S. ROWAN and MURPHY proceeding to base HYPO Fedala to point A (34 N., 30 W) thence point X M. E.T.A. point A 0600Z/17th. E.T.A. point X M 1600Z/22nd S. of A. 11.  
(NEW YORK, 0020Z/14 to Cominch (R) Comnaveu Commander Battleships Atlantic Fleet, Cominch pass for information Commandant Naval Operating Base Port Louis, C. in C. Lant C.E.S.F. Commandant 5th Naval District).

Cape Caxine ?escorting British merchant vessels now. *D'ESTIENNE*  
(COMMANDANT D'ORVES 0059/14 to 77th Destroyer Div).

Flag of  
C.S.10

Personal to be decyphered by an officer specially detailed by you.  
Your 2111Z/13. C.S.10 can transfer his flag as convenient to you and may remain on the station if you require him. C. in C. H.F. concurs.  
(A.C.N.S. (H) 0231A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. H.F., C.S. 10.)

Casablanca  
area.

Admty pass to C. in C. A.F. This is re-encypherment of C.T.F.34's 2212/13th to C. in C. X.F. for action repeated C. in C. U.S. Fleet C. in C. Atlantic Fleet and C. in C. A.F. Begins.  
Situation 1000/13.

About 1900 ? 12th in transport area Fedala transports EDWARD RUTLEDGE, SCOTT, and BLISS torpedoed. Later burnt and sank. Many survivors. Transport group departed for sea until A/S measures can be strengthened. 5 transports of group entering Casablanca today. AUGUSTA, CHENANGO, HAMBSUNON (?HAMBLETON), in Casablanca. Present estimate doubtful whether HAMBSUNON (?HAMBLETON) can be repaired. Harbour clearance being expedited. A.F.I. group completes unloading today. Being routed to U.S. Covering group and air group less CHENANGO and SANGAMON (?) released and routed to U.S. 2 Squadrons P.40s Casablanca airfield. Remainder Part Lyautey. Ends.  
(Radio Washington 0252/14 to Admty).

Request you will sail ADJUTANT and BRITISH LADY escorted by DEPTFORD for Algiers at 0900Z/14th routed through S.29 84.39 100.  
(N.C.X.F., 0310Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Commodore Algiers, F.O. Inshore Squadron, F.O.I.C. Oran, A.O.C. Gibraltar, N.C.C.N.T.F.)

/Algiers...



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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch". - Contd.

Algiers area arrivals. WILTON, PELICAN, POPPY, LOTUS, GERANIUM, STARWORT, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT, AUBRETIA, ROCHESTER SANDWICH, SCARBOROUGH, EGRET, PHILANTE, BANFF, STORK, 11th H.D.U.S. M/S Squad., 4 Trawler Group, 25 Motor Launch Flotilla, 108 and 114 M.M/S F., PRINSES BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA, DIANELLA, 17 M/S F., SENNEN, A.B.V. SCOTTISH, MINNA, Tugs HENGIST, and ST. DAY, STRONSAY, RUSKHOLM.  
Departure for Bougie BICESTER, BRAMHAM: for Bone\* QUEEN EMMA, X PRINSES BEATRIX, ST. OMAR, for Gibraltar, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, EGRET,\* SCYLLA, BLYSCAWICA. *See p 615*  
(Cmdre. Algiers, 0500Z/14 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S.)  
*\* See p 616. \* See p 606 \*\* See p 606*

SS LALANDE Detach trawler to proceed at best speed to torpedoes. join SS. LALANDE torpedoes in 036° 09' N., (003°) 50' W., with orders to tow her to Gibraltar. Report name of trawler. ABERDEEN is being sailed to escort. (N.C.X.F., 0530Z/14 to COREOPSIS, (R) BRILLIANT, AVON VALE, MARIGOLD, Commodore F, S.O. Force H, ABERDEEN).

Proceed with all despatch to assistance of SS. LALANDE torpedoes in 36.09 N., 03.50 W. Trawler from Force "R" has been ordered to tow. Tug will be sent. BRILLIANT hunting in vicinity.

(N.C.X.F., 0629Z/14 to (?ABERDEEN) (R) F.O.C.N.A., Capt. (S) 8, BRILLIANT, Cdre. F).  
Your 0630Z/14. LALANDE now unable to steam due to burnt out boilers but ship afloat on even keel in 036° 15' N. 004° 14' W. \*MARIGOLD and ENCHANTRESS screening.  
(ENCHANTRESS, 1352A/14 to IBIS (R) COREOPSIS, ABERDEEN)  
*\* See p 617. From Lalande*

VENOMOUS Sailed VENOMOUS keeping W/T watch on S.Os. wave and Gibraltar routine. (N.C.W.N.T.F., 0600Z/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) R.A.(A) H.F., VENOMOUS).

→ U/B Proceed with all despatch to hunt S/M in 036° 09' N., 003° (050') W. (F.O.C.N.A., 0615Z/14 to BRILLIANT).

U/B sunk by CLARE. *not confirmed by Lt. Rowbottom in Cmd. 6543.* 6. At 1852Z/12 in 37.41 N., 00.10 W., CLARE, who was on screen of forces O, obtained a R.D.F. contact range 3800 yards and on closing sighted a U-boat on the surface. U-boat dived on being illuminated and CLARE attacked with a full pattern of 14 depth charges. A violent explosion occurred one minute after attacking. Commanding Officer considers U-boat was destroyed and I concur. No search was possible. (C.S.10, 0640Z/14 to N.C.X.F., Admty. (R) CLARE).



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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - Contd.

Proceed at best speed to R/V with United States S.U.G.F. two in estimated position 33.40 N., (739).40 W., steering 000° 13 knots at 1600 14th PRESCOTT is also (incomplete group) this convoy. On arrival escort tankers BULKOIL and SEAKAY to Gibraltar. C.T.F. 38 has been asked to give more accurately R/V.

(N.C.X.F., 0659Z/14 to BLEAN, (R) F.O.C.N.A., Cmdre. F., S.8., A.O.C. Gibraltar C.T.F.38 PRESCOTT).

My 2101Z/13th and my 1350Z/13th not to all addressees. 11 Seafires are to be embarked by air after sailing.

(N.C.X.F., 0827Z/14 to V.A. Gibraltar, FURIOUS, R.N.A.S. Gibraltar (R) R.A.(A) S.O. Force H).

*/L/g...*  
E.T.A. MALCOLM, CONVULVULUS H.M.P.217 and two merchant ships 1100A/14th.  
(MALCOLM, 0828A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) SANDWICH).

WARWICK  
CASTLE,  
torpedoed.

*See pp 612 &  
620*

WARWICK CASTLE torpedoed in 038° 44' N., 013° 00' W. Ship was hit by 2 torpedoes. Weather report 4878 0818.

(BITER, 0859A/14 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Intercepted 0846 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de G C K (Valentia Radio) SSSS de GTPY (WARWICK CASTLE) 39.12 N., 13.25 W., WARWICK CASTLE torpedoed. 0844/14 de GCK.

(Burnham on Sea No T.O.O. Recd. 0950).  
(W.D. Note. Position differs).

Bougie

What are your communications with Jijelli aerodrome. Report the general situation. (S.O.I.S.S., 0901A/14 to ROBERTS).

Title of S.N.O. L.D. has been abolished Captain Dickinson has assumed title of N.O.I.C. Bougie Commander Baux has assumed title of M.C Bougie. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0935Z/14 to F.O.I.S.)

ISAAC  
SWEERS.  
survivors

*next page*

15. My 0917/13th. Following survivors picked up; 3 officers including Captain and B.N.L.O., 82 ratings. Included in above are one seriously wounded 3 wounded and 5 including the Captain slightly wounded.

(2) From accounts so far received it appears ship was hit by 2 torpedoes in number 1 boiler room and wardroom respectively, catching fire within 30 seconds of being hit. (S.O. Force H., 0906Z/14).

/Situation...



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - Contd.

- Situation Report No. 10. 150. (1) Bone. LAMERTON and WHEATLAND after landing troops a.m./13th were bombed at intervals throughout day no damage to ships but bombs in town caused dissatisfaction among local population with British. \*PRINSES BEATRIX with R.A.F. ground troops and a small petrol vessel are en route. *\* see p. 604*
- (2) Bougie Bone and Oran. All undamaged ships of assault convoys now sailed to Westward. Following M.T. ships torpedoed by submarine, ~~BROWNING~~ off Oran, \*MARON in 36° 27' N., 0° 58' W. \*LALANDE in 36° 09' N., 03° 58' W. first sunk. All ships in convoy. *\* see p. 604 & 614 \*\* ? by U.431*
- (3) Port Lyautey. Approach to harbour blocked by two sunken ships but discharge possible over river bank to air port. Fedala only one berth available, discharge slow mainly over beaches.
- (4) Casablanca. Eight unloading berths available, part of U.G.F. one entering a.m./13th.
- (5) Safi. Three berths available and discharge going well. Sea train discharge complete.
- (6) W.N.T.F. destroyed total of one cruiser four destroyers during assault. JEAN BART ashore and damaged aft but turret still serviceable. Air group and support group sailed for U.S.A.
- (7) ISAAC SWEERS sunk by \*submarine torpedo in 37.23 N., 02.12 E. when escorting Force "R". *see previous page \* U.431*
- (8) A/S air patrols made three attacks on U-boats. (N.C.X.F., 1001Z/14).

Most Immediate. Pass following to 81 Squadron (2 corrupt groups) from A.O.C. Begins A/C of 81 Squadron to proceed at once to Tebessa aerodrome 90 miles south of Bone to R/C aerodrome and land at pilots discretion. Immediate report required on suitability of this aerodrome for use by C.47 transport A/C. (F.O.I.S., 1010A/14 to QUEEN EMMA). Unable to pass your 1010A/14th H.M.S. QUEEN EMMA position 037° 10' N., 006° 10' E. on passage Algiers. (QUEEN EMMA. 1432Z/14 to N.C.X.F.) *see p. 604*

Movements of Forces H. and F.

My 2101Z/13th para. 6. Delete AURORA. (N.C.X.F., 1011Z/14 to All British S. and A. concerned in operation "Torch" (R) Admty. V.A. Malta, C. in C. H.F., 1019Z/14 to Admty). My 2101/13th. Para. 1. Force (H) (A) should not pass Europa Point until 1700. (N.C.X.F., 1058Z/14 to S.O. Force H., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

My 2101Z/13 (corrupt group) 14th to join R.A.(A) S.O. Force H., who will be encountered to eastward of Gibraltar is requested to pass R/V. (N.C.X.F., 1132Z/14 to SCYLLA (R) CHARYBDIS, F.O.C. Gib. Force. Capt. (S) 8 A.O.C. Gib. S.O. Force H R.A.(A)).

/Convoy...



607

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - Contd.

Convoy  
→ M.K.F.1 (Y)  
escort.

*See p. 609 - (Situation)  
p. 611*

SS. ARDEOLA,  
TADORNA  
(Operation  
"Cropper").

My 1441/13th para. 4. <sup>1p.561</sup> Insert ARGUS, AVENGER,  
AMAZON, WRESTLER, GLAISDALE, EXE, and SWALE.  
(N.C.X.F. 1028Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

149. SS. ARDEOLA and TADORNA employed in  
operation "Cropper" have not arrived at  
destination. Request registrar of shipping and  
seamen and next of kin of Temporary Lieutenants  
R.N.R. G.R. Lugg and J. Livingstone who were  
Liaison Officers in these ships, may be informed.  
(N.C.X.F., 1054Z/14 to Admty (R) V.A. Malta,  
D.N.C.X.F.)

AURORA

*See p. 613 -*

Your 2107/13. AURORA is intended for Med.  
Fleet. Request you will not sail her for U.K.  
Pending further instructions which it is hoped  
to send p.m. today.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1102A/14 to N.C.X.F 202 (R)  
C. in C. H.F.)

\*BICESTER,  
Convoy.

*\* See pp 604 & 611.  
2/30 p. 615*

My 2154A/13th. One merchant ship speed 12  
knots will R/V with your convoy off Philippeville  
tonight detailed arrangements will be made  
with Commandant ~~de~~ La Marine, Bone.  
(S.O.I.S., 1123A/14 to BICESTER).

Oran  
congested.

Do not send any more ships to Oran or Mers el  
Kebir all berths are occupied.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1202A/14).

→ M.K.F.1

Your 1441/13 para. 3. Destinations are as  
follows. ETTRICK, ORBITA, LETITIA and  
ALMAAK - Clyde. DEMPO - Liverpool.  
(D.O.D. (H), 1205A/14 to N.C.X.F. 203).

Intend sailing ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL  
ULSTERMAN for Algiers at 1700 Saturday each  
with approx. 500 personnel for Algiers embarked.  
(N.C.C.N.T.F., 1231Z/14 to N.C.X.F. Cdre.  
Algiers, (R) N.C.E.N.T.F.)

2 damaged  
U/Bs.

Following has been received by Gibraltar W/T  
Immediate. 2 damaged U-boats on the surface  
in position 036° 25' N., 000° 08' W. See what  
you can do.

(H.M. Ship (name unknown) 1231Z/14).

A/C duty J's 1135/14th U-boat was attacked at 0255/14th  
in position 200° 25 miles from position given (?and) may have  
suffered some damage.

(S.O. Force H., 1235/14 to N.C.X.F.)

/WELSHMAN...



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Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - Contd.

WELSHMAN  
(Operation  
"Analysis").  
*Stomach for Malta  
from Algiers.*  
*See pp 611-9623*

151. Sail at 1515Z/14th to arrive Algiers 0800Z/15th. Complete with fuel and be ready to sail at 1200Z/15th for operation "Analysis" details of which follow in separate signal. (N.C.X.F., 1246Z/14 to WELSHMAN (R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8 Admty. V.A. Gib. Cmdre. Algiers F.O.I.S.)

152. My 1246/14th. When ordered to carry out operation sail from Algiers not later than 1200Z D day proceeding coastwise as (?routed) by F.O. Inshore Sqdn. to Cape Bougaroni thence North of Galita Islands to pass Skerki Channel at midnight thence Malta as routed by V.A. Malta to arrive 0800Z D plus one. F.O. Inshore Sqdn. is requested to arrange fighter protection as far as Cape Bougaroni and V.A. Malta for arrival at Malta.  
(N.C.X.F., 1249Z/14 to WELSHMAN, (R) S.O.I.S., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., Admty.)

My 1249Z/14th. Request you will make any amendment to route you deem advisable. Timing is based on giving appearance of proceeding Bone p.m. D day and should not be appreciably advanced.  
(N.C.X.F., 1734Z/14 to V.A. Malta, (R) WELSHMAN).

M.Ls. for defence of Mers el Kebir. Urgently request M.Ls. 280, 463, \*469, 471, 458 and 483 be allowed to remain for defence of Mers el Kebir otherwise security of post is totally inadequate. *\* see next page.*  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1250/14 to N.C.C.T.F. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Your 1250/14th. M.Ls. may be retained temporarily while shipping congestion is acute. Your organization must be based on ultimate reduction to force detailed in TON 5 appendix. 2.  
(N.C.X.F., 1738Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Oran, (R) N.C.C.N.T.F.)

PENTSTEMON in company with SAMPHIRE E.T.A. WA D (slow) 0001Z/15th. My P.C. and S. 037° 00' N., 004° E., 280° 12½ knots: last 2 groups uncoded weather report. 5871 1161.  
(PENTSTEMON 1300Z/14 to S.O.I.S., (R) SPEY, (?Cdre. Algiers), Commander Gibraltar, S.N.O.L. Bougie).  
My 1300Z/14th amend E.T.A. 0430Z/15th.  
(PENTSTEMON 2240Z/14).

Sink at sight zone. 156. Request sink at sight zone be extended to include all western Mediterranean Basin with the exception of Spanish territorial waters including reasonable access to Balearics from Spain.  
(N.C.X.F., 1303Z/14 to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med). Reply: Admty. 1349/17.



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

VICTORIOUS's aircraft. Your 2103Z/13 and R.A.A. Home Fleet 1735Z/12. If VICTORIOUS is ordered home she should disembark her spares for Seafires and publications before sailing.  
2. She should bring home 12 Martlet pilots.  
3. It is further under consideration that VICTORIOUS should disembark 809 Fulmar Squadron with spares before sailing. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1305A/14 1905A/14 to N.C.X.F. 205 (R) R.A.A. H.F.445 (B1) S.O. Force H., VICTORIOUS).

Berths have been arranged. B.N.L.O. will board you from <sup>\*</sup>M.L.469 at position 13 010° Oran light three miles. Swept channel buoyed in centre only.

(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1330/14 to N.C.X.F.)

*\* See previous page.*

Situation 2001 TIGRIS 36.49, 08.48 at 2100/14th on the surface A/14. 11 knots through 36.38, 07.32 at 0230/15th and 35.53, 05.55 at 1100/15th E.T.A. Gibraltar 1400/15th.

(ii) U.S. S/Ms<sup>\*</sup>SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARB all in the vicinity of 32.01 N., 12.01 W., diving by day 2½ knots surfacing by night 11 knots through 35.01 15.01 and 56.01 20.01.

*\* See p.623.*

(iii) U.S. S/M BLACKFISH off Dakar.

(iv) M.K.F.1 (X) CLEVELAND, ACHATES, ESCAPEDE, BOADICEA, VANSITTART, ALBRIGHTON, ESKDALE, DASHER, BITER 41.40, 15.01 through 43.10, 15.20 thence 358 12½.

(v) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising in area between Canary Is. and point 36.01, 30.02.

(vi) K.X.6<sup>\*</sup>LANCASTER, WELLS, 3 corvettes, 4 trawlers, 40.18, 15.02 through 38.50, 14.45 thence 123 6½. *\* See p.618*

(vii) Swedish relief ships CAMELIA, EROS, FORMOSA 36.01, 19.59, 90.12.

(viii) M.K.F.1. (Y) ARGUS, WRESTLER, AMAZON, AVENGER, EXE, SWALE, GLAISDALE off Cape Spartel through 36.01, 10.01 thence 299 14. *See p.607-611. See p.613*

(ix) BLEAN, PRESCOTT, ARCHER, 2 tankers, 34.4, 10.14 to Gib. 12.

(x)<sup>\*</sup>LANDGUARD, plus 2 tugs, <sup>\*</sup>destroyer in tow, 35.51 006.13 to Gibraltar 5½. *\* See p.620. \* MARNE. See 13/11 p.561.*

(xi) SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA 36.18, 07.12 through 36.40, 09.01 thence 304 24. *See pp 594 & 615*

(xii) T.F.1, JONQUIL, 2 merchant ships, 35.53, 05.48 through 270 Cape Spartel 4 thence to Port Lyautey 8.

(N.C.X.F., 1350Z/14, 1756Z/14).

My 1350Z/14 add new para. 13. BIDEFORD sailed 0200Z/14th escort one merchant ship direct Cape St. Mary's thence coastwise to Lisbon 10.

(N.C.X.F. 2340Z/14).

/Situation...



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - Contd.

Situation at 1958A/14th. (1) PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, VIVIANA, SPHENE left Horta p.m./13th 158 10.  
(2) SNOWDROP one merchant ship 40.10 23.51 026 ° 8.  
(3) BRIDGEWATER 33.43, 24.32 through 32.01 24.01 thence 186° 10. *see p. 618.*  
(N.C.X.F., 1352Z/14 to A.I.G.64).

My 1132Z/14th for 1545 read 2030 repetition 2030. S.O. Force H., is requested to pass R/V on on arrival.  
(N.C.X.F., 1352Z/14 to SCYLLA, (R) CHARYBDIS, S.O. Force H., R.A.A. Capt. (S) 8, V.A. Gib. A.O.C. Gib).

Situation 1955A/14th Area Z. 1. <sup>H</sup>KYBER 26.09, 22.28 160° 10.  
(N.C.X.F., 1354Z/14).

French ships.

Am informed by Gen. Fredendall that an unknown number of French ships are en route from Dakar to Oran area. Propose to consult French Admiral (Riout?) and have these ships routed to Arzeu Bay or Mostaghanem or Nemours. Request naval units at sea be notified to insure safe passage. Suggest escort from Gibraltar.  
(Oran, 1405A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.C.C.T.F.)

S/M Situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000Z/14th. All Submarines diving by day at 2 knots.  
(1) CLYDE 038° 09' 000° 48' through 135° Cape Palos 10 thence within 10 miles of Spanish Coast to Gibraltar surface speed 11½. *see p. 633.*  
(2) TRIBUNE 038° 41' 000° 25' through 39.19 00.01 thence course 53° surface speed 11 knots.  
(3) STURGEON 041° 41', 003° 32' proceeding to

Genoa.

(4) P.228 off Toulon leaves for Genoa at 0001/15th.  
(5) P.222 and P.51 off Toulon, leave for Gibraltar 0001/16th passing 39.15, 00.28 at 0330/17th and 0001/18th respectively.  
All positions Northward and Eastward.  
(N.C.X.F., 1427Z/14 to S. & A. area G).

Liberated British personnel.

Liberated British personnel will be disposed of as follows SMCLN\* Royal Navy British Army and Merchant Seamen all to U.K. R.A.F. to U.K. unless required locally by R.A.F. Reference our 473. Sick and wounded by hospital ship to U.K. Civilian internees whose British nationality vouched for by WPF\*TWBFLBUES\* C.T.45 to U.K. if willing. Report action.  
(A.F.C.I. Gibraltar 1431/14 to C.G.W.T.F.)  
\*as received.

/Movements...



14.11.1942  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

## Movements

Arrivals 0930 SHEFFIELD, ARGUS, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, WRESTLER, VANOC, VELOX, WISHART, AVENGER, CLARE, M.K.F.1, SS. SAMUEL CHASE, ALMAACK, DEMPO.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1436Z/14 to Admty. Cdre. Algiers).

Having dealt with your submarine <sup>pp 607 & 609</sup> (?join) L.S.Ts and escort them to Gibraltar. Their 1500 position 035° 53' N., 000° 36' W., course 250° routed close to coast after passing Cape Falcon S. of A. 6½ knots.  
(F.O.W.N.T.F., 1440Z/14 to WIVERN (R) MISOA, WESTCOTT, N.C.C.N.T.F.)

Request SAYONARA be sailed to Gibraltar as she is unsuitable for duty at Oran and CHARLES MACIVER be retained for duty under B.N.L.O. and N.C.S.O.  
(B.N.L.O. Oran, 1516/14 to N.C.X.F. (R)  
F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C.N.A., F.O.(D) Gib. Force).

Force "R" E.T.A. 0600Z/15th. H.M.S. ST. NECTAN has 24 survivors of D.S. ISAAC SWEERS who require kit. Ambulance required for one.  
(S.O. Force R., 1526Z/14 to N.C.X.F.)

BICESTER  
attacked.

Attacked by 6 out 12 Stukas in position 037° 09' N., 007° 22' E. One shot down one slightly damaged. Fighter engaged the others over the land.  
(BICESTER, 1550A/14 to S.O.I.S.)  
Emergency (Enemy A/C). Am being attacked by 12 enemy A/C XTRG 0901.  
(BICESTER, 1555/14).

S/M bombing  
restrictions.

T.C.A.O. No. 16. The following amendments to orders for S/M bombing restrictions are to be brought into force in the "Torch" area at 1200Z/18th. (A) Para. 2 delete words in brackets. (B) Para. 11 delete heading and para. completely  
(C) Insert new para. 11 standard method of instituting bombing restrictions.  
(1) The following standard method of instituting bombing restrictions is to be brought into force in the "Torch" area.  
(2) Submarines on passage. Bombing restrictions are to extend 10 miles on each side of route and 35 miles ahead and astern of estimated position.  
(3) Submerged speed of submarine is 2½ knots for all classes unless otherwise stated.  
(4) Submarines proceeding submerged by day will dive from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.



# SECRET

611A

SECRET

MESSAGE 1525Z/14 November

IN

FROM: Commandeth Gibraltar

DATE: 14. Nov. 42

RECD: 2130Z

ADDRESSED: Abfor London.

Ref. No. 521 (Gib).

Situation Report Number 7 November 13th to 2400.

1. Naval. All undamaged ships KM assault convoys have sailed westward; 3 MT ships in convoy torpedoed in Mediterranean by submarine.

2. Eastern Task Force. Bone: Empty troop carrying destroyers and ground troops attacked by dive bombers; no damage reported but populace resentful of attacks resulting from Allied occupation. At Bone 2 batteries Light Anti-Aircraft arrived by road from Algiers; 12 teams .50 AA MG from Algiers by air; Headquarters and 1 Battalion 36th Brigade from Bougie by destroyer; R.A.F. ground troops and petrol enroute to Bone by water. Bougie bombing resumed with torpedo attack at dusk 12th November; no casualties reported. At Bougie 1 troop heavy AA arrived from Algiers by road. At Sotif 1 Battalion 36th Brigade arrived 0600Z from Bougie.

3. Centro Task Force. Orders issued for movement 1 Battalion medium tanks and 1 AW Battalion AA to Algiers. Oran inner harbour open to light vessels with good prospects of larger vessels shortly. Work progressing unloading KM 2.

4. Western Task Force. Port Lyautey harbour approach blocked by 2 sunken ships; discharge possible over bank to airport. Fedala: only 1 berth available; discharge slow mainly over beaches. Casablanca: 8 unloading berths available. Part of UGF 1 entered morning 13th November. Safi: 3 berths available; discharge going well; sea train discharge completed. Naval Task Force destroyed total 1 cruiser; 4 destroyers during assault; JEAN BART ashore damaged but turret serviceable. Naval air group and support group sailed for United States.

5. Air. Gibraltar, 31 anti-submarine sorties; 6 sightings leading to 3 attacks; 3 PRU to North Africa. PRU to Coudon ineffective due clouds. 21 Spitfires departed for Eastern Theatre. H.Q. Eastern Air Force moved to Algiers. Wisenbower and Cunningham flew to Algiers and return. No enemy activity. Malta air support night 12/13 November resulted destruction 5 loaded air transports; visibly successful raid by 9 Wellingtons on El Aouina airdrome Siyln (?laying/layigf) 4 mines entrance La Gouliette harbour.

1525Z/14

(Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.)

Recd.: from A.F.H.Q. 0200/15.

TORCH 93.

(Hd. of M. (28) &amp; for H.Q.C.C.)



14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - 14-17

- S/M bombing restrictions. Contd.
- (5) Restrictions will be signalled as follows begins:- T C A O 16. (A) Type of bombing restrictions (submerged or total) (B) Name of submarine (C) Times and position on route. (D) Surface speed of submarine.  
Example: T C A O 16 1 (A) Submerged (B) Clyde (C) 2200/5 038° (01') north 009° 01' E., 2300/7. 038° 01' N., 002° 01' E., 0430/9 036° 20' N., 003° 01' W. (D) 11
2. (A) total (B) Clyde (C) 0430/9 036° 20' N., 003° 01' W. 1630/9 Gibraltar. (D) 12.
6. Air authority concerned may translate this into A moving or A fixed area as convenient.
7. Bombing restrictions to cover A patrol area will be signalled to air and naval authorities concerned stating the extent and time of beginning and ending. These will normally be submerged areas.
8. R.A.W.A. and N.O.I.C. Malta are requested to comply with para. 5 when their submarines are within range of Allied Air Forces in "Torch".  
(N.C.X.F., 1602Z/14 to A.I.G. 259 Negative Western Task Force K.142, (R) Admty. F.O.(S) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S) 10 R.A.W.A., H.Q.C.C. Dept. E. Africa, Command R.A.F., Gib. Dept. Malta E.G. 12 to U.S.A.F., C.C.S.O., R.C.N., F.O.I.C. Casablanca).

Sailed H.M.S. SHIANT, HORATIO, and RONALDSAY escorting SS. JACINTH to Algiers in accordance with your 1101Z/13th calling at Arzeu en route to pick up L.C.Ts. E.T.A. will be signalled by S.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1616Z/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.C.C.N.T.F., N.C.S.O. Algiers).

- Publicity. 159. (K173). Mention may now be made in private correspondence (A) That writers ship has been in action (B) That writers ship has engaged French ships with the result
- (2) Following must not be mentioned (C) Date or place of action. (D) German or Italian Force. (E) Any other subject as laid down in above regulations
- (3) Care is to be taken not to exult over damage to or destruction of French Forces who put up a very brave show. (N.C.X.F., 1625Z/14).

Am proceeding on stragglers route LEINSTER in company. 150 survivors from \*WARWICK CASTLE between both ships. My P.C. and S. at 1700A 039° 32' N., 013° 21' W., 328° 11 knots. Weather report 5480 0726.  
(VANSITTART, 1626Z/14 to CLEVELAND (R) Admty. C. in C. Western Approaches, F.O.C.N.A., BITER).

\* See p. 605



War Diary.

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Emergency A/C. I am being attacked by 5 enemy aeroplanes XTLE 0824 - 265, - 20. (QUEEN EMMA, 1630Z/14).

Brief situation report for area west of Algiers 2002 Z/14th. Submarines excepted.

- (1) T.E.4 35.40, 03.35 W., 083° 8½.
- (2) M.K.S. 1 (a) 37.05 00.40 E., 251° 9.
- (3) M.K.S. 1 (O) (?35) 44 02.40 W., through 72 to Gibraltar 12.
- (4) WELSHMAN 36.06 02.40 W., to Algiers 27. *See p. 608*
- (5) SS. LALANDE in tow 36.06 04.50 W., to Gib. (N.C.X.F., 1635Z/14). *See p/p 604 & 614*

ARCHER

*See p. 609 (Submarine)*

Request you will detach ARCHER to (?Gibraltar) under U.S. escort advise F.O.C.N.A. of time of arrival. (N.C.X.F., 1714Z/14 to C.T.F. 38 (R) N.C.W.N.T.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

NARKUNDA bombed.

Following has been read. Am standing by NARKUNDA bombed and damaged in 036° 52' N., 005° 01' E., tugs requested immediately ship is being (?disembarked).\* (Plymouth C.C.O., 1720Z/14). Alternatively abandoned.

N.C.X.F. in\*AURORA.

*\* See p. 607 & next page*

Important. Personal to be decyphered by officer specially chosen by you. I am transferring my flag to AURORA tomorrow 15th. Intend to visit occupied ports arriving Oran probably 0900Z/16 and Algiers 17th. Request convenient berth near your headquarters for duration of visit. 2 destroyers will probably be in company. (N.C.X.F., 1732Z/14 to F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers (R) F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H).

Flag of C.S.10

160. Flag of C.S.10 will be transferred to BERMUDA at 0001Z/15th. (N.C.X.F., 1820Z/14)

BATORY, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, Convoy M.K.F.1.

The following extract from a signal from P.S.T.O.X.F. to D. of S.T. is forwarded for information:-  
(1) BATORY, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, left Gibraltar 11/11 in special convoy for United Kingdom. M.K.F.1 sailed 12/11 consisting of WINCHESTER CASTLE, SOBIESKI, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, WARWICK CASTLE, DURBAN CASTLE, LEINSTER, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE for Clyde, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, OTRANTO, DERBYSHIRE, TEGELBERG for Liverpool. Expected times of arrival obtainable from Admty. (D.O.D. (H), 1833A/14 to S.O.A.S.C.)



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

AVON VALE. My 1456Z(N.T. in W.R.) not to F.O.C.N.A. Hunt suspended after dark. (?Expect to arrive) 0830Z/15th. (AVON VALE 1835Z/14 to N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A.).

Sailings Stopped. No ships are to be sailed to the westward in daylight. (F.O.I.S. 1842Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Bougie).

LALANDE. At 1516Z LALANDE in 036.14 N. 004.16 W. drifting slightly westward unless in tow ST.OMAR. ENCHANTRESS, ABERDEEN screening. (N.C.X.F. 1847Z/14 to IMPERIALIST, ST OMAR, (R) S.O. Force H).  
*See pp 604 & 613*

N.C.X.F. 163. Naval Cmdr. X.F. will be away from AURORA. Gibraltar in AURORA from 0001Z/16th. Only messages requiring his personal attention should be sent to AURORA. *See previous page*  
Other messages to continue to be sent to Naval Cmdr.X.F. at Gibraltar. (N.C.X. F. 1902Z/14). (Note Cancelled by N.C.X.F. 2200Z/18).

\* (?A) F.I. FINTRA and HILDUR one escorted by JONQUIL and ARMERIA sailed. E.T.A.WADI SBU 0900/15th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1817Z/14 to N.C.W.N.T.F., (R) N.C.X.F.).

\* T.F. - *see p. 609 - (situation)*

161. C. in C.H.F's 1152/14. Fully concur. Request Admiralty will issue instructions since their intelligence is better than is available here. (N.C.X.F. 1926Z/14 to C. in C.H.F. Admty, SHEFFIELD).

Algiers Movements.

Algiers arrivals LAMERTON, MULL, HOY, French convoy arrived from Bougie as follows:- (?ANGLEPINE) (liner) JANNESCHIAFFINO and DJEBELAURES) (?cargo), SAINT LOUIS and SAINT CHARLES tugs and (?Mediterranean), escort vessel W.55 and/or 41. Departures for Bone (POZARICA?), H.M.S. ALGERINE, ALARM, MULL, HOY, M.M/S assault 21 and 133. For Gibraltar KEREN. *see next page* (Cdre Algiers. 1930Z/14).

/Your.....



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - *15th*

Your 2154A/15th. Am sailing from Bone about 2100A(?with 3) French ships. Speed of advance a doubtful 9 knots. Route is 3 miles off (? narrow) Capes (?one) most direct route. Estimated position at dawn 15th November near Cape Bougaroni where French ships from Phillippeville should R/V. Request strong and continuous fighter protection from dawn tomorrow.  
(BICESTER 1942A/14 to F.O.I.S. (R) BRAMHAM N.O.I.C.Bone.). *See p.607*

SHEFFIELD, 411. Sailed SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA. QZH.926  
JAMAICA. (missing 902 and 903 and 916) L 50 S. 385  
*See pp 594, 560 (Bitterman 1000)* (missing 383) X 861 Y 356.  
(VA.C.N.A. 1944Z/14).

Air T.C.A.O.11. Intend anti S/M air escort 15th  
Activity. November all dawn to dusk. M.K.F. one Y, K X 6,  
M.K.S one A, one C each. U.G.F.2 Gibraltar  
section one H. Anti S/M air search 4 H.A.M.,  
8 H.P.M. area W.K. and W.A, 4 H one C.A.M. Area W.A, one C.A.M.  
and P.M. L.B.W.D. one C.A.M. and P.M. N.H.W.D. 5 H.A.M. and  
P.M. L.B.T. Q. Anti S/M air patrol off (?Oran) and Algiers one  
Swordfish each.  
(N.C.X.F. 1949Z/14 to All British S. and As. concerned in  
Operation "Torch", V.A.Malta.)

*Impressions Page.*  
M.K.F. 1.A. E.T. A. 0130Z. KEREN and merchant ships in  
company escorted by \*EGRET and \*O.R.P.BLYSKAWICA.  
\*\*MARNIX ex M.K.F.1A proceeding on one engine at 8  
knots escorted by \*PHILANTE (?from position) 036.  
18 N. (003° or 012°) 44' W.  
(LYNX. 2006Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) N.C.X.F.KEREN).  
\*\*MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE \*See p.604

Shipping (A) Convoy M.K.F.2. departs Algiers 1730Z/15  
Protection westbound 13 knots. 7 ships and 4 escorts.  
Signal. Codeword (5 groups missed) Priority 2 and A/S  
escort to dusk. (B) Convoy T.E.3. eastbound  
2 ships for Bougie 4 for Bone. Departs Algiers  
1400Z/15th E.T.A. Bougie 0830Z/16th and E.T.A. Cape Verde  
0600Z/17th. Codeword "School." Speed 6 knots. Request  
fighter protection priority 2.  
(C) Fast cruiser depart Gib.1515Z/14th arrive Algiers 0800Z/15th.  
Request fighter protection priority 2.  
(D) Convoy 3 merchant ship 2 destroyers westbound will be about  
15 miles north east of Jijelli at 0600Z/15th. Speed 10 knots.  
Request fighter protection priority 2.  
(E) Fast cruiser departs Algiers 1100Z/15th eastbound 30 knots.  
Will be off Cape Bougeroni at sunset. These times are approx.  
Request fighter protection priority 2 N.O.I.C. Bougie pass to  
R.A.F. Jijelli N. O.I.C.Bone pass to R. A. F.Bone.  
( Cdre. Algiers 2010A/14 to A.O.C.E. C. (R) R.A.F.Maison Blanche,  
R.A.F.(?Djed)jelli R.A.F.Bone, N.O.I.C.Bougie., N.O.I.C.Bone  
(Corrupt Group) R. A. F.Blida).

/Salvage....



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch". - Contd.

Salvage vessels. 162. Admty. 1354/13 (Repetition of C.O.S. (W) 344 - 1755/12)  
I am most grateful for the Admiralty's promise of two salvage vessels but at the same time surprised that two ships capable of making the passage should only now have been found since Salvage Department more than once stated that none existed. They will arrive a month later than was necessary.  
(N.C.X.F., 2019Z/14 to Admty. for Deputy N.C.X.F.)  
Reply: Admty. 1837/17.

Bougie Important. My 2106/13 \*for 2 French ships read three. Third scuttled to prevent catching fire. (?Position) Saturday about 1800 one hostile aircraft machine gunned harbour and at 1900 another dropped 2 bombs close to ROBERTS and COXWOLD.  
IN ~~THE~~ HOLM, RYSA have proceeded to assist NARKUNDA.  
(ROBERTS, 2021Z/14 to Flag of S.O.I.S. (R) N.O.I.C. Bougie).  
\*N.T. in W.R.

Sailing convoy codeword GLENOC at 2100Z/(?21st) E.T.A. Algiers 26 hours later.  
(N.O.I.C. Arzeu, 2045A/14).

G.U.F.1, My 2154Z/11.\* MOOLTAN ready to (?sail) in  
G.U.F.2. Gibraltar 15th November for U.S.A. URUGUAY, BRAZIL and ARGENTINA should be ready to sail about 17th November for inclusion in G.U.F.2. Request your proposed dates of sailing of convoys G.U.F.1 and G.U.F.2.  
(N.C.X.F., 2100Z/14 to N.C.W.N.T.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran). \*N.T. in W.R.

*See p. 640*  
GR. No. 1943. Following is C.T.G.34.2 0544/14 passed to you as C.T.F.34 1020/14. C.T.G. 34.2 in RANGER, CLEVELAND, SUWANNEE, SANTEE. Comdesron 10 in ELLYSON, EMMONS, FITCH, RODMAN, departed at 34.50 N., long. 18.02 0800 November 14 for M Base via point B. 34.30 N., 21.00 W. C.30.00 N., 35.00 W. D.33.00 N., 50.00 W. S. of A. 13.5 knots. Predicted Chop time of passing long. 40 W. 2200Z/17. Request air coverage as practicable approaching base M.  
(C.T.F. 34.2 2123/14).

SCYLLA, 410. Sailed SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS to join  
CHARYBDIS. Force "H" (B).  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2130Z/14).  
My P.C. and S. 036° 09' N., (?005°) 13' W. 080° 16. CHARYBDIS in company. Request instructions.  
(SCYLLA 2145Z/14 to R.A.(A) (R) S.O. Force H).

/Arrival...



War Diary.

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch". - *cont.*

Arrivals LOUISBERG and \*MARIGOLD.\* *p. 604*  
(V.A.C.N.A., 2142Z/14). *(LALANDE)*

A/S search.

My 1752. */p. 622* Nothing seen. Am returning. My  
P.C. and S. are 036° 25' N., 000° 08' W.,  
270° 25.  
(?PORCUPINE, 2235Z/14 to S.O. Force H).

*p. 622*



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- U/B. S/M sighted 1720 G.M.T. 12th in 037° 56' N. 013° 59' W. course 120° magnetic. A.I. (N.A. Lisbon 0005/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.)
- LOUISBURG. E.T.A. 0630Z/14th. Boiler hours. *and see previous page.*  
(LOUISBURG 0550Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- BRIDGEWATER. *imp. 610*  
Your 1427Z/13th not to R.A.W.Af. My P.C. and S. of A. are 036° 58' N. 027° 24' W. 242° 12 knots at R/V 0043Z/12th. Weather. (BRIDGEWATER 0230Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) R.A.W.Af.)
- ZAAN (K.X.6) torpedoes. *False report ship arrived*  
At 0730Z/14th SS ZAAN torpedoed port side of, convoy. Convoy has become scattered in north east gale. Only S O S picked up. My position 0800, 39.16 14.24.  
\*(LANCASTER 0819Z/14 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A.) \* *imp. 609 (situation)*
- U/Bs M.F.K.1. It is estimated that two or more U-Boats will be in your vicinity today.  
(D.D.I.C. 0943A/14 to Escorts of M.F.K.1.)
- U/B. Am over S/M in ZBXP 2840. Enemy sub. previously reported was on the surface. = 0925Z/14. (indecypherable, if L B = 36.28 N. 00.20 W.)  
Enemy sub. previously reported still on surface. (A/C call sign TXCC duty W 0950Z/14 to Gib. W/T)
- VAL DE LA HAYE. Your 1949/12. SS VAL DE LA HAYE should proceed by following route: By Spanish territorial waters to Cape Ortegal thence along parallel 43° 50' N. to position 43° 50' N. 12° 30' W. thence up meridian of 12° 30' W. to position 50° 00' N. 12° 30' W. thence to R/V with trawler escort at 0800 G.M.T. 2. Request expected date of reaching R/V may be signalled.  
(D.O.D.(H) 0952A/14 to N.A. Madrid.)  
My 1949/12th. Vessel arrives Requejada every 2 or 3 days from Bayonne. No air escort provided normally. (N.A. Madrid 1748/14 to Admty.)  
My 0952/14 para 1. Position of R/V at 0800 G.M.T. is 180° Bishop Rock 5.  
(D.O.D.(H) 1846A/14 to N.A. Madrid.)
- U/B. Am over enemy sub. in 36.38 N. 00.00 E. Enemy sub. previously reported was on surface, am returning to base.  
(A/C call sign TXCC K. 0955Z/14 to Gib. W/T.)

/Wellington ...



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Wellington Sqdn. for N. Africa. A. 950 14th Nov. Your A.X.458 13th Nov. for A.C.A.S. (Ops) from Robb. No signal at ?744 ?244 11th Nov. received. Your A.X.304 11th Nov. (1800/11) received (3 corrupt groups) assume latter is signal referred to. Have already informed H.Q.C.C. that offer of 10 searchlight Wellingtons to arrive about 18th Nov. readily accepted and that remainder of (?Squadron) should follow when personnel accommodation can be found. Accommodation situation still critical, but Governor most helpful and if U.S. Army will agree he is proposing to meet our requests by temporarily moving some British troops to Oran. The West and East approaches to Gibraltar will undoubtedly continue to be U-Boat danger area. Consider that Wellington Squadron should operate from here and that minimum G.R. Squadron strength Gibraltar should be maintained at 2 Catalina (? or 10 Hudson and 1 Wellington. (H.Q. R.A.F. Gib. 1000Z/14 to Air Min.)

U/B. Following has been read by Nore W/T. Am over enemy S/M in 36.28 N. 00.12 W. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface. Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. (A/C C/S TV5 Duty A. 1000A/14, 1005A/14, 1007A/14 to Gibraltar.)  
Enemy S/M previously reported has surfaced. (A/C C/S TV5 Duty A. 1010/14 to Gibraltar.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges estimate two hits. (A/C Call sign TV5 Duty A. 1050/14 to Gibraltar.)

LE TONNANT (French) Cadiz. Large French submarine arrived Cadiz 7 a.m. Nov. 14th. Fuller (?details) later. (Cadiz 1000/14 to B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty. for D.N.I.)  
My 1000/14th. French submarine named LE TONNANT has put into Cadiz with slight damage to steering, (?) repairing quickly own means and will leave as quickly as possible for Casablanca. Expect complete repairs today. (Cadiz 1330/14 to Admty. for D.N.(I) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 36.21 N. 00.02 W. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked with depth charges and estimate two hits. (A/C C/S TV5 Duty L 1050/14 to Gibraltar.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 36.20 N. 00.12 E. Was on the surface in course 180° speed 8 knots. (A/C TR1 Duty L 1102Z/14 to Gibraltar.)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

- MONTE NARANCO, R.A.N.A.'s 1703 Nov. 9th. Spanish MONTE  
MONTE NAVAJO. NARANCO sent in for investigation of log examined  
ship 500 miles north of position mentioned on  
7th. Suggest ship sighted by second aircraft  
was sister ship MONTE NAVAJO which left Buenos  
Aires 3 days after MONTE NARANCO. Ship re-  
leased immediately.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1105/14 to Admty.)
- \* LANDGUARD, P.C.S. 1100Z/14th 035° 38' N. 007° 01' W. 070°  
LULWORTH. 5½ knots. E.T.A. 0200Z/15th. Requirements on  
\* see p. 609 (situation) arrival. LANDGUARD fuel 60 tons. LULWORTH  
fuel 70 tons, boiler water 15 tons, drinking  
water 30 tons.  
(LANDGUARD 1107Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Escort  
Group 40.)
- U/Bs 2 damaged U-boats on surface in 036° 28' 000°  
Damaged. 12' W. at 1000Z and 036° (?21') N. 000° (?02') W.  
at 1155(?Z).  
(N.C.X.F. 1114Z/14 to Ships and Authorities in  
Area G.)
- U/B. Am over enemy sub. in 36.21 N. 00.02 W. enemy  
sub. previously reported as ? (message not com-  
plete).  
(A/C call sign TV5 call sign A. T.O.R. 1117/14 to  
Gib. W/T.)
- U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 38.36 N. 3.05 E. Was  
sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when  
first sighted was on surface course 090° speed  
6 knots.  
(A/C call sign TXCC Duty J. 1135/14 to Gib. W/T.)
- WARWICK S O S received 0845 today from WARWICK CASTLE  
CASTLE torpedoed in 039° 12' N. 013° 25' W. Portuguese  
(torpedoed) Naval Authorities presumed that in view of Naval  
Lie pp 6059 activities off the coast unnecessary to send  
612. Man of War to look for survivors. Request you  
confirm.  
(N.A. Lisbon 1139/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar,  
(R) Admty.)
- U/B Have attacked enemy with bombs dive and  
attacked. estimate 4 hits.  
(A/C TR1 Duty L. 1200Z/14 to Gibraltar W/T.)  
Submarine beached 36° 17' N. 0° 39' E.  
(A/C call sign TR1L 1210Z/14 to Gib. W/T.)  
Am over enemy S/M in 36° 16' N. 0° 33' E. crew landing.  
(A/C TXCCW 1210Z/14.)

/U/B ...



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14.11.1942.  
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

→ U/B.

Am over enemy submarine in 36.16 N. 02.03 W.  
Sighted on surface and observed to submerge.  
When first sighted was on course 230° speed  
9 knots.  
(A/C TR1 Duty M. 1242Z/14.)

Movements.  
\*TIGRIS.  
\* *See p. 609.*

Following leave Gibraltar p.m. 14th Nov.  
(1) Convoy proceeding to 036° 00' 010° 00'  
at 12 knots escorted by Fleet units.  
(2) SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA proceeding to westwards.  
(3) BIDEFORD escorting 1 merchant ship pro-  
ceeding coastwise to Lisbon.  
(Capt. S.8 1304Z/14 to TIGRIS.)

Orders to  
S/Ms.  
*See p. 610*

(1) Toulon patrol is to be discontinued.  
(2) At 0001/15th submarines are to proceed  
diving by day as follows.  
P.228 direct to pass position X 043° 50'  
008° 01' at 1800/15th. STURGEON through Y  
041° 41' 004° 04' at 0001/15th thence pass X  
at 1800/16th.  
TRIBUNE through Z 039° 19' 000° 01' at 0001/15th  
thence to pass X at 2300/17th.  
(3) P.228, STURGEON, TRIBUNE will be routed by Capt. (S) 10  
after passing position X coastwise via Genoa to establish patrol  
off Naples where Italian main units now are. Object attack  
enemy shipping but one full salvo is to be retained for use off  
Naples.  
(4) P.222, P.51 are to leave patrol diving by day so as to  
pass through position P 042° 01' 005° 55' at 0430/15th and  
0600/15th respectively and position Q 039° 15' ?(000°) 28' at  
0330/17th and 0001/18th respectively. Onward route to  
Gibraltar follows.  
(5) All times G.M.T. all positions north and east.  
(Capt. S.8 1310Z/14 to 8 S/M Flotilla (R) Capt. (S) 10.)  
My 1310. P.228, STURGEON, TRIBUNE left Gibraltar on  
7th, 10th and 12th respectively.  
(Capt. S.8, 1330Z/14 to Capt. (S) 10.)

\*QUIBERON  
A/C.  
\* *See p. 623.*

7 (unknown planes?) bearing 160° course 110°  
position 36.50 N. 00.03 W.  
(QUIBERON 1337/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

→ U/B.

Am over enemy S/M in 36.16 N. 02.03 W. S/M  
was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.  
When first sighted was on course 230° estimated  
speed 8 knots.  
(A/C call sign TR1 Duty M. 1342/14 to  
Gibraltar.)

U/B.

Am over enemy S/M in position 35.47 N. 10.45 W.  
sighted on surface and observed to submerge,  
when first sighted was on course 170° speed  
8 knots.  
(A/C W D 3 Duty A. 1405/14.)

/Enemy ...



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - 14/11/42.

- U/B (contd.) Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 135° speed 10 knots. (A/C WD3S (?A intended) 1411/14.)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 35.57 N. 08.53 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 093° speed 6 knots. (A/C WD3U 1414Z/14.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. S/M has dived in 35.49 N. 09.00 W. S/M on surface when first sighted was on course 090° speed 12 knots. (A/C WD3U 1425Z/14 to Gib. W/T.)
- LEYLAND, MIRROR. Arrival H.M. trawler LEYLAND and cable ship MIRROR. (F.O.C.N.A. 1455A/14 to Admty., (R) N.C.S.O. Lisbon.)
- Oran, Mers-el-Kebir. Do not send any more ships to Oran or Mers-el-Kebir. All berths are occupied. (F.O.I.C. Oran 1501A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) N.C.C.T.F., F.O.I.C. Algiers.)
- U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 36° 15' N. 01° 15' W. Was on surface, course 090° speed 12 knots. (A/C using call sign WD3B 1520Z/14.)
- VENOMOUS, A/C. Unknown (?aeroplane) bearing 020° 5 miles course 090°. My position 35.06 N. 05.14 W. (VENOMOUS 1544/14 to Gibraltar W/T.)
- Shipping Horta. Following is a repetition of my 1508A/14th incorrectly recoded (begins). F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland's 1602A/11 Nov. Three ships expected to arrive 26th, 3 on 27th and one on 28th Nov. T.O.O. 1508A/14th (ends.) (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1548A/14 to British Vice Consul Horta (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. etc.)
- PORCUPINE. My 1448 (N.T. in W.D.) Nothing sighted. Catalina has carried out an extensive search for previous 2 hours. Am carrying out A/S sweep in likely area returning to Gibraltar on completion. (PORCUPINE 1752/14 to S.O. Force "H".)

/WELSHMAN ...



War Diary.

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

WELSHMAN. Sailed 1525Z for Malta via Algiers. Q.B.81,  
*Sup p.608.* Q.B.B. 299, Q.B.C. 502.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1753Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

\*QUIBERON, Area searched, nothing sighted. Gibraltar's  
search for 1114/14 and aircraft's 1210Z/14 and 1420/14.  
U/B. Suspect these reports all refer to the same  
*\* Sup p.621.* submarine.  
(QUIBERON 1801Z/14 to R.A. (A) (R) Capt. (D) 3.)  
E.T.A. 0530/15th.  
(QUIBERON 2000Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt.  
(D) 3.)

SHAD. Your 1219Z/13 (from C.S.S.50) received and  
*Sup p.609.* understood. Arriving point B. 0600Z/15th.  
*(situation)* F.O.C.N.A. pass to N.C.X.F. and GUNNEL.  
*& next page.* (U.S. S/M SHAD 2041Z/14, to F.O.C.N.A. (R)  
Admty., C.S.S.50.)  
See also R.A. West Africa 0514Z/14.

U.G.F.2., D/F bearings on 4,540 k/cs at 1908/14 G.M.T.  
U/B. indicate U-Boat in your vicinity which may have  
reported you.  
(D.D.I.C. 2115A/14 to Escorts U.G.F. 2.)

Sousse Sortie G.242 dated 14 Nov. time 0930 hours  
R/C. shows Sousse, only small craft present.  
Sousse S.P.B. no A/C visible.  
(P.R.U. Gibraltar 2345Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

South Atlantic.

K.14. Salt water in few cells of main battery owing to  
gas in boat, am returning by same route.  
E.T.A. 0900Z/14th.  
(S/M K.14 0100Z/14 to R.A.W.A.)  
My 1435/13th. Submarine returned to Freetown with  
defects.  
(R.A.W.A. 1017Z/14 to B.A.D. etc.)

/SHAD. ...



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

SHAD.

*See previous page.*

Your 1219/13th (from C.S.S.50 instructions for SHAD etc.) was not received until 0115/14th. It may not be possible to warn Catalinas who left (corrupt group) 0100Z/14th for Port Lyautey. N.C.X.F. pass to originator of 1219/13th. (R.A.W.A. 0514Z/14 to N.C.X.F. C.T.F. 34, Capt. (S) 8, SHAD, HERRING, (? BARB, GUNNEL.)

CERES.

*See next page (Dispositions)*

Capetown departures CERES by route R.8. S. of A. 17 knots. E.T.A. Durban 0800Z/16th. Shifting to W/T organization for area J at 0200Z/16th. (C. in C. S.A. 0835C/14 to Admty.)

CAPETOWN.

Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0903Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

TRUANT.

My 1401/13th. All times 6 hours early.  
(R.A.W.A. 0926Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

FRANCONIA,  
RUYS,  
NORMAN.

FRANCONIA and RUYS escorted by NORMAN expected sailing 0200Z/15th due Capetown 1300Z/18th Nov. S. of A. 14 knots. (Route).  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0933Z/14 to Admty. etc.)  
W.D. Note.- Movement of Italian prisoners.

COMMANDANT  
DETROYAT.

*N.T.A. W.D.*  
Your 1654C/11th (re F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT overdue for refit.) concur. Propose to sail COMMANDANT DETROYAT for Cape Abaukir 21st Nov. as escort to BRITISH ENDURANCE.  
(R.A.W.A. 1019Z/14 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

MIJDRECHT,  
\*CORINTHIAN.*\* See next page (Dispositions)*

Your 2045/10th. MIJDRECHT unable to arrive Pernambuco by 24th Nov. If delay can be accepted propose sailing her 22nd Nov. escorted by CORINTHIAN.  
(R.A.W.A. 1041Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

MALOJA  
(sunk 8/11.)

Norwegian ship MALOJA struck by two torpedoes at 1615 S.A.T./8th Nov. in 11° 25' N. 27° 00' W. U-(Group missing ?Boat) shelled ship at 1645 from opposite side to lifeboats and was not seen. Ship sank at 2050. Two crew killed by torpedo. Survivors 30 crew, 9 D.E.M.S.  
(S.O.(I.) Freetown 1051Z/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

/Dispositions ...



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

Dispositions. FORTUNE, NEPAL with convoy C.D.1 034° 55' S. 019° 30' E. 8 knots to Durban. *See next page (Weekly Status)*

ROCKROSE with ASCANIUS about 034° 50' S. 018° 47' E. to overtake convoy C.D. one at daylight 15th November.

CERES 034° 55' S. 022° 17' E. to Durban 17 knots. *See previous page.*  
(C. in C. S.A. 1101C/14 to Area Q.)

ASTURIAS, AMARANTHUS patrolling between 07.27 25.36 and 04.35 29.01, 12½°. HYDRANGEA, HOLCOMBE, 2 Trawlers, 2 M.Ls with S.T.42 05.25 11.01, 127° 9½ at 2001Z/14th. MORRIS DANCE, *see p. 624* CORINTHIAN, F.S.COMMANDANT DROGOU, \*HALO, M.Ls, with T.S.24 03.46 02.06, 197° 7½. \*DRAGON off Lagos (Nigeria) to 02.10 02.20 East thence 257° 17. FANDANGO, KELT, 3 M.Ls escorting off Duala to Pointe Noire 7. P.552 01.01 S. 05.15 107° 9.  
(R.A.W.A. 1115Z/14 to Area P.) \**See next page.*

Allied submarine 17.20 20.01 360° 11½. Allied Naval unit 12.35 18.30 to 15.01 800.02 (sic) thence 010° 16.

TRUANT 10.12 17.08 295° 11 at 2000Z/14th. \*TURCOMAN escorting about 12.05 31.15 292° 8½.  
*\* at 11.00 - 11.15*  
*\* See next page*  
(R.A.W.A. 1147Z/14.)

DAGOMBA  
(torpedoed  
3rd Nov.)

Portuguese Sloop BARTOLOMEU DIAS reports today picked up lifeboat in 007° 05' N. 016° 00' W. with 21 survivors including Capt. Marshall, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer of British Merchant ship DAGOMBA torpedoed 3rd Nov. 350 miles west of Freetown. One lifeboat with 23 survivors missing. Portuguese sloop BARTOLOMEU DIAS is trying to communicate with Freetown to suggest aircraft search.  
(N.A. Lisbon 1203/14 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Freetown.)

W/T report from unknown ship states having picked up 21 survivors including Master of DAGOMBA torpedoed in 07° 05' N. 16° 00' W. on 3rd Nov.

(S.O.I. Freetown 1804Z/14 to S.O.(I) Kingston, Admty. Connav.)

M.L.302.

Intend M/L 302 to visit Bissao with diplomatic mail on 17th Nov. Request Portuguese authorities be notified.  
(R.A.W.A. 1211Z/14 to Vice Consul Bissao (R) Admty., N.A. Lisbon.)

Construction  
of Jetty.

Advance general drawing corvette jetty now most urgently required to enable us arrange supply timber. List of sizes not sufficient alone as it may be necessary propose alternatives for

longer timbers. Mail service from U.S.A. unsatisfactory and long delays experienced. U.S. Navy advance contingent receive official letters in ten days. Request same channel be used for all urgent documents. Piles will be in round minimum sizes 13" Butt 7" Tip. Please confirm acceptable by Navy Dept.  
(R.A.W.A. 1233Z/14 to B.A.D.)  
Reply: 1621/16.

/LÉOPARD ...



War Diary.

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

LÉOPARD. F.S. LÉOPARD repaired and will be ready for sea p.m. 17th Nov. Request destination. (C. in C. S.A. 1247C/14 to F.N.F.L. London (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.S. LÉOPARD.)

Shipping, W. Africa. Your 1253/12th. Consider routing to Freetown or Lagos would be advantageous. Request final destination of ships be given in all cases so that diversion can be made if situation permits. (R.A.W.A. 1259Z/14 to Admty.)

TURCOMAN. Following is repetition my 1312 addressed N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, C.V. for Vice Consul. Intend *See previous page (Dispositions)* Trawler TURCOMAN to coal and water at St. Vincent arriving 22nd Nov. Anticipated requirements of 135 tons of coal, 45 tons water. Request Portuguese Authorities be notified. Trawler is then to escort **BELGIAN FISHERMAN** to Freetown. (R.A.W.A. 1313Z/14 to Admty. N.A. Lisbon.)

U/B. Following has been received by Freetown W/T 1 submarine bearing 090° speed 10 knots approx. true course 340°. My position 15.04 N. 18.23 W. (A/C 7 UKF 1315/14.)

Shipping, Reference Positions. Your 1816/12 para 2. Request you will obtain agreement with C. in C. E.F. regarding South African reference positions and promulgate. 2. Your 1305/28 Oct. request you will promulgate letters for Tristan da Cunha. 3. Your 1639/7 para 2, concur; para.3, concur, Admiralty will promulgate references in future. Further signal will be sent on receipt of agreed positions as in 1 above. (D.T.D. 1425A/14 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

Weekly state 14th Nov. *See p.625. (Dispositions)* Freetown. EDINBURGH CASTLE. N.S. K.14, (*See p.623*) PHILOCTETES, BURDOCK, SOUTHERN PRIDE, Sub. P.614 Freetown Area. Sub. TRUANT, HYDRANGEA, HOLCOMBE. Takoradi area. \*CORINTHIAN, \*COMMANDANT DETROYAT, F.S.\*COMMANDANT DROGOU, Sub. P.552. Lagos Area. \*DRAGON. Lagos. MILFORD, TAMARISK, SOUTHERN GEM. \* *See next page.* / *See p.603* Pointe Noire, PHOEBE, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES. On patrol Cape Verde Is. - St. Pauls Rocks area. ASTURIAS, AMARANTHUS. Detached. \*FERMOY, WIVERN, VELOX, BOREAS, BRILLIANT, VANSITTART, ANTELOPE, CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA, U.K. PETUNIA, WOODRUFF, CROCUS, \*AUBRETIA, D.C.T.B.1. VIMY, COWSLIP. On passage to U.K. SNOWDROP. Cape. \*ROCKROSE, BELLWORT. *+ See previous page.* (R.A.W.A. 1617Z/14 to Admty. etc.) \* *Lost 1941.*

\* *See p.604.*

DRAGON. Arrival and departure 14th Nov. (R.N.O. Lagos (Nigeria) 1715Z/14 to Admty.)

*See previous page (Dispositions)*

/Movements ...



War Diary.

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Movements. Departure 1000Z/14th with T.S.24 CORINTHIAN, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, MORRIS DANCE, M.Ls 278, 1209, 296. CORINTHIAN breaking off at position Q, for Pointe Noire, remainder E.T.A. Freetown 20th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1732Z/14 to Admty.)

U.S. Aircraft. Patron 92. 2nd Flight of 7 planes arrived Casablanca Gazes 1430 is remaining over night. N.C.X.F. pass to R.A.F. Bathurst, Gambia, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, R.A.W.A.F. and BISCAYNE. (C.T.F. 34 1733Z/14 to R.A.F. Bathurst, Gambia, N.C.X.F., C. in C. U.S., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, BARNEGAT, R.A.W.A.F., BISCAYNE.)

PRINCE BAUDOUIN. Intend PRINCE BAUDOUIN to call at Ponta Delgada to fuel at 0600Z/22nd Nov. Estimated requirements 110 tons diesel oil specific gravity .83. Request Portuguese authorities be notified. (Sierra Leone 1811Z/14 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 14th Nov. U.S.S.\* BADGER, U.S.S.\*\* DAVID, U.S.S. ELLIS. Departure 14th Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA, Brazilian Light Cruiser RIO GRANDE DO SUL. Brazilian Minelayer CABEDELLO, Brazilian Surevy Vessel VITAL DE OLIVEIRA. (R.O. Pernambuco 1831Z/14 to Admty.)

PANORAMA Lost. My 0010Z/3. Regret to report B.D.V. PANORAMA must be assumed lost. 2. PANORAMA left Freetown at 0900/28th October routed (a) 10° 00' N. 16° 00' W. (b) 10° 44' N. 17° 14' W. (c) 11° 40' N. 17° 41' W. (d) 13° 30' N. 17° 06' W. and was due Bathurst a.m. 31st October. 3. Search by two M.Gs and aircraft from Bathurst found no trace. U-boats were in the area at the time and it is considered PANORAMA was torpedoed. No indication of fate of crew but possible some may be prisoners or have been picked up by a ship not yet reported. It is recommended that PANORAMA be regarded as formally paid off on 30th October 1942. 4. Following European crew and passengers are missing presumed drowned. Next of kin **not informed.** (R.A.W.A. 1840Z/14 to Admty.)

/BARDELL ...



War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

BARDELL. My 1840Z/14th. Intend despatching B/V BARDELL to Bathurst as soon as possible. Request Bar or (corrupt group) class B/V be allocated to Freetown vice BARDELL, also that 2 additional vessels, 1 for Freetown and for Takoradi, may be sent to deal with extra maintenance, work now being experienced at these ports. (R.A.W.A. 1841Z/14 to Admty.)

Conveyance of Prisoners. Prisoners of War in any unescorted ship from Cape to U.K. or to U.S.A. are to be limited to 500. 2. In escorted sailings the numbers should be spread out as much as possible amongst the ships available and the principle should be adopted that numbers should be such that they cannot get out of hand and imperil the safety of passengers, crew, or ship if ship is torpedoed. Each case should be decided accordingly by C. in C. S.A. 3. B.A.D. is requested to inform U.S. Authorities. 4. Addressees pass to S.T.Os, military, and R.A.F. authorities on their stations. (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.F. 1843A/14 to C. in C. S.A. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

Dakar. P.R.U. Dakar a.m./14th. No change in major units. (R.A.W.A. 1845Z/14 to N.C.X.F., N.C.W.N.T.F., Admty., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Air H.Q. Gib.)

Freetown Combined H.Q. Experience during recent R/C has again demonstrated necessity for early completion of combined Naval and R.A.F. Operational Headquarters in Freetown. 2. Buildings are approaching completion but a move to these headquarters will be held up until the arrival of the following equipment (list). 3. Request very early despatch. (R.A.W.A. 1853Z/14 to Admty.)

Durban Defences. A.M. 2107A/30. Port Defence Committee consider scale of 6 6-inch guns at Durban and 2-6-inch guns for Umgeni River will give sufficient defence. 2. Scale to be made by (a) 2-6" Naval on Arrols and 2 6" Q.F. already installed. (b) 2-6" 15° en route. (c) 2-6" Naval referred to in A.M. 2131/26 para.2 if Union authorities accept. 3. If Union authorities consider Q.F. guns are unreliable propose they take up question of replacement separately with War Office. 4. Pass to C.G.S. Pretoria and G.O.C.C.A. (D. of L.D. 1932A/14 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.211. After investigating Susa P.211 is to proceed  
 P.212. direct and on surface by day at C.O's discretion  
~~Sus~~ *p. 632, 634* to patrol within 50 miles Ras Zorug (Zurata).  
 Much westbound light traffic apparent from R/C and Ras Khara  
 their normal landfall.  
 This traffic more important and prolific than steamships, latter  
 normally passing 20 miles north of Misurata to make landfall  
 Ras Hamma. P.212 extend patrol northwards to Kuriat.  
 (Capt. S.10. 0131A/14 to P.211. P.212. (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Malta.  
 C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1. Capt. S.8.)

Convoy Arrived.  
 B A 33 (N.C.S.O. Aden 0525Z/14 to Admt.)

P.45. Unsuccessfully attacked one merchant ship escorted  
*Sus p. 630,*  
*631, 633, 635.* by an Italian destroyer **LEONE** Class at extreme  
 range in 037° 25' 010° 11'.  
 4 torpedoes fired.  
 (P.45 0754A/14 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med.)

P.46. 1. P.46 reports at 0758/6 off St. Vito fired salvo  
 UTMOST. at southwest bound Italian U-Boat range 3000 yards  
 UNA. P.44. apparently missed astern. At 1300/6 sighted large  
 R of P Italian southwest bound U-Boat passed out of range.  
 2. At 1023/8 fired salvo at northbound <sup>0722/8</sup> REGOLO  
 cruiser, mistaken for 6" cruiser, escorted 6  
 destroyers. 1 hit, range about 1500 yards, counter attack  
 negligible although escorts Asdic fitted.  
 3. UTMOST reports at 1241/7 in 37.52 15.46 fired salvo at  
 Liuzzi Class U-Boat course 110° range under 400 yards track angle  
 100. UTMOST bows down on firing appears torpedoes ran under.  
 4. On arrival off Augusta before dawn 10th UNA and UTMOST unable  
 to fix position due to alterations to shore lights resulting in  
 UTMOST being inshore of UNA.  
 5. At 0625/10 having watched approach of three cruisers with  
 three fleet destroyers on either beam divisions in line ahead a  
 salvo was fired by UNA from 37.13 15.37 on 150 track range 5000,  
 better shot prevented by destroyer harassing him. Enemy course  
 275° speed 25. Two hits at 8 and 8½ minutes after firing were  
 also heard by UTMOST.  
 6. At 0637/10 in position 37.16 15.31 UTMOST fired salvo at 3  
 cruisers in starboard quarter line steering 315 speed 24 knots.  
 Three destroyers in similar formation between him and cruisers  
 range 7,000. 2 hits claimed 9 and 10½ minutes after firing  
 heard by UNA.  
 7. At 0940/10 photographic R/C showed four destroyers in Augusta  
 with cruisers and consider one destroyer sunk by each submarine.  
 8. At 1221/10 in position 37.25 15.35 UNA having been zigzagged  
 right ahead by U-Boat fired one torpedo on 180 track range 600  
 yards and missed to starboard by few feet.  
 9. P.44 reports at 1025/8 observed column of water caused by  
 P.46 torpedoing cruiser though latter not in sight. P.44 closed  
 and at 1400 sighted cruiser amidst smoke. At 1549 in position  
 38.15 12.47 fired 2 torpedoes range 7,000 on 170 track. Tow  
 could not be overtaken submerged, many destroyers circling still  
 making smoke, one apparent torpedo hit 7 minutes after firing  
 result unobserved Asdic Hunt commenced and avoided no depth

/charges...



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - *cont'd.*

P.46. charges, consider possible one escort hit.  
 UTMOST. 10. At 1349/11 off St. Vito fired 2 torpedoes  
 UNA. P.44. at small laden M/V southbound missed.  
 R. of P. (Capt. S.10. 0915A/14 to C. in C. X.F. C. in C.  
 Contd. Med. etc.)

Movements. Arrival 13th Nov. REDWOOD, ST. MINVER, M.L.1149  
 SOUTHERN SEA.  
 Departure 13th Nov. T.L.Cs 100, 117, 158, 112,  
 SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, \*SCIMITAR, BOKBURG,  
 SEKSERN, BOSTON.  
 (S.O.(I.) Alexandria 0926B/14 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)  
*\* in Home Waters.*

PARTHIAN 4 destroyers 188° 2.5 miles course 260° 17 knots  
 enemy my position 038° 13' 012° 00'.  
 destroyers. (PARTHIAN 1031A/14 to Capt. S.10.)  
*See p 635*

Bi-weekly Night 10/11th Nov. 4 Halifaxes 23 Wellingtons  
 Opsum bombed Tobruk Harbour starting 2 large 6 smaller  
 No.73. fires in main jetty area. 1 4000 lb bomb burst  
 among group of F-Boats. Further 1 Halifax  
 missing 2 Wellingtons crashed after take-off.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1041Z/14.)  
 11th Nov. 6 Liberators 9 B.24s bombed unescorted southbound  
 merchant vessel about 5000 tons 8 miles north of Benghazi. B.24s  
 claim 4 hits with 1000 pound bombs, many near misses. Enemy  
 fighters seen in vicinity did not attack.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1103Z/14.)  
 Part 3. Night 11/12th Nov.  
 12th Nov. Westbound barges attacked by between Tobruk and  
 Gazala. 1 sunk another blown up. No enemy air activity reported  
 during day.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1126Z/14.)

R/C Forenoon visuals? 14th Nov.  
 (i) Messina, Taranto and Naples - no change.  
 (ii) 4 destroyers at 0925A off Cape San Vito  
 course westerly 25 knots.  
 (N.O.I.C. Malta 1042A/14 to N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med.  
 (R) Force H. F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Enemy At 1042 1 merchant ship 4 destroyers P.C.S. 037°  
 units 48' 011° 07' 240° 12. Move to intercept, P.45 on  
 \*P.45. course 100° P.247 course 170°.  
 \*\*P.247. (Capt. S.10. 1116A/14 to P.45. P.247.)  
 \* *See pp 629, 631, 632, 635. \*\* See next page*

M.T.Bs. 19th M.T.B. Division, M.T.Bs 260, 262, 264 and 267  
 are to sail at 1700/14 from Alexandria through  
 position "Cold" 1900/14 and "Frost" 0530/15  
 arrive Sollum 0730/15. Constant wireless watch is to be kept  
 on 2890 K/cs by 2 boats. Codeword is "Suck".  
 (F.O.C.C.F. 1135B/14 to S.O. 19th M.T.B. Div. (R) A.I.G. 72.  
 F.O. (15th C.S.) H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. M.T.B. Advance Base.  
 V.10. M.S.14.)  
 My 1830/13. Codeword First Sub-Division "Susie" Second Sub-  
 Division "Object". (C.C.F. 1143B/14 to V.10.)

/Operation...



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Stoneage" Cancel paras 12, 13, 16.  
 2. 15th C.S. except EURYALUS and 5th D.F. at Port Said are to proceed to Alexandria to arrive in daylight 15th Nov.  
*See next page*  
 3. Para 14. For 5th D.F. read 12th D.F. and 14th D.F. until relieved by 5th D.F. in vicinity of Alexandria (?8) buoy at 0800/16 Nov. when 12th D.F. and 14th D.F. are to proceed Alexandria and (?complete with fuel).  
 4. N.O.I.C. Alexandria is requested to sail 5th D.F. to comply with para 3 above.  
 (C. in C. Med. 1204B/14 to F.O.R.S.F. etc.)

Black Sea. 1. Naval. (a) Night Nov. 12th small party of Russian seamen landed near Anapa destroyed machine gun nests and cut communication lines.  
 (b) Russian report as fact that U.35 or U.37 is operating from Bourgas.  
 2. Novorossisk. Fighting mainly around Azolittkaya and Derbenskaya (35 K/ms S.W. Krasnodar) where Russian attacks are meeting strong resistance.  
 3. Tuapse. Little change. Enemy aircraft very active over front line and Tuapse itself.  
 (N.L.O. Black Sea 1225C/14 to Admty. Adm. Miles. S.N.O.(I) Istanbul.)

Orders to S/Ms. Capt. S.8. 1310Z/14. See North Atlantic. Establish patrol forthwith within 5 miles of following positions: P.45 37.30 10.30. P.221 *see pp 635* 37.30 10.07 \*\* P.247 37.24 10.17.  
 (Capt. S.10. 1341A/14 to P.45. P.221. P.247. (R) 4th Escort Group. N.C.X.F.)\* *See below - \*\* See previous page*

\*P.45 Enemy Destroyers. 2 destroyers in 037° 24' 010° 07' course 230° 12.  
 (P.45 1415A/14 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med.)  
 \* *See pp 629, 630, 633, 635.*

Troop carrying by enemy destroyer. My 0169/10 (as received - N.T. in W.R.) Destroyer probably troop carrying therefore valuable target if close attack offers.  
 (Capt. S.10. 1456/14 to S/Ms on patrol.)

Operation B S Establish patrol line by 0400/15 Nov 3, 337 Marettimo Light 8, 360, 7, 270, 30.  
 P.43 in Southern billet (9) P.37 in Northern.  
 (Capt. S.10. 1501A/14 to PARTHIAN P.37. P.43. (R) N.C.X.F. Subs on patrol.)

THRASHER and TRAVELLER leave Beirut searched channel at 1730B Nov. 14th for Malta. Routeing THRASHER through.  
 (1) 034° 14' 034° 34' (2) 034° 14' 018° 58'  
 at 0001B/19. TRAVELLER through (1) 033° 44' 033° 58' (2) 033° 44' 018° 58' at 1200B/19.  
 Both submarines proceed on the surface day 15th. Onward route as ordered by you. Daily advance THRASHER 160, TRAVELLER 145 miles. (Capt. S.1. 1508B/14 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)  
 /Toulon...



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Toulon P.R.U. Toulon failed owing to weather.  
(N.C.X.F. 1541Z/14 to S.O. Force H. F.O. Inshore Squadron. N.C.C.N.T.F.)

P.211 R/C shows much westbound small traffic in Gulf  
P.212 of Sirte mostly unescorted. P.211 has freedom  
*See pp. 629* of action to operate near the coast between  
*7 634* Buer(?at) and El Agheila. P.212 proceed with  
despatch to operate between Khoms and Cape  
Misurata south of 33.00 N.  
(Capt. S.10. 1614A/14 to P.211. P.212. (R)  
N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med.)

Movements Arrival 14th Nov. HYACINTH, NORSE. Departure  
Cyprus 14th Nov. HYACINTH, LYCOS (?LYCUS).  
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 1622B/14 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy From usual source: reference my 1630/11 now stated  
Intelligence Rommel's differences with Hitler due to Germans  
in Africa being inadequately supplied with motors  
in general. Sinking of five tankers recently has  
had decisive effect on campaign. Germans in touch with source  
now minimizing importance of African front and (even?) admitting  
that only reinforcements possible are by air. All graded A.O.  
(S.O.I.) Istanbul 1745C/14 to S.O.I. Med. (R) D.N.I.)

Operation Your 2051/13. Would prefer daylight passage of  
"Stoneage" Q B B 288 and, in view of strength and efficiency  
*See previous page.* of short range fighters, position at dawn within  
60 miles or even 100 miles is now acceptable.  
(2) Please see Air H.Q. Malta A.627 of 14th Nov. to Air H.Q.  
Middle East with which I concur.  
(V.A. Malta 1746A/14 to C. in C. Med. (R) C.S.15.)

Beached (?Attempt by) crew unsuccessful except for (?one)  
U/B. prisoner. (?One) officer and 12 ratings ashore  
*Op. "Trunk".* in Wadicadus Bay. Unable to reembark owing to  
whaler capsizing in heavy surf on beach.  
Can proceed to Gibraltar at economical speed but would prefer  
to oil in Arzeu if tanker is available and try again at  
daylight. My position LPCP 3910 (indecipherable)  
(WIVERN 1813Z/14 to S.O. C.N.T.F.) *See p. 611.*

R/C Afternoon visuals 14th Nov.  
enemy (1) Naples - no change.  
ports. (2) Messina - cloud. Photographs a.m. - 5  
cruisers 1 destroyer (in dry dock) 2 submarines.  
(3) Bizerta - photographs a.m. - 3 torpedo-boats  
2 escort vessels (D) 9 submarines (visual of 2  
submarines in my 1302/13 was incomplete).  
(V.A. Malta 1815A/14 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.  
(R) S.O. Force H. etc.)



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- \* P.45  
M/V  
attacked.  
*See pp 629  
630, 631, 635.*  
(P.45 1830A/14 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- P.48  
R. of P.  
All torpedoes expended, nothing hit. Am returning to Gibraltar through 037° 54' 007° 59' E at 0600/15 No A/S patrol in Bizerta Roads but great aircraft activity including many transports to and fro daily. Have informed P.221 that my billet is vacant. Weather report.  
(P.48 1831A/14 to Capt. S.10. (R) Capt. S.8. C. in C. Med. S/Ms on patrol. N.C.X.F.)
- OSSAG  
ALBARO  
My 1020C/1st OSSAG sailed Lagosta today. My 1539/5th ALBARO still here.  
(S.O.I.) Istanbul 1832/14 to S.O.I. Med. (R) S.1. D.N.I.)
- CLYDE  
*See p. 610*  
After passing Cape Palos proceed within 5 miles of Spanish Coast keeping outside territorial waters. Keep a good look out for U-Boats. No British S/M in your vicinity.  
(Capt. S.8. 1844Z/14 to CLYDE.)
- Provision  
of Q  
information  
to ships.  
Your 1928/31 Oct. (see East Indies p.995) Difficulties are anticipated.  
(C. in C. Med. 1901B/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A.)
- Bardia.  
Situation report. Bardia. Jetty completely demolished. No alongside berth for any type of craft but 5 landing craft can be discharged on unsheltered beach. Water believed good condition.  
(S.O.I.) Med. 1945/14 to Admty.)
- P.35.  
My 2359A/11. If you have 2 or more torpedoes remaining do not withdraw and report but remain within 20 miles of position C. Conserve torpedoes. Further signal will be made.  
(Capt. S.10. 2032A/14 to P.35. (R) N.C.X.F.)
- Adm.  
Godfroy.  
Following is extract from my 2026B/14th (N.T. in W.D. - personal to 1st. S.L.) to Admty. about interview I had today with Godfroy.  
"He will not come over to us yet but I have not completely given up hope. He made the following points:-  
1. (?Government) wanted to know what has happened regarding Petain, Darlan, Esteva etc. I told him all I know.



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - ~~W.N./D.~~

Adm. 2. He is extremely anti-Gaullist for the harm  
 Godfroy. they have done to France by their propaganda.  
 Contd. 3. It would be easier to come over if a French  
 government were formed in Algeria.  
 4. He sincerely hopes Giraud will act  
 independently of de Gaulle, as if the latter gets into North  
 Africa it will wreck French opinion.  
 5. His officers and ships company are so bitter because our  
 action has caused Hitler to occupy Vichy and for the losses their  
 navy has incurred.  
 6. He would be greatly influenced by a message from Esteva in  
 whom he has great faith: possibly by Darlan but I am not so sure.  
 He hopes for a message from De La Borde but I warned him cypher  
 probably compromised by Germans. I fear De La Borde's influence  
 if he is still in Toulon will be adverse.  
 Your 2236/13 Nov. just received. Anything Darlan will do to  
 ginger up Godfroy will be useful but Esteva will have more  
 weight. I fear he will pay more attention to De La Borde than  
 anybody else.  
 (C. in C. Med. 2036B/14 to N.C.X.F.)

SCILLIN  
sunk.

/ See pp 629 & 632  
 P.212 sank Italian northbound M/V SCILLIN off  
 Kerkenah at 0800/14. Reported that out of 1000  
 on board 780 were British prisoners, 200 Italian  
 military, remainder crew. Of these, 62 were  
 picked up by P.212 of whom 26 were British and 36 Italian.  
 About 12 had to be left in the water owing to approach of an  
 enemy Asdic fitted patrol craft.  
 (D.O.R. 1188, 19th Nov. - no signal in W.D.)  
 Am returning to Malta with 53 British prisoners of war and  
 Italians including wounded on board E.T.A. end of searched  
 channel 1000/15th running on surface (?by night).  
 (P.212 2050A/14 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med.  
 V.A. Malta.)

Malta  
Air  
Report.

I.108 14 Nov. C.S.R. Malta.  
 Night 13/14. No enemy air activity.  
 Day 14th. 0800, 4 Spitfires up for raids which  
 turned back before reaching Malta. Today 32 long  
 range and short range Spitfires and 15  
 Beaufighters continued armed R/C patrols against Axis transport  
 aircraft in Lampedua area and Tunisia - Sicilian Channel.  
 1005, 8 long range Spitfires attacked and destroyed 1 BR.20 E of  
 Cape Bon flying north at sea level.  
 1015. The same Spitfires intercepted 35 enemy transport aircraft  
 escorted by 12 Me.110s 20 miles N.E. of Cape Bon flying N.E. at  
 sea level. 3 Spitfires attacked and destroyed 1 Me.110 and  
 damaged 1 possible Ju.90 and 1 Me.110. 1 Spitfire had engine  
 trouble and probably landed in South Tunisia.  
 1430. Another 8 long range Spitfires attacked and destroyed 1  
 BR.20 and 1 SM.82 15 miles N.E. of Cape Bon flying N.E. at sea  
 level. 15 Beaufighters made armed R/C patrols in Tunisian -  
 Sicilian Channel.  
 1245. PR Spitfire on Tunisian R/C sighted 25 miles E of Cani  
 Island 24 transport and bomber aircraft escorted by 10 Me.109s  
 flying south and signalled sighting to 8 Beaufighters on armed  
 R/C in that area. Beaufighters attacked and destroyed 1 twin  
 engined bomber 1 Ju.88 and 1 Me.109. 2 Beaufighters are missing

/believed...



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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - cont'd.Malta  
Air  
Report.  
Contd.believed collided when entering cloud cover.  
7 Beaufighters were despatched to carry out a low flying dusk attack on Tunis aerodrome preliminary reports show that 8 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 1 damaged.

(A.H.Q. Malta 2109Z/14.)

Part 2 of I.108 C.S.R. (all R/C etc.)

(A.H.Q. Malta 2123/14.)

Toulon  
R/C.

P.R.U. Sortie C/604 date 14 Nov. time 1240 hours shows - Toulon. Since 10 Nov. one Bougainville Sloop one Elan Class escort vessel and two S/Ms returned to port. Only other changes in shipping since that date are internal movements as follows. Battlecruiser STRASBOURG and Galissonniere Cruiser from dry dock to former berths at Port Lagoubran. Two Galissonniere Class Cruisers and three S/Ms to dry dock as well as internal movements of one Suffren Class Cruiser and six Contre Torpilleurs and destroyers. One Alcyon Class Destroyer moored to buoy near mole at harbour entrance. Only change in merchant shipping is movement of two tankers from Port Lagoubran to the Baie De La Seyne. Ex-battleship L'OCEAN remains as guardship at Mandrier. Jetties of Port Lagoubran five Loire 130 afloat.

St. Mandrier seaplane base two Leo H 257 and two Loire 130 visible.

Hyeres aerodrome 26 small French fighter A/C visible.  
(P.R.U. Benson 2140/14 to Admty. etc.)PARTHIAN  
M/V  
probably  
sunk.*See p. 630*4 destroyers approx. course and speed north 21 in position 038° 10' 011° 28' at 2137A/14. Hit and probably sank merchant ship escorted by Italian destroyer Generale Antonio Cantore Class and aircraft off Marittimo at 1655 Friday 13th.  
(PARTHIAN 2231A/14 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med)P.45 *See p. 633* Retire to north west with despatch and report  
P.221 *See p. 631* number of torpedoes fired and remarks on Bizerta  
P.247 *See pp 630/631* approach route, returning to patrol position by dawn (corrupt group - Possibly 20th.) P.221 assume billet vacated by P.(?48).  
(Capt. S.10. 2345A/14 to P.45. P.221. P.247.)  
Replies: P.221 0032/15. P.45 0121/15.  
P.247 0142/15.Air R/C  
Italian  
ports.Sortie C/605 D.A. A. STE/WPR 1/14/Nov./42.  
B. 1350 hrs. C. Genoa - Savona - Aosta.  
D. Genoa at 1330 hrs. - only active naval units present are two S/Ms in D/D and one D/R 320 ft. as on 10 Nov. Active merchant shipping comprises liner ROMA 520 ft. tanker and seventeen M/Vs. 200/450 ft. Smoke seen rising from several points in the area behind eastern end of docks. Savona at 1320 hrs. - no shipping importance present. Aosta photoed nothing to report.  
(P.R.U. St. Eval 2350A/14 to Admty. etc.)Operation  
"Sneeze"Operation "Sneeze" is cancelled. Copies of all relevant orders are to be destroyed forthwith.  
(C. in C. Med. 2354B/14 to All concerned in Operation "Sneeze".)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.JOHN W.  
MACKAY.

Your 2105A/6th Nov. JOHN W. MACKAY is now proceeding to lay and buoy diversion cable. On completion she will be sailed Addu Atoll with Anti S/M escort for Bombay.

(2) Master requests instructions disposal 2 shore ends E type cable.

(N.O.I.C. Colombo, 0343Z/14 to Admty).

EMPIRE  
DEFIANCE  
attacked.

Following has been read SSSS 14.25 N., 81.01 E. EMPIRE DEFIANCE missed by two torpedoes. (Colombo, W/T, T.O.R. 0821Z/14).

SHAPINSAY

\*(?Left). 14th for (?Maroantsetra) whaler SHAPINSAY E.T.A. 0700Z/15th. sails for Diego Suarez about 16th after loading cargo (?freight) additional escort changed (corrupt syllable) MRA.

((?N.O.I.C.\*Tamatave) 1035Z/14 to Admty C. in C. E.F., etc.) \* *confirmed by documents of H.M. Ship*

PLADDA

Sailed PLADDA through P. 015° 00' S., 052° 54' E. 2. E.T.A. Mauritius 1100Z/18. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1101Z/14 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Admty. N.O.I.C. Mauritius).

Movements

Colombo departures 14th Nov. nil. Arrivals 0130Z, LAUNCESTON, 04 (50?), OKAPI, 1220Z JAY. 13th November blank. (S.O. Colombo, 1352Z/14 to Admty etc). Departure 14th Nov. RANCHI, MAURITIUS. (F.O.E.A. and Z. 1504Z/14 to Admty).



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- U/B Sub. reported seen at 2045Z/13. Position 045° 04' N 065° 59' 30" W.  
(C.O.A.C. 0015Z/14 to GB7A.)
- U/B Following from F.O.N.F. "A D C reports S/M in vicinity 047° 34' N 053° 13' W at 0155Z/14".  
(C.O.A.C. 0300Z/14 to GB7A.)
- SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH. New York arrived a.m. 13th H.M. Transport QUEEN ELIZABETH.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0323Z/14 to D.S.T.)
- HAKE U.S. Sub. notice. U.S.S. HAKE departed Newport 1900Z/14 proceeding unescorted on surface north of Block Island to New London. Arriving about 2400Z/14.  
*See p. 643 for later signal.*  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0335/14.)
- A.T.29. Arrangements should be made for 250 U.S. Constructional Personnel for West Africa to be accommodated in A.T.29. Onward conveyance to West Africa is being arranged in vessel leaving U.K. about 2nd Dec. and arriving West Africa about 15th Dec.  
(D of S.T. 0632A/14 to B.A.D.)
- U.G.F.3. In view of loss of NIEUW ZEELAND and delay to SIBAJAK neither of these ships will now be available for U.G.F.3 as previously intended.  
2. P.S.T.O. X.F. has therefore been requested to sail MOOLTAN to New York presumably in G.U.F.1 for this purpose. Anticipated date of arrival will be reported.  
3. MOOLTAN has total accommodation of 4305.  
(D.S.T. 0633A/14 to B.A.D.)
- \*WINCHELSEA FAME F.O.N.F. 1548/13th. As WINCHELSEA is required to rejoin B 4 Group 23 she may be sailed to U.K. with H.X.215. FAME will rejoin B 6 for return convoy.  
*\* See p. 640 (H.X. 215)*  
(C. in C. W.A. 1002Z/14 to F.O.N.F. C.T.24.)
- M.T.B.340 grounded. M.T.B.340 grounded on reef while entering Bridgetown Barbados and sustained following serious damage keel fractured before bulkhead 473 large holes and several small holes below chine. In view of damage do not consider boat worth repairing. Engines and fittings being salvaged. Board of enquiry is being convened.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1041Q/14 to S.B.N.O. W.A. Admty. etc.)



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Issue of "Q" Messages to U.S.R.Os. Since regular signalled supply of "Q" Messages direct to U.S.R.Os has not yet begun, suggest this important matter requires further consideration before new "Q" system comes into force.

(2) At present B.R.L.Os where they exist supply U.S.R.Os with "Q" information (Niro chapter III Section A para 11 and my 2141?4/11/42.)

(3) If future policy is for U.S.R.Os to receive all "Q" messages for contiguous areas it would appear necessary that those U.S.R.Os who have to route ships to U.K. should also receive Fleet and Special Fleet Notices to Mariners since these embody cancelled Q.Z.H. messages and information without which adequate routeing instructions cannot be prepared.

(4) In order to avoid flooding routeing officers with a mass of information which must be paraphrased (reworded and rearranged) before issue to Masters and also to ensure standardisation suggest (A) that a separate series of Q.Z. messages be instituted for use of routeing officers. These messages to be self-contained and give all essential information for those ports only to which Ocean ships have to be routed and in form which can be given to Masters Verbatim. (B) That other areas contiguous to U.S. strategic area should follow similar procedure issuing one series of "Q" messages for Warships and another in form which can be given to Masters Verbatim.

(5) The alternative to (4) appear to be for some Central Authority to issue to U.S.R.Os and "Q" information necessary for routeing in a form such as WIMRI. C. in C. A.W.I. 1232/9/7/42 refers.

(6) While present system remains in force and B.R.L.Os are responsible for correctness of U.K. portions of routes reduction in their staffs is unlikely since considerable decyphering is necessary. If R.L.O. should have to decypher all messages increase in some staffs may be necessary.

(S.B.N.O. W.A. 1132Q/14 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)  
Reply: B.A.D. 2103/17.

Independent ships, routeing. G.I.R.O. Chapter 2 para 25. Lists a number of ports where U.S. R.Os are stationed and where there is no B.R.L.O. Request confirmation that U.S. Routeing Authorities have no intention of routeing independent ships on ocean routes from these ports. A.M. 1854/9th Nov. promulgated in my 1049/11 Nov. refers.  
(C. in C. A.W.I. (sic) 1139Q/14 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. etc.)

LARIAT Your 2009/10. As H.M.R.T. LARIAT cannot dock before 23rd Nov. owing to repairs to dock following will be probable programme: leave Trinidad 20th Nov. arrive Barbados 21st Nov. dock 23rd Nov. undock 26th Nov. leave Barbados 27th Nov. arrive Norfolk p.m. 3rd Dec. ready to leave Norfolk p.m. 4th Dec.  
2. Ship will proceed by direct route unescorted.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1142Q/14 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A.)

/Canadian...



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War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Canadian shipbuilding. Your 2138/2..Consider that single screw corvettes are of more value than Algerines for A/S escort on ocean waters. In heavy weather former should obtain better Asdic results and be more comfortable owing to their build and greater draught. Their speed and endurance is also slightly higher.  
2. For coastal work under good weather conditions there should be little to choose between the two classes.  
(D.A/S.W. Approved A.C.N.S.(T) 1153A/14 to N.S.H.Q.)

ZAANDAM (sunk 2nd Nov.) Trinidad reports Dutch ZAANDAM sunk 1728 G.M.T. 2nd, 001° 17' N 036° 40' W. Saved 104 out of 299 of whom 65 were survivors on passage from Cape. Remainder lost.  
(S.O.(I.) Jamaica 1158/14 to Admty. etc.)

LOBELIA ACONIT Request LOBELIA, ACONIT may visit Saint Pierre during next lay-over.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1159Z/14 to C.T.F.24. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Greenock. Capt. D. Greenock. HARVESTER. LOBELIA. ACONIT.)

Movements summary. 1800 G.M.T./14th.  
Ship. Position. Course. Speed.  
Convoy  
W.S.24. 12½° S 36½° W. 251° 12½  
*See pp 610, 618* BRIDGEWATER 35½° N 31° W. 234° 12  
(D.O.D. (F.) 1201A/14 to Opnav. (R) Commaveu.)

T.A.G.21. Departure U.S. destroyer BLAKELEY U.S. Ship SAUCY U.S. Ships P.C.489. <sup>P.C.574.</sup> P.C.576 escorting T.A.G.21.  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1212Q/14 to S.B.N.O. W.A.)

TATNALL P.C.590. My 1252/13th. U.S.S. TATNALL and P.C.590 departed without entering Port.  
(S.O.(I.) Kingston 1244R/14 to Admty. etc.)

WATCHMAN *See next page (H.X.215)* E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0500Z/15th. Request ambulance one rating critically ill diagnosis uncertain. Gyro compass suspension broken and type 271 out of action. Request Cape Spear Light. F.O.N.F. pass to C.T.24.  
(WATCHMAN 1526Z/14 to C.T.24. F.O.N.F.)

U/B positions. 14th Nov. S/M estimate and U.S. S/M Notice.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1545/14, 1546/14, 1615/14, 1616/14, 1617/14, 1820/14.)

Movements. U.S.S. VULCAN escorted by U.S. destroyers MAC. LEISH and BABBITT departed Argentia at 1200Z/14 for Iceland.(C) via -

/(D) 046°....



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - cont.Movements  
Contd.(D) 046° 24' 054° 09' (E) 046° 21' 052° 18'  
(F) 056° 58' 044° 55' S of A 17.All practicable air coverage requested. S.O.  
present afloat Iceland pass to A.C.I.C. Com.  
Greenland patrol pass to Com. Greenland Air  
Detachment.

(C.T. 24. 1615Z/14 to Cominch C &amp; R etc.)

C.T.G. 34.2.

*See p. 616.*  
*(Op. "Torpedo")*

Following C.T.G. 34.2 0544/14 passed to you for  
information: "C.T.G. 34.2 in RANGER, CLEVELAND,  
SUWANNEE, SANTEE, Comdesron 10 in ELLYSON, EMMONS,  
FITCH, RODMAN departed 34.50 N 18.02 0800/14 Nov. for base M via  
points B 34.30 N 21.00 W. C. 30.00 N 35.00 W. D. 33.00 N  
50.00 W S of A 13.5 knots. Predicted Chop time of passing 40° W  
2000Z/17 Nov. Request air coverage as practicable approaching  
base M."

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1620/14 to Admty. C.T.G. 26.5.)

Attacks  
on U/Bs  
publicity.

U.S. Press are bringing great pressure to bear on  
U.S. Navy to release for publication stories and  
pictures of actions against U-Boats as they occur.  
2. As an argument for doing so they quote the  
following facts:-

- (A) First Lord included submarines sunk by U.S. Navy in his  
report on British Navy's successes against submarines.  
(B) British Ministry of Information took upon itself to report  
how a U.S. Catalina sunk a U-Boat off Iceland (20th August.)  
(C) British Navy continue to release pictures of actions against  
submarines and of captured crews.  
(D) Admty. announcement on 9th Nov. regarding two U-Boats being  
sunk and several others damaged in a recent battle with a convoy,  
presumably S.C.94 on 6th August.  
3. Navy Dept. request they may be informed before any such  
publications are made in future, and that Admty. may forward a  
general statement of policy which may be applicable to both nations  
(B.A.D. 1727Z/14 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

H.X. 215.

Task Unit 24.1.15 HURRICANE (S.O.)\*WINCHELSEA,  
\*\*WATCHMAN, ANLANUSA, DAHLIA, MONKSHOOD, WALLFLOWER,  
designated ocean escort to join in Westomp.  
(C.C.N.F. 1731/14 to C.T.U. 24.18.6. (R) C. in C.  
W.A. etc.)

\* *See previous page.*

U/B

Guantanamo W/T reports S/M sighted 1640Z/14 in  
012.37 N 069.05 W.  
(Kingston 1741R/14 to Admty.)

O.N. 142.

Cancel my 1926/13, Western Local Escort South.  
T.U. No. (?24) 18.3. sailing NIAGARA (American  
? S.O. intended) LINCOLN at 0700Z/16 and RIMOUSKI,  
EDMUNSTON, MELVILLE escorting H (? O) N. 142.  
6 ships at 1900Z/15. All arrived at 10 miles 315°  
from H O M P at 1900Z/16.  
(C.O.A.C. 1744Z/14. 0045/15 to C.T.U. 24.18.5.  
(R) C.T. 3rd U.S. Nav. Dis. New York. T.U. 24.18.3.  
Admty. C.E.S.F. Connnav. N.S.H.Q. C.T. 24. F.O.N.F.)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

MEADOWSWEET. On completion engine trials 15th Nov. sail MEADOWSWEET to Halifax with despatch reporting E.T.A. C.T.F.24 is requested to indicate latest date MEADOWSWEET should arrive at Argentia. (C.O.A.C. 1829Z/14 to N.O.I.C. St. John N.B. (R) C.T.F.24. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.143. Understand (2 corrupt groups) KING (Pan.) broke down with engine trouble East position X. BARRIE standing by with instructions to report situation and escort to Halifax when defects remedied. O.N.143 P.C.S. 231° position X 16 (B) course 231° 8 knots. Request escort for O.N.143 be augmented if possible. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.18.4. 1830Z/14 to C.O.A.C.)

Sub. → Para A. CITY OF RIPON torpedoed sunk 08.40 N 59.20 W 0727Z/11.  
attack and sighting summary. Para B. STEEL SCIENTIST two torpedo hits. H.M.S. LOMAN attacks sub. 11.06 N 56. 55 W 1409Z/12.  
Para C. WILLIAM A. McKENNY U.45 type. Surface craft attack sub. on surface 56.53 N 23.34 W 1615Z/12 sub. sighted 12.53 N 69.37 W 0830Z/13. Ferry boat sights sub. 45.04 N 65.59 W 2045Z/13. Coast watchers sight sub. area 47.34 N 53.13 W 0155Z/14.  
(Cominch 2016/14 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

U/B. S/M sighted by Pan Air Pilot 1700 G(?M)T/14th Nov. 012° 15' N 075° 05' W.  
(S.O.I. Kingston 2103R/14 to Admty. etc.)

QUESNEL BRANTFORD E.T.A. 0300Z/15 in company BRANTFORD. Boiler hours, fuel required.  
(QUESNEL 2103Z/14 to C.O.A.C. (R) Capt. D. Halifax.)

U/B positions. C.E.S.F. 1745/14. S/M estimate 0800Q/15.  
(Comnav 2114/14 to Admty.)

U/B Campaign. → Connav Serial 13 and 14. CITY OF RIPON torpedoed sunk 08.40 N 59.20 W 11th Nov. EL LAGO overdue New York from U.K. since 27th Oct. STEEL NAVIGATOR Serial 30 was torpedoed sunk 19th Oct. 49.20 N 32.00 W convoy O.N.137. TITUS Serial 5 arrived Liverpool undamaged. Part of crew abandoned ship during attack and were landed at Iceland.  
(Connav 2121/14 to Comnav.)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Gas. J.S.M. 477 14th Nov. 1942.  
Ref. J.S.M. 379\* and your C.O.S.(W) 283\* and 287\*.  
Report by Combined Planners (C.O.S. 106/1) copy of which has already been sent by air, was considered by C.C.S. yesterday.
2. In our view this document is innocuous if not very useful. Its evolution has, however, been of value in educating the Americans and clearing their minds on whole subject of gas warfare. Their staffs have come round to our way of thinking.
  3. Policy contained in it is covered by instructions in your C.O.S.(W) 283. Action laid down in directive is, in fact, already in hand through normal liaison and working of Combined Agencies and is in line with your C.O.S.(W) 287. War and Navy Depts. now realise need for ensuring that gas enthusiasts are not allowed to embark on excessive production programmes (vide para 3 (h) of directive).
  4. We accordingly agreed to approve C.O.S. 106/1 subject to textual amendment by substitution of "Anglo-American" for "United Nations" in directive. Amended version issued as C.C.S. 106/2.
  5. Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Missions have been informed as instructed in para 6 of your C.O.S.(W) 283 and will be given copies of C.C.S. 106/2.
  6. U.S. Chiefs of Staff informed of arrangements for confirming use of gas against us as instructed in para 1 of C.O.S.(W) 283. (J.S.M. Washington 2215Z/14 to C.O.S. London.)
- \* W.R. Note: Ascertained from A.M.(SSO) that copies of these messages were sent 1st S.L. only.  
T.O.Os. 1909/7 Sept. 1515/11 Sept. and 1920/17 Sept. respectively.

- Washops. Guadalcanal. Eastern Flank U.S. ground forces completed 11th Nov. (corrupt group) enemy group near Tetere then withdrew west of Metapon River while patrols intercepted large groups escaped from Tetere (corrupt group) south west. West Flank halted noon 11 Nov. then withdrew east of Matanikau River thus releasing troops for defence against further possible landings.
- (2) Since 11th Nov. numerous Japanese Task Forces have been engaged by U.S. Naval and Air Units to support (sic) attempted landings by groups of 10 to 12 transports. U.S. Naval Units and aircraft have replied vigorously and claim substantial successes. No landings reported up to 0800/14th.
  - (3) 20 to 25 Japanese torpedo bombers with 8 fighters attacked U.S. transports unloading Guadalcanal 12th Nov. U.S. fighters shot down 16 torpedo bombers and 5 fighters losing 4. (J.S.M. Washington 2237Z/14 to Admty.)



War Diary.

14.11.1942.  
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Combined  
Wireless  
Procedure.

J.S.M. 478 14th Nov. Your C.O.S.(W) 342.  
Combined wireless procedure discussed by C.C.S.  
yesterday. We based our case (vide C.C.S. 119/1.)  
primarily on operational considerations stated in  
your para. 1.

2. Matter is clearly one in which one side or the other must  
give way completely if combined procedure is to be agreed, since  
real point at issue is basic form of message. Compromise on  
this impossible.

3. Attitude of U.S. Navy certainly hard to justify, but they  
are like that. Strong personal feelings have obviously been  
aroused. They consider their procedure superior and made most  
exaggerated claims concerning it. Admiral Horne even went so  
far as to say they would have lost Solomons if L.C.C. procedure  
had been used. Dispassionate consideration of facts in rather  
complicated technical matter seems impossible in this atmosphere.  
Decision was accordingly deferred till next week, though they are  
anxious to get matter settled quickly.

4. Only two courses seem open, both of which involve difficulty  
for one side or the other:-

(a) To decline politely to change. This would leave L.C.C. in  
force in most places, but U.S. resentment would be intense.  
Admiral Leahy, who is usually most fair-minded, is not in favour  
of their giving way. Result would therefore be failure to  
evolve agreed combined procedure for worldwide use. Your para. 4  
seems to rule out this solution.

(b) To accept so-called compromise procedure which is really  
JAN and achieve agreement, stipulating, of course, gradual  
introduction as operations permit. Acceptance might be on  
condition that this procedure is only for combined operations,  
or for use in any area in which U.S. and British operations are  
so interdependent that common procedure is essential. We are not  
sure to what extent this would involve changing procedure inside  
our own Services and thus retraining all signallers, including  
Indian.

5. We are dealing with people not amenable to reasoned argument.  
With this in mind, please instruct us by Thursday, 19th, whether  
we are to give way or not.

(J.S.M. Washington T.O.O. 2301Z/14 to C.O.S. London.)

See also 2055Z/16.

HAKE

*See p. 6 37.*

U.S. S/M Notice.

U.S.S. HAKE leaves Newport 1600Z/15 unescorted to  
operate on surface north of Block Island.

Returning Newport 2100Z/15.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2329/14 to Admty.)



War Diary.14.11.1942.  
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Movements.

Arrival Newcastle 12th Nov. (3 corrupt groups)  
 INVERELL. Departure Brisbane 13th U.S. destroyer  
 HENLEY on patrol.  
 (N.B. Melbourne 0344Z/14 to Admty. C. in C. E.F.  
 N.Z.N.B. C.O.I.C.)

Situation.

Digest Serial No. 296 Nov. 13th.  
 7 Fortresses attacked shipping Buin Faisi area  
 early morning 13th scoring one direct hit 2 near  
 misses on one light cruiser or large destroyer, one hit on light  
 cruiser or destroyer near misses one destroyer one large transport  
 bombs on runway dispersal area and dump Buin aerodrome.  
 2. Reports Buin shortlands area 13th indicate 24 vessels there  
 at 1945Z/12 including 2 heavy cruisers one light cruiser two  
 sloops or minelayers six destroyers one probable seaplane tender  
 2 landers ten merchant vessels also five flying boats. All  
 cruisers and four destroyers departed morning and ten merchant  
 vessels with six destroyers arrived from south east during  
 afternoon making total 33 vessels including probably eight  
 destroyers two sloops or minelayers two landers 20 merchant  
 vessels one probable seaplane tender. Recco. Fortress following  
 above attack reports one merchant vessel burning early morning  
 this aircraft unsuccessfully intercepted by four fighters.  
 3. One destroyer one 8,000 ton merchant vessel one 4,000 ton  
 merchant vessel Kavieng harbour afternoon 13th 15-20 bombers  
 observed on aerodrome. No activity Lorengai.  
 4. Our forward troops reach Kumuci river. Some enemy troops  
 contacted Wairope area but these dispersed and moving north.  
 Captured natives state enemy crossed Kumusi night 12/13th and  
 proceed by lorries towards Buna.  
 5. Beaufighters strafed barges Cape Billerton and collapsible  
 boats Amboga river morning 13th.  
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1401Z/14 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions at 1300A/14.  
 (D.D.I.C. 1441A/14. 1452A/14.)



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.



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War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

M.T.Bs 32, 30 and 69 attacked three small merchant vessels escorted by a trawler about 15 miles west of Hook of Holland last night and possibly hit one ship. The enemy opened fire when the M.T.Bs disengaged, but the latter were not hit.

VESPER made contact with 3 E-Boats about 15 miles east of Lowestoft at 0433. She drove them off, but they apparently returned and they were engaged again by VESPER, who probably severely damaged one of them and herself suffered some casualties. It is thought that other groups of E-Boats were operating in the area. Later, a group of two E-Boats (apparently the first of the above groups) was attacked with gunfire by M.L.201 and M.G.B.103 when steering east about 50 miles east of Harwich and many hits were seen. Our forces received no damage or casualties.

UNBEATEN  
lost.

S/M UNBEATEN is overdue from anti-shipping operations in the Bay of Biscay and Operation "Bluestone" which latter she reported completed at 2359/1.

Operation "Torch".

N.C.X.F. today transferred his flag to AURORA. The flag of S.O. Force H was transferred to NELSON this morning. The flag of C.S.10 was transferred from SHEFFIELD to BERMUDA at 0001Z today.

Force H. DUKE OF YORK, FORMIDABLE, BERMUDA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, TARTAR, PENN, PATHFINDER, PARTRIDGE, OPPORTUNE and PORCUPINE arrived at Gibraltar 0720Z today to fuel. RODNEY and FURIOUS arrived this evening but had to remain under way in the bay whilst the anchorage was being cleared.

The bulk of the assault convoy are now en route to the U.K.

SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA sailed for the U.K., carrying out an anti raider sweep en route.

The minesweeper ALGERINE was reported lost about 0400 today from cause unknown, off Bougie.

Sunk by Italian S/M ASCIANGHI. (63.443.)

/MARNE...



**ANSON MAY.**—In proud and loving memory of SUB-LIEUTENANT H. D. ANSON MAY, D.S.C., R.N. (Fleet Air Arm), and his friends, who lost their lives by the sinking of H.M.S. Avenger on Nov. 15, 1942.

**ASHBROOKE.**—In ever-loving memory, on this his 30th birthday, of our gallant PETER, A/SUB-LT. (A) P. C. B. ASHBROOKE, R.N., lost Mediterranean, April, 1941, and his precious and beloved mother, RHODA NELLIE, who rejoined him on Sept. 19, 1949. "Thy Will Be Done." R.I.P.—DADDY, JOHN, MARY, PAT.

**CROSS.**—LIEUT. T. O. K. CROSS, Rifle Brigade, killed in Holland while serving with 1st Bn. Middlesex Regt., Nov. 15, 1944. In ever-present memory of our beloved ~~TIM~~ MOTHER, JOHN, GILLIAN, and DAVID.

**DANSON.**—In precious memory of LT. S. H. DANSON, R.N., H.M.S. Avenger, missing, believed killed, 1942, adored younger son of the late R. J. Danson and of Miriam Danson, and beloved brother of Charles.—Beyond Life's gales in the Sacred Harbour.

**EARLE.**—In memory of my dearly loved eldest son DICK, CAPTAIN C. D. EARLE, R.H.A., accidentally killed at Larkhill, Nov. 15, 1945.—MUMMY.

**EARLE.**—In loving memory of CAPTAIN C. D. EARLE, R.H.A., accidentally killed near Larkhill, Nov. 15, 1945, aged 26.—DADDY and DIBO.

**HOWARD.**—In ever-loving memory, on this his 26th birthday, of our only son, ALEXANDER VILLENEUVE LLOYD HOWARD, killed in action, July, 1944, in Normandy. His message is travelling far and wide. "Those who come after must have their interests in the ends of the earth; citizens of the world as well as of their own country."—DAD, MUMMIE, ROZELLE, and YVONNE.

**HOWARD.**—In proud and constant memory of LLOYD, our dear friend and beloved master, killed in action July 1944, on this his birthday. H. B., P. B., and W.

**LYDEKKER.**—In proud and ever-living memory of "TONY," LIEUTENANT ANTHONY LYDEKKER, D.S.C., Royal Navy, H.M.S. Avenger, Nov. 15, 1942.

**MORRIS.**—To the memory of SUB-LT. PHILIP CHARLES HAMILTON MORRIS, Fleet Air Arm, R.N.V.R., and the friends who went with him in H.M.S. Avenger, Nov. 15, 1942, and before him in H.M.S. Audacity, Dec. 21, 1941.

15-11-50



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

MARNE (torpedoed 12 Nov.) arrived at Gibraltar at 1241A today in tow of SALVONIA.

Preliminary reports show that between 8 Nov and 15 Nov inclusive Naval A.A. fire accounted for 23 enemy aircraft, 10 probable and 18 damaged. IBIS shot down 3 before sinking.

North Atlantic.

Attack on  
M.K.F.1(Y)  
AVENGER  
sunk. (Probably U.155)  
SS.ALMAACK.  
torpedoed.  
ETTRICK  
torpedoed.

Convoy M.K.F.1(Y) was attacked by U-Boats at 0320 today in 36° 15' N, 7° 45' W. (about 110 miles west of Gibraltar)  
The auxiliary aircraft carrier AVENGER (one of the escort) was blown up and U.S. Combat Loader ALMAACK was torpedoed (ALMAACK arrived at Gibraltar on 18 Nov in tow of JAUNTY.)  
WRESTLER also escorting, counter attacked a U-Boat apparently one of two in 36° 7' N 7° 35' W and ~~considered she~~ sank it. The convoy was attacked again later and the P & O Liner ETTRICK was reported torpedoed about 0715A in 36° N 8° W and sank at 1200/15.  
*\* 36° 7' N 7° 35' W  
(L) + 7 (probable)*

It is obvious that there is a strong concentration of U-Boats on each side of Gibraltar, through which our convoys will have to pass. The Admty. today pointed to the necessity of N.C.X.F. sending complete escort groups with returning convoys, if possible.

LE TONNANT  
scuttled.

It was reported that the French S/M LE TONNANT entered Cadiz yesterday to effect minor repairs. At noon today she was reported to have scuttled herself just outside Cadiz and her crew to have landed in Spain.

South Atlantic.

SS. ADVISER reported about 0207 that she was torpedoed by a S/M in 32° 3' S 33° 52' E. The position was amended later to 32° 30' S 33° 30' E. She arrived at Durban on 19 Nov. in tow.



War Diary.

15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

PRINCE PAUL reported sighting a submarine at 1300 G.M.T. in 34° 25' S 27° 38' E and CALIFORNIA reported one on the surface at 1040 G.M.T. in (?lat) 33° 17' E.

A critical area of U-Boat activity is thought to be developing between Natal (Brazil) and St. Pauls Rocks due to many independents passing through (since the abolition of S.L. convoys) It is estimated that 107 U-Boats are in the Atlantic.

Mediterranean.

Western  
Med.

The Inshore Squadron is continuing to support the move forward of the 1st Army. COWDRAY has been refloated and berthed at Algiers.

The S/M patrol off Toulon was discontinued at 0001 today. N.C.X.F. asked C. in C. Med. to resume operational control of the 10th S/M Flotilla which has been assisting during the opening stages of Operation "Torch". N.C.X.F. intends to employ the 8th S/M.F. in the area north of Sicily; they will for the present remain under the operational control of Capt. S.10 when east of 8° E until MAIDSTONE is moved to Algiers when N.C.X.F. proposes that Capt. S.8. shall extend his control to the Cape Bon - Marittimo line.

WELSHMAN arrived at Algiers at 0900 today, fuelled and sailed for Operation "Analysis" at 1300A. She returned to Algiers at 1030/16 on account of the weather.

P.247 patrolling north of Bizerta reported early today one U-Boat sunk. (GRANITO - 4/11 - Dr. Rosbotham.)  
Pos. 36°34'N. 12°4'E.

A Hudson aircraft from Oran destroyed a U-Boat 30 miles north of Algiers at 1030 today. The U-Boat blew up and the explosion considerably damaged the Hudson which had to be abandoned: 2 of the crew were lost.

The present strength of the enemy in Tunisia is estimated 4000 to 5000, but reinforcement continues

Benghazi and the coastal area eastward to Tocra were bombed and machine gunned last night. One particularly large explosion and fires were caused in Benghazi port.



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies.

B.R.L.O. New York reports that convoy U.G.S.2 left New York at 1200/13 (for North African operations) under a degree of secrecy so high that it is impossible to obtain an accurate list of all ships. He mentions 4 British managed ships which sailed, and promises the names of U.S. flag ships "if they become available".

SS. D'ENTRECASTEAUX is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0720Z/7 in 15.30 N 57 W.

M.V. KING ARTHUR was torpedoed and sunk in 10.30 N 59.50 W at 0419Z today.

A U-Boat unsuccessfully attacked convoy O.N.144 today and was sighted and counter attacked by the corvette ROSE at 2250Z in 56° 15' N 29° 10' W.

Australia and New Zealand.

Seven Fortresses bombed shipping in Rabaul harbour early this morning and hit at least one vessel and caused damage ashore.

Naval and  
Air battles  
in Solomons.

It is reported by the War Office (1945A/22 Nov.) that in the course of a Japanese attempt to reinforce their troops in Guadalcanal a naval engagement took place on the night 12/13 Nov. when an enemy force including battleships approached in three groups to bombard Allied positions. The U.S. forces engaged at close range and report one enemy battleship, 3 heavy cruisers and 2 light cruisers sunk. The U.S. lost 2 light cruisers and 6 destroyers. On 14th Nov. U.S. aircraft attacked 12 transports and sank 8. A second naval engagement took place last night when another enemy battleship and 3 more cruisers are reported to have been sunk.  
(Note: Compare report given on 16th Nov.)



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

ESCAPADE. A.C.W.A. 1918/14 and N.C.X.F's 2023/13.  
Intend to transfer ESCAPADE to Western Approaches  
Command on completion of present duty.  
2. R.A.D. is requested to provide the estimate  
required by para.3 of A.C.W.A.'s 1918/14.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1233A/15 to A.C.W.A.)

"Sink at  
Sight." Instructions for Biscay Area.  
See Operations.

3rd and 6th  
M.L.  
Flotillas. N.C.X.F.'s 2105/13 paras.3 and 4. No objection.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1403A/15 to Admty.)

C. in C.W.A. The Flag of Admiral Sir Max Horton, <sup>k</sup>K.C.B., D.S.O.  
as C. in C. W.A. is to be hoisted in HESPERUS at  
0900 on 19th November. The flag of Admiral Sir  
Percy Noble, K.C.B. C.V.O. is to be struck at  
sunset on 19th November and the flag of Admiral  
Horton transferred to EAGLET at 0900 on 20th  
November 1942.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1407A/15 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Movements.

RAIDER. Subject to satisfactory trials intend to sail  
RAIDER 1200A/17 for Scapa to work up in accordance  
with Admiralty's 2010A/12. E.T.A. 1130A/18.  
S.O.A. 20 knots.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1028A/15.)

ONSLOW,  
OFFA. Request you will sail Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW  
with OFFA for Scapa to arrive 18th November.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1147A/15 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

O.15. My P.C.S. 063° 40' N. 000° 20' E., 190°, 3.  
(O.15 1200A/15 to F.O.S.)

LAUDERDALE. Admiralty 2130/22nd Oct. LAUDERDALE will be  
ready to sail on 17th. Request destination.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1310A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Your 1310/15. Destination Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1801A/15 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

A.F.D.18. Intend sailing 0830/16 A.F.D. XVIII to Corpach.  
E.T.A. Corpach 1430/16.  
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1315A/15.)

O.14. When ready about 17th November D.S.O.14 is to  
be sailed for Holy Loch to work up.  
(F.O.S. 1332A/15.)

/TUNA ...



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War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.HOMES COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

TUNA. P.C.S. 061° 28' N. 000° 44' E., 232° 4 knots.  
(TUNA 1501A/15 to F.O.S.)

WOODPECKER. When ready for sea WOODPECKER should be sailed to Tobermory to work up on conclusion of which she should join W.A. Command. An early opportunity should be taken to complete her fitting for Arctic, as it is intended that she should be used as P.Q. Q.P. convoy escort.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1558A/15 to A.S.C.B.S.)

CYGNET. 1. When ready for sea CYGNET should be sailed to Tobermory to work up, on conclusion of which she should join Western Approaches Command.  
2. It is intended that she should be used as P.Q. Q.P. escort.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1559A/15 to A.S.C.B.S.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Operating in Northern Waters: 5 Destroyers.  
Area Iceland (C) BERWICK, SUFFOLK, 3 Destroyers.  
Area Scapa: ANSON, KING GEORGE V., GLASGOW, LONDON, 2 Destroyers.  
Area Gibraltar: DUKE OF YORK, NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, VICTORIOUS, FURIOUS, ARGONAUT, BERMUDA, CHARYBDIS, AURORA, SIRIUS, DELHI, SCYLLA, WELSHMAN, 14 Destroyers.  
Passage to U.K. ARGUS, CUMBERLAND, JAMAICA, NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD, SHROPSHIRE, BITER, DASHER, 8 Destroyers.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1602A/15 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

GURNARD. Clyde arrival GURNARD, escorted by BREDA.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2126A/15.)

Operations.

Engagements with Enemy Destroyers & E-Boats. One E-Boat damaged by VESPER. No one heard. Give R. 2 destroyers in 53° 33' N. 05° 00' E.  
(M.T.B. 88 0205A/15 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)  
2 enemy (type Unknown) moving S.W.  
(Patrol 12 0308A/15 to C. in C. Nore.)  
Suspected E-Boat activity. E-Boats bearing 053° approximately from position W. by D/F.  
(Harwich W/T 0405A/15 to Yarmouth.)  
3 enemy motor boats bearing 090° (off Lowestoft) from No.4 Buoy.  
(VESPER 0433/15.)

Fleet south.  
(C. in C. Nore 0503A/15 to WINDSOR, COTSWOLD, SOUTHDOWN, HAMBLEDON, QUORN (R) VESPER.)  
Returning on alone.  
(M.T.B. 88 0545A/15 to N.O.I.C. Lowestoft.)

/Preliminary ...



651

15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 15.11.

Engagements  
with Enemy  
Destroyers  
& E-Boats.  
One E-Boat  
damaged by  
VESPER  
(contd.)

Preliminary report of C/F activity night 14/15  
November.

1. At 2121/14 M.T.B. 32 (S.O) with M.T.Bs 30 and 69 while proceeding to operate off Hook of Holland sighted 3 small M/Vs with one trawler escort in 51° 58' N. 03° 40' E., proceeding South. M.T.Bs attacked on silent engines but report results difficult to assess. One possible hit on 3rd ship claimed. Enemy opened fire when M.T.Bs disengaged but caused no damage or casualties.
2. Operation Q.L.(9) cancelled at about 2200 due to engine breakdown in M.L.110, M.Ls returning to waiting position.
3. At 0154/15 S.O. 21st M.T.B. M. Flotilla in 83 with M.T.B. 88 in company in 53° 30' N. 05° 25' E. and steering west on silent engines sighted 2 destroyers, reported as possibly Narvik class, coming up astern at high speed. M.T.B.83 turned to port and got in a hurried shot, believed to have missed ahead, from 150 yards, and disengaged through the line. M.T.B.88 was too close to turn in time, but twice endeavoured to attack. She was unable to gain bearing and lost contact at 0220. No damage or casualties. Visibility was 1000 yards or less.
4. At 0308/15 in vicinity Z 12 M.L.201 with M.G.B.103 heard and reported two craft moving S.W. On receipt of E-boat reports from VESPER unit moved to 52° 29' N. 02° 32' E. at 0505. At 0537 unit again moved south to intercept. Noise of engines heard to the westward and at 0541 sighted 2 E-boats steering east at high speed. Unit opened fire with all guns, many hits being observed from Oerlikon and .5 and 1 3 pounder. E-boat reply was ineffective and quickly silenced. M.L.201 endeavoured to ram nearest E-boat but missed very close astern. A number of further hits from all guns were observed, but enemy drew away to eastward, visibility being only about 200 yards. No damage or casualties.
5. Four other units of M.G.Bs in intercepting positions to eastward of the "Z" line report sound of engines at various times during the night, but efforts to intercept were unsuccessful in conditions of low visibility.  
(C. in C. Nore 1706A/15.)

Following is summary of E-Boat activity this morning from information at present available. At 0308 M.L.201 in 52° 32' N. 02° 26' E. reported two unknown vessels steering S.W. at 0405. ~~21st M.T.B. 83~~ reported two E-Boats bearing 055°, but it was not until 0433 that VESPER on No.6 patrol made contact with three E-Boats 090° 4 miles from No.4 buoy. These E-Boats were driven off to the E.S.E. at 0447 but probably returned to 100° 6 miles from No.4 Buoy by 0500. Here again they were again heavily engaged by VESPER who eventually lost touch at about 0530 in approx. 52° 23' N. 02° 21' E.

VESPER reports one boat probably severely damaged and she herself sustained five casualties.

/Later ...



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Engagements with Enemy Destroyers & E-Boats. One E-Boat damaged by VESPER (contd.)

Later this first Group of E-Boats was intercepted by M.L.201 and M.G.B.103 and further damage was inflicted on them as reported in my 1706A/15 para. 4. From bearings received, 079° from Gorleston at 0441 and 098° from Winterton at 0521, it appears that a second Group of E-Boats may have been eastward of 55 A Buoy and a third Group bearing 065° from Southwold at 0550. F.S.459 had passed No.4 Buoy at 0215 and no attack on shipping developed.

It is possible that minelaying may have taken eastward of the Channel between 55 A and 3 C Buoys though there is no direct evidence of this, nor were the Second and Third Groups of E-Boats ever definitely sighted. Visibility throughout was very poor.

(C. in C. Nore 2204A/15.)

Biscay S/M Patrol. SEALION, DOLFIN.

My 1317A/14. Cancel paras. 2, 3 and 4. Substitute. (2) Following positions are established:

- (A) 049° 55' 007° 32'.
- (B) 049° 18' 012° 25'.
- (C) 049° 02' 012° 25'.
- (D) 044° 28' 012° 25'.
- (E) 044° 28' 008° 58'.
- (F) 044° 08' 008° 58'.

(3) SEALION pass through (C) (D) at 0500A/21st, (E) at 0630A/22. S.O.A. 135 miles a day. (4) DALFIN pass through (A) (B) (D) at 2100A/21. (F) At 0030A/23. S.O.A. 125 miles a day. Paragraph (6) (C) for 1800A/20 read 0200A/22 and for 0530A/21st read 1830A/22nd November.

(Capt. S.3 0747A/15.)

SEALION and DOLFIN escorted by SCIMITAR sailed at 1955A to comply with Capt. (S) 3rd S.F.'s 1127A Nov. 14th. Codeword "Keeper."

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1956A/15.)

U.S. S/MS. Ords.

In an area bounded by parallel 049° N. 042° 15' N., Spanish Territorial waters, coast of France, and meridian 014° W. ships of over 2500 tons may be sunk at sight with exception of those ships of whose movements you will be informed.

2. Should you encounter a ship whose description clearly does not correspond to that signalled, she is to be sunk at sight. If in doubt shadow her, signal her description to F.O.S. and Admiralty. Further instructions will then be given.

(F.O.S. 1237A/15 to SHAD, HERRING, BLACKFISH, GUNNEL, BARB.)

*See p. 665 (Situation 110)*  
*4667*

Patrols.

Your 1407/14. "Occasion" arrived.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0810/15 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Your 1413/14. M.Ls 491, 195, 157 returned.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0906/15 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Destroyer duties tonight. With F.S.No.460 GARTH,

HOLDERNESS. Patrol 1 COTTESMORE, 2 CATTISTOCK, 3 MACKAY, 4 WORCESTER, 5 CAMPBELL, 6 MENDIP, 7 KITTIWAKE, 8 SHELDRAKE.

(C. in C. Nore 1020A/15.)

\* See p. 656.

/Tonight ...



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 15/11.

Patrols (contd.) Tonight M.T.Bs 55 (S.O.) 56, 50, M.G.Bs 611, 608 proceed to carry out sweep of enemy convoy route Eastward from longitude  $01^{\circ} 30' W.$  Pass to Southward and Westward of area given in Portsmouth 1400/30th September and round Cap Barfleur as far as this area permits to avoid R.D.F. If detection is suspected return to patrol near  $50^{\circ} 05' N. 1^{\circ} 30' W.$  for at least 2 hours. Force is to pass 1 buoy 1815 and 0715. Shelter at St. Helens if weather unsuitable. Codeword "Advent". Keep to Eastward of line joining St. Catherines Point to a point on the French coast in longitude  $1^{\circ} 42' W.$  West of which line M.T.B.344 will be patrolling. Portland patrol on latitude  $50^{\circ} 20' N.$  between  $1^{\circ} 45' W.$  and  $2^{\circ} 25' W.$  M.L.303 (S.O) and R.M.L.522. CHASSEURS 41 (S.O) and 11 patrolling off E.A.5 buoy. PENYLAND standing by at Yarmouth.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1310A/15 to HORNET.)  
Departure "Obstacle".  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1425A/15.)

Operation V.P. For operational reasons intend to base 30th M.T.B. Flotilla at Lerwick and that maintenance be carried out there and not Invergordon. A 2nd Flotilla could also be maintained there. Request F.O.C. Coastal Forces adjust maintenance Staff and arrange supply of Stores accordingly. Request fuel lighter at Invergordon be transferred to Lerwick to save great waste of engine hours and fuel involved fuelling Sollum Voe.  
(A.C.O.S. 1157/15 to Admty.)

Operation "Batman".  
1. Intend sailing M.T.B.344 from Portland at 2145 today for Operation "Batman".  
2. Speed on passage 30 knots. E.T.R. approx. 0700/16th.  
3. Request fighter protection and bombing restrictions be arranged. Codeword "Device".  
4. If no E.T.A. received by 0630A/16 request air escort to search line between the following positions:  
(a)  $050^{\circ} 35' N. 002^{\circ} 15' W.$  (b)  $049^{\circ} 45' N. 001^{\circ} 47' W.$   
(N.O.I.C. Portland 1333/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)  
My 1333A/15. "Device" sailed at 2158.  
(F.O.I.C. Portland 2207A/15.)

A/S Trawler Patrol. A/S Patrol is being established by 4 Northern Patrol Trawlers in an area 50 miles radius of  $63^{\circ} 05' N. 03^{\circ} 35' W.$  p.m. 17th November. Request aircraft on Flora patrol may not take offensive action in this area at night.  
(A.C.O.S. 1738/15 and 1039A/16 to 18 Group.)



654

War Diary.

15.11.1942.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Enemy  
A/C down.

German aircraft reported down in 049° 50' N.  
008° 09' W. at 1315/15. Pass through this ~~NTWD~~  
position when complying with my 1347/15. Enemy  
aircraft may be in the vicinity of 3 Beaufighters  
patrolling area.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1427A/15 to SLAZAK.)

*\* See next page  
(Search for tonight)*

Mining.

East Coast.

Consider enemy probably laid mines east of  
Channel.  
(C. in C. Nore 0549A/15 to VESPER)  
See Operations. p. 65, 2.

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy  
M/Vs.

N.C.X.F's 1926/14.  
1. KOTA NOPAN last seen 1730/7 46° 51' N. 11°  
24' W. ANNALISE ESSBERGER last seen 1710/7 in  
45° 40' N. 10° 50' W. Both ships outward bound.  
2. SPICHERN (ex KROSSFONN) arrived Ferrol 11th November  
probably damaged by air attack. May continue outward passage  
if damage can be repaired.  
3. Following ships may be on passage to Biscay from Far East:  
RHAKOTIS, HAVELLAND, RAMSES, REGENSBURG, URSULA RICKMERS, PERSEE  
(ex PIERRE L.D.)  
4. Following ships last located in Biscay ports may sail at  
any time: ELSA ESSBERGER, CORTELAZZO, SANDEFJORD, Altmark class  
tanker.  
5. Some of the following ships may be raider prizes and may be  
proceeding to Biscay ports: STEEL AGE, KATTEGAT (Nor.) ARABISTAN,  
CONNECTICUT, HERBERG, WICHITA, PATELLA, MADRONO, AMERICAN LEADER,  
NANKIN, INDUS, EMPIRE DAWN.  
(D.O.D. H. 1858A/15 to SHEFFIELD.)

U-Boats.U-Boat  
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 59° 25' N. 19° 30' W.  
Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to  
submerge. When first sighted was on course 145°,  
speed 5 knots.  
(A/C 0840/15 to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth-charges.  
(A/C Spare Duty L 0905/15 to 15 Group.)

U-Boats  
reported.

One or two U-boats may be in your immediate  
vicinity today.  
(D.D.I.C. 0917A/15 to Escorts K.M.S.3.)

Am over enemy S/M. Enemy was on course 340°, speed 8 knots,  
at 1040.

(A/C C/S 6 G K T 1054/14 to 19 Group.)  
Am carrying out baiting procedure MH2G.  
(A/C 10/O T U 1100/15 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 44° 25' N. 14° 47' W. Enemy was on  
the surface. When sighted was on course 240°, speed 8 knots.  
(A/C 10/O T U Duty Z 1223/15 to 19 Group.)



655

War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Construction  
of Hides.

Admiralty letters M. 051826/42 of 24th October and 30th October re policy with regard to construction of Hides. It is essential that the appropriate superintending Civil Engineers and Camouflage Officers should be associated in the R/Cs from the start.  
(Head of M. 2241A/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth, Plymouth, Nore, W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.Search for  
Dinghy.

Continue to search until recalled. 3 Hudsons and one Whitley will be co-operating with you at daylight.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0053A/15 to SLAZAK.)

*See previous page*UNBEATEN  
lost.

- (1) UNBEATEN is now 67 hours overdue and must be considered lost.  
(2) UNBEATEN left Holy Loch 23rd October for anti shipping operations in Bay of Biscay and operation "Bluestone". She reported "Bluestone" had been completed at 2359 1st November.  
(3) At 1141/6th November UNBEATEN was ordered to intercept an enemy supply ship reported by aircraft in 045° 58' N. 005° 10' W. course 270°, 10 knots.  
(4) At 1920/6th November a signal T.O.Q1810 was received from a N.G.C. Sign presumed to be UNBEATEN reporting an enemy supply ship in 045° N. 007° W. This was the last occasion anything was heard from UNBEATEN.  
(5) UNBEATEN was ordered to leave patrol after dark 8th November to R/V with her escort off Bishop Rock at 1700/12th November.  
(6) At 0515/11th November my H.Q. was informed by C. in C. Plymouth that searchlight ~~at~~ Wellington F of 172 Squadron on Anti-sub patrol had sighted and attacked a submarine on surface steering 330° in 046° 50' N. 006° 51' W. at 0220/11th November. The submarine was straddled by depth charges and attacked by machine guns. 30 minutes later the attacking aircraft reported submarine had turned 090° to starboard and was stationary.  
(7) This attack was carried out some 12 miles inside a submerged bombing restrictions area (Total restrictions at night) and was in fact only 10 miles from F.O.S's estimated position of UNBEATEN. Though the information available is not proof positive it seems probable that this attack was made on UNBEATEN. Corroboration is firstly provided by reported R.D.F. interference on the aircraft A.S.V. gear. UNBEATEN is fitted with R.D.F. Secondly the aircraft estimate the submarine course as 340°, which was approximate course of UNBEATEN. It is unlikely that an enemy U-Boat would be on this course.  
(8) At 1319/11th November UNBEATEN was ordered to report her position course and speed. The signal was transmitted 4 times but no reply has been received and aircraft search on 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th November has failed to locate.  
(F.O.S. 1104A/15 to Admty.)

/LLANDUDNO ...



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War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

- LLANDUDNO. A.M. 2024A/12. LLANDUDNO has boiler defect in 59° 05' N. 12° 55' W. at 1200A/15. Proceeding towards Londonderry at 8 knots escorted by WORTHING. (LYME REGIS 1237A/15.)
- BROADWAY. E.T.A. Merville 1500A/16. Condenseritis no worse. Able to use both engines. May have to dock on account of leaky main inlet. Starboard plommer block requires further adjustment. Request final destination. (BROADWAY 1325Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- AQUILLA. AQUILLA ordered to return to Falmouth at 1635/11 by S.O. Escort. Faulty condenser doors. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1446/15 to D.A.S.W.)  
My 1446/15. Completion date p.m. 20th November. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1659A/15.)
- CATTISTOCK. CATTISTOCK has been placed in quarantine for smallpox until 1200 on 20th November. (Capt. D.21 1643/15 to C. in C. Nore.)  
*See p. 652 (Palmola.)*
- FURY. <sup>INT. N.D.</sup> My 1847A/14. Delayed by defects. Add 21 hours to all times. (F.O. Humber 1746A/15 to A.C.O.S.)
- MONARCH OF BERMUDA. Reports internal damage by gunfire. See Shipping. *p. 659*

Shipping and Convoys.

- M.K.S.1. Please signal immediately names of ships likely to be included in M.K.S.1. This information very urgently required as all ships are needed for further service immediately after arrival.
2. Please endeavour to expedite return to U.K. of all cased petrol ships other than those earmarked for coastal service. In particulars can any special arrangement be made for early return of GUDRUN MERSK, LEVANT, and PRINCE DE LIEGE? (D.S.T. 0028A/15 to P.S.T.O. Gibraltar.)  
Your 0028/15. M.K.S.1 (X) sails 15th November. Will probably comprise EMPIRE CONFIDENCE, WALT WHITMAN, HAVILDAR, ALCINOUS, ST. ESSYLT, HOUSTON CITY, FORT SENNEVILLE, HOPE CROWN, FORT McLOUGHLIN, MANCHESTER PORT, LYCAON, THESEUS, ALPHARD, RECORDER, DELILLIAN, CHARLES H. CRAMP, CLAN McTAGGART, MARY SLESSOR, CHATANOOGA CITY, BENALBANACH, EMPIRE MORDRED, PACIFIC EXPORTER, WILLIAM WIRT, \*EDWARD RUTLEDGE, WILLIAM FLOYD. MARK TWAIN, MAJA, CLIONA, NORLYS, OPORTO, ALGERIAN, SPERO, NOLISEMENT, SALACIA expected to sail in M.K.F.2 on 16th Nov. M.K.S.I(Y) will sail on 18th November. \* *See R 12/11 n. Op. n. 102 L 14*

/(2) ...



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- M.K.S.1  
(contd.) (2) British Merchant vessels are being sailed for U.K. as quickly as circumstances permit. Every endeavour will be made for early return of AUDRUN MAERSK, LEVANT, PRINCE DE LIEGE. (P.S.T.O. X.F. 1956Z/15 to D.S.T.)
- 44.HINDUSTAN,  
ITHURIEL. Arrived your 1445A/13. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0815A/15 to C. in C. Portsmouth.) Admiralty 1710A/10, C. in C. W.A. 1239A/11. Sailed ITHURIEL escorting HINDUSTAN. Speed 12 knots. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1333A/15 to F.O.C. N.A.)
- S.C.108. Your 2045/14. Iceland portion left on SCHENCK's arrival at 1900/14. (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1000Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.S.4. It is intended sailing ships in K.M.S. 4 as follows, the date shown being earliest by which it is anticipated vessels will be loaded but will be amended by signal if necessary.
- | Vessel         | To arrive. |
|----------------|------------|
| MAHOUT         | 0800/18th  |
| TRADER         | 0830/18th  |
| COCHRANE       | 0800/19th  |
| EXPLORER       | 0900/19th  |
| HADLEIGH       | 0930/19th  |
| BARRISTER      | 0830/20th  |
| FORT PITT      | 0830/20th  |
| EMPIRE CAMERON | 0900/20th  |
| L.LUCKENBACH   | 0900/20th. |
- (D.S.T.O. Glasgow 1015A/15.)
- Q.P.15. Your 0602/15. HARRIER and GLEANER are not required for local escort of convoys and on completing present duties are available for mine sweeping until required for duty in accordance with my 1732/13. Only one trawler is required to accompany convoy vide my 1009/4th para.(b) but, in view of CAPE ARGONA 1100/12, trawler detailed should be turned back by S.O. of escort if unable to keep up. In any case she is not to proceed beyond C.C. Request you will give necessary orders. Remaining trawlers should be employed in accordance with my 1738/13.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1925A/15.)  
S.B.N.O. Archangel's 1714/13.
1. Q.P.15. All escorts of Q.P.15 with possible exception of one trawler will have all current S.Ps with the following exceptions. S.B.N.O. Archangel pass to escort Q.P.15 and trawlers in Archangel. S.O. 6th M/S Flotilla pass to trawlers on arrival Jokanka request for minesweeping corvette or trawlers to escort ship back from Yugorsky. 2 trawlers will be required for rescue patrol for EMPIRE SKY and EMPIRE SCOTT and one to follow up Q.P.15 as previously arranged.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1635A/15 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

/Your ...



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War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - con. 15.

Q.P.15 (contd.) Your 1330/15. Russian S/M E.T.A. Kola between 0300A and 0600A tomorrow routed through 070° 00', 036° 04', 069° 29', 034° 40', and 360° Kildin Island 3 miles to Tores Island. Orders have since been given her to keep well to Westward of your approach but may not have been received.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1708A/15 to Capt. D.8.)  
Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/16 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. P.312 vicinity 70° 53' N. 22° 26' E.  
B. P.216 vicinity 70° 52' N. 21° 08' E.  
C. UREDD vicinity 70° 32' N. 20° 01' E.  
D. JUNON vicinity 69° 30' N. 17° 20' E.  
(F.O.S. 1828A/15.)

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. If you are not under escort from F, steer for new G 45.01 N. 16.02 W, new H 54.04 N, 16.01 W, thence to new J 55.35 N. 08.02 W.  
(D.T.D. 1205Z/15 to LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE.)

Request you will sail H.M.S. CASTLETON for Clyde to arrive in time to provide escort in accordance with Admiralty's 2008/12.  
2. She is not required for any duty in my command before this.  
(A.C.O.S. 1915A/15 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

KOMSOMOLETZ. My 1524/13. Russian KOMSOMOLETZ speed 10 knots left Byellushaya at 1513/14 for Akureyri but, as Russians were unwilling to follow route in (? your 1941) 11th, they have routed her as in C. in C. H.F. 1238 October 23rd. Remaining 3 ships at Byellushaya will be sailed independently after Q.P.15.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1245A/15 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

M.K.F.1.(Y.) Pass to Commodore M.K.F. one (Y). Destination of ORBITA, LELITIA, \*ALMAACK and ETTRICK Clyde. DEMPO Liverpool.  
(N.C.X.F. 1255Z/15 to ARGUS.)

VANSITTART's 1626Z/14.

- From Z pass through new A 53.00 N. 16.20 W., new B 55.30 N. 08.05 W.
- DASHER and convoy conform from position F.  
(D.T.D. 1303A/15 to Escorts M.K.F.1 (X))  
M.K.F.1 (Y). ARGUS and 8 merchant ships reported rather scattered and reduced to 3 escorts. Remaining 2 escorts hunting submarines and standing by torpedoed? ships and unlikely to overtake in existing weather. \*GLAISDALE in any case must return to Gibraltar for fuel. Request additional escorts from U.K. may meet.

(N.C.X.F. 1323Z/15 to Admty.) \* *Imp. p. 661.*

/E.N.62 ...



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15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- E.N.62. Your 1218. Commodore intends to anchor whole convoy in Sinclair Bay for night.  
(MINUET 1503A/15 to A.C.O.S.)  
Your 1503. Approved for convoy to anchor in Sinclair Bay for night. A/S watch should be maintained and balloons must be dulled whilst in Bay.  
(A.C.O.S. 1650/15 to MINUET.)
- Force "Q"  
MONARCH OF  
BERMUDA.  
*See p. 656*  
A.M. 1730/12. MONARCH OF BERMUDA is required to proceed to Liverpool on arrival in U.K. BATORY to Clyde.  
(D.O.D. (H.) 1610A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Position at 2200, 052° 50' N. 017° 38' W., 17½ knots. MONARCH OF BERMUDA reports internal damage by gunfire requiring repairs.  
(S.O. Force "Q" 2202A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
- MUSSOVIET,  
CHERNISHEVSKY,  
~~AZERBAIJAN.~~  
^  
Your 1359A/13. Concur, but ships should be held at Reykjavik pending further instructions.  
(D.T.D. 1722A/15 to A.C.I.C.)
- R.U.49.  
ADHERENT.  
*/N.T.N.W.3.*  
My 1320/15. Amend to read A.M. 1350/8/10.  
(A.C.I.C. 1755A/15 to A.C.O.S.)
- MOOLTAN. Your 1655/13. MOOLTAN endurance allows for no safety margin if sailed in G.U.F. convoy. Will therefore sail her for U.K. in next M.K.F. convoy, probably p.m. 16th.  
(P.S.T.O. X.F. 1919Z/15 to D.S.T.)



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch".

Situation Report No.11. (1) Inshore Squadron continuing to support move forward of 1st Army. PRINSES BEATRIX and QUEEN EMMA ferrying troops to Bone. *See p.669.*  
(2) Other ports proceeding to develop according to plan. 5 transports entered Casablanca.  
(3) Force H returned to Gibraltar to fuel. Convoy M.K.F.1(Y) sailed. SHEFFIELD and JAMAICA sailed for U.K. carrying out anti-raider sweep en route.  
(4) During assault at Oran naval aircraft destroyed 47 Vichy aircraft on ground.  
(5) A/S air patrols made 11 attacks some promising. One U-Boat driven ashore near Mostaganem by repeated air attacks.  
(6) WARWICK CASTLE torpedoed in 39° 12' N 13° 25' W. \*AVENGER sunk and ALMAACK torpedoed in 36° 15' N 07° 45' W. Tugs en route. (N.C.X.F. 1152Z/15.) *See next page p.662* \*probably by U.155.

→ FURIOUS Take BULLDOG, BEAGLE, WISHART, VANOC under your orders. Sail at 1300Z to R/V with R.A.A. in position 90° Europa Point 30 by 1500Z for transfer of aircraft.  
(N.C.X.F. 1046Z/15 to FURIOUS. (R) R.A.A. S.O. Force H. BULLDOG. BEAGLE. WISHART. VANOC. F.O.C.N.A)

Request you will fly 4 Seafires to North Front before disembarkation (corrupt group). C.S.O. to R.A.A. concur.  
→ (N.C.X.F. 1106Z/15 to R.A.A. (R) VICTORIOUS.)

Intended movements. 166. My 2101/13 cancel para 4. Following movements intended.  
→ (a) FURIOUS and 4 destroyers join Force H.  
(b) at 1500/15th (b) Force H (b) enter Gibraltar passing Europa Point 1700/15 (c) NELSON, RODNEY, VICTORIOUS, FURIOUS cruisers and destroyers of Force H (b) keep steam at 2 hours notice in Gibraltar (d) remainder Force H at 4 hours notice in Gibraltar. R.A.A. acknowledge.  
(N.C.X.F. 1111Z/15 to All British ships and Authorities concerned in Operation "Torch" V.A. Malta. (R) Admty. 1935/15 to A.I.G.259)

MARNE 428 Arrival MARNE in tow of tug SALVONIA.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1241A/15.)

DUKE OF YORK. Approved to sail DUKE OF YORK and VICTORIOUS for U.K. when ready.  
→ VICTORIOUS. (A.C.N.S. (F.) 1345A/15 to N.C.X.F.)

U/B situation, convoy protection. It is now obvious that there is a strong concentration of U-Boats on either side of Gibraltar, through which our convoys will have to pass. The most effective measures of which we are capable will be necessary if we are to avoid crippling losses in personnel ships.  
2. Experience with Atlantic convoys points very strongly to the need for keeping escorts accustomed to work together in the Groups.  
3. We appreciate your difficulties in carrying out para 2 under present conditions but hope you will be able to send complete groups with returning convoys. (1st S.L. 1932A/15 to N.C.X.F.231.)



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

WIVERN.

*P. 611.*

Your 1440 p.m./14th (WIVERN to join L.S.Ts and escort them to Gib.) acknowledged.  
My P.C. and S. at 0100Z/15th 35° 55' N. ?(1° or 9°) 00' W. 240° 13.  
(WIVERN, 0103Z/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.C.C.N.T.F., WESTCOTT.)

BIDEFORD,  
M.K.S. 1.

Sailed BIDEFORD to R/V Lisbon portion M.K.S. 1, thence joining main convoy direct.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 0128Z/15 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)  
*See p. 665 (Submarine) + 668*  
RENE PAUL was not present at 2300Z/14 R/V.  
Have searched along route and hope to locate her at daylight. Failing that intend to proceed at 9 knots to comply with para. 5 to 8 of your 1912Z/14th. My position 180° Cape Trafalgar 8.  
(BIDEFORD, 0317Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) LONDONDERRY.)

A/S Air  
Escort.

My 1949Z/14th. Add: Intend anti-sub air escort M.K.S.1 0 - 1 (C?) dawn to dusk.  
(N.C.X.F., 0207/15 to All British S. and A. concerned in Operation "Torch", V.A. Malta, (excluding ships refitting in U.K.) negative W.N.T.F.)

WRESTLER,  
U/B attacked.

Have attacked enemy submarine in 36.08 N. 7° 38' W. F.O.C.N.A. pass to N.C.X.F.  
(WRESTLER, 0306Z/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)  
*U. 411, 2nd R. (Dr. Rowboat Case)*  
My 0306Z/15th. Oil still rising in approx. \*36° 07' N. 07° 35' W. No further contact. Consider U-Boat sunk. From analysis appears attack on convoy was by second U-Boat. Rejoining speed 22 knots.  
(WRESTLER, 0745Z/15 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., ARGUS, (R) EXE, GLAISDALE.) \* *Amended pos: 36° 9' N. 7° 42' W.*

Ship  
torpedoed.

One (? ship) torpedoed. My position 036° (?26') N. 007° 39' W.  
(EXE, 0321Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

\* AVENGER,  
ALMAACK,  
torpedoed.

M.K.F. 1(Y) attacked by U-Boats at 0320. Position 036° 15' N. 007° 45' W. AVENGER blew up. ALMAACK torpedoed, GLAISDALE standing by.  
(AUCKLAND, 0440/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)  
See 0715, et. seq. *next page - See also previous pages p. 666*

CONTESSA  
Escort.

*See p. 665, 670*  
Your 0210Z/15th (No trace War Registry.) JONQUIL and ARMERIA now off Port Lyautey will provide escort for CONTESSA to Gibraltar. C.T.G. 34.8 sail her accordingly.  
(N.C.X.F., 0559Z/15 to C.T.F.34, C.T.G. 34.8, (R) JONQUIL.)

/M.K.S. 1. ...



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

M.K.S. 1. M.K.S. 1 Oran section 16 merchant ships E.T.A. South of Europa Point 1200Z/15th. VERITY, VIOLET and 7 ships of 13th M.F. (WESTCOTT, 0700Z/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

*2 p. 670*

ETTRICK, SS. ETTRICK torpedoed in 036° 12' N. 008° 02' W. Have taken on board some survivors, others remain in boats. Master considers salvage possible await daylight for remaining boats. (GLASSDALE, 0715A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) ARGUS.)

\* ALMAACK, torpedoes. Have approx. 250 survivors on board. ETTRICK, ALMAACK apparently will float indefinitely, cannot manipulate, request further orders. (GLASSDALE, 0734A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) ARGUS.)

*3 p. 660, 661, 666*

(Corrupt group) survivors still on ALMAACK who has no boats. Request assistance as are unable to take off more, having 400 on board. (GLAISDALE, 0745A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Request you will sail JAUNTY and BRILLIANT with all despatch to assistance of ALMAACK, torpedoed in 036° 15' N. 007° 45' W. (N.C.X.F., 0751Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) ARGUS, GLAISDALE.)

Sailed BRILLIANT and tug JAUNTY in accordance with N.C.X.F.'s 0751Z/15th. (F.O.C.N.A., 0910Z/15 to GLAISDALE, (R) N.C.X.F.)

Your 0715/15th. Has ETTRICK been torpedoed as well as ALMAACK? What has happened to ALMAACK? (N.C.X.F., 1151Z/15 to GLAISDALE, ARGUS, F.O.C.N.A.)

My (?0746)A/15th (? 0745/15 intended) (corrupt group) ?ETTRICK sunk. ALMAACK's engine room and number 5 hold flooded. Ship should float indefinitely. Have taken 200 survivors from her. One watch remaining on board for a day (group omitted) intend landing survivors (? Freetown). (?GLAISDALE, 1200A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1152/15 (? 1151/15th intended) (corrupt group) am standing by ALMAACK with (?500) survivors on board until relieved by BRILLIANT reference my 1900A/15 to V.A.C.N.A. (GLAISDALE, 1501A/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0734/15th and 1200A/15th, remain with ALMAACK. Further orders follow. (N.C.X.F., 1650Z/15 to GLAISDALE, (R) ARGUS, BRILLIANT.)

E.T.A. Gibraltar harbour 2130Z/15. My 1501A/15th include 10 cot cases, 6 non-cot cases. (GLAISDALE, 1700A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

1. Tug JAUNTY sailed 0800 to take ALMAACK in tow.

2. LOCH OSKAIG, LEYLAND, will sail 1900 to escort. When they arrive GLAISDALE return to Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F., 1701Z/15 to BRILLIANT, GLAISDALE, JAUNTY.)

423. Sailed LEYLAND and LOCH OSKAIG to relieve GLAISDALE screening ALMAACK. (F.O.C.N.A., 1812Z/15 to BRILLIANT, GLAISDALE, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)

ALMAACK torpedoed at 0320/15th 36° 15' N. 07° 45' E. Engine room and number 5 hold flooded. Ship should float indefinitely. One watch on board for salvage. (C. in C. A.F., 2129Z/15 to Cominch, Admty., (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet.)

/Movements ...



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War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- Movements. Arrivals DUKE OF YORK, FORMIDABLE, BERMUDA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, TARTAR, PENN, PATHFINDER, PARTRIDGE, OPPORTUNE, ~~PRESCOTT~~ PRESCOTTINE. (F.O.C.N.A., 0720Z/15 to Admty., C. in C. H.F.)
- M.K.F. 1(A). Arrival EGRET, Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA, KEREN, PHILANTE with convoy M.K.F. 1(A). (F.O.C.N.A., 0724Z/15 to Admty., etc.)
- PRESCOTT. <sup>1</sup> ~~Not met, my P.C. and S.~~ <sup>(T.F. 367)</sup> 0730Z/15th 035° 18' N. 007° 18' W. 060°, 13, request instructions. (PRESCOTT, 0730/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) BLEAN.)  
*See p. 667*
- U/B. At 0620/15 G.M.T. on 4540 k/cs U-Boat made a sighting report, probably either of convoy M.K.F. 1(Y) or possibly of convoy U.G.F. 2. (D.D.I.C., 0805A/15 to Escorts M.K.F. 1(Y), and U.G.F. 2, (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 35.22 N. 07.55 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When sighted was on course 140° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/S TR1A, 0832Z/15 to Gibraltar.)
- BLEAN, Convoy. Convoy not met. (BLEAN, 0840Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
*See p. 666, 667, 670.*
- U/B attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 36.45 N. 11.22 W. (A/C C/S UM9P, 0850Z/15 to Gibraltar.) Enemy S/M previously reported was on course 120°. (A/C C/S UM9P, 0854Z/15.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Estimate no hits. (A/C C/S UM9P, 0856Z/15.)
- U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 36.50 N. 54.08 W (sic) sighted on surface and observed to submerge, first sighted on course 110°, speed 6 knots. (A/C C/S TXCCJ, 0910/15 to Gibraltar.)
- \* JONQUIL, T.F. 1. Your 1103Z/14th, para. 4. T.F. 1 cannot enter harbour until Monday morning and are anchoring off breakwater. Maintaining patrol. Request further instructions. (JONQUIL, 0927Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
*\* See p. 661, 668, 670*
- (group missed) Your 0927/15th, remain on patrol until ships enter port, then return to Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F., 1813Z/15 to JONQUIL, A(group missed), ARMERIA.)

/U/B ....



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in position YGNV 2526 (indecypherable) was on surface, first sighted on course 085° speed 16 knots. (A/C C/S UALY, 0930Z/15 to Gibraltar.)

PENTSTEMON. (011° 89 miles from position ?) 37° 00' N. 12° E.  
*See p. 666*  
(PENTSTEMON, 0945/15 to Gibraltar.)

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 36.45 N. 11.22 W. (A/C C/S UM9P, 0950Z/15 to Gibraltar.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 36.38 N. 11.40 W. (A/C C/S UM9P, 1010Z/15 to Gibraltar.)  
Enemy S/M previously reported, periscope only sighted. First sighted on course 160° speed unknown. (A/C C/S UM9P, 1020Z/15 to Gibraltar.)

Gibraltar WX.6901. AI.157, 15th November.  
Air Report. Opsum for 30 hours ended midnight 14th Nov. U-Boat sightings and attacks, 19 sightings including 11 attacks. Hudson D/608 0952 hours LBXP 2552 Co. 250°, 9 kts. attacked. Hudson L/608 1002 hours LBXP 2552 Co. and speed unknown. Attacked. After attack U/B cruised slowly round in tight left circles with bows high above water. Swordfish W/813 (Oran) 1025 hours LBXP 2840, Co. and speed unknown, not attacked. Swordfish K/813 (Oran) 1055 hours LBCP 3800 Co. and speed unknown, not attacked. Hudson M/608 0900 hours LBRN 3140 Co. 080°, 14 knots, attacked. Hudson S/608 1105 hours LBQS 0347 Co. 120°, 2 knots, attacked. Hudson S/233 1404 hours LBQS 4001 Co. and speed unknown, attacked. Hudson L/500 1102 hours LBCP 2012 Co. 180°, 8 knots, attacked. U/B beached. Ref. U/B attacked by D and L/608 this was subsequently attacked L/500 and was seen to beach near Cape Ivi. Hudson A/233 140 hours NHWD 4715 Co. 270°, 8 knots, not attacked. Swordfish J/813 (Algiers) 1135 hours CZPB 3605 Co. 090°, 6 knots, not attacked. Hudson M/500 1342 hours LBRN 1657 Co. 230°, 8 knots, not attacked. Hudson U/233 1525 hours NHTQ 4950 or 4900 Co. 090°, 12 knots, attacked. Hudson B/233 1620 hours, LBJB 1545 Co. 090°, 12 knots, attacked. Hudson A/233 1405 hours NHWD 4715 Co. 170°, 8 knots, not attacked. Hudson W/500 (Oran) 1027 hours LBXP 2840 Co. 090°, 8 knots, attacked. Hudson F/500 (Oran) 1029 hours, LBXP 3653 Co. 090°, 6 knots, attacked. Hudson X/500 (Oran) 1022 hours XTCP 0000 Co. and speed unknown, attacked. Hudson C/9Z8 ? 608 0947 hours LBQS 4325 Co. 110° speed unknown, not attacked. Hudson U/233 1508 hours NHAf 5707 Co. 095°, 6 knots, not attacked.

(2) No enemy activity over Rock.  
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 1030Z/15.)

/Movements ...



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→Movements. Arrivals \*BULLDOG, \*BEAGLE, BOREAS, (missing group),  
LARGS, SS. REINA DEL PACIFICO, GLENGYLE, MOOLTAN,  
SALACIA. \* See p. 660  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1053A/15 to Admty., F.O.I.C. Oran.)  
Arrivals COREOPSIS, ARCTIC RANGER, ST. NECTAN, \*LOCH OSKAIG,  
R.F.A. DINGLEDALE, BROWN RANGER.  
(V.A.C.N.A., 1123Z/15 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.) \* See p. 662.

## ALGERINE

sunk.

(by Italian s/m  
ASCIANGHI. 6.3 443)  
off Bougie.

Following received from POZARICA. (Begins).  
Regret to report loss of ALGERINE about 0400  
today Sunday. Cause unknown. Survivors being  
brought in now by MULL, HOY, and ALARM. (Ends.)  
(ROBERTS, 1106Z/15 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

AURORA,  
\*WISHART,  
\*BEAGLE.

\* See p. 660

Sail at 2130 tonight Sunday with WISHART, BEAGLE  
to arrive Oran 0830/16th. Route through  
position 70 and 2. Route from Oran to Algiers  
through positions 34° 39' 1° 00', time of  
sailing from Oran will be ordered later.

AURORA acknowledge.

(N.C.X.F., 1145Z/15 to AURORA, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar Force,  
Capt. (S) 8, S.O. Force H, C.S.10, A.O.C. Gib., WISHART,  
BEAGLE, Western Algiers, F.O. Inshore Sqdn., F.O.I.C. Oran.)

LE TONNANT  
(French)

\* See p. 670A

My 1330/14th. I am informed submarine was  
scuttled early this morning just outside Cadiz  
and crew have landed at Spanish territory.  
I will confirm and report any further details  
as soon as possible.  
(Cadiz, 1200/15 to Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar, B.  
N.A. Madrid.)

Situation  
Area X,  
2002A/15th.

1. U.S. S/MS SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARB, in  
vicinity 35.01 15.01 proceeding on surface to  
36.01 20.01, 11. *See pp 652, 467*
2. JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising in area  
between Canary Islands and point 36.01 30.02.
3. K.X.6 LANCASTER, WELLS, 3 corvettes, 4 trawlers 38.12 13.33  
123°, 6½ (see 1801/15.) *HT. 2. 4. 3.*
4. Swedish relief ships CAMELIA, EROS, FORMOSA 36.01 14.01  
090°, 12.
5. M.K.F.1(Y) ARGUS, WRESTLER, AMAZON, EXE, SALE, GLAISDALE  
37.01 12.11 through 39.12 17.01 thence 357°, 13½.
6. SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA 46.16 15.45 through 41.10 17.25 24 knots  
probably to sweep between 43 N. and 46 N.W. of 18 W.
7. K.M.S.3. BLACK SWAN, 1 sloop, 9 corvettes 44.44 18.01 180°  
7½ (see 1637/15.) *HT. 2. 4. 3.*
8. BIDEFORD 1 merchant ship off Cape St. Vincent coastwise to  
Lisbon 10. R/V 4 merchant ships 235° Bugio Light 5 at 1300A/  
16th and escort 228°, 7. *See pp 661 & 668*
9. JONQUIL, ARMERIA off Spartel to Gibraltar 14. *See p. 661 & 662.*
10. M.K.S.1.(X) LONDONDERRY, \*PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK, LOUISBERG,  
detached Gibraltar Straits to 36.10 10.01 thence 300°, 7½.

\* See p. 663 &amp; 664.



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Situation 11. VANSITTART one merchant ship 43.47 16.20  
Area X to northward 11.  
2002A/15th. 12. GLAISDALE, BRILLIANT, one tug, with damaged  
(Contd.) \*merchant ship in tow approx. 36.15 07.45 to  
Gibraltar 13. \*ST. NECTAN and LOCH OSKAIG 36.01  
05.57 proceed to relieve GLAISDALE and BRILLIANT  
who then return to Gibraltar. \*ALMAACK - *see p. 661*  
(N.C.X.F., 1201A/15.) \*LEYLAN - *see p. 662* 1662

My 1201Z, amend para. 7 to read:  
045° 08' 019° 11' through 045° 01' 019° 20' and 042° 01' 019°  
15' thence 166°, 7½.  
(N.C.X.F., 1637Z/15 to N.A. Stn.)  
My 1201/15th. Amend para. 3 to read (E) 037° 12' 011° 36'  
through 036° 22' 010° 01' to Gibraltar 7.  
(N.C.X.F., 1801Z/15 to N.A. Stn.)  
My 1201Z. Add para. 14. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND  
leaves Gibraltar approx. 2359A/15 to Casablanca, 12.  
(N.C.X.F., 2116Z/15 to N.A. Stn.)  
My 1201Z/15th add para. 15. Swiss Charter Ship THETIS  
(Greek) 37.33 14.37 to 37.10 16.30 thence 264° 10.  
(N.C.X.F., 2134Z/15 to N.A. Stn.)

French Shipping. French ships JAMAIQUE and ERIDAN should be sailed  
empty to Gibraltar in M.F.K.2. Other French  
ships should also be sailed for Gibraltar in  
E.T.1 if possible in order to clear the berths.  
(N.C.X.F., 1209Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Oran, (R)  
F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 36.35 N. 10° 54' W.  
attacked. When previously reported was on surface course  
095° speed 12 knots. Have attacked enemy with  
depth charges.  
(A/C C/S UALS, 1218Z/15 to Gibraltar.)

BLEAN. My 1200Z/15 (not received in W.R.) P.C. and S.  
*see pp 663, 667,* 036° 28' N. 009° 39' W. 100° 15. Request  
1670 instructions.  
(BLEAN, 1220Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B. Am over S/M in 36.32 N. 00.32 W. sighted on  
surface course 270° speed 8 knots and subsequently  
observed to submerge.  
(A/C C/S TXCCJ, 1225/15 to Gibraltar.)

\*PENTSTEMON, PENTSTEMON and SAMPHIRE have passed (? through)  
\*\* SAMPHIRE. position referred to in your 1355A/13th and not  
Convoy. met W.A.D.U. Request further instructions. My  
\* *see p. 664* positions, course and speed 36.53 N. 00.20 W.  
\*\* *see p. 670A* 253°, 12.  
(PENTSTEMON, 1230Z/15 to F.O.I.S., (R) SPEY.)  
*see p. 678*

/U.S. ...



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U.S. Cdr. U.S. Sub. Squadron 50's 1219/13th.  
submarines. Following routes are established. From position  
(D) 043° 01' 020° 02'.  
Route Red through (E) 045° 01' 013° 50'.  
(F) 049° 20' 013° 50'. (G) 10 miles 180° from Bishop Rock  
latitude 049° 52' N. longitude 006° 27' W. (H) 10 miles 180°  
from Lizard Head latitude 049° 58' N. longitude 005° 11' W.  
Route White through (J) 044° 45' 013° 22'. (K) 049° 02' 013°  
21' thence (G) and (H).  
Route Blue through (L) 044° 34' 012° 55'. (M) 049° 01' 012°  
54' thence (G) and (H).  
Route Black through (N) 044° 15' 012° 25'. (P) 048° 59' 012°  
25' thence (G) and (H).  
(2) Submarine will be allocated to route later.  
F.O.C.N.A. pass to N.C.X.F. and Commander U.S. S/M Squadron 50.  
(F.O.(S), 1234A/15 to \*SHAD, \*HERRING, \*BARB, \*GUNNEL, \*BLACKFISH,  
(R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth,  
N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Cdr. U.S. Sub. Squad No.50,  
Comnavu, Capt. (S) 3, U.S. Sub. Tender BEAVER.) \* *Supp. 652 9664*

Situation 1. BLACKFISH in vicinity of 21.01 20.01  
1958A/15th. proceeding to 43.01 20.01 on surface 11½.  
2. BRIDGEWATER 31.13 32.01 180°, 12.  
3. KYBER? 22.20 20.57 160°, 10.  
(N.C.X.F., 1235Z/15 for Area Z.)

→ PRESCOTT. My P.C. and S. 1300/15th 036° 00' N. 006° 35'  
*pp 663, 665* W. 112°, 13 returning Gibraltar alone, request  
*4670* approval.  
(PRESCOTT, 1300Z/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre. F.)  
Your 1300Z/15th. Return to harbour.  
(N.C.X.F., 1653Z/15 to PRESCOTT.)  
On return to harbour request you will (? route) PRESCOTT to  
overtake M.K.S. 1(X).  
(N.C.X.F., 1657Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) PRESCOTT.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 37.10 N. 02.05 E. sighted  
on surface on course 280°, speed 12 knots, and  
subsequently observed to submerge.  
(A/C C/S TXCCR, 1316Z/15 to Gibraltar.)

→ T.F. 38. \*BLEAN and PRESCOTT searching for you. PRESCOTT  
was in 35.18 N. 07.18 W. steering 060° 13 knots  
at 0730. BLEAN position unknown. Request you  
will give them instructions. \* *Supp. 663, 666, 7670*  
(N.C.X.F., 1322Z/15 to (Com.) U.S. T.F.38, (R) BLEAN, PRESCOTT.)  
My escorts have not contacted T.F.38. Have oilers ARCHER been  
detached? If not arrange R/V such that destroyers from  
Gibraltar can meet. Think C.T.F.38 has not received my signal,  
pass to him in other cypher, allowing ample time for congestion  
of communications.  
(N.C.X.F., 1741Z/15 to N.C.W.N.T.F.)

U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 36° N. 12° W. sighted on  
surface on course 90° speed 10 knots.  
(A/C C/S UALS, 1325Z/15 to Gibraltar.)

/THUNDERBOLT ..



# MOST SECRET

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

1303/15th November.

FROM: Commandeth Gibraltar.

Date: 15.11.42.

ADDRESSED: A.F.H.Q. Abfor.

EDITED LITERAL TEXT.

Ref. No. 594 (Gib). SITREP No. 8, Nov. 14th to 2400.

## 1. Naval.

Force H at Gibraltar refuelling. Bulk of assault convoys en route U.K. WARWICK CASTLE and 1 U.K. ship torpedoed; auxiliary carrier \*AVENGER sunk; all west of Gibraltar. Rescue craft en route.

\* pp 660, 661-

## 2. Eastern Task Force.

Inshore Naval Squadron supporting advance 1st Army. No other report.

## 3. Centre and Western Task Forces.

Nothing to report.

## 4. Air.

Gibraltar 32 A/S sorties; 19 sightings; leading to 11 attacks. 1 submarine seen to beach near Cap Ivi. 14 C-47's, 18 Beaufighters, 12 Bigleys arrived Gibraltar from U.K. 15 Hurribombers, 15 Spitfires, 2 F.R.U. Spitfires dispatched to Algiers. Bone and Djidjelli November 13th: Reinforced by 1 fighter squadron each both attacked by few dive bombers; small damage; 4 E/A destroyed at Bone. Bougie November 13th: Claim destroyed 11 E/A during ship attacks. Oran and Casablanca. Build up 12th Air Force continues. No open operations reported.

1303/15.

Advance Copy 1st Lord. A.C.N.S.(F)  
N.A. 1st S.L. D.C. D.C.D.(F) D.D.I.C.  
D. of F.(Q)

TURCH 93

(M.28 &amp; for H.Q.C.C.)

U.S.N.(3)



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- THUNDERBOLT. Onward route dive by day to pass through  
 A. 036° 50' 009° 28' at 0800Z/19th.  
 B. 035° 38' 007° 32' at 0100Z/20th thence  
 C. 035° 59' 006° 15'.  
 (2) Surface to R/V with escort in C at 1600Z/20th. You will be escorted through Straits of Gibraltar.  
 (3) Submerged bombing restrictions arranged 10 miles either side S/M route assumed speed of advance 140 section A daylight. Total bombing restrictions arranged on 20th.  
 (4) At 0001Z/21st shift wireless watch to Gibraltar broadcast shift to read M.S. routine using S.P.02364(21). Further instructions follow.  
 (Capt. S.8, 1330Z/15 to THUNDERBOLT, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.(S), V.A. Gibraltar.)
- U/B. Am over enemy S/M in 36.26 N. 00.43 W. was on surface when first sighted on course 090°, 6 knots.  
 (A/C C/S TV5F, 1415Z/15 to Gibraltar.)
- L.C.Ts. My 1401/(?11th) and your 1612/13th. Sail all L.C.Ts escorted by 10th and 18th trawler groups to Algiers as soon as possible.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1420Z/15 to F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers.)
- DEPTFORD, ANTELOPE, Convoy. In order not to arrive <sup>Algiers</sup> during dark hours propose convoy splits. BRITISH LADY and VIENNA with DEPTFORD as escort proceeding (? ahead), E.T.A. 1530Z/16th. ADJUTANT with ANTELOPE as escort E.T.A. 0600Z/17th. My P.C. and S. at 1200Z/15th 035° 43' N. 002° 07' W., 085°, 8 knots.  
 (DEPTFORD, 1430Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers.)  
 Reply: N.C.X.F., 1150/16.
- Convoy. Tanker is joining escort and (? ZETLAND) will R/V in position about 15 miles (? North) for Cape Carbon at 0700Z/16th. Both (? destroyers) remain with convoy until dark on 16th then return Algiers.  
 (Cdre. Algiers, 1456Z/15 to SCOTTISH, (R) F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)
- ARMERIA, JONQUIL, CONTESSA. U.S. Naval Authorities have requested we wait and escort steamer CONTESSA to Gibraltar. Sailing a.m. tomorrow. Her speed is 15 knots.  
 (JONQUIL, 1457/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F.)
- BIDEFORD, M.K.S. 1. My 1914/14 (No trace in W.R.) Para. (5), amend times to read 1500/16.  
 2. Report by immediate signal to F.O.C.N.A. if not met by 1600Z/16.  
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1616Z/15 to BIDEFORD.)

/ U/B ...



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B. S/M has dived bearing 290° Caxine 38. Was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 380°, 12 knots. (Call sign indecypherable, 1630/15 to Gibraltar.)

P.222, P.51. My 1310/14th. Onward route dived by day.  
*See p. 679*  
 (1) P.222 from Q proceed 5 miles off Spanish coast through R, 135° Cape Palos 5 at 0030/18th, S Cape de Gata 5 at 2000/18th and arriving Gibraltar 1000/19th.  
 (2) P.51 proceed by same route through R, at 0100/19th then adjust speed to pass S at ?(1000 or 1200)/20th and arrives Gibraltar at 1000/21st.  
 (3) Both submarines proceed on surface at discretion of C.O. on day of arrival.  
 (Capt. S.8, 1650Z/15 to P.222, P.51.)

Western Mediterranean. Situation report 1500/15. *3L on 13th under Op. "Torch"*  
 Bone. No bombing at Bone but fighter strafing of aerodrome. 2 Me.109s and one Ju.88 down. 2 Spitfires down but pilots safe. BICESTER and BRAMHAM sailed for Algiers 2100/14th escorting French ships COLOMBIE, MARRAKECH and GALLIUM. \*BICESTER attacked by 6 Stukas when eastbound at 1550/14th north-east of Bougie. One down, one damaged. → PRINSES BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA left Bone and arrived Algiers at 2330/14th. They were attacked at 1730/14 N.E. of Bougie. No damage. *See p. 660 & 661* \* *See p. 676*  
 Bougie ships. Air activity slight on 14th Nov., but harbour machine gunned by aircraft and 2 bombs dropped close to ROBERTS and COXWOLD (sic).  
 NARKUNDA sailed unloaded for Algiers at 1630/14th Nov. Hit by 2 bombs forward at 1720/14th Nov. off Cape Carbon and abandoned. Sank 4 hours later. CADMUS landed 211 NARKUNDA survivors Algiers today including Cdre. and Master. Westward sailings in daylight have been forbidden. POZARICA and escorts arrived a.m./15th. COXWOLD (sic) left a.m. unescorted for Bone with petrol, having landed half cargo at Bougie, fighter (? screen) provided in daylight.  
 Algiers. WELSHMAN arrived 0900 today. Fuelled and sailed for Operation "Analysis" 1300A.  
 ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTERMAN arrived with 1000 troops from Oran. *See p. 680 - (M.K.F 2)*  
 \*T.E.3. Two ships for Bougie, four for Bone with motor M/S.s 31 and 135, ~~from Bone~~ and trawlers STROMSAY and RUSKHOLM for Philippeville sailed 1400 today. Will be escorted until dark tomorrow by LAMERTON and WHEATLAND. \* *See p. 682.*  
 2 store ships for Bougie sailing after dark today escorted by X ZETLAND and WHEATLAND. *See above - p. 682.*  
 6 L.C.Ts have arrived from west.  
 \*QUEEN EMMA and \*PRINSES BEATRIX sailing 2200 today for Bougie with troops ex ORMONDE. COWDRAY refloated and berthed inside harbour.  
 (S.O.I.S., 1735/15 to N.C.X.F.) \* *See p. 660 & 682*

X *See next page.*

/ZETLAND ...



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15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- \*ZETLAND, ROBERTS. ZETLAND arriving about 0800A/16th has ammunition for you.  
(F.O.I.S., 1735A/15 to ROBERTS.)  
*\* See previous page p. 662*
- TIGRIS. Arrived.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1742A/15 to Admty.)
- BLEAN. Your 1320Z/15th, return to Gibraltar.  
*See pp 663, 666 767.* Pass through 036° 30' N. 006° 30' W. to avoid convoy.  
(N.C.X.F., 1802Z/15 to BLEAN.)
- M.K.S. 1. COREOPSIS, VERITY, ROTHESAY, STORNOWAY did not sail. Will be sailed to overtake at daylight.  
*See p. 662.* (F.O.C.N.A., 1805Z/15 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S. No. 1, CHERWELL.)
- Army C.47s. My 1723/14th. Army C.47s reported in Gibraltar. Could be used to transfer materials from Boeing flying boats Gibraltar to Casablanca Gazes Air Port. No suitable landing place this coast for flying boats. Patrol primarily 4265 secondarily 8210 k/cs. (Corrupt group) 2716 k/cs. Recognition accordance with S.P.220 (3) 312. S.D. 158 (part one).  
(C.T.34, 1810Z/15 to ?Vice Chief of Naval Operation (U.S.), (R) N.C.X.F., Cinclant, A.O.C. W. Africa, Bathurst.)
- CONTESSA. <sup>665</sup> Intend sailing SS. (?C)ONTESSA to Gibraltar in  
*See pp 661, 665* convoy of two British corvettes now here with Coast (2 groups omitted) GHILDER and HILDER and FIATRA. (? Additional) hull repairs required to make her seaworthy.  
(U.S. Naval Director Port Lyautey, 1815Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) C.T.F. 34.)
- PRESCOTT. PRESCOTT will be sailed to overtake during  
*See pp 663, 665, 667* daylight 16th.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1823/15 to N.C.X.F.)
- E.T.A. 0430Z/16th. Requirements. Request six hours to fit I.P. bottom end bearing.  
(PRESCOTT, 2345Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- BUDE. BUDE being sailed via Fayal.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1907Z/15 to Escorts of convoy M.K.S. 1, (corrupt group).)
- Axis intrigue, Spain. Several Generals under German influence including Yague, just given Army Corps in Morocco, and Asensio, Minister of War, are reported to be pressing Franco to present allied with demands

/on ...



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15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Axis intrigue, Spain. (Contd.) on threats of joining Axis. Munoz Grande has returned from Germany to assist. It is unlikely Franco will agree, but even if he did, country and Army would never allow such policy. A.2.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1908/15 Personal for D.N.I.)

My 1908/15. Confirmed. This is since German reactions. Object is to involve Spain in quarrel with us. Steps have been taken to bring counter influence to bear both on Franco and on Generals concerned. A.1. Probable that Munoz Grande is bringing request from Hitler for passage or bases but not (? ultimatum). All will be refused. B.2.  
(N.A. Madrid, 1936/15 Personal for D.N.I.)

179 Sqn., R.A.F. No. 179 Squadron is to be despatched to Gibraltar as soon as possible for operations under A.O.C. Gibraltar. Detailed arrangements will be made by D.W.O.  
(Air Min., 1925Z/15 to H.Q.C.C., (R) A.O.C. Gib., A.O.C. 333 Group, C. in C. X.F., N.C.X.F., and 44 Group.)

SAMPHIRE defect. PENTSTEMON. *See p. 664 & 666* Have sprung a leak in No. 2 boiler room, pumps holding water clear boiler, proceeding Gibraltar at 12 knots, E.T.A. 1030A/16th PENTSTEMON in company.  
(SAMPHIRE, 1931Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) A.S. Gibraltar, SPEY, PENTSTEMON, Capt. D.13.)

RODNEY, FURIOUS. RODNEY and FURIOUS are to remain under way in bay under orders of RODNEY whilst anchorage is being cleared.  
2. PENN, TARTAR, PATHFINDER, OPPORTUNE are to patrol to seawards.  
3. Berths will be signalled when berths are clear.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1945Z/15 to PATHFINDER, PENN, TARTAR, RODNEY, OPPORTUNE, FURIOUS.)

UTMOST, LE TONNANT. *See p. 665* (? Incomplete group) French submarine LE TONNANT arrived Cadiz 14th Nov. with slight defects. Reliably reported that she will if necessary repair today and sail immediately for Casablanca.  
(N.C.X.F., 2143Z/15 to UTMOST.)

N.C.X.F. in AURORA. V.A. Gibraltar, 2259Z/15. See his 2059Z/21.

Convoy. *See p. 668 & 682* Convoy and escort are to anchor as convenient in Algiers Bay. Further signal will be made reference oiling.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2242A/15 to VIENNA, DEPTFORD, ANTELOPE, (R) F.O.I.S.)



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/B. Following has been read: Ref. Admty. message  
A.F. 32° 03' S 33° 52' E.  
(C. in C. S.A. 0229Z/15.) W.D. Note: ADVISER  
torpedoed. See East Indies.

→ FRANCONIA Sailed ELM (?NORMAN intended see 0607/15.)  
RUYS escorting H.M.Ts FRANCONIA and RUYS to Capetown  
routed near coast, my 0326 and 0429/15 to C. in C.  
S.A. only refers.

2. Speed 14 knots. Shifting to group S.L. at 1730Z/15.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0301Z/15 to Admty. etc.)  
My 0933/14 FRANCONIA and RUYS escorted by NORMAN sailed  
0300Z/15. Amended route (P) 030° 10' S 031° 30' E (Q) 033°  
44' 027° 50' (R) 034° 30' 024° 50' thence coastal to position  
(N) speed 14 knots E.T.A. Capetown p.m. 17th Nov.  
(N.C.S.O. Durban 0607Z/15 to Admty. etc.) Personnel  
embarked. (D.S.T.O. Durban 0922, 0959C, 1012C, 1121C/15.)

REVENGE Sailed REVENGE wearing the flag of C.S.4.  
2. Escorted by DERWENT and BLACKMOSE.  
3. E.T.A. Kilindini 1130Z/20.  
4. Shifting to Group V at 1300Z/18.  
(Cdre. Durban 0534Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Allied Units 18.40 10.20 to 23.01 18.30 thence  
042° 16.5.

TRUANT 12.01 20.59 360° 11 at 1957Z/15.

ARRAN, 3 M.Ls, escorting 08.40 14.10 to Bathurst 9.

TURCOMAN escorting about 13.20 34.15 292° 8.5.

(R.A.W.A. 0915Z/15 to A.I.G. 149.)

HOLCOMBE, HYDRANGEA, 2 trawlers, 2 M.Ls, with S.T.42 03.20  
08.12 to 02.58 07.40 thence 077° 9.5.

COMMANDANT DROGOU, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, MORRIS DANCE, 3 M.Ls, with  
T.S.24 about 01 (?50) 02.59 266 7.

CORINTHIAN 01.01 02.59 to (corrupt) 11.5 *see next page.*

DRAGON 01 (?30) 00.30 to 01 South 11 West thence Freetown 16.5  
at 2001Z/15th. *see p.673.*

*see next page* PANDANGO, KELT, 3 M.Ls, with convoy off Libreville to (corrupt) 7.

ASTURIAS, AMARANTHUS patrol between 07.27 25.36 and 04.35 29.01  
12.5.

Allied naval unit on patrol in Ascension area, MILFORD, TAMARISK,  
escorting off Lagos (Nig.) to westward 10.

(R.A.W.A. 0943Z/15 to A.I.G. 150.)

NEPAL, FORTUNE ~~ROCKROSE~~ with C.D.1 034° 10' S 023° 12' E  
to Durban 8 knots. *\* see 14/11 - p.625.*

CERES 032° 15' S 029° 30' E to Durban 17 knots.

→ NORMAN escorting FRANCONIA and RUYS 032° 46' S 028° 50' E to  
Capetown 14 knots.

INCONSTANT hunting off Durban.

(C. in C. S.A. 1215C/15 to A.I.G. 125.)



672

War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

T.L.D.M. (1) Unless orders to contrary received intend escort for T.L.D.M. shall meet p.m. 17th in Congo Tanker CISTU~~X~~LA and MIJDRECHT and escort to

Pointe Noire.  
(2) \*FANDANGO and \*KELT will then escort these 2 tankers and BEN~~T~~E MAERSK direct to Takoradi. Expect 21 from Pointe Noire p.m. 18th.  
(3) Northbound convoy T.L.D.M. will be sailed later when required Vice Consul Matadi instructed in only para 1.  
(B.N.L.O. W.A. 1105/15 to R.A.W.A.) \* *see previous page - (Dispositive)*

PHOEBE \*CORINTHIAN arriving Pointe Noire about a.m. 19th salvage, Nov. with salvage gear for PHOEBE. Ship requires CORINTHIAN. about 500 tons coal, every effort to be made to expedite. Ship has orders to proceed to Rio de Janeiro and may be required to escort MIJDRECHT for Pernambuco as far as H area. Further orders follow.  
(N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1237Z/15 to B.N.L.O. West Africa. (R) PHOEBE. CORINTHIAN. Admty.) \* *see previous page - (Dispositive)*

U/B Following has been read. S/M sighted 1300 G.M.T. 34.25 S 27.38 E.  
(PRINC PAULE T.O.R. 1248Z/15.)  
Ref. Admty. message A.F. 034° 25' S 027° 39' E.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1352 G.M.T./15 to B.A.M.S. Area 3C and 3B.)

LÉOPARD C. in C. S.A. 1247/14th Nov. addressed to F.N.F.L. London. F.S. LÉOPARD should be sailed to South Pacific area to join F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT. She will operate as directed by Comsopac.  
2. Endurance should allow passage from Mauritius or Diego Garcia to Fremantle with sufficient margin.  
3. C. in C. S.A. is requested to obtain from Ships Officers latest figures from experience on passage out. A.C.N.B. pass to Comsopac.  
(D.O.D. (F.) 1621A/15 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. (R) A.C.N.B. etc.)

ENTERPRISE Your 1754C/15. My P.C.S. at 1930C 029° 22' S 035° 14' E 275° 13 knots.  
(ENTERPRISE 1704Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Durban. (R) INCONSTANT.)

U.S. aircraft. Patron 92 2nd Flight 7 planes arrived Yalo Gazes 1430Z remaining over night. N.C.X.F. pass to R.A.F. Bathurst, Gambia, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S. R.A.W.A. and BISCAYNE.  
(C.T.F. 34 1733Z/15 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

Dakar. P.R.U. Dakar 15th Nov. no change major units.  
(R.A.W.A. 1745Z/15 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

/Vichy...



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Vichy  
convoy.

Aircraft reports Vichy convoy 6 merchant vessels at 1045Z/12 Nov in 15° 36' N 17° 55' W course 193° speed 5 knots. Includes FORT VAUX, GABRIEL GUIST'HAU two of 7-8000 tons and two of 3-400 tons.\* (S.O.I.) Freetown 1844Z/15 as amended 1004Z/16 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)\* Two escort vessels.

DRAGON.

*See p. 671  
(Disposition)*

Ref. C. in C. S.A. G.325 beginning 1730Z/15 to 1855Z/15 Group A A made twice followed by 65 seconds long repeated continuous bearing 005/3 graded 375 K/cs. R.3. my position 001° 26' N 000° 35' W.

(DRAGON 1855Z/15 to R.A.W.A.)

My 1218/12 altering at 0700Z/16 to pass new position X 002° 30' N 010° 00' W thence C.

(R.A.W.A. 2217Z/15 to DRAGON. (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty.)

U/B.

Ref. Admty. message A.F. 36° 30' S 25° 00' E. (C. in C. S.A. 2336 G.M.T./15 to B.A.M.S. Area 3B and 3C.)



674

15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.48

*pp 679 & 681*

Your 1831A/14th. You are to proceed to Malta through 38.00 09.00, 38.20 10.00, thence direct to position B to arrive there at 0500A/16 to make passage of Q.B.B. 255 during daylight as laid down in V.A. Malta's 1215A/10th October. You should be at F by dawn 17th thence on the surface to R/V with sweepers at end of searched channel at 1325A/17. P.42 will be passing westbound through Q.B.B. 255 daylight 16th at 80 feet. (Capt. S.10., 0031A/15 to P.48 (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., S/Ms on Patrol Capt. (S) 8).

Your 0931A/15th. (0031/15th intended - S/M P.48 to proceed to Malta). Have been delayed by bad weather. Intend making passage of Q.B.B. 255 daylight 17th. Weather report. My position 038° 12' N., 009° 36' E.

(P.49 - P.48 intended, 1629A/15 to Capt. S.10, (R) *Emp. 681* N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med).

Toulon.

P.R.U. Toulon 1240A/14. No change Main Units. Since 10/11, one sloop, one escort vessel, two submarines returned to port. Internal movements - STRASBOURG and Galissonniere class cruiser from dry dock to former berths. Two Galissonniere class cruisers and three submarines to dry dock. (D.D.I.C., 0031A/15 to C. in C. Med., etc).

P.221

*See p. 680*

Your 2345 (Requesting number of torpedoes fired and remarks on Bizerta approach routes). None fired (?comma) 9 on board. All shipping 30 (?miles from) Canirock 3872 0513. (P.221, 0032A/15 to Capt. S.10).

P.211

*See pp 675 & 681*

My 1614/14th. Go direct to El Agheila and work westwards from there. (Capt. S.10., 0053A/15 to (?P) 211 (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med).

WELSHMAN

*See next page  
pp 679 & 680*

Your 1249/14th. (1) Route.

(a) 038° 05' N., 010° 55' E.

(b) 037° 49' N., 011° 44' E.

(c) 037° 39' N., 012° 15' E.

(d) 037° 18' N., 012° 47' E. (e) 037° 07' N., 013° 15' E. thence to seaward end of Q.B.B. 288 keeping outside 150 fathom until final approach.

(2) Paravanes should be run (?throughout) and maximum speed employed consistent with their efficiency run.

(3) This route is believed to be free of mines but Axis shipping (?may be) (?crossing) between position (A) and (C).

(4) Assume WELSHMAN will leave Algiers complete with fuel.

(V.A. Malta, 0059A/15 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Inshore Squadron, Admty. C. in C. Med., WELSHMAN).



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

P.45  
*p.681*  
Your 2345A/14th. 5 torpedoes fired no hits. No A/S patrol encountered approaches Bizerta or Gulf of Tunis. Frequent air patrols and transport (group missed) Enemy ships approached and left Bizerta roads through position 000° Canirock 2 miles Plane Island Light burning.  
(P.45 0121A/15 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., S/Ms on patrol).

P.247,  
U/B sunk. 4/11  
*GRANITO. (Lgt. Nov. 1942)*  
*- 60th min.*  
*Pm. 38° 34' N. 12° 4' E.*  
Your 2345. 4 torpedoes expended. U-boat sunk. All ships appear to pass through 37.31, 10.30 course 240. No further experience.  
(P.247, 0142A/15 to Capt. S.10). *(Amplified, see page 1030, Nov. 24)*

British prisoners of war are being evacuated from Benghazi to Tripoli in small coastal shipping.

British prisoners in Enemy M/Vs. *\* (P.212, 0300A/15 to Capt. S.10. (R) S/Ms on patrol, C. in C. Med). \* p.678 9681*  
Shipping must be sunk but endeavour to avoid gunning groups of personnel and being immobilised by rescuing prisoners.  
(Capt. S.10, 0535A/15 to *\*P.211)\* p.674 9681*

PENTSTEMON My P.C. and S. 037° 20' N., 001° 10' E. 253° 12 knots.  
(PENTSTEMON 0600Z/15 to S.O. Inshore Squadron (R) SPEY, F.O. in C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bougie).

→ WELSHMAN  
*see previous page 9 pp 679 680*  
Following is a repetition of Cdre. Algiers 1905 /14th (begins). WELSHMAN (R) S.O. Inshore Squadron from Commodore Algiers. N.C.X.F. 1246/14th. Berth of DEWDALE anchoring 2 miles 90° from light on Brises Lames Est. Motor launch will call for passengers ends.  
(N.C.X.F., 0707Z/15 to WELSHMAN (R) S.O. Inshore Squadron, Cdre. Algiers).  
Route Algiers to Bougaroni 10 miles north of Cape Bengut, through position 037° 00' N., 005° 45' E., and (?10') North of Cape Bougaroni.  
(F.O. Inshore Squadron, 0821Z/15 to H.M.S. WELSHMAN (R) N.C.X.F., Admty. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med).

U/B RORQUAL. U-boat reported by coast watcher at 2127/14th in 033° 47' 035° 21'.  
(Capt. S.1., 0815B/15 to RORQUAL).

Operation "Analysis". Carry out operation "Analysis" provided fighter cover is available. D day is 15th.  
(N.C.X.F., 0858Z/15 to S.O. Inshore Squadron, WELSHMAN (R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med).



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.BICESTER,  
A/C attack.*See p 669  
(N. Med.)*Am being attacked by 18 enemy planes in  
position LBLE 554 (36° N., 5° E).  
(BICESTER, 0915/15 to Malta).

Movements.

Arrival 14th Nov. DELPHINIUM, SNAPDRAGON,  
Greek Dest. IERAX, ST. ISSEY, BRIGAND, PROTEA,  
CUMBRAE, T.L.C. 104, 116, 118, 149. Departure  
14th Nov. CROMARTY, WHITEHAVEN, HARROW, DERBY,  
SNAPDRAGON, ERICA, \*EXMOOR, Tugs \*STARION, T.B. DURMOTOR F.S.  
LA MOQUEUSE, BRIGAND, H.S.L. 166. M.L.C. 28? 61, 80, T.L.C.  
111, 153, 113, M.T.B., 260, 262, 264, 267.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0920B/15 to Admty. C. in C. Med).*\* See below. x Not identified.*

PORPOISE.

*See 1/16/78. 9681*Am sailing PORPOISE forthwith to Cape Misurata  
area.  
(Capt. S.10., 0931A/15 to Capt. S.1. (R)  
C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

U/B, \*EXMOOR.

*\* See Movements  
above - 1/16/78*Definitely S/M in 31° 44' N., 25° 57' E. Have  
only 15 charges left.  
(EXMOOR, 0936/15 to SNAPDRAGON (R) Alexandria,  
C.C.O.)

P.35

Establish patrol forthwith in vicinity position  
170° C. 4, if you consider this position tenable.  
You are only to attack North Westbound large  
merchant ships or cruisers.  
(Capt. S.10., 0936A/15 to P.35 (R) N.C.X.F.)THRASHER,  
TRAVELLER.My 1039/14. Delayed 24 hours. Amend your  
route as follows:- THRASHER through  
(1) 34° 14', 24° 13' (2) 35° 1', 22° 36'.  
(3) 35° 1', 18° 58'.  
TRAVELLER through (1) 033° 44' 024° 05'  
(2) 034° 30' 022° 27' (3) 034° 30' 018° 58'.  
Thence both as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.  
(Capt. S.1., 0945/15 to THRASHER, TRAVELLER (R)  
C. in C. Med., Capt. S.10 S/Ms on patrol,  
C.C.F).OSSAG  
(German  
tanker).My 1832C November 14th. OSSAG torpedoed by S/M  
off Karaburnu at 1430 G.M.T. November 14th. 17  
repeat 17 of crew abandoned ship remaining 8  
brought vessel to Istanbul. Fact.  
Reported B.3., Vessel in Turkish territorial  
waters when torpedo struck just forward of  
engines, which not damaged.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1045C/15 to S.O.(I) Med.,  
(R) S.1. D.N.I.)

/A/C...



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A/C crashed,  
 attack on  
 U/B.

U.259  
 sunk

Hudson aircraft A.M. 722 crashed in position 290° Cape Matifou 7 at 1045. Aircraft had attacked S/M, 340° 25 miles from Algiers. All picked up, but two were dead. Aircraft sank. Request instructions re survivors and deceased. These were reported in H.M.S. GERANIUM 1041 (Not received in W.R.) (LEITH, 1144Z/15 to Cdre. Algiers (R) S.O. Inshore Squadron, A.O.C. Gibraltar, ROCHESTER).

Cositrep.  
 No. 594 Part  
 II.

4. Air. Night 13/14 Nov. Liberators and Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour starting 2 fires. 2 Wellingtons missing. 14th Nov. Midday attack by American B.17 S on Benghazi Harbour hampered by low cloud, only one aircraft being able to locate target. Results of bombing unobserved but smoke seen rising. (C. in C. M.E., 1145 G.M.T./15).

TRITON

Following from Capt. (S) COPIA. Ref. para. 5 of your sailing orders. Before leaving patrol you are to take some form of offensive action which will ensure your presence becoming known to enemy. A most important effect of Allied submarine operations in Aegean has been to cause considerable dislocation of traffic owing to fear submarine attack.  
 (Capt. S.1., 1152B/15 to G.S. TRITON (R) C. in C. Med).

Appeal to  
 Admiral  
 Moreau.

Your 1810/14 not to Cdre. Algiers. Message is being passed to Cdre. Algiers for personal delivery to Admiral Moreau. I am averse to broadcasting this message at present but have instructed Commodore Algiers to see that its existence and contents are known in Algiers.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1200Z/15 to Admty (R) Cdre. Algiers).

Tobruk,  
 Bardia  
 re-occupied.

Situation report Tobruk. Enemy left hurriedly, little demolition having taken place. Jetties intact other than those damaged by our bombing. Anchor berths available for two ships. Outer boom useless. Inner boom apparently intact. Water believed uncontaminated. Port should be opened to shipping as from a.m./16th. Collation of maps issued by M.M.N.I.C. dated September substantially correct. My 1954/14 Bardia. Two ships can be received as from p.m./15th. (S.O.(I) Med., 1217/15 to Admty. (for D.N.I.)).

/W.A.D...



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

W.A.D.,  
Slow. PENTSTEMON and SAMPHIRE have passed through position referred to in your 2355A/13th and not met W.A.D. slow. Request further instructions. My P.C. and S. 36.53 N., 00.20 W., 253° 12. (PENTSTEMON, 1230Z/15 to F.O. Inshore, Squadron (R) SPEY). *See p. 666*

R/C. Forcenoon visuals 15th Nov.  
(1) Naples - no change  
(2) Taranto, Messina and Tunis, P.R.U. not returned.  
(V.A. Malta, 1235A/15).

W.S.23 Z. Your 1818A/13 (Originated by W.R. calling for 1644/6 (quoted in C. in C. E.F.'s 0835/12) of which there is no trace of previous receipt in Admty). Following is a repetition of my 1644/6 (begins) addressed C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.S.F. P.S.T.O. Egypt, Cmdre. Aden, From C. in C. Med. Admty's 1548A/24/9. Request information E.T.A. Aden of W.S.23 Z. (ends).  
(C. in C. Med., 1245B/15 to Admty).

MAURO CROCE  
Italian. Arrival.  
(Barcelona, 1301/15 to M.W.T.)

EXMOOR  
*See p. 676.* Unless otherwise ordered maintain A/S patrol off Bardia tonight, rejoining motor (as received) when it leaves.  
(S.O. 2nd Escort Group 1351B/15 to EXMOOR (R) N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.O. Force I N.O.I.C. Bardia).

Air R/C  
by E.A.C. My 2220/13th para. 2. Confirmed that Eastern Air Command can now undertake P.R.U. Tunis Bizerta Cagliari. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C. Med. (N.C.X.F., 1352/15 to N.O.I.C. Malta (R) Admty)  
Reply: V.A. Malta, 1210A/16.

BURGONET Sailed B.D.V. BURGONET 15th Nov.  
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 1358Z/15 to Admty).

S/Ms Arrival P.212, departure \*P.42, PORPOISE. *See p. 675 & 681.*  
(V.A. Malta, 1437A/15 to Admty. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).  
*\* See pp 679, 680, 1.682*

/Algiers...



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Algiers, Situation. Brief situation report for area West of Algiers 2002Z/15th. Submarines except (corrupt group) T.E.4 36.29 N., 00.27 E., through 36.46 N., 01.18 E. and 36.53 N., 02.54 E., to Algiers 8½. (2) M.K.S.1 (A) 36.14 N., 03.40 W., to Gib. 9. (3) M.K.F.2 36.51 N., 02.31 E., through 36.46 N., 01.18 E., and 35.42 N., 03.01 W., thence Gibraltar 13. Oran section joined in 35.56 N., 00.50 W., at 1000Z/16. (N.C.X.F., 1440Z/15 to All British ships and Authorities concerned in Operation "Torch" V.A. Malta excluding ship refitting in U.K.)

LAMERTON, ZETLAND. <sup>? WHEATLAND</sup> LAMERTON is joining escort and (?ZETLAND) will R/V in position about 15 miles North ? of Cape Carbon at 0700Z/16th. Both destroyers remain with convoy until dark on 16th then return Algiers (Cmdr. Algiers, 1456Z/15 to SCOTTISH (R) S.O.I.S.)  
 ? WHEATLAND  
 See pp. 669  
 682

\* WELSHMAN 1. WELSHMAN expects to pass through 038° 05' P.42 <sup>See pp 678, 680, 682</sup> N., 010° 55' E., at 0100A/16th thence to Malta P.48. <sup>See pp 674, 681</sup> through Q.B.B. 255 keeping approx. to submarine route and proceeding at high speed.  
 \* <sup>See pp 674, 675</sup> 2. P.42 left Malta at 1200A/15th by reverse of WELSHMAN's route arriving proximity 037° 19' N., 012° 49' E., about 0600A/16th. <sup>680</sup>  
 3. P.48 with no torpedoes passes through 038° 20' N., 010° 00' E., at 1800/15th thence through Q.B.B. 255 by same route as WELSHMAN to Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1504A/15 1538A/15 to WELSHMAN H.M. P.48 H.M. P.42 (R) S/MS on patrol).

R/C intelligence. Request all naval R/C information or intentions for air operations to westward of Malta may be addressed to F.O.I.C. and Com. Algiers as well as to me. They should bear Q.H. on Malta Broadcast until fixed service between Algiers and Malta is established.  
 2. F.O.I.S. and Com. Algiers at present provide alternative link from A.O.C. Malta to Eastern Air Command in emergency.  
 3. V.A. Malta pass to A.O.C.S. Med., F.O.I.S., pass to Eastern Air Command. (N.C.X.F., 1540Z/15 to V.A. Malta, (R) F.O.I.S. Com. Algiers, Admty).

Submarines. S/M situation Western Med. at 2000Z/15th Nov.  
 (i) CLYDE 036° 39' N., 002° 11' W., on surface at 12 knots to Gibraltar to arrive 0930/16th keeping within 5 miles of Spanish coast.  
 (ii) TRIBUNE 040° 27' N., 001° 58' E., diving by day 2½ knots on surface by night 11 knots course 53° <sup>See next page</sup>  
 (iii) \*P.222, 41.23 N., 04.39 E., diving by day 2½ knots on surface by night 11 knots course 236°.  
 (iv) \*P.51, 41.36 N., 05.07 E., diving by day 2½ knots on surface by night 8 knots course 236°.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1601Z/15 to S. and A. in Area G). \* <sup>See p 669</sup>



680

15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P.221  
*See p 674* At 2001A today 15th proceed establish patrol within 5 miles  $037^{\circ} 37' 010^{\circ} 49'$  passing clear to Northward of P.247 and P.45. (Capt. S.10., 1610A/15 to P.221, (R) N.C.X.F., Subs. on patrol.)
- P.42  
*See pp 678 & 682.* P.42 has sailed to make passage Q.B.B. 255 daylight 16 and to establish patrol in position  $037^{\circ} 52' 011^{\circ} 25'$  for about 24 hours then when ordered by signal to Naples south of Becca Piccola. (Capt. S.10., 1632A/15 to N.C.X.F. S/Ms on Patrol (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.8., Capt. S.1)
- Air R/C. 8 E-boats 6 small vessels 2 barges 4 sailing vessels course  $270^{\circ}$  coastwise between 31.12 N., 16.36 E., and 30.23 N., 18.48 E., 1 merchant vessel anchored off 30.23 N., 18.48 E., Much activity on coastal road moving west, cold front approaching. (A/C C/S U3TD, 1703/15 to 201 Group) (Capt. S.10., 1707A/15 to Subs on patrol).
- P.228,  
STURGEON,  
\* TRIBUNE.  
*\* See previous page* Capt. (S) 8s 1310Z/14. Onward route through vicinity of following positions  
(A)  $44^{\circ} 18' 8^{\circ} 54'$  (B)  $23^{\circ} 50' 9^{\circ} 43'$ .  
(C)  $43^{\circ} 08' 9^{\circ} 40'$  (D)  $42^{\circ} 55', 9^{\circ} 41'$   
(E)  $42^{\circ} 10' 9^{\circ} 50'$  (F)  $40^{\circ} 52', 12^{\circ} 46'$ .  
Proceed with caution and run MDU between positions (C) and (D) P.228 is to report safe passage through these positions on arrival at (F). While in Gulf Genoa keep in over 200 fathoms. Patrol positions of Naples will be signalled. (Capt. S.10., 1727A/15 to P.228, STURGEON, TRIBUNE (R) Capt. (S) 8, N.C.X.F.)
- WELSHMAN  
*See pp 674, 675, 679* No afternoon R/C or night patrols 15/16 owing to weather. (V.A. Malta, 1730A/15 to WELSHMAN).
- M.K.F.2 Convoy M.K.F.2 sailed 1730Z/15. Merchant ships CIRCASSIA, STRATHEDEN, STRATHMORE, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, CAMERONIA, ARUNDEL CASTLE, forming Algiers portion. Cdre. Rear Adm. Turle in STRATHMORE Vice Cdre. Master of CIRCASSIA. S. of A. 13 knots. Convoy codeword "Manicur". Routed in accordance with your 1905Z/13 to position F. (Cdre. Algiers, 1745Z/15 to N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.) N.C.C.N.T.F., 1231Z/14th and my 1441Z/3rd. ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTERMAN should be included M.K.F.2. (N.C.X.R., 1835Z/15 to Cmdre. Algiers (R) F.O.I.C. Oran).

/PORPOISE...



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15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PORPOISE, <sup>see pp 676 2678</sup> PORPOISE sailed 1400A/15 to operate South of  
 P.212 <sup>see pp 675, 678</sup> 33.40 between 1400 and 1510. P.212 will sail  
 P.211. <sup>see p. 674</sup> at 0600A/16th for patrol south of 33.40 between  
 1510 and 1700. You have freedom of action East  
 of longitude 17.00.  
 Westward transit of British prisoners reported  
 completed also they invariably travel in steam  
 ships so tugs lighters and auxiliaries may be attacked with  
 confidence.  
 (Capt. S.10., 1845A/15 to P.211 (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.,  
 Subs. on Patrol).

Malta Air I. 110, 15 Nov. C.S.R.  
 Report. Night 14/15th 1935 and 2215 hrs. 2 Beaufighters  
 up for several raids which turned back before  
 reaching Malta. 1 Beaufighter made intruder  
 patrol over Pantellaria Aerodrome but had no  
 combat.  
 Day 15th. 0720 and 1100 hrs. Total of 8 Spitfires were airborne  
 for several raids which turned back before reaching island.  
 12 Spitfire sorties were made in armed R/C patrols against Axis  
 transport aircraft in the Lampedusa Linosa area but no enemy  
 aircraft were seen.  
 (A.H.Q., Malta, 1905Z/15).

10th S.F. Request you will now resume operational control  
 control. of 10th Sub. F. but that you will include  
 approaches to Bizerta and Tunis amongst their  
 tasks for the present.

I am most grateful to you for service of 10th Sub. F. during  
 opening stages of "Torch".

2. Intend 8th S/M Flot. to be employed in area north of  
 Sicily. They will for present remain under operational control  
 of Capt. S.10 when East of 8° E but I hope soon to move  
 MAIDSTONE up to Algiers after which Capt. S.8 had better extend  
 his control to the Cape Bon Marittimo line.

3. Request your remarks and V.A. Malta's.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1920Z/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A.  
 Capt. S.1. Capt. S.8. Capt. S.10. V.A. Malta.)  
 Reply: C. in C. Med. 1612B/16.

P.48 <sup>1p. 674</sup> Your 1629A/15th ( ) acknowledged.  
 Carry out programme in my 0031A/15 24 hours late.  
<sup>see pp 674, 679</sup> WELSHMAN and P.42 are only likely friends  
 sighted.  
 (Capt. S.10. 1945A/15 to P.48. (R) N.C.X.F.  
 S/Ms on patrol.)

P.45. <sup>see p. 675</sup> One merchant ship one unknown ship 2 destroyers  
 Enemy in 037° 30' 010° 25' course 60° 10 knots, all  
 Units. torpedoes expended, am withdrawing to seaward.  
 (P.45 2002A/15 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med.)

/ A/S air...



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

A/S air escort for convoys. T C A O 11. Intend A/S air escort 16th Nov. all dawn to dusk. K.X.6, M.K.F.1(Y), M.K.F.2. one C each, M (?K) (?S) 1 X, (?one) (?H), convoy "Hankey" one Swordfish. A/S air search four H p.m. area W K, W A, W R, five H p.m. area W R, W F, or H p.m. L B W O, one C, blank T V Y, one C, C Z U B. A/S air patrol Oran one Swordfish all day. (N.C.X.F. 2030Z/15 to All British S and A concerned in Operation "Torch". V.A. Malta. (excluding ships refitting in U.K.))

Operation "Stoneage" My 2051/13 para 2. M.W.13 is to pass seaward end Alexandria searched channel 0700 D plus one thence through B B and D D keeping at least 15 miles off shore at S of A of 13 knots until dark D plus 2 after which best speed is to be maintained.  
(2) Force A is to join M.W.13 at 0700 D plus 2 in position B B.  
(3) My 1204/14 para 3 for 0800/16 Nov. read 0600/17 Nov.  
(4) C.S.15, R.A. Alexandria, EURYALUS, DULVERTON, acknowledge. (C. in C. Med. 2043B/15, 0929B/17 to All concerned "Stoneage".)

Movements Algiers arrival WELSHMAN, CADMUS, ROYAL ALGIERS. ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, \*PENTSTEMON, \*SAPPHIRE, L.C.Ts 152, 170, 160\* (~~135~~) 164, 169, RONALDSHAY, HORATIO and QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX from Bone. \*See pp 666, 666, 670A, 678.  
Departure WELSHMAN for Malta. PELICAN, FLEETWOOD, BANFF, SENNEN escorting M.K.F.2. QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, tug ST. DAY, ZETLAND, for Bougie. SCOTTISH, CAVA, STROMA, Motor Minesweepers 134 and 33 for Bone, RUSKHOLM, STRONSAY for Philippeville. WHEATLAND and LAMERTON escorting convoy eastward. (7.2.3)  
(Cdre. Algiers 2234A/15 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. S.O.I.S.)  
\*No L.C.T. 177 in Gen List

Convoy. Convoy and escort are to anchor as convenient in Algiers Bay. Further signal will be made reference oiling.  
(Cdre. Algiers 2242A/15 to VIENNA, DEPTFORD. ANTELOPE. (R) F.O.I.S.)  
\*See pp 668 & 670A

Movements. 15th Nov. Port Said arrivals p.m. AETOS, FALK. Departures TETCOTT, ALDENHAM, BEAUFORT, DIDO, ORION, DULVERTON, CROOME, PINDOS, ARETHUSA, \*CLEOPATRA, FAREHAM, ANTWERP, C.Z lighters 98, 12, 14, 34. R.F.A. WAR KRISNA.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said. 2323/15 to Admty. etc.)  
\*c.s.10. (Pink List)

P.42. After gaining patrol position withdraw 10 miles 240° until 0500/17 to let P.45 and P.48 pass you.  
\*See pp 678, 680  
(Capt. S.10. 2358A/15 to P.42. (R) P.45. P.48.)



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15.11.1942.  
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

ADVISER torpedoes. Following has been read: Addressed Colombo W/T S/M Sighting Signal 32.03.S. 33.52 E. ADVISER torpedoes. (Mauritius Radio 0053Z/15, Slangkop Radio No. T.O.O./15,)

Following received:- SSSS 32.035, 33.52.E. Approx. ADVISER still afloat, number 1 and 2 holds full water, all lifeboats afloat and still is ADVISER.

(Colombo W/T T.O.R. 0743 G.M.T./15).

Following received. Amended position 32.30 S 33.30 E. 994. ADVISER.

(Simonstown W/T 1147 G.M.T./15 to C. in C. E.F. Admty.)

GERALDTON Arrival. (S.O.I.) Bombay 0346Z/15 to Admty. etc.)

Movements summary No.23 Nov. 15th. (1) GAMBIA left Bombay 13th Nov. due Colombo 16th Nov. (2) DEVONSHIRE leaves Kilindini 16th Nov. to R/V with H.T. MAURETANIA east of (?Socotra) a.m. 20th Nov. and escort her to Colombo routed through Eighth Degree Channel. (3) DAUNTLESS, \*KANARIS, left Durban 13th Nov. escorting convoy C.M.35 - 4 ships - routed through Mozambique Channel S of A 9½ knots. \* See next page. (4) \*\*MAURITIUS left Kilindini 14th Nov. to R/V with convoy W.S.23 and join HAWKINS west of Farquhar Is. at 0600Z/16 Nov. and to (?escort) Bombay portion to Bombay. HAWKINS escorting SS. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA due Kilindini 18th Nov. (5) REVENGE escorted by BLACKMOSE and DERWENT leave Durban 15th Nov. due Kilindini 20th Nov. routed through Mozambique Channel S of A 15½ knots. See/D - see p. 671 (6) NAPIER and HOTSPUR left Kilindini 15th Nov. due Durban 19th Nov. routed through Mozambique Channel. (C. in C. E.F. 0756Z/15.) See next page

\*\* D.O.R. Vol: VIII. No 1185. P.3.

→ R.A. Tennant. My 0954/11 Oct. (or 5th - N.T. in W.D.) R.A. Tennant has returned to duty and is proceeding to Kilindini in REVENGE leaving Durban today 15th Nov. (C. in C. E.F. 0814Z/15 to Admty.)

Enemy Unit. By D/F on 16220 K/cs at 0542Z/15 position of enemy unit call sign NA SI RE believed SEICHU MARU vicinity Banka Island, S.E. Sumatra. (C. in C. E.F. 0858Z/15 to E.I. Stn. KANIMBLA. (R) Admty. etc.)

B.P.60. Karachi Portion of B.P.60 transports YOMA, ELLENGA sailed 18th Nov. Numbers. Requirements. (S.T.O. Karachi 0947Z/15 to D.S.T.O.)

/CALIFORNIA...



War Diary.

15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

CALIFORNIA  
U/B

Following has been read: SSSS 30.91 S 33.17 E  
CALIFORNIA, S/M on surface 1040 G.M.T./15.  
(Simonstown W/T 1153 G.M.T./15 to C. in C. E.F.  
Admty.)

NAPIER  
HOTSPUR

Departures 15th Nov.  
(F.O.E.A. 1216Z/15 to Admty.)

*See previous page.*

KANARIS

Your 2111B/5th Nov. KANARIS is escorting convoy  
to north end of Mozambique channel thence being  
detached to Diego Suarez to fuel. She will then  
be sailed via Kilindini to Aden arriving about  
29th Nov. C. in C. Med. pass to Greek Naval  
Authorities.

*See previous page.*

(C. in C. E.F. 1228Z/15 to C. in C. Med. (R)  
Admty. C. in C. S.A. F.O.I.C. E.A. N.O.I.C.  
Diego Suarez. Comdre. I.C. Aden.)



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B Sub sighted 12.37 N., 69.05 W., at 1640Z/14.  
(Curacao, 0040 G.M.T./15 to all ships).

Movements 1800 G.M.T./15th Nov.  
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed  
BRIDGEWATER 31° N., 32° W. 180° 12  
ASTURIAS 05° N., 28½° W. Patrol Blank  
(D.O.D. (F) 1042Z/15 to Opnav (R) Comnav).

D' ENTRECASTEAUX sunk. 15.30 N., 57.00 W. Master and 63 survivors landed  
Dominica 14th 2 missing 1 dead.  
*See p. 687* (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1126R/15 to Admty. S.B.N.O.  
W.A., B.A.D.)

CITY OF TRINIDAD reports British CITY OF RIPON sunk at  
RIPON 0720Z/11th 08.40 N., 59.20 W. Master and 26  
sunk. survivors, 56 presumed lost.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1128R/15 to Admty. etc).

MARYLYN My 1441R/12. Master and six men arrived  
(torpedoed Trinidad.  
30/10). (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1131R/15 to Admty etc).

SAGUENAY, SAGUENAY rammed off Cape Race, after part of  
collision, ship carried away, bulkhead holding. Tug is  
AZRA sunk. being sent.  
(F.O.N.F., 1155Z/15 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty etc).  
My 1155/15. Propose to substitute WINCHELSEA  
for SAGUENAY in Group C3 with orders to detach  
at Prudent limit which will enable her to rejoin B4 group  
after reasonably lay over at Londonderry.  
(F.O.N.F., 1242Z/15 to C. in C. W.A., (R) N.S.H.Q.,  
Admty. C.O.A.C., C.T.F. 24, WINCHELSEA).  
Your 1242/15, concur.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2106Z/15 to F.O.N.F.)  
Following from MEDICINE HAT, (begins). My 1108/15th.

AZRA ? sunk in collision with SAGUENAY Cape Race 340° 12 miles  
T.O.O. 1150Z/15 (Ends.)  
(C.O.A.C., 1437/15 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav Admty etc).  
My 1155/15. SS. AZRA rammed SAGUENAY about 0845/15 in  
position 160° Cape Race 12 miles. AZRA sunk, survivors in  
SAGUENAY damaged awaiting tugs FRISKY and TENACITY. MINAS  
Q058 standing by. ST. ABURENT en route to assist in escort.  
(F.O.N.F., 1520Z/15 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Cominch, Admty.  
N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A.)  
Tug TENACITY departed St. Johns 1205/15. Tug FRISKY  
departed St. Johns 1306/15 both to assist SAGUENAY damaged in  
collision with SS. AZRA, Cape Race 340° 12 miles.  
(F.O.N.F., 2015Z/15 to Admty. for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q.,  
C.O.A.C.)

/HARTINGTON...



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- HARTINGTON (sunk 2/11).  
 1. HARTINGTON. 2. J. and C. Harrison, London.  
 3. 0400Z Nov. 2nd. 53.00 N., 47.00 W.  
 4. Not seen. 5. Not known. 6. Not seen.  
 7. Ship sank. 8. Names of missing follow in my 1430Z/16. 9. Not known. 10. Two torpedoes.  
 11. Dumped overboard by Master and W/T Officer in perforated steel chest and eyeleted bag. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns Newfoundland, 1236Z/15 to Admty. etc).
- O.N.5142  
 Your 2024/14. O.N.5142 pass to Comdre. cancel my 1744/14. Task Unit 24.18 3 consisting of NIAGARA (S.O.) LINCOLN, RIMOUSKI, EDMUNSTON, MELVILLE sailed at 1900Z/16 escorting N O.N.5142. (8) ships to arrive 260° .5 miles from H.O.M.P. 043° 04' N., 062° 46' W., at 1200Z/17th from new H.O.M.P. O.N.5142 is to proceed direct to position V omitting position U. (C.O.A.C., 1440Z/15 to C.T.U. No. 24.18.5 (R) Connav, C.E.S.E. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.24, Admty. Comdant. 3rd U.S.N.D.)
- H.X. 213  
 Average speed 9.2 knots. Good weather uneventful voyage, all arrived. (D.T.D., 1454A/15 to Connav N.S.H.Q.)
- Trinidad Movements.  
 Arrivals Port of Spain Nov. 15th. YARMOUTH U.S. Army Transport, STATE OF MARYLAND, U.S. Army Transport. (Port Director, Port of Spain, 1517/15 to Connav etc).
- K.14. Enemy fuelling U/B.  
 Your 1435/13 and 2113/14.  
 1. When K.14 sails U.S. Authorities request you route her to call at Bermuda for onward routing instructions which will be issued by Cominch.  
 2. Estimate here enemy refuelling U-boat constantly in approx. 14° N., 28° W., R.A.W.A. pass to K.14. (B.A.D., 1535Z/15 to R.A.W.A. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A. etc). Sailing telegram. R.A.W.A., 1031Z/16.
- U/B  
 S/M sighted 44.39 N., 62.41 W., at 1225 G.M.T (C.O.A.C., 1627Z/15 to Area 7, 7A, A.I.G.302).
- U/B Positions.  
 S/M estimate 15th Nov. and U.S. submarine notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1631/15).
- J.S.M. 481  
 Re equipment of French forces in North Africa. (J.S.M. 1645Z/15 to Chiefs of Staff).



War Diary.15.11.1942.  
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.G.S.2,  
highly  
secrecy. Following received from B.R.L.O. New York (begins). Special movement designated U.G.S.2 left New York 1200/13th Nov. under degree of secrecy so high that it is impossible to obtain accurate list of all ships. Following are British managed ships which sailed - DAVILA, LUMINETTA, FERNCOURT, (Nor.) G.C. BROVIG (Nor.) List of U.S. Flag ships will be forwarded if they become available. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q., 1714Z/15 to Admty).

Barbados  
Movements. Departure 15th Nov. U.S. Warship LAGARE for Trinidad escorting U.S. Salvage steamer KILLERIG and U.S Army Transport HUGH J. GALLAGHER. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 1726/15 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Sub. attack  
and sighting  
summary. (A) D'ENTRECASTEAUX torpedoed sunk 15.30 N., 57. W. 0720Z/7. *see p. 685*  
(B) CITY OF RIPON two torpedo hits. MARCUS WHITMAN two torpedo hits, twenty shells.  
(C) H.N.M.S.\*QUEEN WILHELMINA attacks sound contact 12.37 N., 69.05 W., 1640Z/14. Sub. sighted 44.39 N., 62.41 W., 1225Z/16.  
(Cominch, 2033/15 to Admty for O.I.C.)  
*\*not in C.B. 1215.*

Conference. Personal for C.N.S. from 1st S.L. Your 2153/13. Am grateful for your offer to send Capt. Creery, but as Admiral Noble will be leaving for U.S.A. about 2nd Dec. and I wish him to take part in the discussions, proposal to hold early conference in London must be abandoned.  
(1st S.L., 2337A/15 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Cominch, B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival ~~VIA~~<sup>VILA</sup> 14th Nov. U.S.S. LAMSON escorting U.S.S. ALDEBARAN and U.S. Oiler LACKAWANNA. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0648Z/15 to Admty). U.S. Fleet oiler TRINITY arrived Fremantle 14th. Dutch Naval Protection ship MINJAK TANAH Departed Cairns 14th due Thursday Island 17th. (A.C.N.B., 0724Z/15 to Admty etc).

/Situation...



15.11.1942.  
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

- Situation. Serial number 297 Nov. 14th. Reports indicate approximately 10 vessels Buin Shortlands area at 2100Z/13 including 2 sloops 7 merchant vessels 1 tanker. Further report at 0700Z/14 indicates 3 heavy cruisers 1 light cruiser 4 destroyers had arrived from South East and total force then included 22 vessels including 3 heavy cruisers 1 light cruiser 5 destroyers 3 sloops 2 tankers 8 other merchantmen.
2. 3 Fortresses located and made low level attack 1 enemy convoy including 12 transports totalling approx. 100,000 tons at least 8 warships including 3 cruisers 5 destroyers position 7° 45' S., 157° 20' E. course 135° at 2040Z/13 1 near miss 10,000 ton transport which was also strafed causing fire 3 fighters unsuccessfully attempted interception.
  3. Our troops now hold crossing area Kumusi River and passage being effected.
  4. 3 Beaufighters attacked enemy targets Wairopekumusi Buna area morning 14th and 4 others attacked Kumusi Mambare Buna area during afternoon 1 Baker 25 also bombed Soput Buta Track X during evening.
  5. Further indications enemy consolidation ashore Buin Area.
  6. Photo recco. Kaviene area morning 14th shows 1 possible seaplane tender at least 1,000 tons with 1 4,000 ton vessel 2° 45' S., 150° 40' E. course 105° 1 seaplane tender Nisshin Maru type 1 small merchant vessel several small boats ? Kaviena Harbour 35 medium bombers, 4 fighters well dispersed on Airdrome where new Taxi-way and dispersal bays under construction and new buildings observed.
  7. 4 Hudsons attacked Villa de Manatuto Paren Timor Paren 14th dropping bombs in village area.
  8. Considerable activity reported Lae Aerodrome with 3 blast Bays building.
- (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 1241Z/15 to Admty.etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated at 1200Z/15.  
(D.D.I.C., 1446A/15).



16.11.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

ROCKINGHAM sailed from Londonderry at 1915A today, to reinforce the escort of Convoy M.K.F.1 Y. (Transports returning empty from Operation "Torch").

SHROPSHIRE (Royal Australian Navy) arrived at the Clyde this evening from Freetown with DUNCAN and ANTHONY.

Ten trawlers of the Northern Patrol are to be withdrawn for employment either in mid-Atlantic or on the Gibraltar run, wherever U-boat threats appear heaviest. C. in C. W.A. intended to base these trawlers at Belfast and to organize them into 2 trawler support groups to be operated in accordance with the requirements of the situation, but the Admiralty (2008A/20). instructed him to employ them as additional escorts to trans-Atlantic convoys with the particular duty of standing by stragglers and damaged ships. They may also be required to act as escorts to North Russian convoys.

C. in C. Plymouth reports that an unusual mine was found and sunk off Hartland Point on 10th November.

Operation "Torch".

N.C.X.F. reported today that H.M.S. "GARDENIA" had been lost. ~~Nothing is known of this.~~  
*Sunk in 35° Hamiburg Lt. 7 m. 0315z/9 as result of collision with FLOELLEN. (M.052102/42)*

The broad pendant of Commodore Troubridge was struck in H.M.S. LARGS p.m. today on lapse of his appointment as N.C.C.T.F.

North Atlantic.

COREOPSIS one of the escort of Convoy M.K.S.1 X from Gibraltar to U.K. reports SS. CLAN MACTAGGART torpedoes and sunk in 36° 8' N., 7° 23' W., at 0644z.



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic - Contd.

Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND reports a heavy explosion at 1858 G.M.T. today in 33° 50' N., 7° 31' W. (about 15 miles N.N.E. of Casablanca) N.C.X.F. later reported this to be a mine. The ship is reported to have suffered grave damage but not to be in need of assistance. She arrived at Gibraltar on 18th November.

MARNE arrived at Gibraltar <sup>15/11</sup> this morning in tow.

South Atlantic.

W.Africa becomes separate command. (C.A.F.O. 2326/42)

Mediterranean.

Raid on  
Genoa.

Sixty seven out of 78 aircraft which took off in the U.K. delivered a concentrated attack on Genoa last night without loss to themselves. One large ship was seen to be hit and set on fire.

Western  
Mediterranean

P.43 hit a medium sized tanker at 2255A today which was last seen listing and attempting to beach herself near Libeccio Point. P.221 patrolling off Bizerta secured 2 hits on a 5,000 ton merchant ship this morning.

Tunis has been re-occupied by the enemy after a temporary withdrawal.

N.C.X.F. arrived at Oran in AURORA at 0800 today.

Force H (NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers) sailed from Gibraltar at 1000 today for the vicinity of the Balearic Islands, to cover the operations on the North African coast.

Bone was attacked today by bombers escorted by fighters; there were aircraft losses on both sides, but no report of naval damage.

Operation  
"Stoneage".

A convoy of 4 merchant ships sailed from Port Said today for Malta. The escort consists of EURYALUS and 10 Hunts and cover is provided by CLEOPATRA, DIDO, ORION, and ARETHUSA of 15th C.S. and 7 fleet destroyers. The escorts were reported as leaving Alexandria on 17th November.

/Western...



16.11.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Western  
Desert.

Sweeping is in progress at Tobruk, where the first supply ship has arrived. M.T.Bs. are operating from Sollum and Tobruk up to Ras al Hilil and off Benghazi.

Australia & New Zealand.

U.S. Victory  
in Solomons.

(Note. The following should be read in conjunction with the report of 15th November q.v.)

It was stated in the press (on 17 November) that New York today reports that during a decisive naval action in the past 3 days U.S. warships aided by aircraft have attacked a Japanese invasion fleet in the south-eastern Solomon Islands area and have sunk one battleship, 3 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, 5 destroyers and 8 loaded transports. Four cargo transports were beached and destroyed on Guadalcanal. One Japanese battleship and 6 destroyers were damaged. The U.S. losses were 2 light cruisers and 6 destroyers.

On 19th November the Navy Dept. (as reported in the Press on 20th November) states that during the night 14/15th November a task force under R.A., -W.E. Lee sank one battleship or heavy cruiser, 3 large cruisers and one destroyer, and damaged one battleship, one cruiser and one destroyer in the Guadalcanal area. It is possible that this report may include some of the damage reported on 16th Nov.



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War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Search  
of  
Neutral  
Merchant  
Ships.

Your 1255A/6. Does this cancel present instructions for British and Allied merchant ships from Eire to call at a search port. (Dublin 1032/16 to Admty.)

Northern  
Patrol  
Trawlers.  
2 support  
Groups.

My 1912/7.

(1) Consider that in present circumstances A/S trawlers withdrawn from Northernmost patrol should be employed either in mid-Atlantic or on the Gibraltar run, wherever U-Boat threats appear heaviest.

(2) Intend therefore to base these trawlers at Belfast and to organise them into 2 trawler support groups to be operated in accordance with the requirements of situation.

(3) STONEHAVEN is requested to sail trawlers to Belfast as and when ready.

(C. in C. W.A. 1530A/16 to Admty.) [Repl: p. 863]

Your 1530/16. Northern patrol trawlers having been boiler cleaned have today again sailed for patrol pending Admty. decision on proposal contained in para 2 of your 1912A/7.

(A.C.O.S. 2205/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

Flag of  
C.S.1.

Intend transferring my flag to KENT when she is worked up.

(C.S.1. 2027A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.DUNCAN  
ANTHONY  
SHROPSHIRE

See 12.6.46

My 1715/14. DUNCAN and ANTHONY should proceed to Clyde to land bullion, only calling at Londonderry for fuel if necessary. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail DUNCAN and ANTHONY as indicated. SHROPSHIRE should land bullion at Clyde.

(C. in C. W.A. 0040A/16 to SHROPSHIRE.)

Arrived SHROPSHIRE, DUNCAN and ANTHONY.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1946A/16.)

Rosyth  
Command.

Principal ships present at 0900/16. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth 0901/16 to Admty.)

A.F.D.18.

My 1315/15. Sailed A.F.D. XVIII towed by EMPIRE BASCOBEL, EMPIRE LARCH, EMPIRE IMP, EMPIRE CUPID, ABEILLE 4 and escorted by MAZURKA, PAUL RYKENS.

Codeword "Jovial".

(N.O.I.C. Oban 0918A/16 to ST. CHRISTOPHER.)

Your\*1315A/15 and 0918A/16. Arrived. (Comp. h.)

(ST. CHRISTOPHER 1502A/16 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

\* p 449

/N.T. in H.D.

/N.T. in H.D.

TITANIA.

Your 1441 and your 1643/14. To save water transport proceed Greenock where stores will be disembarked, subsequently returning Rothesay.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1028A/16 to TITANIA.)

/TUNA...



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War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

TUNA. Intend to sail TUNA escorted by STOKE CITY at 0800A/17 to R/V in Minches at 0759A/18 with escort detailed by C. in C. W.A. for onward passage to Holy Loch. Route.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1033A/16.)  
Arrival TUNA.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1745A/16.)  
S.O. Subs Lerwick's 1033/16. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to detail \*LAUDERDALE for this duty. R/V with TUNA and STOKE CITY to be in position (F) 058° 38' N 005° 36' W at 1200A/18. LAUDERDALE to escort TUNA thence to Holy Loch proceeding to Londonderry on completion. S.O. Subs Lerwick is requested to amend time of R/V accordingly. \* *1-1-1-7.698*  
(C. in C. W.A. 1759/16.)  
My 1232/16. After sailing from Rosyth adjust speed to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1759/16.  
(C. in C. Rosyth 1010A/16 to LAUDERDALE.)

W.A. Situation at 1956A/16. Details.  
Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1358A/16.) See Lion Copy.

WORTHING In view of improved conditions intend to proceed  
LLANDUDNO with LLANDUDNO direct to Liverpool. Position  
55° 37' N 07° 37' W speed 11 knots.  
(WORTHING 1400A/16.)

SARDONYX. Sailed SARDONYX in accordance with C. in C. W.A.  
1113A/16. *N.T.M.V.D.*  
(Cdre. Londonderry 1600A/16.)

O.15. Intend to sail O.15 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END  
for Dundee 1100A/17 Nov. routed  
(A) 139° Sumburgh Head 5 miles.  
(B) 090° Fair Isle 6 miles. (C) 058° 44' N 002° 32' W.  
thence by searched channel. E.T.A. 1400A/18.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1611A/16 to A.C.O.S.)  
O.15 arrived.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 2151A/16.)

P.34. P.34 sailed.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1757A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth)

\*PELICAN Request you will signal when the following ships  
\*SENNEN may be expected in U.K.  
ROTHER 2. At least three of these ships are urgently  
SPEY required to escort K.M.F.4.  
EGRET (D.O.D. (H.) 1909A/16 to N.C.X.F.)  
PHILANTE Your 1909A. PELICAN, BANFF, EGRET, PHILANTE and  
\*BANFF SENNEN arriving U.K. by 24th Nov. with M.K.F.2.  
(2) ROTHER and SPEY making good defect, sailing  
with M.K.S.1(Y) on 18th Nov.  
(N.C.X.F. 2315Z/16 to Admty.)

\* *3-1-1-7059707*



693A

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1358A/16th November.

From: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Secret Code.

Situation at 1956A/16th November, 1942.

Section N.E.

4 Auxiliary craft	PAYNTER	57 42 05 53	to Aultbea	7
NORFOLK CUMBERLAND		56 17 08 08	to Scapa	17½
U.R. 50	FOXTROT PAYNTER	58 17 05 33	to 271 degs Cape Wrath 18' thence 58 59 07 10 thence 61 50 16 00	7
E.N. 62	MINUET WOLVES CLEVELA	58 30 05 52	to Loch Ewe	7

Situation at 1956A/16th November, 1942.

Section S.E.

WOPTHING LLANDUDNO		55 55 07 39	to Londonderry	8
LYME REGIS ARDROSSAN			Off Altacarry to Liverpool	10
SEALION DOLFIJN	SCIMITAR	51 40 05 36	Southbound to Bishop Rock	10
ST MARYS			Off St. Govans to Tobermory	15
NORFOLK CUMBERLAND		56 17 08 08	to Scapa	17½
HARVESTER GARLAND			Sail Greenock p.m. to Merville	15
SARDONYX		55 16 08 42	to search in 52 52 21 47	15
ONS.146 C.T.U. 24.1.17.	ORCHIS NARCISSUS LOBELIA ACONIT ROSELYS 7 trawlers	55 42 07 34	to 56 00 16 00	6½
ONM.147	GOODWIN	52 08 05 22	to Belfast	9½
1 M/V	P.C.74		Sails Barry Roads 2000A/16 to R/V 000 degs. Altacarry 8'	10



# MOST SECRET

Situation at 1956A/16th November, 1942.

Section S.E. (Contd.)

HX. 214	CLOVER					
C.T.U.	ATILLA					
24.1.18.	PENNYWORT					
	BORAGE	56	31	08	31	to Liverpool 9½

To be relieved by NARVIK in N. Channel. Ships for Loch Ewe, Clyde, Belfast breaking off unescorted.

CONVOY	SOUTHERN BREEZE	52	45	04	54	Northbound 9
H.M. 68	LEEDS UNITED	52	57	05	04	Southbound 8
4 M/V's	Unescorted	54	51	05	30	Liverpool 14
2 M/V's	OFFA					
	ORIBI					
	ON SLOW	55	38	08	54	to 55 35 08 02 17½

Situation at 1956A/16th November, 1942.

Section N.W.

S.C. 108	POLYANTHUS					
C.T.U.	SHERWOOD					
24.1.18.	CILLIA					
	PRIMROSE					
	MORDEN					
	PICTOU	57	53	12	47	to 56 28 08 28 8

Situation at 1956A/16th November, 1942.

Section S.W.

MKF.1 X	DASHER					
	BITER					
	6 destroyers	50	20	16	01	to 53 00 16 20 12½
KMS.3.	BLACK SWAN					
	1 Sloop					
	9 Corvettes	42	14	19	14	to 42 00 19 15 then 38 00 18 00 7½
KMF.3.	WRSTON					
	2 Sloops					
	2 Cutters					
	2 Corvettes	51	38	17	29	to 42 02 17 29 12
1 M/V	VANSITTART	49	02	16	18	to 53 00 16 20 12
1 M/V	ITHURIEL	<del>50</del>	<del>10</del>	<del>14</del>	<del>00</del>	to 50 05 14 35 thence 12
						to 43 04 04 01



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Situation at 1956A/16th November, 1942.

Section S.W. (Contd)

ON.145	U.S.S. CAMPBELL	
C.T.U.	U.S.S. BADGER	
24.1.3.	ROSTERN	
	DIANTHUS	
	TRILLIUM	
	BURZA	47 28 36 00 to 43 51 42 01

MKF.1.	Fleet Unit	
" "	WRESTLER	
	AMAZON	
	2 Corvettes	40 13 16 00 to 51 00 16 00

1 M/V	SNOWDROP	<del>45 59 20 22 to 52 30 19 01</del>
		43 29 22 09 to 45 01 20 40,
		thence to 52 30, 19 01, 6.

1358A/16, ~~1736A~~ 1736A/16, and 1917A/16.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- D.M.S.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hl. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D. of P. (2)
- C.C.O. (2)
- U.S.N. (3)
- Adml. Blake. (2)
- Adml. Ramsey (4)
- D.D.O.L. (M)

HMB



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War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Batman". C - Nought - Nought.  
"Batman" (F.O.I.C. Portland 0540A/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Patrols. **CHASSEURS** 15 (S.O.) and 11 are to patrol tonight between E.A.5 Buoy and position 50° 25' N 0° 00'.  
Codeword "Advent".

Portland patrol M.G.B.51 (S.O.) and 57 in lat. 50° 20' N between 2° 20' W and 1° 35' W.

PENYLAN stand by at Yarmouth.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1149A/16.)

My 0956/16. Cancel patrols.

(C. in C. Nore 1204A/16 to Capt. D.16. D.21.)

Patrol tonight.

2. Forces employed M.Ls 491 (S.O.) 157, 183 and 179.
  3. Patrol. 7 miles 075° and 255° from 100° Start Point 27 miles.
  4. Object. To intercept E-Boats.
  5. Information. Own. 4 M.T.Bs sail Dartmouth 2100/16 for southward returning so as to lie within 20 miles of section coast by daylight.
- Enemy. E-Boats may operate from Guernsey or Cherbourg.
6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1700 today and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight 17th and return to Dartmouth. Attention is called to A.M. QZX 834 which is not to be crossed unless in sight of or chasing the enemy.
  7. Codeword "Obstacle".  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1435A/16.)  
4 M.Ls on patrol 9 miles S.E. Start.  
4 M.T.Bs sail Dartmouth 2100 southbound returning Dartmouth daylight.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1601A/16 and 1711/16 to Admty.)

BODO My 2141/14. Arrived.  
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1738/16.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command Operations. On night 15/16, 67 A/C bombed Genoa, making the sixth attack since 22nd. Oct and 22 A/C laid mines.  
(H.Q.B.C. 1530A/16.)

N.F.I.U. formed. Naval night fighter development unit to form at Lee-on-Solent forthwith. Air Ministry agreement being sought to this unit being accommodated at R.A.F. Station, Ford, as from 1st Dec. where it could work in close liaison with its R.A.F. equivalent. Unit to be known as the Naval Fighter Interception Unit short title N.F.I.U. Squadron number 746 allotted. Aircraft establishment to be as follows. Details.  
(C.N.A.S. 2304A/16 to R.A.N.A.S.)



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Unusual mine sunk on 10 Nov. Following from F.O.I.C. Falmouth begins. Unusual mine with two horns on top and six round the sides and quite new was sunk mid-day yesterday off Hartland Point 0951A/16 Ends. (C. in C. Plymouth 1220/16 to Admty.) My 1220/16. Following is description of mine given by Skipper of PILOT JACK who was mine-sweeping last war. Black cylindrical three to four feet diameter dome top. On top 3 lifting bolts, two horns and five to six inches down from top six other horns in a circle. Mine apparently quite new. 20 hits required to sink, turned over on sinking and no sign of moorings like mines laid by Germans at end of last war. Mine was sunk on 10th Nov. not 15th Nov. as reported. (C. in C. Plymouth 1743/16 to Admty.)

Explosion Heavy under-water explosion to southward 62 D Buoy at 1542. (LIDDESDALE 1625A/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

Iceland sweep. Take BEAUMARIS under your orders and proceed as necessary to carry a searching sweep tomorrow and succeeding day. General requirements are sweep along a line from (A) 64° 20' N 23° 15' W to position (B) 5 miles off Malarriff, thence to position (C) 5 miles off Bjargtangar, and thence approx. 5 miles off Headland to position (D) 2 miles 310° from Straumnes. Arrange your programme chiefly, making most use of daylight, anchoring as convenient during dark hours. (A.C.I.C. 1730A/16 to M/S 15.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. D/F bearings at 0715Z/16 and 0917Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you. (D.D.I.C. 1134A/16 to Escorts O.N.144.)

Casualties and Defects.

DANEMAN Temporary repairs to steering gear of DANEMAN complete. Trials alongside satisfactory, DANEMAN will carry out final trial underway in icefree part of river on completion of coaling, probably 18th. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0950A/16.)

Dinghy. Proceed at best speed to assist dinghy containing 12 living air crew reported in 052° 52' N 021° 47' W at 0928A/16th. (C. in C. W.A. 1038A/16 to SAMSONIA.)

ONSLAUGHT. Searchlight superstructure damaged. See Shipping. /-697

/LARCHOL...



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.LARCHOL.  
R.K.A.

Further to N.S.O's letter dated 21st Oct. to D. of S. forwarding defect list, LARCHOL sustained damage at Dover on 4th trip. Details. Suggest work be undertaken by contract concurrently with boiler cleaning etc. reported in letter quoted.  
(Cdre. Sheerness 1334A/16 to D of S.)

Dinghy.

Request you will sail SLAZAK to R/V with KRAKOWIAK in 180° Bishop Rock 5 miles at 2030. Codeword "Arena".

(C. in C. Plymouth 1357A/16 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

My 1357/16. KRAKOWIAK is to leave W P 249 to R/V with SLAZAK in 180° Bishop Rock 5 miles at 2030/16. Destroyers are then to proceed in company to position (X) 047° 32' N 008° 38' W to search for dinghy with six airmen passing through position (Y) 049° 31' N 008° 36' W. Speed to be adjusted to arrive position (X) at first light 17th. Air co-operation will be arranged.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1413A/16.)

RAIDER

My 0946A/16. RAIDER delayed 48 hours by defect. Amend sailing time to 1430A/19th.  
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1712A/16.)

ARGUS

*See p. 707  
(Dispositions)*

On next occasion of breaking W/T silence ARGUS is to signal details of damage. Ship may be required to ferry 16 aircraft to Gibraltar at an early date.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1831A/16 to ARGUS.)

DASHER

DASHER is to proceed direct to Liverpool where she will be taken in hand for engine repairs.  
2. No work must be undertaken without reference

to Admty. which will prevent ship from steaming on one engine at three days notice.

3. On next occasion of breaking W/T silence DASHER is to report defects to F.O.I.C. Liverpool repeated Admty.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1958A/16 to DASHER.)

DRITTURA

Sailed and arrived Rescue tug CHERBOURGEOIS<sup>III</sup> to assist Dutch M/V DRITTURA broken down with engine defects 4 miles west of South Bishop.  
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2041A/16.)

Shipping and Convoys.

C.F.7.

When is SHROPSHIRE to part company with C.F.7. Your 1715/14 para 4. Are destroyers being relieved on exchange Inishtrahull at 1115Z/16.  
(SHROPSHIRE 0031Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

*See p. 692*

SNOWDROP

Onward route. From (S) to (T) 052° 30' N 019° 01' W (U) 55° 35' N 13° 02' W (V) 55° 35' N 07° 00' W.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0132A/16 to SNOWDROP.)

/My 1358A/16...



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War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

SNOWDROP. My 1358A/16. Amended P.C.S. One merchant ship  
Contd. (A) SNOWDROP 43.29 22.09 to 45. 01 20.40 thence  
to 52.30 19.01 6.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1736A/16.)

Q.P.15. Trawler NAMOS was expected to leave Iceland for  
Barentsburg, Spitzbergen, 14th Nov.  
(C. in C. H.F. 0903A/16 to C.S.I. Capt. D.18.)

→ My 2145A/12 para (A). Intend to sail in LONDON at 2100  
today. E.T.A. 1130/18.

(C.S.I. 1036A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

C.S.I.'s 2145A/12 and 0934/14. E.T.A. ONSLAUGHT and  
OBDURATE 0900/17. ONSLAUGHT sustained damage to searchlight  
superstructure. *p. 695*

(ONSLAUGHT 1101A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

Kola Inlet arrival C. in C. H.F. 2358/10 para 2 at 0608/16.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1103A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

Destroyers addressed proceed passing Switha 1730/17 to  
comply with C. in C. H.F.'s 1943/14.

(R.A.D. H.F. 1234A/16 to MUSKETEER, MIDDLETON, OAKLEY,  
ORWELL, LEDBURY.)

Your 2145/12 para (B) and Q.B.34 14th. Sailed (?E.T.A.)  
1100/17.

(A.C.I.C. 1422A/16 to C.S.I.)

Q.P.15 consisting of 30 ships leaves Dvina Bar 2100C/17  
for Reykjavik routed north of Bear Island. Escort consisting of  
5 destroyers, 5 Fleet M/S, 4 corvettes.

2. Your object is as in F S B 2 with following exception:-

(a) U-Boats. Only those outward repeat outward bound are to be  
attacked.

(b) One salvo is kept for cruisers and above.

(F.O.S. 1507A/16 to S/Ms.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/17 and movements for following  
24 hours.

(A) P.312 vicinity 70° 53' N 22° 26' E.

(B) P.216 vicinity 70° 52' N 21° 08' E.

(C) UREDD vicinity 70° 32' N 20° 01' E.

(D) JUNON vicinity 69° 30' N 17° 20' E.

(F.O.S. 1724A/16.)

→ Scapa departure LONDON. E.T.A. Seidisfiord 1130/18.

(A.C.O.S. 2100/16 to A.C.I.C.)

LLANSTEPHAN Your 1915A/15. This will be arranged.  
CASTLE (C. in C. Rosyth 1030A/16 to A.C.O.S.)  
CASTLETON

M.K.F.1.(Y) N.C.X.F. 1323/15. Sail ROCKINGHAM when ready to  
reinforce escort of M.K.F.1(Y). Estimated  
position 045° 33' N 016° 00' W at 2000A/17  
routed through (M) 051° 01' N 016° 01' W to (H) 054° 05' N  
013° 37' W 13½ knots. ARGUS to amend positions as necessary.

(C. in C. W.A. 1155A/16 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry, ARGUS.)

ROCKINGHAM sailed in accordance with your 1155/16.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1915A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceeding according to your 1155A/16. Time of departure  
Foyle Buoy 1940A/16. S.O.A. 15 knots, steering from Tory Island  
180° 8 miles direct to position M.

(ROCKINGHAM 2006A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)



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16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.- Contd.

- W.N.62  
C.W.A. My 1550A/6. Propose postponing W.N.62 12 hours to include ships ex S.C.108.  
C.W.A. propose postponing.  
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1200A/16 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- D.S.34. It is intended ST. MARYS should provide escort in accordance with Admty. 2008/12.  
(ii) Request confirmation that duty referred to in your\*1035A/15 will not prevent this.  
(A.C.O.S. 1223/16 to C. in C. W.A.)  
\*N.T. & H.D.
- K.M.S.4. A.M. 1902/14.  
(1) A/S escort WEAR (S.O.) PETUNIA, WOODRUFF, CROCUS, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, TAY, PORT ARTHUR, VILLE DE QUEBEC.  
(2) Liverpool portion escorted by WOODRUFF, PETUNIA, ALBERNI, VILLE DE QUEBEC to arrive Clyde p.m. 22nd. CROCUS to R/V with Liverpool portion as arranged by N.O.I.C. Liverpool.  
(3) PORT ARTHUR and BADDECK from Londonderry to arrive Clyde p.m. 22nd.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1444A/16.)
- CHERNYSHEV. Akureyri arrival CHERNYSHEV at 1215/11.  
(A.C.I.C. 1820A/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- M.K.F.1. My 1833/14. Add ORBITA, LETITIA for Clyde. DEMPO for Liverpool.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1907A/16 to C.C.O.)
- K.X.7. Convoy K.X.7 will leave U.K. on 28th Nov.  
2. It will be necessary to provide a special escort of 4 destroyers from Home Commands one of which should be LAUDERDALE. *see p. 693*  
3. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detail 2 destroyers of which one may be MELBREAK.  
4. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to detail one destroyer.  
5. Destroyer escort should be ready to join from Milford Haven.  
6. The following destroyers are expected to arrive U.K. 19th Nov. ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON and CLEVELAND when they will return to their respective Commands.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1912A/16.)
- Zigzagging instructions. Recent investigations of merchant ship casualties caused by U/Bs. have shown several instances of ships not zigzagging in circumstances when they should have been. Attention of Masters should be called to C.A.M.S.I. 176 and 200.  
(D.T.D. 1916A/16.)
- R.U.49. Intend sailing THIRLMERE as additional escort to R.U.49. After period of rest request she may be returned with next available U.R. convoy.  
THIRLMERE (A.C.I.C. 2031A/16 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

/U.R.49...



16.11.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

U.R.49.

Your 0211/15. Concur that one rescue ship should be used and sailed in U.R.49 on 17th Nov.  
2. Future policy now being considered may enable second rescue ship to be used also.  
(D.T.D. 2110A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

Operation  
F B.  
WILLIAM  
CLARK  
sunk  
on 4 Nov.

U.S. WILLIAM CLARK torpedoed and sunk 4th Nov.  
71° 05' N 13° 20' W. C.Bs in weighted box  
believed dumped by Master who is missing.  
(A.C.I.C. 2325A/16 to Admty.)



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch".

Military movement. Following from G - 4 AFCP for Brigadier Philippe in H.M.S. AURORA urgent begins. Question of moving armoured unit from (western) Task Force to Eastern Task Force under consideration. (N.C.X.F., 0107Z/16 to Force 'I', Force 'W'.)

Losses of H.M. Ships. 182. A.F.O. 3700/40. Not intended to hold inquiry into loss of H.M. Ships WALNEY, HARTLAND, HECLA,\*GARDENIA, IBIS, BROKE, and MARTIN as considered no useful purpose would be served. Losses of these ships were reported in my messages timed 1051/12, 2248/9, 1731/11, 1691/10 (? 1601/10 intended) and F.O. Force H's 0342Z/10 respectively. (N.C.X.F., 0900Z/16 to Admty.) \* Sunk in 35° Humbly Grove Lt. 7m. 0315Z/9 as result of collision with FUELLEN. (M.052102/42)

Flag of S.O. Force H. 16. Flag of S.O. Force H transferred to NELSON a.m./15th Nov. Request mails may be diverted accordingly. (S.O. Force H, 0914/16.)

Situation Report No.12. (1) WELSHMAN due Malta with stores today Monday. (2) Port of Algiers is developing satisfactorily and has about 20 berths in use. (3) N.C.X.F. in AURORA at Oran since 0800/16. (4) P.R.U. of Toulon at 1240/14 shows French Fleet present. STRASBOURG undocked. (5) NELSON, RODNEY,\*FORMIDABLE,\*FURIOUS, two cruisers and ten destroyers sailed at 1000/16 for vicinity of Balearic Islands to cover operations on North African coast. \* See p.701-2/30 p.719 (6) Promising attacks by CLARE on 14th Nov. and \*WRESTLER on 15th Nov. on U-Boats. WIVERN arriving with prisoners from two German U-Boats. \*U.411 sunk. See p.661. (7) A/S air patrols from Gibraltar had 11 sightings and 5 attacks. R.A.F. patrols from North Africa had 5 sightings and 1 attack. 1 attack from each appears promising. (8) ETTRICK in M.K.F.1(Y) torpedoed in 36.12 N. 38.02 W. subsequently sunk at 1200/15. (9) CLAN MACTAGGART of M.K.S. 1(X) torpedoed at 0514/16 and sunk in 36.08 N. 07.23 W. See p.704 (10) Admty. pass to A.F.H.Q. London. (N.C.X.F., 1040Z/16.)

Air activity. TCAO number 11. Intend A/S air escort 17th November all dawn to dusk. M.K.F.2, M.K.S. 1(X), T.E.4A, SS. ALMAACK, Force H one C each. Additional air escort at M.K.F.2, M.K.S. 1(X) one H each, K.X.6 one H followed by one Swordfish. A/S air search 4 H surface craft and P.M. Area W K W A W R, 4 H A.M. and P.M. W R W F, 4 H A.M. 8 H P.M. LBTQ. A/S air patrol Oran one Swordfish. Algiers one Swordfish one Walrus. (N.C.X.F., 1050Z/16 to All British S. and A. concerned in Operation "Torch", V.A. Malta,)



# SECRET

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

SECRET MESSAGE 1254Z/16th November IN

FROM: Commandeth Gibraltar. DATE: 16.11.42.  
RECD: 1715

P/L.

Addressed: ABFOR.  
IMPORTANT.

Reference No. 678.

SITREP No. 9, November 15th. All SITREPS to 2400Z unless stated.

1. Naval Anti Submarine patrols from Gibraltar made 11 sightings and 5 attacks. Transport ETTRICK and CLAN MAC TAGGART torpedoed and sunk west of Gib.

2. Eastern Task Force. Elements 2nd Battalion, U.S.A. Paratroops, dropped in vicinity Youk Les Bains. British Para. Bn. did not land Souk-El-Arba due to adverse weather. Mobile column 78th Div. arrived Bone afternoon 14th. Bone Force now approximately 1 Brigade Group. Elemory's Armd. Regt. Group leaving Algiers for Souk Ahras by road and rail. Algiers port developing satisfactorily, 20 berths in use.

3. Western Task Force Naval and Transport shipping sailed Safi for USA PM 13th. Unloading Port Lyautoy progressing satisfactorily. All facilities except telegraph expected to be repaired 20th.

4. Air. Thirty-one Anti Submarine sorties 15th from Gibraltar and North African bases, 16 sightings, 6 attacks, 2 very promising. One Hudson of 500th Squadron Oran crashed in sea after attacking U-Boat, 2 survivors. Nine day fighter, 1 night fighter and 1 light bomber Squadrons of R.A.F. now established in 1st Army area, also 12 U.S.A. long range fighters and 1 Fortress Squadron. Fighters operating from Algiers, Djisjelli and Bone. Operations night November 13th/14th, Bougie bombed. Two French, 1 Allied ships damaged. Estimated 7 enemy aircraft destroyed. Bone, Algiers docks and Maison Blanche bombed ineffectively, no damage. Enemy air persistent over Bone and Bougie November 14th and 15th. Combat results not yet received. Build-up of 12th Air Force

/in



700 B

-2-

in Oran and Casablanca areas continues, no air operations reported these areas.

1254Z/16.  
Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

1st Lord<sup>≠</sup>  
1st S.L. (2)  
4th S.L.  
V.C.H.S.  
A.C.H.S. (F)<sup>≠</sup>  
A.C.H.S. (I)<sup>≠</sup>  
A.C.H.S. (T)  
A.C.H.S. (W)  
C.H.A.S.  
A.C.H.A.S.  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L. <sup>≠</sup>  
Capt. Pin.  
Ops. (3)  
O.D. (5)  
D.D.O.D. (C) (2)  
O.I.C. (5)  
D.N.I. (5)  
D. of P. (3)  
D. of P. (Q)<sup>≠</sup>  
D. of L.D. (2)  
D.S.D. (2)  
D.N.A.D.  
D.A.C.D.  
D.H.S.  
D.H.S. Citadel  
D.T.S.D.  
D.C.D. (2)  
D.A./S.W.  
C.C.O. (2)  
D.T.D. (3)  
D.T.D. (H)  
M. (4) and for H.Q.C.C.  
Admiral Blake (2)  
Admiral Ramsey (4)  
D.P.D.  
W.D.  
I.P. (5)  
C.W.R. (Map Room)  
Admiral Osborne.

Received from A.F.H.Q.

<sup>≠</sup> Accelerated delivery in lieu of advance copies.

MAG,



701

16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Damage to BLYSKAWICA. During a heavy daylight air attack at Bougie on 12th Nov. BLYSKAWICA suffered casualties and damage resulting from near misses of anti-personnel bombs as follows:

- (a) 2 Polish ratings and 1 British signalman killed.
  - (b) 42 wounded of which 39 discharged to hospital.
  - (c) Hull of ship holed in number of places including magazines and oil fuel tanks and estimated time for repairs is 2 weeks.
  - (d) Ship urgently requires new E.R. and gunnery personnel and unless these are provided ship will only be able to man 60% of 4 inches armament and engine room staff must work in 2 watches.
  - (e) 3 cooks included in wounded.
- (BLYSKAWICA, 1317A/16.)

Intended movements. Admiralty 1345A/15th being passed to you) approve release DUKE OF YORK and VICTORIOUS. Intend to sail them about 18th by which time 6 destroyers bound U.K. will be available as result of following movements now being initiated.

(A) 4 destroyers to Force H. OPPORTUNE and BULLDOG for Gibraltar and U.K. on relief. *See p. 716*

(B) ANTELOPE arrive Algiers a.m./17th relief BEAGLE of your escort. BEAGLE for Gibraltar and U.K. *See p. 705, 716, 721.*

2. MALCOLM (3 boiler), WESTCOTT and GLAISDALE are already available at Gibraltar.

3. Not less 4 feet (sic) are being retained as screen for RENOWN.

(N.C.X.F., 1422Z/16 to N.C.X.F. in AURORA, (R) S.O. Force H, R.A.A.)

Flag of C.S. 10. 7. Flag C.S.10 hoisted in BERMUDA at 0900A/15th. (F.O.C. 10th C.S., 1432A/15.)

Naval aircraft. 179. My 1107/12. To equip FORMIDABLE and FURIOUS for immediate future operations it has been necessary to complete their complement by taking aircraft from VICTORIOUS due to shortage of F.A.A. reserves at Gibraltar.

(2) R.A.A. has represented that he has strong objections to the proposal to break up present squadron personnel in VICTORIOUS by the transfer of whole or part squadrons as proposed in A.M. 1700/11. I concur. *\* See next page*

(3) I have therefore approved transfer of aircraft as follows.

(1)\*FORMIDABLE to complete to 27 Martlets, 8 Seafires, 12 Albacores.

(2)\*FURIOUS to complete to 26 Seafires, 9 Albacores.

(3) Gibraltar reserve Seafires 11, Hurricanes 8, Martlets 7, Albacores 1, Swordfish 4, Walrus 1.

(4) Effect will be VICTORIOUS will sail with only 6 Albacores, 4 Martlets and 5 Fulmars, but with full squadron personnel on board. *\* See p. 700*



War Diary.

16.11.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" — contd.

Naval  
aircraft.  
(Contd.)

(5) 809 Fulmar squadron in <sup>\*</sup>VICTORIOUS is specially trained in army co-operation and a need for this may well arise again at a later date. The complete squadron is however being sent home in VICTORIOUS since the personnel form an experienced first line squadron and the aircraft are not required at present since no other crews are available at Gibraltar.  
(N.C.X.F., 1558Z/16 to Admty.)

*\* See previous page.*

Naval  
aircraft.

833 Squadron of 6 Swordfish may be retained at Gibraltar for A/S patrols until relieved by 179 Wellington Squadron in about one week's time. If possible ARCHER should be retained until then in order to embark 833 Squadron and bring them to U.K. In future Auxiliary Carriers taking T.B.R. aircraft from the U.K. for their own protection should bring them back when returning to U.K.  
(D.N.A.D., 1815A/16 to N.C.X.F. 235.)



703

War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Force H. Force H leaves Gibraltar 1000/16 to cruise in the vicinity Balearic Is. to cover operation on North Africa coast.  
(Capt.S.8. 0040Z/16 to 8th S.F.).

SHAD. Arrived point C 036.00 N. 020.00 W. 0100Z/16th  
*see pp 706 & 707* thence course 000° S. of A. 11 knots.  
(SHAD. 0109Z/16 to Admty, (R) N.C.X.F.)  
Proceed by route red on surface by day when west of 015° W, thence diving by day to R/V with escort in position H at 1200A/22 Nov. Bombing restriction follows.  
(F.O.S. 2126A/16 to SHAD (R) BLACKFISH, HERRING, BARB, GUNNEL C. in C.W.A. Capt.S.3., N.O.I.C.Falmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, Comnavu, Com.U.S.S/M Sqdn. 50, Admty).

PRESCOTT. Proceed when ready to overtake convoy M.K.S.1(X) and act as additional escort.  
→ M.K.S.1 (X) 2. Convoy M.K.S.1.(X) is routed as in my 1845Z/14 (N.T. in W.D.).  
3. \*COREOPSIS, MARIGOLD, BRIXHAM, ROTHESAY, sailed about 2000/15th, BUDE escorting ALCINOUS expects to sail a.m./16th, all to overtake convoy. *\* see next page*  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0430Z/16 to PRESCOTT (R) N.C.X.F., E.G.40, Escorts M.K.S.1 (X).  
See Also 2222/16. *p.709 - E/30 p.707.*  
Sailed PRESCOTT to overtake convoy M.K.S.1 (Y) (as in signal) (F.O.C.N.A.1705Z/16 to Escorts of convoy M.K.S.1.(Y) Admty N.C.X.F.)

Operation "Analysis" Following is a repetition of my 1753Z/14th (N.T.in W.R.) begins addressed Admty, F.O.Malta, C. in C. Med. F.O. Inshore Squadron, S.O. Force H, Cdre. Algiers from F.O.C.N.A. WELSHMAN sailed 1525Z for Malta via Algiers. Q.B.81, Q.BB.299, Q.B.C.502 T.O.O.17(?53)Z/14. (Ends).  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0451Z/16 to Admty, F.O.I.C.Malta, C. in C.Med. F.O. Inshore Squadron, S.O. Force H, Cdre.Algiers).

BIDEFORD Admiralty 1608A/15th, not to ships, and F.O.C.N.A.'s  
→ M.K.S.1(X). 1212Z/14th, not to Admty paras.5 and 6. These ships (W.D.Note. See 2222/16 for Names) are not to leave Lisbon. Remain in vicinity of R/V to turn ships back (?if) they do sail. At dusk proceed independently to join M.K.S.1.(Y) as previously ordered.  
(N.C.X.F.0520Z/16 to BIDEFORD (R) H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, Admty, F.O.C.N.A. Capt.(S) 9, C. in C. W.A. Cmdr. F., A.D. Gibraltar).

LONDONDERRY S/M sighted on surface, dived, and has been  
U/B. attacked position and course 036.16 N. 007. 02 W. 293° (?7 knots).  
(LONDONDERRY 0525Z/16 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.).

My 0525/16. Charge patterns dropped by me, no A/S contact gained throughout, rejoining.  
(LONDONDERRY 0631Z/16, to Admty, C. in C.W.A. F.O.C.N.A.).

/COREOPSIS.....



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

\*COREOPSIS, Are you in company with CLAN MACTAGGART?  
CLAN (N.C.X.F..0541Z/16 to COREOPSIS (R) LONDONDERRY.)  
MACTAGGART. CLAN MACTAGGART torpedoed and sunk in 036° 08' N.  
\* *see pp 703, 707, 709* 007° 23' W.  
(COREOPSIS 0644Z/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) LONDONDERRY.)  
Have on board 150 survivors from CLAN MACTAGGART.  
(COREOPSIS 0926Z/16 to N.C.X.F.)  
My 0926Z/16th. Amended figure 167 survivors. Naval  
and Lascar casualties.  
(COREOPSIS 1031Z/16 to N.C.X.F.)

DEPTFORD. Intend proceeding in accordance with my 1430Z/15th.  
*see next page* My position 036° 36' N. 000° 48' E.  
(DEPTFORD 0545Z/16 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F.  
Cdre. Algiers.)

→ JAUNTY. No contact. Passed lifeboat and small (?group  
omitted) Request any further information.  
(JAUNTY 0645Z/16 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)

U/B Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M  
attacked. in 35.40 N. 7.32 W. Was on course 180° speed  
6 knots.  
(A/C using call sign TV5C 0838/16.)  
Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. S/M has  
dived bearing 35° 42' N. 7° 32' W.  
(A/C using call sign TV5C 0840/16.)

ALMAACK, Pass position of ALMAACK to JAUNTY. Instruct  
→ JAUNTY. air escort to help if possible.  
\* BRILLIANT. (N.C.X.F. 0927Z/16 to BRILLIANT (R) JAUNTY,  
\* *see pp 706 & 707* LOCH OSKAIG.)  
Position of ALMAACK at 0800Z was 036° 38' N. 008° 05' W.  
(N.C.X.F. 1055Z/16 to JAUNTY, LOCH OSKAIG, LEYLAND (R)  
BRILLIANT.)  
Commenced towing at 1410Z, 036° 38' N. 008° ? 03'-05'-43' W.  
course 106° speed about 4 knots.  
(JAUNTY 1445Z/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Sailed hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND, E.T.A. Casa-  
blanca 2359 16th Nov.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0941Z/16 to N.C.W.N.T.F. (R)  
N.C.X.F., Admty.)

JONQUIL, CONTESSA unable to sail this tide. (?U.S.)  
CONTESSA. Naval Command requests to wait and escort her  
tomorrow.  
(JONQUIL 0952Z/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

/PELICAN ...



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.PELICAN,  
FLEETWOOD,  
M.K.F.2.*See p. 707  
(Disposal time)*

Report name of escort in company and if any of ocean escorts must fuel at Gibraltar. FLEETWOOD is to continue as ocean escort to prudent limit of endurance and then return to Gibraltar. Escort of Oran section if present are to continue through Straits until daylight. F.O.C.N.A. will signal instructions for R/V with Gibraltar section.

(N.C.X.F. 1038Z/16 to PELICAN (R) FLEETWOOD, Escorts of convoy M.K.F.2, Admty.)

M.K.F.2. Your 1038Z/16th. Escort in company with

\*PELICAN, FLEETWOOD, \*BANFF and \*SENNEN all able to reach U.K. without additional fuel. No escort joined from Oran. Expect to pass 180° (?Europa Point) about (?0330)Z 17th Nov. Understand U.S. transports ARGENTINE, BRAZIL, and URUGUAY destination (?Gibraltar) and their E.T.A. 0245Z/17th. *See pp. 715, 721, 2/20/22*

(PELICAN 1414Z/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Gibraltar portion will now join in 35° 53' N. 6° 23' W. at 0800Z/17th.

(N.C.X.F. 2148Z/16 to PELICAN.)

\* *See p. 693*GUNNEL,  
U/B.*See pp 706 707  
(U.S. S/M)*

U-Boat sighted at 0735Z/16th 035° 23' N. 016° 23' W, course of enemy when last seen was 270° U-boat submerged at 0745.

(U.S. S/M GUNNEL 1100Z/16 to U.S. S/M SHAD, HERRING, BARB (R) Admty.)

LE TONNANT.  
French.

My 1200 Nov. 15th. Now confirmed French submarine scuttled due to damage being more extensive than anticipated. Commander feared submarine would be interned and subsequently handed to Germany. Reduced crew only on board, other having been killed. Crew now interned Spain.

(Cadiz 1115/16 to Admty. etc.)

Your 1135Z/16th (N.T. in W.D.) Cadiz report French S/M LE TONNANT scuttled herself on 15th Nov. one mile off Cadiz. crew landed in Spanish territory. Am awaiting further confirmation. Meanwhile there would be no purpose in sending French Sloop LA GRACIEUSE. Please inform Misoff of regret that this has occurred.

(N.C.X.F. 1630Z/16 to N.C.W.N.T.F.)

U/B.

Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in 36° 9' N. 8° 53' W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 090° speed 10 knots. (Aircraft using call sign TR1B 1145Z/16.)

\* DEPTFORD,  
x ANTELOPE,  
Convoy.\* *See previous page*x *See p 701*

Your 1430Z/15th. On arrival of fast section at Algiers DEPTFORD is to return at best speed to join ADJUTANT and ANTELOPE. (N.C.X.F. 1150Z/16 to DEPTFORD (R) F.O.C.N.A., Cmdre. Algiers.)

/U/B ...



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

U/B.

Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M  
36° 12' N. 7° 53' W. sighted on surface and  
observed to submerge, when first sighted was  
on course 270° speed 7 knots.  
(A/C TV 5 L 1201A/16.)

Damaged  
German  
Tanker,  
Ferrol.

My 1930 Nov. 11th. Vessel continue anchor  
apparently without assistance from shore.  
Rumoured will dry dock. Spanish cruiser  
CANARIAS in dock cleaning. (W.R. Note.  
Remainder of message corrupt repetition called  
for)  
(Guyatt Corunna 1300/16 to Admty.)

BRILLIANT.  
ALMAALK.

*See P. 704 & 707*

All present and correct. P.C. and S. 036°  
45' N. 008° 07' W. 115° 4 knots.  
(BRILLIANT 1430Z/16 to N.C.X.F.)

U/B.

Following read Y.70. I am over enemy S/M in  
35° 50' N. 7° 52' W.  
(A/C using call sign WD3R 1446Z/16.)

Following read Y.70. Enemy S/M previously reported was  
sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted  
was on course 360° speed 15 knots.  
(Aircraft using call sign WD3R 1555Z/16.)

A/S Sweep  
M.K.F.2.

At noon tomorrow 17th detach ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM,  
MARIGOLD, COREOPSIS with orders to carry out A/S  
sweep as ordered by ROTHESAY along reverse route.  
M.K.F.2 is expected to pass through 36° 00' N.  
09° 30' W. course 270° 13 knots, at 2000Z/17th.  
(N.C.X.F. 1448Z/16 to LONDONDERRY (R) ROTHESAY,  
BRIXHAM, MARIGOLD, COREOPSIS, F.O.C.N.A. Capt.  
(S) 8, A.O.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. F.M.S.13.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1957/16th.

- (1) U.S. submarines SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARB, *see P. 702-707*  
in vicinity of 36.01 20.01 at 2100A/16th 000° 11.  
(2) U.S. submarine BLACKFISH in vicinity of 26.01 20.01 at  
2100A/16th 000° 11½.  
(3) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising in  
area between Canary Is. and Port au Prince 36.01 30.02.  
(4) ~~PORTADOWN~~, YESTOR, VIVIANA, SPHENE 33.58 26.33, 161° 9½.  
(N.C.X.F. 1457Z/16, 2108Z/16.)

Situation 1958A/16th.

- (2) H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER 26.24 32.01 180° 12. *see P. 726*  
(3) Comdesron 10 in ELLYSON (corrupt group) with 7 American  
Ships 30.26 33.39 through 30.01 35.01 thence 284° 13.  
(N.C.X.F. 1506Z/16.)



War Diary.

16.11.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Dispositions Situation 2002A/16th midnight.  
(contd.) → (3) THUNDERBOLT 43.01 12.09 diving by day 2½  
surfacing by night 10 161°.  
(4) Swedish relief ship CAMELIA, EROS, FORMOSA,  
36.01 08.03 to Gibraltar 12.  
(5) K.X.6, LANCASTER, WELLS, 3 Corvettes, 4 Trawlers, 36.11 08.27  
to Gibraltar 7.  
(6) K.M.S.3 BLACK SWAN, one sloop, 9 Corvettes 42.09 19.16  
through 42.01 19.15 thence 116° 7½.  
(7) BIDEFORD 38.15 09.53 to rendezvous M.K.S. One (X) in position  
37.01 11.41 8. *See pp 703 709*  
(8) M.K.S.1 (X) LONDONDERRY, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, WOODSTOCK,  
LOUISBURG, COREOPSIS, ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM 36.08 09.11 through  
36.10 10.01 thence 299° 7½. *See pp 703 709*  
(10) PRESCOTT 36.05 08.08 to overtake M.K.S.1 (X) 14 knots. *See pp*  
(11) H.M.S. BRILLIANT, LOCH OSAIG, LEYLAND, JAUNTY with 1 *703 709*  
\*merchant ship in tow in approximate position 36° 38' 8" 5'  
to Gibraltar. *See pp 704 706 XALMAACK.*  
(12) M.K.F.1 (Y)\*ARGUS, WRESTLER, AMAZON, EZE (?EXE), SW(ALE)?  
40° 6' 16" 1' 000° 13½. \* *See pp 696*  
(13) M.K.F.2 \*PELICAN, FLEETWOOD, \*BANFF, \*SENNEN pass Gibraltar  
at 0430A/17, course 270° 13. *See pp 705 # 693*  
(14) M.K.F.2 (G) EGRET, PHILANTE, CLARE leave Gibraltar approx.  
2100A/16th to R/V M.K.F.2 in 36° 1' 8" 1', Hospital ship NEW-  
FOUNDLAND 34° 11' 7" 2' to Casablanca 10½.  
(N.C.X.F. 1507/16 as amended 2044Z/16.)

TROOPER, TROOPER and P.311 are to proceed as ordered in my  
P.311, 1330/15th to THUNDERBOLT.  
→ THUNDERBOLT. (2) All times for P.311 48 hours later.  
(3) TROOPER is to adjust speed between 043° 01'  
012° 46' and position A so as to pass position  
A at 0800Z ? (22nd) and then remain 72 hours astern of  
THUNDERBOLT.  
(4) THUNDERBOLT, P.311 and TROOPER will be met by escorts in  
position C at 1600Z on 20th, 22nd and 23rd November respectively  
and escorted through Straits.  
(Capt. S.8, 1500Z/16 to TROOPER, P.311, THUNDERBOLT (R)  
Admty., N.C.X.F., F.O.(S) V.A. Gibraltar.)

U.S. You may encounter following eastbound or westbound  
S/Ms. enemy in area given in my 1237/15th Nov. (area  
*See pp 705 706* in which ships are to be sunk at sight)  
(A) Tankers, blockade breakers supply ships or  
raiders. All are well armed, in addition raiders may have  
torpedo tubes. Raiders have speed up to 22 knots remainder 12  
to 16 knots.  
(B) He.11, Ju.88 or Focke Wolf aircraft.  
(C) Allied Sunderland Flying Boat or Liberators may be seen up to  
500 miles from Lands End. Whitley or Wellingtons up to 350 miles.  
(F.O.S. 1508A/16 to SHAD, HERRING, BARB, GUNNEL, BLACKFISH,  
(R) COMNAVEU, Cdr. U.S. S/M Squadron 50.)



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.CORINALDO  
(sunk 29th  
October.)

Ref. Trade Division Memo 4th Sept. 1939.  
 1. CORINALDO. 2. Donaldson South American Line.  
 3. 1915 29th Oct. 034° 20' N. 018° 25' W.  
 estimated. 4. One cable on port bow.  
 5. Not seen again. 6. On surface.  
 7. R.O. Istanbul (sic). 8. For survivors see my 1915/8th.  
 9. No details seen. 10. One torpedo.  
 (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1531/16 to Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

PRINCE  
BAUDOUIN.

Following received from Sierra Leone addressed  
 Admiralty. (Begins) Intend PRINCE BAUDOUIN to  
 call at Ponta Delgada to fuel at 0600Z/22nd Nov.  
 Estimated requirements. Request Portuguese  
 authorities be notified. T.O.O. 1811Z/14 (Ends)  
 (D.O.D. (F) 1551A/16 to F.O.C.N.A. 808, British  
 Consul, Ponta Delgada, (R) N.A. Lisbon.)

Italian  
U/Bs  
Cadiz.

B.O. 2 damaged Italian submarine(s) entered  
 Cadiz 12th November.  
 (Seville 1558/16 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty.  
 for D. of N.I., B.N.A. Madrid, R.O. Cadiz.)

Air  
R/C.

A 252 16 November P.R.U. Gib. W.1 G.2 Sortie  
 E.246 16/11. 1115 hours shows Cadiz and Matagorda  
 on oblique photographs. La Carraca not covered.  
 Only Naval shipping is one probable Jupiter  
 Class Minelayer. Merchant shipping comprised two cargo liners  
 and seven M.Vs. Two probably three of the M.Vs were present  
 on 11/10. Shipping in Puntales Channel unchanged since 11th Oct.  
 Karache, Auamara A/D. No A/C visible.  
 (P.R.U. Gibraltar 1615Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

KAULDI.

Nov. 16th, Spanish 59 (KAULDI) left for France  
 14th.  
 (Bilbao 1725/16 to Admty. (R) M.E.W. etc.)

SPICHERN.

P.R.U. visual report. Tanker SPICHERN (Ex  
 KROSSFONN) still at Ferrol 1245/16.  
 (D.D.I.C. 1800A/16 to SHEFFIELD (R) F.O.C.N.A.  
 etc.)

CLYDE.

Arrival.  
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1818Z/16 to Admty.)  
*see next page*

HERRING.

N.C.X.F. reference 2352Z/13 (Request repetition  
 to Admiralty P.C. and S.) position 036° N.  
 019° 50' W. at 2130Z/16 course north. S. of A.  
 11½.  
 (HERRING 2000Z/16 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. T.G.  
 34.11.)

*see pp 706 1707*



War Diary.

16.11.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

P.222,  
P.51,  
U/B.

Keep a good lookout for U-boat. No British submarine your vicinity.  
(Capt. S.8 2004Z/16 to P.222, P.51.)

*p. 714*

Convoy  
→ M.K.S.1(X)

M.K.S.1.2(X) 1800Z/15  $9\frac{1}{2}$  knots.  
L. 36° 10' N. 10° 00' W.  
M. 38° 28' N. 15° 00' W.  
N. 40° 28' N. 17° 02' W.  
O. 41° 00' N. 16° 30' W.  
P. 52° 01' N. 16° 02' W.  
Q. 55° 03' N. 13° 15' W.  
R. 55° 25' N. 08° 35' W.

LONDONDERRY, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, PRESCOTT, WOODSTOCK, LOUISBURG, BIDEFORD, COREOPSIS, MARIGOLD, BRIKHAM, ROTHESAY, BUDE.  
(V.A.C.N.A. 2105Z/16 to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

BARB.

*p/p 705,  
706, 707.*

Your 0210/13th (N.T. in W.R.) 036° 00' N. 020° 00' W. at 0140Z/17th November 000° 11 knots 250 miles per day.  
(BARB 2202Z/16 to Admty., pass to N.C.X.F., R.A. W.Af., C.T.F.34, F.O.S. C.S.S.50, Comnavu, pass to base 2, Capt.S (8))

→ M.K.S.1(X)

*p. 703*

140. Request you will sail Convoy M.K.S.1 (X) at 1600Z/15th (sic) November routed through following positions:

L. 36.10 N. 10.00 W.  
M. 38.28 N. 15.00 W.  
N. 40.28 N. 17.02 W. thence as ordered by Admty.

2. Convoy will consist of EMPIRE CONFIDENCE, HAVILDAR, ST. ESSYLT, ALCINOUS, WALT WHITMAN, DUKE OF ATHENS, HOUSTON CITY, FORT SENNEVILLE, FORT McLAUGHLIN, CHIONA, NORLYS, MAJA, KAIA KNUDSEN, and any ships of E (as received) K.M.S.1, which may return in time. Names will be signalled.

3. Admiralty is requested to signal destinations.

4. Escort LONDONDERRY, BIDEFORD, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT, LOUISBURG.

5. OPORTO, NOLISEMENT, ALGERIAN and SPERO escorted by BIDEFORD should be sailed from Lisbon to rendezvous with main position 37.00 N. 11.41 W. at 1200Z/17.

6. A.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange A/S Air Patrols. (N.C.X.F. 2222Z/16 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Comm. F.S.8., A.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

REGENT,  
SEVERN,  
\*CLYDE.

*\* See previous page.*

(1) Upper deck torpedo containers are held at Gibraltar for REGENT.

(2) Is SEVERN fitted with these containers or should CLYDE's be removed at Gibraltar and held for SEVERN?

(3) Expect to sail CLYDE 21st November for U.K. (Capt. S.8 2232Z/16 to F.O.S.)



War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Dinghies. Circling 3 Dinghies ZCJR 4555 (indecipherable)  
(A/C C/S A5XF 2308/16 to Plympton M/F D/F  
(Gibraltar B Cast))

South Atlantic.MILFORD,  
TAMARISK.Departures 16th November.  
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 0825Z/16 to Admty.)*See next page.  
(Dispositions)*

BARBRAKE.

Your 1010C/13th. Intend sailing BARBRAKE  
for Takoradi about 23rd Nov. escorting ST. ZENO  
trawler (?routed) via Pointe Noire and Walvis  
Bay. Further signal will be made.  
(R.A.W.A. 1002Z/16 to C. in C. S.A. (R)  
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty.)

ENTERPRISE,  
CERES.Arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1004Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

K.14.

Your 1535Z/15th.

*See next page.  
(Dispositions)*

1. Intend to sail N. S/M K.14 at 0630Z/17th Nov.  
for Bermuda. Route (a) 14 N. 30 W. at 0100Z/22  
Nov. (b) 19 N. 39 W. at 2000Z/24th Nov.  
(c) 30 N. 60 W. at 0001Z/1st Dec. S. of A. 9  
knots. E.T.A. Bermuda a.m. 2nd December.  
2. K.14 shifts from group F.T. and Rugby F.S. continuous wave  
to Washington broadcast via A.M. "A" 255 at 0800Z/25th Nov.  
3. Signal Publications as in my 1435Z/13th.  
(R.A.W.A. 1031Z/16 to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., Admty., F.O.S.  
F.O.C.N.A., K.14 Cominch.)

MERCATOR.

It is desired to bring MERCATOR to Freetown as  
soon as possible after she completes docking on  
Nov. 23rd. Date upon which she will be formally  
transferred to R.N. is requested so that a  
suitable officer may be included in navigating  
party to assume full charge if necessary. Your  
1344A 13th Sept. refers.  
(R.A.W.A. 1038Z/16 to Admty. (R) B.N.L.O. W.Af.)  
Re MERCATOR as submarine accommodation ship at Free-  
town.)

M/Vs.  
Port Bouet.

Two merchant vessels each 3000 tons and escort  
vessel A.75 type at Port Bouet 1100/15th Nov.  
Reported by air R/C.  
(S.O.I. Freetown 1107Z/16 to Admty.)

/Dispositions ...



711

War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

Dispositions. DRAGON 01.50 07.44 (? to) 02.30 10.01 thence to port 20.

COMMANDANT DROGOU, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, MORRIS DANCE, 3 M.Ls, with T.S.24 00.45 06.15 to 00.42 06.46 thence to port 8.

HOLCOMBE, HYDRANGEA, 2 Trawlers, (?2) M.Ls, with (?S) T 42.03 (corrupt group) 04.20 to Takoradi 10 at 2002Z/16th.

MILFORD, TAMARISK escorting 05.50 02.10 E. to Takoradi 9.5. *Sup p.710*

\* ASTURIAS, AMARANTHUS patrolling between 07.27 25.36 and 04.35 29.01 12.5. *See p.726*

CORINTHIAN 00.30 S. 00.59 E. 112° 11.

FANDANGO, KELT, 3 M.Ls, escorting about 03.30 S. 10.01 E. to R/V 7. P.552 05.30 S. 00.20 153 9. Allied naval unit patrolling between Ascension and St. Paul's Rocks. (R.A.W.A. 1155Z/16.)

KHYBER 18.30 (?20) 01 (?180°) 10. TRUANT 16.25 21.02 000° 11 at 2001Z/16th.

ARRAN, 3 M.Ls escorting 10 (?30) 17.01 to Bathurst 9.

TURCOMAN escorting about 14.30 37.20 292° 8½.

Neth. S/M K.14 leaves Freetown at 0645Z/17th proceeding to position 14.00 30.00 9. *See previous page*

(R.A.W.A. 1200Z/16.)

Appeal from Moreau. Your 1805/14 (N.T. in W.D.) Moreau stresses propaganda value of the French broadcast appeal proposed in my 0800/13 Nov. Para.(B) This was not put forward merely as an alternative method of reaching his father. (C. in C. S.A. 1204C/16 to Admty.)

LÉOPARD. Your 1247C/14/11. Final destination of LÉOPARD is Sydney where she should rejoin LE TRIOMPHANT. She is to be sailed to Mauritius as soon as ready for sea. Further itinerary will be given before her arrival at Mauritius. (F.N.F.L. Londres 1245A/16 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F., F.S. LÉOPARD.)

Shipping, Freetown, Lagos. C. in C. W.A. pass to N.C.S.Os. To avoid congestion at Takoradi the ports of Freetown and Lagos will be used as holding ports for the West African coast, except Bathurst.

2. Ships from U.K. and U.S.A. should be given (a) A route right through to destination (b) A route to Freetown from convenient point on route (a) (c) Instructions for entry into Lagos and Takoradi. Route (b) to be followed unless other instructions received.

3. N.C.S.O. Mersey is requested to indicate in the Convoy list whether the call at Freetown is for discharge and/or bunkers and/or holding only.

4. Cominch C. and R. is requested to furnish a similar indication in route signals.

(Admty. 1321A/16 to C. in C. W.A., Connav, (R) F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A.)

/VEERHAVEN ...



712

16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

VEERHAVEN. Following information received from Vice Consul  
(sunk 11 Natal re loss of Dutch SS VEERHAVEN.  
November.) VEERHAVEN bound from Buenos Aires to U.K. via  
Trinidad was shelled and sunk by S/M O100 G.M.T.  
11th November. 2 Lifeboats launched were machine  
gunned continuously by S/M or S/MS (general opinion of Officers  
and men that there were 2, ship being shelled on both sides).  
Position not given but I am asking Natal for this information.  
23 Survivors including Captain picked up by Brazilian Destroyer  
and landed at Natal 13th. No news of other lifeboat with re-  
maining 19 Officers and men. Ship's C.Bs were thrown over-  
board in box provided.  
(R.O. Permanbuco 1426Z/16 to Admty.)

M/V A.M. 1425/14th. Reference positions. Request  
Reference positions (A) to (e) (inclusive) given in my  
Positions. 1305/28th Oct. may be substituted for positions  
numbers 1 to 8 in your 1232/9th.  
2. My 1639/7th para. (2) and (3). In view of  
Admiralty's remarks request I may be informed whether it is  
intended (a) to reduce the number for positions in your 1232/9th  
observing that routes of most ships sailed to E.I.S. from S.A.S  
would contain at least 22 reference positions, and (b) to cancel  
any of the periods in anticipation of promulgation of references  
in future by Admty.  
3. Grateful for your (yearly) remarks in order that final and  
definite instructions may be issued to N.C.S.Os on S.A.S.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1712C/16 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)  
Reply: C. in C. E.F. 1254/17.

CERION British CERION in 35° 58' S. 26° 37' E. at  
attacked 0100C/10 Nov. was gunned by U-boat after 2  
by U/B torpedoes which missed had been fired at her.  
10 Nov. 2. U-boat fired several bursts from automatic  
gun similar to Oerlikon and 1 round from 4-inch  
gun all of which did no damage. Tracer and other  
ammunition which made greenish yellow streaks were used. CERION  
replied with 4 rounds and took evasive action by bringing U-boat  
astern. 4th round probably fell close to U-boat who discon-  
tinued action.  
(S.O.(I.) Capetown 1726C/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Dakar. Dakar P.R.U. 16th Nov. No change major unit.  
A.M.C. QUERCY sailed.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1955Z/16 to N.C.X.F., N.C.W.N.T.F.  
Admty., N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

Movements, Arrival 14th Nov. U.S. Destroyer\*OSMOND INGRAM,  
Pernambuco. Departure 14th U.S. Destroyers\*BADGER, DAVIS,  
ELLIS, Brazilian minelayers CARAVELAS and  
CARIOCA, Arrival 16th U.S. Sloop\*HUMBOLDT.  
(R.O. Pernambuco 2109Z/16 to Admty.)

\*Seaplane Tender -  
L. 73 1815  
D.L.F. BADGER N.N. 14th Nov.



713

16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P. 45. Your 2002/15th and V.A. Malta's 1215A/10th Oct.  
 P. 46. Pass through following position at times quoted,  
 P. 48. since presumed you have withdrawn west of  
 Skerki Bank. 38.00 10.00 at 0600/16th,  
 position A at 0500/17th, position B at 0600/17th thence at  
 120 feet to D.  
 You will be 10 miles astern of P.48 and should sound range  
 occasionally. \*P.46 will pass you on opposite course at 80  
 feet about midway.\* *See p/p 715, 722.*  
 After arrival at D at 1900/17th thence through E to F at  
 0700/18th continuing on the surface to end of swept channel  
 where sweeper will meet you and P.48 at 1325A/18.  
 Whilst approaching Malta in daylight on 18th set watch on  
 local patrol wave 465 k/cs and dive for blue air raid warning.  
 Your attention is drawn to Q.B.B. 298.  
 (Capt. S.10, 0032A/16 to P.45, (R) S/Ms on patrol.)

Operation "Analysis". Abandoning operation owing to weather. Returning  
 via outward route. S. of A. 28 knots. E.T.A.  
*See p/p 718, 719, 722.* Algiers 1030Z/16th. Request fighter protection.  
 (WELSHMAN, 0449Z/16 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn., (R)  
 N.C.X.F.)

*1145Z/15 - See p. 665.*  
 AURORA. My 1149/15th (N.T. in W.R.) AURORA is to sail  
*See p. 690, 716* at 2200Z/16th to arrive Algiers (?08)30Z/17th.  
 (N.C.X.F., 0759Z/16 to AURORA, Cdre. Algiers,  
 N.O.I.C. Oran, (R) F.O.C.N.A., BEAGLE, WISHART,  
 F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

PENTSTEMON. Your 1230Z/15th proceed to Gibraltar.  
 SAMPHIRE. (S.O.I. Sqdn., 0802Z/16 to PENTSTEMON, (R)  
 N.C.X.F.)

PENTSTEMON and SAMPHIRE in company arriving Gibraltar 0900Z/16th.  
 (PENTSTEMON, 0827Z/16 to S.O. Inshore Sqdn., (R) N.O.I.C.  
 Bougie, SPEY.) *Should be under Op "Torch" re N. Atlantic.*

U/B. Following has been read: Addressed Call sign  
 Y.70. Am over enemy S/M in 36° 58' N. 13° 2' E.  
 sighted on surface and seen to submerge.  
 (A/C using call sign XCCL, 0902Z/16.)

P. 212. Sailed.  
*See p/p 715, 722, 723.* (V.A. Malta, 0905A/16 to Admty., etc.)

MAURETANIA. Sailed 0445/16 G.M.T. E.T.A. Colombo a.m. 24th  
 Nov. (Route) thence Colombo searched channel  
 R/V 12° 31' N. 55° 52' E. with DEVONSHIRE at  
 0600Z/20th Nov.  
 (N.C.S.O. Suez, 0906/16 to Admty.)

/Movements ...



# SECRET

713<sup>A</sup>

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

SECRET MESSAGE 0830Z/16th November IN

From : C in C Middle East. Date 16.11.42  
Recd 1540

## CIPHER

ADDRESSED: The War Office ( pass to Air Ministry)  
repeated British Army Staff Washington  
(personal for F.M. Dill), C in C India,  
(Personal for Gen. Wavell) C in C Mediterranean  
G.O.C. in C. Egypt., C in C Persia/Iraq  
(Personal for Gen Wilson) L.H.Q. Melbourne  
(Personal for Gen. Blamey) C.G.S. New Zealand  
(Personal for Gen. Puttick) C.G.S. South  
Africa (Personal for F.M. Smuts)

IMMEDIATE  
O/72334 cipher 16 Nov.  
292898.

Cositrep 595 Part one.

One. . . . . 10 Corps. Four Lt. Armd. Bde. pressed  
on to Martuba morning 15 Nov. and reported all landing  
grounds in area secured and serviceable by 0900 hrs. GMT,  
patrols continued westwards along road Martuba-Carmusa  
during afternoon. 12 Lancers moved northwards directed on  
Derna. Seven Armd. Div. located Tobruk and area west.  
First Armd. Div. located area Sollum-Bardia.

Two. . . . . 30 Corps. N.T.R.

Three. . . . . 13 Corps. One PL first R. Sussex occupied  
Siwa afternoon 14 Nov.

Four. . . . . Air. 14 Nov. Fighters continued bombing  
and machine gun attacks on enemy M.T. in Melili-Tmini  
area. Few good targets found, but number of direct hits  
scored and fires started.

Five. . . . . Night 14/15 Nov. Liberators bombed Benghazi

/ Harbour.....



713<sup>B</sup>

2

Harbour starting very large fire on docks with explosions which throw debris high into air. Believed ammunition dump or train hit. Seven other fires started same area. Six. Ref. Cositrep 594 part two para four. Fighters operating from advanced landing-ground 13 Nov. found good HIT targets between Benghazi and Agcila over eighty vehicles destroyed and damaged and one fiescler storch shot down. Two Hurricanes missing Attacks were continued 14 Nov. but no details yet available. Continuation of air follows as part two. All informed.

0830Z/16

Received from W.O. at 1807/16/11

1st Lord  
1st S.L. (2)  
4th S.L.  
C.N.A.S.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (F)  
Naval Sec.  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
O.D. (5)  
C.C.L.S.  
O.I.C. (3)  
Ops. (3)  
D of P. (3)  
M (2)  
I.P. (3)  
D.P.D.  
W.D.  
D.N.I. (5)  
Adm. Blake  
A.C.N.A.S.  
D.N.A.D.  
D.A.C.D.

Circulated by W.O.

Internal

C.6. Telegrams, M.O. (5) (for action), S of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S., D.M.O., D.P. (2), D.D.M.O. (0) (H), M.O. 1, 5, 6., D.M.I., D.D.M.I. (I) (F), M.I. 2 (1) 3, 3b, 14., D.A.F.V., D.D.I.P.,

External

Duty Capt. (Admiralty), Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty War Room) Head of W.R. Admiralty., A.M.C.S., (Air Ministry) (6) Brig. E.I.C. Jacob (15) Cabinet War Room., S of S. Foreign Office.

pm



16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. *see p.722* Arrival 15th ROMEO, BEAUFORT,\*ORION, ALDENHAM, DULVERTON,\*CLEOPATRA,\*ARETHUSA, TETCOTT,\*DIDO, CROOME, PINDOS, T.L.Cs 101, 107, 139, 157, 154.  
Departure 15th Nov. SOUTHERN SEA, GLOXINIA, DELPHINIUM, ST. ISSEY, PRINCE DE LIEGE, CUMBRAE, PROTEA.  
(S.O.(I.) Alexandria, 0913B/16 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)  
*\* see p.690.*

Mersa Matruh. Situation report Mersa Matruh. 916 tons cargo unloaded on 14th. 389 tons from ships, 264 tons from lighter.  
(S.O.(I.) Med., 0950/16 to Admty.)

Personnel. Embarked (? for passage to U.K.) (details) proceeding in convoy 1730/15th.  
(D.S.T.O. Algiers, 1000Z/16 to Admty.)

P.222, P.51. Keep a good lookout for U-Boat. No British S/M in your vicinity.  
(Capt. S.8, 1004Z/16 to P.222, P.51.)  
*see p.709*

Movements. 15th Nov. arrival SEAHAM, HYACINTH, M.L# 359, JENNET and\*LYONS.  
(N.O.I.C. Beirut, 1022/16 to Admty.)  
*\* not identified*

TRITON. If special (? operation) (? completed) patrol Doro Channel daylight 18th.  
(Capt. S.1, 1108B/16 to G.S. TRITON, (R) C. in C. Med.)

French Shipping Agreement. Report on chartering engagements.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1115/16 to N.C.X.F.)  
See Lion Copy.

E.T. 2. Have 5 ships for E.T.2, request R/V E.T.A. 2 immediately. No escort available for passage Gibraltar.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1130Z/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.C. Algiers.)

Convoy signals. TON 7 para. 23. On sailing a convoy an immediate signal should be made to authorities concerned repeated N.C.X.F. giving (A) Name of ships in convoy. (B) Any alteration of escort. (C) Speed of advance.  
(N.C.X.F., 1131Z/16 to Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bone.)

Air R/C. No forenoon R/C due to weather.  
(V.A. Malta, 1136A/16 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., F.O. Inshore Sqdn., Cdre. Algiers, (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H, N.C.C.N.T.F.)



# MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1115/16th November  
IN

From Commodore Algiers

Date 16/11/42  
Time 2217

NAVAL CYpher (D) BY W/T

Addressed N.C.X.F.

IMPORTANT

In consultation with Kerr re French Merchant shipping, following is combined report:

- (1) Monsieur Stephan R.A. on administrative side of French Navy is appointed by Darlan to represent French shipping interests in North Africa and has been empowered to negotiate the Charters covering all French merchant ships in North Africa.
- (2) Chartering engagements together with note there on authorized by C. in C. A.F. dated October 24th were presented to Stephan on November 10th and produced the following reactions:
  - (a) No criticism of rates no reason to anticipate difficulty
  - (b) Question of clause 3 chartering engagements raised by French who enquired recently of interim chartering and why permanent times cannot be immediately negotiated here.
  - (c) Hull and machinery insurance for both war and marine risks is placed with private companies in metropolitan France but guaranteed by French Government. It may therefore not be possible to obtain here insured value; preference was expressed for replacement ton for ton lost rather than insurance for total loss.
  - (d) It has been inferred that availability of crew will largely be influenced by tonnage replacement so ensuring continuity of French merchant marine.



## (3) Recommendations:

- (1) Combined shipping adjustment board to determine immediately policy of time chartering French vessels in Northern Africa and to take steps to negotiate without delay time charters here.
- (2) That competent surveyors are appointed immediately and sent to Algiers, Oran and Casablanca.
- (3) Meanwhile we are pursuing our efforts to accomplish interim chartering engagements with a view to getting ships immediately into service. But from initial discussions we are not sanguine of success.

1115/16

Advance Copy D.C. D.C.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

1st Lord  
 1st S.L.(2)  
 Dep. 1st S.L.  
 4th S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S.(H)  
 A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
 A.C.N.S.(T)  
 Sec.  
 Nav. Sec.  
 P.A.S.(S)  
 P.A.S.(F)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D. of P.(2)  
 D. of P.(Q)  
 D.O.D.(H)(2)  
 D.O.D.(F)(2)  
 D.D.I.C.(3)  
 D.N.I.(4)  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.T.D.(C)  
 D. of S.T.  
 N.L.  
 W.G.F.  
 Admiral Blake (2)  
 Admiral Ramsey (4)  
 D.C.(2)  
 D.T.D.(3)  
 D.T.D.(M)  
 I.P.(2)  
 W.D.

MMB



7148

# MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1150 G.M.T./16th November

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 16/11/42

Recd. 1740

Cypher

Addressed The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry). Repeated  
British Army Staff Washington (Personal for  
F.M. Dill), C. in C. India (Personal for General  
Wavell), C. in C. Mediterranean, G.O.C. in C.  
Egypt, C. in C. Persia/Iraq, L.H.Q. Australia  
(Personal for General Blamey), C.G.S. New  
Zealand (Personal for General Puttick), C.G.S.  
Pretoria (Personal for F.M. Smuts).

MOST IMMEDIATE

292924. 0/72334 ciphor 16 November.

Cositrop 595.

Part Two.

1. Night 14/15 November. Hurricanes machine gunned M.T. North East of Benghazi starting fires.
2. 15 November. Fighters continued low flying attacks throughout day on enemy M.T. on roads South and West of Cirene as far as Benghazi. Cloud hampered observation of results, but numerous fires started and much damage caused. Many casualties inflicted on troops. One M.E. 111 shot down.
3. Fighters operating from advanced landing ground North East of Jalo machine gunned Agedabia and Jalo landing grounds and M.T. in Ageila and Jalo areas. Two aircraft destroyed on ground, two more damaged. About 50 M.T. destroyed and 25 damaged. During previous three days fighters operating against targets in Agedabia - Ageila area destroyed dive aircraft on ground 45 (or 55) M.T. damaged over one hundred M.T.
4. 28 American B.24s despatched to make daylight attack on Tripoli 15 November were unable to reach objective owing to bad weather. Ship in Gulf of Sirto attacked, one near miss claimed. M.T. South of Benghazi also bombed. B.24s shot down one Me.109, damaged another, near Benghazi.
5. Enemy fighter bombers attacked our Eastbound M.T. convoys between Gazala and Sollum, causing some damage and

casualties /



714<sup>D</sup>

2.

casualties. Fighter patrols later maintained over convoys without incident.

6. Fighters moved up to Gazala landing grounds in evening.

7. End of message. All informed.

1150 G.M.T./16.

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I.P.(2)  
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 Admiral Blake  
 D.N.A.D.  
 D.A.C.D.  
 C.C.L.S.  
 Admiral Ramsey (4)

GMM



715

War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

ALBARO My 1539C/5. ALBARO may sail today. B.2.  
(Italian) (S.O.I. Istanbul via N.I.D., 1140C/16 to S.O.I.  
Med., (R) S.1, D.N.I.)  
My 1140C/16th. ALBARO sailed for Aegean 1230  
G.M.T. November 16th.  
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1535C/16 to S.1, (R) S.O.I. Med., D.N.I.)

P. 46. Sailed.  
*Supp. 713, 720,* (V.A. Malta, 1204A/16 to Admty., etc.)

Air R/C Following received from A.H.Q. Malta (begins).  
by E.A.C. N.C.X.F., (R) Admty. A.S.I.1 4 8 Nov. 16.  
Your T.O.O. 1352/15 to V.A. Malta. As R.A.F. in  
Malta are still carrying out daily offensive  
operations over Tunisia we must still carry out photographic  
R/C of Tunis and Bizerta until Eastern Air Command are in a  
position to provide their daily P.R.U. results in adequate time  
for our operations. Please pass A.O.C. Eastern Command.  
(V.A. Malta, 1210A/16 to N.C.X.F., Admty.)

A/C attack Enemy bombing "School" - 37° 57' N. 5° 30' E.  
"School". 091°, 6.  
(Ship at sea, 1215A/16 to Algiers W/T.)  
My 1215, 3 aircraft, no damage.  
(Ship at sea, 1230A/16.)

Toulon Air/Int. 500 16th Nov. Ref. sortie C/604 date  
R/C. 14th Nov. Toulon. Further examination shows  
single anti-torpedo boom being laid in Petite Rade  
from position 43° 6' 24" N. 5° 55' 12" E. bearing  
in direct of 243° approx.  
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 1230A/16 to Admty., etc.)

Transport of Your 1824/11th Nov. 500 German P.O.W. embarked  
Prisoners. MAURETANIA ex Suez 16th. 2. 500 will be embarked  
HIGHLAND MONARCH. 3. Is limitation of 500 per  
ship also to apply between Suez and South Africa  
in view of your 1824/11th Nov. para. 2. (C) first sentence?  
4. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E.F.  
(P.S.T.O. E., 1245/16 to D.S.T.) Reply: D.S.T. 2158A/18.

LAMERTON, Order RUSKHOLM and STRONSAY to continue with  
convoy. convoy to Bone and remain there until further  
directions.  
(S.O. Inshore Sqdn., 1250A/16 to LAMERTON, (R)  
N.O.I.C. Bone.)

P.211, <sup>\*\*</sup>P.212. P.211 has freedom of action in Gulf of Sirte  
*\* Supp 720, 721. \*\* Supp 722, 723* south of 032° 00' N. If ship reported anchored  
off Ras Ali has left, Sirte and Buerat should  
be visited. P.212 keep north of 032° 00'.  
(Capt. S.10, 1255A/16 to P.221, P.212, (R) C. in C. Med.,  
N.C.X.F.) See also 1805/16.

/Force H ...



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War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Force H. Sail at 1730Z today 16th as ordered by METEOR to R/V with Force H in 38.15 N. 01.10 E. at 1200Z/17th unless otherwise ordered by him.  
 (2) Route 28 73 60. (3) S.O. Force H is requested to detach OPPORTUNE and BULLDOG on relief to arrive Gibraltar a.m. 18th November. *See p. 701*  
 (4) Route 76 3.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1401Z/16 to METEOR, LOOKOUT, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE, (R) S.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A., Capt. S.8.)

ANTELOPE, On arrival of ANTELOPE at Algiers she is required  
 BEAGLE, to relieve BEAGLE escorting AURORA as soon as  
 \*AURORA. possible. *x See p. 722.*  
*See pp 701, 705* Subject to concurrence of N.C.X.F., BEAGLE  
 proceed Gibraltar at best speed on relief.  
 \* *See p. 713* (N.C.X.F., 1433Z/16 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) N.C.X.F. in AURORA, V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Dispositions. No. K.177. Brief situation (group missed) for area west of Algiers 2002Z/16th. Submarines excepted.

- (1) Force H, 36.32 N. 01.53 W. 057°, 17 knots.
- (2) 4 destroyers 36.17 N. 04.27 W. through 73 and 60 to R/V Force H, 20 knots.
- (3) T.E. 4(a) 36.11 N. 04.59 W. through 28 and 50, 10 knots.
- (4) M.K.F.2, 35.43 N. 03.17 W. through Straits 12½ knots.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1444Z/16 to All British ships and authorities concerned in operation "Torch", V.A. Malta (excluding ships refitting in U.K.))

S/Ms. S/M Situation in Western Med. at 2000Z/16th Nov. All submarines submerged by day at 2½ knots and on surface at night.

- See p/p 709, 714*
- (1) P.222, 39.56 01.48 through 39.15 00.28 thence within 5 miles of coast to Gibraltar. Surface speed 11 knots.
  - (2) P.51, 40.33 03.02 by same route as P.222 to Gibraltar, surface speed 8 knots.
  - (3) TRIBUNE, 41.46 04.37 course 053° surface speed 11 knots. *See p. 721.*
  - (4) All positions North and East.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1455Z/16 to A.I.G. 262.)

Ships for Sailed (two corrupt groups) MINNA, 1700/16th, and Bone. *Felucca* FELUGCA ST. VINCENT 2200Z/15th both for Bone following coastal route, E.T.A. Bone 0900Z/17th. N.O.I.C. Bone is requested to arrange fighter cover from dawn. Codeword "Willis".  
 W/T watch single line period on routine and one port wave help messages on 385 k/cs.  
 (Cdre. Algiers, 1537Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) F.O. Inshore Sqdn., N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.C.X.F.)

U/Bs, Seville 1558/16 see North Atlantic.  
 Cadiz.

/10th S.F. ...



717

War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

10th S.F., Your 1920/15th.  
control. Concur in proposal. Intend that available S/Ms of 10th S/M Flotilla shall continue to attack shipping (a) in Bizerta Tunia Marittimo area and (b) on supply route in Tripoli, and in dividing their attention equally between these 2 areas. Following on completion of present patrol period \*TURBULENT and \*PARTHIAN will return to Beirut for future operation in Aegean and Crete area.  
(C. in C. Med., 1612B/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A., Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.10, V.A. Malta.)

\* ~~1920~~ p.724

TAKU Following is a summary of TAKU's 5th Mediterranean  
R. of P. war patrol from 21st October to 12th November.  
1140/24th position 036° 23' 027° 00' gunned 50 ton caique. 2330/25th position 038° 48' 025° 46' unsuccessful attack on escorted southbound tanker. Ineffective counter attack. 0804/26th after working ahead during the night successfully attacked and sank tanker in position 038° 07' 025° 57'. No counter attack. P.M. 27th gunned small merchant ship coming out of port of Kupho. Escaped due to superior speed. Sank caique in same area. 28th, 29th, 30th patrolling Doro Channel. 1440/29th large escorted merchant ship sighted passing northbound through channel. Unable to attack due to sighting too late. 1056/31st position 037° 30' 024° 03' attacked largest three merchant ships with three escorts coming out from Piraeus. One hit, probably sank. Ineffective counter attack. 1237/31st attacked same convoy which had altered to southbound. Missed. Moderate counter attack. 1700/1st hospital ship observed entering Port Melos. November 2nd, 3rd, 4th patrolled southern approached to Antikithera Channel. 2115/5th sighted westbound escorted merchant ship coming through Elaphonisos Channel. Failed to get in attack due to detection by escort. November 6th patrolling Kithera Channel. November 7th, 8th patrolling Melos Polykandro Channel. 1132/8th fired one torpedo at southbound A.M.C., snap attack missed. No counter attack.  
(Capt. S.1, 1615B/16 to C. in C. Med., (R) C.O.S. Alex., F.O.S., Capt. S.10.)

P. 37. Collect report from patrol line, withdraw 20 miles N.W. after dark and inform me on enemy traffic and route, torpedoes remaining and remarks of interest.  
~~1920~~ p.721 & 724  
(Capt. S.10, 1619A/16 to P.37, (R) PARTHIAN, P. 43.)

Your 1619. Unable to collect report due to defective asdic installation. 2 E-Boats course 200° only shipping sighted from my position. Numerous A/C. 5 torpedoes remaining. Torpedo boat only ship sighted leaving (Palermo?) westbound.  
(P.37, 1915A/16 to Capt. S.10, (R) PARTHIAN, P.43.)

/WELSHMAN ...



16.11.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

WELSHMAN, WELSHMAN returned today owing to weather. Intend  
Operation to sail her for operation "Analysis" at 1000Z  
"Analysis". Tuesday 17th Nov. Route will be as for  
*See p. 713, 719, 722* previous attempt. Fighter cover will be  
arranged from Jijelli and Bone.  
(S.O. Inshore Sqdn., 1630Q/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Malta, etc.)  
My 1633/16th which follows. WELSHMAN abandoned operation owing  
to weather and returned to arrive Algiers 1030/16th. It is  
known ~~known~~ she was sighted by enemy probably in Galita Isles  
area p.m./15th.  
(N.C.X.F., 1631Z/16 to N.C.X.F. in AURORA.)  
Your 0449Z/16th. Carry out operation "Analysis" D day 17th  
Nov. if weather permits unless otherwise ordered by N.C.X.F.  
in AURORA.  
(N.C.X.F., 1633Z/16 to WELSHMAN, (R) N.C.X.F. in AURORA, V.A.  
Malta, F.O. Inshore, Cdre. Algiers.)

M.K.F.O. 2. TON 7. Sailed M.K.F.O. 2 to R/V with M.K.F.A.2  
*See pp 705 etc* at position 93. Escort 4 A/S (? trawlers) (? 2)  
M.Ls. EMPRESS OF CANADA and DUNNOTTAR CASTLE  
to U.K. U.S. Ships BRAZIL, URUGUAY, ARGENTINA to Gibraltar for  
onward routeing to New York. BRAZIL has on board four officers  
40 men of submarine crew, one officer and 13 men from (?WIVERN).  
EMPRESS OF CANADA has on board 38 German Armistice (?Commission),  
37 officers and men from EMPIRE GUILLEMOT and PELICAN, (? 62)  
men survivors SS. BROWNING.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1630Z/16 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A., N.C.X.F., (R)  
(?Capt. D. Gibraltar.))

Western American ship N(corrupt group)WOLD arrived  
Meditn. daylight today escorted by LORD NUFFIELD and  
Situation LORD HOTHAM. Escort attacked enemy S/M off  
report Cape de Garde at 0430/16th.  
1500/16th. One raider reported by shore station at daylight  
Bone at 0630/16th.  
Convoy T.E.3 E.T.A. daylight 17th. Escorts  
were (? seen by) an enemy S/M at 1035A today (? 313°) Bougie  
and were attacked by 3 aircraft at 1215A north of Jijelli, no  
damage. Escort of T.E.3 has been strengthened by \*STRONSAY and  
\*RUSKHOLM diverted from Philippeville. LORD NUFFIELD and LORD  
HOTHAM will provide additional A/S escort from 0700/17th. *\* See p. 715*  
Hudson A/S patrol has been laid on from dawn 17th Nov.  
Philippeville. No ships are being sent to the port before  
19th Nov. Communication with N.O.I.C. established.  
Bougie. \*QUEEN EMMA, \*PRINSES BEATRIX arrived 0500A today with  
troops. Returns to Algiers ?23rd. DERWENTHALL and ARTEMUS  
WARD escorted by ZETLAND arrived a.m. 16th Nov. ZETLAND  
carrying ammunition replenishment for ROBERTS. ALGERINE sunk  
at 0500A/15th Nov. ~~cause unknown~~. Survivors number not yet  
reported. ~~Landed at Bougie.~~ ~~XX~~ URLANA sailed for Algiers after  
dark with ~~ZETLAND.~~ *\* See p. 720 -*

*\* Sunk by Lt. J/M ASCIANGHI. X See p. 722*  
*XX Sunk 17/11. See pp 756 & 762.*

/Algiers ...



16.11.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. *conf.*

Western  
Meditn.  
Situation  
report.  
1500/16th.  
(Contd.)

Algiers. MINNA sailed for Bone at 1800 today unescorted. Intend sailing L.C.T. Flotilla eastward 17th Nov. \*WELSHMAN returned 1150A today. BICESTER and BRAMHAM arrived from Bone at 2350A/15th Nov. escorting French merchant ships COLOMBINE, MARRAKCH, GALLIUM, and P.L.M. 573 from Bone and Philippeville. *See pp 716, 722*

Enemy A/C shot down by BICESTER on 16th Nov. was a Ju.88. Prisoners picked up were one officer and 3 other ranks of G.A.F. and were handed over the British military authorities at Algiers. One Spitfire pilot was also picked up. Have exchanged calls with Admirals Leclerc and Moreau. Their attitude was at first very stiff and courteous but is now much more cordial.

BRITISH LADY and VIENNA arrived p.m. today.  
(F.O. Inshore Sqdn., 1643Z/16 to N.C.X.F.) \* *See pp 713, 716, 722.*

Force H,  
NELSON,  
RODNEY,  
FORMIDABLE,  
FURIOUS.

NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, 2 cruisers and destroyer screen should arrive (Mers-el-Kebir 1000Z Wednesday 18th. Capital ships and carriers are to be moored and then lay out stern anchor so as to lie preferably bows out.

*See pp 700, 701*  
Cruisers and destroyers will be berthed stern to north and west quays.

(N.C.X.F. in AURORA, 1648Z/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O. Force H.)

Most Secret and personal.

My 1648/16th. Your staff should consult with Post Captain Mers-el-Kebir (Capt. Lewis U.S.N.) concerning:- (a) permanent berthing plans allowing for all alongside berths to be available for discharge. (b) Laying of mooring buoys required. (c) Lay out of seaward defences. (d) Laying of swinging A/T baffle from elbow in Mole against A/C torpedo attacks. (2) Recommendation should then to be sent N.O.I.C. Oran copy to me.

(3) It is not my intention at present that Force H should remain Mers-el-Kebir longer than 48 hours at a stretch or that leave other than to recreational parties should be granted.

(4) The initial berthing may be a bit tricky. Suggest you send in a destroyer the night before to fix up berth.

(N.C.X.F. in AURORA, 1831Z/16 to S.O. Force H, (R) N.C.X.F.)

Malta  
Report.

Situation report for W/E 14th Nov.

1. No enemy air activity.
2. Much offensive and R/C air activity in support of "Torch". By night Wellingtons and

F.A.A. aircraft scored torpedo hits one possibly two cruisers, near misses bombs one M/V. Beauforts laid mines approaches Tunis.

3. \*MANXMAN arrived with approx. 350 tons foodstuffs, unloaded by army personnel. \* *See pp 721*

4. Krendi landing strip opened.

5. 24 British recaptured prisoners landed by S/M 15th Nov.  
(Govr. Malta, 1700/16 to C. in C. M.E.)

/Situation ...



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16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Western Desert. Bardia and Tobruk occupied by report No.293. 14th Nov. Bardia in operation and sweeping in progress at Tobruk where first supply ship has arrived. M.T.Bs operating from Sollum and Tobruk up to Ras-al-Hilil and off Benghazi.

2.\*PARTHIAN reports she hit and probably sank an escorted merchant ship off Marittimo at 1755B/13th Nov.

(C. in C. Med., 1704B/16 to Admty.)

\* ~~5~~ pp 717, 724

Air R/C. No afternoon R/C or patrols night 16th/17th owing to weather conditions.  
(V.A. Malta, 1717A/16 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Gen. Anderson. I hope I shall be able to see General Anderson tomorrow Tuesday.  
(N.C.X.F., 1723Z/16 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

Malta Air Report. I.111, 18th Nov. C.S.R. Malta. Night 15th/16th and day 16th Nov. Heavy rainstorms and weather impossible for flying. No enemy or R.A.F. activity.  
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1730/16.)

URLANA, ZETLAND. SS. URLANA unloading delayed, will now sail her and ZETLAND dark tomorrow 17th.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1737A/16 to S.O.I.S.)

~~5~~ - ~~5~~ p. 718.

P.211. My 1255A/16th. Establish patrol within 40 miles north and east Ras Ali. Sink everything south and westbound. Bomber and fighter restrictions have been asked for.  
(Capt. S.10, 1805A/16 to P.211, (R) C. in C. Med., Submarines on patrol.)

P. 46. Establish patrol vicinity position 190° Lampione 12. 1 large merchant ship, 2 destroyers P.C. and S. 38.30 12.20, 180°, 9 at 1240A/16th. After attack or at 1800A/17th proceed with despatch on surface by day at your discretion to patrol within 20 miles and North and East of Sirte. PORPOISE patrolling N.W. of Misurata aware of your movements.  
(Capt. S.10, 1823A/16 to P.46, (R) C. in C. Med., Subs. on patrol.)

BASARABIA, TRANSILVANIA. Liners BASARABIA and TRANSILVANIA have been put at short notice to sail. B.3. No indication whether destination Black Sea or Aegean.  
(Roumanian) N.L.O. Black Sea advised.  
(S.O.I. Istanbul via N.I.D., 1823C/16 to S.O.I. Med., (R) S.1 and D.N.I.)

N.I.D. Comment: These two Roumanian liners (6672 G.R.T.) have been at Istanbul since June 1941.

/M.K.F. 2. ...



War Diary.

16.11.1942.  
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.F. 2. *See p 705*  
*722* Your 1414/16th (N.T. in W.D.) It is confirmed that ARGENTINA, BRAZIL and URUGUAY are for Gib. (N.C.X.F., 1825Z/16 to PELICAN.)

MANXMAN. *See p. 719.* In view of blocking of Sousse harbour is MANXMAN now required to remain at Malta? If not it is proposed to withdraw her at the same time as 5th (D) Flotilla. (C. in C. Med., 1846B/16 to (?Admty.), (R) V.A. Malta, N.C.X.F.) ? WELSHMAN intended, see N.C.X.F. 1152A/22.

WISHART, \*BEAGLE. *\* See pp 701, 716* On arrival anchor in the bay. Sailing expected to arrive from BRITISH LADY at Brise Lames Est or DEWDALE moored stern to Jetee Butavant. (Cdre. Algiers, 1902A/16 to WISHART, BEAGLE, (R) F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

Movements of S/Ms. Ref. N.C.X.F. 1920A/15th. Intend following movements of submarine recalls.

Name	Leave patrol after sunset.	Arriving Malta.
<i>See pp 717 724</i> TURBULENT	18th	21st sail <sup>for</sup> Beirut 22nd.
PARTHIAN <i>See pp 717 724</i>	18th	20th sailing <sup>for</sup> Beirut 21st.
P. 35	18th	21st.
<i>See pp 717 724</i> P. 37	18th	20th.
P. 43 <i>See p. 723-724.</i>	19th	21st.
P.247	21st	23rd.
P.211 <i>See pp 715 720.</i>	21st	23rd.
P.212	21st	22nd.
P.221	20th	To Gibraltar.

(2) Intend disposing outbound submarines so that dawn 19th finds \*TRIBUNE, STURGEON, P.228, P.42 off Naples, UTMOST off Bizerta, UNA leaving for St. Vito, P.44, P.46? east and west Misurata. Reinforcing Bizerta-Misurata area as soon as possible. (Capt. S.10, 1925A/16 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8.)  
*\* See p 716*

Routes of THRASHER & TRAVELLER. 1. Ref. my 1039/14th Nov. para. (4). Amend position CC to 033° 25' 020° 55'. Covering force may be operating well to northwards during night 18th/19th. 2. Ref. your 0945/15th. You are not to cross before dawn 19th THRASHER longitude 021° and TRAVELLER 021° 30'. (Capt. S.1, 1945B/16 to THRASHER, TRAVELLER, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.10, Captain Coastal Forces, C.S.15, Cmdre. (D).)

/Adm. ...



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War Diary.16.11.1942.  
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Adm. Personal from 2nd Sea Lord. Your 1806A/14.  
Moreau. Adm. Moreau's son is still serving in LEOPARD  
now at Simonstown. He addressed a message to  
his father which is being passed to Cdre.

Algiers for personal delivery to Adm. Moreau, vide N.C.X.F's  
1200Z/15.  
(Admty., 1948A/16 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Intercept 1858 G.M.T. S O S Hospital ship  
NEWFOUNDLAND 33.50 N. 7.31 W. Heavy explosion,  
damage unknown at present, steaming 214. Master.  
Controlling station N. Foreland Radio.  
(N. Foreland Radio, 1958/16 to Adm. Chatham.)

Movements. Algiers arrival. WELSHMAN, ANTELOPE, DEPTFORD,  
*See pp 713, 718*  
VIENNA\*\* Also BICESTER, BRAMHAM escorting French  
*See p. 714.* vessels COLOMBINE, MARRAKECH, G(ALL?)IUM, P.L.M.  
21 from Bone. Departure\*MINNA for Bone.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2000/16 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.,  
F.O.I.S.)\*\* *See p. 719.* \* *See pp 716 & 719*  
*\* See p. 716.*

Algiers Anchor as convenient in the Bay.  
Arrivals. (Cdre. Algiers, 2100A/16 to WHEATLAND, LAMERTON,  
\*PRINSES BEATRIX, \*QUEEN EMMA, (R) F.O. Inshore  
Sqdn.) *See p. 718*

*Port Said* 16th Nov. Port Said arrival GLOXINIA, DELPHINIUM, B.S. PRINCE  
*Movements.* DE LIEGE, CUMBRAE. Departure DELPHINIUM, GLOXINIA, Greek  
Destroyer AETOS, JERVIS, KELVIN, JAVELIN, PAKENHAM, PALADIN,  
NUBIAN, \*EURYALUS, KLO, FALK, PETARD.  
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2124B/16 to Admty., C. in C. Med., (R)  
F.O.C.R.S.F., N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)  
*\* See p. 690.*

M.K.F. 2. Following is a repetition of my 1745Z/15th  
*See pp 705 etc.* (begins). Convoy M.K.F.2 sailed 1730Z/15th.  
Merchant vessels CIRCASSIA, STRATHEDEN, STRATH-  
MORE, DUCHEES OF RICHMOND, CAMERONIA and ARUNDEL CASTLE form  
Algiers portion. Commodore, Rear Adm. Turle in STRATHMORE  
Vice Commodore, Master of CIRCASSIA. S. of A. 13 knots.  
Convoy codeword "Manicure". Routed in accordance with your  
1905Z/13th to position F.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 2126/16 to N.C.X.F., F.O. Inshore Sqdn., (R)  
Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran.)  
Following is a repetition of my 0845Z/14th (N.T. in W.D.)  
(begins). A/S air escort is being sent. Convoy codeword  
"Manicure".  
(N.C.X.F., 2331Z/16 to EGRET, (R) Cdre. Algiers, A.O.C. Gib.)

SS. (1) P.212 reports encountering Italian merchant  
SCILLIN sunk. ship SCILLIN northbound off Kerkenah number one  
754 British buoy at 2000A/14th. P.212 gunned by moonlight,  
prisoners first round knocking out enemy's forward gun.  
lost. After a few rounds ship stopped, one torpedo  
*See 14/11 p. 634* fired hitting and prompt sinking of ship. 62

/survivors ...



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con'td.

SS. survivors comprised 2 Naval, 24 Military, 36  
 SCILLIN sunk. Italian.  
 754 British (2) Regret to report that Military Officer  
 prisoners survivors state 780 British prisoners, 200  
 lost. Italian military, plus crew, total just over one  
 (Contd.) thousand on board. About 12 left in water due  
 to arrival Asdic fitted patrol craft. British  
 survivors mainly those on upper decks being  
 treated for dysentery by Captain R.A.M.C. who was only British  
 Officer on board.  
 (3) Decided not to employ P.212 on African coastal route since  
 C.O. shaken by experience.  
 (Capt. S.10, 2159A/16 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., (R) V.A.  
 Malta.)

Genoa R/C. P.R.U. sorties C/610 dated 16th Nov. shows:  
 Genoa at 1245 hours total of 15 fires still  
 burning and widespread devastation seen through-  
 out city and eastern dock area. Apart from internal movement  
 of destroyer 320 feet which now seen to be incomplete no change  
 in naval units since 14th Nov. Merchant shipping shows  
 arrival of M/V 360 feet and otherwise no change.  
 (P.R.U. Benson, 2205A/16.)

French Shipping. Your 1405/14th (re information by General  
 Fredendall unknown number French ships en route  
 from Dakar or Oran area.) Request more definite  
 information if available. Have N.C.W.N.T.F.  
 and S.N.O. Casablanca been informed?  
 (N.C.X.F., 2238Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Oran.)

G.U.F. 2. Your Nov. 16 1428Z. Intend sailing BRAZIL and  
 URUGUAY to R/V G.U.F.2 in 34.00 N. 13.00 W. at  
 1200Z/18th.  
 (N.C.X.F., 2337Z/16 to N.C.W.N.T.F., (R) S.N.O.  
 Casablanca.)

P. 43. All torpedoes expended. One hit medium sized  
 tanker 2255A/16th last seen listing attempted to  
 beach vicinity Libeccio Point. U-Boat attacked  
 1710A/5th no hits. Night traffic only seen Marittimo Pass 1  
 miles west course 240°. Arrival position A 0130A/18th end  
 searched channel 1030A/19th.  
 (P. 43, 2343A/16 to Capt. S.10, (R) S/Ms on Patrol.)

P.221, P.35, Indications that you were sighted today.  
 PARTHIAN, (Capt. S.10, 2347A/16 to P.221, PARTHIAN, P.35,  
 TURBULENT. TURBULENT.)

/Enemy ...



War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units  
\*TURBULENT. One tanker, one destroyer, P.C. and S. 039° 55' 013° 40' 220°, 10. Have attacked unsuccessfully. (TURBULENT, 2355A/16 to Capt. S.10.)  
\* *see p 717 & 721*

P. 37, Move 36 miles 073° to establish identical patrol  
\*PARTHIAN, line from position 360° St. Vito 3 by 0400A/17th.  
P. 43. *see pp 721 & 722* (Capt. S.10, 2355A/16 to P.37, PARTHIAN, P.43,  
\* *see p 717 & 721* (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., S/Ms on Patrol.)



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16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- Destroyers. Ref. A.L. T.O. 2118/42 dated 28th August 1942.  
2. If it is intention to return these destroyers to Eastern Fleet request consideration may be given to re-equipping them with after torpedo tubes mounting in U.K.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0736Z/16 to Admty.)
- Port F. My 0602/5/11, para. 7a. Additional remarks on aerodromes at Port F received from F.O.C.R.I.N.  
(C. in C. E.F., 0621Z/16 to Admty.)  
See Lion Copy.
- Coastal Shipping. For N.C.S.O. Coastal shipping arrived Indian and Ceylon. My 1030/7th is to be cancelled from date when C. in C. E.F's 1232/9th comes into force, namely, 0001Z/19th Nov.  
(2) Thereafter positions 18 - 21 and 23 - 26 both inclusive C. in C. E.F's signals are to be issued to all ships on Indian Coastal voyages to be used by Shore Authorities for purposes of diversion etc. and by ships in lieu of routes positions for reporting their position.  
(3) Difference from procedure laid down in para. (C) of C. in C. E.F's signal is that first double letter position is not to be cited in routeing signal. It will be assumed that all positions given to ships are letters for the week in which the ship is due to sail as given in advance route signal.  
(4) Where a ship breaks her voyage at an intermediate port, e.g. for Calcutta calling Colombo, original reference positions are remaining in force unless new route signal is made.  
(F.O. Ceylon, 0731Z/16 to F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty., etc.)
- B.P. 60. Sailing telegram.  
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0808Z/16, 0810Z/16 to Admty.)
- Patrol Force N.A. For R.I.N.L.O. Bath. Ref. A.M. 1207/20th Oct. para. B and 1552/27th Oct. para. 4. Request gyro compass and repeaters for 110 volts supply may be despatched together with the type 128 asdic set. Ship is in hand for conversion. Request anticipated date of arrival of material.  
(2) Request earliest possible shipment to N.C.S.O. Bombay of following for MELCHOR TREUB.  
(3) Request all packages be marked Scheme N.A. and shipping information sent by signal.  
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0801Z/16 to Admty.)
- Movements. */K. Lind...*  
Arrivals 16th Nov. RANPURA. Departures 16th Nov. DEVONSHIRE, LURCHER.  
(F.O. E.A., 1151Z/16 to Admty.)  
Colombo arrival Nov. 16th: 0015Z GAMBIA, 0030Z ASTER, 0415Z D.S. 0.24.  
Departure 0500Z SPRINGTIDE. Nov. 15th blank.  
(S.O.(I.) Colombo, 1209Z/16 to Admty.)



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

M E S S G E S 0621Z/16th November.

IN.

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date 16.11.42.

Time 2240

NAVAL CYPHER XD BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated F.O.C.R.I.N.

My 0602/5 November. Para. 7 (a). Following additional remarks on aerodromes at Port F have been received from F.O.C.R.I.N. Begins. To C. in C. Eastern Fleet from F.O.C.R.I.N. Ref. my 0911/28. Aerodromes for Port F. History of case is as follows. Air H.Q. included tentatively 6 aerodromes for defence of Port F in their original all India programme of aerodrome construction framed in mid April, 1942. At that time Port F project had not been sanctioned but was being discussed in terms of a fully defended port. Scope of Port F was indicated in your signal to Air Ministry 1405/20 May and later defined by Chiefs of Staff. In view of restricted scope air H.Q. reduced their requirements to 2 aerodromes and C. in C. East Indies' 1137/8 June requested that these 2 aerodromes be completed. Government of India having received Chiefs of Staff approval to development of Fort F conveyed in Admiralty's 1814/21 May in answer to my 0631/10 May, sanctioned construction of two aerodromes as an H.M.G. liability. The liability falls on H.M.G. not because aerodromes are required for F.A.A. indeed your 2325/15 October shows that F.A.A. will require limited amount of accommodation beyond Khambalia only but because they are required for the use of existing R.N. ports not particularly for the defence of India and is natural consequence of financial settlement with H.M.G.

2. Your 0947/6 August stated definitely that two aerodromes would be needed for protection of Fleet while fuelling. Air H.Q. have been dependent on information received from you as to degree of protection required for assessment of number of aerodromes needed. Your 2324/15 October now indicates that one aerodrome could provide both necessary cover and meet F.A.A.'s requirements. Air H.Q. are considering whether they can utilize the second aerodrome at Chela. If so, it will become Government of India's liability otherwise work will be stopped and cost of work so far completed would be H.M.G. liability.

3./.....



2.

3. Request Admiralty may be asked to pass copies of this signal and para. 5 of my 0911/28 October to Secretary of State for India. Encls. Para. 5 of F.O.C.R.I.N's 0911/28 not to Admiralty has been passed to you in para. 8 of my 0602/5 November.

0621Z/16

1st Lord.	D.A.M.	
1st S.L. (2)	D. of P. (2)	
D.F.S.L.	Hd. of M. (30) and for India	
2nd S.L.	Office (Mr. Clausen)	
3rd S.L.	War Office.	
Vice Contr.	Air Ministry.	
4th S.L.	W.C.O.	
C.N.A.S.	Treasury (Mr. Fleet)	
A.C.N.S.	D. of N.	
Civil Lord.	Hydrog.	
V.C.N.S.	D.P.S.	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	M.D.G.	
A.C.N.S. (T)	C.E. in C.	
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.A.S. (L)	
A.C.N.S. (W)	W.G.F.	
Sec.	Head of C.W.	
Nav. Sec.	Head of N.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.S.D.	
N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)	Deputy Controller.	)
N.A. 2nd S.L. (Air)	C.E. in C.	)
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)	D. of D.	)
P.A.S. (O)	E. in C.	)
P.A.S. (S)	E. in C. (F.M.B.)	) BATH.
A.S. (C.L.)	R.I.N.L.O. (2)	)
D. of L.D.	D.A.S.	)
D.O.D. (H) (2)	Head of S.W.R.	)
D.O.D. (F) (2)		
D.T.D. (3)		
D.E.D.		
D. A/S W.		
D.M.S.		
D.T.M.		
Duty Capt. (2)		
I.P. (2)		
W.D.		
Hd. of Air Branch.		
D.N.L.D.		
D.N.I. (4)		



16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

ATTACKER San Francisco sailed for trial 1430/15 ATTACKER.  
(N.S.H.Q, 0235Z/16 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.,  
F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.)

Movements 1800 G.M.T./6th November.  
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed  
*sup p. 706* BRIDGEWATER 26° N., 32° W. 180° 12  
*sup p. 711* ASTURIAS 12° N., 26° W. Patrol Blank.  
 (D.O.D. (F), 1005Z/16 to Opnav (R) Comnav.)

O.N.S.144 U-boat unsuccessfully attacked O.N. convoy 144  
U/B attack. was sighted and attacked by ROSE 2250Z/15 in  
056° 15' N., 029° 10' W. (b). Weather report.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.4., 1105Z/16 to C.T.F.24 (R)  
Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.,  
F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7., A.C.I.C.)

ON.S. 144. Recommend stragglers be ordered to proceed  
on stragglers route.

(D.T.D., 1125Z/16 to Connav (R) C. in C. W.A.)

All stragglers O.N.144 proceed to stragglers route.

(Cominch, 1408/16 to PFD 9? (R) Admty. for information).

U-boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a  
sighting Report of a convoy or important unit 1225Z/16th.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1246/16 to C.T.F. 24.1.4 (R) Admty).

My 1134A/16, further D/F bearings at 1226Z confirm that  
convoy is being shadowed.

(D.D.I.C., 1415A/16 to Escorts of O.N.144).

D/F bearings at 1344Z/1346Z 1441Z and 1445Z indicate  
at least two U-boats in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 1638A/16 to Escorts of O.N.144).

ESSO My 1112/12th and 1102/12th. SS. ESSO MANHATTAN  
MANHATTAN. tow proceeding San Juan at 6½ knots. E.T.A.  
p.m./19th Nov. noon position 15th Nov. 17° 02' N.  
57° 32' W.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1122Q/16 to S.B.N.O.W.A.  
(R) Admty. B.A.D.)

ORIANA, S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1102/15th Nov. Provided  
ZWARTE ZEE. ORIANA can arrive Trinidad end of November,  
(?concur with) your 2223/30 October (re  
advisable to dock on completion of present  
employment and arrival). Propose ordering  
ZWARTE ZEE to proceed direct to New Orleans as in S.B.N.O.  
Trinidad 1112/12 Nov. Request confirmation that docking can  
be arranged.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1209Q/16 to B.A.D.)

/Conference...



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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- Conference. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa's 1650/9 and your 1532/10. Request Capt. Morey be informed that Admty. views remain as set out in A.M. 1735A/16 Oct. and 1412/9th Nov. It is understood that Conference will be in the nature of preliminary discussions and that final decision will not be reached until after the arrival of Admiral Noble.  
(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S. (T) 1323A/16 to B.A.D.)
- W.S. 24 (Rio Connav U.S. Nav. Com Recife advised no others advised) this is Alusnob Bahia 1410/15 (begins). British convoy W.S.24 less INDO CHINOIS (garbled groups) arrived 1000/15. (Radio Washington, 1345/16 to Admty).
- U/B S/M situation Nov. 16th and U.S. S/M Notice.  
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1530/16, 1531/16, 1555/16, 1556/16, 1557/16).
- U/B Guantanamo W/T reports submarine sighted 1713 G.C.T. 16th in 015° 43' N., 065° 15' W., course 015°.  
(Kingston Jam. 1602R/16 to Admty).
- CRAWFORD Arrival and departure 16th Nov. U.S.\*Warship CRAWFORD St. Lucia 17th Nov.  
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1606/16 to Admty).  
*\*Patrol Boat.*
- Construction of Jetty. Your 1233/14. Drawings of corvette jetty were dispatched to you on 13/10/42 via U.S. Navy Dept. who handled all mails for Freetown. Navy Dept. being asked for any reason for difference in delivery times. My 2035/13 gives further particulars of jetty which may be of assistance. Your query re use of 13 inch mound butt 7 inch tip piles has been referred to Navy Dept. Design Section.  
(B.A.D., 1621Z/16 to R.A.W.A.)
- Dispositions. Section east.  
(C.O.A.C., 1645Z/16 to Admty).  
Section North West.  
(C.O.A.C., 1745Z/16 to Admty).
- CHURCHILL CHURCHILL expects to be ready to sail for Halifax a.m. on Friday 4th Dec.  
(B.A.R.M., 1700Z/16 to Admty).
- T.A.G. Convoys Your 1040/4 and 0915/12. Is there any local reason why tankers of 10 knots and over are (tanker message) sailed in slow T.A.G. convoys.  
(D.T.D., 1801A/16 to B.R.L.O. Curacao.)  
Reply. 0910/17.

/POLYANTHUS...



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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

POLYANTHUS, Request consideration may be given to supplying  
ITCHEN. a relief for POLYANTHUS in group C 2 during  
period this ship is to refit in view of fact  
that this group is eventually to consist of R.N.  
ships vide my 1812Z/11th. Suggest ITCHEN  
might be this relief. No corvettes available for relief in  
this command.  
(F.O.N.F., 1832Z/16 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.,  
Ottawa, Comtask Group 24.7).

H.X. 215 Units of Task Unit No. 24.1.15 sailing to  
overtake H.X. 215 as follows:- HURRICANE 1730/16  
DAHLIA 1900/16th, WATCHMAN 0030/17th ANCHUSA has  
defective bearing which will delay her 2 or 3  
days. Will be sailing to overtake if possible  
otherwise independently for U.K.  
(F.O.N.F., 1847Z/16 to C.T.24).

BUXTON, E.T.A. 2245Z/16th in company BUCTOUCHE and  
BUCTOUCHE, THREE RIVERS. Request Cape Spear and necessary  
THREE lights may be exhibited for entering harbour.  
RIVERS. Request BUCTOUCHE may enter harbour tonight  
owing to leaky distiller.  
(BUXTON, 1902Z/16 to C.C.N.F. (R) Capt. D.  
St. Johns).

53 Sqn. Further to Webber 644 of 11th Oct., (1753/11)  
Please arrange with Navy Department for return  
of 53 Squadron to U.K. by 1st Jan. 1943.  
Squadron is urgently required for operations  
in East Atlantic but we are prepared to delay its return till  
date stated in order that U.S. Navy Department may have time  
to make arrangements for its replacement in Caribbean Theatre.  
Please point out to U.S. Authorities our requirements of  
trained A/S Squadrons have considerably increased as a  
result of Western Mediterranean operations. Admiralty agrees.  
Inform B.A.D.  
(Air Min. 1920Z/16 to Rafdel Washington).

SAGUENAY My 2025Z/15/11. H.M.R. Tugs FRISKY and  
(collision). TENACITY returned St. Johns 1442Z/16 from  
assisting H.M.C.S. SAGUENAY.  
(F.O.N.F., 1914Z/16 to Admty. for C.C.R.T.,  
N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.O.A.C.)

My 1155/15 (SAGUENAY rammed off Cape Race) SAGUENAY arrived  
St. Johns. Preliminary investigation shows certain S.P.s and  
C.Bs. to be missing including the following - S.P. 02440 (1)  
S.P. 02441, S.P. 02442, S.P. 02443, S.P. 02444, S.P. 02445,  
S.P. 02447, Board of Enquiry being held tomorrow Tuesday.  
Further report will follow.  
(F.O.N.F., 2144Z/16 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

EL LAGO EL LAGO (Pan) in O.N.S. J., 136 has not arrived.  
overdue. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2052Z/16 to Admty).



16.11.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Combined  
Wireless  
Procedure.

J.S.M. 483. Personal from F.M. Dill.  
Ref. J.S.M. 478 (2301Z/14).  
We have done all we can to persuade American Chiefs of Staff to accept L.C.C. procedure but they are all adamant. I consider that this matter has not been well handled on our side in lower committees and the fact that while on a visit here our Directors of Signals agreed at a meeting of the Combined Communications Board that a sub-committee should work out a compromise procedure has greatly weakened our case.  
2. I regret that I can see no alternative but to accept the compromise procedure for combined communications with the proviso that the change-over would be gradual and carefully introduced to ensure that there should be no disruption of communications in active theatres such as North Africa.  
3. If you can agree to the compromise solution I should inform the American Chiefs of Staff that you are making this concession to them in the interests of a common policy and as an earnest of your strong desire to remove all causes of friction, though it be to our own disadvantage. I would further urge the American Chiefs of Staff in our common interests to approach future disagreements in the same spirit as we are showing in this one.  
(Britman Washington, T.O.O., 2055Z/16 to C.O.S. London).

Sub. Attack  
and sighting  
summary.

WILLIAM CLARK three torpedo hits sunk about 71.05  
13.20 W., 1235Z/4.  
BRENAS first attacked 08.38 N., 53.45 W., 1135Z/6  
August one torpedo 35 shells all missed.  
HARTINGTON later info. 53 N., 47 W., 0400Z/2.  
Two torpedo hits.

Para. B. MIRLO subsequent information indicates three attacks  
10.45 N., 53.54 W., 1835Z/3 area 10.30 N., 44.55 W., 1945Z/6  
and 06.04 N., 25.53 W. 1045Z/11 August. Bulls Head conning  
tower. Same sub possibly attacked MALMANGER.

THELMA three torpedo hits 30 shells.

PIAVE one torpedo 48 shells.

WINAMAC 47 in white on conning tower.

ELMWOOD, castle on one side Knights visor other side conning  
tower.

Para. C. POTLATCH number 789 or 758 conning tower.

Sighting 1615Z/12. My 2016/14 change to 28.34 W., Army plane  
sights sub 17.35 N., 62.02 W., 0740Z/15. course southwest.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2110Z/16 to Admty).

P.554

U.S. S/M Notice. P.554 departed St. John's  
2000Z/16th bound for Argentina.

On the surface with escort MINAS through

(a) 47.30 N., 52.33 W. (b) 46.37 N., 52.51 W.

(c) 46.30 N., 53.05 W., (d) 46.30 N., 53.38 W.

(e) 46.41 N., 54.30 W. thence to Argentina. Speed 10 knots.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2329/16 to A.I.G. 314).



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16.11.1942.  
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements <sup>SAMUEL D.</sup> A INGHAM arrived 1550Z/16. S.C.L. 108 arrived 2155Z, U.S.S. POLARIS, SS. LAGARFOSS, SS. GREYLAG, SS. MALANTIC escorted by U.S. Destroyer SCHENCK. At 2250 C.T.U. 24.6.4 in <sup>GEORGE M.</sup> BIBB plus <sup>WILLIAM T.</sup> DUANE arrived. Task unit dissolved. Connav pass to U.S.C.N.O. 1st U.S. Naval district Boston C.T.F. 29, C.E.S.F. (C.T.G. 24.6., 2350Z/16 to Comtask Froce 24. (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. Western Approaches, N.S.H.Q, Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, Comtask Group 24.7).

Australia & New Zealand.

Action in the Solomons. It was announced by the United States Navy Dept. last night that in the major naval battle that has been raging in the Solomons area during the past few days the Japanese suffered the following losses:- One battleship sunk, Three Heavy cruisers sunk, Two light cruisers sunk, Five destroyers sunk, Eight transports sunk, One battleship damaged, Six destroyers damaged, Four Cargo transports destroyed. The American losses in the engagement were two light cruisers and six destroyers. (The Times, 17.11.1942).

ONDINA Signal your bearing and distance from position A on the route given you by Cdr. Cook, Assistance is nearing you. 0108Z/16 (Ends). (N.O.I.C. Fremantle, 0137Z/16 to ONDINA).

Movements. Arrival Newcastle 12th Nov. INVERELL. Departure Brisbane 13th U.S. Destroyer HENLEY on patrol. (N.B. Melbourne, 0344Z/14 to Admty etc). Arrival Suva 14th, Nov, U.S. Seaplane Tender SWAN. Departure Suva 15th Nov, U.S. Ship TALAMANCA for Samoa. Arrival Auckland 1746Z/15th U.S. ship DELPHINIUS. Departure Noumea a.m./15th Nov. U.S. ship FULLER for Wellington E.T.A. p.m./19th Nov. (S.O.(I) Wellington, 0431Z/16 to Admty).

Movements U.S. Transport ANHUI, VAN DER LIJN, <sup>(D. 24)</sup> departed Brisbane 15th due Townsville 20th. U.S. Transport BANTAM departed Townsville 15th due Fall River 18th. U.S. Transports \*BOSPHORUS, \*MAETSUYCKER departed Townsville 15th due Fall River 19th. U.S. Transports \*CREMER, \*BONTEKOE, departed Townsville 15th due Port Moresby 18th. (A.C.N.B., 1056Z/16 to Admty. Connav). \* all given in Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

/Situation...



731

16.11.1942.  
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Situation. Serial No. 298 Nov. 15th.  
Digest from G.H.Q. Please pass.  
R/C Buin Shortlands area noon 15th reported total 30 vessels from 29,500 feet including 13 unidentified vessels off Buin and two possible heavy cruisers four destroyers eleven medium unidentified vessels entering the area.  
Tonolei Harbour was obscured by cloud.  
2. 5 Catalinas attacked Buin Aerodrome night 14/15 destroying at least 8 aircraft, one fuel or ammunition dump and starting approx. ten fires. More than 20 aircraft were machine gunned three unidentified aircraft observed making off towards Faisi during raid. Fortress on recco. later 15th reported nil activity on strip.  
3. 7 Fortresses bombed shipping Rabaul Harbour from 4 to 8,000 feet early morning 15th scoring one direct hit large unidentified vessel causing violent explosion possible hit other vessels. Fires started causing 8 separate explosions over 20 minute period North end Simpson's Harbour.  
4. 5 Marauders with 6 Beaufighters attacked A.A. positions Buna Soputa area morning 15th while 6 Beaufighters and 5 Maurauders bombed and strafed A.A. positions and huts Buna - Soputa - Popondetta Area during afternoon. 3 Bostons also strafed huts and canoes, Mouth Kumusi River.  
5. Our forces continue crossing Kumusi while forward elements pursue retreating enemy north from Wairope. 298.  
6. One 500 ton merchant vessel sighted 10 miles North East Ocussi (Timor) morning 15th, course south west. Also one fighter on patrol this area.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 1059Z/16 to Admtly etc).

ZVIR sunk. Yugoslav vessel ZVIR (5607 tons) foundered in 037° 27' S., 150° 17' E., 15th Nov. after collision with SKAGERRAK when in convoy. MIZEN HEAD damaged in bow. Boatswain survivor from ZVIR picked up.  
(A.C.N.B., 2040/16 to Admtly).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions at 1200Z/16.  
(D.D.I.C., 1431A/16, 1452A/16).



732

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Q.P.15.

Convoy Q.P.15 consisting of 30 ships for Reykjavik, sailed from the Dvina today escorted by 5 destroyers, 5 fleet minesweepers and 4 corvettes. The instructions for S/MS on patrol (P.312, P.216 and UREDD) to protect the passage of the convoy are given in F.O.(S) 1507A/16.

79 heavy bombers of U.S.A. 8th Bomber Command escorted by R.A. F. fighters were despatched today to attack St.Nazaire, with diversions to the Lannion area and Cherbourg/Maupertus Aerodrome

55 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night along the Baltic and north German coast and Biscay ports.

North Atlantic.

Convoy G.U. F.1(a) sailed from Casablanca today for the U.S.A. with returning ships of Operation "Torch" convoy.

South Atlantic.

S.O.(I) Capetown reports that U.S.EAST INDIAN was torpedoed and sunk at 1556Z/3 in 37° 23' S. 13° 34' E.

C. in C.S.A. reports that Merchant ship sailings are being escorted by sea and air as far as limited means will allow but it is probable the best means of clearing South African waters of U-Boats would be the destruction of their supply ship which is believed to have been lurking in the calm area south and west of St.Helena during part at least of their operations.

As an offensive plan it is suggested that on next occasion of U-Boats in any number being suspected or proceeding south of St.Helena a carrier or auxiliary carrier with 6 destroyers be despatched to the Cape from the Eastern Fleet

/or....



733

War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic. - Contd.

or the north to form a hunting group and an oiler with 2 corvettes as escort be sent to St. Helena for fuelling destroyers. The hunting force should then thoroughly comb that area in which there is indication of an enemy surface unit.

Group sailings which would be required at the same time as the above would then be escorted by A/S trawler.

Mediterranean.

Aircraft from Gibraltar attacked a U-Boat, apparently at 1355 in 36° 51' (750') N, 2° 25' E(?W) and straddled it. The U-Boat remained on the surface and some of the crew emerged; the aircraft attacked again, hurling the crew into the water.

U.331.  
Sunk.

Aircraft from Gibraltar attacked an enemy submarine (U.331) about 1320 Z today in 36° 50' N. 2° 25' E. (271° Cape Caxine 26 miles) and disabled it. An Albacore from FORMIDABLE sank it with torpedo in 37° 0' N. 2° 10' E. and a Walrus from Algiers was reported picking up 2 token survivors. (D.O.R. 1187 states; "This is the first time that a U-Boat has been torpedoed by an aircraft and probably the first time that the 3 stages, damage, destruction and rescue, have been carried through entirely by aircraft") In all, 14 survivors were picked up.

Operation  
"Analysis"

WELSHMAN left Algiers for Malta with food stuffs today.

Cable Ship MIRROR sailed from Algiers this morning to connect Gibraltar with Algiers.

Reconnaissance shows the entrance to Tunis to be clear.

Oran harbour was opened today with a straight clear channel 80 feet wide, 26 feet deep.

An aircraft reports one hit with torpedo at 2215A on a ship in 33° 9' N. 15° 0' E.



734

17. ~~10~~<sup>11</sup>. 1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

An unidentified torpedoed ship was reported sinking at 1015Z today in 10° 51' N. 61° 15' W. SS. CITY OF CORINTH is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0755 G.M.T. today in 10° 55' N 61° 1' W.

O.N.S. 144  
attacked.

O.N.S. 144 was attacked by U-Boats at 2203Z today in 54° 30' N. 37° 10' W. (in mid-Atlantic) and 3 ships were torpedoed. (MOUNT RAFAUS on 25 Nov.)



17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

LILLY OF  
LEMVIG.

Your 1815/1. D.S.T. has been requested to requisition Danish M.F.V. LILLY OF LEMVIG for Naval Service. When released she is to be fitted for harbour service.  
(D.S.V.P., 2037A/17 to F.O. Humber).

Movements.

ONSLOW,  
OFFA,  
ORIBI,  
BATORY.

Arrived D.17 in ONSLOW and OFFA and ORIBI, escorting BATORY.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0814A/17 and 0958A/17).  
Intend sailing D.17 in ONSLOW and OFFA at 1630A for Scapa to comply with C. in C. H.F. 1147A/15.  
E.T.A., 1200A/18.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1144A/17).  
Sailed Capt. D.17 ONSLOW with OFFA in accordance with my 1144A/17.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1728A/17).

\* TUNA  
STOKE CITY.

<sup>1 p. 493</sup>  
My 1033/16. Sailed.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0843A/17).

\* ~~See~~ p. 742.

O.15  
PRESTON NORTH  
END.

<sup>p. 493</sup>  
My 1611/16. Sailed.  
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1120A/17 to A.C.O.S.)

GRAPH.

Intend sailing GRAPH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Holy Loch at 1800A/19 to 180° Bishop Rock 15 miles, E.T.A. 1900A/21.  
(2) Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE to Falmouth for escort duty in accordance with my 1755A/17.  
GRAPH to patrol area.  
(Capt. S.3., 1145A/17 and 1857A/17).

North  
Atlantic  
dispositions.

Operating in Northern Waters.  
Area Iceland (C) BERWICK, LONDON, SUFFOLK  
3 destroyers.  
Area Scapa. KING GEORGE V. ANSON, CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, NORFOLK, 4 destroyers.  
Area Clyde. SHROPSHIRE, 7 Destroyers.

Area Gibraltar. DUKE OF YORK, NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, VICTORIOUS, FURIOUS, BERMUDA, AURORA, CHARYBDIS, BELHI, SIRIUS, SCYLLA, ARGONAUT, WELSHMAN, 11 destroyers.  
Passage to U.K. ARGUS, JAMAICA, SHEFFIELD, BITER, DASHER, 1 destroyer.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1240A/17).

NORFOLK,  
CUMBERLAND.

Scapa arrivals 1030, NORFOLK, 1238 CUMBERLAND.  
(A.C.O.S., 1510/17).



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17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

N.P. Request you will comply with C. in C. W.A.,  
Trawlers. 1530/16 para. 3 with the exception of  
KINGSTON AMBER and KINGSTON AGATE which should  
be retained for Faeroes escort duty.  
(D.O.D. (H.), 1658/17 to A.C.O.S.)

A.M. 1658A/17. Request you sail trawlers accordingly.  
Trawlers to be routed via Minches North Channel and enter by  
Q.Z.S. 45.

2. Trawlers now on patrol to R/V and proceed in company  
direct and on passing latitude of Cape Wrath to report E.T.A.  
to F.O.I.C. Belfast (R) A.C.O.S., S.O.N.T., C. in C. W.A.

3. Trawlers now at Kirkwall to be similarly routed.

4. NORTHERN SKY to be sailed on return from Faeroes.  
(A.C.O.S., 1852A/17 to S.O.N.T.)

R/V at 'A' at 0400 tomorrow and proceed in company to  
Belfast via Minches North Channel and enter by Q.Z.S.45.  
On passing latitude of Cape Wrath report E.T.A. to F.O.I.C.  
Belfast. VASCAMA refer to B.R.112 articles 70-97 and 98  
report progress, if necessary break company and return Kirkwall.  
(S.O.N.T., 2045A/17 to NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN SUNK,  
CAPE PORTLAND, VASCAMA).

CLEVELAND. My P.C.S. 049° 19' N., 09° 43' W., 077° 11 knots.  
*See p. 738*  
*(A/C in 2nd)*  
(CLEVELAND, 1700Z/17 to C. in C. Plymouth).

SHROPSHIRE Escort of 2 destroyers from The Nore Command  
will meet SHROPSHIRE during daylight hours  
November 21st between Aberdeen and May Island.  
SHROPSHIRE will be required to pass Flamborough  
Head at 0630/22nd.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1822/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Ships from Request all White Ensign assault-ships, also  
North Africa. L.S.G, L.S.H, and L.S.T that return to U.K. from  
North African operations, be routed to Clyde.  
(C.C.O. 2007A/17 to Admty).

Operations.

Patrols. Your 1435A/16 "Obstacle" arrived.  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0937/17 to C. in C. Plymouth)  
1. Intend M.G.Bs. 56 (S.O.) and 50 to patrol  
tonight on latitude 50° 20' N., between 1° 35' W.  
and 2° 20' W., leaving Weymouth at 1800/17 and patrol-line  
at dawn/18. Code word "Cadger".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1120A/17). *See next page.*  
M.L. 123 (S.O.) and M.L. 303 are to proceed to St. Helens  
before dark tonight and if weather permits carry out patrol  
near 30° 12' N., 1° 25' W., passing F buoy at 1815 and 0730.  
Patrol is not to proceed south of 30° 10' N., Object  
interception of enemy forces approaching our convoy routes.  
Code word "Device".

/Patrol...



War Diary.

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - 17/11/42

- Patrols. —> Patrol from Portland\* M.G.B. 50 (S.O.)\*52 between  
Contd. 1° 55' W., and 2° 20' W., on latitude 50°  
20' N., CHASSEURS 15 (S.O.) and 10 patrolling  
south of E.A. 5 Buoy BROCKLESBY standing by  
at Yarmouth. *\* see previous page*
- Albacores of 823 Squadron will carry out R/C and strikes between  
1° 00' W., and 2° 00' W., south of latitude 50° N.,  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1306A/17, 1431A/17, 1525A/17).  
M.L. patrol tonight.
2. Forces employed. M.Ls. 491 (S.O.) and 157.
  3. Patrol 7 miles 065° and 245° of 130° Start Point 20 miles.
  4. Object. To intercept E-boats.
  5. Information. E-boats may operate from Guernsey or Cherbourg.
  6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1700 today and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight 18th and return to Dartmouth.
  7. Codeword "Obstacle".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1341A/17).  
1.M.T.Bs. 55, 54. M.G.B. 608 passing F buoy at 1815/17 on patrol to southward, E.T.R. 0730/18.
  2. M.G.Bs. 50, 52 patrolling 25 miles south of Anvil Point, leaving Weymouth, 1800/17. E.T.R. dawn 18th.
  3. CHASSEURS 15 and 10 patrolling south of E.A. 5 Buoy.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1502A/17).  
One M.L. left Tyne 1901/17 to patrol to eastward of Searched Channel off Blyth. Returning Tyne daylight 18th.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1927A/17).

- Biscay S/M Proceed diving by day from 043° N., 020° W.  
Patrol. (F.O.S., 1211A/17 to SHAD).
1. HERRING proceed on route "White".
  2. GUNNEL proceed on route "Red". *sum p. 746*
  3. Unless otherwise ordered BARB proceed on route "White".
  4. R/V with escort in position H as follows HERRING 1100/23rd GUNNEL 1100/24th, BARB 1100/25th.
  5. All submarines proceed diving by day East of 020° W. Submarines may proceed on surface when within 30 miles of Lizard Head.
  6. Estimate your S.O.A. as follows. Days two knots. Nights SHAD, HERRING, BARB 13½ knots, GUNNEL 12 knots.
  7. All times on home station are zone minus one.  
(F.O.S., 1422A/17 to HERRING, GUNNEL, SHAD, BARB).
  - U.S. Submarine SHAD proceeding diving by day from  
(A) 043° N., 020° W., and (B) 045° 01' N., 013° 50' W. thence  
(C) 049° 20' N., 013° 50' W. E.T.A. position (A) 1400/17th.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1617A/17 to SHEFFIELD (R) JAMAICA).
  1. BARB report P.C.S. forthwith to F.O.S.
  2. In order to avoid convoy estimated P.C.S. 0805/19 043° 00', 016° 01', 000° 10 knots. GUNNEL and HERRING are to endeavour to cross longitude 016° W., on their route not later than 0800/19 If unable to comply report by immediate signal your P.C.S. to Admiralty and F.O.S. after dark night of 18th.  
(F.O.S., 1841A/17 to BARB, HERRING, GUNNEL). *see next page*

*see next page  
9 pp 744 & 745*



War Diary.

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - *contd.*

Biscay S/M  
Patrol.  
Contd.

1. My 1422/17 para. 4. Amend BARB to read 1100/24.
2. GUNNEL and BARB are to pass through position G at 0200/24 and 0600/24 respectively.
3. BARB is also to comply with my 1841/17 para. 2.  
(F.O.S., 2141A/17 to BARB, HERRING, GUNNEL, SHAD)

*See previous page p.p 745, 749*

BODO.

My 1610/14 and your 1738/16. Sailed BODO at 1300 today. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1221A/17 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen)

Exercises.

P.34

P.34 will be exercising off Plymouth area D from 0800 till 1700 on 18th. 19th 20th November. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1629/17).

L.C.T.  
exercise at  
Pendine  
Sands.

My 0940/14 and F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 1612/16. Request you will sail four of 8th L.C.T. Flotilla to arrive Burry port November 28th. Craft should be prepared to embark tanks a.m./29 and discharge them at Pendine Sand p.m./30. Trials will be conducted by representative of D.X.S.R. from C.O.H.Q. who will give all necessary instructions to Flotilla Officer after arrival at Burry Port and will arrange movements.  
5. On completion of trials craft should return to Appledore as convenient.  
(C.C.O., 1750A/17 to N.O.I.C. Appledore).

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in  
sea.

Fortress down in 048° 30' N., 006° 40' W. Proceed to rescue.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1311A/17 to SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK).  
My 1311/17. Amend position to 047° 56' N., 007° 18' W.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1331A/17).

My 1331/17. At least one man in dinghy with others getting in observed in 047° 56' N., 007° 18' W., at 1659. If not already rescued, search in vicinity.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1821A/17 to SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK).

Expect Wellington 2345 to assist search with searchlight. If nothing found by 0200/18 abandon search and proceed to 180° Wolf Rock 5 miles, thence SLAZAK join W.P. 250 in approx. position D One Buoy 0930/18, KRAKOWIAK proceed Plymouth.

XCLEVELAND approx. position South of Bishop Rock 0600, course 077° 11 knots. *X see p. 736*

(C. in C. Plymouth, 2201A/17 to \*SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK).

*\* see p. 741*



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

N.F.I.U.

Admty. 2304/16. No serviceable Fulmars are available in training allocated reserve. Intend to downgrade 3 Fulmars from first line allocated reserve, which will then be reduced to twenty two aircraft. Request you allot the three Fulmar N.F.  
(R.A.N.A.S, 1915A/17 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen F.W. 200 observed over Island at 0755/17, course S.E.  
(A.C.I.C., 2357A/17).

Mining.

Explosion.

F.O.I.C. N.I. 1930/16 is being passed to you for information. Begins. An explosion heavy enough to extinguish an oil light in crews quarters and accompanied by vivid blue flash was reported to have occurred at 0425 today by South Rock Light Vessel in approx. 54° 26' N., 5° 11' 30" W. Explosion confirmed by 3 shore stations. 4 M.M.S. searching the area of explosion from daylight tomorrow. 1930A/16 Ends.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0936A/17 to Admty).

My 1930A/16. Four M.M.S. have searched area 2½ miles either side of a line 074° from South Rock light vessel to a distance of 10 miles with LL and SA with negative result.

(F.O.I.C. N.I., 2055A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

U-boats.

Am over enemy submarine in 54° 13' N., 21° 10' W. Periscope only sighted, course 350° speed 4 knots.

(A/C 423 Sqdn. 1323/17 to 15 Group).

Technical..

Minol.

It is desired to carry out trials of depth charges with Minol filling.

2. Request you will detail an "Essø Class" destroyer fitted with 14 charge pattern for this purpose.
  3. Approx. one week will be required for fitting special gear previous to the trials and fitting can be arranged at suitable yard in Mersey area.
  4. Representatives of Admiralty Shock Committee will visit Captain D. Liverpool on 20th November to arrange details.
  5. If weather is suitable trials should last a week. Suggest they might take place from Belfast.
- (D.O.D. (H), 1839 A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)



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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.Minol.  
Contd.

A limited number of Mark VII type Depth-Charges filled Minol will be available shortly. This explosive is 70% more powerful than T.N.T.

2. Pending the results of sea trials on safety of firing ship the following restrictions are to be observed.

50 foot setting - minimum speed of firing ship 20 knots.

100 foot setting - minimum speed of firing ship 15 knots.

150 foot setting - minimum speed of firing ship 12 knots.

3. Issue is to be restricted for the present to Destroyers and River Class Corvettes.

4. Initial supply is being made to Londonderry, Greenock Liverpool, Gibraltar and Algiers and charges are to be issued as soon as available as outfits and reserves for A/S escorts of the above classes employed on Gibraltar and North African Convoys.

5. Existing types of Depth-Charge patterns should be used. (D.A/S.W. 1946A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

CATTISTOCK.

*See p. 656*

Further evidence of a favourable nature now having been produced by CATTISTOCK my 1643/15/11 is cancelled.

(Capt. D.21, 1001/17 to C. in C. Nore).

EMPIRE SNOW.

On 15th November ESEK HOPKINS proceeding down river collided with EMPIRE SNOW who was moored at No. 19 Timber Yard. Fairly extensive damage to starboard quarter. Seaworthy certificate granted.

(S.S.T.O. Archangel, 1006A/17 to Admty).

DASHER

A.M. 1958/16. Following major defects. Details. (DASHER, 1134Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).

Dinghy

Am over a dinghy in 53° 45' N., 22° 25' W. (A/C 228 Sqdn. 1350/17 to 15 Group).

LLANGIBBY  
CASTLE.

Has sustained slight damage to her superstructure.

(D.S.T., 1821A/17). *See p. 742*

MARNIX VAN  
ST. ALDEGONDE

Due to engine damage will not be in Convoy W.S.25 See Shipping. *p. 742*



War Diary.

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

TJALDUR.

Your 1859A/16. No escort will be available from my command until 4th December.

→ (2) OAKLEY having been lent to C. in C. H.F. it is understood that this commitment could be met by Home Fleet destroyers.  
(A.C.O.S., 0945/17 to Admty).

Q.P.15

Ice R/C 16th November. Details.  
(A.C.I.C., 0945A/17 to Admty (R) C. in C. H.F., R.A.M., C.S.1).

Position of Submarines at 0800A/18 and movements for following 24 hours.

P.312 vicinity 70° 53' N., 22° 26' E.

P.216 vicinity 70° 52' N., 21° 08' E.

UREDD vicinity 70° 32' N., 20° 01' E.

JUNON vicinity 69° 30' N., 17° 20' E.

(F.O.S., 1659A/17 to Admty).

C.S.1's. 2145/12 para. (B) Also ONSLAUGHT and OBDURATE arrived Seidisfjord 1120/17.

(A.C.I.C., 1733A/17 to C.S.1., R.A.D.)

→ Sailed MUSKETEER, OAKLEY, ORWELL, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON to Seidisfjord. E.T.A. 0900/19.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1737A/17 to A.C.I.C.)

W.P. 250.

→ SLAZAK.

*See p 738*

Your 0820/17th and my 0831/17th. After passing through position (A) pass through 049° 03' N., 006° 00' W., thence SLAZAK to join as escort to W.P. 250 sailing Bristol Channel Ports today to R/V at 1540.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1001A/17) See also Air.

M.K.F.1 Y.

C. in C. W.A. 1155A/16. SAMUEL CHASE, DEMPO, LETITIA, MACHARDO, ORBITA, ULSTER MONARCH, escort EXE, AMAZON, WRESTLER, and SWALE. P.C.S. 042° 24' N., 016° 17' W., 360° 12½ knots. through position (M) and (H).

\* (ARGUS, 1059Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.) \* *See p. 747*

Convoy M.K.F.1 (Y) comprising LETITIA, ORBITA, and U.S. SAMUEL CHASE for Tail of the Bank and DEMPO for Liverpool is due U.K. about 21/11. As far as is known no personnel will disembark.

2. Lifeboats of DEMPO have been damaged.

(D.S.T., 1822A/17).

→ K.X.7

Your 1912A/16. MELBREAK and SLAZAK detailed.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1645A/17 to Admty).



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.Operation  
F.B.  
CHUMLEIGH..

O.15 has nothing to report. At 0710A/7th November \*TUNA sighted CHUMLEIGH capsized, having proceeded to her position on receipt of S O S. No rafts or boats in vicinity. Visibility very bad. Investigation was subsequently made in daylight but TUNA failed to locate her again. Both S/MS experienced very foul weather throughout the operation.  
(F.O.S., 1723A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

\* *See p. 735*Signals  
for  
preventing  
accidents  
to friendly  
A/C.

A.M. 0025/23 August. Request information whether this procedure is sufficiently well established for promulgating in A.M.S.Is.  
(D.T.D., 1752A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.25 Q.

My 2140/14. WARWICK CASTLE and ETTRICK will not now arrive U.K. and will not therefore be included in convoy W.S.25 Q.  
2. For details of personnel on board LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE see V.A.C.N.A's 0926/14 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.  
3. LLANGIBBY CASTLE has sustained slight damage to her superstructure. *See p. 740*  
(D.S.T., 1821A/17).

My 2139/14. MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE due to engine damage will not now be included in convoy W.S.25 Q. *See p. 740*  
(D.S.T., 1823A/17).

M.K.F.1 X.

Destination of escorts. BITER, ACHATES, BOADICEA, ESCAPADE, Greenock. VANSITTART, Liverpool. CLEVELAND, Plymouth. ALBRIGHTON, ESKDALE, Portsmouth.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2329A/17 to DASHER).



743

War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch".

DUKE OF YORK, My 1422<sup>4</sup>/16th. Sailing date is dependent on  
 VICTORIOUS. arrival of destroyers named. Intend sailing as  
 follows:  
 (A) Short endurance destroyers at moderate speed  
 to westward to R/V D plus one.  
 (B) DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, to eastward in daylight p.m. D day  
 with screen of six.  
 (C) Reverse course after dark D day and proceed high speed  
 through Straits and to westward.  
 (D) Gibraltar destroyers return to Gibraltar after destroyers  
 in A have joined.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1013Z/17 to N.C.X.F. in AURORA (R) R.A.(A) F.O.H.)  
 / Release of DUKE OF YORK and VICTORIOUS to U.K.

Sink at  
 Sight  
 Areas.

Your 1303/14. We were ourselves about to  
 propose that a notice would be broadcast in the  
 following terms:-

Begins. "The German and Italian Govts. having set  
 aside the Armistice with France and occupied the  
 Mediterranean Coast, the U.S. Govt. and H.M.G. are compelled to  
 amplify the previous notices which have declared certain areas  
 in the Medit. dangerous to shipping. Accordingly, they now give  
 notice that all waters in the Medit. excluding Turkish territor-  
 ial waters are dangerous to shipping to the East of the following  
 line:- From the Franco-Spanish border along the edge of  
 Spanish territorial waters to a point 3 miles 090° from Cape de  
 Creus (42° 19' N. 03° 19' E. approx.); thence to 39° 46' N.  
 04° 50' E; and thence 180° to the Algerian Coast. Any vessel  
 entering this area without the permission of the Allied  
 Authorities will do so at its risk and peril" - ends.

2. For political reasons it is desirable to give the Spaniards  
 as much sea room as is consistent with our requirements, and in  
 future we may wish to encourage a measure of trade between  
 Spain and Algeria.

3. The appropriate procedure will be for broadcasts to be made  
 from Algiers and Gibraltar, followed by announcement by the B.B.C.  
 Foreign Office think it essential that Spanish Government should  
 be informed at least 24 hours in advance of the broadcast.

4. If therefore you concur in the terms of the notice in para.1  
 you should report the time fixed for the broadcasts, allowing us  
 if possible 48 hours in which to inform Spanish Govt.

5. After the broadcast announcement, aircraft, surface ships  
 and submarines may be instructed to attack at sight any vessel  
 navigating within the extended zone without our permission.  
 It is assumed, however, that voyages of ships sailing under safe  
 conduct with cargoes for the Red Cross or Swiss Government will  
 not be affected and that you will promulgate these sailings  
 as necessary.

(Admty. 1349A/17 to N.C.X.F.)

Attacks on  
 U/Bs.

Provisional summary 6/11 - 15/11.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1650Z/17)  
 See U-Boat Campaign.



**MOST SECRET**

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

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1324Z/17th November  
IN

From Commandeth Gibraltar

Date 17/11/42  
Time 1746Z

Addressed Abfor.

PRIORITY

Ref. No. 751 (Gib.) 17th November 1942.

EDITED LITERAL TEXT.

For: C.C.S.  
From: C. in C.

Following is brief summary of estimated casualties sustained by this Command reported as 1200Z hours November 15th.

		<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
<u>U.S.A.</u>				
	EA F	12	48	
	CTF	363	575	150
	WTF	173	425	71
	12th AF(WAC)	3	6	16
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Estimated total USA	531	1,054	237

U.S.N. No estimate as yet available. Units being checked.

British

ETF 150

No estimate available on wounded and missing. These casualties sustained by troops supporting initial operations in harbor at Oran.

R.A.F.

EAC (Reported thus far) 2 22

Royal Navv.

Known casualties 69 58 22

It will not be possible to estimate RN casualties until all units engaged are able to submit preliminary reports.

/ Accurate



743<sup>B</sup>

Accurate information on casualties of this command is being assembled rapidly. A more complete report will be submitted as soon as information is available.

1324Z/17  
Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.  
Received from A.F.H.Q. a.m./18th Nov.

Distribution:

Brig. Jacob  
Foreign Secretary  
1st Sea Lord  
C.6 Tels War Office  
A.M.C.S.(C)  
C.C.O.

- 1st LORD
- 1st S.L.(2)
- 2nd S.L.
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.C.(2)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- D. of P.(Q)
- Admiral Blake (2)
- Admiral Ramsey (4)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.D.I.C.(3)
- D.P.D.
- Hd. of M.
- Mr. Broughton
- C.W.(Cas.)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.

MMB



743  
C

# MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

MOST SECRET

1615Z/17th November

Date 17/11/42

To Britman Washington.

Cypher

From Air Ministry.

IMMEDIATE

OZ.1906. 17th November 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 348.

Reference J.S.M. 481 /.

1. We think that for strategic and political reasons we should go slow over arming French in North Africa.

2. Apart from question of availability of equipment and limitations of shipping, material for French can only be provided at the expense of Anglo-American build-up in North Africa and elsewhere.

3. There is also danger that French forces with Darlan in command may double-cross us. We should be quite sure of their good faith before we make them too powerful.

1615Z/17.

Air Ministry circulation -

Brig. Jacob	Head of Watch, C.6 Tols., War Office
Foreign Secretary	Head of Watch, A.M.C.S. (C).
First Sea Lord	C.C.O.

Received from Air Ministry a.m./18.

/ 1645/15.

1st Lord

1st S.L.(2)

D.F.S.L.

3rd S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

A.C.N.S.(W)

Sec.

P.A.S.(S)

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S.(P.R.)

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.N.I.(4)

D. of F.(2)

D.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(3)

D. of P.(Q)

Head of M.(2)

I.F.(2)

W.D.

Admiral Blake

A.S.(C)

D. of L.D.

Admiral Ramsey (4)

M.A.S.(4)



# SECRET

743<sup>B</sup>

SECRET MESSAGE 1707Z/17 November IN

FROM: Commandeth Gibraltar DATE: 17.Nov.42

RECD: 1953Z

---

ADDRESSED: Abfor  
Ref.No.765 (Gib.)  
Sitrep No.10, November 16th.

1. Naval Bougie.

Unloaded troop transport sunk by bombs off Cap Harbor November 15th; 211 survivors at Algiers.

Gibraltar; Prisoners from two destroyed U-Boats arrived.

Casablanca: Hospital Ship, NEWFOUNDLAND enroute from Gibraltar, damaged by heavy explosion; no assistance required.

2. Eastern Task Force.

Beja to Djebel Aboid Highway: Contact between French and German MTCB patrol.

Tabarka: Inf. Bn. arrived from Bone 2000Z.

Souk-el-Arba: Two British Paratroop Companies dropped successfully.

Bone: Bombed intermittently November 15th; little damage. Hq. 78th Div. and 175th FA Bn. enroute thereto.

Algiers: 106th CA (SAA) and one medium Tk. Bn. 13th AR, arrived from Oran; two companies, 701st Tk. Bn. enroute from Oran.

Djidjelli and Bougie: Inf. Dets. 34th Div. enroute from Algiers to relieve British.

3. Center Task Force: No reports.

4. Western Task Force:

General Harmon's Armoured elements formerly at Maxagan now at Rabat.

5./



743E

- 2 -

Gibraltar: 47 Anti Submarine sorties by aircraft from Gibraltar and North African bases, 4 sightings, 3 attacks. No casualties, E/A sightings or combats.

Tunis: 2 raids executed by R.A.F. Bisleys. Results unobserved.

Bizerta: 6 Fortresses attacked in daylight. No report received.

Bone: 6 E/A destroyed; 2 by fighters, 4 by A.A., others damaged. Three Spitfires lost; 2 pilots safe. Other aircraft were damaged on ground.

1707Z/17

(Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.)

Received from A.F.H.Q. at 2345/17.

93 TORCH  
M.D.G.

JH



744

War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch" - contd.Reports of  
damage to  
ships.

To enable follow up convoys to be maintained to schedule notice of damage to ships returning to U.K. is required at earliest possible moment. Request you will arrange either for Sailing Telegram or S.T.O. Advices to include against name each ship the following words as requisite.

"Slight" - meaning Slight Damage judged not likely to prevent ship sailing 14 days after arrival in U.K.

"Serious" - meaning Serious Damage judged heavy enough to keep ship out of action for more than 14 days up to six weeks after arrival in U.K.

"Maximum" - over six weeks.

It is necessary that information be received whether damage is to hull or to engines or to both. Request letters X for hull damage and Y for engine damage may be used accordingly. Viz: Serious Y, Slight XY.

(D.T.D. 1651A/17 to N.C.X.F.)

Reply: P.S.T.O.XF 1716Z/20.

Communications. H.E. mine warning of 16th and notification of sailing of G U F 2 indicate that adequate consideration is not being given to existing delay in communications. Your 0935/16th was classed deferred and with your 1525 an immediate was delivered decoded simultaneously with report of mining of NEWFOUNDLAND notification 17th whose sailing was ordered in V.A. Gib. (?18)03 15th. (N.C.X.F. 1658Z/17 to N.C.W.N.T.F.)

MALCOLM.

191. Your 1156A/16/11. MALCOLM is being sailed for U.K. probably p.m. 18th Nov. (N.C.X.F. 1733/17 to Admty. (R) V.A.C.N.A. C.S. Gibraltar.)

Losses of  
H.M. ships.

As many casualty reports are still incomplete and as I cannot know when next of kin have been informed, propose Admiralty should undertake to release names of H.M. Ships which have been lost when this is considered desirable. (N.C.X.F. 1747Z/16 to Admty.)

Broad pdt.  
of N.C.C.T.F.

The broad pendant of Commodore Troubridge was struck in LARGS p.m. 16th Nov. on lapse of appointment of N.C.C.T.F. (N.C.X.F. 1831Z/17.)

/Salvage ...



745

War Diary.

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - contd.

Salvage  
vessels.

Your 2019Z/14 implies that the Admiralty Salvage Department did not meet "Torch" requirements as energetically as was practicable. 2. The two ships now being sent are SALVESTOR and SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN.

The former did not complete until early November and early in October was offered by Salvage Department who were told by U.S. Officers that she would be no use unless they could have her at once. The latter which is small and old and of limited value, was earmarked for important commitments nearer at hand; it is only justifiable to send her to you in the last resort.

(1st S.L. 1837A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) D.N.C.X.F.)



17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

- Intelligence. 1. H.M.I.S. BENGAL in action with 2 enemy vessels in 20° S 93° E at 0530Z/11. One enemy unit believed sunk. One unit may have been Raider E (see A.M. 2230A/9 para I.) but there are some D/F indications that Japanese auxiliaries were at sea in this area.
2. LA SALLE overdue at Capetown since 29.10.42 from Balboa. Routed via Cape Horn. May be a victim of Raider H or J.
3. A.M. 2230A/9 para 3. Ship confirmed as U-Boat casualty.
4. SPICHERN (ex KROSSFONN) arrived Ferrol 11th Nov. after being damaged by air attack whilst attempting to leave Biscay. Had not left Ferrol up to 1245A/16 but may attempt to continue outward passage if damage can be repaired.
5. Blockade runners ERMLAND and PIETRO ORSEOLO could by now be approaching area of Japanese control. CATARACTE, BELGRANO, BURGENLAND and SILVAPLANA could now be in Pacific or Indian Oceans. KOTA NOPAN and ANNELIESE ESSBERGER probably now between Equator and 15° N 20° and 40° W. Up to 6 enemy ships may be on passage from Far East to Europe.  
(D.D.I.C. 2007A/17 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

## GUNNEL

*See p 737, 738,  
748, 749.*

My P.C.S. are 036° 00' N 020° 00' W 000° 11 knots. Request GUNNEL be routed through 040° 00' N 014° 00' W thence Bishop Rock in order to pass through area defined in F.O.S. 1235/15.  
(GUNNEL 0020Z/17 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.S. Cdr. U.S. Sub. Squadron.)

Situation  
2002A/16.

My 1507Z/16 and para 15. G.U.F.1 7 destroyers 32.08 13.58 through 31.13 15.20 thence 276 13½.  
(N.C.X.F. 0142Z/17.)

## M.K.F.2.

*See next page \*  
p. 748*

Sailed Gibraltar portion of M.K.F.2 escorted by CLARE, EGRET, PHILANTE, KEREN, local escort BOREAS, \*VENOMOUS *See next page p. 744*  
(F.O.C.N.A. 0320Z/17 to Admty. /C. in C. W.A.)

K.X.6.  
U/B.

*See next page*

D/F bearings on 7640 K/cs at 0149Z indicate U-Boat has reported K.X.6.  
(D.D.I.C. 0335A/17 to Escorts of K.X.6.  
(R) Escorts of M.K.F.2 and M.K.S.1(X) F.O.C.N.A. N.C.X.F.)

U/B  
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 34° 44' N 11° 25' W sighted on surface and observed to submerge.  
(A/C TK7U 0759Z/17.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Submarine has dived in 34° 54' N 11° 25' W course 160° 8 knots.  
(A/C TK7U 0759Z/17.)

/K.X.6...



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

\* K.X.6. E.T.A. K.X.6 1800/17.  
Survivors of WARWICK CASTLE. 9 ships consisting of trawlers tugs and SS. ZENA have straggled. 7 these left during gale night 13/14 position 039° 50' N 014° 40' W.  
\* *See previous page* With reference to A.F.O. 2901/41 (A) LANCASTER (B) WARWICK CASTLE (D) 30 (F) One (N) 31 (Q) two.  
(LANCASTER 0800A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Air operations. Opsum for 24 hrs. to Midnight 16/11.  
(1) A/S escorts (details).  
U/B sightings and attacks from ? Gibraltar. 3 attacks 1 sighting, Hudson C/233 0841 hrs. 35° 42' N 8° 33' W CO 180/6 ITS? Attacked with D/Cs? and 1 x 100 lb. A/S bomb D/Cs estimated 10 yds to starboard of C/T no results observed. Hudson L/233 1159 hrs. LBHY1207 CO 270/7 kts. not attacked. Hudson R/608 ?154 hrs. NHA4902 CO R 360/15 kts. D/C dropped slightly to port of U/B but curved swirl indicated U/B had turned towards D/C. 3 to 5 minutes after attack oil appeared and WJS still spreading 20 mins. later and showed slow movement northward. Hudson B/500 1245 hrs. 36° 9' N 8° 52' W 090/10 kts. U/B on surface 1 D/C burst on starboard side? close abaft C/W as U/B submerged bubbles of air and oil appeared. The oil in increasing quantities forming a patch 150 x 100 yards U/B sightings and attacks by North African based A/C details provisional subject to revision TXCCL in 36° 58' N 1° 32' E time co speed and result not stated. (Probably the U/B damaged by A/C and torpedoed and sunk by FORMIDABLE's Albacore.)  
2. No enemy activity over Rock.  
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar 0810Z/17, 0834Z/17.)

VENOMOUS E.T.A. 1315Z. BOREAS in company.  
BOREAS (VENOMOUS? 0859Z/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

*See previous page - (M.K.F.2) p. 749*

LONDONDERRY and my position 1000Z 037° 15' N 012° 23' W LONDONDERRY course 292° 10 knots, my course 120° 11. Request codeword of M.K.F.2 and course after 2000Z.  
\* *See previous page* (ROTHESAY 1045Z/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Escorts of convoy M.K.F.2.)  
Your 1045Z/17. "Manicure" 270° till 2200 then 300°.  
(N.C.X.F. 1815Z/17 to ROTHESAY (R) PELICAN.)

ARGUS. Your 1831A/16. Consider turn round in one week can be effected if following is undertaken (details)  
*See p. 741* 3. At least four distribution feed tanks require testing and repairing.  
(ARGUS 1125Z/17 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Greenock. N.O.I.C. Glasgow. C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

/JONQUIL...



748

War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

JONQUIL My 0952Z/16 and your 1402Z/16 CONTESSA has not  
CONTESSA sailed. Unable to contact U.S. Authorities.  
(JONQUIL 1150Z/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)  
My 1150Z/17. U.S. Authorities hope to get  
CONTESSA afloat by 1300/18 and request we wait.  
(JONQUIL 1458Z/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)  
Your 1458Z/17. Comply.  
(N.C.X.F. 1736Z/17 to JONQUIL) But see also JONQUIL  
1615Z/17 re "S" report. *p. 750.*

LE TONNANT My 0821/16. Now confirmed French submarine  
scuttled due to fear that owing (2 corrupt groups)  
would be suspected and handed over to Germans.  
Crew now interned in Spain.  
(F.A.P.V. Cap Nord. 1203Z/17 to N.C.W.N.T.F.)

Situation (1) TRUANT at 2100A/17 20.50 21.01. H.M.S.  
2005A/17. \*URCHIN 11½. *\*not in Pink List - 11/42 - completed 9/43.*  
(2) BRIDGEWATER 21.38 32.01 180° 12. *see pp 753 + 768*  
(3) PORTSDOWN, \*YES/TOR, VIVIANA 30. 20 25.04  
161° 9½. *see next page. \* see also p. 754.*  
(N.C.X.F. 1244Z/17.)  
Report for Area X.  
(1) THUNDERBOLT at 2100A/17 (?40) 38 11.08 diving by day 2½  
surfacing by night 10 161.  
(2) P.311 (?passing) 43.01 12.09 at 2000/18.  
(3) U.S. S/MS SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARB between 36.01 20.01  
and 40.01 20.01 00 (?11) knots. *see pp 737, 738, 746, 749*  
(4) U.S. S/M BLACKFISH in vicinity 30.01 20.01 00 11½. *see next page*  
(5) K.M.S.3, BLACK SWAN, one sloop, (?9) corvettes, 39.14 18.24  
through 38.01 (?18) 01 thence 129 7½.  
(6) M.M.S.1(X), LONDONDERRY, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, WOODSTOCK,  
LOUISBURG, PRESCOTT, BIDEFORD, (E) 37.28 15.01 thence 321 7.  
(see amendment 1816Z/17.) *N.T. & N.D. - see p. 750*  
(7) M.K.F.2., PELICAN, FLEETWOOD, EGRET, PHILANTE, BANFF, SENNEN,  
CLARE, 35.58 08.57 through 36.01 ?54.01 thence 299 13. *see p. 746-7*  
(8) BRILLIANT, LOCH OSKAIG, LEYLAND, JAUNTY, with merchant ship  
in tow 35.59 05.58 to given 4. \*ALMAERK - *see next page pp 750*  
(9) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising in  
area between Canary Islands and point 36.01 30.02. *see next page*  
(10) U.S. S/M BISCAYNE 28.51 12.38 (?through) 30.01 11.30  
thence Malta 16. \* *see next page*  
(11) WIVERN, \*VERITY, (?3) merchant ships 35.14 08. (?21) to R/V  
with G.U.F.2 in position 34.01 13.01 (?15½). Thence WIVERN,  
VERITY, return Gibraltar 20. \* *see p. 773. 2/20 p. 751*  
(12) G.U.F.2. Ships R/V in 34.01 13.01 at 1300A/18 proceed  
273° 15.  
(13) G.U.F.1. One (?S/M) 31.39 19.44 through 31.40 20.01  
thence 285 13½.  
(14) K.M.F.3, WESTON, 2 sloops, 2 corvettes, 2 cutters, 47.02 16.27  
to 46.35 16.01 and 43.01 (?15) 55 thence 148 12 14 (corrupt  
group) 26.15 10.35 through 36.10 10.01 to Gibraltar 10.  
(see amendment 1816Z/17.) *N.T. & N.D. - see p. 751.*  
(16) ITHURIEL, one merchant ship, 45.11 14.11 through 43.01  
14.01 12. \* *S.S. HINDUSTAN see 15/11 - p. 654*  
(N.C.X.F. 1240Z/17.)

/My 1240Z/17...



749

War Diary.

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Con 17.

Situation My 1240Z/17. Add para 17. (X?VENOMOUS) BOREAS, 2005A/17. VELOX off Tarifa, through 035° 30' 007° 01' to Contd. R/V U.G.F.2 in position 033° 40' (?008°) 20' at 1000A/18 and escort ARCHER and 2 tankers to Gibraltar by reverse route 14.

(N.C.X.F. 1742Z/17.)

My 1240/17.

Amend para 6 to read: (E) 038° 02' 014° 02' through 038° 28' 015° 01' thence 321° 10.

2. Amend para 14 to read: (E) 036° 26' 010° 36' through 036° 10' 010° 01' thence to Gibraltar 11.

(N.C.X.F. 1816Z/17.)

Report for Area Y.

(1) U.S. S/MS SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARB between 036° 01' 020° 01' and 040° 01' 020° 01' course 00° 11. *See pp 737, 738, 746, 748*(2) U.S. S/M BLACKFISH in vicinity of 030° 01' 020° 01' course 20° 11½. *See previous page.*(3) Spanish training ship (JU?AN) SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising area between Canary Is. and Point 036° 01' 030° 02'. *See previous page.*(4) PORTSDOWN, \*YESTOR, VIVIANA, \*SPHENE, 030° 20' 025° 04' 161° (5 groups missing). *See previous page. \* See also p. 754*

Fl 7 destroyers 031° 39' 019° 44' through 031° 40' 020° 01' thence 285° 13½.

(N.C.X.F. 1242Z/17.)

BRILLIANT My position 218° Cape Trafalgar 9 miles course ALMAACK 110° speed 4 knots.

*See previous page - (Situation) p. 750*  
E.T.A. Gibraltar Bay 0100Z (?18th).  
ALMAA(?C)K draught forward (?10) feet draught aft 27 feet no list, can float (?indefinitely), can let go anchor but not weigh it.  
(BRILLIANT 1400Z/17 to N.C.X.F.)

→ U.G. 2. Take BOREAS and VELOX under your (?orders) and ?proceed at 1800Z/17 routed through 035° 30' N 007° (?01') W. At 0800Z/18 R/V with convoy U.G. 2 in 34.08 N 07 (?54') W and escort ARCHER and tankers BULK OIL and SEAKAY to Gibraltar by reverse (?route) (corrupt group) expected (?speed of convoy) 14 knots (groups not received) A. 74 and 76.  
(N.C.X.F. 1452Z/17 to VENOMOUS (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Spanish Ship. Nov. 17th. Your telegram 181. Departure 17th 1300 Spanish ARTABRO destination believed to be Vigo carrying about 100 tons Resin destined Germany.  
(Consul Porto T.H.I. 1517/17 to N.E.W. 390.  
(R) S.O.(I.) Gibraltar. Admty and Vigo.)

NORTE Spanish sailing vessel NORTE of Rosas is reported FULGOR by Consul, Corunna, to have shipped torpedoes MAX ALBRECHT. from a German tanker MAX ALBRECHT, lying at Ferrol, on 7th Nov. She sailed 10th Nov. from Corunna believed for Bilbao. We have information from other sources that she is controlled by enemy interests and is being used for supplying U-Boats off north and north west Spain.  
2. Vessel is 50 tons, of wood construction and painted white.

/3. Should...



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - *26-11/52*NORTE  
FULGOR  
MAX ALBRECHT.  
Contd.

3. Should NORTE be encountered outside territorial waters, she is if possible to be captured. Should it be impossible, however, to send her to Gibraltar and evidence of her supply work is found on board, she may be sunk, the crew having first been taken off or placed in safety in accordance with page 3 of Naval Prize Manual.

4. Italian SS. FULGOR, lying at Cadiz is also known to be employed as U-Boat depot ship. We are asking H.M. Ambassador to take diplomatic action concerning both this ship and MAX ALBRECHT. (M. Branch Approved 1st. Lord 1526A/17 to F.O.C.N.A. F.O.S. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

JAUNTY  
ALMAACK*See pp 748  
(Situation) 749.*

E.T.A. 0400/18, speed now 3 knots, blowing hard. Request assistance of tug and pilot to berth. ALMAACK has no power. (JAUNTY 1535Z/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)

"S"  
Report.

Following has been read. SSSS 34.09 N 07.23 W. No call or ships name. (Gibraltar W/T No T.O.O. Recd. 1553/17.) Am proceeding to SSSS from position 034° 09' 00" 23'. ARMERIA in company, E.T.A. position 1800Z. \*(JONQUIL 1615Z/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) B.N.A. Quito.)

*See p. 748.*

M.K.S.1(X)

*See p. 748.  
(Situation)*

My 1956/15. Following vessels did not sail in M.K.S.1(X) ALCINOUS, OPORTO, ALGERIAN, SPERO, NOLISEMENT, ALACIA sailed in M.K.F.2 on 17th Nov. (P.S.T.O. X.F. 1626Z/17 to D.S.T.)

SALMON

Trawler SALMON returned to Corunna Nov. 16th, engine trouble. (Corunna 1715/17 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

Damaged  
U/Bs.

Your 1558/16. No confirmation here that damaged Italian submarines have entered Cadiz. It is now rumoured two damaged submarines nationality unknown have entered Tarifa. (Cadiz 1805/17 to R.O. Seville. B.N.A. Madrid. S.O.I. Gibraltar. Admty. (D.N.I.)

Measures  
taken by  
Spain.

Publication of decree today authorizing partial mobilisation at discretion of service minister was accompanied by what amounts to declaration of neutrality although word was not used. Chief of Naval Staff told me no whole classes would be called up but all army units would be brought to full strength. He used words "to defend Spain against anyone and this is not likely to be you. It is to protect our neutrality".

/All ship's...



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Con 5.Measures  
taken by  
Spain.  
Contd.

All ship's complements are to be brought if required to full strength as soon as possible. I urged measures to deal with vessels in dockyard hands and hope to have further conversation on this point.

We may be asked to facilitate more fuel oil. Submit this should be considered.

(N.A. Madrid 1900/17 to D.N.I. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

G.U.F.2.

*See p. 748  
(Situation)*

G.U.F.2 (G) sailed 1000/17th to R/V with G.U.F.2 in position (Z) 34.00 N 13.00 W at 1200/18 SS. ARGENTINE, URUGUAY, BRAZIL, escort VERITY, WIVERN.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1917Z/17, 2047Z/17 to Admty. (R) Cominch, Washington, N.C.X.F. Cdre. G.U.F.2.)

Convoy  
K.M.F.3.*See p. 748  
(Situation)*

Speed should be adjusted to pass Europa Point at 0100Z/21.

(D.O.D. (H.) 1918A/17 to Escorts K.M.F.3. (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.N.A. N.C.X.F.)

\*M.K.F.2.  
U/B*\* See as above*

At 1912/17 G.M.T. on 4540 K/cs U-Boat made a first sighting report, probably of convoy M.K.F.2. if in approx. 36° 00' N 9° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 2100A/17 to Escorts M.K.F.2.)

BARB

*See pp 737, 738,  
748, 749*Your 1814/17 Nov. (1841/17 intended) BARB 2000Z/17 Nov. P.C.S. 039° 06' N 020° 17' W 003° 10 knots 17 knots available.  
(BARB 2140Z/17 to F.O.S. Admty.)Flying  
Boats.

Your 1810Z/15.

A.O.C. Gibraltar can accommodate two Boeing Flying Boats if notice of arrival is given. Rapid onward movements of salvage personnel and stores to Casablanca by air or sea will be dealt with by Allied H.Q. on arrival.

(N.C.X.F. 2140Z/17 to Cdr. Task Force 34. (R) Vice U.S. C.N.O. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. F.O.C.W.A.F.)



752

War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Cotonou Air R/C of Cotonou 16th Nov. shows two merchant vessels of 4000 tons and two of 3000 tons present. (S.O.(I.) Freetown 0901Z/17 to Admty.)

Sinking of DAGOMBA My 1804/14 Nov. Corrected position sinking of DAGOMBA 02° 30' N 19° 00' W. (S.O.(I.) Freetown 1038Z/17 to Admty.)

A/S Measures. A.M. 1956/21st.\* Sailings are being escorted by sea and air as far as limited means will allow but it is probable the best means of clearing South African waters of U-Boats would be the destruction of their supply ship which is believed to have been lurking in the calm area south and west of St. Helena during part at least of their operations.

2. As an offensive plan it is suggested that on next occasion of U-Boats in any number being suspected of proceeding south of St. Helena a carrier or auxiliary carrier with 6 destroyers be despatched to the Cape from Eastern Fleet or the north to form a hunting group, and an oiler with 2 corvettes as escort be sent to St. Helena for fuelling destroyers. The hunting force should then thoroughly comb that area in which there is indication of an enemy surface unit.

3. Group sailings which would be required at the same time as the above would then be escorted by A/S trawler. (C. in C. S.A. 1124C/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. VALIANT. V.A.E.F.) \* Re employment for the 18 A/S trawlers and A/S whalers lent to U.S. in Feb. 1942 and now being released to deal with U-Boat menace in S. Atlantic.

MIJDRECHT My 1237/15.  
\*CORINTHIAN MIJDRECHT to be escorted to position (G) 010° S, 015° W. by CORINTHIAN, proceeding thence independently to Pernambuco.  
\* See next page - (R.A.W.A. 1136Z/17 to B.N.L.O. W.A. (R) CORINTHIAN. Admty.)

Dispositions. R.A.W.A. 1147Z/17, 1149Z/17. See Lion Copy.

GLENEARN Capetown departures GLENEARN at 0805Z/16 for U.K.  
(2) Route A 029° S 015° E. B 026° S 014° E.  
C 020° S (012°) E. D 018° S 011 E. E 009° S 015° W.  
F 003° N 028° W. G 008° 031° thence as routed by F.O.C.W.A.F.  
(3) S of A 16 knots.  
(6) F.O.C.W.A.F. is requested to signal onward route from position G.  
(7) Apart from shipwright raft only life saving equipment carried is one whaler. It is for consideration that ship should either join a homeward bound convoy or that other A/S protection be provided.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1243C/16 to Admty.)



MOST SECRET **MOST SECRET** MESSAGE 1147Z/17th Nov. IN

From R.A. West Africa.

Date 17.11.42.  
Recd. 1535.

NAVAL CYPHER 'M' BY W/T

Addressed Ships in Area 'P' of South Atlantic Station  
South of 8 degs. North, Admiralty, C. in C.  
South Atlantic N.O.I/C. Takoradi R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

*reposition*  
H.M.S. ST. ZENO, 6 trawlers, and convoy, off Freetown  
to 007 degs. 38' 014 degs. 10' thence 127 degs. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' *imp 754*  
F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU (?005 degs.) 42' 012 degs. 31'  
to Freetown 18.  
F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, H.M.S.  
MORRIS DANCE, 3 M/L's., with T.S. 24, 002 degs. 30' 008 degs.  
40' 313 degs. 8 at 1959 17th.  
H.M.S. \*KANDAHAR, seriously damaged, escorting 004 degs. 22'  
001 degs. 47' 254 degs. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' *sure 12/41!*  
H.M.S. \*ASTURIAS, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, (?on patrol) between  
007 degs. 27' (?025 degs.) 36' and 004 degs. 35' 029 degs.  
01' (?12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ') \* *see p. 768*  
H.M.S. CORINTHIAN 002 degs. 05' South (?096 degs.) 05'  
East 112 degs. 11. *see previous page.*  
(?X) P 552 008 degs. 10' South 001 degs. 05' East 153 degs  
9.

1147Z/17.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pam.  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.A/S.W.  
D.D.I. (2)  
Duty Capt. (2)  
I.P. (2)  
Head of M.  
W.D.  
U.S.N.  
D.T.D. (3)  
D.T.D. (M)

EML.



**MOST SECRET**MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E 1149Z/17th Nov. IN.

From. F.O.C. West Africa.

Date. 17.11.42.  
Recd. 1555.

NAVAL CYPHER (3) M. BY W/T.

Addressed. Ships in Area P. of South Atlantic  
Station North of 8 degs North. Admiralty.  
C. in C. South Atlantic.  
N.O.I.C. Bathurst.IMPORTANT.

Situation Report.

KHYBER, 14 30 19 59 to 12 02 20 01

thence 127 degs 10.

Neth. Sub. K.14, 09 05 15 10 288 degs

9 at 2000Z/17th. *see p. 754*

H.M.S. TURCOMAN, about 15 05 38 15

100 degs 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

1149Z/17.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 Capt. Pim.  
 D.O.D. (H) (2)  
 D.O.D. (F) (2)  
 D.D.O.D. (M)  
 Duty Capt. (2)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 D. of Plans (2)  
 D. A/S.W.  
 Head of M.  
 W.D.  
 I.P. (2)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.M.S.  
 D.T.D. (3)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (C).

EML.



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

O.19. Re. A.S. Simonstown's 1642/24 Oct. and Comdr. Supt. Simonstown's 1536/11 Nov. Concur sailing O.19 mid-December with one Diesel engine and two main electromotors. Concur with repair of damaged valcan clutch at Simonstown and propose to keep repaired clutch as spare for depot ship submarines COLOMBIA. (D.N.L.O. BDZ, 1245/17 to Admty. (R) F.O.S.)

BRIDGEWATER Merchant shipping is proceeding south between <sup>Emp. 448. 1768</sup> 033° W and 035° W. Alter course as necessary <sup>(situation)</sup> to locate and escort one ship as far south as endurance permits, then proceed Freetown. Conform with route ship being escorted. Report P.C.S. after parting company. (F.O.C.W.A. 1256Z/17 to BRIDGEWATER. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)

VEERHAVEN My 1426Z/16. Position VEERHAVEN when sunk approx. 003° 40' S 030° W. Position of Captain's boat when picked up by destroyer 006° 11' S 033° 10' W. (R.O. Pernambuco 1259Z/17 to Admty.)

DESPATCH My 1333Z/8 Nov. para 1. Unless other orders received from Comsolantfor, DESPATCH is to return Pernambuco where boiler cleaning is to be completed. Report date completion. (F.O.C.W.A. 1305Z/17 DESPATCH, ROTHERHAM (R) C. in C. S.A. B.A.D. Escort W.S.24. Comsolantfor)

"R" Class Fuel consumption figures of ROTHERHAM. Arrived destroyers Bahia with 31 tons of fuel remaining. 54 tons endurance. were expended between 0730Z/3 and 1800Z/3 in overtaking convoy in heavy weather. From 1800Z/3 until arrival at 1100Z/15 expenditure was 503 tons. Average revolutions 116, 12.9 knots. Consumption per hour 1.79 tons. Convoy route from Azores 3680 miles. Distance actually steamed by ROTHERHAM 3875 miles. Based on this experience endurance figures for "R" Class destroyers as follows -  
11 knots 4350 miles. 16 knots 4032 miles. 20 knots 3602 miles. 24 knots 2730 miles.  
(Capt. D.11 1415Z/17 to Admty.)

INDOCHINOIS SS. INDOCHINOIS not yet arrived. Last heard of W.S.24. on 11th Nov. Ship using her call sign has answered but gives no position. It is considered inadvisable to call her further.  
2. Intend W.S.24 sail Thursday 19th unless otherwise ordered. Commodore concurs.  
(Capt. D.11 1434Z/17 to Admty. Comsolantfor. (R) C. in C. S.A. R.A.W.A.)



754

War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- WEST POINT. From position O proceed to new position Z 044° 00' S 021° 00' E thence direct to rejoin your route in position R 031° 01' S 049° 01' E. Chop noon G.M.T. 22nd Nov.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1439C/17 to U.S. ship WEST POINT (R) C. in C. E.F. Admty.)
- Dakar. Incomplete cover of Dakar a.m. 17th. No change in major units.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1525Z/17 to N.C.X.F. etc.)
- U/B. U.S. aircraft report sighting U-Boat in position 5° 53' N 1° 10' E at 1130/17. Course 142°.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1544Z/17 to Admty.)
- EAST INDIAN (sunk 3 Nov.) U.S. EAST INDIAN sunk by 2 torpedoes at 1556/3 Nov. in 037° 23' S 013° 34' E. No distress message made, ship sank in 2 minutes.  
2. 13 survivors including Chief Officer have been landed Capetown. 34 others adrift on 4 rafts for whom search is being made.  
U-Boat was about 800 tons with ? 4.7 inch guns forward and aft of C/T and appeared new.  
(S.O.I. Capetown 1656C/17 to Admty. etc.)  
*u 181  
Reb.  
FBS*
- R/C. Air R/C 16th Nov. shows Lome no ships. Cotonou two merchant vessels 4000 tons. Porto Novo two merchant vessels of 4000 tons and two of 3000 tons.  
(S.O.I.) Freetown 1731Z/17 to Admty.)
- Overdue shipping. KNUP TANGO (American) departed Capetown 5th Nov. for Durban sighted by aircraft in 34° 12' S 24° 18' E at 1508Z/7 appears to be overdue.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1859C/16 to Admty. (R) N.C.S.O. Durban.)
- Trawlers. Departure 17th Nov. MAGNOLIA, NORTHERN DAWN,\*ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DUKE, COVENTRY CITY, SPANIARD, CANNA. Q G B 136 Q G A 112.  
(S.O.I.) Freetown 1943Z/17 to Admty. etc.)\**See p. 752*
- K.14. Departure 17th Nov. Neth. Sub. K.14, Q J B 91.  
(S.O.I.) Freetown 1959Z/17 to Admty. etc.)  
W.D. Note: To Philadelphia to refit.  
*See p. 752 B*
- U/B. Ref. A.M. A.G. (as recd.? A.F. intended) 036° 30' S 032° 45' E.  
(C. in C. S.A. 1947 G.M.T./17 to Admty. B.A.M.S. Area 3C.)
- SPHENE YES/TOR SPHENE has defective feed pumps now being towed by YES/TOR position at 1830Z/17 031° 42' N 026° 03' W course 155° speed 6½ knots.  
*See pp 748, 749*  
(PORTSDOWN 2000Z/17 to R.A.W.A. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)



# SECRET

754<sup>17</sup>

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

2000A/17 November

Addressed G.O.C. in C. West Africa.

Date 17.11.42

CYPER.

FROM The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

80336 Cipher (M.O.4) 17 Nov.

Your I/52218 of 13 Nov.

Whole question of relations with Vichy French now under urgent consideration in London as result developments in North Africa.

Pending further instructions you should continue policy of keeping your forces within existing frontiers.

Your will be sent full information as soon as possible.

2000A/17

Recd from W.O.: 1410/18 November.

W.O. Circulation.

S. of S.

C.I.G.S.

V.C.I.G.S.

D.M.O.

D.D.M.O.(O)

D. Plans.

D.M.I.

D.D.M.I.(I)

M.O.1.4

M.I.3.3a. 17.

D.M.I.(Admiralty)

Hd. of W.R. Admiralty.

A.C.A.S.(I) (Air Ministry)

A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry)

Foreign Office (Mr. Cavendish Bentick.)

Brig. Jacob. (War Cabinet Offices.)

93 TORCH (M.(2))

P.A.S.(S)

Sec.

IH

Re Vichy French Africa.



17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

→Algiers.

Situation report No.7.

- (a) 22 berths employed unloading (corrupt group)
  - (b) nil. (c) no change. (d) no change.
  - (e) good officers accommodation fixed. Leave given. Behaviour good. (f) no change.
  - (g) My 1115/16th negotiations continuing.
- Atmosphere satisfactory.  
 (Cdre. Algiers 0020A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O.I.S.)

P.247.

Important arrivals Bizerta probably today. Since enemy was attacked on line 240° from Marettimo yesterday new route may be used. Adjust your position as you think best keeping within 15 miles of Cani Rock.  
 (Capt. S. 10 0955A/17 to P.247 (R) S/Ms on patrol.)

Situation Report No.13.

*p.760*

- (1) Bougie-Bone area. Corrupt message from ALARM about survivors indicates loss of ALGERINE.
- (2) F.O.I.S. reports at 1500/15th Nov.
- (A) Bone. Fighter strafing of aerodrome only. Three E/A shot down. French ships COLOMBIE

MARRAKECH and GALLIUM being escorted to Algiers.

(B) Bougie. Slight air activity on 14th Nov.\*NARKUNDA hit by two bombs forward at 1720/14th Nov. off Cap Carbon and sunk four hours later. 211 survivors including Commodore and Master at Algiers.

*\* See next page (Bougie)*

→(C) Algiers. 1000 U.S. Troops arrived from Oran in\*ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTER<sup>MAN</sup> and eight ships for Bougie and Bone sailed with two M.M.S. for Bone and two trawlers for Philippeville. L.C.Ts arrived from west. QUEEN EMMA and P<sup>IN</sup> BEATRIX sailed with troops for Bougie. COWDRAY refloated and berthed.

*\* See p.758*

(3) Sitrep No.12. Item 1. WELSHMAN returned to Algiers on account of weather. Item 4. No change. Item 5 have been ordered to berth at Mers-el-Kebir 1000/10.

(4) Oran. Ports of Arzeu Oran and Mers-el-Kebir operating. Blocked channel to inner harbour of Oran should be cleared today Tuesday. Sixteen berths in Mers-el-Kebir. Mostaganem clear but insufficiently protected at present.

(5) Gibraltar. WIVERN arrived p.m. 16th Nov. with German prisoners from U.660 sunk by STARWORT<sup>107</sup> and from U-Boat ashore near Cap Ivi after air attack. Cable ship MIRROR sailed Algiers a.m. 17th Nov. to connect Gibraltar with Algiers.

\*ALMAACK due today Tuesday in tow. MARNE arrived in tow a.m. 16th Nov. *1241A/15 - see p.660.*

*\* See pp 748, 749, 750*

(6) Casablanca. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND on route from Gibraltar damaged by heavy explosion at about 1845/16th Nov. in position 33.50 N. 07.31 W. reports no assistance required.

(7) Reported B.O. and two Italian U-Boats are off Cadiz.

(8) French S/M LE TONNANT reported A.1 scuttled at Cadiz. *see p.748*

(9) A/S air patrols from Gibraltar had four sightings and three attacks. *773*

(N.C.X.F. 1025Z/17 to Admty.)

P.43,  
 \*PARTHIAN,  
 \*P.37.

*\* See p. 757*

P.43 has withdrawn. Move with all despatch to establish identical patrol line 5 miles 180° from present positions.  
 (Capt. S. 10 1045A/17 to PARTHIAN, P.37 (R) Submarines on Patrol.)

/R/C ...



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War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

R/C.

P.R.U. Toulon 1320/16. No change Main Units. Since 14/11 2 T.Bs arrived in Darse Vieille. Internal movements - Suffren class cruiser from Darse de Castigneau to Darse de Missiesey - 1 C/T to dry dock.  
P.R.U. Genoa 1245/16. One destroyer, 2 submarines, ROMA, \*AUGUSTUS, 25 merchant ships and one tanker. (D.D.I.C. 1144A/17 to C. in C. Med etc.)  
*\* not identified.*

UTMOST.

*imp 764*Sailed.  
(V.A. Malta 1219A/17.)

Bougie.

Situation report (?today) SS URLANA sails with ZETLAND at 1900A/17th. *imp 762*  
(A) DERWENT HALL.  
(B) CITY OF NORWICH.  
(C) ARTEMISWARD.  
(D) OCEAN VISTA and (E) EVIVA unloading. Anticipated dates of completion p.m.  
(A) 23rd, (B) 20th, (C) 21st, (D) 21st, (E) 18th.  
Enemy aircraft dropped two torpedoes at dusk 16th. No damage or casualty. 20 survivors ex \*NARKUNDA taking passage in URLANA.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1229A/17 to F.O.I.S.)\* *see previous page (517)*

Black Sea.

1. Naval. German tanker OSSAG torpedoed off Cape Karazenu; ship returned to Istanbul under own power.  
(B) Enemy anti-sub. patrol on Sulina - Odessa route.  
2. Enemy using large numbers of aircraft on Quidapamo Front in determined effort to make (?some) advance: all attacks stopping and Russians counter attacking. Nov. 15 70 aircraft attacked /T---?( :) damage to property considerable but no (?damage to) divert - port installations hit. Russians taking advantage of relaxing of enemy air activity on Novorossisk Naval Base to make important local advances either side of the Atain River and have occupied south east part of Neberdjaevckaya.  
(N.L.O. Black Sea 1237C/17 to Admty. etc.) / as cyphered.

U/B  
sunk.

4.331.

*(see p. 733.)*

Am over enemy sub. in 36.50 N. 2.25 E. Was on surface when first sighted on course 070° estimated speed 10 knots.  
(A/C Call Sign TXCCL 1255/17 to Gib.)  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate two hits. Result of attack, disabled on surface.  
(A/C C/S TXCC Duty Z 1320Z/17 to Gib.)  
A/C's message 1320. S/M torpedoed and sunk by Albacore from FORMIDABLE. Walrus from Algiers picking up 2 "Token" survivors.  
(S.O. Force H. 1725Z/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O. Inshore Sqdn. Cdre. Algiers, F.O.C.N.A.)

/U/B ...



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War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

U/B. P.R.U. reports submarine dived in 034° 52' N.  
019° 43' E. at 1115A/17th.  
(V.A. Malta 1244A/17 to C. in C. Med.,  
F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of enemy 4 destroyers 38° 12' N.  
11° 42' E. 085° 15 knots.  
(A/C T6M Duty G. 1307/17 to Hal Far.)  
1 merchant ship, 2 destroyers 033° 50' N. 017° 04' E.  
course 220° 10 knots at 0940A/17th.  
(Capt. S. 10, 1323A/17 to \*PORPOISE, P.212, P.46.)

\* See p. 760

P.42, After dark tonight P.42 move through 038° 06'  
\*P.37, 011° 42' to position 360° Cape San Vito 4 miles.  
\*PARTHIAN, At 0001/18th PARTHIAN and P.37 move to establish  
Enemy Convoy. patrol line in position 360° 7 and 14 miles  
\* See p. 755 respectively from P.42.  
(Capt. S. 10 1352A/17 to P.42, P.37, PARTHIAN,  
(R) Subs on Patrol.)

Cancel my 1352. Steer 45° submerged using available  
speed considering you required shadow convoy tonight.  
Instructions follow.

(Capt. S. 10 1438A/17 to PARTHIAN (R) Subs on patrol.)

R/C shows 3 large merchant ships entered Palermo 1000 today  
4 destroyers arriving now. Consider ships will sail for  
Bizerta after dark, either 2 convoys of about 14 and 10 knots  
or all at 10 knots. Fastest most important. PARTHIAN move  
to be down moon off Gallo as early as possible to shadow and  
report throughout night. P.42 move with all despatch to 038°  
15' 012° 00'. Submarines on enemy's route have freedom of  
action from patrol positions at right angles to enemy's line  
of advance and may follow and repeat attack if speed allows.  
No submarine to be attacked. Target justifies full salvo.  
PARTHIAN may only attack when considers P.247 has sufficient  
information. WELSHMAN passes from 038° 05' 011° 55' to B  
between 0100 and 0230 18th. Convoy vitally important. Good  
luck.

(Capt. S. 10 1620A/17 to Subs on patrol (R) N.C.X.F.  
C..in C. Med.)

My 1620. R/C shows Tunis entrance clear, anticipate convoy  
after passing position of P.221 may turn towards Zembra or  
divide for both ports. Patrol vicinity 37.29 10.37.  
(Capt. S. 10 1701A/17 to P.247 (R) SWMS on patrol.)

L.C.Ts. My 1950Z/16th, shipping protection signal.  
T.E.3 A. Para. D. 2 L.C.T. escorted by one M.L. leaving  
Algiers 1400Z/17th and will be off Bougie at  
0400Z/18th proceeding Jijelli. Codeword  
Tudor. Speed 8 knots. Request fighter protection  
priority 2 from dawn tomorrow Wednesday.  
Para. E. Convoy T.E.3 A will now leave Algiers 0530Z/18th  
eastbound 8 knots. Estimated position 1800Z/18th 360° Cap  
Carbon 15 miles and at 0600Z/19th off Philippeville. Codeword  
Poppy. Request fighter protection priority 2.  
(Cdre. Algiers 1352Z/17 to A.O.C. Eastern Air Command (R) R.A.F.  
Maison Blanche, R.A.F. Bone, R.A.F. Jijelli, S.O.I.S., R.A.F.  
Blida, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

/P.222 ...



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

P.222, Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean  
P.51. at 2000Z/17th November.  
(i) P.222 38.02 N. 00.28 W. diving by day,  $2\frac{1}{2}$   
knots on surface, by night 11 knots, proceeding  
5 miles off Spanish coast to Gibraltar to arrive 1000/19th.  
(ii) P.51 39.28 N. 00.52 E. diving by day  $2\frac{1}{2}$  knots, on surface  
by night 8 knots, through 39.15 N. 00.28 E. thence 5 miles off  
Spanish coast to Gibraltar.  
(N.C.X.F. 1402Z/17 to Area G.)

Inshore ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTERMAN are to form  
Sqdn. part of inshore squadron until personnel ex  
K.M.F.3 have been moved forward. Large  
personnel ships are not to proceed further east  
than Algiers under present circumstances.  
(N.C.X.F. in AURORA 1431Z/17 to F.O. Inshore  
Squadron, (R) Cdre. Algiers, A.F.H.Q. (London)  
N.C.X.F. Admty.)

\*ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN will be sailed from  
Algiers at 2130Z tomorrow Wednesday. E.T.A. Bougie 0500Z/19th.  
(F.O. Inshore Squadron 1824Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

\* See p.755 - (Sub 7/ep.)

WELSHMAN, 1. WELSHMAN expected to pass through position  
information. (B)  $037^{\circ} 49' N. 011^{\circ} 44' E.$  at about 0215A/18th  
thence slightly south of S/M route to (E) and is  
then to steer  $158^{\circ}$  until dawn to clear S/Ms.  
2. P.45 and P.48 pass through  $036^{\circ} 10' N. 014^{\circ} 00' E.$  at  
0600A/18th course  $148^{\circ} 9$  knots.  
3. UTMOST will pass through  $037^{\circ} 00' N. 015^{\circ} 27' E.$  at 0300A/18th  
thence through (E) and dive at dawn through Q.B.B.  
4. P.43 pass through  $038^{\circ} 00' N. 011^{\circ} 44' E.$  at 0130A/18th  
and is not to approach position (B) before 0300A when WELSHMAN  
should have passed.  
5. P.43, P.45, P.48 have no torpedoes.  
6. E-Boats are very likely to be operating in vicinity of route  
during dark hours.  
7. Gozo light will be shown from 0400A/18th.  
(V.A. Malta 1435A/17 to WELSHMAN (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)  
See also 1752A/17. p.761

ALBARO. My 1535C/16. ALBARO entered Aegean 8.45 G.M.T.  
(Italian) (?Nov.)17th. Course W. North of Lemnos.  
Escorted by 2 destroyers and 2 aircraft.  
(S.O.(I.) Istanbul 1455C/17 to S.O.(I.) Med. (R)  
S.I., D.N.I.)

THRASHER, Following is a repetition of my 1700/15th. *N.T. & W.D.*  
TRAVELLER. THRASHER and TRAVELLER sailed. Ratings embarked  
for passage to U.K., Malta and Gibraltar as  
follows (Details).  
(Capt. S.1 1459B/17 to F.O.S. (R) V.A. Malta  
etc.)

/R/C ...



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

T.O.O. Nil.

IN

From:- C. in C. Middle East.

Date. 17/11/42.

Reed. 1510

CIPHER.

Addressed:- The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry)  
 Repeated. British Army Staff Washington (Personal for F.M. Dill).  
 C. in C. India (Personal for Gen. Wavell). C. in C.  
 Mediterranean, G.O.C. in C. Egypt. G. in C. Persia/Iraq.  
 (Personal for Gen. Wils n)., L.H.Q. Melbourne. (Personal for  
 Gen. Blamey). G.G.S. New Zealand (Personal for Gen. Puttick).  
 G.G.S. South Africa (Personal for F.M. Smuts).

MOST IMMEDIATE

O/72578 cipher 293036. 17th Nov.

Cositrep No. 596 Part Two. Air.

1. Night 15/16 Nov. Enemy aircraft dropped bombs and machine-gunned in Tobruk-Gambut area without causing damage. Hurricanes up, but no interceptions.
2. 16 Nov. All operations severely hampered by low cloud.
3. Fighters operated against targets in Benghazi area. No reports available. Shipping patrols also carried out in Bardia and Matruh areas.
4. Hurricanes shot down a reconnaissance JU.88 off Port Said.
5. Fighter Squadrons were due to move up to Martuba, but move was postponed owing to waterlogged condition landing-grounds. End of message. All informed.

T.O.O. Nil.

Reed. from W.O. at 1750/17.

1st Lord.  
 1st S.L. (2).  
 4th S.L.  
 C.N.A.B.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2).  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.O.D. (H) (2).  
 D.O.D. (F) (2).  
 D.D.I.C. (2).  
 D. of P. (2).  
 Duty Capt. (2).  
 Hd. of M.  
 A.O.N.A. S.  
 D.N.I. (4).  
 I.P. (2).  
 D.P.D.  
 W.D.  
 Ad. Blake.

W.O. Ciro.

S. of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S.,  
 D.M.O., D.P. (2 copies),  
 D.D.M.O. (O) (H), M.O. 1, 5, 6.  
 D.M.I., D.D.M.I. (I) (F),  
 M.I. 2 (1 copy), 3, 5b, 14.  
 D.A.F.V., D.D.I.P.,  
 Duty Captain (Admiralty),  
 Duty Officer (Upper Army War Room),  
 Hd. of War. Reg. (Admiralty),  
 A.M.C.S. (Air Min. (5 copies)),  
 Brig. E.I.C. Jacob. (Cabinet Offices)  
 (15 copies).  
 Cabinet War Room.  
 S. of S. Foreign Office.

D.N.A.D.  
 D.A.C.D.



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17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - ,contd.

R/C.

- (1) Sousse photographed 17th entrance blocked.
- (2) Tunis photographed 17th.
- (A) block ship removed Lagoulette Channel now usable.
- (B) Merchant ship about 2000 tons arrived since 14th.
- (3) Bizerta not seen bad weather.
- (4) Palermo (A) 0855 17th 3 liners 11,000, 7,000 and 3000 tons.
- (B) At sea off Ustica one liner 7,000, one merchant ship 2,000 heading Palermo.
- (V.A. Malta 1526A/17 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.
- (R) Admty. etc.)

Derna-  
Benghazi  
Convoy Route.

For holders of Mediterranean War Memoranda M.W.M. 98. Western Desert convoy route Derna to Benghazi.

- (a) Seaward route, amend position Blow 032° 59' 022° 56'. Add positions :-
- Contention (as received) / (?033°) 20' 022° 30'.
- Mist 033° 07' 020° 47'.
- Rain 032° 43' 020° 04'.
- Mist, End of Benghazi searched channels (b) add to inshore route (?but) is not to be used until M/S operations are completed, positions:-
- Chop 032° 59' 022° 12'.
- Egg 032° 59' 021° 39'.
- Pork 032° 49' 021° 04'.
- Loaf 032° 30' 020° 19'.
- Storm. End of Benghazi searched channel.
- (? C. in C. Med. 1625B/17 to S. & A. Med. Stn.)
- / (HAIL intended?)

D.14,  
C.S.15.

My 1447 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to make 22 knots in order to join you at 1100 tomorrow 18th. (Capt. D.14 1631B/17 to C.S.15 (R) C. in C. Med, R.A. Alexandria.)

Oran,  
Movements.

N.C.X.F. 1644A/4 Nov. (2) SHIANT arrived, M.Ls 480, 483 arrived for repairs: ROUSAY, JURA and 2 M.Ls left for Arzeu. (F.O.I.C. Oran 1700/17 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Interned  
French  
Seamen.

Darlan has suggested that French naval officers and merchant seamen now interned in England might be used in due course for service in North Africa. Proposal is forwarded for consideration. (N.C.X.F. 1713Z/17 to Admty.)

/Situation ...



760

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Situation Report 1500/17th. *See p. 755*  
 Bone. Convoy T.E.3 and escort arrived a.m. today without casualties. Port War Signal Station is established.  
 Philippeville. Convoy T.E.3 (A) will sail from Algiers to arrive daylight 19th Nov. with 5 store ships, 2 trawlers, 2 M.Ls escorted by 2 destroyers during day allocated.  
 Bougie. Approx. 32 survivors from ALGERINE. No further details yet.  
 Algiers (Z) 2 landing craft tanks with R.A.F. vehicles and stores escorted by 1 M.L. sailed for Jijelli today. 4 will sail tomorrow for Bone via Jijelli. QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX continue Algiers - Bougie troop ferrying tonight. (?Aircraft) reports enemy S/M (W.D.Note.- Presumably U.331) on surface surrendered 30 miles north west of Cape Caxine at 15(?20)A today. Destroyer has been sent. Local defence. Smoke screening (?organisation) complete. Have now full French co-operation for A/A defence, coast batteries and naval ordnance repair. EMPIRE GAT, EMPIRE SPINNEY must remain pending establishment of armament depot for which no suitable building yet found. Local ammunition supply temporarily satisfactory since arrival of JACINTH.  
 (F.O.I.S. 1730/17 to N.C.X.F.)

Algiers-  
 Bone  
 Traffic  
 Routes.

To avoid encounters between own forces in dark hours eastbound traffic is to be routed 2 to 5 and westbound 7 to 10 miles off all salient points between Algiers and Bone. Important fast ships and convoys should be routed through numbered positions well off shore in both directions.  
 (F.O. Inshore Sqdn. 1730A/17 to Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

Dispositions. Brief situation report for area west of Algiers 2000Z/17th. S/Ms excepted.  
 (1) T.E.4 (a) 035° 49' N. 003° 05' W. to Oran 10 knots.  
 (2) OPPORTUNE and BULLDOG 037° 27' N. 000° 12' W. through 76.3 to Gibraltar 20 knots.  
 (3) AURORA, WISHART, ANTELOPE 036° 55' N. 002° 57' E. through 12 76 3 to Gibraltar 17 knots. *See p. 762*  
 (4) E.T.1 leaves Algiers p.m. 17th through 100 31 2.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1731Z/17 to S. & A. Area G.)

\*PORPOISE,  
 enemy.

\* *See p. 757.*

Expect aircraft to pass eastwards over you at about 2200 to attack enemy expected 20 miles from your position. After attack 2 flares will be (?dropped) over (?enemy) (?at) 10 (?minute) intervals to indicate his course. Target justifies full salvo. Result of air strike will be rebroadcast to you.  
 (Capt. S. 10 1744A/17 to PORPOISE.)

/WELSHMAN ...



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17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

- WELSHMAN, Concentration of shipping Palermo may move to  
information. Bizerta tonight. S/MS have been directed to  
intercept and chase and H.M.S. PARTHIAN ordered  
to shadow and report. Her report will be  
broadcast for your benefit.  
p. 758
- (2) Expect 4 destroyers now approaching Palermo will provide  
escort.  
(V.A. Malta 1752A/17 to WELSHMAN (R) N.C.X.F. in AURORA, F.O.  
Inshore Squadron, Cdre. Algiers.)
- Algiers Oil Fuel stocks remaining 11,000 tons which will  
Oil last about 10 days at present expenditure.  
Stocks. Request oilers with furnace and diesel in order  
that stocks ashore may be built up.  
(Cdre. Algiers 1811A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R)  
F.O.C.N.A.)
- P.35. Indications you were sighted at about 1330 today.  
Withdraw to patrol close to East of Ustica.  
(Capt. S.10 1814A/17 to P.35.)
- Torpedoes My 1935 (?3rd) Sept. Request torpedoes sent  
for Malta. by submarine transport may be only submarine  
torpedo 21-inch for the present.  
(V.A. Malta 1824A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R)  
Capt. (S) 1, F.O.C.N.A.)
- Malta Air MS.4590. I. 112 17 Nov. C.S.R. Night 16/17 Nov.  
Report. 2030 hrs. One Beaufighter up for raids which  
turned back before reaching Malta.  
Day 17th Nov. 6 Spitfires sorties have been  
made in armed R/C patrols against axis shipping and transport  
aircraft in the Lampedusa Linosa area but no sightings were  
made. Continuing rain storms made further flying impossible  
and rendered 2 aerodromes unserviceable.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 1836/17.)
- R/C. Afternoon visuals.  
(i) Naples Messina cloud.  
(ii) Taranto 3 battleships.  
(iii) Tripoli (Libya) one cruiser. Photographs  
later.  
(V.A. Malta 1837A/17 to C. in C. Med. WELSHMAN,  
etc.)  
My 1837/17th, Tripoli (Libya), photographs, 5 destroyers,  
one torpedo boat, 12 F.boats, 6 medium merchant ships unloading,  
no cruisers.  
(V.A. Malta 2125A/17 to C. in C. Med. 142, C.S.15, (R)  
Admty., F.O.C.N.A. N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H.)

/Landing ...



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17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Landing Craft for Bone. Sailing 12 L.C.M. and up to 12 L.C.A. for Bone after dark tomorrow Wednesday. The craft are to lie up during daylight at either Collo or Philippeville. Sailing is to be postponed if there is any doubt about weather conditions.

Sufficient stores are to be embarked for 7 days in addition to all spare parts. A beaching party together with their stores and equipment is also to be embarked.

N.O.I.C. Bougie is to inform Collo or Philippeville and Bone at what time craft may be expected.

Officer I/C party is to report to Col. Glendenning in addition to N.O.I.C. on arrival at Bone.

(S.O. Inshore Sqdn. 1842Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Bougie (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)

T.E.3.A. My 1849 part 2 final (W.R. Note. Part 2 only received. Message not addressed Admiralty.)  
(B) Convoy T.E.3 A eastbound 8 knots departed Algiers 0530Z/18th estimated position at 1800Z/18th 000° Cape ? 15 miles and at 0600Z/19th off Philippeville. Codeword "Poppy". Request fighter protection priority 2.  
(C) 2 L? C.T. escorted by one M.L. leaves Algiers 1400Z/17th and will be off Bougie at 0400Z/18th, proceed Jijelli, codeword "Tudor", speed 8 knots. Request fighter protection 2 from dawn. (Cdre. Algiers 1849A/17 to ? ROBERTS.)

URLANA,  
ZETLAND.  
*See p. 756*

Sailed at 1900A/17th SS URLANA in company ZETLAND (corrupt group) speed 10 knots E.T.A. Algiers 0700A/18th. This ship has no recognition signals.  
(N.C.S.O. Bougie 1903Z/17 to N.C.S.O. Algiers  
(R) F.O. Inshore Squadron, N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

Convoy T.E.5. Request you will sail convoy T.E.5 at 2200Z/18th Nov. routed through 28.73 61 (?92) 39 100.  
(2) Almeira\* section BRANDSLAND escorted by BLEAN part company in position (?22). On arrival at destination BLEAN proceeds to overtake convoy.  
(3) Oran portion SHUNA, OUSEL, ZAN, MAMMY, KROMAN, SELVIK, H.M.S. BLEAN, LANCASTER, and WELLS, part company in position 2 (?K) Escort take Oran section to entrance to searched channel then proceed to overtake convoy. My 2014/17th part 2 follows.  
(N.C.X.F. 1929Z/17 to ? F.O.C.N.A. (R) Force I, Oran, Cdre., Algiers etc.) \* (? Algiers)  
Note: Part one only received. Admiralty not in address.

Movements. Position. Arrivals. From Oran\***AURORA**,\***WISHART**,  
*See pp 755, 760* From Bougie **WHEATLAND**, **LAMERTON**, **QUEEN EMMA**,  
**PRINSES BEATRIX**. Departures to eastward **WELSHMAN**. To Gibraltar,\***AURORA**,\***WISHART**,  
\***ANTELOPE**. To Jijelli, M.L.444 escorting L.C.T. 135 and 160. To Bougie, **QUEEN EMMA**, **PRINSES BEATRIX**.  
*See p. 760*  
(Cdre. Algiers 1950Z/17 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F. S.O. Inshore Squadron.)

/Landing ...



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War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Landing  
Craft  
Bougie.

Landing craft serviceable at Bougie are 16 L.C.M., 7 L.C.A. and 12 L.C.P. 12 L.C.M. and 4 L.C.A. are now ready for onward passage. These craft are (?carrying) stores and equipped for the passage to Bone and 10 to 14 days operation requirements. 4 L.C.P. can also be made available if required. Clothing and equipment of crews is being made partly from Army supplies as rapidly as possible.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 2059A/17 to F.O. Inshore Sqdn.)

Enemy  
Units.

Position, course and speed of enemy (1 merchant vessel, 2 destroyers) are 33.09 N. 15.00 E. 290° 8 knots.

(Med. A/C R 7SY 2114/17.)

Have attacked enemy (in 33° 9' N. 15° 0' E.) with torpedoes and estimate one hit.

(Aircraft using Call sign U5LA 2215A/17.)

PORPOISE advised.

(Capt. S.10 0022A/18.)

→TURBULENT.

Leave patrol for Malta after dark 18th Nov. direct for position A (? at) 0500A/20th and R/V with sweepers at end of searched channel at 1330A/21st.

(Capt. S. 10, 2124A/17 to TURBULENT (R) Submarines on Patrol, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)

P.228.  
STURGEON,  
→TURBULENT,  
TRIBUNE.

Following sector patrols are established off Naples all bearings from summit of Vesuvius (A) 256° to 235° (B) 225° to 210° (C) 200° to 160°. Sectors are allocated as follows:

(A) P.228.

(B) STURGEON.

(C) TURBULENT until 1800A/18th, H.M.S. TRIBUNE

after 0600A/19th. S/Ms should not penetrate inshore of line joining following point, Imperatore Carena and Campanella.  
(Capt. S. 10 2132A/17 to P.228, STURGEON, TRIBUNE, TURBULENT, (R) S/Ms on patrol, N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8.)

Bone.

Situation (?Bone) No.8.

(a) 22 berths employed.

(b) Nil. (c) No change. (d) No change.

(e) Nil. (f) No change. (g) My 1115/16,

anticipate decision tomorrow.

(? Cdre. Algiers 2155/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O. Inshore Squadron.)

/Mers-el-Kebir ...



764

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Mers-El-Kebir, Following are Port Captain's proposals.  
Oran, (A) Berths for 4 heavy ships as follows (Details)  
berthing. (B) Cruisers and destroyers stern to Fort Mefords-  
El-Kebir Quay or cruisers in alternative heavy  
ship berths.  
(C) It will be necessary for destroyers to oil  
at Oran. Details will be signalled.  
(D) Wreck of French Battleship BRETAGNE extending in direction  
240° approx. 1.5 cables from chart position wreck is marked by  
black conical buoy.  
(ASHANTI 2147A/17 to S.O. Force H. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O.  
Mers-El-Kebir.)

UTMOST. Heavy on patrol unable to make passage (?as far  
as) B B (?dash) day 18th. Intend to make for  
*see p. 756* position 20 (corrupt group) South of position E  
and make passage day 19th.  
(UTMOST 2211A/17 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C.  
Med. P.43, N.C.X.F.)

WILLOWDALE, WILLOWDALE unloaded. Request further collier(s)  
Algiers. be sailed in order to build up stock.  
(Cdre. Algiers 2215A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A.  
Gibraltar.)

Operation Request you will signal your plan for "Stoneage".  
"Stoneage" What is the composition of forces and timetable?  
(Admt. 2229A/17 to C. in C. Med.  
Reply: C. in C. Med. 1050B/18, p. 801.



War Diary.

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

→ BENGAL,  
raider  
attack.

BENGAL reports raider which escaped was of Kunika(?an) a Maru class. (N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia 0339Z/17 to C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon, (R) A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Following has been received (begins) F.O. Ceylon (R) C. in C. E.F. from BENGAL. Arrival Diego Garcia 0212Z/17. Request 48 hours at 4 hours notice for steam to effect engine repairs T.O.O. 0231Z/17 (ends) Approval has been given. (F.O. Ceylon 0639Z/17 to KANIMBLA, A.C.N.B., Cdre. Western Australia.) *See p. 746*

Shipping,  
Bay of  
Bengal.

Your 1758/10th. Am satisfied after consultation with M.W.T. representative that present volume of shipping (?is) adequate to meet essential programmes. Matter is kept continuously under review (?by) consultation with M.W.T. and will be discussed with Anglo-American Commission due here shortly. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0445Z/17 to F.O. Ceylon (R) Admty. etc.)

O.24.  
R. of P.

O.24 patrolling 25th Oct. to 16th Nov. 1st Nov. 0400 F.G. attacked northbound merchant ship about 4000 tons in 006° 39' N. 098° 49' E. Torpedoes missed. 3rd Nov. 1 small coastal vessel about 1500 tons left Penang Northbound. 6th Nov. 0650 F.G. sighted southbound ship approx. 7000 tons resembling Japanese Seaplane Tender KAMIKAWA but with only 1 mast forward. 0721, O.24 attacked with 2 torpedoes range 2000 yards. 2nd torpedo broke surface badly. Torpedoes missed. Position of attack 005° 36' N. 099° 44' E. Ship last seen proceeding southwards. 3 S/M chasers sighted on patrol on 8th up to 30 miles westward of Penang ship (sic) 11th Nov. 1 small coastal vessel sighted close to Diamond Point westbound and 1 eastbound. No aircraft or patrol sighted near Sabang. (Colombo S.O.S. 0627Z/17 to C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon.)

ONDINA,  
situation  
7 (attacked  
with BENGAL.)

BENGAL, MARYBOROUGH, IPSWICH and (?ER)LING BROVIG are to remain at Diego Garcia until situation regarding ONDINA is clear. Ammunition to be adjusted between the three "A.M.S. (as received. Possibly "Three H.M.S" intended) MARYBOROUGH pass to N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia. (C. in C. E.F. 0640Z/17, 0649Z/17 to MARYBOROUGH, (R) KANIMBLA, F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia, BENGAL, Cdre. Western Australia, Admty.)

*? see table on p. 746*

SEPIA,  
BRITISH  
ENERGY.

M.W.T. require tanker SEPIA and BRITISH ENERGY for docking at Bombay. SEPIA will be sailed from Mauritius for Bombay at end of this month, E.T.A. about 13th Dec. BRITISH ENERGY will probably arrive Bombay towards end of December. Request you will arrange docking accordingly. (C. in C. E.F. 0707Z/17 to D.S.R. Bombay (R) Cdre. R.I.N. etc.)

/B.P.60 ...



# MOST SECRET

Recd in W.D.

1.1.1943.

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

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

1334Z/17th November.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 17.11.42.

From. C.in C. Eastern Fleet.

Recd. 1057

Int. Gen. (X)

RECIRCULATION.

Addressed. F.O.C.R.I.N. Repeated F.L.O. Delhi. A.H.Q. India  
Admiralty. Comnas. Ceylon. R.A.N.A.S.I.O.

25

1. Your 0945Z/5/11 Subject to confirmation from A.H.Q. India that the requirements for the defence of Port "F" (F for fox) given in my 0842Z/15 and the F.A.A. requirements given in F.L.O. Delhi's 0255Z/7/10 (neither to all addressees) can be met by one aerodrome, I have no objection to work being stopped on the aerodrome at Chela.

2. Consideration should, however, be given to the completion of this aerodrome as a satellite for Khambaliya or for reinforcements in emergency.

1334Z/17

1st Lord  
1st S.L.(2)  
D.F.S.L.  
2nd S.L.  
3rd S.L.  
Vice Cont.  
4th S.L.  
C.N.A.S.  
V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
A.C.N.S.(UT)  
A.C.N.S.(W)  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
Civil Lord  
Sec.  
Nav. Sec.  
N.A.to A.C.N.S.(UT)  
N.A.1st S.L.  
P.A.S.(S)  
N.A.2nd S.L.(2)  
N.A.2nd S.L.(Air)  
P.A.S.(O)  
A.S.(CL)  
D.of L.D.  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.T.D.(3)  
D.B.D.  
D.A/S.W.  
D.M.S.  
D.T.M.

Duty Capt.(2)  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.  
A.C.N.A.S.  
Hd.of Air  
D.N.A.D.  
D.N.I.(4)  
D.A.M.  
D.of P.(2)  
D.A.M.R.  
D.of N.  
Hydrog  
Hd.of M.(30) & for India Office  
(Mr.Clausen) War Office.  
Air Ministry, W.C.O.  
Treasury (Mr.Fleet)

D.P.S.  
M.D.G.  
C.E.in C.  
D.A.S.(L)  
W.G.F.  
Hd.of C.W.  
Hd.of N  
D.T.S.D.  
Ad. Bellairs  
Dep. Cont.  
C.E.in C.  
D.of D.  
E.in C.  
E.in C.(FMB)  
R.I.N.L.O.(2)  
Hd.of S.W.R.  
D.A.S.

Bath by  
courier.



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.

B.P.60.

*Transport*  
DEVONSHIRE sailed from Bombay 16th Nov. for Basra, E.T.A. 1900/22nd. Numbers on board. DEVONSHIRE, ELLENGA and YOMA all required in Bombay on completion of discharge. (P.S.T.O. India 0825Z/17 to D.S.T.O. P.G.)

KANIMBLA.

*N.T.N.W.D.*  
Cmdre. W. Australia 0249Z and 0151Z/17. *N.T.N.W.D.*  
KANIMBLA is to return to Fremantle forthwith. She will not be required to escort convoy O.W. (C. in C. E.F. 0914Z/17 to KANIMBLA (R) F.O. Ceylon, Cmdre. W. Australia, A.C.N.B.)  
See also Australia and New Zealand. *6772*

Addu Atoll defences.

Master of cable ship JOHN W. MACKAY reports having completed laying out diversion cable in close proximity of route as directed. Only 150 miles of type "D" cable expended. Details. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1201 Z/17 to F.O. Ceylon.)

BENGAL,  
IPSWICH,  
MARYBOROUGH.*See p. 765*

After fuelling BENGAL, ERLING BROVIG is to proceed at best speed for Bombay for dry docking. H.M.S. IPSWICH is to escort her clear of Diego Garcia and then proceed to Kilindini. On completion of BENGAL's repair, BENGAL and H.M.A.S. MARYBOROUGH are to proceed in company as directed by F.O. Ceylon. (C. in C. E.F. 0935Z/17 to F.O. Ceylon (R) Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia, MARYBOROUGH, IPSWICH.)

"Chop" dates. The following "Chop" dates have been arranged with C. in C. S.A. for independent Merchant Shipping routed on to S.A. Station and are to be brought into force on receipt of this order.

- (A) For ships routed West of Madagascar. At noon G.A.T. on date ship should cross (?latitude) 020° South.  
(B) For ships routed East of Madagascar. At noon G.M.T. on date ship should cross Meridian 045° East.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1252Z/17 to A.I.G. 90, F.O.N.I.C.)

M/V  
Reference  
Positions.

Ref. your 1712C/16 Nov.  
1. Para. 1. Agree but consider Lourenco Marques should be retained.  
2. Para. 2. All positions in my 1232/9 Nov. were approved by Admty. 1526A/4 November (?and) period changed by Admty. 2335/15 Sept.  
3. It is not intended to amend my 1232/9 Nov. until further Admiralty instructions are received. (C. in C. E.F. 1254Z/17 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.)

Flag  
V.A.2.

Flag of V.A.2 Eastern Fleet will be transferred temporarily from RESOLUTION to VALIANT at 0800 19th Nov.  
(V.A.2 Eastern Fleet 1504C/17 to C. In C. E.F. etc.)



767

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Reports  
from M/Vs.

Your 2047/12. The reduction in number of reports would naturally be to the extent of the proportion of ships who are not ahead or astern of estimate.

(2) Our experience is that reports are valuable, particularly in North Atlantic, for purpose of keeping ships clear of dangers and other traffic.

(3) Inference drawn from action in stopping reports from vessels routed via Cape Horn is incorrect. This was done for the reason that, although we are reasonably confident that no H/F report in that area can be D/F'd with sufficient accuracy for operational use by U-Boats, a succession of such reports over a considerable period might give an indication that a certain area, within wide margins, was being used.

(4) We do not agree that procedure of selecting one of 12 general call signs to represent originator and of including correct War W/T call sign coded as last word of text is complicated. Masters attach much importance to this point.

(5) As these reports are comparatively of less value as applied to slow ships and to areas outside North Atlantic we would be prepared to limit reporting to ships of 15 knots and over fitted with H/F when in the Atlantic north of the Equator. Reports to be made in accordance with A.M. 2246/7.

(6) Request your reconsideration of limited proposal in para. 5 above.

(D.T.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(T), 0004A/17, 1401A/19 to Connav, (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)

Reply: Connav 1549/18.

U/B.

U-Boat by D/F at 0639Z/17th within 60 miles of 047° 00' N. 060° 00' W.  
(N.S.H.Q., 0145Z/17 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

O.N.S.144,  
U/Bs.

D/F bearings on 4796 k/cs at 0833Z indicate U-Boat in vicinity of convoy and may have reported it.

(D.D.I.C., 1004A/17 to Escorts O.N.144.)

Further D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 0911Z, 0915Z and 0920Z, indicate at least two U-Boats in contact with convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 1124A/17 to Escorts of O.N.144.)

Further D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 1750Z, 1800Z and 1823Z indicate 3 U-Boats in contact with convoy O.N.144.

(D.D.I.C., 1948A/17 to Escorts O.N.144.)

U-Boat position by D/F at 0924Z/17th within 75 miles of 054° 40' N. 035° W. 10510 k/cs type WW. U-Boat position by D/F at 1025Z/17th within 75 miles of 054° 40' N. 034° 00' W. 10510 k/cs type BT.

(Cominch, 1333/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.4.)

Further transmission on 10510 k/cs per sec. indicate you are still being shadowed.

(N.S.H.Q., 2153Z/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.4, (?R) C.O.A.C., Halifax, F.O.N.F., U.S.C.N.O., Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A.)

W.D. Note:- 3 ships torpedoed, see 2337/17.

/ U/B ...



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17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B. Submarine by D/F at 0639/17th 47.00 N. 60.00 W. accuracy less than 50 miles. (C.O.A.C., 0850Z/17 to TRAIL.)

T.A.G. Your 1801/16th. Tankers of 10 knots and over  
Convoys. are sailed in slow or fast convoys as soon as ready. Intervals are approx. 3½ days and a fast ship sailing in a slow convoy should as far as is known from information received from U.S. Authorities reach New York at least 36 hours ahead of succeeding convoy. This practice also relieves congestion in harbour. (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 0915QR/17 to Admty.)

Movements	1800 G.M.T. 17th November.			
Summary.	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
	BRIDGEWATER	21½° N. 27° W.	180°	12
	ASTURIAS	05° N. 28½° W.	Patrol	Blank
	(D.O.D.(F), 1102Z/17 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

*See pp 748 & 753 →*  
*See p. 752A →*

O.N. 145. Pass to Commodore.  
Southbound ships to be dispersed as convenient p.m. today. From dispersal ships to proceed to W and as routed in my 1420/16.  
Attention is drawn to C. in C. western Approaches' 1618A/10. (D.T.D., 1118A/17 to Escorts O.N.145.)  
O.N.145. My 1525/13 refers.  
1. Following routes amended. (D.T.D., 1550Z/17 to Connv.)

ESTRELLA, Overdue Trinidad Norwegian ESTRELLA and British  
BLACKHEATH. BLACKHEATH.  
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1131R/17 to Admty., etc.)  
Safe, see Admty. 1814/18.

IRISH PLANE, Connv's 1548/16th addressed to C.T.F.24 for  
suspicious. action and to Comnav (pass to Admty.), Cinclant and C.E.S.F. for information, informs as follows: Recently in mid-Atlantic, convoys have twice sighted Eire ship IRISH PLANE. If and when it is expected that an Eire ship will pass while in U.S. strategic area within 50 miles of a convoy the vessel's approx. P.C. and S. will be given to escorts in advance by Cominch (C & R). Ships should suspiciously regard any such vessel found without previous warning and, if possible, should go on board her to examine her route. She should be ordered back on her route if unduly off it and warned that a report will be made of the matter. In order that Eire Govt. may be informed and interception or examination at port of arrival considered Cominch (C & R) should be informed on next occasion that W/T silence is broken. Similar permission for British strategic area has been promulgated by Admiralty.  
(Comnav, 1227/17 to Admty.)



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- G.A.T.21. Arrival U.S. Destroyer LEA, U.S. Ships P.C.469, P.C.495, P.C.559, P.C.561 escorting G.A.T.21. Departure U.S. Destroyers\*BELKNAP, MOFFETT. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1242Q/17 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)  
*\* Telegraph Trinidad.*
- MEADOWSWEET, LORD KELVIN. Your 2347/16th (Not yet received in W.R., being obtained.) Intend to employ MEADOWSWEET as escort to LORD KELVIN who is required to effect repairs to Halifax - Bermuda cable in 038° 29' N. 064° 00' W. (C.O.A.C., 1350Z/17 to C.T.24.)
- G.U.F.2. Admty. retransmit to C.T.F.34 and N.C.X.F. (passing action being taken by W.R.) Your 1220/16th designation G.U.F.2 should be retained for returning convoy U.G.F.2 and similarly for other convoys. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1420/17 to C.T.F.34.)
- LAGAN, ITCHEN. Your 1832/16th. (1) Anticipated dates for completing working up are LAGAN Jan. 1st, ITCHEN Jan. 29th. (2) LAGAN should therefore be available to sail with O.N.S. 160. (C. in C. W.A., 1429Z/17 to F.O.N.F.) F.O.N.F. 1832Z/16th to C. in C. W.A. As ITCHEN and LAGAN were intended to alleviate destroyer situation in M.O.E.F. and W.L.E.F. vide my 1720/15th Sept. do not concur with F.O.N.F. 1832/16 that ITCHEN should replace a corvette in C.2 group. (N.S.H.Q., 1907Z/17 to Admty.)
- AZRA. Following survivors landed at this port ex SS. AZRA (Pan.) sunk in collision with SAGUENAY in W.B.13: (list). (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 1511Z/17 to Admty.)
- U/B Positions. S/M Estimate November 17th, and U.S. Submarine Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1549Z/17, 1550/17, 1616/17, 1617/17, 1618/17, 2158/17.)
- AVENGER. U.S. Authorities are particularly interested to know details of sinking of AVENGER and any lessons learnt which might apply to other ships of the class. (B.A.D., 1711Z/17 to Admty.)
- U/B. Shore watcher sighted S/M in 046° 55' N. 055° 50' W. at 1703Z/17th. (C.O.A.C., 1803Z/17 to G.B.7A.)



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17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B Aircraft (? attacked) submarine in (?068°) 36' attacked. N. 063° 38' W. at (?19)03Z/17 course 060°, speed 15 knots, aircraft call sign YT6Y. (C.O.A.C., 1937Z/17 to G.B.7A.)

→KING ARTHUR Trinidad report KING ARTHUR, British, torpedoed (sunk 15th sunk in 010° 30' N. 059° 50' W. at 0519 G.M.T. November.) 15th. Master and all crew saved. (S.O.(I.) Kingston, 1953R/17 to Admty., etc.) (Connav 2059/17 to Comnav.)

Sub attack—→Para. A. KING ARTHUR 4 torpedoes sunk 10.30 N. and sighting 59.50 W. 0419Z/15. summary. Unidentified torpedoed sinking 10.51 N. 61.15 W. 1015Z/17.

ROSE attacks sub. 56.15 N. 29.10 W. 2250Z/15.

Hudson attacks sub. on surface 15.02 N. 59.35 W. 1334Z/17.

Para. B. U.S. Navy plane attacks sub. 59.35 N. (?) 19.30 W. 0905Z/15.

Para. C. Eastern air lines plane sights sub. course 015°, 15.43 N. 65.15 W. 1713Z/16.

My 2110Z/16 cancel sighting 17.35 N. 62.02 W.

ROTHLEY, one torpedo hit.

U.S.C.G. GENERAL GREENE attacks sub. 40.26 N. 69.30 W. 2030Z/10.

Para. D. Two subs. sighted steering north 13.40 N. 61.07 W. 0600Z/17. U.S.S. TALLAPOOSA attacks sound contact 33.55 N. 77.43 W. 1617Z/16.

U.S.C.G. TAMPA attacks sound contact 46.29 N. 53.02 W. 0123Z/7.

U.S.C.G. TAMPA attacks sound contact 44.31 N. 61.13 W. 0255Z/10. (Cominch, 2101/17 to Admty.)

Issue of "Q" Messages to U.S.R.Os. Your 1139/14th (?1132 intended). It is the intention of Navy Dept. to allocate certain major ports in your area to which application should be made for ocean routes and entry into United Kingdom ports.

(2) Are there any other ocean routes for which you consider U.S.R.Os referred to have insufficient datum?

(B.A.D., 2103Z/17 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

SAWFISH. SAWFISH will operate in Casco Bay areas A. B. and C. (U.S.C. and G.S. Chart 1206) surfaced or submerged daylight and darkness from 1800/18th to 1800/23rd. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2114/17 to Admty.)

/U.G.S.3 ...



War Diary.

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.G.S.3,  
U.G.F.3.

B.A.D. informed, Admty. pass to C.T.F.34, C. in C. A.F., N.C.X.F., Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe.

Your 1610/13 (N.T. in W.R.) Convoys leave New York as follows. U.G.S.3 on Dec. 6th to arrive West African ports D plus 40 - 5 days. U.G.F.3 on Dec. 7th to arrive D plus 40 days. Composition of U.G.F.3 A.Ps ACADIA, CHAIN,

THOMAS H.

BARRY, PARKER, SLOTERDIJK, GOETHALS, H.F. ALEXANDER, SIBONEY, EVANGELINE, MOOLTAN, ANCON, S.B. ANTHONY LYON, FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, plus 2 names unknown. A.Os BENNINGTON, BUNKERHILL, TICONDEROGA opposite SEATRIN TEXAS, total 19 ships.

Composition U.G.S.3, 45 ships names later.

Escorts and additional vessels from Atlantic Fleet as designated by you.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2129/17 to B.A.D.)

CITY OF  
CORINTH  
(Sunk).

CITY OF CORINTH, British, torpedoed sunk 0755 G.M.T. 17th November 010° 55' N. 061° 01' W. 2 European, 10 Lascars presumed dead. 1 gunner seriously burned. Remainder of crew landed at Port of Spain.  
(S.O.(I.) Kingston, 2323R/17 to Admty., etc.)

O.N.S.144,  
attacked.

O.N.S.144, 3 ships torpedoed 2203Z/17th position 054° 30' N. 037° 10' W.  
(C) Weather report.  
(C.T.U.24.1.4, 2337Z/17 to C.T.F. 24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7, Capt. D. Liverpool.)



War Diary.17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements Arrived Fremantle 15th Nov. (?U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON) (?proceeding) Exmouth Gulf. Sydney N.S.W. 16th DELORAIN, MILDURA, ROCKHAMPTON, Townsville 16th, (?U.S. Cruiser SALT LAKE CITY).  
Departures Fremantle 15th U.S. Seaplane Tender <sup>WILLIAM</sup> W.B. PRESTON for Exmouth Gulf.  
(A.C.N.B., 0258Z/17 to Admty etc).

KANIMBLA. Cdre. Western Australia's 0151Z/17th.  
*see p. 766* Returning to Fremantle arriving 23rd Nov.  
Weather report.  
(KANIMBLA 0711Z/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

Situation. Digest Serial No. 299/16th Nov.  
2 Merchant vessels, 5,000 - 8,000 tons 3 small vessels possible weather reporting ships Buka Passage afternoon 16th Nov.  
2. R/C Rabaul Harbour 15 - 16th Nov. reported at least 40 large unidentified vessels including 3 possible cruisers at least 4 destroyers. Photos portion harbour only and obscured by cloud show 3 destroyers, 1 submarine, 1 minelayer, 1 patrol craft, 1 small tanker, 1 seaplane tender, 17 merchant vessels totalling approximately 107,000 tons, 2 small merchant vessels, 6 unidentified craft, 3 flying boats, 4 float planes, 25 landing barges. Lakunai aerodrome partly obscured by cloud reveals 1 medium bomber 10 possible dive bombers 53 fighters well dispersed. Also 3 fighters on new wharf 2 others among new buildings near wharf one airborne. Evidence considerable activity.  
(7) (?) Strong forces of Marauders Bostons B.25 and Beaufighters carried out co-ordinated attacks against enemy positions in the Buna-Kumusi Soputa Mambare area during 16th Nov. in support of our ground troops advance from both flanks. One B.25 lost. Australian troops have reached Awala and American troops have penetrated to Cape Sudest.  
4. 18 enemy bombers with fighter escort bombed and strafed 2 Allied trawlers off Cape Sudest evening 16th November.  
(5) 3 Hudsons attacked Magbisse and 3 others Bobonapi 16/11 dropping bombs in target area but results not observed. Our troops attacked 200 hostile natives Magbisse area 13/11 inflicting casualties. Enemy patrol activity continues.  
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 1219Z/17).

MAURETANIA. Ref. A.C.N.B. 0039/13. In view of importance of maintaining this ship at maximum efficiency request you arrange accordingly.  
(D. of S.T., 2144A/17 to N.Z.N.B., (R)  
A.C.N.B. B.A.D.)



773

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. position at 1200Z/17.  
 (D.D.I.C., 1410A/17, 1443A/17).

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly  
 Summary.

My 1059/22/7.

1. Promising attack in Bay of Biscay. On November 10th a Liberator IIIA attacked a fully surfaced U-boat with 6 Torpex Mark XI depth charges not fitted with tails actual spacing 40 feet. U-boat straddled and 1 hit claimed. On second attack with 6 depth charges U-boat opened fire. Bows of U-boat appeared at 60° for 6 minutes and the U-boat then slowly settled.
2. Operation "Torch". *See next page.*
  - (a) On November 7th two aircraft attacks North of Oran. In the first a portion of the U-boat's casing was blown into the air and in the second the U-boat sank stern first after her bows had appeared at 60°. Much oil and air and 5 men seen in the water.
  - (b) 3 good surface attacks on November 8th. ACHATES reports sinking a U-boat, probably Vichy French, off Arzeu. SPEEDWELL off Algiers during 11 attacks twice blew a U-boat to the surface. WESTCOTT North of Oran produced large bubbles smelling of chlorine and considers destruction most probable.
  - (c) November 10th. VERITY claimed the probable sinking of a U-boat North of Oran. *Probably U.73. See 10.11.42.*
  - (d) November 11th. URSULA sighted 2 500 ton U-boats one of which she claimed to have sunk. LORD NUFFIELD (A/S trawler) off Algiers sank an Italian U-boat and took 55 prisoners. *EMO-300 p. 28540*
  - (e) November 12th. STARWORT off Oran sank a German U-boat and took 45 prisoners. CLARE off Oran obtained Radar contact at 3,800 yards and fired 14 charge pattern. One minute later a violent underwater explosion. C.O. and C.S.10 consider U-boat sunk. *not confirmed. XJ.660-20 p. 50*
  - (f) November 14th. Several air attacks resulted in U-boat being beached and the crew landed at Oran. *755*
  - (g) November 15th. P.247 claims the sinking of a U-boat in the Sicilian Narrows. WRESTLER in Western Approaches to Straits attacked a U-boat. Oil rising 4 hours later. U-boat claimed as sunk. *(U.411) XGRANITO 9/11 p. 575*
3. Vichy French submarine LE TONNANT entered Cadiz on November 14th in damaged condition. Later report stated she was scuttled outside harbour and crew landed in Spain. *See p. 755 +*  
 (D.A/S.W., 1444A/17 to Cominch, B.A.D. etc). *774*

/Operation...



774

17.11.1942.  
Tuesday.War Diary.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Attacked. - Contd.Operation  
"Torch".*See previous  
page*

Provisional summary of results of attacks on U-boats by "Torch" forces in period 6th to 16th November is as follows. Detailed reports have not been received in all cases and damage assessment is provisional only.

- (1) British Naval Forces
- (a) Definitely sunk 2, \*one on 10th November by LORD NUFFIELD in 36° 53' N., 02° 47' E. U.660 on 12th November by STARWORT in 36.07 N., 01.06 W. \**Emo*
- 4 LOTUS (b) Probably sunk 5. 8th November one by ACHATES, one by WESTCOTT. 11th November one by URSULA. 12th November one by CLARE. All inside Mediterranean. 15th November one by WRESTLER in 36.07 N., 07.35 W. *U-411*
- (c) Probably severely damaged. 1 on 8th November by SPEEDWELL off Algiers.
- (d) Probably slightly damaged. 1 on 9th November by VERITY.
- (2) By R.A.F. Gibraltar assisted in some cases by F.A.A. details reported to H.Q.C.C. 64 sightings, 35 attacks results from detached Squadrons not fully analysed.
- (a) Definitely destroyed. 1 German U-boat beached and abandoned 70 miles N.E. of Oran after initial damage by Hudsons and destruction completed by a swarm of aircraft both R.A.F. and Naval.
- (b) Probably destroyed. 4, All inside Mediterranean.
- (c) Severely damaged 7. 6 inside Mediterranean, one outside.
- (d) Damaged 5, 3 inside the Mediterranean 2 outside.
- (3) Total summary. (a) 3. (b) 9. (c) 8. (d) 6.
- (4) Above results do not include Western Task Force whose detailed reports are not yet available. In addition Vichy submarine LE TONNANT reported to have entered Cadiz damaged on 14th November and subsequently scuttled outside harbour.
- (5) A further report states two damaged Italian submarines entered Cadiz on 12th November.
- (N.C.X.F., 1650Z/17 to Admty).

Cominch  
Report.

Following is summary of Cominch B.1 weekly U-boat trend. No. 6 of 15th November. Large scale U-boat operations in Eastern or Gulf sea frontier not likely for two weeks. 3 to 6 U-boats likely to continue attacks in Caribbean.

U-boats trying to sight convoys in Cape race area in order to form wolf packs in time to attack convoys when they get outside range of air cover. 25 U-boats now operating on convoy lanes in larger packs than usual. During recent attack on convoy during 75 mile per hour gale U-boat remained in vicinity and fired a second torpedo half an hour after the first at the same ship. Critical area developing between Natal and St. Paul's rocks due to many independents passing through with about 6 U-boats there and likely to be reinforced. Believe recent concentration between 300 and 500 miles west and southwest of Azores are for refuelling purposes. Out of a total 107 U-boats in Atlantic, estimate average of 54 in U.S. strategic area and 25 per cent in North African area.

(B.A.D., 1709Z/17 to Admty).



War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The port of Harwich was closed from 0902A to 1116A on account of fog. Rosyth was closed from 2052A/18 to 1335A/19 owing to low visibility.

Operation  
F.B.

EMPIRE SCOTT, one of the merchant ships independently routed from Iceland to north Russia arrived at Kola Inlet this morning. This is the fifth ship to arrive, the others being EMPIRE GALLIARD, RICHARD H. ALVEY, JOHN WALKER, and HUGH WILLIAMSON. CHULMLEIGH which struck a reef on 6th Nov. was seen by TUNA next morning: the ship was capsized and there were no boats or rafts near. TUNA failed to find the ship again in daylight.

Heavy bomber aircraft of U.S.A. 8th Bomber Command today attacked La Pallice and Lorient.

38 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 95 mines last night, principally off the Frisian Islands, Heligoland, Lorient and St. Nazaire. A few were laid in the Baltic.

11 U.S. Bombers escorted by R.A.F. fighters attacked La Pallice today, 19 St. Nazaire, and 13 Lorient.

Operation "Torch".

F.O.I.S. reports that casualties to landing craft have been very heavy, due to the heavy swell running on the night of the assault and the strong north-easterly wind which sprang up at dawn on D day.

As far as can at present be ascertained the French warship casualties in Operation "Torch" were as follows:-

Algiers. 2 S/Ms sailed on 8th Nov.: present whereabouts unknown.

Oran. One CASSARA-class, 3 SIMOUN-class destroyers LA SURPRISE, all sunk or destroyed. Eight S/Ms unaccounted for.

/Casablanca ...



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18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Casablanca. JEAN BART damaged by two heavy bombs and five 16-inch shells: one main turret serviceable. Cruiser PRIMAUGUET damaged, beached, abandoned. Light cruisers ALBATROS, MILAN wrecked and beached, LE MALIN damaged. Destroyers BRESTOIS, FRONDEUR sank, L'ALCYON, SIMOUN and TEMPETE damaged. S/Ms AMPHITRITE, LA PSYCHE, OREADE sunk. Colonial sloop LA GRANDIERE damaged.

At sea. Destroyers FOUQUEUX, BOULONNAIS sunk, S/M MEDUSE beached near Mazagan, S/M LE TONNANT scuttled at Cadiz. Of the remaining 17 S/Ms believed to be west of Gibraltar on 7th Nov. 10 were at Dakar yesterday, leaving 7 unaccounted for.

North Atlantic.

N.C.X.F. arrived at Gibraltar today in AURORA.

R.A.(A) H.F. in VICTORIOUS with DUKE OF YORK and 6 destroyers sailed from Gibraltar for the U.K. at 1739Z today.

A minefield has been laid off Casablanca.

U/B  
damaged.

A U-Boat was attacked and is reported to have been severely damaged by A/S air patrols from Gibraltar in 35° 10' N. 11° 35' W. (168 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent) at 1325Z today. VERITY searched for it until midnight without success.

Nineteen ships of Convoy U.G.F.2 from U.S.A. berthed at Casablanca today. The co-operation of the French harbour authorities is reported to be excellent.

South Atlantic.

U.S. cruisers and destroyers are on patrol in the Atlantic narrows. For details see F.O.C. W.Af., 1919Z/18.

/Port ...



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Port facilities at Pernambuco are reported to be much overcrowded; numbers of U.S. warships lie alongside the quays and take precedence of merchantmen. The attention of the Navy Dept. is being drawn to the matter.

C. in C. S.A. reports that two losses at sea and one forced landing on land of Venturas for reasons so far inexplicable have resulted in orders being issued restricting flying by these aircraft to most urgent operational work only. Until the causes of the accidents have been ascertained air coastal patrols are severely curtailed.

The Master of SS.EASTGATE which left Table Bay 28th Oct. and arrived at Punta Arenas infers leakage of information of merchant ship movements at Capetown, and states that ships which were heard to acknowledge diversion signals as ordered were attacked within 12 hours; he suggests that ships in the Cape area should be ordered to use H/F W/T only for distress messages. The Admty. view, expressed in A.M. 1905/21/8/41 is unchanged.

Mediterranean.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Force H.  | S.O. Force H arrived at Mers-el-Kebir at 1200Z today in NELSON, with RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, SIRIUS, ARGONAUT, and 12 destroyers.   |
| Algiers.  | Commodore Algiers sends a message today describing the repair facilities now available at Algiers. The French naval authorities are co-operating with us.  |
| Operation "Analysis".                           | WELSHMAN arrived at Malta at 1245B with stores and personnel, from Gibraltar via Algiers.  |
| Operation "Stoneage".<br>ARETHUSA<br>torpedoed. | The 15th C.S., covering Convoy M.W.13 to the northward was attacked by torpedo aircraft after dusk today and ARETHUSA was hit by a torpedo at 1805 in 33° 36' N. 20° 44' E. C.S.15 ordered JAVELIN and another destroyer to escort her to the eastward, but at 2115B PETARD reported that she was the only escort. |



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18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Two torpedo Albacores with a Wellington carrying flares both torpedoed and set on fire today an 8000 ton tanker in 55° Khoms 46 miles.

A successful air attack was made on El Aouina Aerodrome (Tunis) last night.

Benghazi was bombed today and two ships in the port were set on fire.

East Indies.

SS. EMPIRE MIST reports a submarine in 9° 54' N. 80° 50' E. at 1123.

America and West Indies.

Attacks on  
O.N.S. 144  
MONTBRETIA  
and 6 ships  
torpedoed.

C.T.U. 24.1.4 reported at 0551Z that O.N.S.144 in mid-Atlantic, which was reported attacked at 2203Z/17 had been continuously attacked. At least 6 ships have been torpedoed during the night and the escort are running short of depth charges. The names of the ships are believed to be PARISMINA and WIDESTONE (position of sinking reported to be 54° 30' N. 37° 10' W.), MOUNT TAURUS, tanker PRESIDENT SERGENT, YAKA and one other, and all are presumed sunk. At 0800Z the corvette MONTBRETIA was torpedoed and sunk in 53° 37' N. 38° 15' W. by U.624. (63.443.)

A listening contact was made by a picket sailing vessel off Savannah today and was attacked by U.S.S. P.S.C.672 causing large quantities of oil covering 10 miles. Next morning, when the submarine was sighted on the surface, it was attacked, but the results were inconclusive.



War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C.109  
attacked.

Convoy S.C.109 was attacked this morning and U.S. tanker BRILLIANT was reported torpedoed at 0900Z in 50° 53' N. 45° 46' W. The ship was able to continue steaming and SKEENA ordered her to return to St. Johns N.F. screened by SACKVILLE until air cover was available. At 1432Z SACKVILLE reported her position to be 50° 40' N. 46° 8' W., speed 5 knots, air escorts joining and SACKVILLE proceeding to rejoin the convoy. BRILLIANT anchored off Bonavista Bay on account of the weather, on 20th Nov.

Australia and New Zealand.

Five enemy destroyers were sighted south of New Britain at 2017Z steering 70°, apparently coming from the Gona Buna area. A further force (composition corruptly reported) was sighted 90 miles S. to S.W. of Gasmata, apparently yesterday afternoon and was unsuccessfully attacked by 9 Fortresses. A further low level attack by 6 Fortresses in Holincote Bay (near Buna) at 1020Z resulting in a direct hit with 500 lb. bomb on a light cruiser causing heavy explosions and fire and debris, and a direct hit on a destroyer which was seen to split open. The Japanese are reported to have landed 2000 reinforcements last night in the Gona - Buna area, thus doubling their strength there.



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Canadian  
Corvettes.  
REGINA.Admty. 1157/21st September 1942.  
REGINA has been inspected and the following  
work is considered necessary. Details.  
Ship will require periodical docking as she  
has not been docked since launching in October  
1941.  
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1521A/18 to Admty.)Movements.Assault  
ships and  
Landing  
craft.All white ensign Assault ships also L.S.G.  
L.S.H. and L.S.T. returning to U.K. are to  
proceed to Clyde.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1105A/18 to N.C.X.F.)GUNNEL,  
HERRING,  
BARB, SHAD.*See pp 792/3 etc.*Your 1418A/17. Request more explicit information  
concerning route Red, also position points G  
and H.Sighted U.S. S/M 1110/18 proceeding 041° 18' N.  
020° 00' W.  
(GUNNEL, 1315Z/18 to F.O.S.)F.O.S. 1841A/17th. Unable to cross 016° W. prior to  
0800/19. My P.C.S. 042° 35' N. 020° 00' W. 000°, 12 knots  
at 2000/18.

(GUNNEL, 2000Z/18 to Admty.)

(i) Position at 2000A/19th November.

Convoy M.K.S.1(X) 044° 16', 016° 00' W., course 000°, 9½ knots.

Convoy M.K.F.2 043° 00' N. 015° 01' W., course 000°. 12 knots.

(ii) HERRING, GUNNEL and BARB endeavour to be clear to eastward  
of convoy track by that time.

(iii) Liberator aircraft will sweep ahead and escort convoy.

SHAD, HERRING, GUNNEL, BARB must proceed diving by day.

(F.O.S., 2204A/18 to J.S.M., S/M Sqdn. 50.)

Your 1841A/17. P.C.S. 043° 01' N. 019° 08' W., 065°,  
10 knots.

(BARB, 2221Z/18 to F.O.S.)

W.A.  
Command.Situation at 2003A/18.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1358A/18.)  
See Lion Copy.

ADVENTURE.

Admty. 0100/17.

Intend sailing ADVENTURE on completion loading  
about 1500/19 to Gibraltar escorted by CLEVELAND  
until dark, routed north of Scilly Isles through A 050° 01' N.  
014° 05' W. B. 046° 59' N. 014° 45' W. C. 043° 01' N. 014°  
40' W. Request you will signal onward route from C.  
Codeword "Wheel".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1707A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

S/M  
Positions.At 0800/19. Details.  
(F.O.S., 1754A/18.)  
See Lion Copy.



MOST SECRET

# MOST SECRET MESSAGE

IN

FROM:- C. in C. ~~Western Approaches~~ ~~D. 18. 11. 42.~~ 1958, 18th November

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.  
Situation at 2003.7/18/11/42

### Section N.E.

1 M/V in tow 2 tugs		56 24 07 20	To Thurso	5
TUNA	LAUDERDALE	57 30 06 58	Southbound	10
ANTONY BUNGAN		57 12 07 00	Northbound to Sheerness	20
HIGHLANDER		55 40 06 50	Northbound to Humber	18
W.N. 62	MINUET WOLVES	58 28 05 21	To Methil	8
1 M/V	ERISKAY	58 17 05 28	To Methil	5

Situation at 2003.7/18/11/42

### Section S.E.

MELBREAK		55 11 05 52	To Plymouth	16
1 M/V in tow 2 tugs		56 24 07 20	To Thurso	5
TUNA	LAUDERDALE	57 30 06 58	Southbound	10
FAHE		53 43 04 28	To North Channel thence Halifax	15
OTWAY	BREDA	51 50 05 47	To Plymouth	7
3 tugs		55 22 05 55	To Milford Haven	10
HIGHLANDER		55 40 06 50	Northbound to Humber	18
O.N. 147 C.T.U. 24.1.14	RESTIGOUCHE ST. FRANCIS ARVIDA AMHERST CELANDINE DAUPHIN SHERBROOKE	55 43 07 52 to 55 58 15 09		9
Convoy	MAID MARION	52 03 05 26	Northbound	8
B.B. 35	GOODWIN VIZALMA LADY MADELEINE	53 03 05 03	To Bristol Channel	8
H.M. 69	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	53 01 05 03	To Milford Haven	8
S.C. 108 B	MOLDE	54 06 05 09	To Liverpool	5½
M.K.F. 1.X.	DASHER VANSITTART	55 33 07 42	To Clyde & Liverpool	12

B.B. 36/.....



780<sup>B</sup>

B.B. 36 NORTHERN WAVE Sails Belfast 0600A/19 To Bristol 8  
PAUL RYKENS Channel

Situation at 2003A/18/11/42

Section N.W.

U.R. 50 FOXTROT 61 26 14 35 to 61 50 16 00  
PAYNTER thence 63 03 21 31

Situation at 2003A/18/11/42

Section S.W.

SHEFFIELD Probably sweeping between 43 00  
JAMAICA and 46 00 and west of 18 00

SHAD 44 25 15 40 to 45 01 13 50 2 by day  
13½ by night

HERRING 43 24 18 36 to 44 45 13 22 2 by day  
13½ by night

GUNNEL 43 05 19 50 to 45 01 13 50 2 by day  
12 by night

BARB 43 05 19 22 to 44 45 13 22 2 by day  
13½ by night

SARDONYX Searching area 53 50 21 48

O.N. 146 HARVESEER 55 27 17 55 to 53 38 24 02 7½  
C.T.U. GARLAND  
24.1.17 ORCHIS  
NARCISSUS  
LOBELLA  
ROSELYS  
ACONIT  
7 Trawlers

1 M/V SNOWDROP 48 41 19 49 to 52 30 19 01 8

M.K.F.1.(Y) FLEET UNIT 48 38 15 19 to 51 00 16 00 thence 12½  
WRESTLER 54 05 13 37  
AMAZON  
ROCKINGHAM  
2 Corvettes

KM.F.3. WESTON 41 45 14 51 to 35 35 10 01 12  
2 sloops  
2 cutters  
2 corvettes

1 M/V ITHURILL 41 07 12 31 to 36 10 09 11 12

M.K.S.1.X. LONDONDERRY 40 42 16 59 to 42 30 16 00 thence 9½  
3 sloops  
3 corvettes 52 01 16 02

Advance copy sent Duty Captain D.C.D. (H) P.S.D. 1552A/18

V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.D.I.C. (3)	D. of P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (F) (2)	I.P. (2)	D. of P. (Q)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	Duty Captain (2)	W.D.	Admiral Blake (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	U.S.N.	D.T.D. (M)	Admiral Ramsey (4)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.I./S.W.	D.T.D. (2)	D.M.S.
Capt. P1E.	Hd. of M.	D.T.D. (C)	



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1754A/18th November. IN

FROM: F.O.S. DATE: 18.11.42.  
RECD: 1805

P/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty

81. Positions of submarines at 0800 19th November and movements for next 24 hours.

- (A) TUNA escorted by STOKE CITY near Sanda Island for Clyde.
- (B) OTWAY escorted by BREDA near 270° Trevose Head 10 expected time of arrival Plymouth 0730 20th November 7 knots.

Submarines (C) to (L) are diving by day.

- (C) P.312 near 70° 53' north 22° 26' east.
- (D) P.216 near 70° 52' north 21° 08' east.
- (E) URELD near 70° 32' north 20° 01' east.
- (F) JUNON near 69° 30' north 17° 20' east.
- (G) SEALION near 48° 23' 12° 25'  
DOLFIJN 48° 51' 12° 25' both towards 44° 28' 12° 25'.
- (H) SHAD near 45° 57' 13° 50' course north.
- (J) HERRING near 44° 17' 14° 51' to 44° 45' 13° 22' then north.
- (K) GUNNEL near 44° 12' 15° 57' to 45° 01' 13° 50' then north.
- (L) BARB near 43° 59' 15° 56' to 44° 45' 13° 22' then north.

1754A/18

Advance copies D.C. D.O.D.(H)

- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pin.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Hd. of II.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D. of Plans (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)
- D.T.D. (M)

MFG



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

FIDELITY. Your 1557A/18. Regret I have no information as this ship is not under my orders. To the best of my knowledge she is directly administered by Admty. D.N.I.  
(S.O. A.S.A.C., 1806A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

GRAPH. <sup>/N.T. W.D.</sup> My 1754. Add GRAPH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Holy Loch 1800/19, to Bishop Rock 10 knots.  
(F.O.S., 1917A/18 to Admty.)

Operations.

- Patrols. → M.T.Bs 50 and 56, M.G.B. 615 (S.O.) are to proceed to St. Helens before dark tonight and, if weather permits, carry out patrol between 50° 13' N. 01° 00' W. and 50° 25' N. 00° 07' W. passing F buoy at 1815/18 and 0730/19. Patrol is not to proceed south of 50° 10' N. Object interception of enemy forces approaching our convoy routes. Codeword "Advent". Patrol from Portland
- M.G.Bs 56 and 57 between 01° 35' W. and 02° 20' W. on latitude 50° 20' N. Air striking force operating between Havre and Barfleur. Destroyers operating west of Barfleur.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1203A/18 to HORNET.)
- 1. Intend M.G.Bs 56 (S.O.) and 57 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 20' W. leaving Weymouth at 1800/18 and patrol-line at dawn 19th. Codeword "Device".  
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1207A/18.)  
M.L. patrol tonight.
2. Forces employed 183 (S.O.), 179 and 157.
3. Patrol. 7 miles 075° and 255° from 100° Start 27 miles.
4. Object. To intercept E-Boats and cover P.W. and W.P. convoys.
5. Information. Own. 3 destroyers and 3 M.T.Bs sail Portland 1815/18 to southward returning so as to be within 20 miles of Portland by daylight.  
Enemy. E-Boats may operate from Guernsey or Cherbourg.
6. Execution. Leave Dartmouth at 1700/today and proceed to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight 19th and return to Dartmouth. Attention is called to Q.Z.X.834 which is not to be crossed unless in sight of or chasing the enemy.
7. Codeword "Plumb".  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1433/18.)
- \* My 0948/18. Patrol cancelled. \*N.T. W.D.  
Destroyer return harbour or anchor off Rough.  
(C. in C. Nore, 1522A/18 to ATHERSTONE, EGLINTON, etc.)
- 1. M.G.B. 615, M.T.Bs 50 and 56 patrolling to S.E. passing F buoy at 1815 and 0730.
- 2. M.G.Bs 56 and 57 on patrol 15 miles south of Anvil Point.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1600A/18.)
- Your 1433/18. Sailed "Plumb".  
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1714A/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
M.Ls 220 and 207 from Ramsgate patrolling between Dumpton and North East Spit Buoys. E.T.D. 1830. E.T.R. 0805/19.  
M.Ls 140 and 293 near C One Buoy.  
(V.A. Dover, 1801A/18.)

/Operation ...



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation Forces taking part.  
H.R. 1. Group A - PENYLAN S.O.1 S.O. of Force, SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK. Group B - M.T.B.203 S.O., 240, 236.

Information. 2. Two T.Bs believed Le Havre may sail westward tonight. 3. Torpedo bombers will operate between Roches Douvres and Ushant after 0001/19. 4. C. in C. Portsmouth requested to inform Force of R/C and operations arranged by him in his command.

Object. 5. To sink the T.Bs.

Execution. 6. Groups A and B leave Portland in company at 1815/18, speed 20 knots, to patrol between 310° 11 miles and 040° 9 miles from Cap de la Hague light.

7. S.O. Group A is to give instructions on following points informing me before sailing. (A) Method of attack. (B) Procedure for M.T.Bs in the event of losing contact. (C) Procedure for M.T.Bs after delivering torpedo attack.

8. All forces to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight unless action has been joined. Then, when enemy is sunk, return to Portland.

9. If either group will not be within 20 miles of coast by daylight S.Os are to report probable daylight positions for fighter cover stating intended routes.

10. Lettered positions established.  
XX - Cap de la Hague Light. YY - Casquets. ZZ - 50° N. 2° W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1257A/18.)  
My 1257A/18. Cancel para. 3. Torpedo bombers will not operate between Roches Douvres and Ushant F.O.I.C. Portland requested to inform Forces taking part in operation H.R. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1607/18 to PENYLAN.)  
My 1257A/18. Codeword "Wheel". "Wheel 1" for M.T.Bs if losing contact. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1551A/18 to PENYLAN, SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK, M.T.Bs 203, 240, 236, F.O.I.C. Portland.)  
Your 1257A/18. "Wheel" sailed. Delay due to amounts of fuel required. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1909A/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C for VICTORIOUS. (A) Propose VICTORIOUS should be equipped as follows on return to U.K.:-

Squadron	Number	Type
832	12	Albacore
817	9	Albacore
882	8	Martlet
809	8	Martlet
884	6	Seafire

884 Squadron to be disembarked when operating in home waters during winter.

(B) To re-equip squadrons with minimum delay, request VICTORIOUS be sent Greenock and the following \* and personnel be ready Machrihanish on arrival. All remaining aircraft of present equipment have been disembarked Gibraltar except 7 Albacores 5 Fulmars and 5 Martlets.

\* ? aircraft omitted.

/(C) ...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - 4. 11. 42.A/C for  
VICTORIOUS.  
(Contd.)(C) Estimate VICTORIOUS will require 4 weeks after arrival in U.K. for working up and operational training.  
(R.A.A. H.F., 1333/18 to Admty.)Mining.

Humber.

At 1007/18 one mine detonated by Sweeper in 063° Spurn Light 6.4 miles. Details.  
(F.O. Humber, 1508/18.)Enemy Intelligence.

Biscay Area.

One vessel (2000 tons) 2 vessels (500 tons) heading west from 43° 38' N. 02° 02' W. One vessel (500 tons) heading north from 43° 39' N. 02° 05' W.

(A/C A5XC, 1300/18 to 19 Group.)

4 M/Vs course 340°, 12 knots, 45° 40' N. 03° 59' W.

(A/C F3DL, 1304/18 to 19 Group.)

(1) Following ships may be on passage to Bay of Biscay from Far East: RHAKOTIS, HAVELLAND, RAMSES, REGENSBURG, URSULA RICKMERS, PERSEE (ex PIERRE L.D.)

(2) Following ships last located in Bay of Biscay ports may sail at any time: ELSA ESSBERGER, CORTELAZZO, SANDEFJORD, Altmark class tanker.

(3) Some of following ships may be raiders' prizes and may be proceeding Bay of Biscay ports: STEEL AGE, CONNECTICUT, PATELLA, NANKIN, KATTEGAT (Norwegian), HERBERG, MADRONO, INDUS, ARABESTAN, WICHITA, AMERICAN LEADER, EMPIRE DAWN.

(C. in C. W.A., 1845A/18 to Convoy Escorts.)

Navigational.

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0902A/18.)  
Port now open.  
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1116A/18.)

Rosyth.

Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2052A/18.)Technical.Minol.  
SKATE.

Admty.'s 1839/17.

(1) SKATE is detailed to carry out trials of depth charges with minol filling and is to arrive Liverpool by p.m./19th November.

(3) Concur in trials taking place from Belfast.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1913A/18.)



784

War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

Survivors. Following received from GEORGE LEONARD 008° W. 04° (? 30) (corrupt group) arriving 2000 draft 25.5 feet (?18) ((?Bu)chan) survivors. (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O./18 to C. in C. W.A., Recd. 0537/18.)

→ Search for Dinghy. Your 2341/17. My position 052° 55' N. 021° 40' W. (SARDONYX, 0801A/18 to Admt.) Request confirmation that there is a raft in addition to dinghy reported by aircraft. (SARDONYX, 0851A/18 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0851/18. Indications are that there are 2 lifeboats, one with 12 survivors alive in approx. 053° 05' N. 022° 00' W. at 0925/16, and another dinghy in 053° 50' N. 021° 48' W. at 1625/17 with six survivors. Both have red sails hoisted. (C. in C. W.A., 1116A/18 to SARDONYX, SAMSONIA.) Have not contacted dinghy. My position is 54° 11' N. 021° 30' W. (A/C CPFH, 1232/18 to 15 Group.) Have (corrupt group) searched area 35 miles to east of 53° 05', 22° 00' and 53° 50', 21° 48'. Nothing found and no aircraft seen. Request aircraft R/V 53° 30', 20° 00' at 0930/19. Consider both boats then to N. and E. of this position. Intend remaining until dark 19th. Present position 53° 58', 20° 56'. C. in C. W.A. pass to SAMSONIA. (SARDONYX, 1909A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Unknown Ship. Intercepted 0856 G.M.T. de GCK. S O S from unknown station heard at 0847 G.M.T. signal strength 2 no further PARS. De GCK 0852/18. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 0856 G.M.T./18.)

L.C.A.455, L.C.A.153. A.M. 1556A/16. L.C.As 455 and 153 disembarked from MONARCH OF BERMUDA p.m./17th November. Both hulls extensively damaged. Repairs will occupy more than 14 days. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1802A/18 to Admt.)

YEWKYLE. YEWKYLE refloated. Entered Newhaven 1230/18. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 2135A/18.)

→ Search for dinghy. Your 1909/18. SAMSONIA R/V with SARDONYX in 053° 20' N. 020° 00' W. at 0930A/19 and act under the orders of SARDONYX. 3 Sunderland A/C will search between 053° 20' N. and 054° 30' N. and 021° 00' W. and 018° 00' W. Owing to long stream and short endurance of aircraft it is desirable for them to proceed direct to search area without first endeavouring to meet you. (C. in C. W.A., 2307/18 to SARDONYX, SAMSONIA.)

/CELANDINE ...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

CELANDINE. R.D.F. type 271 defective. Proceeding to  
*See p. 788* Merville for repairs. E.T.A. 0600Z/19.  
 (CELANDINE, 2328/18 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

*Vicinity of India 19267 Tm torpedoed, sunk, 36°26'N 0°24'W (Daily Casualties List)*  
Shipping and Convoys.

A.T. 29. Request you will sail SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH to  
 arrive Clyde 29th November.  
 2, In order that maximum air protection may be  
 arranged she should be routed to cross longitude 9° W. at day-  
 light on 29th November.  
 3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide such destroyers escort  
 as can be made available.  
 4. Fighter protection codeword "Mutual".  
 (D.O.D.(H.), 0145A/18 to Connav.)

M.K.F. 1(X) Position of M.K.F. 1(X) with 3 (? escort vessels)  
 054° 10' N. 012° 01' W., speed 12 knots.  
 LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE in company. ESKDALE detached  
 to Londonderry with boiler trouble and ALBRIGHTON for fuel.  
 (? BOADICEA) in accordance with your 1932A/17 to F.O. Greenock.  
 Your 2329A/17th being complied with. Add "A" to position.

(BITER, 0600A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

C. in C. W.A. 2329<sup>B</sup>/17. Clyde portion E.T.A. 0600A/19.

ACHATES has 170 survivors from WARWICK CASTLE.

(BITER, 0604A/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

SS. LEINSTER expected Greenock 0200A/19. A.F.O. 2901 1941  
 Part 1 survivors 106 cot case one. VANSITTART proceeding direct  
 to Liverpool.

(VANSITTART, 0848Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

M.K.F.1, Liverpool section. In order to enter harbour  
 at tide every effort should be made for last ship to pass Bar  
 Light Vessel not later 1230A/19.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1636A/18 to DASHER.)

E.T.A. 1000A/19th. A.F.O. 2901/1941.

(a) VANSITTART. (b) WARWICK CASTLE. (c) 2. (d) 19. (e) 8.  
 (f) 18. (h) 1. (n) 48. (p) 1 of (d).

(VANSITTART, 1845Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

HOPEMOUNT. Your 2004/14. HOPEMOUNT has been delayed in  
 Yugorski Strait, first by necessity to keep her  
 there for fuelling escorts bringing westbound  
 ships to White Sea, and later by ice. Expect to leave there  
 today for Iokanka and Kola Inlet. She is reported to have  
 damaged propellers or shaft. It seems clear her speed is  
 considerably reduced.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0845A/18 to Admty.)

O.N. 147. At R/V. Clyde portion in company. Course 310°,  
 lowest practicable speed 5 knots. Liverpool  
 portion 3 hours late. Advance will be delayed  
 by all possible means.  
 (NORTHERN WAVE, 1045A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Position ...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- Position at Dvina Estuary.
1. At Archangel. American CAMPFIRE with defective steering gear expected completion date about 23rd November.
  2. At Ekonomia. American IRONCLAD which has now missed two convoys, now ready.
  3. At Molotovsk. British EMPIRE GALLIARD, American RICHARD H. ALVEY, HUGH WILLIAMSON and JOHN WALKER. Expected complete discharge shortly.
  4. Icebreaker position. LENIN expected next few days but on arrival must undergo extensive refit. <sup>FEODOR</sup> LIDKE date of arrival uncertain. Working in River Dvina. MONTCALM which is next to useless and two icebreaking tugs LD6 and LD8. At Molotovsk but too deep to cross Dvina Bar, <sup>FEODOR</sup> MIKOVAN and KRASSIN.
  5. Russians are pressing for ships in para. 263 to be loaded at Bakharitsa there being no cargo at Molotovsk. This in view of icebreaker situation I have categorically refused. They have now suggested loading timber in Maimaksa Channel but, cold weather has not set in and temperature is falling rapidly and I do not feel comfortable about this proposal.
  6. Present intention is to sail them for Kola but little or no apatite available at moment.
  7. Request guidance as to whether Molotovsk vessels can be sailed in ballast.
  8. Ives concurs with para. 5.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1107A/18 to Admty.)

M.K.F.2NK. Change route M. 38.12 N. 15.00 W. to N. 53.01 N. 15.02 W. O. 54.40 N. 12.45 W. P. 55.25 N. 08.30 W.  
2. Stragglers route to conform, lettered W, X, Y, Z.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1148A/18 to Escorts M.K.F.2, PELICAN.)

K.M.S. 4. My 1035/15.  
(1) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail P.C.74 to R/V Bristol Channel portion as additional escort at dawn/20 as arranged N.O.I.C. Cardiff.  
(2) At dark/20 P.C.74 is to return to Milford Haven.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1203A/18.)

Signals to avoid accidents with friendly A/C. A.M. 0025/23rd August and your 1752/17th Nov. It is desired to delay this until further experience has been gained.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1208A/18 to Admty.)

R.U. 50. Sailing of R.U. 50 is to be delayed until additional escorts are available, it is anticipated they will arrive 23rd or 24th at Hvalfjord.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1513A/18 to A.C.I.C.)

/M.K.F. 1Y ...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- M.K.F. 1(Y) Destination of escort. ARGUS, AMAZON Clyde.  
WRESTLER Liverpool. ROCKINGHAM, EXE, SWALE  
Londonderry.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1554A/18 to ARGUS.)
- U.R. Convoys. Consequent on the withdrawal of the Hill class,  
there are now insufficient large trawlers at  
Belfast to provide escort of U.R. Convoys.  
Suggest that MAN O' WAR now at Liverpool, might  
be exchanged with one of the smaller Belfast  
escort trawlers.  
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 1603A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)
- P.Q. 19. It is under consideration to allocate ACTIVITY  
temporarily to deck-landing training.  
This would probably mean that no auxiliary  
carrier would be available for the next P.Q. convoy.  
Having regard to the long hours of darkness and probable  
weather conditions it is considered that this could be  
accepted. Request your views.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1623A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)
- S.C. 107 My 1431/17 para. 1.  
Survivors LOCH NAGAR and RATHLIN sailed in R.U.49 with  
in R.U.49. all remaining survivors ex S.C.107.  
LOCH NAGAR 69 officers 147 ratings 30 coloured  
ratings total 246. RATHLIN 24 officers 83  
ratings nil coloured ratings total 107.  
THIRLMERE additional escort to above convoy.  
(A.C.I.C., 1840A/18 to Admty.)
- M.K.F. 1(Y) Final destinations.  
For Clyde - ARGUS, ULSTER MONARCH, ORBITA,  
MARCHADA, SAMUEL CHASE, LETITIA.  
For Liverpool - DEMPO.  
(D.T.D., 1840A/18.)
- AZERBAIDJAN, Your 1345/16. On sailing the three U.S.S.R.  
CHERNISHEMSKY. ships from Akureyri on 16th Nov. AZERBAIDJAN and  
CHERNISHEMSKY grounded.  
Both ships have now refloated and if seaworthy  
it is intended to sail them for Hvalfjord as soon as possible  
for inclusion of MUSSOVIET and CHERNISHEMSKY in R.U. 50.  
(A.C.I.C., 1843A/18 to Admty.)
- Q.P. 15. Request A/S air escort when within range.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1946A/18 to A.C.I.C.)  
C. in C. H.F. 1843A/4th Nov.  
During passage of Q.P.15 early information of any movement of  
enemy surface forces in the Altenfiord area is of great importance.  
2. Request you will arrange regular air reconnaissance of this  
area forthwith.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1955A/18 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

/Intend ...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.Q.P. 15.  
(Contd.)Intend to proceed from Seidisfjord at 0800A/19.  
Expect to comply with your 1231A/18 at approx.  
0300A/20.  
(C.S1, 2225A/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

\*O.N. 147.

C.T.U. 24.1.14 in AMHERST plus DAUPHIN at 1240,  
ARVIDA and SHERBROOKE at 1825 sailed to meet  
O.N. 147. \*CELANDINE, RESTIGOUCHE sailing to  
overtake. RESTIGOUCHE becomes C.T.U. on joining. Anticipate  
ST. FRANCIS will sail a.m. 19th to overtake. RESTIGOUCHE and  
ST. FRANCIS fitted with H/F D/F. Radar ARVIDA inoperative.  
(C.T.G. 24.7, 2210A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)*\* see p-785*

→O.N. 147.

Amended ("Chop") 0800Z/24.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2346Z/18 to Escorts O.N.147.)



789

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch".

- Situation Report No.14. (1) Bougie 5 M.T. ships berthed on 17/11 and discharging a total of 107 vehicles and 310 tons stores. <sup>U.331</sup>  
 (2) Undamaged U-Boat on surface 37.00 N. 02.10 E. torpedoed and sunk by Albacore from FORMIDABLE 17/11. Walrus from Algiers picked up 2 Token survivors at 1725/17. [See also 2145A/18] p.790.  
 (3) Arzew, better than originally expected should handle 2500 tons daily with six ships. Net defence required.  
 (4) Oran, 17 ships berthed. Shortly 13 more can be accepted with draught limit of 24 feet.  
 (5) Mers-el-Kebir. Berthing of Force H. will not interfere with unloading. Large quantity equipment. Floating crane unfortunately sunk by RODNEY. <sup>See p.803</sup>  
 (6) French are co-operating in A.A.defence in Oran Area.  
 (7) Hudson aircraft from Oran destroyed U-Boat 30 miles North of Algiers at 1030/15. Hudson suffered considerable damage and abandoned. Two of crew lost.  
 (8) Gibraltar. \*N.C.X.F. in AURORA due 1300/18. \*ALMAACK arrived in tow, damage being assessed. PANTHER, estimated date for completion of repairs 5th December. <sup>\* See below p.792</sup>  
 (9) Casablanca. Two minefields laid. Hospital ship NEWFOUND-  
 LAND was damaged by mine but details of damage not yet reported. (N.C.X.F. 1028Z/18.)

\* Arzew - See p.776 - 1st Division of HM Ships.

Losses of U.S. ships. I regret losses and damage were sustained by U.S. Ships operating in the Medit. under the orders of N.C. X.F.  
 A. Trans Div. II.

- (1) U.S. Combat Loader THOMAS STONE torpedoed by U-boat a.m. 7th November. Reached Algiers in tow a.m. 11th November.  
 (2) U.S. Combat Loader LEEDSTOWN torpedoed by U-Boat p.m. 9th November in Algiers Bay sunk later.  
 (3) U.S. Combat Loader ALMAACK torpedoed by U-boat a.m. 15th November whilst on passage to U.K. now in tow to Gibraltar. <sup>See above p.792</sup>  
 (4) U.S. EXCELLER leaking slightly from near miss damage.  
 B. U.S. Light Minelayer TRACY\* was bombed and burnt out in Bougie a.m. 12th November.  
 (D.O.D. (F) 1600Z/18 to C. in C. Lant (R) Comnavu.)

\* Incorrect. see Admiralty 2259Z/20, p. 866.

"Torch" orders. K.183. Ships are to land all "Torch" orders at Gibraltar before proceeding to U.K. (N.C.X.F. 1756Z/18 to all ships in operation "Torch" negative W.N.T.F.)

French Naval losses. 219. From information so far received following is state of French Naval Units in or near occupied ports.

- (A) Algiers. Two submarines sailed on 8th Nov. Present whereabouts unknown.  
 (B) Oran. One CASSARA-Class, three SIMOUN-class destroyers, LA SURPRISE all sunk or destroyed. 8 submarines unaccounted for.  
 (C) Casablanca. (1) In harbour. JEAN BART hit by two heavy bombs and five 16-inch shells. One main turret serviceable. PRIMAUGUET damaged beached and abandoned. ALBATROSS, MILAN wrecked and beached. LE MALIN damaged. BRESTOIS, FRONDEUR sunk.

/L'ALCYON ...



THIS IS AN UNPARAPHRASED VERSION OF A SECURITY  
WHEN OR CONFIDENTIAL CODE MESSAGE, AND THE TEXT  
MUST FIRST BE PARAPHRASED IF IT IS ESSENTIAL TO COMMUNI-  
CATE IT TO PERSONS WHOSE WRITING IS NOT  
GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

789A  
Tord

# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET 1428Z/18th November  
MESSAGE IN

FROM: - Commandeth Gibraltar DATE: - 18.11.42.  
RECD: - 1725

CYPHER

ADDRESSED: - ABFOR (Relayed to AGWAR)

"EDITED LITERAL TEXT"

SITREP No. 11, November 17th.

1. NAVAL:

Bougie. Five MT ships berths unloading vehicles and stores.  
Alger. Port capacity estimated 2500 tons daily with six ships.  
Oran. Seventeen ships berthed.  
Casablanca. Minefield laid off coast.

2. EASTERN TASK FORCE.

Tunisia: French in position east of Beja. French gendarmes at Gabes arrested 26 Axis commissioners, interned at Tabessa. 2 JU-52's attempting landing Gabes, fired on by French patrol; flew away. At Oed Zarga, 8483 and Mateur German patrols driven off by French.  
Algiers: Co's B and C, 701st TD BN arrived 1600Z.

3. CENTER TASK FORCE. Light Tk. Bn. alerted for movement to Algiers.

4. WESTERN TASK FORCE. Ground units organizing defense of ports and airdromes and executing reconnaissance. Patrols operating to principal towns. Attitude of populace friendly. Unloading of supplies continues.

5. AIR. 35 A/S sorties from Gibraltar and North African bases. 4 sightings, 3 attacks. One Sub down by bow, crew in conning tower wearing life jackets. No V/A sightings or combats. Eight B-17 aircraft, 27 Bisleys and 17 Beaufighters dispatched to theatre from United Kingdom. One B-17 aircraft caught fire in flight, crashed at sea.

1428Z/18  
Received in War Registry at 0625/19

Advance copy sent Duty Captain D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

- |                  |                |                    |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1st Lord         | D.O.D. (F) (2) | D.T.S.D.           |
| 1st S.L. (2)     | D.C. (2)       | D.G.D.             |
| V.C.N.S.         | D.D.I.C. (3)   | Hd. of M. (2)      |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | D.N.I. (4)     | D.P.D.             |
| A.C.N.S. (H)     | D. of P. (2)   | D.T.D. (2)         |
| A.C.N.S. (T)     | D. of P. (2)   | D.T.D. (M)         |
| A.C.N.S. (W)     | D.A/S.W.       | W.D.               |
| C.N.A.S.         | D.M.S.         | I.F. (2)           |
| A.C.N.A.S.       | D.D.O.D. (M)   | Admiral Usborne    |
| NAVAL SEC.       | D.N.A.D.       | Admiral Blake (2)  |
| N.A. 1st S.L.    | D.A.C.D.       | Admiral Ramsey (4) |
| Capt. Pim        | D. of L.D.     | U.S.N. (2)         |
| D.C.D. (H) (2)   |                | C.C.O. (2)         |



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - contd.

French Naval Losses (contd.)	L'ALCYON, SIMOUN, TEMPÊTE damaged. ORPHEE intact. AMPHITRITE, LA PSYCHE, OREADE sunk. LA GRANDIERE damaged.
	(2) At sea. FUGUEUSE (?FOUGUEUX) BOULONNAIS sunk. MEDUSE beached near Mazagan, LE TONNANT scuttled at Cadiz.

(D) Of the remaining 17 submarines believed to be west of Gibraltar on 7th Nov. 10 were at Dakar on 17th Nov. leaving 7 unaccounted for.  
(N.C.X.F. 1817Z/18 to Admty.)

Landing craft casualties.	Casualties to landing craft have been very heavy due to heavy swell running on night of assault and strong north easterly wind which sprang up at dawn on D day.
---------------------------	--

There are at present 19 L.C.A. 7 L.C.M. (1) 9 L.C.M. (3) 19 L.C.P. and 3 L.C.S. at Algiers. The majority of these craft are defective and will require repairs. With exception 4 L.C.P. and 2 L.C.M. (3) which are being retained by Inshore Squadron all craft now at Algiers are being returned to U.K. at first opportunity.

Of other craft which took part in assault, 36 are now at Bougie for service with Inshore Squadron, 2 more supplied to PRINSES BEATRIX to replace defective craft, 4 are now in BULOLO and the remainder were either sunk, severely damaged or have not yet been salvaged from beach. Any craft which are (?subsequently) salvaged and are repairable will be returned to U.K. as soon as possible. Cmdre. Algiers will signal details of all craft and crews which are embarked for passage to U.K. Admiralty pass to C.C.O.  
(F.O.I.S. 1941A/18 to N.C.X.F.)

Proposed Air Activity.	N.C.X.F. 2035Z/18, 0705/19.
------------------------	-----------------------------

U/B Sinkings.	(1)* U-Boat sunk by LORD NUFFIELD was an Italian, name unknown. Prisoners have been sent U.K. in ARUNDEL CASTLE and DEMPO. <i>EMO 10/11 p. 370 etc</i> (2) U.660 was sunk by <del>STARWORT</del> on 12th. Prisoners now in Algiers. (3) U.331 was sunk p.m. 17th off Algiers by A/C. 14 prisoners now in Algiers. <i>see p. 789</i> (F.O.I.S. 2145A/18 to N.C.X.F.)
---------------	--

N.C.X.F.'s movements.	214. Cancel my 1902/14th. (N.C.X.F. 2200Z/18)
-----------------------	--

Escort Groups.	216. Your 1952/15. This point is appreciated. Escort groups have been kept together except in a few unavoidable instances and this policy will be continued. (N.C.X.F. 2240Z/18 to Admty.)
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18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions. N.C.X.F. 0137A/18. See Lion copy.

G.U.F. 2  
reported.

U-boat has made a first sighting report on 4,540 k/cs at 0045/18 G.M.T. Inconclusive bearings suggest that either convoy G.U.F. 2 or ARCHER, VENOMOUS or WIVERN has been reported. (D.D.I.C., 0250A/18 to Escorts of G.U.F. 2., ARCHER, VENOMOUS, BOREAS, VELOX, WIVERN, VERITY (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, F.O.C.N.A., N.C.X.F. H.Q.C.C., N.C.W.T.F.)

FLEETWOOD

Return Gibraltar. Pass 036° 05' N., 010° 31' W. (N.C.X.F., 0340Z/18 to FLEETWOOD (R) PELICAN, Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

JONQUIL  
ARMERIA.

Your 1615Z/17th (Proceeding to SSSS). If nothing found return to Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F., 0711Z/18 to JONQUIL, (R) ARMERIA, Capt. S.8., N.C.W.N.T.F.)

My 1615Z/17th. Have roughly searched area as amended (1), nothing to report. Returning to await CONTESSA. (JONQUIL 0720Z/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

1 U/B  
damaged  
1 U/B  
destroyed.

Opsum. for 24 hours. ended 2400/17. 3 sightings including 1 attack Hudson 233 0859 hours. NHQS 3042 (35.30 N., 11.18 W) CO 160/8 kts. attacked. Black spouts of oil together with air bubbles 3/4 feet in diameter seen for 5 mins. making disturbance like whirlpool. Hudson C/2331335 (SCHU)? 4048 or 4049? 09029 (as received) stationary not attacked. 2 Hudsons circling L/500 was one (see below) no sign of attack or gunfire from U-boat C/T full of people wearing life jackets U-boat down by bows. U-boats sightings and attacks by north African based A/C. Details provisional subject to revision Hudson Z/500 1025 hours JTJT 0025 CO and speed not stated U-boat attacked and disabled on surface Hudson Z/500 1230 hrs. (?AWNO) TJT 0010 CO and speed not stated Hudson L/500 1255 hours LBJT 5025 (36.50 N., 2° 25' E) BO 070/10 kts. All above probably refer to same U-boat sighted, by N/500 from Gibraltar. Reference Hudson S/500 lost on 15th November. After attacking U-boat 30 miles N. of Algiers. Hudson attacked with four DCS and U-boat immediately blew up. Rear Gunner saw gun blow in air and Conning Tower collapse. Great disturbance of water as U-boat sank. Explosion considerably damaged Hudson bending up ends of main planes and wrecking. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar 0800Z/18).

/HYDERABAD...



741<sup>A</sup>

# MOST SECRET

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

0137A/18 November

From N.C.X.F.

Date 18.11.42.

Recd. 1040

NAVAL CYLINDER (S) BY T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT.

Following is correct version of my\*1240 17th from Para. 14 to the end (14) 5th Sub. Flot., H.M.S. BRIXHAM, H.M.S. MARI GOLD, H.M.S. COREOPSIS, (E) 036 deg 26' 010 deg 56' through 36 10 10 01 thence Gibraltar 11 knots.

\*P-745-9. 15. K M F 3, H.M.S. WESTON, 2 Sloops, 2 Corvettes, 2 Cutters, 47 02 16 27 to 46 35 16 01 and 43 01 15 55 thence 148 degs 12. *see P-792C 3605*

16. ITHURIEL, 1\* Merchant ship, 45 11 14 11 through 43 01 14 01 12. \*HINDUSTAN. *see P-792C 7794*

0137A/18.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F). D.T.D.

- V.C.N.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Fin.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- U. S.H.
- D.A./S.W.
- Hd. of H.
- D.D.I.C. (3)
- I.P. (2)
- V.D.
- D.T.D. (1)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.H.I. (4)
- Ad. Ramsay (4)
- F.O. (S) by courier.
- C.C.R.T.

IH.



War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

HYDERABAD attack on U/B. C.A.F.O. 843/(?41) (?834/41) (A) HYDERABAD (B) 1740Z/16/11/42. (C) 36° 21' N., 8° 12' W. (D) 13 (E) 1718Z. (HYDERABAD, 0800Z/18 to Admty).

Movements K.X.6. *See p. 793* Arrivals 2230/17th LANCASTER, WELLS, OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE, HYDERABAD, (?RESTIVE), ACHROITE, ARNOLD, BENNETT, TERVANI, GREGORY, with convoy K.X.6. (F.O.C.N.A., 0828Z/18 to Admty).

P.51, P.222 information. *See p. 602* Convoy for Algiers and Oran leaving Gibraltar 2200/18th through 036° 15' 004° 33' W., 036° 25' 002° 51' W., and 036° 02', 001° 27' W., and may be encountered. (Capt. S.8., 0950Z/18 to P.51, P.222). *\* not mentioned in Movement of H.M. Ships*

U.S. Combat leader ALMAACK (torpedoed 15th Nov). Arrival JAUNTY towing American SS. ALMAACK. (F.O.C.N.A., 1029Z/18). *See p. 789*

DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS. *Sailed. See p. 793.* R.A.(A) is requested to sail at 1600Z with Force A, DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, OPPORTUNE, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, and Force B, MILNE, QUIBERON, QUALITY, QUENTIN, and proceed to eastward by route G.

(2) Force C WESTCOTT (S.O.) MALCOLM, GLAISDALE is to sail at 1400 and proceed westward routed through 036° 40' N., 009° 00' W. S. of A. 15 knots.

(3) Alternative X. Force A and Force B reverse courses to pass Europa Point at 2100 18th, proceed through the Straits at moderate speed and thence westward at high speed to R/V Force C in 036° 45' N., 010° 20' W., at 0800/19th.

(4) Alternative Y. Force A. Force B. reverse course as requisite to pass Europa Point at 0330/19th then as for X, but R/V with Force C in 037° 00' N., 010° 40' W., at 1600/19th.

(5) Alternative Y to be followed unless X is ordered by N.C.X.F. (6) Object is to pass westwards through Straits unseen.

(7) Force B returns to Gibraltar when Force C joins Force A.

(8) Route of Force A. P. 035° 56' N., 006° 25' W.

Q. 036° 30' N., 007° 00' W. R. 036° 30' N., 010° 00' W. S. (?) 040° 00' N., 015° 00' W., then as ordered by Admiralty.

(9) C. in C. H.F. is requested to order final destination and provide relief of screening destroyers as requisite.

(N.C.X.F., 1107Z/18 to R.A.(A), WESTCOTT, (R) DUKE OF YORK VICTORIOUS, QUIBERON, QUALITY, QUENTIN, OPPORTUNE, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, MALCOLM, GLAISDALE, MILNE, C.S.10 Capt. (D) 3, Admty. C. in C. H.F., V.A. Gibraltar, BERMUDA).



# MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: N.C.X.F.

1232Z/18th November.

(TORCH)

Date: 18.11.42.

Recd: 2130

Naval Cypher S by W/T.

ADDRESSEE: A.I.G.65. N.A. Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report area Z.

1. H.M.S. TRUANT, 025 degs 28' 021 degs 01' on surface 000 degs 11. *see next page*
2. G U F one, seven destroyers, 032 degs 59' 025 degs 39' 285 degs 13½.
3. PORTSMOUTH, YESBOR, VIVIANA, SMIENE, 029 degs 18' 024 degs 47' through 25 01 23 01 thence 169 01. *see next page*

1232Z/18.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F)

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

A.C.N.S.(T)

N.A. Lt. S.L.

Capt. Pin.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.C.(2)

U.S.N.

D.A/S.W.

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C.(3)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

D. of P.(2)

D. of P.(Q)

D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C)

F.C.S. by courier.

Admiral Blake.(2)

Admiral Ramsey(4)

D.M.S.

M.C.



# MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1252Z/18th November

FROM:- Naval Commr. X.F.

DATE:- 18.11.42.

TORCH

ICCD:- 2105

NAVAL ORDER (S) No. 3 by W21

ADDRESSED:- N.A. Station

IMPORTANT

Situation report for Area Y. Situation 2004A 18th.

(1) H.M.S. TRUANT at 2100A 18th 025 degs. 28' 021 degs. 01' on the surface 000 degs. 11. *See previous page*

(2) U.S. S/M SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARE, at 2100A 18th between 44 01 20 01 and 40 01 20 01 on the surface 000 degs. 11. *See next page & p. 780*

(3) U.S. S/M BLACKFISH at 2100A 18th vicinity 33 01 20 01 000 degs. 11½. *See next page & p. 795*

(4) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO cruising between Canary Is. and Point 036 01 01' 030 degs. 02'. *See next page*

(5) G U F one, 7 destroyers 032 degs. 59' 025 degs. 39' 235 degs. 13½.

(6) PORTSDOWN, YECTOR, U.V.S. VIVIANA, H.M.S. SPHENE (c) 29 13 24 47 through 25 01 23 01 thence 169 degs. 61'. *See previous page*

1252Z/18

Advance copy sent Duty Captain D.C.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 A.C.N.S. (T)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 Capt. Pim.  
 D.O.D. (H) (2)  
 D.C.D. (F) (2)  
 Duty Captain (2)  
 U.S.N.  
 D.A/S.W.  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.D.I.C. (3)  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 D.T.D. (H)  
 F.O.S. by courier  
 D. of P. (2)  
 D. of P. (Q)  
 Admiral Blake (2)  
 Admiral Ramsey (4)  
 D.N.I. (4)  
 D.T.D. (3)  
 D.T.D. (C)



**MOST SECRET**MOST ~~SECRET~~ MESSAGE IN

12532/18th November  
 18.11.42  
 RECD:- 2145

WARNING FROM N.C.K.F. This is a paraphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

NAVAL CYPHER 3(S) BY W/T

ADDRESSED:- N.A. Station

IMPORTANT

Token

Situation report for Area X. Situation at 2002A 18th.

- (1) H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT at 2100A 18th 38 30 10 09 dived by day 2½ knots surfaced by night 10 knots to pass 36 50 09 28 at 0900A 19th through 35 38 07 32 at 0200A 20th. *See p/793 & 794*
- (2) H.M.S. TROOPER passes 43 01 12 46 at 0500A 19th 157 degs. dived by day 2½ knots surfaced by night 9 knots. *See p.794*
- (3) P.311 pass 43 01 12 09 at 2000A 18th 161 degs. 10 knots. Dived by day 2½ knots surfaced by night. *See p.794*
- (4) U.S. S/MS SHAD, GUNNEL, HERRING, BARE, at 2100A 18th between 44 01 20 01 and 40 01 20 01 on surface 000 degs. 11. *See previous page & p.780*
- (5) U.S. S/M BLACKFISH at 2100A 18th vicinity of 33-01 20 01 000 degs. 11½. *See previous page & p.795*
- (6) K M S 3, H.M.S. BLACK SWAN, 1 (one) sloop, 9 corvettes, 39 53 18 35 through 38 01 18 01 thence 130 degs. 6.
- (7) M K S 1 (one) (X), H.M.S. LONDONBERRY, LARDGUARD, LULLWORTH, WOODSTOCK, LOUISBURG, PRESCOTT, H.M.S. BIDEFORD; 40 59 16 51 through 42 30 16 01 thence 000 degs. 10.
- See p.786* (8) M.K.F. 2, H.M.S. PELICAN, H.M.S.\*FLEETWOOD, H.M.S. EGRET, H.M.S. PHILANTE, BANFF, SEINEN, CLARE, 38 16 14 54 through 39 12 17 02 thence 342 degs. 12½. \**See p.791 & next page.*
- (9) Spanish training ship JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO, cruising between Canary Islands and point 36.01 30 02. *See previous page*
- (10) H.M.S. WIVERN, H.M.S.\*VERITY, 35 01 09 09 through 350 degs. Cape Spartel 5 to Gibraltar 20. \**See p.776*
- (11) G U F 2, 7 destroyers, 34 07 15 23 through 34 15 18 01 thence 238 degs. 12.
- (12) K M F 3, H.M.S. WESTON, 2 sloops, 2 corvettes, 2 cutters, 41 16 14 30 148 degs. 12. *See p.791A & 805*
- (13) ITHURIEL, one\*merchant ship, 41 06 12 33 150 degs. 12. *See p. 791A 794*  
\*HINDUSTAN.
- (14) H.M.S. VENOMOUS, H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. VELOX, ARCHER, 2 tankers, off Cape Spartel to Gibraltar 14. *See p.795.*
- (15) Force A, 2 Fleet Units, H.M.S. BULLDOG, H.M.S. BEAGLE, H.M.S. OPPORTUNE, H.M.S. MILNE, QUIBERON, (?and) QUENTIN, passing Europa Pt. at 0430A 19th through 35 56 06 06 to 36 30 07 01 to 36 30 10 01 to R/V with 3 destroyers at (?17)00A 19th in position 37 01 10 35 thence 311 degs. 18.

(16)/.....  
*See p.793 & 793*



792<sup>D</sup>

(16) H.M.S. WESTCOTT H.M.S. MALCOLM GLAISDALE 36 09  
06 48 to join Force A at 1700a 19th in position 37 01  
10 35. QUIBERON QUALITY QUENPIN H.M.S. MILNE to return  
to Gibraltar at 1700a 19th. *See pp 792, 792c, 793*

(17) H.M.S. FLEETWOOD 36 15 10 48 through 36 05 10 31  
thence to Gibraltar 13. *See pp 791 & 794*  
*1253Z/18*

Advance copy sent Duty Captain D.C.D. (H) D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Duty Captain (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (3)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- F.O.S. by courier
- D.E.I. (4)
- Admiral Blake (2)
- Admiral Ramsey (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)



# MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRETM E S S A G EI N

From: N.C.X.F.

Date: 18.11.42.

Recd. 1133

NAVAL CYTHER (S) by W/TAddressed: Ships and Authorities North Atlantic  
in Area X.IMPORTANT

\*  
My 1253Z 18th. Amend paragraph (1)  
to read through 225 St. Vincent 10 and 36 40  
07 30. Amend paragraph (8) to read 38 12  
14 59 000 degs. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

1720Z/18

\* Situation report for Area X.

Advance copy sent  
D.C. (2), D.O.D. (F)  
& D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
A.C.N.S. (T)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Jim  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.C. (2)  
U.S.N.  
D.A./S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
D.D.I.C. (3)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
D.T.D. (10)  
F.C.S. by courier

D.N.I. (4)  
Ad. Blake (2)  
Ad. Ramsey (4)  
D. of S. (2)  
D. of P. (9)  
D.T.D. (3)  
D.T.D. (6)



# MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

2136Z/18th November

FROM:- Naval Com. X.F.

DATE:- 19.11.42.

RMED:- 0135

NAVAL CODE IN BY W/S

ADDRESSED:- S. & A. North Atlantic Area X

IMMEDIATE

My 1253Z 18th/ amend para. 13 to read:

(E) 040 degs. 27' 013 degs. 34' 150 degs., 10.

(2) Amend para. 17 to read: 036 degs. 03' 000 degs.  
49' to Gibraltar 15.

2136Z/18

^ Situation Area X

Advance copy sent Cps. C.D. C.I.C.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- W.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O. (2)
- F.S.S.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.F.C. (3)
- T.D. (2)
- V.S.
- D.F.P. (M)
- F.C.C. by courier
- D.N.L. (4)
- Admiral Blake (2)
- Admiral Ramsay (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (0)
- D.F.D. (3)
- D.F.D. (0)

EG



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

O.N.145 Fifteen ships dispersed in 46° 06' N., 38° 32' W. at 1700 G.M.T. 17th November. From dispersal ships proceeding to 38° N., between 30° and 39° W., thence to 27° N., between 30° and 38° 30' W., thence 180°. Straggler PANAMA estimated 42° 55' N., 33° 10' W., at 1800Z/17 172° to 38° N., 10 knots. (D.T.D., 1238A/18 to S. and A. N.A.)

K.X.6 *See p.772* K.X.6 arrived less AQUILLA (put back to U.K.), EMPIRE MINOTAUR, (arrived Funchal), EMPIRE GNOME, TRITON, TRANSVAAL, QUERCIA, YTHAN BRAES, straggled (F.O.C.N.A., 1330Z/18 to Admty).

Damaged U/B. N.C.X.F. 1410/18 (damaged U-boat - N.T. in W.D.) P.C. and S. 035° 03' N., 009° 43' W., 290° 28 knots. (VERITY, 1600Z/18 to F.O.C.N.A.) *See p.776*

M/Bs and L/Cs. Any motor boats or landing craft sighted are to be towed into harbour. (F.O.C.N.A., 1628Z/18 to JONQUIL, ARMERIA, COREOPSIS, \*ROTHESAY, MARIGOLD, BRIXHAM, BUDE). *\* See p.775*

Movements Arrival 1300 N.C.X.F. in AURORA, WISHART, ANTELOPE (F.O.C.N.A., 1633Z/18 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S., Commodore Algiers).

→WESTCOTT. To avoid THUNDERBOLT do not proceed north of 36° 30' N., until West 009° 30' W. (N.C.X.F., 1648Z/18 to WESTCOTT (R) H.M.S. MALCOLM, H.M.S. GLAISDALE, F.O.C.N.A.S., Capt. (S) 8th S.F., F.O.C.A. Carriers).

Trawlers M.M.S. Ref. N.C.X.F.'s letter No. 130/XFT 1/7 of 22nd August to P.D. (Q) para. 12 (e). Admty. are requesting information when the trawlers and motor minesweepers may be required to arrive on the station. Any early information that you can give regarding your future requirements of coastal forces will also be appreciated. (D.O.D. (H), 1726A/18 to N.C.X.F.)

→Movements. *See p.772* N.C.X.Fs. 1107/18th. Sailed p.m./18th R.A.A. H.F., in VICTORIOUS, DUKE OF YORK, WESTCOTT, MALCOLM, GLAISDALE, BULLDOG, BEAGLE, OPPORTUNE. Q.Z.H. 929 less 902, 903. L.50 S. 385 X873 less 867 Y 363. 2. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. (F.O.C.N.A., 1739Z/18).

/Orders...



794

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.- Contd.

Orders to S/Ms. My 1330/15th Nov. and 1500/16th Nov. Omit position A and B.  
 \*\* THUNDERBOLT\*P.311 and \*TROOPER proceed to pass through position X 225° speed of Advance 10 at 1200/19th 21st and 22nd respectively. Y 036° 40' N., 007° 30' W., at 0100/20th 22nd and 23rd respectively thence R/V in C at 1600/20th 22nd and 23rd respectively. (Capt. S.8., 1754Z/18 to THUNDERBOLT, P.311, TROOPER).  
 \*\* ~~see p.792c & previous page.~~ \* ~~see p.792c.~~

FLEETWOOD M.K.F.2. Left M.K.F. 2 at 1030Z/18th in 037° 45' N., 012° 45' W., course 300° 13 knots my P.C. and S. 036° 34' N., 011° 18' W., 130° 13 knots weather report E.T.A. 1700Z/19th. (FLEETWOOD, 1800A/18 to N.C.X.F.)  
*see pp 791 & 792*

Broadcast warning to shipping. Your 1349A/17th. Para. 1 concur. Broadcast will be made on 500 k/cs at 0900 on 21st from Algiers and Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F., 1843A/18 to Admty).

K.M.S.3 All present. Weather report. 2000A P.C. and S. 037° 30' N., 016° 25' W., 115° 7½.  
 2. Request confirmation that ships appointed A.N.D. are to remain in present positions and not be placed in inner column.  
 3. Continuous bad weather has restricted oiling at sea and majority of Escort group 37 should replenish at Gibraltar if required for onward escorts  
 (BLACK SWAN, 2000Z/18 to Admty. (R) Naval Cdr. X.F., C. in C. Western Approaches, Capt. (D) Liverpool, F.O.C.N.A.)

ITHURIEL P.C.S. at 2000A/18th 042° 27' N., 013° 34' W. 150° 10 knots perhaps increasing (?later) (weather report) 3572 1025. (ITHURIEL, 2015A/18 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)  
*see pp 791A & 792c*

STURGEON. Endurance of STURGEON will necessitate her leaving patrol p.m./24th and proceeding to Algiers. (Capt. S.8., 2122Z/18 to STURGEON, Capt. S.10 (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar).

Foreign M/Vs. Admty. pass to C.T.F.34. Following is a repetition of 2114/18th. "C.T.G.26.7 C.T.F.34 from Opnav. Request names and flags of all foreign merchant ships at present in Casablanca and Port Lyautey". (Opnav 2123/18 to Admty) Passing action being taken by W.R.

/ROTHESAY...



795

18.11.1942.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

ROTHESAY  
attack on  
U/B.

C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) ROTHESAY, (B) 1705Z/16/11/  
42 (C) 36° N., 9° 02' W. (D) 5. (E) 1820Z.  
(ROTHESAY, 2130Z/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A.C.N.A.,  
Admty. M.S.13).

T.E.5

Convoy T.E.5 passing Europa Point at 2155 routed  
through 036° 15' N., 004° 33' W., and 036° 25'  
N., 002° 51' W., speed 7.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2158Z/18 to R.A.(A) Home Fleet).

Movements

Arrival BOREAS, VENOMOUS, VELOX, ARCHER with  
SS. BULKOIL and SS. SEAKAY. *See p. 792c*  
2. Arrival JONQUIL and ARMERIA from Port  
Lyautey. *See p. 791*  
(F.O.C.N.A., 2246Z/18 to Admty).

BLACKFISH

*See pp 792B & c.*

BLACKFISH position 2000Z/18th 033° 54' N.,  
020° 00' W. E.T.A. at Point D. 2000Z/20th.  
(BLACKFISH, 2310Z/18 to Comnavu (R) Admty.  
C. U.S. S/M Squadron 50, F.O.S. F.O.C.N.A., at  
Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

EMPIRE  
CHAUCER.

Sunk 17th Oct.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1022R/18) See America & West  
Indies.

DRAGON

Arrival 18th Nov.  
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1041Z/18 to Admty etc).

ASTURIAS

A.M. 1621A/18 Sept. (Refit programme for  
ASTURIAS and ALCANTARA) Request information when  
ASTURIAS should be sailed for U.K.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1149Z/18 to Admty).

/Blockade...



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1015C/18th November.

From: C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date. 18.11.42.

Time. 1050.

Naval Cypher 3(M) by W/T & T/P.

Addressed: A.I.G. 125.

IMPORTANT.

*disposition*  
NEPAL, ~~H.M.S.~~ FORTUNE, and 2 corvettes, with C.D. <sup>1</sup> ~~one~~ off Durban toward 033 degs south 036 degs east.

GLENEARN, 019 degs 30' south 011 degs 40' east  
330 degs 16. *See p. 796*

American transport WESTPOINT, 043 degs 25' south 013 degs 45' east to east 21.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, about 035 degs 05' south 021 degs 00' east to Simonstown 12½.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, on patrol in area M 3 A and B.

*(Cicco)* 1015C/18 )

~~Advanced copy D.C.,~~  
D.O.D.(F),  
D.T.D.

- 1st S.L.(2)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- Hd. of M.(2)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.C.(2)
- Adml. Blake.
- D.M.S.

HMB



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1205Z/18th Nov. M IN

From:- R.A. West Africa.

Date. 18/11/42.

Recd. 1724

N. CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed:- A.I.G. 149.

IMPORTANT.

2 M/L, off Bathurst to Freetown 8½. One M/L,  
 Bissao to Freetown 10. KYBER, 11 10 18 50 to Freetown  
 through 09 01 15 59 10. Netherlands Sub. K.14., 10  
 15 18 40 288 degs 9 at 2001 Z 18th. TURCOMAN, about  
 14 30 34 50 100 degs 8½. ST. LOMAN, NORTHERN CHIEF,  
 NORTHERN ISLAND, 2 tugs, 10 45 38 45 093 degs 9.  
 H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, about 16 55 33 50 to South 10.

1205Z/18.

A.C.N.S.(F).(2).  
 N.A.1st S.L.  
 Capt. Pim.  
 D.O.D.(H)(2).  
 D.O.D.(F)(2).  
 D.T.D.(M).  
 D.D.O.D.(M).  
 Duty Capt.(2).  
 D.D.I.C.(2).  
 D.of.Plans.(2).  
 D.A/S.W.  
 Hd.of M.  
 W.D.  
 I.P.(2).  
 D.N.I.(4).  
 F.O.S. by courier.  
 D.D.O.D.(C).  
 C.C.R.T.

Advance Copy. Duty Capt.,  
 D.O.D.(F).  
 D.T.D.



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E. 1215Z/18th Nov. IN.

From. R.A. West Africa. Date. 18.11.42.  
Recd. 1727.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T.

Addressed. Ships in Area P. of South Atlantic Station  
South of 8 degs North. Admiralty.  
C. in C. South Atlantic. N.O.I.C.  
Takoradi. R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report.

~~H.M.S. DRAGON off Freetown 244 degs. 17. (Cancelled 1258Z/18)~~  
*sup 795*

H.M.S. ST. ZENO, CANNA, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, H.M.S. SPANIARD, escorting 007 degs. 15' 013 degs. 40' 127 degs. 4 1/2.

NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN DUKE, COVENTRY CITY, escorting 006 degs. 25' 012 degs. 15' 123 degs. 9 at 2000 18th.

COMMANDANT DROGOU, F.S., COMMANDANT DESTROYAT, F.S., \*MARY ROSE, 3 Motor Launches, with T S 24, 005 degs. 25' 011 degs. 45' 313 degs. 8. \*? MORRIS DANEE 20/11. 13. 752A

H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S. \*SANDOWN, 2 Motor Launches, escorting 003 degs. (?25') 005 degs. 25' to 002 degs. 40' 007 degs. 46' thence 289 degs. 9 1/2. \* at Gambia. (Ret List)

H.M.S. PICT off Lagos (Nig.) to Takoradi 9.

H.M.S. CORINTHIAN 003 degs. 45' South 009 degs. 10' East to Pointe Noire 11.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS on patrol between 007 degs. (?27') 025 degs. 36' and 004 degs. 35' 029 degs. 01' 12 1/2.

H.M.S. \*ALLOCHY, H.M.S. NORWICH CITY about 004 degs. 00' South 028 degs. 00' to Freetown 9. \* at Senegal. (Ret List)

Allied Naval Units on patrol in Takoradi area.

1215Z/18

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D. (F) & D.D.I.C.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. to 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)

- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.D.O.D. (C)
- D.M.S.
- D.T.D. (3)



War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Blockade Runners. (1) If ANNELIESE ESSBERGER or KOTA NOPAN, both southbound blockade runners, are sighted make immediate report to DRAGON and ASTURIAS (R) F.O.C. West Africa, Comsolantfor.  
(2) ESSBERGER 5,000 tons, single decker, raised forecastle, 1 funnel, 2 masts painted light colour, length 420 feet, estimated speed 12½ knots.  
(3) KOTA <sup>NOPAN</sup> 7,000 tons, 3 decks, 1 funnel, 2 masts painted light colour, length 450 feet, estimated speed 12½ knots. (F.O.C.W.A., 1150Z/18 to BRIDGEWATER, ST. LOMAN, STELLA POLARIS, TURCOMAN, (R) ASTURIAS, DRAGON, Comsolantfor).

GLENEARN *See p. 795A* Ref. 1243/16th C. in C. S.A. (GLENEARN sailed for U.K.) Propose to divert GLENEARN to Pernambuco for onward convoy. (R.A.W.A.F., 1159Z/18 to Admty).

LOUISE MOLLER survivors. INCONSTANT has rescued 25 survivors ex SS. LOUISE MOLLER sunk by U-boat at 0800C/13 in approx. 30° S., 38° 50' E.  
(2) Masters boat still adrift.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1216C/18) See also 2136C/20.

Venturas, accidents, flying restriction. 2 losses at sea and one forced landing on land of Venturas for reasons so far inexplicable have resulted in orders being issued restricting flying by these aircraft to most urgent operational work only. Until causes of accidents have been ascertained air coastal patrols are severely curtailed.  
(C. in C. S.A., 1248C/18 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Transport of Service Personnel. Your 1143/6, not to C. in C. S.A. B.A.D. Washington has been asked to obtain a ruling for U.S. personnel.  
2. Confirmed that service personnel of each other Allied Nation should be considered separately and may be embarked up to 250 of each service.  
3. Further signal follows.  
(D.O.D. (F), 1359A/18 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Takoradi congestion. Your 1321A/16 (Freetown and Lagos to be used as holding ports to avoid congestion at Takoradi) consider these instructions suitable for inclusion in M.A.R.I.  
(Cominch, C. and R, 1515/18 to Admty).



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Suspicious Tanker. Suspicious Tanker sighted 2200Z/8th Nov. in 041° 23' S., 000° 08' E., course 280° Norwegian tanker SKOTAAS due Punta Arenas 24th Nov, may then have been in this position. Request confirmation from Master.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1516C/18 to S.O.(I) Montevideo (R) Admty).

Dakar No change major units Dakar P.R.U. 18th Nov. (F.O.C.W.A., 1531Z/18 to N.C.X.F.)

Pernambuco congestion. Mr. Shortland M.W.T.R. reports port facilities at Pernambuco are much overcrowded, and in my (?last) conversation with Adm. Ingram he informed me that further warships were being attached to his Squadron shortly, which will further congest quays.  
He therefore enquired whether it would be possible to divert southbound ships to Rio de Janeiro instead of Pernambuco and northbound going to Pernambuco when required.  
This will give Pernambuco a period of rest after which it should be built up to maximum capacity.  
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1546Z/18 to Admty).

U.S. Patrols. (1) U.S. Cruisers MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI and U.S. Destroyer SOMERS with aircraft will be carrying out patrol on 18th 19th 20th November. They will pass through 001° 03' S., 022° 45' W, on 18th Nov. and proceed on course 320° speed 12½ knots.  
(2) U.S. Ships OMAHA, MARBLEHEAD, and JOUETT are carrying out patrol passing through (A) 001° 38' S., 023° 30' W., 342° 1130Z 20th and (B) 005° 00' N., 29° 00' W. at 0030Z/22nd.  
Further details of this patrol will be passed when known. Originator numeral to Comsolantfor is 71.  
(F.O.C.W.A., 1919Z/18 to ASTURIAS, BRIDGEWATER, (R) Comsolantfor ST. LOMAN, MAINE).  
Departure 18th Nov. U.S. Cruisers MARBLEHEAD, OMAHA, U.S. Destroyer JOUETT.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1941Z/18 to Admty).

GAMTOOS Your 1714/3rd. GAMTOOS to come under control of Royal Navy) G(AM?)TOOS will come under operational control of R.N. at 0900Z tomorrow Thursday and will sail at 1200Z for Kilindini.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1945/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

Movements Arrival 18th November H.M. Tugs ARCTIC EXPLORER and WELLARD.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 2012Z/18 to Admty).



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Tankers

OLTENIA II, NORVIK, CISTULA, DRUPA, BENTE MAERSK are required in Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico to load for U.K. Also ORANGELEAF if she can be spared pending arrival R.F.A.ECHODALE.

2. From information available here (tanker message) alternative means are:-

(a) to sail vessels to Pernambuco to join convoy referred to in Comsolant 1658/13 to F.O.C.W.A. or

(b) to take advantage of escorts sent to fetch floating dock No. 24.

3. Request your proposals for earliest arrival at loading ports.

4. Your 1136/17. To enable MIJDRECHT to receive escort from CORINTHIAN for a greater proportion of voyage suggest her destination be changed to Bahia and that she be broken off from escort at a later stage.

It is understood that ship can join Northbound Convoy for Trinidad with no loss of time due to suggested change.

(D.T.D., 2036A/18 to F.O.C.W.A.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A., 1921/20.



0 798

War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PORPOISE Aircraft claim one hit in 033° 09' N 015° 00' E  
(Enemy M/V at 2215A.  
2 destroyers) (Capt. S.10. 0022A/18 to PORPOISE.) *(see 1958/18) p. 807*

PORPOISE PORPOISE steer 130° and P.212 180° with despatch  
P.212. on the surface by day at C.O.'s discretion, orders  
*P. 46.* follow.  
*P. 44. see p. 805* (Capt. S.10. 0801A/18 to PORPOISE. P.212 (R) P.46.)

Proceed to establish patrol within 10 miles of following  
positions PORPOISE 032° 14' 015° 54'. P.212 031° 28' 017° 18'.  
P.46 is moving with despatch from direction Lampion to patrol  
within 20 miles north and east of Sirte, E.T.A. daylight 19th.  
P.44 leaves Malta noon today to patrol south of 032° 00' W of 016°  
06'. All S/Ms may proceed on surface daylight at own discretion.  
Next signal to you by one time pad.

(Capt. S.10 1105A/18 to PORPOISE. P.212. (R) P.46. P.44.  
P.211. C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)

GLENFINLAS	Examined position of damaged vessels Bougie
ALSENA	Harbour, Nov. 17th. GLENFINLAS flooded number 1,
KOUTOUBIA	2 and 3 holds by bombs salvaging (?probably) in
FLORIDA	about one week. French ship ALSENA damaged by
AWATEA	bombs and burnt out. Can probably be patched to
CATHAY	allow beaching clear of berths but in view of fire
KARANJA	damage probably C.T.L. French ship KOUTOUBIA and
TYNWALD	FLORIDA scuttled by N.O.I.C. to prevent fire
	damage from ALSENA lying on beam end. Salvage
	practicable but probably take 6 months under present

conditions.

British ships AWATEA, CATHAY, KARANJA, TYNWALD are C.T.Ls.  
Possible to salve some (?capstan) gear from upper decks. Further  
examination will be made on completion of operations on  
GLENFINLAS.

(Salvage Officer, Algiers 0830A/18 to Cdre. Algiers.)

M.Ls Your 1002/17 (N.T. in W.D.) (?request) N.C.X.F.  
Oran in AURORA grant permission to retain M.Ls owing to  
urgent local requirements.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran 0848Z/18 to N.C.X.F.)

Movements. Arrivals 17th Nov. JERVIS, PAKENHAM, PALADIN,  
KELVIN, NUBIAN, JAVELIN, DELPHINIUM, GLOXINIA,  
SOUTHERN ISLES, Greek destroyer AETOS, SOUTHERN  
SEA, KLO, PETARD, ZINGARELLA, BRIGAND, Z.9, 12, 14 and 34.  
Departures 17th Nov. DULVERTON, BELVOIR, CROOME, TETCOTT,  
JAVELIN, NUBIAN, ORION, ROMEO, BEAUFORT, HURSLEY, KELVIN,  
PAKENHAM, DIDO, ARETHUSA, JERVIS, HURWORTH, EXMOOR, ALDENHAM,  
PALADIN, CLEOPATRA, SOUTHERN ISLES, \*RIVERWAY, (?Yugoslav. T.B.  
DURMITOR) PINDOS, M.Ls 357 and 1126.  
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0909B/18 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)  
*\* not identified.*

P.A.10. Convoy P.A.10 including BADARPUR arrived.  
(N.C.S.O. Aden 0930Z/18 to Admty.)



War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.K.S.2. Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.2. p.m. Nov. 21st. routed through 74 34 17 73 57 thence (C) 36.00 N 06.30 W. (D) 36.46 N 10.00 W. (E) (?). 38.28 N 15.00 W. (F) 40.28 N 17.02 W. (G) 43.45 N 17.50 W. (H) 51.10 N 17.11 W. (J) (?) 54.30 N 13.45 W. (K) 55.26 N 08.31 W.
- (2) Escort from Algiers ROCHESTER, ERNE, LEITH, SANDWICH, SCARBOROUGH, GERANIUM, SPIREA.
- (3) Oran section escorted by DEPTFORD, CONVULVULUS, VETCH and local A/S trawlers to join in 36.19 N 00.07 E at 1600Z/22. When R/V is made trawlers return to Oran.
- (4) Gibraltar section escorted by ocean escort of BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, MYOSOTIS, CARNATION, MALLOW, LA MALOUINE at 1200Z/24. On relief by ocean escort local escort return to Gibraltar.
- (5) Lisbon section escorted by 2 corvettes joining in 36.40 N 09.25 W at 1000Z/25.
- (6) Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail DEPTFORD, CONVULVULUS and VETCH to Oran to arrive p.m. 21st. Nov.
- (7) F.O.C.N.A. N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Bougie and N.O.I.C. Bone are requested to report to Cdre. Algiers (R) N.C.X.F. name and speed of ships for inclusion in convoy.
- (8) A.O.C. Gib. is requested to arrange A/S air patrol.
- (9) Word "Ribband".
- (10) Cdre. Algiers pass to A.O.C. Eastern Command. (N.C.X.F. 0935Z/18 to Cdre. Algiers. F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Operation Arrived 0945 WELSHMAN.  
"Analysis" (V.A. Malta 1001A/18 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

ALBA JULIA ALBA JULIA (loaded for Istanbul) and CELENO (in  
CELENO ballast) arrived from Piraeus 18th. Latter bound for Black Sea: N.L.O. advised. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1008C/18 to S.O.I. Med. (R) S.I. Beirut. D.N.I.)

R/C Visual (?p.m. ?a.m.) 18th.  
(1) Naples, 3 Littorios. (2) Messina, 5 cruisers.  
(3) Taranto, 3 Cavours in Mare Grande.

Note 1 Cavour has moved from inner harbour since yesterday. (V.A. Malta 1026A/18 to C.S.15. N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med. etc.)  
My 2026/18. (?1026/18 intended) Add. (1) Naples, 11 destroyers 8 probably serviceable. (2) Messina, no destroyers seen. (V.A. Malta 1259A/18.)

TRAVELLER Your 1828/21 Oct. TRAVELLER completed, TAKU in  
TAKU hand. (C. in C. Med. 1046B/18 to Admty.)



MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

**MOST SECRET**

0935Z/18th November.

IN

From: C. in C. Middle East.

Date. 18.11.42.  
Time. 1430.

CYPHER.

Addressed: The War Office, Air Ministry, repeated British Army Staff Washington (Personal for F.M.Dill), C. in C. India, (Personal for Gen. Wavell), C. in C. Mediterranean, G.O.C. in C. Egypt, C. in C. Persia/Iraq (Personal for Gen. Wilson), L.H.Q. Melbourne (Personal for Gen. Blamey), C.G.S. New Zealand (Personal for Gen. Puttick), C.G.S. South Africa (Personal for F.M. Smuts)

MOST IMMEDIATE.

0/73203 cipher 18th November. 293189.

Cositrep 597. Part One.

1. 10 Corps. Day 17 November. Four Light Armd. Bdo. reported no contact with enemy as far as Aquaviva O 8048. Road blown up at Derna only foot traffic possible for some days. Tactical recon. reports road blown up in two places at P 2356. 11 Hussars column at Msus reported no movement seen as far as S 70 Easting Grid. 7 Armd. Div. located area T 4022. 2 Armd. Bdo. P 7005.
2. 30 Corps moving to Gambut area.
3. 13 Corps. 2 F.French Bdo. and one Greek Bdo. under command 44 Div. on 15th November, 44 Div. H.Q. 42643778.
4. Air. Follows as part two. All informed. War Office pass Air Ministry.

0935Z/18

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

Received from The War Office 1635/18

War Office circulation:

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MB



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

18 November.

From: C. in C. Middle East.

Date, 18.11.42,  
Time, 1610.CIPHER.

Addressed: The War Office (Pass to Air Ministry,) repeated  
British Army Staff Washington (Personal for F.M.  
Dill), C. in C. India (Personal for Gen. Wavell),  
C. in C. Mediterranean, G.O.C. in C. Egypt, C. in  
C. Persia/Iraq (Personal for Gen. Wilson), L.H.Q.  
Melbourne (Personal for Gen. Blamey), C.G.S. New  
Zealand (Personal for Gen. Puttick), G.C.S. South  
Africa (Personal for F.M. Smuts)

MOST IMMEDIATE.

O/73203 cipher 18th November. 293220.

Cositrep No. 597. Part two.

4. Air, 16th November. Fighters operating from advanced  
landing ground against M.T. Jalo and Jedabiya areas destroyed  
about 40 vehicles damaged twenty more. This force withdrawn  
evening 16th November. A Marauder made low level bombing attack,  
at dusk on barges in Benghazi Harbour setting one on fire.  
Night 16/17 Nov. Hurricanes patrolled between Tobruk and  
Sollum without incident. 17 Nov. Stormy weather conditions  
interfered with reception of reports. Fighters operating from  
Gazala attacked Benina aerodrome where thirteen JU 52's and  
HE 111's seen on ground and in air. Six shot down in flames  
six destroyed on ground. Remaining one damaged. Details  
further operations not yet available. Fighter patrols  
maintained over shipping along Western Desert Coast. Heavy  
rain again postponed move of fighter squadrons to Martuba.  
End of message. All informed.

0935Z/18th

Advance copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.  
Copies circulated by Air Ministry to :-  
S. of S. D.D.I.P.  
C.I.G.S. Duty Captain (Admiralty)  
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D.P. (2) Head of War Reg Admiralty  
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M.O.1,5,6, Brig. E.I.C.Jacob (15)  
D.M.I. Cabinet War Room  
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Recd. in War Registry. at 1635/18th Nov.

1st Ld. L.  
1st S.L. (2).  
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N.A. 1st S.L.  
D.O.D. (H)(2)  
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D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of P. (2)  
Duty Capt. (2)

Hd. of M.  
D.N.I. (4)  
I.P. (2)  
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W.D.  
Ad. Blake  
D.N.A.D.  
D.A.C.D.  
A.C.N.A.S.



# SECRET

SECRET

MESSAGE

1058Z/18th November.

From: H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East.

Date: 18/11/42

Recd. 2107A

IN

CYFHER

Addressed: Air Ministry, Whitehall. Repeated: Dechief Pretoria.

IMPORTANT : WX.7440.

N.674 18th November. Secret BI-weekly OPSUM No.74.

13th November. Hurricanes operating from advanced landing ground made 30 sorties against enemy MT on road between Benghazi and Ageila destroying about 20 vehicles damaging 65 others also shot down 1 Fieseler STORCH 2 Hurricanes missing.

Night 13/14th November. 5 Liberator 17 Wellingtons attacked harbour installations at Benghazi starting 2 fires in docks at bases of Moles. 1 Wellington bombed MT South of Benghazi. Results unobserved. Further 2 Wellingtons missing. Third Wellington which returned early crashed landing. Crew safe. 63000 lbs. H.E. enemy aircraft bombed Sollum area during night without damage.

14th November. Total 70 Kittyhawks 8 F.40s? with escort 24 Tomahawks (16?) F.40s. made 5 bombing attacks on enemy MT? in Mekili - Martuba area. Few good targets found but 10 MT destroyed about 25 damaged. 4 fires started 24 Kittyhawks 12? Tomahawks also made machine gun attacks. 30250 lbs. H.E. 17 Spitfires 33 Kittyhawks 12 Tomahawks offensive patrols and reconnaissances Martuba and Derna areas. No enemy aircraft seen E X B7s despatched to make midday attack on Benghazi? Harbour. Only 1 aircraft located target owing to low cloud. Bomb bursts unobserved but 2 columns smoke seen rising after attack. No enemy air activity reported during day. 38 Hurricanes protection of shipping off Alexandria and along Western Desert Coast.

1058Z/18.

- 1st L. 1st S.L. (2)
- 4th S.L. C.N.A.S.
- V.C.N.S. A.C.N.A.S.
- Nav. Sec. A.C.N.S. (F)
- C.D. (5) N.A.I.S.L.
- C.C.L.S. O.I.C. (3)
- Ops. (3) D. of P. (3)
- M. (2) I.P. (3)
- D.P.D. W.D.
- D.N.I. (5) Ad. Blake
- D.N.A.D. D.A.C.D.

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

Air Ministry Circulation:

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- P.U.S., D. of I. (O), D. of Plans,
- D.P. Policy (Overseas) (2), D.C.N.C.,
- D.P. Ops, D.W.O., D.D.C. II, P.R. &
- A.I.6, Duty Group Captain,

War Office (CS, Tels) (7) Admiralty (War Registry) (6) A.I.3.A.1.



800D

# SECRET

SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1128Z/18 November

From H. G. R.A.F. Middle East.

Date 19.11.42

Recd. 0026

Cypher.

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall. Repeated. Dechief Preteria.

IMPORTANT.

VX.7440. Pt. 2. Part two. My A. 674 18 November SECRET.

Two Spitfires photographed 2 Baltimore's strategic reconnaissances 5 Swordfish 1 Hudson 5 Walrus anti-submarine patrols and convoy escorts. Night 14/15 November. 8 Liberators bombed harbour installations Benghazi starting large fire in docks with explosions which threw debris high into air. Believed ammunition dump or train hit. 7 smaller fires started in dock area. 48000 lbs HE. Hurricanes machine-gunned enemy MT on roads north east of Benghazi starting several small fires. A single enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Daba causing negligible damage.

15 November. Fighters continued low-flying attacks throughout day on enemy MT withdrawing along roads between Cirene and Benghazi. Although cloud hampered observation results at least 4 MT? including 1 petrol lorry destroyed about 50 MT damaged majority of vehicles were troop carriers and heavy casualties were inflicted. Several fires started. Also shot down one Hell sortics were 34 Kittyhawks 14 P4Os.

Hurricanes operating from advanced landing-ground machine gunned Jedabya and Jalo landing grounds destroying two Ju87s (damaging 1 Cant Z 1007 1 ME.109. Column of MT and armoured car south of Jalo and MT on Jedabya - Agoila road attacked about 50 vehicles being destroyed and others damaged. 11 Spitfires 39 Kittyhawks 12 P4Os offensive patrols and reconnaissances over forward area and protective patrols during afternoon



during afternoon over eastbound HE convoys between Gazala and Sollum no enemy aircraft seen.

And part two three to come.

1128Z/18.

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**SECRET**

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1148Z/18th November.

From: H.Q. Middle East.

Date: 18.11.42.

Recd: 2132A

CIPHER

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall, Repeated Dechief  
Pretoria.

IMPORTANT

WX. 7440 (Part III) My A.674 18th November SECRET.

Convoys had been attacked by Me 109s and Me 110s during morning with some damage and casualties. 3 formations totalling 28 B24s despatched to make daylight attack on Tripoli Harbour were unable to reach target owing to bad weather. On return journey one B 24 bombed a merchant vessel in Gulf of Sirte claiming 1 near miss. 2 more B24s bombed MT Convoy South of Benghazi starting a fire among buildings near road. Each formation attacked by enemy fighters. 1 ME 109 shot down another damaged. One B24 forced landed West of Caddalena. 46 Hurricanes protection of shipping along Western Desert Coast and off Delta. 2 Spitfires photographic 2 Baltimores strategical 1 Bl7 shipping reconnaissances. 2 Blenheims 1 Walrus anti-submarine patrols. Fighter squadrons moved up to Gazala landing grounds in evening. Night 15/16 November Enemy aircraft bombed and machine-gunned targets between Tobruk and Gambut. No damage reported. One Hurricane up, no interceptions. 16th November. Low cloud severely restricted operations. 10 Kittyhawks machine-gunned Southbound MT South of Benghazi. Good targets found but details damage not available. Hurricanes operating for advanced landing ground against Et Jalo and Jedabya areas

\* destroyed



- 2 -

destroyed about 40 vehicles damaged 20 more. During operations same areas on 12 and 14 November these Hurricanes destroyed about 25 M/T damaged over 40 more.

End Part 3, part 4 coming.

1143Z/18.

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MESSAGE

1208Z/18th November IN

From H.Q. Mid East

Date 19.11.42

Recd. 0110A

CYPHER

Addressed Air Ministry Whitehall repeated Dechief

IMPORTANT.

WX.7440 Part 4 my A.674 18 November. Secret.

Also destroyed 3 CR 42s 1 S79 1 Fieseler Storch on ground 1 Hurricane missing. No details sorties received this force was withdrawn evening 16 Nov. 35 Kittyhawks patrols between Barce and Gazala one formation JU87s escorted by ME 109s intercepted near Barce. 1 ME 109 shot down 5 damaged 21 Tomahawks 30 Hurricanes 6 P40s protection of shipping off Delta and Western Desert Coast and in Bardia Area. 1 Tomahawk missing believed force landed near base. 2 Hurricanes shot down a reconnaissance JU88 35 miles north of Port Said. 4 of crew captured. 1 Hurricane missing. 2 Spitfires 1 Beaufighter photographic 1 Marauder shipping 1 Baltimore strategical reconnaissances. 3 Hudsons 2 Swordfish 2 Walrus anti-submarine patrols.

Move of fighter squadrons to Martuba postponed owing to waterlogged condition those landing-grounds. Two Marauders made offensive sweep for enemy shipping off Benghazi at dusk. No vessels seen. 1 Marauder made low level bombing attack on barges in Benghazi Harbour setting 1 on fire. Night 16/17 November. 10 Hurricanes patrolled between

Tobruk/.....



Tobruk and Sollum without incident. 17 Nov fighters operating from Gazala landing-grounds attacked aircraft by Benina? Aerodrome. Out of total 13 JU 52s and HE III's seen 6 were burnt out on ground 6 others shot down in flames remaining 1 was damaged.

End of part 4 part 5 follows.

1208Z/18

\*Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Received from Air Min. 0710/19

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# SECRET

800<sup>J</sup> 4

SECRET

MESSAGE 1238Z/18th November

IN

From: H.Q. Middle East

Date: 19.11.42

Cypher

Rec'd 0130A

Addressed: Air Ministry Whitehall. Repeated: Dechier.

WA. 7440 (Pt 5) Fifth and last part my A674 18 Nov Secret.

Stormy weather interfered with reception of reports and details other operations awaited 52 Hurricanes protection of shipping off Delta and western Desert coast.

3 Hudsons 3 Isleys 2 Wellesleys 1 Walrus anti-submarine patrols. Move of fighter squadrons to Martuba again delayed by heavy rain. My Opsum 73. Following details sorties received 12 November 40 Spitfires 82 Kittyhawks 40 P40s machine gun attacks 24 Kittyhawks bombing attacks on MT. 1 Me.109 damaged in combat 1 Kittyhawk damaged 18 Spitfires 6 Kittyhawks 12 Tomahawks offensive patrols and reconnaissances.

13 November 8 Spitfires 41 Kittyhawks 12 Tomahawks 16 P.40s machine gun attacks on MT Gazala-Lasluda area. Several direct hits about 7 fires started. 1 Kittyhawk shot down by A.A. fire one P40 forced landed. Same targets bombed by 8 P40s with escort 8 P40s 2 Hurricanes reconnaissance Mekili area.

End Part 5 end of message.

12387/18.

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Admiral Blake

A.C.N.A.S.

D.N.A.D.

D.C.D.

Ops.(3)

mdb



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation "Stoneage" Your 2229/17.  
 (1) P.C.S. of "Stoneage" at 1200B/18. 033° 01' N 022° 35' E 288° 13 knots increasing to about 14½ (?at) dark.  
 (2) Course direct for Malta with southern trend if circumstances dictate.  
 (3) Escort 5 cruisers 7 Fleet destroyers and 10 Hunts.  
 (4) Fighter cover on 18th, single engined from Martuba, Beaufighters from Gambut on 19th from Malta?  
 (5) After dark 18th. 15th C.S. and Fleet destroyers will move to northward ready to intercept Italian fleet, rejoining convoy next morning.  
 (6) Heavy bomber and torpedo striking ready from Gambut.  
 (7) If necessary dispersed merchant ships will each have 2 or 3 Hunts.  
 (8) E.T.A. Malta before daylight 20th Nov.  
 (9) Weather at present unfavourable for operations forward aerodromes.  
 (C. in C. Med. 1050B/18 to Admty.)

Algiers. Report re repair facilities.  
 (Cdre. Algiers 1111Z/18.) See Lion Copy.

Convoy E.T.1. Additional shipping protection signal for Wednesday 18th. 5 corvettes depart Algiers 1400Z/18 speed 13 knots. Routed through position 100 39 93 72. Will R/V on position (corrupt group) at 0700Z/19 with convoy E.T.1 from Oran westbound. Codeword "Hankey". Request fighter protection priority 2 until dusk today Wednesday. (Cdre. Algiers 1127/18 to A.O.C. E.A.C.)

ST. DAY. Tug ST. DAY is to be returned to Algiers in next convoy.  
 (F.O.I.S. 1152Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN. No ships will be sailed to Bougie from Algiers tonight.  
 ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN escorted by **ALBACORE** and **\*ALERT** will be sailed to arrive Bougie daylight 20th Nov.  
 (S.O.I.S. 1153Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

*See p. 804*  
 COXSWOLD E.T.3A D/Cs Philippeville. Your 1033Z/16 (N.T. in W.R.) **\*COTSWOLD** will return with E.T.3 (?A).  
 Sail one trawler to Philippeville under cover of darkness tonight to collect depth charges from N.O.I.C. Philippeville depth charges reserve (?will be) replenished 19th Nov.  
 (F.O.I.S. 1225A/18 to N.O.I.C. Bougie. (R) N.O.I.C. Philippeville. Cdre. Algiers.)

*\*COTSWOLD nil in 4d. Dest: COXSWOLD reporting at Chatham*

/Water...



# SECRET

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

SECRET

MESSAGE IIIIIZ/18th NovemberIN

FROM: Commodore Algiers.

DATE: 19.11.42.  
RECD: 2201

NAVAL CODE (K2) BY W/T AND T/P.

Addressed: Commander X.F. Repeated F.O. Inshore Squadron.

Following from P B E O. Repair facilities at Algiers.

Very impressed at relationship with French naval authorities who are co-ordinating employment of local private firms and use of docks and slips in our interest. Firms number 12 and about 700 men employed on our work; Costs same as for French Navy; Standard of work appears good. Arrangements made for naval arsenal to carry out armament repairs. Self contained bases have been established for M.L.'s, M.H.'s, Landing Craft and boom defences. H.M.S. \*VINDICTIVE on arrival will be valuable asset. Craneage facilities good. Repairs generally on a small scale but considered satisfactory maintenance and after action repairs can be carried out within limitations imposed by size and number of docks. Local stocks of materials very low. No electrical stores in K.M. 2. Lists being prepared to meet our own and French requirements which probably obtainable at Gibraltar. Party IRON requested to assist in repair work and for distribution on coast. Not considered desirable or necessary to use mobile squad. Electrical supplies in full flow but stocks of fuel short. Ample storage space for fuel oil. Some damage to Mory's tanks by enemy action and to chemicals not affecting situation. Good lighterage available. Coaling facilities good. Letter follows.

\* 5 p.803

IIIIIZ/18

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MAG P.A.S.(3)	D.G.D. (2)	W.D.	
EO P.A.S.(0)			



802

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Water  
for M/Vs.

Every effort should be made to supply (corrupt group) especially troopers, with sufficient water to reach U.K. (corrupt group) from North African ports as supply of and facilities for giving water at Gibraltar are negligible.  
(P.S.T.O. X.F. 1230Z/18 to D.S.T.Os Algiers etc.)

P.222

S/M situation in Western Med. at 2000Z/18.

P.51

(1) P.222 36.40 N 50 10 30 proceed on the surface 11 knots 5 miles off Spanish Coast to Gibraltar to arrive 1000/19.

See 12.792

(2) P.51 38.05 N 00.28 W dive by day  $2\frac{1}{2}$  knots, proceed 5 miles off Spanish Coast to Gibraltar surface speed adjusted to pass  $180^\circ$  Cape de Gata 5 miles at 1200/20 and to arrive Gibraltar 1000/21.

(N.C.X.F. 1230Z/18 to S &amp; A Area G.)

P.37

1 convoy  $38^\circ 23' N 12^\circ 41' E$  course  $270^\circ$  speed 13.  
(P.37 1233Z/18, 1246A/18 to Capt. S.10. S/Ms on patrol.)

Enemy  
convoy.

See p.804

Your 1233Z/18. Make amplifying report, type ship, number funnels of important unit.

(Capt. S.10. 1445A/18 to P.37.)

Your 1445. Details doubtful. At least 3 fairly large cargo vessels 130 revs per minute. Torpedoes expended. Returning through ( $?330^\circ$ ) Marittimo Light 19th.

(P.37 1645A/18 to Capt. S.10.)

P.37's 1645/18. S/Ms dive at B. P.37 at 0430A. P.35 at 0600A/19 Nov. P.37 to arrive at F and R/V with sweeper as in my 1331/18. S/Ms are not to cross  $036^\circ N$  before 0700A/20.

(Capt. S.10 2154A/18 to P.35. P.37 (R) S/Ms on patrol.)

P.35.

Leave patrol after dark tonight through  $038^\circ 23' 012^\circ 28'$  and B to arrive F dawn 20th Nov. thence on surface to R/V with sweepers at 1335A/20.

My 1620/17 convoy may leave Palermo tonight and offer you an attack. UTMOST pass Q.B.B. 255 westbound daylight 19th at 80 ft.

(Capt. S.10. 1331A/18 to P.35. (R) S/Ms on patrol.)

Your 1331/18 expect me 24 hours late (?through) (position B?) at 0015A/20 passing Q.B.B. 255 at 80 feet to E by 1900A/20 approaching R/V in sector north of  $240^\circ$  from end of searched channel on surface daylight 21st.

(P.35 1912A/18 to Capt. S.10. (R) TURBULENT. V.A. Malta. S/Ms on patrol.)

Shipping  
E.T.O.l.

Your 1431/17. E.T.O.l sailing 0730/19, OCEAN LIBERTY (Cdre.) CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, ZEBULON B VANCE to Gibraltar for U.K. BRISK, (Nells Point) LOCKEE, META to Gibraltar, S of A  $7\frac{1}{2}$  knots, routed in accordance with your 2008/14th.  
(F.O.C. ?Oran 1344Z/18 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers.)

/Dispositions...



803

War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Dispositions. Brief situation report for area west of Algiers 2002Z/18. S/Ms excepted.

1. T.E.5 leaving Gibraltar 2200Z/18 through positions 28 and 73 thence 109° 7.
2. 5 corvettes sail from Algiers about 2100Z/18 through position 39 to position 2 at 0700Z/19.
3. Forces of A.T.B. Fleet Units 035° 42' N 003° 08' W through position K K to pass Gibraltar at 0330Z/19. (N.C.X.F. 1402Z/18 to S & A Area G.)

U/B  
damaged.

U-Boat attacked and severely damaged by A/C in 035° 10' N 011° 35' W at 1325Z/18, probably unable to dive. Course 80° 9 knots. (N.C.X.F. 1410Z/18 to N.C.W.N.T.F. VERITY. U.S. Ship BARNEGAT.)

Visit of  
N.C.X.F.  
to Oran  
and  
Algiers.

- (1) I visited Oran and Algiers in AURORA on 16th and 17th Nov. respectively.
- (2) Oran - berthing of ships has been well done. There are (?seventeen) ships in Oran Harbour with remainder in Arzeu and Mers el Kebir. In a few days block in inner harbour should be opened sufficiently to allow further 13 ships to be berthed in inner harbour with draft limit of 24 feet.
- (3) Arzeu - better than originally expected and should be worth about 2500 tons per day with 6 ships working. Net defence required.
- (4) Mers el Kebir plenty of berthing space for Force H without in any way interfering with the unloading of ships. Large quantity of equipment and plenty of boats available. Floating crane unfortunately sunk by RODNEY's bombardment. *See p. 789*
- (5) French Navy have been permitted to re-man their batteries. French are co-operating in the A.A. defence and warning system. Relations between U.S. General and French Authorities most cordial.
- (6) I called on French Admiral. He was icily polite. I listened to his complaints. He is anti-British but is co-operating fully with Admiral Bennett.
- (7) Algiers - all ships for discharge berthed alongside. Port well organised and getting into its stride. French officials co-operating fully. Number of discharging berths slightly smaller than hoped but when French shipping is cleared a full K.M.S. convoy can be accepted. (Portion of message corrupt)
- (8) Use of ocean tonnage to bring supplies to North Africa. Commercial and M.W.T. representatives in North Africa is most desirable. I have directed 8 Admty. colliers to load iron ore and trust it is wanted.
- (9) Docking and repair. 1 small floating dock Oran serviceable but being used as salvage lift. 1 with heavy list due to capsized submarine. Large floating dock sunk but hope to salvage two small graving docks at Algiers used to dock STORK and M.Ls. In general repair facilities encouraging.
- (10) My intentions are to use Arzeu and Oran for cargo discharge, Mers el Kebir as anchorage for Force H and personnel, discharge MAIDSTONE to Algiers next week, \*VINDICTIVE to Mers el Kebir.\* *See p. 801A*
- (11) In general the situation is satisfactory and ports are working well. At Oran discharge is too slow but I anticipate better things. Bougie, Philippeville and Bone are open but Philippeville has no fighter protection. A.A. defences adequate but R.D.F. still entirely naval. S.D.O. developing well. (N.C.X.F. 1420Z/18.)

/E.T. convoys...



804

War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

E.T. Convoys. Empty tankers should be included in E.T. convoys. (N.C.X.F. 1426Z/18 to Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oran. (R) F.O.I.S. Sqdn.)  
TON 7 para No. 28. Delete all references to E.T.1 and amend first column to read E.T.1 to E.T.6 respectively.  
(N.C.X.F. 1530Z/18 to F.O.I.C. Oran. Cdre. Algiers. N.O.I.C. Bone. N.O.I.C. Bougie. N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)

Enemy convoy. *See p. 802*  
Seems probable convoy sighted by P.37 at 1333A is southbound to Tripoli and that Tunis bound shipping is still at Palermo. My 1620/17 is in force for tonight.  
(Capt. S.10. 1531A/18 to S/Ms on patrol. (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.)

Bougie. Situation 1530. Heavy swell hindering unloading. DERWENTHALL anchored as berth too exposed. Forecast of date of completion. EVIVA 19th. OCEAN VISTA and CITY OF NORWICH 20th. ARTEMUS WARD 23rd, DERWENTHALL 27th.  
First 3 sailings p.m. 20th can take 3 more here a.m. 20th. Inner boom working, army smoke gear ready, ALARM only escort in port.

(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1544A/18 to F.O.I.S.)  
No ships will be sailed to Bougie from Algiers tonight. ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN escorted by ALBACORE and \*ALERT will be sailed to arrive Bougie daylight 20th Nov. *See p. 801*  
(F.O.I.S. 1553Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

\* *Label Ship + Trawler of this name both in U.K.*

R/C. Visual 1310A/18th. (1) Taranto 3 battleships. (2) Messina obscured by cloud. (V.A. Malta 1558A/18 to Ships concerned in "Stoneage" (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)  
Afternoon visuals 18th Nov.  
(1) Taranto at 1520A 3 battleships. (2) Naples at 1430A 3 battleships. (3) Messina at 1516A 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers (note ships reported are destroyers were in usual cruiser berths. Photographic confirmation later.)  
(V.A. Malta 1746A/18 to C.S.15. C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.S. (R) S.O. Force H. F.O.C.N.A. Admty. N.C.C.N.T.F.)  
My 1746/18 add:  
1. Naples 4 cruisers (2 under repair) and unknown number destroyers.  
2. Messina photographs failed.  
(V.A. Malta 2038A/18.)

C.S.15. Your force was reported by Ju. 88 at 1217B today Wed. course west. German frequency 5750 K/cs. (C. in C. Med. 1658A/18 to C.S.15.)



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.F.3 Admty. 1918A/17 and C. in C. W.A. 1232A/17.  
*see p 791A9*  
*792C.* K.M.F.3 should pass Europa Point at 2230Z/20.  
 Route thence through  
 (J) 36.15 N., 04.33 W. (K) 36.17 N., 03.02 W.  
 to arrive in (L) 36.06 N., 00.52 W., at 1500Z/21st when Oran  
 portion will part company.  
 2. Remaining portion continues through  
 (M) 37.00 N., 01.12 E., to arrive (N) 37.00 N., 03.00 E. at  
 0630Z/22. WESTON pass to Commodore.  
 (N.C.X.F., 1701Z/18 to WESTON).

BASARABIA, My 1823 Nov. 16th. No confirmation report  
 TRANSILVANIA. is forthcoming.  
 (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1744C/18 to S.O.(I)  
 Med., (R) S.I., D.N.I.)

P.221, Take up following positions with despatch  
 P.247. P.221, 275° Canirock 6 miles, P.247 117°,  
 Plane Island 19 miles.  
 (Capt. S.I.O., 1829A/18 to P.221, P.247, (R)  
 S/M on patrol).

Force H. Arrived Mers el Kebir 1200Z S.O. Force H. in  
 NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, SIRIUS,  
 ARGONAUT, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, TARTAR, PATHFINDER,  
 PORCUPINE, PENN, PARTRIDGE, VANOC, METEOR,  
 LOOKOUT, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE.  
 (S.O. Force H., 1834Z/18 to N.C.X.F. (R)  
 Admty. F.O.I.S.)

ARETHUSA ARETHUSA hit by torpedo at 1805 in 033°  
 torpedoed. 36' 020° 44'. JAVELIN and one destroyer ordered  
 to take ARETHUSA to eastward.  
 (C.S.15 1835B/18 to C. in C. Med., (R)  
 F.O.I.S., V.A. Malta, JAVELIN, ARETHUSA).  
 Have asked S.O. Force I if you can enter Tobruk if  
 necessary. Tug is available at Tobruk if you require it.  
 Fighter protection will be arranged at daylight. Report P.C.  
 and S.  
 (C. in C. Med., 2014B/18 to ARETHUSA, (R) JAVELIN).  
 Position 033° 26' N., 021° 20' E. course 110° S. of A.  
 14 knots E.T.A. Alexandria 0600B/20th. ARETHUSA fire under  
 control compartment forward of 61 bulkhead not yet accessible.  
 Request E.T.A. A/S escort. PETARD only escort.  
 (PETARD, 2115B/18 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

P.44 P.44 will be approaching from Northward to make  
*see p.799* landfall off Ras Khara p.m./19th Nov. before  
 entering her area.  
 (Capt. S.I.O., 1844A/18 to PORPOISE (R) Subs.  
 on Patrol).

/Toulon....



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Toulon, Marseilles, R/C. G/970 18 Nov. P.R.U. sortie C/618 dated 18 Nov. time 1130 hrs. shows:-  
Toulon since 16 Nov. three S/Ms arrived in port, one of which seen approaching harbour on that date. Total of S/Ms now present is twenty of which four are building in in dry dock. Only other changes in shipping are internal movements of one Suffren class cruiser to former berth in Darse Castigneau, one S/M from dry dock, and change of berth of one S/M. Two Loire 130 A/C present off Port Lagoubran. Marseilles since 8 Nov. one liner 360 feet and six M/Vs 300/500 ft. departed and probably no M/Vs over 200 ft. arrived. Shipping shows much greater internal change than previously and shipping now much more evenly dispersed throughout port. (P.R.U. Benson, 1855A/18 to Admty etc).

→ WHEATLAND, WILTON. Expected time of arrival 2215A/18 WILTON in in company.  
(WHEATLAND, 1857A/18 to S.O.I.S. (R) Cdre. Algiers).

Movements Oran. Bougie 0610 (corrupt group) N.C.X.F. 1644A/4 Nov. (2) EDAY, KERPARA (?KERRERA intended) CORIOLANUS, ROUSAY, SHIANT, HUNDA left for Arzeu. (?F.O.I.C. Oran, 1910/18 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Movements Algiers. Algiers arrival ZETLAND, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX.  
Departures. Eastward WILTON, WHEATLAND (\*COWDRAY) RONALDSAY M.Ls. 283, 295, all escorting T.E.3 A.  
\*LOTUS, DIANELLA, POPPY, \*STARWORT (corrupt group) to Gibraltar.  
(Cdre. Algiers, 1917A/18 to Admty. (R) Naval Comdr. X.F. S.O.I.S.)  
*\* not mentioned in movements of H.P. Ship*

Malta Air Report. I. 113, 18 Nov. C.S.R.  
Night 17/18 Nov. 1 Ju. 88 was severely damaged and another Ju.88 was destroyed by one intruder Beaufighter patrolling over Comiso aerodrome Sicily. Another Beaufighter on intruder patrol over Pantellaria aerodrome returned early owing to bad weather. Day 18th Nov. Today 17 Spitfire sorties have been made to protect arrival of friendly \*cruiser (WELSHMAN) bringing food and supplies from Gibraltar; cruiser arrived safely. (A.H.Q., Malta, 1932/18). *\* mislayed.*

/Day...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday,FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con. N.

Malta Air Report. Day 17th November. 1415 hours one M/V 4,000 tons stationary off Khoms. 0840 hours 304° Benghazi 180 miles one tanker 8,000 tons 2 D/Rs course 220° speed 10 knots. Night 17/18 Nov. One Wellington 8 carrying flares and 2 Albacore carrying torpedoes made a highly successful attack on an 8,000 ton tanker sighted 0840. At 2010 hours, Special Wellington found 055° Khoms 46 miles the tanker and two (D/Rs?) course 290° speed 10 knots and dropped 3 flares. Albacores attacked dropping two duplex (contact?) torpedoes from 55 feet range 550 yard depth setting 9 feet both torpedoes hitting tanker amidships causing large explosion. Tanker heeled over blazing furiously and fire was visible 80 miles away. In spite of bad weather Wellingtons made 7 sorties in successful attack on El Aouina aerodrome (details). (A.H.Q., Malta, 1958/18, 2010A/18). *1-779*

Enemy Units, 1 large Merchant ship 2 destroyers in position  
PARTHIAN. 000° Gallo Light 5 miles course 280° 12 knots  
at 2030A/18th.  
(PARTHIAN, 2041A/18 to Capt. (S) 10th S.F. (R)  
C. in C. Med).

My 2041. Visibility under  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in heavy rain squalls.  
Enemy last sighted course 270° at 2057. Nothing in sight for  
6 miles at 2315 in 038° 27' 012° 48'. Consider enemy speed at  
least 15 knots. Delay caused by defective W/T apparatus.

(PARTHIAN, 2325A/18 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med).

No 2 battery tank partially flooded leak through  
pressure hull. Severe evacuation of gas tank shut down.  
Battery very low. Regret am forced to abandon chase. Propose  
to steer westward tonight diving in 038° 42' 012° 13' to test  
possibility of complete day diving, N.W. gale heavy sea.  
(PARTHIAN, 2355A/18 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med.,  
Fleet, Capt. (S) 1st Submarines on patrol).

P.43 Delayed by passage of WELSHMAN. Request  
permission to proceed on the surface after  
passing F. at 0600A/19th as in your 0032A/16.  
(P.43 2043Z/18 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) V.A.M.)

Transport of Your 1245/16 para. 3. Limitation does not  
Prisoners. apply between Suez and South Africa.  
(D.S.T., 2158A/18 to P.S.T.O.E.)

ROBERTS My 2245/11th and my 2215/13th now evident 2  
bombs hit ship (damaged). Repair work in  
progress. Ship steamable. Probable date of  
completion 21st Nov.  
(ROBERTS, 2237/18).



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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy  
Intelligence  
15 C.S.

Weather conditions off Messina and Taranto are bad and warning of break out tonight cannot be guaranteed.

2. If they have left above Ports, hope to have P.R.U. report by 0730A.  
(V.A. Malta, 2329A/18 to F.O.C. 15th C.S. (R) C. in C. Med).

Enemy  
Destroyers.

P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 37° 22' N.,  
16° 8' E., 315° 20 knots.  
(A/C S W 7 Y 2340/18 to Air H.Q. Malta).



War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

BENGAL Your 0850/17. (N.T. in W.D.) Details of action,  
ONDINA same as 1413Z/18, q.v.  
(raider (BENGAL 0130Z/18 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)  
action Your 1328Z/17 (N.T. in W.D.) Sighted two probable  
11th Nov.) Japanese Raiders. Turned away with tanker which  
was given R/V for 24 hours later and ordered to  
act independently. Turned for and engaged enemy.  
Larger raider hit at 3000 yards in after magazine and set heavily  
on fire. Later a second very large explosion seen on this raider  
who was not subsequently sighted. Second raider drew away from  
tanker. Engagement broken off by BENGAL. Retired behind smoke  
screen. Both raiders of Kunikawa Maru Class larger of which was  
sunk approx. 10,000 tons. Smaller approx. 8,000 tons and each  
fired broadside of 4 from main armament. Own casualties nil.  
(BENGAL 1413Z/18 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon.  
A.C.N.B. etc.)

ONDINA reports she and BENGAL attacked by 2 Japanese raiders  
in 019° 45' S 092° 40' E at 1130 ships time 11th Nov. 1 raider  
of about 15,000 tons was hit by ONDINA aft and amidships. After  
an explosion she sank. Second raider of about 10,000 tons and  
similar in class to KANIMBLA with 2 masts, guns mounted in  
forecastle, well deck and poop. Second raider hit ONDINA with 2  
torpedoes and gunfire and then broke off the action to pick up  
survivors from first raider. Sunk raider 2 aircraft on poop.  
No service personnel killed. Some wounded. Master and Chief  
Engineer and 3 Chinese crew killed. Second raider has at least  
8 4.7 guns, twin torpedo tubes, one after well deck and 2  
Catapult monoplanes, single-engine aircraft. Ammunition used  
apparently British. Hull painted grey, cruiser stern and rake  
bows. Written report to follow.

(Cdre. W. Australia 0345Z/18 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. etc.)

H.M.I.S. BENGAL's 1044/11 and Cdre. W. Australia's 0345/18.  
Please signal full story\* with times and bearings of open and cease  
fire of BENGAL's and ONDINA's action with raiders. Admty. will  
co-ordinate these and then intend issuing communique allowing for  
simultaneous release in Australia, India and U.K.  
Request no local communique be issued prior to this.

(Admty. 1715A/18 to F.O.C.R.I.N. Cdre. W. Australia.)

\* See page 890A

LOUISE Survivors report LOUISE MOLLER torpedoed by U-Boat  
MOLLER approx. 600 miles E of Durban at 0800/13 Nov.  
(torpedoed (C. in C. E.F. 0826Z/18 to Admty. (R) S.O.I.  
13th. Nov.) Colombo.)

EMPIRE Following has been read. SSSS 09° 54' N 80° 50' E,  
MIST EMPIRE MIST sighted submarine at 1123/18.  
U/B. (Colombo W/T 1125Z/18.)

BADARPUR Your 0817/18 Nov. to C. in C. E.F. only. Sail  
BADARPUR for Port Sudan to comply with A.M.  
1634/11 Nov. On completion inspection N.O.I.C.  
Port Sudan is requested (Tanker message) to report by signal  
prefixed immediately balance of cargo remaining.  
(C. in C. E.F. 1242Z/18 to Aden. (R) Admty.)



WARNING: THIS IS AN IMPRAPHASED VERSION OF A SECRET  
CYPHER OR CONFIDENTIAL CODE MESSAGE, AND THE TEXT  
MUST FIRST BE DECRYPTED BY THE AUTHORITY TO COMMUNICATE  
WITH THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS

8097

**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 11537/18th November. IN

FROM: N.O.I.C. Colombo DATE: 19.11.42.  
RECD: 2245

NAVAL CYPHER A.(3) BY W/T & T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty C. in C. Eastern Fleet,  
Cdre. R.I.N. S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

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Secret Ceylon Movement Summary Number 25 of  
18th November, Reference Movement Summary Number 24.

(i) H.M.S. FALMOUTH D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAN,  
and BOMBAY, escorting BP 60 due Khor Kuwait  
21st November.

(ii) H.M.S. SUTLEJ escorting P B 12 due Bombay  
22nd November.

(iv) SONAVATI and HIRAVATI escorting P B 11 due  
Bombay 17th November.

(vi) H.M.S. MARGUERITE escorting B M 31. due  
Trincomalee 18th November.

(viii) H.M.S. LAUNCESTON escorting SINGU arrived  
Colombo 14th November.

(ix) LN.574+ , escorting P A 11 due Aden 24th November.  
(H.M.I.S. INVESTIGATOR did not sail with convoy).

Summary Number 25.

(1) H.M.A.S. LISMORE left Colombo 17th November  
due Addu Atoll 19th November, thence ~~decked~~ escort  
Cable Ship JOHN W. MACKAY to Colombo.

(2) H.M.S. SPRINGTIDE left Colombo 16th November  
due Seychelles 24th November, sailing 25th November,  
due Kilindini leaving Trincomalee 18th November, due  
Calcutta 23rd November.

11537/18

1st S.L.(2) Advance copies Ops. O.D. Trade.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

A.C.N.S.(T)

N.A.1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

Hd. of M.(13)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D. of P.(2)

D. of S.F.

D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(M)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

D.C.(2)

Ad. Blake.

D.S.D.

D.M.S.

D.N.L.O.

+ Name of ship not on War Reg.  
list of L.N. Nos.



War Diary.

18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

"R"  
report.

Following heard on 500 K/cs at 1341Z/18 RRRR strength Q S A 5. No D/F bearing obtained. My position (?344°) 18° S 89° E 22. Patrol vessel remaining in this vicinity 48 hours. Request shipping in this area. (KANIMBLA 1401Z/18 to F.O.I.C. Ceylon. Cdre. W. Australia. (R) C. in C. E.F.)



18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Atlantic  
 Narrows  
 Patrol.

Cominch 0247/18.  
 W.D. Note. The information contained in this  
 signal was promulgated by F.O.C.W. Af 1910Z/18  
 q.v.

Attacks on  
 O.N.S.144.

My 2337Z/17th. O.N.S.144 continuously attacked  
 by U-Boats. At least 6 ships torpedoed, number  
 uncertain until search completed, escort running  
 short of depth charges, 2 now very low.  
 (C.T.U. 24.1.4 0551Z/18 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav,  
 Admty. etc.)  
 See also 1011Z/18.

S.C.109  
 attacked,  
 5.5 BRILLIANT  
 torpedoed.

1 ship torpedoed in 050° 53' N. 045° 46' W.  
 Weather report ? ?  
 (C.T.U. 24.1.13 0900Z/18 to Connav.)  
 My 0900. Torpedoed ship SS BRILLIANT afloat and  
 capable of steaming 3 knots. Ordered to return  
 St. John N.F. SACKVILLE screening her until air  
 cover obtainable. Request tugs.  
 (SKEENA 1034Z/18 to Connav.)  
 Torpedoed tanker BRILLIANT's P.C. and S. 50° 40' N. 46° 8' W.  
 232° 5 knots. Air escorts joining, am proceeding to rejoin  
 convoy. Weather.  
 (SACKVILLE 1432Z/18, 1625Z/18 to Connav.)  
 TENACITY escorted by THREE RIVERS sailed p.m. 18th Nov.  
 to assistance of SS BRILLIANT. Air cover arranged.  
 (F.O.N.F. 1455Z/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.13, (R) Admty. etc.)  
 TENACITY escorted by THREE RIVERS departed St. Johns  
 1709Z/18/11 to assist SS BRILLIANT torpedoed in 50° 53' N.  
 45° 46' W.  
 (F.O.N.F. 2024Z/18 to Admty. for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q.  
 C.O.A.C.)

Air Report,  
 Attacks  
 on U/Bs.

A.821 Operations Nov. 17. Times G.M.T.  
 (B) A/S Sorties 14. Enemy sightings 2. Digby  
 Y 10 Squadron attacked U-Boat on surface at 1903  
 position 41.36 N. 63.38 W. U-Boat on course 060°  
 at 15 knots when attacked. No visible results  
 of attack. Canso A X of 5 Squadron sighted U-Boat approx. 30  
 miles behind S.C.109, position 48.56 N. 48.33 W. at 1410 too  
 distant for attack.  
 (E.A.C. Halifax 0915Z/19.)

Movements  
 summary.

1800 G.M.T. 18th November.  

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
BRIDGEWATER	17° N. 34° W.	180°	12
ASTURIAS	12° N. 26° W.	Patrol	Blank

 (D.O.D.(F) 0950Z/18 to Opanav (R) Commaveu.)

/O.N.S. 144 ...



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War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- O.N.S.144,  
MONTBRETIA  
torpedoed by  
U.624. (G.D.443)  
MONTBRETIA torpedoed 0800Z/18 053° 37' N. 038° 15' W. Some survivors picked up, am remaining short while. Depth charges left POTENTILLA 40, ROSE 41, EGLANTINE 62, VERVAIN 63. Request additional escort. Weather report.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.4 1011Z/18 to C.T.F. 24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G.24.7.)
- EMPIRE  
CHAUCER. Capetown's 1536/2nd. Master and 14 survivors landed Trinidad by EMPIRE SQUIRE report:  
(A) EMPIRE CHAUCER sunk 0430Z/17th Oct. in 040° 20' S. 018° 30' E.  
(B) S.M. Young, Chief Officer, J. Fryer, Apprentice, unaccounted for when 2 other boats with 36 got away.  
(C) Secret mail from Colombo to Admty. jettisoned. C.O.I.S. Kilindini pass to C. in C. Eastern Fleet.  
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1022R/18 to Admty. etc.)
- PORT  
FREMANTLE,  
U/B. Following received. 1216 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. 266° Gonio. B. B.A.M.S. PORT FREMANTLE D R, submarine sighted. 1200 G.M.T. 42.24 N. 37.40 W.  
(Lands End Radio 1318/18.)
- Service  
Personnel. Following is extract from P.S.T.O. Capetown 1143/6 Nov. (Begins) Requests confirmation that Allied Service personnel should not be included in the limits of 250 per service but that they should have their own separate categories. This question is likely to arise in connection with American personnel (ends).  
2. Request you will endeavour to obtain U.S. agreement to their Service personnel travelling in accordance with British rules in areas of British strategic control.  
3. A.M. 1934/11 August refers.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1402A/18 to B.A.D.)
- FIREDRAKE,  
→ O.N.S.144. When ready for sea about 1930Z/18th, proceed best speed to join O.N.S.144 and remain as long as possible in order to refuel at St. Johns N.F. and sail Nov. 24th. for (corrupt group).  
(C.T. 24 1415Z/18 to FIREDRAKE (R) Connav, C.T.U. 24.1.4, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.144,  
6 U/Bs. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1410Z/18th. Other transmissions on 10510 k/cs indicate 6 submarines in your area.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1424/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) C.T.U. 24.1.15.)  
Sighting report in 10510 k/cs by poor D/F at 1535Z/18th and 1539Z/18th in your area.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1604/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) C.T.U. 24.1.15.)

/Further ...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - 20/17:-

O.N.S.144,  
6 U/Bs.  
(contd.) Further transmissions on 10510 k/cs between  
0909Z/18th and 1426Z/18th indicate several  
U-Boats still in your vicinity.  
(N.S.H.Q. 1732Z/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.4, C.O.A.C.  
F.O.N.F (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A., C.N.O.)

O.N.S.144, P.C. and S. 1800Z/18 052° 58' N. 039° 54' W. 221°  
(? 7). Ships torpedoed TIRYAKA (N.T. in Lloyds) 52 survivors.  
MOSCHA D. KYDONIEFS (41?) known survivors of MOUNT TAURUS,  
PRESIDENT SERGENT, (corrupt group) survivors, VAN DE VELDE and  
1 other. Also MONTBRETIA, 27 survivors. Weather report.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.4 1901Z/18 to C.T.F. 24.)

Takoradi Cominch C. and R. 1515/18.  
Congestion. See South Atlantic.

Reports from Your 0004A/17th (re limiting report from ships  
M/Vs. of 15 knots or more) After careful reconsideration  
your 2246/7th desire to retain existing  
instructions or eliminate H.F. position reports  
entirely. If existing instructions are retained suggest they  
be modified so that three day report will not be required when  
vessel is within two days sailing of position where report is now  
made indicating time of arrival in New York or U.K.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet C. & R. 1549/18 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B S/M estimates 18th Nov. and U.S. S/M Notice.  
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1615/18, 2146/18.)

U/B. A.D.C. report S/M sighted 047° 34' N. 053° 02' W.  
at 1545/18th.  
(C.O.A.C. 1624Z/18 to G.B. 7 A.)

Floating My 2229/4 (Request proposals re date and escort  
Dock. arrangements for tugs) Completion date of tugs  
most unreliable. Unlikely dock can sail before  
1st January.  
(B.A.D. 1629Z/18 to R.A.W.A.)

SEMINOLE, Have you any news of U.S. ships SEMINOLE,  
COLORADO, ALAMO due New York 7/11 ex convoy  
ALAMO. O.N.S. 140.  
(D.T.D. 1743A/18 to N.S.H.Q.)

ESTRELLA, Your 1131R/17. ESTRELLA (Nor.) and BLACKHEATH  
BLACKHEATH. (Br.) arrived Recife 4/11, 5/11 respectively.  
(D.T.D. 1814A/18 to S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

/Western ...



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War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Western  
Support  
Force.

In view of repeated attacks on trans-Atlantic convoys in area between 35° and 45° West, mainly outside present range of shore-based aircraft, and the much reduced threat to these convoys in area west of Cape Race, where provision of air coverage is easier, request urgent consideration may be given to following proposal as a temporary measure for augmenting escort of these convoys whilst traversing former area.

2. All destroyers be withdrawn from W.L.E.F. and formed into groups based on St. John's N.F. and known as Western Support Force. One group to join each H.X. and S.C. convoy off C. Race to reinforce the escort as far as about 35° W. when it would transfer to a Northerly routed O.N. convoy and return with it to vicinity of St. Johns. Southerly routed O.N. convoys would not normally receive this additional escort, but should one of these convoys be attacked a suitable support group could be switched over to such convoy if available.

3. Owing to low endurance of these destroyers, it is suggested that they should whenever possible fuel from tankers in the eastbound convoy.

4. Foregoing is regarded as emergency measure to meet existing situation and would be subject to review as necessary in event of change in U-Boat dispositions.

(D.T.D. approved A.C.N.S.(T) 1920A/18 to Connav)

Concur.

(Cominch 1347/20) See also Admty. 1615A/22. [P. 452]

EASTGATE,  
leakage  
through  
H/F W/T.

Not sent to Capetown. British SS EASTGATE arrived 17th departure 18th for Panama.  
(1) Master infers leakage of information Capetown as submarine activity in approach route as far south as 040° 30' S. 019° 37' and 021° 42' E.  
(2) Master states that ships which were heard

to acknowledge diversion signal as ordered were attacked within 12 hours. Suggest that ships should not be ordered to use H/F W/T except for S O S in that area.

(N.C.S.O. Punta Arenas 1930/18 to N.A. Santiago De Chile (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo.)

U/B.

Fishermen sighted S/M periscope 045° 39' 30" N. 060° 15' 45" W. at 1100/18th.  
(C.O.A.C. 2005Z/18 to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F.24, Connav etc.)

LORD KELVIN,  
MEADOWSWEET,  
BUTTERMERE,  
WASTWATER.

Your 1222/16 LORD KELVIN will be sailed Nov. 20th for position 38° 29' N. 64° 00' W. escorted by MEADOWSWEET.  
2. Request BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER be sailed Nov. 26th to relieve MEADOWSWEET as escort for LORD KELVIN until completion of cable repairs.  
(N.S.H.Q. 2025Z/18 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

/U.G.S.2 ...



War Diary.18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- U.G.S.2. Following is Connav's 1440/18.  
U.G.S.2 31° 59' 53° 30' 119° 9, (altering  
in 50° 45' W. to 093°)  
(Commaveu 2052/18 to Admty.)
- Operation "Torch". In order to estimate tonnage requirements and availability would appreciate summary of names and flags all foreign merships sunk or damaged at Algiers, Oran, Bougie, Bone, with preliminary comment on whether salvageable plus names remaining foreign merships in these ports in serviceable condition.  
(Opnav 2111/18 to Admty.)  
Information being obtained.  
(D.T.D. 1135Z/20.)
- Sub.Attack & Sighting Summary. Unidentified torpedoed 53.37 N. 38.15 W.  
0800Z/18. R.C.A.F. Plane attacks Sub. 41.36 N. 63.38 W. 1903Z/17 course 060. Hudson Plane attacks Sub. 15.20 N. 59.20 W. 1340Z/18.  
Para. B. Liberty G.L.O. one torpedo miss area 51.02 N. 28.15 W. 10th September. Plane sights Sub. on surface 48.56 N. 48.33 W. 1415Z/17.  
Para. C. Shorewater sights Sub. 46.55 N. 55.50 W. 1710Z/17.  
Sub. sighted 42.24 N. 37.40 W. 1221Z/18 and 47.34 N. 53.02 W. 1545Z/18.  
Para. D. S.C. 704 and 505 attack sound contacts 40.25 N. 69.30 W. 0322 and 1315Z/08.  
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2142/18 to Admty.)
- M/V Casualties. Connav Serial 18. ZVHAD Yugo-Slavian sunk in collision 37.27 S. 150.17 E. date unknown.  
KAPAPA aground off Adelaide 17th November.  
7 unidentified ships torpedoed last night in O.N.S.144.  
(Connav 2148/18 to Commaveu.)
- A.T.29. D. of S.T's 0632/14 (Re accommodation of 250 U.S. Constructional Personnel in A.T.29.)  
Arrangements made.  
(B.A.D. 2211Z/18 to Admty., for D.S.T.)



## SECRET

SECRET

MESSAGE

1207Z/18 Nov.

From: N.B.Melbourne.

IN  
DATE: 18.11.42.  
RECD: 2116.

NAVAL CYPHER 'C' by W/T.

Addressed: F.O.C.A.S., H.M.A. Ships (except Auxiliary A/S and M/S Vessels), N.O.I.C. Sydney 379, District N.O. Northern Territorial 370 (Port Darwin, Commodore Western Australia 623, D.N.O. Victoria Australia (P. Melbourne 982, N.O.I.C. Townsville, D.N.O. Queensland, N.B. Wellington, C.O.I.S. Eastern Fleet, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

Dispositions of main naval units south west Pacific Area 18th November. Coral/Sea H.M.A.S. HOBART, (?U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX), U.S.D. HUGFORD, U.S.D. BAGLEY, U.S.D. HENLEY, U.S.D. PATTERSON, \*H.M.S. VERNON, U.S.D. HELM. *\*not in Epsid*  
Port Moresby Area H.M.A.S. STUART,  
Port Stephens H.M.A.S. WESTRALIA.  
Sydney H.M.A.S. MANOORA (in reserve) H.M.A.S. VENDETTA, H.M.A.S. SWAN, U.S. (D) Tender DOBBIN, repairing  
F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, Netherlands (C) TROMP, U.S. (C) SAN JUAN, H.M.A.S. AUSTRALIA, U.S. (C) CHESTER.  
Melbourne, repairing U.S. S/M. Tender HOLLAND.  
Fremantle H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE, Netherlands Light Cruiser HEEMSKERCK, Netherlands destroyer TJERK, HIDDES, VAN GALEN, U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON, PELIAS.  
Exmouth Gulf U.S. Seaplane Tender WILLIAM B. PRESTON, U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS.  
Due Townsville 19th November H.M.A.S. WARREGO,  
Port Moresby Area 19th November H.M.A.S. ARUTA.  
Fremantle 23rd November H.M.A.S. KANIMELA. ^  
Sydney 19th November H.M.A.S. MORESBY.

1207Z/18.

Advance Copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C.

V.C.N.S.	U.S.N. (3)
A.C.N.S. (F).	D.N.I. (4)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.N.L.O. (2)
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.	P.N.L.O.
Ops. (3).	D.M.S.
O.D. 8.	D.M.S. Citadel
O.D. (5).	N.L.O. Australia House.
M. (2).	
O.I.C.	
Mails.	
Movts.	
I.P. (3)	
W.B.	
DC/JBD. D.T.D. (M)	



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18.11.1942.  
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

ONDINA.

Action with raider 11/11.  
(Cdre. W. Australia, 0345Z/18.)  
See East Indies. p. 810

Dispositions.

S.W. Pacific Area 18/11.  
(N.B. Melbourne 1207Z/18.)  
See Lion Copy.

"R" Report.

KANIMBLA 1401Z/18.  
(See East Indies.) p. 810

Situation.

Digest serial No.300 17 Nov.  
G.H.Q. Digest for passing to overseas Naval  
Authorities R/C Buin Shortland area midday 17th  
reported 2 light cruisers, 7 destroyers, 11  
merchant vessels, 1 large probable repair ship, 3 possible  
weather reporting vessels, approx. 8 small craft, 2 light  
cruisers, 2 large, 1 small destroyer, 6° S. 155° 50' course  
360° at 0120Z/17.

2. 2 small craft, possibly weather reporting vessels,  
reported Buka Passage noon same day, 13 unidentified aircraft  
on Drome.
3. 4 Catalinas attacked aerodrome during night 16th destroying  
at least 3 aircraft on runway and starting six large fires and  
3 explosions possibly fuel dumps.
4. Allied troops continue advance towards Buna.
- (5) 24 enemy fighters and several bombers operating from Lae  
airfield 17th many active over coastal area between Buna and  
Pongani 16th 17th.
6. 8 B.25s with fighter escort and 3 Beaufighters attacked  
Lae Aerodrome during day probably destroying 7 fighters and 7  
medium bombers silencing A/A position scoring hits on runway  
and building.
7. 5 Mauraunders attacked supply dumps Gona area during  
morning. Unsuccessfully attacked by 5 enemy fighters and 3  
bombers hits scored on enemy aircraft.
8. One small craft observed off Cape St. George course 90°  
during morning R/C nil activity Gasmata.
9. Photos Buna 15th show 7 heavy approx. 14 light A/A guns.
10. 2 Beaufighters strafed Maobisse while 10 Hudsons attacked  
Bauau (Timor) on 17th bombs fell in town and building area.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1812Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Approx. positions at 1200Z/18.  
(D.D.I.C. 1405A/18.)



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Admiral Sir Max Horton K.C.B., D.S.O., today succeeded Admiral Sir Percy Noble K.C.B., C.V.O. as C. in C. Western Approaches.

The port of Liverpool was closed last night until 0845A today.

Convoy  
Q.P.15.

C.S.1 and the cruiser covering force (see 11 November) sailed from Seidisfiord at 1005 today. Capt. (D) 8 and destroyers (see 11 Nov.) sailed from Kola Inlet at 1400A today.

P.W.250  
attacked.

Six E-boats attacked Convoy P.W.250 at 0310 today in 120° Eddystone 11 miles. H.M.T. ULLSWATER and SS BIRGITTE, YEWFOREST, and LAB are reported to have been sunk.

C. in C. Plymouth intends to employ motor launches as convoy escorts instead of on patrol.

Force X.

N.C.X.F. in a message today describes his intentions for the organisation of his Fleet.

North Atlantic.

Convoy U.G.S.1 (transports returning empty) left Casablanca for U.S.A. today, escorted by C.W.N.T.F. (Admiral Hewitt U.S.N.) in AUGUSTA with part of the W.N.T.F.



19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

S.O.(I) Capetown reports that SS CITY OF CAIRO was torpedoed and sunk at 2025 G.M.T/6 in 23° 30' S. 5° 30' W.

SS MARINA reported that vessel astern of her blew up at 2205 G.M.T. today in 30° 39' S. 34° 41' E.

To avoid congestion at Takoradi the ports of Freetown and Lagos will be used as holding ports for the West African coast, except Bathurst.

Mediterranean.

Western  
Medit.

The port of Philippeville was taken into use today.

Successful attacks by aircraft were made on El Aouina Aerodrome last night.

Aircraft minelaying was suspected off Bougie tonight.

At 0200 Malta read S O S in 37° 0' N. 25° 35' E.

Operation  
"Stoneage".

Fighter protection from Malta was given to the convoy from daylight today.

ARETHUSA (torpedoed yesterday) and PETARD making for Alexandria, were attacked by aircraft at about 0920 today in approx. 32° 30' N. 24° E.

U.S. B.17s bombed Benghazi last night. Two ships were seen on fire when the aircraft arrived.  
(cf.18 Nov.)



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S.C.109.

One U-boat was sighted and driven off at 0649 by WETASKIWIN in a gun battle. SS BEACON STREET has broken down and is being screened by WINCHELSEA.

Attacks  
on U/Bs.

Comaveu reports that on 8 Nov. U.S. destroyer SOUTHARD made 6 attacks on a\*submarine in the Pacific, blew it to the surface, hit it with a 4 -inch shell, and submarine slid under stem first. Subsequent search gave negative results. On 13 Nov. an Army B.18 B bombed a submarine in 13° 10' N. 69° 35' W. with possible success.

\*?I.172 sunk by SOUTHARD  
10/11 - see Lt. Rowbotham's  
list.



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

C. in C. W.A. Admiral Sir Max Horton, K.C.B., D.S.O. has succeeded Admiral Sir Percy Noble K.C.B., C.V.O. as C. in C. W.A. as from 19th November 1942. (C. in C. W.A., 0001A/19.)

DAGMAR, Danish fishing vessels DAGMAR and VALIB left VALIB. Esbjerg 9th, fished in Silver Pits until separated from remainder of fleet by heavy weather on 15th when they set course for Humber and surrendered voluntarily to COURSER at 62D Buoy at 1015 today. Vessels handed over to Admiralty Prize Marshal and crews to Security Control 1900. Approval has been given for immediate sale of perishable cargo of fish. Details of vessels follow in my 2301/19. (F.O. Humber, 2259/19 and 2301/19 to Admty.) See also F.O. Humber 1958/20.

Movements.

- \*BARB, Your 2221/18. Do not cross  $017^{\circ}$  W. before  
\*GUNNEL, 2000/19. Submerged bombing restrictions  
\*HERRING, arranged.  
LAUDERDALE. (F.O.S., 0112A/19 to BARB.)  
\* *See p. 812* (1) In order to clear convoys cancel all previous instructions to GUNNEL and BARB.
- (2) GUNNEL proceed on surface through position E  $045^{\circ} 01'$ ,  $013^{\circ} 50'$ , crossing  $015^{\circ}$  W. before 2200/19, thence diving by day through position F  $049^{\circ} 20'$ ,  $013^{\circ} 50'$ .
- (3) BARB proceed on surface through position L  $044^{\circ} 34'$ ,  $012^{\circ} 55'$ , thence diving by day on route blue.
- (4) Estimated positions GUNNEL and BARB at 0800/19 are  $043^{\circ} 45'$ ,  $017^{\circ} 48'$  and  $043^{\circ} 45'$ ,  $017^{\circ} 01'$  respectively.
- (5) Total bombing restrictions arranged.  
(F.O.S., 0334A/19 to Cdr. U.S. S/M Sqdn.)  
My 1754/18. Amend paras. (K) and (L) to read -
- (K) GUNNEL  $43^{\circ} 40'$ ,  $17^{\circ} 50'$ , on the surface 11 knots to  $45^{\circ} 00'$ ,  $13^{\circ} 55'$ , thence diving by day, course  $000^{\circ}$ .
- (L) BARB  $43^{\circ} 48'$ ,  $17^{\circ} 01'$  on the surface 11 knots to  $44^{\circ} 32'$ ,  $12^{\circ} 55'$ , thence diving by day course  $000^{\circ}$ .  
(F.O.S., 0339A/19 to Admty.)  
My 2257/18. Request WOLVERINE be detailed for duty in S.3's 1755/17 para. (iv).  
(C. in C. W.A., 1129A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
(1) Cancel my 1234/15 and 1422/17. GUNNEL's 1315/18.

Routes are repeated below.

(ii) HERRING proceeds diving by day on route White passing through K  $049^{\circ} 02'$ ,  $013^{\circ} 21'$  at 2000/21 thence  $049^{\circ} 12'$ ,  $012^{\circ} 55'$ , Y.  $049^{\circ} 45'$ ,  $008^{\circ} 01'$ , passing through G  $180^{\circ}$  Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800/23 to R/V at H  $180^{\circ}$  Lizard Head 10 miles at 1400/23.

(iii) GUNNEL proceeding dived by day on route (? Gas) passing through F  $049^{\circ} 20'$ ,  $013^{\circ} 50'$  at 2000/21 thence to X  $050^{\circ} 01'$ ,  $008^{\circ} 01'$  to passing through G at 1000/23 to R/V H at 1400/23.



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War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

\* BARB, (iv) BARB proceed to dive by day on route Blue  
 \* GUNNEL, passing through M 049° 01', 012° 54' at 2000/21  
 \* HERRING, thence through G at 0600/23 to R/V H at 1000/23.  
 LAUDERDALE. (v) S/MS may proceed on the surface when East  
 (Contd.) 008° W. and are to report if unable to make R/V  
 \* *Imp. 822* within 2 hours.  
 (vi) My 0334/19 also refers.  
 (F.O.S., 1334A/19 to C.S.S. 50.)  
 Cancel my 1129/19. Commodore Londonderry is to sail  
 → LAUDERDALE to R/V with GUNNEL and BARB 180° Lizard Head 10  
 miles at 1100A/24 and escort to Clyde.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 1525A/19.)  
 My 1525/19. For BARB read HERRING and for 1100A/24 read  
 1400A/23.  
 (C. in C. W.A., 2016A/19 to Cdre. Londonderry.)  
 Number 3 main engine out of commission. Same casualty  
 as previously reported on number one. Maximum available speed  
 reduced to 15 knots 2 engines.  
 (GUNNEL, 2200Z/19 to C.S.S. 50.)

Z.5, H.50. Intend sailing Z.5 at 0001A/20 from Rothesay  
 to R/V H.50 off Londonderry, E.T.A. Lough Foyle  
 Buoy 0800A/20, and escort her to Rothesay E.T.A.  
 2000A/20.  
 (Capt. S.7, 1031A/19 to F.O.S.)  
 My 1031/19. Sailed Z.5 to escort.  
 (Capt. S.7, 2201A/19.)

TUNA. Arrived TUNA escorted by LAUDERDALE.  
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1114A/19.)

DUKE OF N.C.X.F's 1107/18 para. 8.  
 YORK, Route from position (S) through positions  
 VICTORIOUS. (T) 44° 00' N. 17° 00' W. (U) 52° 00' N. 17°  
 00' W. (V) 55° 00' N. 13° 00' W. (W) 55° 25'  
 N. 08° 28' W. and thence to Clyde unless other-  
 wise ordered.  
 (D.O.D.(H.), 1120A/19 to R.A.A.)  
 N.C.X.F. 1107/18 which is being passed to R.A.(D) and  
 C. in C. W.A. Destination of VICTORIOUS and DUKE OF YORK is  
 Clyde. OPPORTUNE Scapa.  
 (2) R.A.(D) is requested to sail 2 destroyers to R/V at daylight  
 22nd. Destroyers are to relieve escort to fuel as necessary,  
 returning to Scapa when ordered by R.A.(A) H.F.  
 (3) Estimated that Force will be in 052° N. 017° W. at 0400A/22,  
 approaching this position on course 360°. Estimated S.O.A. 16½  
 knots. Thence 055° N. 013° W., 055° 25' N. 008° 28' W., thence  
 Clyde.  
 (4) C. in C. W.A. is requested to signal destination of W.A.  
 destroyers.  
 (C. in C. H.F., 1411A/19 to R.A.A.H.F., VICTORIOUS, DUKE  
 OF YORK, R.A.D.H.F., WESTCOTT.)

/Capt. ...



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - cont.

DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS. (Contd.)  
Capt. (D) 17 in ONSLOW with MATCHLESS proceed passing Switha 1500/20 to R/V at 0800/22 in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1411A/19.  
2. N.C.X.F's 1107Z/18 passed to you for information.  
(R.A.D., 1853A/19 to ONSLOW, MATCHLESS.)  
See also R.A.D. 1552A/20.

ADVENTURE. My 1707/18. Amend position A to 050° 01' N. 014° 45' W. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to pass amended version to N.C.X.F.  
*See p. 832.*  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1121A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
Your 1707/18. Request you will postpone sailing for 24 hours.  
(D.O.D.(H.), 1222A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth.)  
Arrived ADVENTURE.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1647A/18.)  
My 1707/18. Sailing postponed till 1400/20.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1849A/19 to N.C.X.F.)

W.A. Command. Situation at 1955A/19. Details.  
(C. in C. W.A., 1355A/19.)  
See Lion Copy. *next page.*

North Atlantic dispositions. (D.O.D. (H.), 1410Z/19 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)  
See Lion Copy. *p. 822 c*

S/M Positions. At 0800/20. Details.  
(F.O.S., 1709A/19.)  
See Lion Copy. *p. 822 d*

TORBAY. Intend sailing TORBAY escorted by BREDA at 1730/20th for Holy Loch.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1723A/19.) *See p. 822 d*

SNOWDROP. My P.C.S. 052° 52', 018° 14', 048°, 9½ at 1702Z.  
E.T.A. Loch Ewe 1201Z/22.  
(SNOWDROP, 1930Z/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.

Operation H.R. Enemy position is 210° Start Point 18½ miles, course 130°, speed unknown.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0444A/19 to Force H.R.)  
Arrived PENYLAN, SLAZAK, KRAKOWIAK.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1123/19.)



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

1355A/19th November.

## Situation at 1955A/19/11/42.

### Section N.E.

NORTHERN GIFT 5 Trawlers		57 26 06 58	To Belfast	10
E.N. 63	VELFA COTILLION	53 44 04 52	To Loch Ewe	7

## Situation at 1955A/19/11/42.

### Section S.E.

RAIDER		53 56 04 56	To Tobermory	15
GRAPH	LA. CAPRICIEUSE	Off Cumbræs	To vicinity Bishop's Rock	10
ALBRIGHTON		52 10 05 31	To Plymouth	18
Convoy	Unescorted	52 15 05 16	Northbound	9
BB. 36	GOODWIN NORTHERN WAVE PAUL RYKENS	53 03 05 04	Southbound	8
H.M. 70	SOUTHERN BREEZE	52 54 05 04	Southbound	7
Convoy	SCIMITAR	Sail Barry Roads 2359/19	To Clyde	9
4 M/Vs	Unescorted	54 30 05 03	To Clyde	10

## Situation at 1955A/19/11/42.

### Section N.W.

U.R. 50	FOXTROT PAYNTER	62 23 18 25	To 63 03 21 31	6 1/2
R.U. 49	GAVOTTE QUADRILLE HUGH WALPOLE THILLEMERE REIGHTON WYKE	61 55 19 52	To 60 31 17 00	6

## Situation at 1955A/19/11/42

### Section S.W.

SARDONYX		From vicinity 53 20 20 00	To Londonderry	15
FAME		55 40 13 37	To Halifax	15
RESTIGOUCHE		55 53 13 20	To O.N.147	15

/ M.K.F.2.....



Section B.W. Contd:

M.K.F.2	PELICAN EGRET CLARE BANFF PHILAN TE JENNIE KERIN LARGS.	43 25 15 00	To 53 01 15 02	12½
MK3.1(X)	LONDON DERRY 3 Sloops 3 Corvettes	44 35 15 56	to 52 01 16 02	10
H.K.F.1(Y)	Fleet Unit WREXLER AMAZON ROCKINGHAM 2 Corvettes	53 04 14 29	To 54 05 13 37 thence 55 28 08 30	12½
1 M/V	SNOWDROP	51 51 19 08	To 52 30 19 01 thence 55 35 13 02	8
O.N. 147 C.T.U. 24.1.14	ST. FRANCIS ARVIDA AMHERST DAUPHIN MARBROOKE	55 56 14 20	To 55 58 15 09 thence 57 05 21 36	9
O.N.3.143 C.T.U. 24.1.17.	HARVESTER GARLAND ORCHIS NARCISSUS LOBELIA ROBELYS ACONIT 7 Trawlers	54 57 23 08	To 50 00 31 30	7½

1355A/19 and 1735A/19

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S.(H)  
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
N.A.1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.C.(2)  
U.S.N.  
D.A/S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
I.P.(2)  
W.D.  
D.T.D.(M)  
D.T.D.(3)  
D.T.D.(C)  
Adml. Ramsey (4)  
C.C.O.(2)



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1410z/19th Nov.  
Date 19.11.42

OUT

To C.in C. U.S. Fleet,  
Repeated OPNAV,  
C.in C. Atlantic Fleet,  
B.A.D. Washington, 515.

Type X (U.S.A.)

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Operating in Northern Waters. 5 Destroyers

Area Iceland (C) BERWICK  
LONDON  
SUFFOLK  
3 Destroyers

Area Scapa KING GEORGE V  
ANSON  
CUMBERLAND  
GLASGOW  
NORFOLK  
3 Destroyers

Area Clyde SHROPSHIRE  
BITER  
DASHER

Area Gibraltar NELSON  
RODNEY  
RENOWN  
FORMIDABLE  
FURIOUS  
BERMUDA  
AURORA  
CHARYBDIS  
DELHI  
SIRIUS  
SCYLLA  
ARGONAUT  
WELSHMAN  
10 Destroyers

Passage to U.K. DUKE OF YORK  
ARGUS  
VICTORIOUS  
JAMAICA  
SHEFFIELD  
1 Destroyer.

1410z/19

for D.O.D. (H)

C.N.A.S.			
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (H) (2)	L.P. (2)	A.C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.O.D. (S) (2)	U.S.N.	D.A.C.D.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.A/S.W.	Id. of M.	D.N.A.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.C. (2)	W.D.	
Capt. Pir	Duty Capt. (2)	D.T.D. (M)	

**MOST SECRET**



822<sup>D</sup>

# MOST SECRET

1709A/19th November

~~MOST SECRET~~ MESSAGE ~~IN~~

Date 19.11.42  
Time 1804

From F.O.(S)

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

91. Positions of submarines at 0800/20 and movements for the following 24 hours.

- A. P.312 vicinity 70 degs 53' North 22 degs 26' East.
- B. P.216 vicinity 70 degs 52' North 21 degs 08' East
- C. UREDD vicinity 70 degs 32' North 20 degs 01' East
- D. JUNON vicinity 69 degs 30' North 17 degs 20' east probably proceeding dived by day to zone K 9
- E. GRAPH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 53 degs 30' North 5 degs 15' West due 180 degs Bishop Rock 15 at 1900/21 *see next page.*
- F. SHAD 48 degs 44' North 13 degs 50' West proceeding dived by day through 49 degs 20' North 13 degs 50' West due rendezvous 180 degs Lizard 10 miles at 1200/22.
- G. GUNNEL 46 degs 20' North 13 degs 50' West proceeding dived by day through 49 degs 20' North 13 degs 50' West due rendezvous 180 degs Lizard 10 miles at 1400/23
- H. *pp 820 7 821* HERRING 45 degs 54 mins North 13 degs 20 mins West proceeding dived by day through 49 degs 02 mins North 13 degs 21 mins West due rendezvous 180 degs Lizard 10 miles 1400/23.
- J. BARB 45 degs 46 mins North 12 degs 55 mins West proceeding dived by day through 49 degs 01 mins North 12 degs 54 mins West due rendezvous 180 degs Lizard 10 miles at 1000/23.
- K. DOLFIN 46 degs 42 mins North 12 degs 30 mins West proceeding dived by day through 44 degs 28 mins North 12 degs 25 mins West and 44 degs 08 mins North 03 degs 58 mins West for patrol in Zone K 505.
- L. SEALION 46 degs 10 mins North 12 degs 25 mins West proceeding dived by day through 44 degs 28 mins North 12 degs 25 mins West and 44 degs 28 mins North 08 degs 58 mins West for patrol in Zone K 501.
- M. TORBAY leaves Plymouth 1730/20 escorted by BREDA for Holy Loch. *see p. 822*
- N. BLACKFISH 40 degs 54 mins North 20 degs West passing through 40 degs North 20 degs West at 2100/20 thence diving by day through 44 degs 45 mins North 13 degs 22 mins West. *see p. 832*
- O. P.34 exercises off Plymouth between 0800/20 and 1700/20.

1709A/19

A.C.N.S. (H)	Advance Copy	D.C.	D.O.D. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.O.D. (M)	D.A./S.W.	D.T.D. (M)
Capt Pim	D.C. (2)	Hd. of M.	
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.D.I.C. (2)	W.D.	
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D. of Plans (2)	I.P. (2)	

E.M.



823

War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - *cont.*

Biscay GRAPH passes through 180° Bishop Rock 15 miles  
S/M Patrol. at 1900A/21 routed diving by day through (Q) 049°  
GRAPH. 20', 007° 02' W. (R) 048° 40', 012° 10' W. at  
*See previous* 2200A/22. (S) 044° 55', 012° 10' W. at 0200A/  
*page.* 24. (T) 044° 55' 006° 58' W., to enter zone  
K.502 in 006° 40' at 0730A/25.  
(Capt. S.3, 0917A/19 to Admty.)  
Sailed GRAPH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with  
S.3's 1145A/17 and 1857A/17.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1834A/19.)

Patrols. Before dark tonight M.T.B. 55 (S.O.), 54, M.G.B.  
611 proceed to St. Helens and to patrol if  
weather permits between 50° 20' N. 0° 10' W.  
and 50° 30' N. 0° 20' E., passing F buoy 1815 and 0730.  
Codeword "Device".  
CHASSEURS 41 (S.O.) and 11 patrolling off E.A5 Buoy.  
M.G.Bs 316 (S.O.) 1° 25' W. 50° 20' N., 2° 20' W. and St.  
Albans Head.  
BLEASDALE standing by at Yarmouth.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1227A/19 to HORNET.)  
One M.L. sailing Blyth 1802 to patrol to eastward of War  
channel, returning Blyth daylight.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1555A/19.)  
2 M.T.Bs and 1 M.G.B. patrolling S.E. of E.A5 Buoy. Two  
M.G.Bs patrolling between St. Catherines and St. Albans Head.  
2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A5 Buoy.  
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1600A/19.)

Mining.

Q.Z.X. 866, Dover's letter 906/139D/42 of the 31st August.  
788, 867, It is considered that Q.Z.X. 866 could be cleared  
and 797 without much difficulty and request that 4 Bangor  
clearances. R-class may be allocated to Dover for the purpose.  
These vessels are considered most suitable having  
higher sweeping speed and shallower draught than  
trawlers. As they are not much larger than the latter they will  
be little more noticeable to enemy R.D.F. or air R/C, and  
berthing alongside in Dover Harbour will be practicable.  
Clearance Q.Z.X. 866 working at daylight high waters should not  
take more than 2 or 3 days and, depending on experience gained,  
it is intended next to sweep a gap between Q.Z.X. 788 and 867,  
and finally to widen gap between Q.Z.X. 788 and 797.  
These operations will be preceded by R/Cs and darning with  
coastal craft which, although already in hand, is dependent on  
calm weather, and the Bangor operations may accordingly be  
delayed.  
(F.O.C. Dover, 1133A/19 to Admty.)

Lyme Bay On completion of gunnery exercises on 23rd, you  
clearance. are to carry out a clearance commencing on 24th  
of the following area. (A) 50° 34'42" N. 03°  
10'24" W. (B) 50° 31'00" N. 03° 24'48" W.  
(C) 50° 24'24" N. 03° 20'00" W. (D) 50° 28'00" N. 03° 05'54" W.  
anchoring as convenient on completion of each days sweep.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1526A/19 to M/S. 4.)



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Liverpool. Port including Q.Z.S. 298 closed until 0845A.  
Report if my 1636/18 received.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0131A/19 to DASHER.)

Rosyth. Cancel my 2052/18.  
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1335A/19.)

Casualties and Defects.

THYSVILLE. My 1555/17/10, D. of S.T's 0430/11/11, and  
G.O.C. W.A. 1050/14/11.  
1. Lloyds engine and boiler survey has been  
carried out on THYSVILLE at Lagos. Surveyor grants three  
months extension but reports vessel must be dry-docked at the  
end of three months.  
2. G.O.C.W.A. is requested to report in view of foregoing  
whether vessel is now required for further movements.  
(D.S.T.O. W.A., 0917Z/19 to D.S.T.)

*No L.C.S. of these Nos in Green list.*  
Landing Official numbers of L.C. lost in WARWICK CASTLE.  
Craft. L.C.S. 167, 169, 266, 307, 375, 188, 187, 55,  
Operation 176, 189. Numbers of L.C. left on beach L.C.M.  
"Torch". 570, L.C.A. 185, 153.  
*See Sp 824A 9B* (S.N.O. WARWICK CASTLE, 1110/19 to Admty.)  
A.M. 1556A/16. Following craft disembarked  
from C.B.22113 L.C.P. (R) 1020, 1031, 915, 1016, 1024, 1013,  
768, 1034, 1035 all are repairable in 14 days.  
2. Following are known to be total losses L.C.P. (R) 1029, 629.  
3. Following craft were left behind in doubtful condition L.C.P.  
(R) 1017, 1021, 1032, 1009.  
(S.O. A.S.C., 1857A/19 and 1000A/20 to Admty.)

DASHER. A.M. 1958/16. Cancel para. 2. DASHER is to be  
ready to sail from the Clyde on a ferrying trip  
on 9th December.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1645A/19 to DASHER, F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

ARGUS. ARGUS 1125/17. ARGUS will be taken in hand by  
Messrs. Barclay Curle, Elderslie, and will be  
docked at Elderslie on arrival.  
2. Ship is to be ready to sail for a ferrying trip on 9th  
December.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1646A/19 to ARGUS.)

Search for Your 1909/18. Continue to search to P.L.E.  
rafts and Report situation.  
dinghies. (C. in C. W.A., 1656A/19 to SARDONYX, (R)  
SAMSONIA.)

/Your ....



*See previous page - 3 overleaf -*

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE 2123/19th November.

IN

From F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

Date 28.11.42.

Recd. 0950.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

S.N.O. Monarch of Bermuda 2123/19 is being passed to you my 1826/27 refers.

Addressed S.O.A.S.C. (R) EAGLET.

From S.N.O. MONARCH OF BERMUDA.

Secret

LCA 152 and 455 left in Albert Harbour, Liverpool. Ferry Base Flotilla Officer has taken charge of them. Severe hull damage on both craft.

2123/19.

Advance Copy sent OPS.

✓ Correction to 2123/19 which has not previously been received.

Controller

Vice Controller

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H).

M.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.

Ops. (3).

O.D. (5).

O.I.C. (3).

D. of P. (Q) (2).

D.N.E. (C.O.).

C.C.O.

D. 57 O.B.I.

D.N.C.

I.P. (3).

W.D.

Dep. Contr. (3).

D. (4).

D.N.C. (2).

S.W.R.

} Bath by courier.

B.9.



824<sup>B</sup>

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

L/C - Op. "Torch"

- 76th Flotilla All craft left behind. STRATHNAVER.
- 52nd " All left at Algiers except LCA 309, LCM(3) 518, 635 from KEREN.
- 59 " 11 LCA. lost at OMAN. 7 more left here by MONARCH OF BERMUDA.
- 51st. All craft damaged at GLENGYLE.
- 83rd. All left at Algiers do.
- LCM. 3. 521 } Lt BENALBANAH Left behind.
- 552
- 586
- 588

in pp 824 7824<sup>A</sup>



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

Search for rafts and dinghies. (Contd.) Your 1656/19. Present position 53.34 18.36. Have searched 55 miles to eastwards of 53.20 20.00 and 54.00 20.00. Nothing found. 2 A/C contacted by SARDONYX. Prudent limit reached. Returning 1830. Consider both boats under sail and now well to eastward, large boat probably making 3 knots. Weather 5381 2543.  
(SARDONYX, 1801A/19 to C. in C. W.A., (R) SAMSONIA.)  
SS. LIGHTNING picked up one boat with 18 survivors in 053° 54' N. 021° 26' W. on 16th. 3 more boats with about 18 in each still unaccounted for. 2 Sunderland A/C will be searching between 054° 20' and 055° 20' N. and 019° to 021° W. tomorrow. Proceed to 054° 50' N. 020° 00' W. and search from that position.  
(C. in C. W.A., 2347A/19 to SARDONYX, SAMSONIA.)  
SARDONYX's 2224/19. SARDONYX investigating rocket referred to. SAMSONIA carrying out purport of my 2347/19.  
(C. in C. W.A., 0004A/20 to SARDONYX, SAMSONIA.)

GOATHLAND. One case of Scarlet Fever developed in GOATHLAND on 18th, being despatched tomorrow from sick quarters ashore to Fever Hospital Oban. Intend sailing GOATHLAND to Scapa 20th.  
(WESTERN ISLES, 1845A/19 to R.A.D.)

CHESTERFIELD. My 1742A/18. Estimated date of completion of defects November 25th.  
(F.O. Humber, 1925A/19.)

BUG, HONTESTROOM. Your 2252/11 and my 2016/13. BUG arrived. Repairs main generator necessary before sailing time seven days, general refit two months. U.S.A. Authorities request ship be fitted carry twenty personnel and one ten ton derrick and winch. May sail in R.U.50. My 1117/14 bottom damage HONTESTROOM necessitates return U.K. sailing R.U.50.  
(S.S.T.O. Iceland, 2042A/19 to D.S.T.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Q.P. 15. Your 2100/15. Arrived 1130/18 (LONDON).  
(A.C.I.C., 0045A/19 to A.C.O.S.)  
Capt. (D) 8 and destroyer sailed Kola Inlet 1400A/19.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1403A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 1909/11. Cruiser covering force sailed from Seidisfjord 1005/19.  
(A.C.I.C., 1628A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)  
Your 1943/14 para. 1. Arrived.  
(A.C.I.C., 2041A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

M.K.F. 1X. D. of S.T. 2140/14. Clyde ships arrival 0635.  
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0645A/19.)  
Arrived Clyde ships of M.K.F. 1X escorted by  
ACHATES, BOADICEA, ESCAPADE.  
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0724A/19.)  
Arrivals DASHER, VANSITTART and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, OTRANTO,  
DERBYSHIRE, TEGEL.  
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1142A/19.)

Convoy P.W. 250. Convoy P.W. 250 attacked by 6 E-Boats at 0310/19  
P.W. 250. in 120° Eddystone 11. H.M. Trawler ULLSWATER  
ULLSWATER and three M/Vs BIRGITTE, YEWFOREST and LAB known  
(Escort to have been sunk. Cdre. and 21 survivors from  
Trawler) BIRGITTE, 18 survivors from LAB, three from  
BIRGITTE (British, ULLSWATER, 4 from YEWFOREST, and 10 others from  
1595 tons) ships unknown so far. Search continuing.  
YEWFOREST (C. in C. Plymouth, 1309A/19 to Admty.)  
(British, Following are three survivors from ULLSWATER now  
815 tons) in F.S. PARIS. Names.  
LAB Heavy explosion after being hit. Majority of  
(Norwegian, missing probably killed instantaneously. Ship  
1118 tons) sunk. sank and all men in water recovered. Those  
missing presumed killed.  
sunk. (PARIS, 1559A/19 to Admty.)

O.N. 147. My 2310/18. ST. FRANCIS sailed <sup>/Londonderry</sup> 0700 to  
overtake O.N. 147.  
(C.T.G. 24.7, 1345Z/19.)

IRONCLAD, You are to leave Economia 1300C tomorrow and  
MEANTICUT, escort American SS. IRONCLAD to Kola. Your  
DANEMAN. E.T.A. has been given at 1300Z/22. American  
SS. MEANTICUT is believed to have (corrupt group)  
bar. If this is so she is to join you and  
proceed to Kola. Soviet patrol vessel number 60 will assist  
you in escorting these ships as far as Cape Gorodetski where  
she will be relieved by 1 British M/S or trawler. Pilots will  
be on board you and IRONCLAD 1230C/20 and icebreaker tug will  
be in attendance. Route as given you by N.C.S.O. to be passed  
to MEANTICUT. Lights and beacons ordered.  
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1609A/19 to DANEMAN.)

O.N. 150, Owing to refit of HURRICANE and HIGHLANDER Group B  
O.N. 151. 1 and B.4 will be without a ship fitted with H/F  
D/F on next sailing. Consequently it is urgently  
submitted that rescue ships fitted with H/F D/F  
may be attached to O.N. 150 and 151 and return  
convoy.  
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1743A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.F. 1 (y) Your 1554A/18. WRESTLER short of fuel, ordered  
to fuel Merville.  
Request destination convoy M.K.F. be signalled.  
My P.C.S. 53° 17' N. 14° 30' W. 025° 12 $\frac{3}{4}$  knots.  
(ARGUS, 1759Z/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

/M.Ls ...



19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

M.Ls to  
escort W.P.  
and P.W.  
Convoys.

It is intended to employ motor launches as convoy escort instead of on patrol and that groups of at least 3 motor launches each from Falmouth and Dartmouth will always be available.

2. Motor launches from Falmouth will join W.P. convoy off Falmouth and escort it until daylight the following day thence proceeding Portland.

3. On the same day M.Ls from Portland will join P.W. convoy before dark near Portland Bill and escort to Falmouth.

4. On next convoy day M.Ls referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 will reverse their roles.

5. 2 days later the 2 other groups from both Falmouth and Dartmouth will take over convoy escort duty.

6. M.Ls are forming close escort with trawlers. Their disposition will be forwarded under separate cover.

7. The S.O. of escorting destroyers or trawlers is to be S.O. of escort irrespective of seniority of S.O. of M.L. present. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1825/19.)

See also C. in C. Plymouth, 1015A/20.

P.Q. 19.

Your 1623/18. Concur.  
(C. in C. H.F., 1925A/19 to Admty.)



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch".

French shipping. Following is a repetition of my 1420Z/18. Groups 1 to 80 begins (8) French shipping. A convoy has been run from Bone to Bougie to Algiers with all French ships from that port. Negotiations at Oran and Algiers are protracted due to French desire for (A) Permanent charter (B) Employment of coasters on their coast under French control. Ends. (N.C.X.F. 0805/20 to Admty.)

Situation Report No.15. (1) Bone. Petrol Carrier COXWOLD with escort arrived 16th Nov. (2) Philippeville. Port in use from today Thursday. (3) Bougie. QUEEN EMMA and HINSES BEATRIX arrived with troops 0400/16. (4) Algiers. ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN will be sailed to arrive Bougie 20th Nov. *see pp 840 & 844.* (5) Gibraltar. ARCHER and Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND arrived 18th Nov. (6) Casablanca. 11 Transports completed unloading 17th Nov. 19 ships of U.G.F.2 berthed in 10 hours 18th Nov. Co-operation of French harbour authorities reported excellent. U.S. Naval Oiler WINOOSKI being sent to Gibraltar for temporary repairs. (7) A/S air patrols from Gibraltar damaged U-Boat in 35.10 N. 11.35 W. at 1325/18. A/S sweeps at night by Wellingtons fitted A.S.V. and searchlight commence today Thursday. Two promising attacks on U-Boats by aircraft from Oran. (8) Admiralty pass to A.F.H.Q. London. (N.C.X.F. 1039Z/19.)

Air Activity. N.C.X.F. 1320Z/19.

Organisation of Fleet. Following is my intentions for organization of fleet. (a) BERMUDA, AURORA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS form one squadron under C.S.10. Request number be allocated to squadron.\* (b) 3rd and 6th destroyer flotillas 57, 58 and 59 Destroyer divisions to be administered and operated by Cdre. F. at Algiers with broad pendant flapping in VINDICTIVE. (c) Gibraltar Escort Force administered by Capt. (D) Gibraltar and operated by him subject to F.O.C.N.A. and Cmdre. F. (d) Minesweepers, trawlers and motor launches and their depot ships to be administered by Cmdre. F. (e) BULOLO, DELHI, ROBERTS, ALYNBANK, PALOMARES, POZARICA administered by S.O.I.S. (f) Battleships and carriers by S.O. Force "H". (N.C.X.F. 1452Z/19 to Admty. (R) S.O. Force H, C.S.10, F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.) \* 12th C.S. (Admty. 1556A/23.) p. 973



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War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - contd.

Organisation of Fleet (contd.) K.186. Following organization is to be assumed.  
3rd (D) F. MILNE (Capt.(D) 3) METEOR, LOOKOUT, PENN, PANTHER, PATHFINDER, PORCUPINE, PARTRIDGE.  
6th D.F. ESKIMO (Capt.(D) 6) ASHANTI, TARTAR,

→ QUENTIN, QUIBERON, QUALITY, ITHURIEL. 59th Div.  
Destroyers FARNDALE (S.O) PUCKERIDGE, AVONVALE, CALPE.  
Arrangements for administration and accounting will be promulgated separately.  
(N.C.X.F. 1510Z/19.)

K.M.F.3. On parting company with Force A. proceed as necessary to R/V K.M.F.3 in 035° 40' N. 009° 02' W. *See p. 832.*  
(*Siwa Tra.*) at 0800Z/20th.  
(2) Convoy routed through 035° 35' N. 010° 00' W. speed 13 knots to pass Europa Point at 2230Z/20th.  
→ (N.C.X.F. 1459Z/19 to Capt.(D) 3 (R) QUIBERON, QUENTIN, QUALITY, WESTON, Admty. S.O. Inshore Squadron, Cdre. Algiers, F.O. in C. Oran.)

Photographs of operation. I intend to carry out following policy for dealing with photographs of naval forces employed on "Torch".  
(V.C.N.S. 1509A/19.)

Naval aircraft. Your 1815A/16. The three Swordfish of 833 Sqdn. which arrived at Gibraltar in Aux. Carriers will be returned to U.K. in ARCHER as ordered although she already has three Swordfish aboard.  
(2) It will be necessary to retain the surplus flying crews until the balance of personnel for 813 squadron urgently requested in F.O.C.N.A.'s 1131/10 have arrived. There is at present no personnel reserve for current carrier operations.  
(3) Wellingtons cannot be regarded as substitutes for Swordfish. It would be most uneconomical to employ these special long range Wellingtons for local A/S patrols a duty for which Swordfish are very suitable. In face of the very high S/M concentration on both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar it is essential that every A/S means available should be employed to the full and in the most economical way possible.  
(N.C.X.F. 1640Z/19 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

French Shipping. 1. We are most strongly opposed to any hastily made arrangements over French ships which will involve commitments for more than an initial voyage to U.K. or U.S.A. if it involves agreement with Authorities appointed by a regime in North Africa whose political position is still uncertain. No authority or body of persons who are not recognised as at least de facto Government in N. African territories can possibly have necessary legal powers (a) to requisition or (b) having requisitioned to charter these ships.  
2. Our objections rest on following.



19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - contd.

French  
shipping.  
(contd.)

3. The first essential is, in our view, to move all possible French ships to U.K. or U.S.A. by first available route and with any available crews irrespective of nationality. We understand that some vessels are already being moved.
4. British or Allied ships detained in North Africa including Danish Prizes, many of which have been placed by Vichy under French flag raise different problems. Darlan's representatives should under no circumstances be permitted to make any conditions as to these ships.
5. We propose to send a Mission to Algiers to arrange in conjunction with the Americans for the speedy removal of all possible ships and to explain to them the complicated background of our French Shipping policy. If formal concurrence of American Army is necessary, please obtain as soon as possible.
6. Please repeat substance to Kerr, Matthews and Mack. This cable has Foreign Office concurrence.
7. Your 2210Z/16 will reply tomorrow.  
(D.T.D. 2257A/19 to V.A.C.N.A.)



# SECRET

M E S S A G E 0750Z/19th November. IN.

From. Gibraltar.

Date. 19.11.42.  
Recd. 1921A.

CYPHER.

Addressed. Air Ministry Whitehall.

WX.7600.(Pt.2). IMMEDIATE.

This is Part 2 of my A1 171 19 Nov. T.O.O.0745Z.  
No casualties and no E.S.A. sightings or combats & operational sorties by Fighter A/C.

2. No enemy activity over rock.

3. No photo recce.

4. Transit A/C. From U.K. 4 Wellingtons, 4 Bisleys, 1 Beaufighter 2 BBB 26's from Malta 1 Hudson 1 Liberator. From Oran 1 CCC47 1 Hudson, From Algiers 3 Halifax from Middle East 1 Liberator. To U.K. 1 Hudson 1 Mosquito 1 Catalina 1 Whitley. To Malta 2 Spitfires. To Oran 5 Bisleys 1 Fortress 1 BBB26 1 CCC47 escorted by 2 PPP38's. To Algiers 20 Bisleys 18 Beaufighters 6 LBB17's 1 Hudson.

0750Z/19.

Advance copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Received from Air Ministry 0130/20

Air Ministry circulation.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(2)
- 4th S.L.
- C.N.A.S.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- Naval Sec.
- N.A.1st S.L.
- O.D.(5)
- O.I.C.(3)
- ~~O.I.C.~~
- Ops.(3)
- D.of P.(3)
- M.(2)
- I.P.(3)
- D.P.D.
- W.D.
- D.N.I.(5)
- Admiral Blake.
- A.C.N.A.S.
- D.N.A.D.
- D.A.C.D.

- V.C.A.S.
- A.C.A.S.(G)
- A.C.A.S.(O)
- A.C.A.S.(I)
- A.C.A.S.(P)
- P.S.to P.U.S.
- D.of I.(0)
- D.of Plans.
- D.D.Policy(Overseas)(2)
- D.C.N.C.
- D.B.Ops.
- D.W.O.
- D.D.C.11.
- P.R.& A.I.6.
- Duty Group Captain.
- A.I.3.A.1.
- Admiralty (War Registry)(6)
- War Office(C.6 Tels)(7)

REC.







831

War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Damaged Naval Cdr.X.F. 1410Z/18th. Search abandoned.  
U/B. My P.C.S. 035.17 N. 010.54 W. 080° 18 knots.  
WIVERN in company weather report 4372, 0934.  
(VERITY 0001Z/19, 0900Z/19 to F.O.C.N.A. (R)  
N.C.X.F. Capt.(D) Gibraltar).

T.C.A.O.11 Intend A/S air search by 4 Wellingtons from  
2330/19th to 0830/20th area between 035° N. and 036° N. and  
007° W. and 016° W.  
(N.C.X.F. 1658Z/19, to S.and A" Torch")

Air WX. 7609, AI 171 19th Nov. Operational Summary  
Activity. for 24 hours ended 2400/18.  
1. A/S Escorts, A/S Patrols. U/B sightings  
and attacks from Gib.(A.TLTE) 1 sighting (WICE?)  
was attacked. Hudson VIC 608, 1319 hrs. NHQS 1031 CO.08012\*KTS  
attacked U/Boat was submerging resurfaced violently 10 minutes  
later steered circular course and after 56 minutes U/Boat set  
course 080/6 Kts. U/Boat sightings and attacks by North  
African based A/C 2 sightings including 1 attack. Details  
provisional object no revision. TXCCO posn. XTPB 5850 1220  
hrs. CO.260/8 Kts sighted. TXCCJ posn. XTJT.3843 1352 hrs.  
CO.(280/8 or 2X0/2 corrupt) Kts. attacked 17th Nov. Hudson  
L/500 at 1355 hrs. Attacked U/B in LBJT (5125 or 5025 corrupt)  
CO(040/10 or 070/10 corrupt) Kts D/Cs straddled U/B which  
stopped and remained on surface some of crew emerged at 1356  
hrs. Hudson (CCCQSTPPKTNQ?) attacked and again straddled U/B  
on surface A/C circled taking photographs and firing hurling  
crew into water. \*as received. 2.No enemy activity over Rock.  
(A.H.Q.Gibraltar 0750Z/19).

M.K.S.1.(Y) 223. Request you will sail convoy MKS1 (Y)  
at 0900Z/21 routed through positions .A. 35.30 N  
07.00 W. B. 36.20 N 10.00 W. C. 38.28 N. 15.05 W.  
D. 40.28 N. 17.02 W. E. 43.45 N. 17.50 W. F. 51.10 N. 17.11 W.  
G. 54.30 N. 13.45 W. H. 55.26 N. 08.31 W.  
Speed of Advance 8.5 knots.  
2. Gibraltar portion DUKE OF ATHENS, EMPIRE DAY, FORT  
CHIPEWAYAN, STANHILL, OCEAN VOLGA, KAIA-KNUDSEN, OCEAN  
WANDERER, CITY OF WORCESTER, TIBA, SOBO, JEAN JADOT, ALCINOUS,  
and any other ships which are ready.  
3. Escort ROTHER, SPEY, LOTUS, STARWORT, POPPY, DIANELLA.  
4. Lisbon portion. OPORTO, NOLISEMENT, SPERO, and ALGERIA  
escorted by ABERDEEN, RHODODENDRON and VIOLET R/V in 36.32 N.  
10.32 W. at 1600Z/22.Nov. When R/V has been effected  
RHODODENDRON and VIOLET return to Gibraltar. *see next page*  
5. A.O.C.Gibraltar is requested to arrange A/S *(via two tires)*  
6. Codeword "Cockatoo,"  
(N.C.X.F. 1032Z/19 to V.A.Gib.(R) Cdre.F. S.8. A.O.Gib.  
Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

U/B. Master SERPA PINTO Portuguese reports stopped  
by extremely large S/M 1620 G.M.T. 18th  
position 037. 42 N. 021.50 W.  
S/M painted light grey apparently new with 2 guns. Crew  
dressed green looped overalls. Steering south westward when  
last seen.  
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1205/19 to S.O.(I) Gib).

/ADVENTURE.



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

ADVENTURE.

*See p. 822*

C. in C. Plymouth 1707A/18th. Admiralty 0150A/19th onward route from (C) through (D) 40.02 N. 13.58 W. (E) 37.03 N. 10.03 W. (F) 36.30 N, 09.29 W. thence direct. WISHART and BRILLIANT will R/V in position (E) at 0800Z/22nd unless otherwise amended by ADVENTURE.

(N.C.X.F. 1231Z/19 to ADVENTURE (R) C. in C.W.A. Capt.(S) 8th F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Plymouth, Admty F.O.S. Cdre. F.A.O.C.Gib.).

Situation  
1958A/19th.

1. G.U.F.1 7 destroyers 34.20, 31.42, through following 40.33, 50 thence 291 13½.  
2. PORTSDOWN, VIVIANA, YES/TOR with SPHENE in tow 26.51, 23.44 through 25.01 23.01 thence 169. 6½.  
(N.C. X. F. 1303Z/19).

Situation  
1955A/19th.

1. U.S.S/M BLACKFISH approx. 38.40 20.01 at 2100A/19th 000° on surface 11½. *See p. 822D*  
2. THUNDERBOLT 36.42 08.20 through 36.40 07.30 at 0200A/20th to R/V with escort in 35.59, 06.15 at

1700A/20th to Gibraltar on surface 10. *See p. 839*

3. TROOPER 42.11 12.18 155° dived by day 2½ surface at night 9.

4. P.311. 40.38, 10.58, 160° dived by day 2½ surface by night 10.

5. M.K.F.2. PELICAN, EGRET, PHILANTE, BANFF, SENNEN, CLARE, LARGS, 43.12 15.01 000° 12½.

6. M.K.F.3. WESTON, 2 sloops, 2 corvettes, 2 cutters, 37.08, 11.12 through 35.35. 10.01 to Gibraltar 12.

7. ITHURIEL, \*1 merchant ship, 38.58, 10.55 through 36.40 09.11 thence 090° 10. \* HINDUSTAN.

8. MILNE, QUIBERON, QUALITY, QUENTIN. (See 2050Z/19).

9. Fleet Unit, 6 destroyers 37.34 11.28 through 40.01 15.01\*18.

11. K.M.S.3. BLACKSWAN, 1 sloop, 9 corvettes, 36.01, 13.07. 090° 7½.

12. AVON VALE. *See p. 839*  
(N.C.X.F. 1310Z/19, 1641Z/19, to A.I.G.63).

\*Course 340°.

→ My 1310Z/19th. Para. 8 amend to read approx. 036. 44 010.18 to 035.40 009.02 at 0900A/20th thence R/V with K.M.F.3. *See p. 829*

Add new para. 13 ABERDEEN, RHODODENDRON, VIOLET, one Merchant Ship sails 0345A/20th direct to St Vincent. *See previous page*

(N.C.X.F. 2050Z/19).

*(M.K.S. (V))*

Situation → 1. BLACKFISH.

2004A/19th. 2. TRUANT 29.48, 21.01, 000° On surface 11.

4. G.U.F.2, 7 destroyers, 33.01 20.29 through 31.01, 24.01 thence 270 12.

5. Task Force 39, one oiler, 2 tugs, one net tender, 25 small warships, 36.21, 28.37 through 36.12, 25.01 thence 95. 9.

(N.C. X.F. 1310Z/19 to A.I.G. 64).



833

War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- K.M.S.3. *In previous page - (situation) 4 p. 844.* Your 2000/18, ships capable of streaming A.N.D. should be in wing columns. I.C.O.C. 73 refers. (D.T.D. Approved by A. C.N.S.(T) 1328A/19 to BLACK SWAN, (R) N.C.X.F.etc).
- U/B S/M sighted 500 yards off shore of Redala headed off south at 1335Z/19th. Fedala. (C.T. F.34 1630Z/19 to N.C.X.F.).
- SS. Your 1349A/17. Spanish SS. NURIA R on charter to Red Cross which has British Red Cross cargo left Barcelona for Marseilles 0100/17 and will return within a week. Exact date will be notified. (N.A.Madrid 1747/19 to Admty,(R) C. in C.Med, V.A.Malta, F.O.C.N.A. - F.O.C.N.A. please pass to N.C.X. F.).
- NURIA.
- HAMBLETON. Re HAMBLETON what is damage, do you consider feasible to tow her Gibraltar and make hull seaworthy for towing U.S.? (N.C.X.F.1802Z/19 to N.C.W.N.T.F.).
- K.M.S.3. 243. TACT (1) K.M.S.3. route as follows:-  
From position (H) to (J) 036.25 N. 008.58 W.  
(K).036.25 N. 007. 05 W.  
(L).035. 55 N. 006. 25 W. to pass Europa Point at 2300Z/21st then through,  
(M).035.42 N. 003.01 W.  
(N).035.38 N. 002.14 W.  
(O) 035.56 N. 001.51 W.  
(P) 036.33 N. 001.19 E.  
(Q) 036.53 N. 002.54 W.  
2. Algiers escort, VENOMOUS S.O., WIVERN, VERITY, ENCHANTRESS, FLEETWOOD, POLRUAN, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, BRIXHAM, will R/V in position (L) at 1600Z/21st when Gibraltar Section with 37 E. G. part company.  
3. Oran section escort, NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN and LUNENBURG part company position (O) at 0600Z/23rd. F.O.I.C. Oran providing additional local escort.  
4. Algiers section to arrive position (Q) at 0900Z/24th.  
5. F.O.I.S. to arrange onward route and escort for 4 ships for Bougie 3 for Philippeville and 13 for Bone. Any not required forward to be ordered by F.O.I.S. to Algiers or can join Gib. section.  
6. BLACKSWAN add Cde.Vice Cde and Rear Cdes.  
7. Fighter protection priority 2 as far as 0120 East then priority 1 (one). Codeword "Redbreast."  
(N.C. X.F. 1846Z/19 to BLACK SWAN, F.O.Inshore, F.O. Oran, Cmdre. Algiers N.O.I.C.Bougie, N.O.I.C.Philippeville , N.O.I.C.Bone, (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admiralty, Capt.(S) 8. NASTURTIUM, A.O.C.Gib. C.G. 12th Air Corps.Cmdre E.G.)



834

War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

BRIDGEWATER. Your 1256Z/17th. P.C. and S. 013.37 N. 034.01 W. 180. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ . No merchant ships have been sighted. Intend altering to 090° at 0800Z/20th. Fuel remaining allows maximum stay at sea until day of 26th Nov. weather report.  
(BRIDGEWATER 0801Z/19 to R. A. W.A.(R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty).

THYSVILLE. Lloyds Surveyor grants three months extension but reports vessel must be drydocked at the end of three months.  
2. G.O.C. West Africa is requested to report in view of foregoing whether vessel is now required for further movements.  
(D.S.T.O. West Africa 0917Z/19 to D. of S.T.).

Situation R.A.W.A.F. 1053Z/19.  
Area P.

Situation (C. in C.S.A. 1115C/19) See Lion Copy.  
Area Q.

Dispositions 1. T.G. 23.2 consisting of MILWAUKEE (R.A. Read) of CINCINNATI and SOMERS in 0103 S. 22.45 W. SOLANTFOR. a.m./18th. Course 320°. Speed 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  knots. *imp. 830 B* Maintaining air R/C probably 120 miles each side of course. Force leave patrol p.m. 20th proceeding direct to Pernambuco.  
2. T. G. 23.3 consisting of OMAHA, MARBLEHEAD and JOUETT in 01.38 S. 23.30 W. at 1130Z/20th Course 320°. Speed 14 knots force leaves patrol to proceed south at 0030Z/22nd.  
3. Destroyers MOFFATT, \*BELKNAP, \*GREENE and WINSLOW leave Trinidad with southbound convoy on 21st Nov.  
4. Destroyers *2048* BADGER, DAVIS, and ELLIS at Rio de Janeiro.  
5. Cruiser MEMPHIS on special mission.  
(F.O.C.N.A. 1141Z/19). \* *Seaplane Tender. (Dist: BADGER & N Atlantic)*

W/T Signals PUNTA ARENAS (Chile) 1930/18th is being passed made by M/Ws. to you.  
in Capetown ( S.O.(I) Montevideo 1225Z/19 to Admty, C. in C. area liable S.A. (R) N.A. Santiago de Chile).  
to interception  
Re. SS.  
EASTGATE  
arrived 17th  
Departure  
18th.

CERES. Sailed to Kilindini (routed)  
3. S.O.A. 16 knots E.T.A. Kilindini 0500Z/24.  
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1234Z/19).



**MOST SECRET**

1115C/19th November.

~~MOST SECRET~~

IN

Date. 19.11.42.

From. C. in C. South Atlantic.

Recd. 1138.

Naval Cypher B By W/T.

Addressed. Ships in Area Q of South Atlantic Station. Admiralty.  
Commodore in Charge, Durban. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth  
N.L.O. East London. R.A. W. Africa.

IMPORTANT.

GLENEARN 016 degs. 20' South 006 degs. 20' East 295 degs. 16  
knots. *See p. 836*

U.S. Transport WESTPOINT 042 degs. 50' South 023 degs. 40'  
East to the East 21 knots.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA on patrol in M 3 A and B.

~~French light cruiser LEOPARD leaves Simonstown p.m. 19th  
November for Mauritius.~~

1115C/19, 1547C/19

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D.

V.C.N.S.  
A.C.N.S. (H)  
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
N.A. 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
Duty Capt. (2)  
U.S.N.  
D.A/S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
I.P. (2)  
W.D.  
D.T.D. (M)  
C.C.O. (2)  
D.N.E. (C.O.)  
D, of P. (Q)  
U.S.N.  
D.N.I. (4)



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

W.S.24.

ROTHERHAM will be unable to continue with W.S.24 as far as Durban and must fuel at Capetown.

Intend part company with W.S.24 in approx. position P.040.10 S. 014.30 E. which I estimate will be reached about 1800Z/30th and proceed to Capetown for fuel.

Request reinforcement of A/S escort may reach convoy before this time.

(Capt.(D) 11 1244Z/19 to C. in C. S.A.(R) Admty, Comsolantfor. F.O. W.A. C. in C.E.F.).

ASTURIAS.

128. Patrol between position (b) 006.22 N. 024.09 W. and (a) 004.36 N. 026.10 W, commencing at position (b) at (08)00Z/20th Nov.S. of A 12½ knots.

(F.O.W.Af. 1257Z/19 to ASTURIAS.(R) AMARANTHUS, Admty, Information Addressee No.6. 23.2 T.G.23.3 Comsolantfor).

SS.LOUISE  
MOLLER.

INCONSTANT arrived 17th Nov. with 25 survivors from SS.LOUISE MOLLER torpedoed by S/M in 30.50 S. 35.54 E. at 0326 G.M.T./13th.

Chief Officer states that to the best of his knowledge all C/Bs were thrown overboard and sank one boat load containing Master 6 Officers and 19 men not yet accounted for. Survivors as in my P/L 1316/19/11.

(Cdre.I/C Durban 1321Z/19).

DRAGON.

Intend DRAGON to arrive Ponta Delgada for fuelling about noon/26th. Fuel required about 800 tons. Request Portuguese authority be notified. N.C.S.O. pass to British Consul. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1321Z/19 to N. C.S.O. P.Delgada).

SS.ADVISER.

Arrived H.M.S. GENISTA escorting H.M.Tug PRUDENT with SS. ADVISER in tow. (Com.Durban 1511Z/19).

Amendment  
No.85. to  
Mari Sect.IV.

Insert new para.3.

1. To avoid congestion at Takoradi the ports of Freetown and Lagos will be used as holding ports for the West African coast, except Bathurst.

2. Ships from U.K. and U.S.A. should be given. (a) Route right through to destination. (b) Route to Freetown from convenient point on route (a) (c) Instructions for entry into Lagos and Takoradi. Route (b) is to be followed unless other instructions are received.



836

War Diary.19.11. 1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Amendment  
No.85 to  
MARI Sect.  
IV.  
Contd.3. Route signals and convoy lists should contain onward destination and an indication as to whether the call at Freetown is for discharge and/or bunkers holding only.  
4. Lagos will be used as a holding port as directed by F.O.C.W.A.  
(D.T. D. 1549A/19).CITY OF  
CAIRO.Torpedoed 2025 G.M.T./6 in 023.30 S.  
005.30 W. 2nd torpedo at 2050 G.M.T./6th.  
Large S/M with 2 guns (?) Ship broke up and sank. Approx. 30 killed when torpedoed.  
150 survivors picked up by SS. CLAN ALPINE between 0530 and 0900 G.M.T. Nov.19th 20 to 50 miles (?S.S. W.) St.Helena and disembarked 1400 same day. 3 boats carrying (?130) persons (?220) still missing. All books destroyed at once. List of casualties follows. From general St.Helena.  
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1550/19).

Dakar.

Dakar all major units present a.m./19th.  
Merchant Ships are showing gradual increase and now number 30.  
(F.O.W.Af. 1614Z/19).

GLENEARN.

*See p 834A*Important to all. F.O.C.W.Af's 1159/18. *p 796*  
Not approved.  
2.F.O.C.W.Af and N.C. X.F. are requested to route GLENEARN as requisite to join Convoy M.K.F.3.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1639A/19 to F.O.C.W.A. N.C.X.F.  
(R) C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.N.A.).Aircraft  
Patrols.Intend to carry out following aircraft patrols commencing at 1230 Z/20th.  
(1) By Sunderland 8.O.C. A. From (A) 004.50 N. 022.40 W. to (b) 003.12 N. 024.38 W. to  
(c) 002.41 N. 024.12 W. (d) 004.18 N, 022.15 W.  
(2) By Sunderland 8 O.C.J. Similar patrol commencing at  
(E) 003.25 N. 021.29 W.  
Re transmission of sighting reports.  
(F.O.C.W.Af. 1719Z/19 to. Comsolantfor 74, ASTURIAS(R) T. G.23.2 T.G.23.3. Admiralty, AMARANTHUS).

P.552.

*/N.T.M. 7-3.*  
Your 1805C/19th proceeding 10 knots to intercept German S/M. Expect Quicongue dawn 22nd subsequent refuelling at Pointe Noire. Request approval.  
(P.552. 1806Z/19 to C. in C.S. A.(R) F.O.W.A.).



837

War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

S O S. Following has been read from unknown station.  
048 M D 9 S W V S 7 W 7.  
S O S. Position 37.00 N., 25.35 E.  
(Malta W/T, 0020/19).

ARETHUSA,  
PETARD,  
GLOXINIA. PETARD's 2155/18th Nov. which has been passed  
to A.I.G. 72 Spare for C. in C. Med.  
Keep within 30 miles of coast. Fighter and A/S  
air escort arranged. Codeword "Anger":  
shifting from Malta broadcast to 425 k/cs at  
0300B. Triangle will meet you p.m./19th as  
signalled by N.O.I.C. Alexandria.  
(C. in C. Med., 0033B/19 to ARETHUSA, PETARD,  
(R) Spare for C. in C. Med. C.S.15).  
Enemy aircraft attacking 32° 39' N., 23° 54' E.  
(PETARD, 0919/19).  
Bombed single TON\*no hits 032° 34' N., 024° 02' E.  
(ARETHUSA, 0923/19 to C. in C. Med).  
\*Geographical signification "Tortola".  
"Anger" is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft bearing  
185° from centre of convoy. Position DPTJ 3305.  
(Malta, 1034B/19).  
1 S H A D 1 50 - "Anger" D P T J 30-0-9.  
(PETARD, 1102/19).  
My P.C. and S. 031° 31' N., 028° 08' E., 282° 14 knots  
request your P.C. and S. and R/V.  
(GLOXINIA, 1154B/19 to ARETHUSA (R) C. in C. Med).  
One shadowing 32.05 N., 25.13 E., 340° 8.  
(ARETHUSA, 1533B/19).

Force H. ASHANTI's 2147/17th. I should prefer berths  
closer in. (Proposals).  
(N.C.X.F., 0204Z/19 to S.O. Force H).  
At your discretion remain a further 48 hours  
at Mers el Kebir. Your forces must be clear of the harbour  
by 1200Z/21st.  
(N.C.X.F., 1222Z/19 to S.O. Force H (R) F.O.I.C. Oran).

Enemy merchant ship. */ see next page.*  
PARTHIAN reported one large Merchant ship,  
2 Destroyers last seen 038° 27' 012° 48' course  
270 16 knots. Now lost touch.  
(Capt. S.10., 0254A/19 to S/Ms on patrol).

P.42 Establish patrol forthwith within 12 miles of  
Palermo Light.  
(Capt. S.10., 0329A/19 to P.42 (R) S/Ms on  
patrol, N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med).

/PARTHIAN...



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.\*PARTHIAN,  
P.35,  
P.37.*\* See previous  
page.*

PARTHIAN's 2525/18th bad luck. Patrol close N.W. of Marittimo until making passage home diving at C at 0500/20th through F at 0430/21st thence on the surface to R/V with sweeper at 1000/21st. P.35 1918 18th approve but arrive F. at 0400/21st thence R/V with Sweeper at 1000/21st PARTHIAN will be close to you at dawn.  
(Capt. S.10., 0429A/19 to H.M.S. PARTHIAN, H.M. Sub. P.35. (R) Submarines on patrol).

Your 2355/18th concur, you have freedom of action and suggest you close Marittimo afternoon 19th and ? make passage. ? Q B B 255 on surface as soon as possible after dark, thence on surface to Malta making E.T.A. when approaching F. If situation deteriorates inform me.

(Capt. S.10., 0449A/19 to PARTHIAN (R) S/Ms on Patrol, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).

My 0449A/19th estimate your position dawn 20th, 36.30 13.40. You must not cross latitude 36.00 before 0700. Arrive with P.37 to R/V with sweepers at 1330A/20th. You will have fighter protection from dawn until past F. If this suits do not make E.T.A. if unsuitable inform me when safe to do so and I will comply.

(Capt. (S) 10, 1241A/19 to PARTHIAN, (R) S/Ms on patrol, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1).

\*BRAMHAM,  
G.O.C. and  
A.O.C.*\* See p. 840*

BRAMHAM with General Anderson, Air Cdre. Lawson and their staff will arrive Philippeville at first light 20/11. BRAMHAM also has depth charges for Bone and ammunition for Philippeville (S.O.I.S., 0747Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville).

Operation  
"Stoneage".

Taranto 0750 3 battleships Messina 0835 5 cruisers Naples 0800 3 battleships 4 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 0949A/19 to Ships concerned in "Stoneage" (R) C. in C. Med., Admty).

Escorting Spitfire reports one unknown 5,000 tons 070° convoy 35, apparently stationary at 0940A.

(V.A. Malta, 1145A/19 to C.S.15).

Intend CLEOPATRA, DIDO, ORION and Fleets part company with convoy at 1400B in 034° 50' 015° 35' steering 110° 20 knots codeword "liquid". Estimated position at 0600/20th 033° 15' 021° 45' reverse convoy route.

(C.S.15, 1156B/19 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C. Med).

Berthing arrangements.

(V.A. Malta, 1257A/19).

U/B attacked. Your 0730A/18th (C.A.F.O.) 834/41 (a) GERANIUM (b) 0350Z/12 (c) 37 (26 or 03?) north 02.32 E. (d) 11 (e) 0501Z/12.  
(GERANIUM, 1001Z/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) ROCHESTER).



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

MAURETANIA. Following is a repetition of my 1013/16\* begins MAURETANIA sailed 16th Nov. ends. (S.S.T.O. Suez, 1113B/19). \*N.T. in W.R.

\*THUNDERBOLT, Capt. S.8., 1132Z/19 cancelled by 1136A/19 q.v.  
\*P.311, THUNDERBOLT passing Europa point at 2030Z/20  
\*TROOPER, escorted (H) 180° Cape Calaburras 10 thence  
URSULA, *see p.842* (J) 135° Cape de Gata 10 miles.  
P.54. (K) 135° Cape Palos 10 miles.  
\* *see p.832* (L) 038° 56' 003° 01' E.  
(*Situation*) (M) 038° 56' 006° 59' E., to pass through  
(N) 038° 37' 008° 01' East at 1200Z/25th.

S. of A. 140 miles a day.

(2) P.311. TROOPER follows same route 48. 72 (corrupt group)  
(?C) THUNDERBOLT.

(3) All 3 submarines carry large petrol containers on after casing.

(4) Capt. (S) 10 is requested to signal onward route.

(5) URSULA P.54 leaves Gibraltar 1200/20th, 1700/20th respectively 5 miles off Spanish coast to Cape Palos thence Genoa. S. of A. 125 miles a day.

(Capt. S.8., 1132Z/19 to 8th S/M F. Capt. S.10)

Note. This message previously circulated with T.O.O. 1136A/19. Whole of para. (2) (including T.O.O.) is correction.

URSULA. P.54 leave Gibraltar at 1200Z, 1700Z 20th respectively keep 5 miles north of your route to 135° Cape Palos 5 miles thence course - degrees 40 S. of A 125 miles a day.

2. P.51 in 180° Cape de Gata 5 miles at 1200/20th is proceeding Gibraltar 5 miles off Spanish coast to arrive at 1000Z/21st.

3. Submarines are not to be attacked when west of Cape Palos unless identified beyond doubt as enemy.

(Capt. S.8., 1134Z/19 to THUNDERBOLT).

(My 1754/18th. Onward route from position C for THUNDERBOLT.

Escorted through G 180° Europa Point 2 miles at (?20)30Z/20th H 180° Cape Calaburras 10 at 0100Z/21st thence unescorted

and dive by day through J 180° Cape de Gata 10 at 2130Z/21st.

K.135° Cape Palos 10 at 0800/22nd.

L.038° 56' N., 003° 01' E., at 2100/23rd.

M. 038° 56' N., 006° 59' E., at 0200Z/25th.

N. 038° 37' N., 008° 01' E., at 1200Z/25th, thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.

2. P.311 and TROOPER are to proceed by same route keeping 48 hours and 72 hours respectively astern of THUNDERBOLT.

3. Details of escort follow.

(Capt. S.8., 1136A/19 to THUNDERBOLT, S/M P.311, TROOPER.)

Note. This message was originally circulated with time of origin 1132Z/19. All after position "J" is a correction.

AVON VALE will R/V with you in position C and escort you through G to H. AVON VALE will transfer to you at R/V instructions for arrival at Malta and (?equipment), she has been instructed that you are to avoid being sighted by (?neutral) shipping.

(S.8., 1548Z/19 to THUNDERBOLT).

P.R.U.

Toulon, Marseilles.  
(D.D.I.C., 1211A/19).

/MANXMAN...



# SECRET

839A

MESSAGE 1155/19th G.M.T. Nov. IN

From: C. in C. Middle East.

Date: 19.11.42.

Recd: 1700.

C I P H E R

Addressed: War Office (Pass to Air Ministry)  
Repeated: British Army Staff Washington  
(personal for F.-M. Dill), C. in C.  
India (personal for Gen. Wavell).  
C. in C. Mediterranean, G.O.C. in C.  
Egypt, C. in C. Persia/Iraq (personal  
for Gen. Wilson), L.H.Q. Melbourne  
(personal for Gen. Blamey. C.G.S.  
South Africa (personal for F.-M. Smuts).  
C.G.S. New Zealand (Personal for Gen.  
Puttick).

MOST IMMEDIATE.

293436.

O/73634 cipher 19 November.. Secret.

Cositrep No. 598 Part Two.

(5) Air. Night 17/18 November.  
Torpedo aircraft from Malta attacked eight  
thousand ton TRIPOLE bound Tanker off Homs.  
Vessel left blazing.

(6) 18 November. Fighters operating  
from Gazala and El Adem landing grounds effectively  
attacked targets in Benghasi area destroying three  
Ju.52's damaging twenty four other aircraft mainly  
transports on Magrum landing ground. Also shot  
down seven Ju.52's, probably destroyed one Me.109  
damaged a Ju.52 over landing ground. About thirty  
M.T. including petrol carriers were destroyed and  
damaged on roads same area. Six fighters missing  
but two pilots believed safe. Fighters patrols  
over westbound convoy off Cyrenaica probably des-  
troyed a Ju.88. Some activity by Me.109 reported  
over our forward troops Msus area during day. Ref.  
Cositrep No. 597 part two para. four. Fighters  
attacking Barce landing ground in afternoon destroyed  
one Me.111 one Ju. 52 one Me.110 on ground.

/A.....



A patrol south of Benghasi shot down two Me.109's.  
Two fighters missing. All informed.

1155/19 G.M.T.

Received from War Office: 1900/19/11/42

War Office circulation:  
C.6.(Tels). To: M.O.5 (for action)

S. of S.  
C.I.G.S.  
V.C.I.G.S.  
D.M.O.  
D.Plans (2 copies)  
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Ops.(3)  
D. of P.(3)  
M.(2)  
I.P.(3)  
D.P.D.

W.D.  
D.N.I.(5)  
Admiral Blake.  
D.N.A.D.  
D.A.C.D.



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

MANXMAN,  
WELSHMAN.

Anticipate Hunts will be ready to sail p.m./20th.  
2. Request decision as to programme of MANXMAN and WELSHMAN vide your 1846/16th and Admty. 1525/17th.\*

3. If WELSHMAN is to sail east suggest sailing her independently tonight Thursday to profit by cover of 15th C.S.

(V.A. Malta, 1221/19 to C. in C. Med., (R) C.S.15 Capt. (D) 5).

\* Hush distribution.

Your 1221/19th. Owing to difficulty to provide 2 lots of fighter cover a.m. tomorrow Friday would prefer not to sail WELSHMAN tonight.

(C. in C. Med., 1637B/19 to V.A. Malta, (R) C.S.15).

→ R. SCOTSMAN,  
R. ULSTERMAN.

*See pp 828 9  
844*

N.C.X.F. 1347Z/17th\* being passed to you. You will be required for ferry service duties eastward of Algiers as soon as weather moderates to allow troops to be embarked from ORMONDE.

(?Cdre. Algiers, 1245Z/19 to ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, (R) S.O.I.S.)

\*N.T. in W.R.

PORT DE BOUC,  
OASIS.

French departure 18th Noon, for Marseilles. (Barcelona, 1252/19).

Movements,  
Bougie,  
Philippeville.

N.O.I.C. Bougie is to sail CITY OF NORWICH and OCEAN VISTA after dark 20th Nov. for inclusion in M.K.S.2 which leaves Algiers p.m./21st. 2 Fleet minesweepers to be detailed as escort. 2. Other empty ships capable of 9 knots may be

sailed in company.

→ 3. \*BRAMHAM is to leave Philippeville after dark 20th Nov. and arrive Bougie at 2230Z to escort ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTERMAN to Algiers.\* *See p. 838*

4. N.O.I.C. Bougie BRAMHAM, ROYAL ULSTERMAN acknowledge. (F.O.I.S. 1321Z/19 to BRAMHAM, N.O.I.C. Bougie, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN (R) Comdre. Algiers, N.C.S.O. Algiers).

Forenoon  
Visuals 19th  
Nov.

V.A. Malta, 1340A/19.

Brief  
situation  
report for  
area West  
of Algiers  
2001Z/19.

(1) T.E.5 36.16 N., 02.15 W., through (68) and (2) 7 knots.  
(3) E T one 35.46 N., 02.42 W., through (72) to Gibraltar 7 knots.  
(N.C.X.F., 1402Z/19).



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.221. Leave patrol after dark tonight through  
 1-13.843 (1) 038° 20' 008° 52'. (2) 038° 20' 008° 00'.  
 thence Gibraltar as ordered by Capt. S.8.  
 Make a situation report when north of 038°.  
 (Capt. S.10. 1407A/19 to P.221. Capt. S.8. (R) N.C.X.F.  
 S/MS on patrol.)  
 Capt. S.10 1407 pass 038° 20' N 008° 00' E at 0800Z/20  
 then proceed diving by day through 038° 50' N 003° 01' E at  
 0100Z/22 135° part company 10 at 0400Z/23.  
 Further orders follow.  
 (Capt. S.8. 1836Z/19 to P.221. (R) Capt. S.10. S/MS on  
 patrol. N.C.X.F.)  
 Your 1407A/19. 2 hits observed on 5000 ton German merchant  
 ship a.m. 16th.  
 Ship probably approaching Bizerta from westward keeping very  
 close to coast.  
 E-Boats have been encountered at night. Intense air activity  
 including A/S air patrol.  
 2 medium size merchant ships and 4 destroyers in harbour 1600  
 today. 5 torpedoes remain. Weather report 5388 0274.  
 (P.221 2352A/19 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8.  
 C. in C. Med.)

Bougie. Situation report 1700A.  
 No enemy air raids. Test of port smoke screen  
 successful. Fighters report total cover of port.  
 ?(unloading) delayed by swell. Next convoy now  
 not ready until p.m. 21st 3 ships.  
 (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1441A/19 to F.O.I.S.)

P.43. Arrival.  
 (V.A. Malta 1447A/19.)

8th S.M.F. 237. When MAIDSTONE is established at Algiers  
 intend to extend operational control of Capt. S.8.  
 S/M to eastern boundary of "Torch" area.  
 2. 8th S/M.F. when units now attacked have left  
 for their proper stations will be only 5 submarines.  
 3. It is for consideration whether it would not be wise to  
 transfer 3 S class now in 10th S/M.F. to 8th S/M.F. since 10th  
 S/M.F. would no longer be required to operate north of Sicily.  
 4. Mutual reinforcements between flotillas could of course  
 continue as occasion demanded.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1450Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Malta.  
 F.O.C.N.A.)

ELIZABETH HENDRIK

E.H. <sup>1</sup>FISSER. Departure 18th 0900 probably Genoa.  
 (Valencia T.H.I. 1515/19.)

/THRASHER...



842

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

THRASHER Capt. S.1's 0945/15. THRASHER's onward route  
TURBULENT through 035° 13' 015° 16' thence south of Q B B  
TRAVELLER 95 to R/V with sweeper at end of searched channels  
at 1330A/21. While approaching R/V TURBULENT  
keep north and THRASHER south of a line 230° from  
end of searched channels. My 0429A/19 refers P.35s arrival.  
(Capt. S.10. 1536A/19 to THRASHER. TURBULENT. (R) C. in C.  
Med. Capt. S.1. S/Ms on patrol.)  
Capt. S.1's 0945/15 and my 1536/19. Amend THRASHER onward  
route to read through (1) 035° 48' 016° 35' (2) 035° 22' 015°  
22' thence as in my 1536/19.  
TRAVELLER onward route through (1) 035° 21' 016° 40' (2) 035° 07'  
014° 48' (3) 035° 20' 014° 12' thence south of Q B B 95 to R/V  
with sweepers at end of searched channel at 1026A/22. S/Ms are  
not to cross THRASHER 016° E and TRAVELLER 017° E before 0001A/21.  
(Capt. S.10. 2257A/19 to THRASHER. TRAVELLER. (R) C. in C.  
Med. Capt. S.1. S/Ms on patrol.)

U/B off Submarine sighted 500 yards (?off shore) of  
Fedala. Fedala headed south at 1335Z/19.  
(C.T.F.34. 1630Z/19 to N.C.X.F.)

S/M H.M.S.P.51 038° 05' N 000° 28' W on surface 8  
Situation knots to Gibraltar 5 miles from Spanish Coast.  
Report (2) H.M.S.\*URSULA sails 1200/20 on surface at  
in W. Med. 8½ knots to eastwards 5 miles from Spanish Coast.  
at (3) H.M.S. P.54 sails 1700/20 on surface at  
2000Z/19. 8½ knots to eastwards 5 miles from Spanish Coast.  
(N.C.X.F. 1651Z/19 to A.I.G.262.)

\* *see p.839*

Naval Request you will keep an eye on Q 13 (7) Flight  
aircraft. Swordfish disembarked at Tafaraoui aerodrome.  
They will be rather lost when Hudsons move on to  
Algiers.

(2) Request you will consult with F.O.I.C. Oran as to  
practicability of basing Walrus at Mers El Kebir or Arzeu to  
replace Swordfish eventually.  
(N.C.X.F. 1715Z/19 to S.O. Force H. (R) FORMIDABLE.)

Bombing T C A O No. 16.  
restrictions. (1) (a) total. (b) URSULA. (c) 1200/20 180°  
Europa Point 2 miles 1700/20 180° Cape Calaburras  
5 miles 1900/20 036° 30' N 004° 15' W. (d) 8½.  
(2) (a) Submerged. (b) URSULA. (c) 1900/20 036° 30' N 004° 15' W  
0800/21 180° Cape de Gata 5 miles 0200/22 135° Cape Palos 5 miles  
0500/23 039° 27' N 001° 26' E. (d) 8.  
(3) (a) total. (b) P.54. (c) 1700/20 180° Europa Point 2 miles  
2200/20 180° Cape Calaburras 10 miles.  
(4) Submerged. (b) P.54. (c) 2200/20 180° Cape Calaburras 5  
miles 2000/21 180° Cape de Gata 5 miles 0900/22 135° Cape Palos  
5 miles 1830/23 39° 27' N 01° 26' E. (d) 8.  
(5) All times G.M.T.  
(Capt. S.8. 1724Z/19 to R.A.F. Gibraltar. R.A.F. Algiers.  
R.A.F. Oran. (R) N.C.X.F.)

/T C A O...



843

War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bombing T C A O. (a) Submerged (b) P.221 (c) 0800Z/20  
restrictions. 038° 20' N 008° 01' E 0100Z/22 038° 50' N 003°  
Contd. 01' E 0400Z/23 135° Cape Palos ll.  
(Capt. S.8. 1834Z/19 to R.A.F. Gibraltar. R.A.F.  
Algiers. R.A.F. Oran. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Oran. Serial No.4. Channel to Inner Harbour Oran  
limited to vessels of 20 foot draft. 2500 tons  
capacity south dry dock raised and is in operating  
condition dimensions in metres length 120 width  
21.1 depth oversill when submerged 7.5.  
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1745/19 to N.C.X.F.)

K.M.F.3. (1) All K.M.F.3 will discharge Algiers.  
Detail ships intended for Bone, Bougie and  
Philippeville to enter first. Two longest wait  
off north entrance next to longest off south entrance remaining  
five anchor as close as possible off south entrance ready to  
follow. Balance of convoy anchor as convenient east of port.  
(2) Re transfer of personnel.  
(3) Speed highest importance.  
(Cdre. Algiers 1746Z/19 to S.O. Escort K.M.F.3 pass to Cdre.)

Landing 20 landing craft unescorted sail Bougie 1900A/19  
craft for Bone calling Jijelli, Collo, Philippeville.  
from Craft will be under way during night only.  
Bougie. E.T.A. Jijelli 0200A/20.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1814A/19 to S.O.I.S. (R) R.A.F.  
Jijelli. N.O.I.C. Philippeville. N.O.I.C. Bone.)

Bastia. Large coal vessel escorted entered harbour Bastia  
0810Z/19.  
(TRIBUNE 1832Z/19 to Capt. S.10. (R) Capt. S.8.  
N.C.X.F.)

Air Your 1005/17 not to all addressees the forward  
patrol movements of Hudson 500 Squadron to Algiers was  
arrangements. always intended by A.O.C. E.A.C. in his air plan  
which has not been altered.

It will make no difference to A/S air patrols to  
seaward of your ports since eastward limit of sweep from  
Gibraltar and western limit of sweep from Algiers overlap and  
provide same degree of cover as before. Convoys arriving in  
daylight will be air escorted to your ports by R.A.F. A/C.

(2) For the present I propose leaving 813 (Y) Flight Swordfish  
at Oran for local A/S patrols within 50 miles of Oran and Arzeu  
they will remain anyhow until you have berthed K.M.S.3.

(3) Request you will consult S.O. Force H as to possibility of  
operating Walrus A/C from Mers El Kebir or Arzeu later when it  
becomed necessary to? (move of service) Swordfish.

(N.C.X.F. 1840Z/19 to F.O.I.C. Oran. (R) S.O. Force H. A.O.C.  
E.A.C. A.O.C. Gib.)

/Oran...



844

War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Oran. N.C.X.F's 1844A/4.  
2. ROUSAY SHIANT arrived.  
5. C War channels and anchorage swept daily negative result.  
(?F.O.I.C. Oran 1905Z/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

A/C mining off Bougie. Enemy A/C suspected of dropping 2 mines in approx. 090° Jetee Est 2 miles.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 2057A/19 to \*ROYAL SCOTSMAN.  
\*ROYAL ULSTERMAN. ALBACORE. ALERT (R) S.O.I.S.)  
\* See pp 828 & 840

K.M.S.3. Composition of K.M.S.3. All ships motor transports and stores for Army.  
See p. 833  
Oran. ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JOHN MARSHALL, MOBILE CITY, THOMAS STONE, RAJPUT, JAMES MUNROE, DAHOMIAN, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, GRANGPARK, WILLIAM M. STEWART, PRINCE HAROLD, THOMAS PINCKNEY, TAWALI, LUT<sup>HER</sup>-MARTIN.  
Algiers. FORT LAC LA ROUGE, TROUBADOUR, OCEAN PILGRIM, OCEAN WAYFARER, BELGIAN SEAMAN, NAVAL CITY, EMPIRE (corrupt group) CAITHNESS, COOMBE HILL, EMPIRE SHEARWATER, EMPIRE WEBSTER, FORT AMITCLEOD, \*THISTLEDADE, FORT CHILCOTIN, EMPIRE FLAMINGO, EMPIRE CENTAUR. ? THISTLEBRAE.  
Bougie. FOREST, OCEAN VICTORY, OCEAN VALENTINE, TRENT BANK.  
Philippeville. BRETWALDA, CITY OF VENICE, BENLEDI.  
Bone. ENGLISH MONARCH, ORIENT CITY, EMPIRE BANNER, BENEDICT, EMPIRE WYCLIF, FORT BOURBON, BEGUM, INVENTOR, MANCHESTER CITIZEN, FORT BABINE, CARLTON, EMPIRE PRINCE, HINDUSTAN.  
(N.C.X.F. 2208Z/19.)

Malta AI.114 19 Nov. Night 18/19 Nov. No local enemy  
C.S.R. air activity.  
Day 19th. Following action was taken to protect approach of convoy from east 0410 hours first patrol of 4 Beaufighters was airborne and convoy was located 0523 hours 135 miles south east of Malta at 0640 hours first Spitfire patrol arrived over convoy and from then onwards continuous patrol over convoy was maintained in showery and squally weather by a total of 42 long range Spitfires and 47 short range Spitfires no attack was attempted on convoy while under our fighter protection at 0910 and 1440 hours total of 12 Spitfires was airborne for raiders which approached northeast of Island then turned back by 1635 hours convoy had been safely escorted to 30 miles south of Malta for loss of 3 Spitfires crashed in sea (cause being investigated) and 1 pilot so far missing the other 2 pilots were picked up by convoy at 1715 hours 11 enemy aircraft approached to within 20 miles northwest of convoy 2 night Beaufighters were despatched to intercept and forced raiders to split up and turn away from convoy and return to Sicily without making any attack.  
One Swordfish and 2 Albatrosses despatched to locate and attack enemy southbound shipping off Cape Hon made no sightings owing extremely bad weather conditions.  
1915 to 2122 hours. 6 Wellingtons dropped 1 4000 lb. 26 500 lb and 43 250 lb GP bombs fused instantaneous and 3 flares on El Aouina aerodrome Tunis scoring hits on landing ground and among buildings and hangars 1 hangar was set on fire and 2 other fires started light and heavy flak was experienced.

/0139 hours...



War Diary.

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Lon 13.

Malta  
C.S.R.  
Contd.

0139 hours to 0255 hours. 5 Wellingtons made second successful attack on El Aouina dropping 28 500 lb and 44 250 lb GP bombs fused instantaneous and 15 flares scoring more hits on hangars and aerodrome and starting another fire in second attack no flak was experienced subsequent photos show 17 large craters on aerodrome.  
(A.H.Q. Malta 2248/19.)

P.211.

Your present activity and continued patrol are of particular importance, there is no S/M to relieve you but surface force may operate soon after capture of Benghazi. I leave it to your judgement when to return bearing in mind fatigue of personnel provisions and local activity. If returning before recall report movement when 50 miles from area.  
(Capt. S.10. 2341A/19 to P.211.)



846

19.11.1942.  
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S. 24

Following are disposal instructions for Troopships in convoy W.S. 24. (D.S.T. 0321A/19 to P.S.T.Os.)

BENGAL,  
(raider  
action  
11/11).

Your 0510/19th. Opened fire green 010° at 0534Z P. ceased fire green 137° at 0602Z. 1st enemy opened fire green 010° at 0534Z and ceased fire red 170° at 0634Z. 2nd enemy opened fire green 100° at 0537Z. and ceased (?fire) on green 180° at approx. 0645Z. All bearings BENGAL.

(BENGAL, 0722Z/19 to F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia).

Note by W.R. No trace of 0510/19 but BENGAL's 1413/18 refers.

"Q"  
Information  
for  
shipping.

Your 1928A/31 Oct. Agree that Admiralty should in future pass relevant Q.C.As. to necessary routeing authorities who should then issue an approach route to the port of destination of those ships.

2. Q.C.A. Messages have up to the present varied very little on the station and are unlikely to be obsolete by the time the ship arrives. In the event of Q.C.A. governing the approach to any of these ports being changed, local arrangements would be made to redirect ships as necessary at the first position on the approach route.

3. Similar approach routes to the other five selected ports for use in the event of diversion to be issued in a separate sealed envelope.

4. Routeing authorities at ports of departure to ensure that every ship possesses charts of the 6 selected ports. A case has already arisen of a ship only holding chart for original destination.

(C. in C. E.F., 1241Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., S.N.O.P.G.)

BRITTANY,  
Addu Atoll.

Your 0553Z/10.

BRITTANY will be available to go to Diego Garcia and Addu Atoll after completing work at Diego Suarez and loading B one nets at Kilindini. This should be about the end of December.

(2) In view of greater importance of Addu Atoll it is for consideration whether she should go there before Diego Garcia.

(3) She will require the help of a Boom working trawler at each place.

(4) Request your proposals as to her programme and confirmation that a Boom working trawler will be available from Ceylon.

(5) Request advancement details of any spare stores for B one defences available in Ceylon.

(C. in C. E.F., 1257Z/19 to F.O. Ceylon) Reply: F.O. Ceylon 0507Z/24.

/Shipping...



846 A

**SECRET**

1220Z/19th November

IN

Date 19.11.42.  
Recd. 1921A.

From India.

CYANIDE

Addressed Air Ministry Whitehall, 221, 222, 223, 224,  
225, 226, 227 Groups, Defence Dept. Wellington,  
Airboard Melbourne, A.H.Q. S.W. Pacific Brisbane,  
RAFCHIN, Chengtu Bengal Command Brairat  
Chungking (separate signal)

IMMEDIATE.

WX. 7651.

Int. 119 19 Nov. Secret. Information only - all  
but first addressee. Daily summary No. 249 for 19 Nov.

(A) 18 Nov. Gangaw repeat Gangaw Kan repeat Kan  
Taukkyan repeat Taukkyan bombed by 1 Blenheim fire  
started and small buildings damaged. First phase  
P.R.U. shows 6 new shelters Mnywa repeat Mnywa L/G  
making total 29 Magwe repeat Magwe A/D 5 medium 5 small  
aircraft. 5 sea recce sorties all negative.

(B) Night of 18/19. 3 Wellingtons bombed Moiktila  
repeat Moiktila aerodrome bursts on runways large fire  
started feeble inaccurate light flak some heavy flashes  
but no bursts 1 Wellington engaged by fighter  
inclusively 10 minutes other fighter seen.

(C) Night of 17/18. 8 Blenheims bombed Magwe repeat  
Magwe A/D including some delay bombs results not observed.

(D) 17th Nov. A/S Patrols included 20 Vengeance sorties  
Madras area.

(E) U.S.A.A.F. report 12 Nov. 57 S/E fighters reported  
Army '01' and Navy '0' mixed? attacked China Task Force  
bases in waves of 11 8 8 8 12 and 10. Kweilin repeat  
Kweilin raided 0625 Lingling repeat Lingling 0840  
Chihkiang repeat Chihkiang 1015. Enemy losses 1 confirmed  
6 probables, our 1 damaged on ground Kweilin.

(F) U.S.A.A.F. 15th Nov. 3 Recce Tomahawks report Burma  
Road Lungling-Tongchung repeat Lungling-Tongchung extensively  
improved 20 lorries machine gunned 10 destroyed.

1st Lord	1200Z/19
1st S.L. ( 2)	Advance Copy Ops, O.D. O.I.C.
4th S.L.	Received from Air Min a.m./20th Nov
C.N.A.S.	Air Min circulation:-
V.C.N.S.	D.D.I. II A.I.3 D. O Ops 2 A.S.P.3(2)
A.C.N.S.(F)	A.M.W.R. (2) Admty (War Rog) (7)
NAV SEC	War Office (C.G.Tols) (7) Duty Grp Capt.
N.A. 1st S.L.	A.I.3. A.L. A.O.C. R.A.A.F. H. Qrs in Gt.
O.D. (5)	Britain Kodak House Kingsway. C.A.S.
C.C.L.S.	V.C.A.S. A.C.A.S.(0) A.C.A.S.(I) D.D.I
O.I.C. (3)	D.D.I.III(Action)
Ops (3)	
D of P (3)	
M (2)	
I.P. (3)	
D.P.D.	D.N.A.D.
V.D.	D.A.C.D.
D.N.I(5)	
Ad Blako	
A.C.N.A.S.	

MEK



Unparaphrased Version of a Secret Cypher  
Telegram not One Time Table.

IZ. 2254  
TOO. 1315Z/19  
TOR. 1905Z/19

SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM.

IMPORTANT.

From:- Armindia.  
To:- Air Ministry.

29069/COS 19th November, 1942

Following for Chiefs of Staff from  
General Wavell.

1. During 1943 I shall be building up force to undertake reconquest of Burma of which considerable element will be trained in combined operations.
2. Your experience indicates that best method of building up amphibious expeditionary force is to appoint Combined Force Headquarters at early stage. I have no doubt this is right method for India also and should like to appoint at once Joint Headquarters consisting at first only of small nucleus of officers from all three Services. This would direct amphibious training and train itself as a team for operations and planning. I can find necessary Army officers from my own resources but not Naval or Air Force officers.
3. If you agree, will you instruct Admiralty and Air Ministry to provide necessary officers. Details will be settled direct with them.

TOO. 1315Z/19

(Circulation)

Brig. Jacob.  
Foreign Secretary.  
War Registry, Admiralty.  
C.6. Telegrams, War Office.  
A.M.C.S.(C).  
C.C.O.  
General Lockhart.



846<sup>E</sup>

(2)

2003 (2)

(4)

P. (2)

Day Capt

D.I.C. (2)

P.S.

Ad. of M. 2

I.P. (2)

W.D.

2 APR

DISK

AD BLAKE

AD BELLARS



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.Shipping  
Reference  
Positions.C. in C. S.A's 1712/16 and C. in C. E.F's 1232/9  
and 1254/17.1. Lettered references for the ports themselves  
are desirable as they simplify direction of  
ships into harbour and are sufficiently accurate  
for use in ocean diversions. References forheadlands remote from ports are required for close coastal  
diversions.2. Issue to masters of considerable number of references is  
acceptable as reduction of route signals is assured by citing  
index positions only.3. Propose that C. in C. E.F's list of positions be accepted  
with following additions -

3 A Cape Point A D, C S, H C, K M, P F.

3 B Cape Agulhas C W, H X, C K, M Y, R J.

8 A Cape St. Mary, Madagascar K E, A U, G O, M G, P T.

and then re number positions throughout from 1 to 35.

4. Atlantic positions to be numbered from 36 St. Helena to  
47 Tristan da Cunha.5. Admty. will promulgate new lists of letters to change  
on same dates for both Atlantic and Indian oceans. To get  
into step C. in C. S.A. is requested to continue the current  
period so as to end at 2359/28. Thereafter changes will be  
weekly at 0001 on Sundays.6. On receipt of concurrence Admty. will transmit new letters  
for Atlantic from 29th Nov. to 2nd Jan. inclusive.

(D.T.D., 1913A/19 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)

Ship  
blown  
up.Intercept 2355 G.M.T./19. B.A.M.S. de Z S D  
Following has been received, 30.39 S., 34.41  
E. vessel astern blew up.  
(Colombo W/T, 2205 G.M.T./19) W.R. Note -  
no ship mentioned.



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

BATTLER Key West arrived 0200/18 BATTLER departed 0800/18 with K.N.209.  
(N.S.H.Q. 0102Z/19 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.)

BULKOIL Your 2224/29. See B.E.W.T. 24633 sent 30th Oct. leakage of (B.A.D. 0109Z/19 to Admty.) information.

S.C.109. If commitments permit provide relief for WINCHELSEA in escort S.C.109 while she is away refuelling.  
(C.T.24. 0333/19 to C.T.U. 24.6. (R) C.T.F.24 etc.)  
S.C.109. One U-Boat sighted and driven off at 0649 by WETASKIWIN in gun battle during escort, star shell search. SS. BEACON STREET broke down, WINCHELSEA screening. Expect repair effected by 1500. At present progress both destroyers will have to leave at (?08) and corvettes at 016° W.  
(C.T.U. 24.1.13 1130Z/19 to C.T.F.24.)

U/B' C.E.S.F's 1855/18 giving 0800Q/19 submarine positions. estimate.  
(Comnaveu 0753/19 to Admty.)

U/B. S/M sighted 1100 G.C.T./19 021° 15' N 072° 20' W course 130°.  
(Kingston, Jam. 0857R/19 to Admty.)

T.A.G.22. Departure Nov. 18th U.S. destroyer GREER. U.S.S. TENACITY. U.S. Ships P.C.491, P.C.492, P.C.494, P.C.563 escorting T.A.G.22 (slow).  
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0922Q/19 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty. S.O.(I.) Kingston.)

U.S. Comnaveu 0958/19 see Lion Copy. dispositions.

Attacks Cominch's 2234/18 informs as follows:-  
on U/Bs. Your 1059B/22 July. Nov. 8, U.S.S. SOUTHARD made six attacks on\*submarine in Pacific. Last attack blew stern out of water. Sub. surfaced one minute later, then slid under stern first after one 4" hit estimated in control room. Subsequent search negative results. Nov. 13, Army B.18B dropped 3 bombs on partly surfaced submarine. After initial Radar contact 30 miles distant. One 650 pound bomb reported within 3 feet of sub. Large oil slick. Position 13.10 N 69.35 W. 31 attacks reported week ending 2400Z/15.  
(Comnaveu 0959/19 to Admty.) \*?I.172 sunk by SOUTHARD 10/11 - 2. 135.  
17060Kam's/167

ANCHUSA My 1847Z/16. Intend to sail ANCHUSA 2030/20 independently for U.K. by Great Circle.  
H.X.215. (F.O.N.F. 1328Z/19.) Amended by 1222Z/20. q.v.

/Further...



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Further attacks on O.N.S.144. O.N.S.144 attacked by U-Boat early this morning, 51.45 41.40 (B). No ships torpedoed. 6 U-Boats operated. P.C.S. at 1500Z/19 050° 50' N 042° 59' W 256° 7½ altering 221° at 2000Z. Owing to flood in steering flat, extensive leak in feed pump and engine room shall require to dry dock. Confirmed report of survivors: MOUNT TAURUS 38, PRESIDENT SERGENT 45, PARISMINA 55, WIDESTONE O, TIRYAKA 52, M.D. KYDONIEFS and VAN DE VELDE not torpedoed. Ind 38 72 03 15. *See next page*  
(C.T.U. 24.1.4. 1440Z/19 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav etc.)

B.Y.M.S. breakdowns. My 1111/11 Nov. and 1319/14 Nov. Investigation with Lieut. Wardle shows that breakdowns in B.Y.M.S. 2, 4 and 30 were due to loss of suction in main sea inlets due to heavy rolling causing overheating and piston failure. Proposed to re-position the suction inlets on centre line in B.Y.M.S. 2, 4, 30 and 3. Work can be undertaken at St. Johns and will take approx. 28 days.  
2. B.Y.M.S. 15 and 16 have already been modified as above and it is proposed to sail them independently when weather is suitable by Great Circle to Londonderry.  
3. Average consumption of fuel in B.Y.M.S. 2, 4, 30 and 3 was 30 American gallons an hour and it is not considered that this will allow a sufficient margin or that a passage in eight days can be guaranteed under winter conditions. Requested that decision not to allow deck cargo for two days running may be reconsidered as this is only practical solution to problem and boats will only be sailed on good weather forecasts.  
4. Lieut. Wardle leaves by air today with full particulars.  
(F.O.N.F. 1516Z/19 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

ESSO MANHATTAN ZWARTE ZEE. Following is Comcarib's 1531/19 (begins): Cominch (C & R.) (R) N.O.B. Trinidad from Comcaribseafon. N.O.B. Trinidad pass to S.B.N.O. Trinidad for information. SS. ESSO MANHATTAN arrived San Juan in tow Tug ZWARTE ZEE. Main turbine and generator completely disabled. Beyond repair. Recommend further towing to the U.S. with Dutch Tug now available. Cargo 15000 tons fuel British Navy and 400 drums aviation gasoline. Recommend fuel and gas be transferred Commercial Storage San Juan. Request early reply as tug is due New Orleans 1st. Dec. Recommend ESSO MANHATTAN destination Sun Oil Co., Chester Pa. T.O.O. 1531/19. Ends.  
2. ZWARTE ZEE has instructions to wait at San Juan for further orders.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1612Q/19 to S.B.N.O. W.A.)

U/B positions. S/M estimate Nov. 19th and U.S. submarine notice. (Cominch 1615/19, 1616/19, 1622/19, 1623/19, 1624/19, 0112/20.)

/Tankers...



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Tankers  
U.G.S.  
Convoys.

Certain tankers are being included in U.G.S. Convoys. You should contact B.A.D. for names and provide full scale equipment vide D.E.M.S. G.I 48 if time permits. Ammunition should be 100 rounds for L.A. guns and double normal scale for A.A. weapons. Personnel to be supplied on normal scale given in D.E.M.S. G.I. 58 (recently despatched). (D.T.D. 1742A/19 to B.A.D.)

U/B

D/F bearings on 10510 K/cs at 1229Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 43° N 51° W. (D.D.I.C. 1745Z/19 to Cominch.)

A.T.29.

Para 2 of your 0145/18 to Cominch C & R. U.S. Authorities request that in future a definite time be signalled instead of the term "daylight". In this case it has been interpreted as 0800Z. (B.A.D. 1745Z/19 to Admty.)

Sub. attack  
and  
sighting  
summary.

Para A. MOSCHA D KYDONIEFS, MOUNT TAURUS, PRESIDENT SERGENT, VAN DE VELDE and YAKA torpedoed presumed sunk 54.30 N 37.10 W 17 and 18 Nov. SS. NATHANIAL BACON sights sub. on surface 19.45 N 75.22 W about 1015Z/21 Oct. *See previous page*  
Para C. MEDON U-45 type. P.C.565 attacks sound contact 10.56 N, 60.30 W 0009Z/17 Oct. and 10.44 N 59.40 W 0815Z/26 Oct. Plane sights sub. on surface 24.08 S 44.02 W. 26 Oct. Y.605 and S.C.672 attack sound contact area 32.15 N 80.02 W. 1520Z/18 to 0415Z/19. Eastern Airlines plane sights sub. 21.15 N 72.20 W 1100Z/19 course 130. Commercial plane sights surfacing sub. 15.10 N 64.45 W 1325Z/19. (Cominch 2131/19 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival Broome, Sydney (N.S.W.) U.S.A. ALHENA.  
Departure Sydney (N.S.W.) 18th. U.S. cruiser SAN JUAN for Noumea.  
(A.C.N.B. 0509Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

ELLET.

Arrival ? Suva 18th Nov. U.S. Ship KITTYHAWK and U.S.S. ELLET escorting JANE ADAMS.  
(A.O.(1) Wellington 0939M/19.)



War Diary.19.11.1942.  
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

- Situation. Digest 301 Nov. 18th.  
12 ships reported Buin Shortlands Area early morning 18th Nov., including 6 destroyers, 1 sloop, 4 merchant vessels, 1 tanker.
2. 5 enemy destroyers sighted by air R/C 7° 40' S 148° 35' E at 2017Z course 70° shadowed until 2237Z/17 when still maintaining original course other reports indicate this force proceeded to Gona-Buna Area during previous night. Further Force 13 (?3) Funnel Light Cruiser, 2 destroyers sighted Area 90 miles S to S.W. Gasmata during afternoon on southerly course when unsuccessfully attacked by 9 Fortresses. Further low level attacks by 6 Fortresses in Holnicote Bay (Buna) at 1020Z resulted one direct 500 pound hit on Light Cruiser starting fire causing very heavy explosion last seen burning and surrounded by debris also one direct hit amidships on destroyer which observed to split open. Many small boats some filled with men observed operating between ships and shore before attack thoroughly strafed by aircraft. Two destroyers also reported 6° 30' S 100° 48' E at 0315Z/18 course north.
3. Australian troops moving towards Popondetta while Americans continue advance on Buna from south. Four strong Beaufighters and B.25s attacked aircraft, buildings and installations Lae and Salamaua Airdromes early morning 18th Nov. Results not fully observed. Marauders bombed Buna Area and three B.25s dropped bombs Gasmata runway causing large explosions during afternoon. Small Schooner observed Gasmata but nil activity on Drome. Fortresses attacked Light Cruiser and two destroyers during afternoon attacked by seven Zeros at least two of which probably shot down.
5. Strong Force of Liberators attacked shipping Rabaul Harbour night 16th Nov. scoring direct hits on at least two large merchant vessels and shore installations. Approx. 50 vessels mostly merchant vessels observed in harbour.
6. Photo R/C Sanananda Point 17th Nov. showed three large at least four light A.A. guns and 13 Barges, one damaged.
7. In Timor enemy strength Baucau reported 800 and Bobonaro 600. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1803Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimate at 1300/19.  
(D.D.I.C. 1412A/19, 1442A/19.)



852

20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

ADVENTURE sailed from Plymouth today for Gibraltar, carrying nearly 2000 depth charges.

Operation  
F B

There is no news of EMPIRE SKY. In all five out of 12 (but some put back to Iceland) independently routed ships reached North Russia from Iceland (C), and 3 out of four outward from Russia reached Iceland (C).

Coastal Command aircraft this afternoon attacked a convoy of 12 to 16 merchant vessels which had been sighted during the morning 12 miles west of the Texel. Hits with torpedoes were made on one large and one small merchant ship and one escort vessel.

Force X.

N.C.X.F. requires two more flotillas of H.D.M.Ls as soon as possible. The forward ports are but thinly covered now, even before the capture of Bizerta.

North Atlantic.Convoy  
K.M.S.3  
attacked.

Convoy K.M.S.3 (52 ships with troops and supplies for North Africa, escorted by 1 sloop and 9 corvettes) was attacked by a single U-Boat at 0910 today in 35° 54' N 10° 32' W (about 200 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent) SS. GRANGEPARK and PRINS HARALD were sunk. A torpedo exploded in OCEAN PILGRIM's A.N.D. but the ship was not damaged, BLACK SWAN and others made a promising attack on a contact. A merchant ship in the convoy shot down a Catalina at 0940Z.

At 0350 today a searchlight Wellington attacked a U-Boat in 35° 0' N 13° 33' W (220 miles S.W. of Cape St. Vincent.) Depth charge explosions apparently caused the U-Boat's forward tanks to explode as the vessel was beginning to submerge.



853

20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

H.M.T. TURCOMAN is to carry out a search for U-Boats reported to be using Janella Bay, San Antonio (C.V.)

SS. COLUMBINE reported at noon today that she was totally disabled and required urgent assistance, about 240 miles west of Pointe Noire. At 1810Z/22 she reported that she was still drifting, disabled and awaiting assistance. At 0107Z/23 CORINTHIAN located her and towed her to Pointe Noire, (arrived 25th Nov.)

SS. CORINTHIAKOS was reported torpedoed at daybreak today about 57° Inhaka Light 35 miles. C.S.A. Lourenco Marques has stopped sailings.

U.S. PIERCE BUTLER (Table Bay 14 Nov. for Suez) is reported to have been torpedoed at 1100Z today in 29°53'S 36°41' E.

Tanker SCOTTISH CHIEF was reported torpedoed in estimated position 30° 39' S 34° 41' E (220 miles S.E. of Durban) at 2134 today.

Mediterranean.

URSULA and P.54 sailed today to patrol in the Gulf of Genoa. Capt. S.8 intends to retain operational control of them when east of 08° E.

Convoy  
M.W.13.

All four merchant ships in Operation "Stoneage" had arrived at Malta by 0031A today and the escorts were entering. Our aircraft operated over Sicily during the night, to protect the arrival of the convoy: Catania is reported completely unserviceable with at least 28 bomb craters.

P.211 reports that she has sunk a large T.L.C. depot ship laden with petroleum in 30° 23' N.18° 48' E and 4 other ships.

A 2000 ton ship was attacked by aircraft and left sinking and abandoned in 78° Kuriat 32 miles, and an 8000 ton ship which was found in 335° Cape Bon 55 miles steering 50° with a smaller merchant ship and a submarine, was near missed and gunned.

The destroyer BRAMHAM proceeding from Philippeville to Bougie was bombed this evening and hit at 1940 in 290° Bougaroni 2 miles. She arrived Bougie a.m. 21st.

/Algiers...



854

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Algiers was raided by about 30 enemy aircraft for about an hour from 1845. DELHI was damaged aft by a near miss but is seaworthy. DEWDALE (landing ship) was damaged.

Benghazi was occupied by our forces this morning.

PETARD reported at 1345B that she had taken ARETHUSA in tow. The ships arrived off Alexandria about midnight tonight. On account of the weather ARETHUSA is remaining hove to outside the Great Pass during the night, retaining PETARD as A/S screen.

America and West Indies.

SS. OSTRANDER reported at 0736 G.M.T. that she has been attacked by a submarine and was abandoning ship in 39° 55' N 52° 32' W.

The refuelling U-Boat was estimated at 2126Z in 15.30 N 29° W. It has transmitted every other day on 10820 K/cs between 1900Z and 0100Z.



855

20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.DAGMAR.  
VALIB.

For my 2301/19 read my 2259/19. Details of Danish Fishing vessels placed in charge of Admiralty Prize Marshal today are as follows. (F.O. Humber 1958/20 to D.N.I.)

FERNIE,  
BLEAN.  
Destroyer  
for  
Force "J".

1. On completion of refit FERNIE is to rejoin command of C. in C. Nore.
2. BLEAN is temporarily attached to command of N.C.X.F. On completion of her present duty she will return to command of C. in C. Portsmouth.
3. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange for one of the Type 111 Hunt class of 1st D/F to be earmarked for and generally equipped as H.Q. ship for duty with Force J in place of FERNIE.
4. Ship detailed in para.3 is to be employed on normal duties as required by C. in C. Portsmouth except where necessary for special operations initiated by F.O. Force J. (D.O.D.(H) 2018A/20.)

Movements.

SHAD.

*See pp 857A  
1858*

Proceeding as directed by previous despatches. E.T.A. R/V 1500Z/21. Arriving point (?F) 0315Z/20. (SHAD 0015Z/20 to F.O.S.)

Trawlers BILSDEAN and ARMANA will meet you in position (H) at 1600A/21 and escort you to Falmouth to await escort North.

2. You may meet GRAPH escorted by (corrupt) proceeding to 180° Bishop Rock 15 miles, E.T.A. 1900A/21.

(Capt. S.3 0513A/20 to SHAD.)

My 1709/19. Para.(D) Amend to read 49° 21' N. 12° 40' W. proceeding dived by day to R/V 180° Lizard 10 miles at 1600/21. (F.O.S. 0739/20 to Admty.)

TRUANT.

BLACKFISH.

Report your P.C.S. on crossing 036° N.

(F.O.S. 0104A/20 to TRUANT.)

*See p. 868A*  
From position D proceed to dive by day through J 044° 45', 013° 21', thence on route White given in para.(2) of my 1334/19. Pass through K at 0300/24, G at 0400/26 to R/V with escort in H at 1000/26. Complying with para.5 of my 1334/19.

(F.O.S. 0106A/20 to BLACKFISH.)

*See p. 857B 1868A*

LEARY.

At 0130Z/20 LEARY departed Reykjavik in accordance with my 1646Z/19. *N.T. in V.D.*  
(C.T.G. 24.6 0245Z/20 to Comtask 24.)

GUNNEL.

*See pp 856 &  
857A*

Number 2 main engine out of commission. Same (? trouble) as previously reported on number one. Defective materials in gear teeth suspected.

Maximum on surface one engine 10 knots. Impossible to meet required speed, able run submerged by day. Speed of advance 5 knots on surface at night.

(GUNNEL 0600Z/20 to C.S.S.50.)

/ Your 0600/20 ...



856

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. *with file*

GUNNEL (contd.) Your 0600/20. Estimate your position at 0800A/21 will be 047° 40' N. 013° 50' W. and that you will make good 85 miles per 24 hours when diving by day.

(2) Continue diving by day along your ordered route until 008° W, then on the surface to R/V an escort in position G 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1400A/25.

(3) You are covered by submerged bombing restrictions as far as 008° W. and thence total restrictions.

(4) Inform me 48 hours in advance if unable to comply with R/V within 2 hours.

(F.O.S. 1239A/20 to GUNNEL.)

SHEFFIELD, Scapa arrivals SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA.  
JAMAICA. (A.C.O.S. 0911/20.)

BULLDOG, C. in C. H.F. 1411/19. Destination of BULLDOG,  
MALCOLM, MALCOLM, BEAGLE is Clyde. N.O.I.C. Greenock  
BEAGLE. is to sail MALCOLM as convenient to Chatham for  
repairs.

(C. in C. W.A. 0955A/20 to VICTORIOUS.)

OTWAY, OTWAY is being taken in hand for refit ~~to~~ Barrow.  
TORBAY. (2) Request you sail her with BREDA and TORBAY  
*See p. 857A* p.m. today.

(F.O.S. 1354A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 1709/19, para. (M) After TORBAY add and OTWAY speed 7 knots.

(F.O.S. 1419A/20 to Admty.)

My 1723/19. Add OTWAY, being detached south of Isle of Man to Barrow.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1423A/20.)

Sailed OTWAY and TORBAY escorted by BREDA, S.O.A. 7 knots to point of departure for OTWAY, thence BREDA and TORBAY 12 knots. E.T.A. OTWAY 0200/23, E.T.A. BREDA and TORBAY at Cumbrae 0400/23.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1741/20.)

W.A. Situation at 1958A/20. Details.  
Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1356A/20)  
See Lion Copy.

O.14. Detach QUADRILLE as necessary to R/V with PRESTON  
SOKOL. NORTH END and O.14 and SOKOL at M.4 Buoy off Vater-  
nish Point at 0800A/23 and escort submarines to  
Holy Loch. QUADRILLE to Belfast on completion.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1540A/20 to GAVOTTE.)

*H.T. & H.D.* My 1011/18. Sailed (SOKOL). *(20.11.42)* *See p. 857A*  
(Capt. S.6 1739A/20.)



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

B 56A/20th November.

IN.

From: C. in C. Western Approaches

Date: 20 Nov. 42.  
Recd: 2230.

Addressed: Admiralty.

Situation at 1958A/20th November 1942Section N.E.

ONSLow		58 35 05 50	To R/V Fleet	18
MATCHLESS			Unit in approx.	
			52 51 15 57	
SHROPSHIRE		56 45 07 13	Northbound to	16
			Sheerness	
W.N.63	VILETA COILLION	58 15 05 32	To Mothil	7½

Section S.E.

ESKDALE		52 44 05 04	To Portsmouth	21
GRAPH	LA CAPRICIEUSE	51 39 05 37	To 186° Bishop Rock 15 miles.	10
SARDONYX		55 09 10 11	To Londonderry	12
SHROPSHIRE		56 45 07 13	Northbound to	16
			Sheerness.	
TORBAY OTWAY	BREDA	50 10 04 28	To Holy Loch	7
TITANIA		57 05 07 09	To Greenock	10
STEWARD	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	52 10 05 19	Northbound	8½
12 M/V's	SCIMITAR	52 53 04 54	To Clyde	9
M.K.F.I(Y)	FLEET UNIT AMAZON	55 27 06 34	To Clyde	12½
10 Merchant Ships	Unescorted	53 58 04 54	To Clyde	0

Section N.W.

CELANDINE		56 35 18 16	To O.N.147	12
R.U.49	GAVOTTE QUADRILLE HUGH WALPOLE THIRLEMEPE REIGHTON WYKE	60 15 15 49	To 59 09 10 56	7

O.N.147/



Section N.W. (Contd.)

O.N.147 RESTIGOUCHE 57 01 20 31 To 57 05 21 36 0  
 C.T.U. ARVIDA thence  
 24.1.14 AMHERST 57 01 30 41  
 DAUPHIN  
 SHEERBROOKE  
 ST. FRANCIS

H.X.215 HURRICANE 58 17 34 35 To 59 28 30 02 9  
 C.T.U. WATCHMAN  
 24.1.15 DAHLIA  
 MONKSHOOD  
 WALLFLOWER

Section S.W.

FAME 54 55 24 12 To 54 50 25 00 15  
 thence Halifax

FLEET UNIT OPPORTUNE 43 01 16 31 To 44 00 17 00 16½  
 BULLDOG thence  
 BEAGLE 52 00 17 00  
 WESTCOTT  
 MALCOLM  
 GLAISDALE

CELANDINE 56 35 18 16 To O.N. 147 12  
 U.S. S/M 42 20 20 01 To 43 00 20 00 11½  
 BLACKFISH thence  
 44 45 13 22

O.N.S.146 HARVESTER 52 52 26 50 To 50 00 31 30 7½  
 C.T.U. GARLAND  
 24.1.17 ORCHIS  
 LOBELIA  
 ACONIT  
 ROSELYS  
 7 Trawlers  
 SNOWDROP Searching vicinity of  
 53 23 17 15

M.K.S.1(X) LONDONDERRY 47 45 16 02 To 52 01 16 02 10  
 2 Sloops  
 3 Corvettes

LULWORTH 48 40 15 16 proceeding to 14  
 search area 51 57 14 55 to  
 N.E.

M.K.F.2. PELICAN 48 34 15 02 To 53 01 15 02 13  
 EGRET  
 CLARE  
 BANFF  
 PHILANTE  
 SENNEN  
 KEREN  
 LARGS

13561/20.

V.C.N.S.	D.C.D. (H) (2)	Hd. of M.	D.T.D. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.C.D. (F) (2)	D.D.I.C. (3)	B.T.D. (0)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	Duty Capt. (2)	I.P. (2)	Ad. Blake (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	U.S.N.	W.D.	Ad. Ramsey (4)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.A/S.W.	D.T.D. (M)	D.M.S.
Capt. Pim			



857

War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

DUKE OF YORK, My 1853A/19. <sup>/p.822</sup> For ONSLOW read LIMBOURNE.  
 VICTORIOUS. (R.A.D. H.F. 1552A/20 to ONSLOW, etc.)

S/M At 0800A/21. Details.  
 Positions. (F.O.S. 1601A/20 to Admty.)  
 See Lion Copy.

ADVENTURE. Sailed ADVENTURE. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0600Z/24  
 carrying (A) Passengers. 6 Naval Officers,  
 one R.A.F. Officer, 91 Naval ratings.  
 (B) Warlike stores. Details. F.O.C.N.A.  
 pass to N.C.X.F.  
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1729A/20 and 2345A/20 to  
 F.O.C.N.A.)

SARDONYX. Arrived SARDONYX.  
 (Cdre. Londonderry 2145A/20.)

MUTIN, Request you will sail MUTIN (M.F.V.2013) and  
 SERENINI. SERENINI (M.F.V.2017) for Gibraltar on 26th  
 November, calling at Scilly Islands to await  
 favourable weather for passage.

2. Vessels are diesel driven with sails, and their endurance is 1500 miles at 5 knots.
3. In case of necessity they should put into Portuguese ports but should, if possible, avoid Spanish ports.
4. In all signals and instructions these ships will be referred to by their M.F.V. Numbers as shown in para.1.
5. Request you will issue communication orders and inform F.O.C.N.A. so far as they affect him. Ships will not read Admiralty broadcasts, and the only information they require will be that of enemy activities which directly affect them. C. in C. Plymouth and F.O.C.N.A. are requested to provide this by signal within their respective areas when ships are at sea. (D.O.D.(H.) 2154A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Patrols. Tonight M.G.B.608 (S.O) M.T.B.84, 86 proceed to St. Helens before dark and if weather permits to patrol between 50° 20' N. 0° 10' W. and 50° 30' N. 20' E. passing F buoy 1815 and 0730. Codeword "Device". BLEASDALE standing by at Yarmouth. CHASSEUR 15 (S.O) and 11 off E.A.5. Patrol from Portland, M.G.B.52 (S.O), 50, on 50° 20' N. between 2° 20' W. and 1° 35' W.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1044A/20 to HORNET.)  
 Intend M.G.Bs 52 (S.O), and 50 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 20' W., leaving Weymouth at 1800/20 and patrol line at dawn 21. Codeword "Match!"  
 (F.O.I.C. Portland 1047A/20.) <sup>See p.858</sup>  
 My 1044/20: BLEASDALE is to proceed on patrol with M.G.B. 608, M.T.B. 84 and 86.  
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1447A/20 to HORNET.)

/My 1047A/20 ...



**MOST SECRET**

M E S S A G E. 1601/20th Nov.

MOST SECRET.

I N.

From F.O.S.

Date. 20.11.42.

Recd. 1620.

P/L by T/F.

Addressed Admiralty.

107. Following is disposition of submarines at 0800/21st November and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. P.312 vicinity 70 degs. 55' North 22 degs. 26' East.  
 B. P.216 vicinity 70 degs. 52' North 21 degs. 08' East.  
 C. UREDD vicinity 70 degs. 32' North 20 degs. 01' East.  
 D. JUNON in zone K.9.  
 E. GRAPH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Trovose Head expected time of arrival 180 degs. Bishop Rock 15 miles at 1900 21st November thence unescorted and dived by day through 49 degs. 20' 07 degs. 02' and 48 degs. 40' 12 degs. 10'.  
 F. SHAD position 49 degs. 55' North 07 degs. 08' W. on surface due 180 degs. Lizard 10 miles at 1500/21 thence to Falmouth. *See pp 855 & 858*  
 G. GUNNEL position 47 degs. 40' North 13 degs. 32' West dived by day through 49 degs. 20' North 13 degs. 50' West due R/V 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1400/25th November. *See pp 855 & 856*  
 H. HEERING position 48 degs. 35' North 13 degs. 25' West dived by day through 49 degs. 02' North 13 degs. 21' West due R/V 180 degs. Lizard 10 miles at 1400 23rd November.  
 J. BARB position 48 degs. 20' North 13 degs. 02' West dived by day through 49 degs. 01' North 12 degs. 54' West due R/V 180 degs. Lizard 10 miles at 1000 23rd November.  
 K. DOLEIJN position 44 degs. 55' North 12 degs. 31' West dived by day through 44 degs. 28' North 12 degs. 25' West and 44 degs. 08' North 08 degs. 58' West for patrol in K.505.  
 L. SEALION in position 44 degs. 30' North 11 degs. 50' West dived by day through 44 degs. 28' North 08 degs. 58' West for patrol in zone K 501.  
 M. TORBAY and OTWAY escorted by BREDA position 50 degs. 30' North 05 degs. 15' West for Holy Loch. OTWAY to be detached in vicinity Mull of Galloway for Barrow in Furness, speed of advance 7 knots. *See p.856*  
 N. O.14 and SOKOL escorted by PRESTON NORTH END leave Dundee 1600A 21st November for Holy Loch through Minches. Speed of advance 9 knots. *See p.856*



857<sup>B</sup>

-2-

- O. BLACKFISH in position 43 degs. 30' North 18 degs.  
56' West dived by day through position 44 degs. 45'  
North 13 degs. 21' West. ~~See~~ p. 855.

1601A/20

Advance copy sent D.C.,  
& D.O.D. (H)

A.C.N.S. (H)  
N.L. to 1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.O.D. (H) (2)  
D.O.D. (F) (2)  
D.D.O.D. (M)  
D.C. (2) and for D.S.O.  
D.D.I.C. (2)  
D. of Plans. (2)  
D.A/S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
W.D.  
I.P. (2)  
D.T.B. (M)  
D.N.I. (4)

MMC.



858

20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Patrols. My 1047A/20. "Match" sailed 1825A/20.  
(contd.) (F.O.I.C. Portland 1905A/20.)

Landing A.M. 1556A/16. <sup>N.T. & W.D.</sup> L.C.A's 248, 265, 322, 325, 390,  
Craft from 206, 313, 191, 366, 377, 236.  
Operation L.C.S.(M) 25. All craft will be discharged  
"Torch". operationally fit at Liverpool 1200/2.  
*See p. 860* (S.N.O. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD 1417A/20 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Enemy M/Vs One medium vessel, 2 small vessels, bearing  
attacked. 120° 9 miles, course 180°. My position 45°  
11' N. 01° 28' W.  
(A/C C/S DR6K 0017/20 to 19 Group.)

My 0017. P.C.S. 45° 05' N. 01° 20' W. 180°, 8 knots.  
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.  
(A/C C/S DR6K 0030A/20 to 19 Group.)

Mining.

Western BILSDEAN and AMANA to carry out sweep as in  
Channel M S O Falmouth's 1740/19, hauling sweeps in time  
sweep. to R/V SHAD in position 180° Lizard 10' at  
1600/21 and escort her to Falmouth.  
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1512A/20 to R.N.O. Penzance.)  
*See p. 855 1857A*

Enemy Intelligence.

Four Four small cargo ships in 43° 50' N. 06° 10' W.  
M/Vs. five knots, 360°.  
(A/C S of 311 Sqdn. 1255/20 to 19 Group.)  
P.C.S. of 2 Armed Trawlers 44° 50' N. 04° 37' W.  
060°, 12 knots.  
(A/C 415 Sqdn. 1412/20 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

In North See shipping.  
Russian  
waters.

Casualties and Defects

GUNNEL. See Movements.

EMPIRE O.N.C. 147. EMPIRE WISDOM Sq. No.102 returning  
WISDOM. to Clyde damaged in collision. Will anchor  
Rothsay.  
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0940/20.)

/Distress ...



859

20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

Distress Signal. Have seen pyrotechnic distress signal in 48° 15' N. 08° 20' W. (A/C 330 U.S. Duty V. 1010A/20 to 19 Group.)

Search for Lifeboats. A/C reports lifeboat in 51° 57' N. 14° 55' W. at 1025A/20. Detach one sloop to search arriving in area at daylight tomorrow. A/C will be co-operating. (C. in C. W.A. 1113A/20 to LONDONDERRY, (R) ESCORTS M.K.S.1 X.)

WARWICK CASTLE survivors. Am proceeding in accordance with your 1113A/20. H.M.C.S. LOUISBURG has 20 survivors from WARWICK CASTLE picked up at 0500Z/18 in 039° 10' N. 015° 49' W. (LULWORTH 1201Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

WEST HEMATITE. BARON ELGIN proceed independently to Loch Ewe. SNOWDROP search for lifeboat reported in your\*0940A/20. Fortress A/C will arrive 1430A/20 to co-operate. (C. in C. W.A. 1250A/20 to SNOWDROP.) \*N.T. n. n. D.

My 1113/20th. Latest position of lifeboat 052° 04' N. 014° 45' W. at 1200A/20. Course and speed estimated by aircraft 050°, 4 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 1435A/20 to LONDONDERRY.)

Report whether any survivors from lifeboats have been picked up. (C. in C. W.A. 1606A/20 to FAME.)

Proceed to vicinity 053° 52' N. 015° 45' W. and assist in search for lifeboat proceeding eastward at 1747/20 at three knots with red lug-sail set. (C. in C. W.A. 1950A/20 to SAMSONIA.)

Have dropped 3 Flame Floats on previous position at 2000 hours. (A/C 220 Sqdn. Duty M. 2010/20 to 15 Group.)

Boat (2 corrupt groups) out extensive sweeps in areas stated in your 2347A/19 lapped without aircraft co-operation. This area has been searched several times since 16th. Every indication pointed to two boats in your 1116A/18 as the two stated in your 2347A/19 and will be now making good speed toward land since 16th. Intend sweeping eastward again toward base. Your last 6 groups of your 2347A/19 cannot be decoded. In 054° 49' N. 019° 23' W. picked up capsized lifeboat name WEST HEMATITE, righted, pumped, and now on board in davits. (SAMSONIA 2130/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

SECUTA. Cancel my 0912/20. <sup>/N.T. n. n. D.</sup> Sailing delayed owing to defects. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1216A/20.)

WOLVERINE. My 1250/18 and C. in C. W.A. 11(?)29)/12. <sup>/N.T. n. n. D.</sup> WOLVERINE delayed by defects, anticipate sailing 28th. (C. in C. Plymouth 1232A/20.)

/Landing ...



860

War Diary.

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

Landing Craft from Operation "Torch".  
see p. 858  
A.M. 1556A/17. L.C.As 287, 135 and 128 lost on beach. L.C.As 460, 306, 300, 209, 125, 124 and 123 discharged at Liverpool today. All hulls slightly damaged. L.C.A. 124 port engine big ends run.  
(S.N.O. TEGELBERG 1552A/20 to Admty.)

Survivors. 560 Naval survivors arriving in REINA DEL PACIFICO. Request arrangements be made to supply clothing as necessary.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1623A/20 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.F.1 (Y) Your 1759Z/19. Destinations ULSTER MONARCH, ORBITA, MARCHADA, SAMUEL CHASE, LETITIA to Clyde. DEMPO to Liverpool.  
(C. in C. W.A. 0134A/20 to ARGUS.)

K.M.S.4. Request you will arrange for DORNOCH, FORT YORK, and TADOUSSAC to sweep ahead convoy to 010° W, then return to Londonderry.

2. Minesweepers should be sufficiently far ahead to allow convoy to make a bold diversion if necessary.

3. Route of convoy (a) 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1000Z/24.

(b) 055° 20' N. 012° 28' W.

4. Speed 7½ knots.

(C. in C. W.A. 0930A/20 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Intend sailing ANADEIO, ANGLO AFRICAN, DELANE, EMPIRE HAVEN, INDIAN PRINCE, OCEAN TRAVELLER, ROBERT MORRIS, T.J. JACKSON, TILAPA for Clyde 1200A/21, speed 9 knots.

(2) Escort O 4 buoy Q.Z.S. 215 CROCUS in accordance with my 1528/20.

(3) Codeword "Silent 2".

(4) CORRALES and HERANGER escorted by ALBERNI will be sailing 1500A/23 to R/V with main convoy at 1100A/24 in accordance with A.M. 2250/19.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1911A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

A.M. 1902/14 para.1 section g - delete BRITISH FREEDOM.

Add SAN ANAMADO.

(D.O.D. (H.) 1958A/20.)

My 1116A/20. Delete ALBERNI.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2300A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operation F.B. EMPIRE SCOTT. EMPIRE SKY. Admiralty 2330/10th November. EMPIRE SCOTT arrived Kola Inlet without having seen EMPIRE SKY. No distress message received from nor any other information of EMPIRE SKY.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1002A/20 to Admty.)

/M.L. Escorts ...



War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- M.L.Escorts My 1825/19 para.2. Add if M/launches escorting  
for W.P. W.P. convoys are from M.L.F.7, they will return  
Convoys. to Dartmouth after leaving convoy.  
Para. 3. After M/launches from Portland insert  
or Dartmouth if from M.L.F.7.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1015A/20.)
- O.N.148, Cdre. Londonderry 1743/19. Request that I be  
O.N.149. informed if rescue ships are available for  
O.N.S.150 purpose mentioned therein.  
O.N.S.151. (C. in C. W.A. 1023A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)  
H.X.220. Your 1023A/20. In order to meet requirements in  
S.C.114. Cdre. Londonderry's 1743A/19 it will be necessary  
to withdraw DEWSBURY and LAMELEK from O.N.148 and  
149 respectively.
2. STOCKPORT and ACCRINGTON at present in dockyard hands will  
not be available for from three to four weeks.  
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1558A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)  
Owing to refit of HIGHLANDER and HURRICANE special rescue  
ships are to be delayed and sailed with B.4 and B.1 escorting  
O.N.S.150 and O.N.151 respectively.
2. C.T.24 is requested to arrange that they return from  
Halifax with these groups on H.X.220 and S.C.114.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1644Z/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C.T.24.)
- Q.P.15. Reliable fix and D/F Bearings of probable U-Boat  
at 0700/20 in estimated position 325° off Cap  
Navaloch.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1105A/20 to Admty.)  
Proceed to a covering position south west of Island.  
(C. in C. H.F. 1333A/20 to C.S.1.)  
My 1530A/20. U-boat now reported in 074° 27' N. 025° 55' E.  
at 1525A.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1620A/20 to Capt. D.8.)  
Reliable fix and D/F bearings of U-Boat at 1610/20 in  
74° 00' N. 23° 40' E.  
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1720A/20 to Capt. D.8.)  
Your 1943/14 para. 4. Sailed at 1315/20 (MUSKETEER, ORWELL,  
LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, OAKLEY.) *from Liverpool*  
(A.C.I.C. 1815A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)  
My 1507/16 and 1732/20. Convoy has now been re-routed 35  
miles South of Bear Is.
2. LONDON, SUFFOLK, and 3 destroyers are proceeding from Iceland  
to covering position South of Bear Is.  
(F.O.S. 1922A/20 to S/Ms.)
- Special Two former northern patrol trawlers are required  
Convoy. to act as escort to a special small convoy sailing  
from Milford Haven for Gibraltar via Q.Z.L.18  
about 27th November. N.O.I.C. Belfast is to sail  
the two selected trawlers as convenient to arrive  
Milford Haven 25th November.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1155A/20 to F.O.I.C. Belfast,  
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven (R) Admty., F.O.I.C.  
Liverpool.)

/M.K.S.1 X ...



War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys -contd.

- M.K.S.1 X. P.C.S. of Convoy at 1200/20, 47° 04' N. 16° 10' W, 000°, 9 knots.  
(LULWORTH 1201Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
- R.U.50. A.M. 2203/18th and C. in C. W.A. 1513/18.  
Propose to sail ST. ELSTAN, CAPE PALLISER, NORTHERN PRIDE as additional escort to R.U.50 unless these ships are to be retained for further operations in northern waters. H.M.S. NORTHERN SPRAY may also be ready to sail subject to completion of repairs to rudder.  
(A.C.I.C. 1211A/20 to Admty.)
- K.M.F.4. Ready to leave U.K. on 27th. November. Ships and destinations.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1357A/20)  
See Lion Copy.
- W.P.251. On completion of present escort duty KRAKOWIAK  
P.W.251. is to join W.P.251 as additional escort, S.O. PENYLAN, until P.W.251 is met. S.O. TYNEDALE return as additional escort to P.W. convoy until daylight 21st November, thence returning to Plymouth.  
2. H.M.S. TYNEDALE to continue as escort to Milford Haven.  
3. S.G.B. 8 to proceed to Plymouth.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 1544A/20.)
- P.S.21. P.S.21, S.P.21 cancelled.  
S.P.21. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1635A/20.)
- H.X.215. Detach WALLFLOWER when crossing 015° or as  
WALLFLOWER. necessary proceed at best speed to Holyhead for docking. WALLFLOWER should arrive Holyhead a.m. 25th.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1835A/20 to HURRICANE.)
- K.X.7. Ready to leave Milford Haven on 30th November. Ships, Escorts and destinations.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1835A/20.)  
See Lion Copy.  
My 1912/16. Amend para.1. Convoy K.X.7 will sail from Milford Haven on 30th November.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1853A/20.)
- K.M.F.5. LAFOREY and LIGHTNING will be required as escort for convoy K.M.F.5 leaving Clyde 11th December. Request you will sail them after working up to Greenock to conform.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 1852A/20 to R.A.D.)

Anti- ...



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1357A/20th Nov. OUT

To:- C. in C. Western Approaches. 945. Date. 20/11/42.  
 F.O.I.C. Greenock.  
 F.O.I.C. Liverpool.  
 N.C.S.O. Clyde.  
 N.C.S.O. Mersey.  
 Repeated. QUICKMATCH.

REDOUBT.  
 Commodore Londonderry  
 F.O.C.N.A. 909.  
 N.C.X.F. 316.  
 C. in C. Home Fleet. 756.  
 H.Q. Coastal Command.  
 H.Q. Fighter Command.

NAVAL CYPHER (AGO) BY T/P & NAVAL CYPHER (F) BY W/T

From:- Admiralty.

*Amended 22/11 - See p. 934*

Convoy K.M.F. 4.

The following ships will be ready to leave  
 U.K. on 27th November:-

(a) From Clyde. Destination Oran  
 S.S. DERBYSHIRE.  
 S.S. BRITANNIC.  
 Destination Algiers  
 U.S. SAMUEL CHASE *See p. 887*  
 REINA DEL PACIFICO  
 WINCHESTER CASTLE  
 OTRANTO  
 LETITIA  
 DURBAN CASTLE  
 BATORY  
 AORANGI  
 Destination Bougie  
 REGELBERG  
 Destination Philipville  
 SOBLESKI  
 Destination Bone  
 ORBITA  
 VOLLENDAM  
 LLANGIBBY CASTLE  
 Destination Gibraltar  
 LEINSTER  
 CITY OF EDINBURGH  
 AJAX  
 GLOUCESTER  
 PARDO  
 ELIZABETH BAKKE  
 CITY OF PRETORIA  
 CALIFORNIA EXPRESS  
 H.M.S. HELVIG.

*Manila Castle*

(b) From . . . .



(b) From Liverpool.

*Derbyshire. Oran. W. of Bermuda*  
 Destination Oran SAMARIA  
 " " " " DUMPO  
 Destination Algiers DUCHESS OF BEDFORD  
 " Philipville  
 " Bone ANTEOR  
 " undecided MALOJA *Volendam*  
 " *Bouge* *Tedling* MONARCH OF BERMUDA.

2. All ships have a speed of 14½ knots except VOLENDAM and LANGIBBY CASTLE 14 knots.

3. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to arrange for Liverpool Section referred to in para. 1. (b) to be sailed direct to R/V with convoy.

4. Remainder of ships embarking at Liverpool are to be sailed to Clyde to attend Convoy Conference A.M. 27th November.

5. Admiralty will promulgate route.

6. Escort will be provided by (a) QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT, and (b) MURET, PHILANTE, BANFF, EKE, SWALE, CLARE.

7. C. in C. Western Approaches is requested to arrange sailing of all ships and escorts making the necessary arrangements for them to R/V as necessary.

13571/20.

for D.O.D.(H).

1st Lord.  
 1st E.L. (2).  
 Dep. 1st S.L.  
 V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2).  
 A.C.N.S. (H).  
 A.C.N.S. (T).  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 D.O.D. (H) (2).  
 D.O.D. (F) (2).  
 Hd. of M. (13).  
 D.D.I.C. (2).  
 D. of P. (2).  
 D. of S. T.  
 D.T.D. (3).  
 D.T.D. (M).  
 I.P. (2).  
 W.D.  
 Duty Capt. (2).  
 Adl. Blake. (2).  
 Ad. Ramsey. (4).  
 C.C.L.S.



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1835A/20th November  
OUT

TO: F.O.I.C. Milford Haven      DATE: 20.11.42  
 N.C.S.O. Milford Haven  
 F.O.C.N.A. 918  
 Repeated C. in C. Western Approaches 960  
           C. in C. Plymouth 256  
           C. in C. Portsmouth 614  
           N.C.X.F. 321  
           C. in C. Home Fleet 764  
           H.Q.C.C.  
           H.Q.F.C.

## Interservice X.

FROM: Admiralty.

Convoy KX 7 consisting of the following ships  
 for destinations indicated will be ready to leave  
 Milford Haven on 30th November.

For Gibraltar	S.S. EILDON " LUBLIN " USKSID Cable Ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY S.S. EMPIRE FRANKLIN
For Lisbon	S.S. CASTILIAN " SHETLAND " BLAIR ESK
For Hurlva For Seville For Nau	S.S. ELIZABETH MASSEY " MIRIAM " BRINKBURN

2. EMPIRE FRANKLIN will operate as a CAM ship  
 and after discharging aircraft at Gibraltar is to  
 proceed to Lisbon and Melilla.

3. Speed of slowest ship 8 knots.

4. All ships are to proceed in the first  
 instance to Gibraltar and F.O.C.N.A. is requested  
 to arrange onward passage.

5. Admiralty will promulgate route sailing  
 ships South of Ireland (R).

6. Escort will be provided by H.M.S. LAUDERDALE,  
 MELBREAK, PENYLAN, and P.S. SLAZAK.

7. F.O.C.N.A. ...







863

20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Anti-U-Boat procedure. Consequent on experience gained with S.C.104 it is proposed to issue following signal to escort groups. Begins. Ref. W.A.C.I.300 para. 2. S.Os of escorts must not hesitate to adjust prescribed escort diagrams or vary offensive action taken after attack if they consider circumstances demand. When heavy seas prohibit efficient use of Radar it may be desirable to reduce distance of escort from convoy at night or otherwise adjust diagram. Likewise when heavy concentration of U-boats are known to be present it may be desirable to restrict or cancel operations such as Raspberry or Artichoke in order not unduly to expose convoy to further attack by other U-boats taking advantage of co-ordinated movements of escorts. S.Os are requested to include remarks and suggestions in their reports of proceedings with regard to diagrams and operations at present in use. Ends.

2. Request your remarks.  
(C. in C. W.A. 1919A/20 to Comtask 24.)  
See also C. in C. W.A. 1656A/22 to A.I.G. 32.

Trawler Escort Groups. Your 1912A/7 and your 1530A/16. It is considered preferable that these trawlers should be employed as additional escorts to transatlantic convoys with the particular duty of standing by stragglers and damaged ships.

2. Request you will organise trawlers in 4 groups so as to allow of 2 trawlers sailing with any particular convoy. It is proposed in the first instance they should be attached to northerly routed convoys only.

3. These trawlers may, in addition, be required to act as escorts for North Russian convoys.  
(A.C.N.S. (T) 2008A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.Q.19. It is an urgent requirement to run a P.Q. convoy as early as practicable.

2. 31 Merchant Ships can be made ready to sail from Loch Ewe on 15th December and from Iceland (C) about 22nd December.

3. By this date it is anticipated that 4 destroyers, 4 corvettes and 4 trawlers can be made available for close escort and that some older destroyers can be provided from other Commands to reinforce Home Fleet if required.

4. Request that plans may be made accordingly.  
(D.O.D.(H) 2010A/20 to C. in C. H.F. H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy K.X.6 A. The following ships will leave Milford Haven on 26th November or as soon as weather report is considered propitious:  
SS\*AQUILLA, Ferry EMPIRE ROACH, Waterboat MORAY, Tug EMPIRE NED, Tug EMPIRE TITAN.  
S.O.A. 6 knots for 3 days then 7½ knots.

C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail two trawlers to provide escort.  
*\* 23rd G. Eble Ship.*

5. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail escorts to U.K. at the first convenient opportunity using them as escorts as requisite.



20.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - con/5.

Convoy  
K.X.6 A.  
(contd.)

6. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail SS AQUILLA to Milford Haven on completion of repairs.
7. Destination of AQUILLA and MORAY is Gibraltar, EMPIRE TITAN Takoradi, EMPIRE ROACH Freetown, and EMPIRE NED Capetown.
8. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange onward sailing for the last three mentioned ships as requisite.
9. Endurance of SS MORAY is considered insufficient for her to reach Gibraltar and F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to make arrangements for her to commence the passage in tow of the EMPIRE NED for 3 days or until it is considered she can reach destination unaided.
10. On completion of duty designated in para.9, EMPIRE NED should be instructed to stand by to tow AQUILLA if necessary.
11. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ships as requisite.  
(D.O.D.(H.) 2207A/20.)



865

War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Operation "Torch".

- Situation report No.16.
- (1) Bone. A/S patrols and P W S S established by 17th Nov.
- (2) Bougie. Temporary lull in enemy air activity maintained up to 1500/19. Approx. 32 survivors of ALGERINE landed.
- (3) Algiers. Coastal traffic to eastward including L.C.Ts is being maintained. Satisfactory relations with French Naval port authorities 12 private firms employing 700 men are on our work. Repair facilities on small scale but satisfactory. Limitations imposed by sizes and number of docks. Bases established for small craft and boom defence. Armament repairs at naval arsenal.
- (4) Oran. Harbour open with straight clear channel 80 feet wide and 26 feet deep on 17th Nov.
- (5) Mers El Kebir. Force H ordered to be clear by 1200/21.
- (6) Casablanca. 4 shipyards co-operating. 2 are small. Salvage operations proceeding. N.C.W.T.F. sailed for U.S. F.O.I.C. has assumed command.
- (7) A/S patrols. Searchlight Wellingtons from Gibraltar had two sightings and one attack a.m. today Friday.
- (8) Preliminary reports show naval A.A. fire accounted for 23 confirmed 10 probable and 18 damaged Axis aircraft in "Torch" between 8th Nov and 15th Nov. inclusive. IBIS shot down 3 confirmed before sinking.
- (9) Sitrep 14. Item 2. This was U.331.  
(N.C.X.F. 1043Z/20.)

Air searches, patrols etc. N.C.X.F. 1633Z/20, 2012Z/20.

Ships damaged. Your 1651/17th Nov. (Notice of damage to ships returning to U.K.) S.T.Os in "Torch" area have been instructed to act accordingly. Following is position to date:

THOMAS  $\phi$ . STONE, damaged 8th Nov. towed Algiers, used as accommodation ship. ENNERDALE, damaged 8th Nov., towed Algiers. DEMPO, minor damage 10th Nov. LALANDE, torpedoed 14th Nov., towed Gibraltar. \*ALMAACK, torpedoed 15th Nov., returned Gibraltar. NEWFOUNDLAND, mined 17th Nov. returned Gibraltar. GLENFINLAS, bombed 11th Nov. fore part flooded, afloat aft at Bougie. EXCELLER, near miss 9th Nov. slight damage.  
(P.S.T.O. X.F. 1716Z/20 to D.S.T.)

\* 200 p789

M.Ls required. The situation regarding M.Ls is not satisfactory. The security of Gibraltar crowded as it is now, and likely to be makes a large demand and Ports forward are but thinly covered now, even before capture of Bizerta. Request two more Flotillas of H.D.M.Ls be sent out as soon as possible.  
(N.C.X.F. 1851Z/20 to Admty.)

/Return...



War Diary.

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operation "Torch" - Contd.

Return of  
"Torch"  
Escorts.

The escort situation is such that future commitments can only be planned if a schedule such as that laid down in TON 6 para 17 for return of escorts to U.K. is adhered to.

2. F.O.C.N.A. 0758Z/19 orders HONEYSUCKLE, HYDERABAD and OXLIP to escort T.E.5 into Mediterranean.

3. These specially arcticised ships are required to be ready for service with North Russian convoys by 15th Dec.

4. Request you will review the escort situation in your area in the light of present and near future requirements, and if you find it impracticable to adhere to the arrangements in TON 6 Admty. should be informed as soon as possible to enable necessary adjustments to be made, having regard to Home requirements.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H.) 2011A/20 to N.C.X.F.)

U.S.S.  
TRACY.

Cominch's 1348/19 and A.M. 1600/18.

Request you will delete reference to U.S.S. TRACY.

2. It has been verified that this information was incorrectly received in Admty. owing to an error in encyphering.

The ship referred to was in fact H.M.T. CATHAY.

(D.O.D. (F.) 2259Z/20.)



867

20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

K.M.F. 3. Sail at 1100Z/20 to R/V K.M.F.3 in 035° 52' N.  
*See P. 868 A, 875, 878* 006° 57' W. at 1600Z/20th. On arrival MILNE  
 transfer mail from GORLESTON and proceed  
 Gibraltar. *See P. 868 B* (N.C.X.F., 0536Z/20 to AVON VALE, Capt. (D) 3rd, (R) WESTON,  
 QUIBERON, GORLESTON.) */MILNE.*  
 D/F bearings on 4540 k/cs at 0551Z indicate U-Boat has made  
 first sighting report of K.M.F. 3.  
 (D.D.I.C., 0728A/20 to Escorts K.M.F.3, (R) F.O.C.N.A., N.C.X.F.,  
 H.Q.C.C., Escorts K.M.S.3.)

*35°38' N. 11°48' W.*

Air W.X.7808. A.I.174/20th. Opsum 19th Nov.  
 Operations. A/S escorts, A/S patrols.  
 U/B sightings and attacks from Gibraltar. Hudson  
 C/608 1343 hours NHJY 3637, 180° 8 knots not  
 attacked. Hudson C/608 1405 hours NHQS 3812, 100° 10 knots  
 approached through cloud after sighting and when 1 and ½ miles  
 away U/B commenced to submerge before attack could be carried  
 out U/B had completely submerged, 4 D/Cs were dropped 20 yards  
 ahead of swirl and across track a circular patch of oil 200 -  
 300 yards diameter on water. *(U.98 sunk by this attack).*  
 2. No enemy activity over Rock.  
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Gib., 0730Z/20.)

\*K.M.S. 3. 3 ships torpedoed.  
 attacked, (BLACK SWAN, 0935Z/20 to N.C.X.F., Adnty.)  
 2 ships My 0935Z/20th derelict in 035° 54' N. 010° 32' W.  
 sunk, stern nearly submerged. Salvage might be  
 Catalina possible. 1 other ship blown up, remainder with  
 shot down. convoy.  
*See P. 868 A, 876* (BLACK SWAN, 1040Z/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)  
 My 1040 several attacks carried out on promising  
 contacts now lost, all escorts rejoined convoy. Derelict has  
 sunk.  
 (BLACK SWAN, 1131Z/20.)  
 Regret merchant ship in convoy shot down Catalina at  
 0940Z.  
 (BLACK SWAN, 1232Z/20.)  
 My 0935. K.M.S.3 attacked by single U-Boat from outside  
 starboard screen in 035° 54' N. 010° 32' W. at 0910/20th  
 GRANGEPARK and HAROLD sunk.  
 OCEAN PILGRIM undamaged exploded torpedo in A.N.D. 4th torpedo  
 seen on surface. All survivors picked up by BALTONIA and  
 FOWEY.  
 Promising contact on starboard quarter attacked by BLACK SWAN  
 and others. Bubbles persisted after BLACK SWAN's 3rd attack  
 contact ceased after 4th. No other evidence. All escorts  
 rejoined convoy.  
 (BLACK SWAN, 1431Z/20.)  
 D/F on series one at 1523Z and 1625Z suggest that you are  
 still being shadowed.  
 (D.D.I.C., 1805A/20 to Escorts of K.M.S. 3.)

/E.T. 1 ...



War Diary.

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- E.T. 1. Convoy E.T.1 E.T.A. Gibraltar 1500Z/20th.  
(STARWORT, 0945Z/20 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- LUCY  
ESSBERGER. German tanker LUCY ESSBERGER now has Spanish  
flag painted on side and is altering colour of  
funnel.  
(Cadiz, 1215/20.)
- Situation  
Reports. N.C.X.F. 1232Z/20, 1234Z/20, 1236Z/20, 1452Z/20,  
1710Z/20.  
See Lion Copy.
- ADVENTURE. Your 1231Z/19th. ADVENTURE will be unable to  
*See p. 857* reach position (E) before 1500Z/23rd. Request  
you will inform WISHART and BRILLIANT accordingly.  
F.O.C.N.A. pass to N.C.X.F., Cdre. F. and A.O.C.  
Gibraltar.  
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1303A/20 to N.C.X.F.)
- GIL EANES. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1608/11. <sup>1/p. 465.</sup> Person referred to  
*(German Agent.)* embarked in DUKE OF YORK for U.K.  
(S.O.(I) Gib., 1509Z/20 to D.N.I.)
- U/B. A.2. U-Boat sighted on surface 150° from Cape  
Garajao at 1507 G.M.T./20.  
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1651/20.)
- E.T. 1. Arrivals \*LOTUS, \*POPPY, \*STARWORT, \*DIANELLA,  
AUBREPIA with convoy E.T. 1.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1652Z/20 to Admty.) *\* See next page.*
- P. 51. P. 51 in 036° 30' N. 002° 38' W. at 2000Z/20th.  
*See p. 875A* On the surface 8 knots keeping 5 miles off  
Spanish coast. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000Z/21st.  
(F.O.C.N.A., 1655Z/20 to FARNDAL, (R) N.C.X.F.)
- SS. WEST  
KLEBER. Spanish tanker CAMRUD has nine survivors from  
American SS. WEST KLEBER will land them at  
Funchal.  
(Madrid, 1820/20.)
- Convoy  
K.X. 7. Details.  
(D.O.D.(H), 1835A/20.)  
See Home Commands; Shipping. *p. 862c.*



# MOST SECRET

1232Z/20th November.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN  
 From. N.C.X.F. Date. 20.11.42.  
 Read. 2054.  
 Naval Cypher 3 (S) By T/P.

Addressed. Situation report for Area X of North Atlantic Station, i.e. that area bounded by the longitudes of 20 degs. West and 5 degs. West, and the latitudes of 43 degs. North and 27 degs. North.

IMPORTANT.

Situation 1957A/20th.

1. H.M. S/M P. 311, 30 28 09 52 at 2100A/20 diving by day 2½ surfacing by night 10 160 degs.
2. H.M.S. TRUANT, (?34) 10 21 01 at 2100A/20 000 degs. on the surface 11. *See p. 855*
3. H.M. S/M P. 247, (? on patrol) in the vicinity (?37) 04 10 35. *See p. 879*
4. BLACKFISH, 42 10 20 01 at 2100A/20th on the surface 11½ (9000 degs.) *See pp 855, 857 & next page.*
5. H.M.S. \*DIAMOND in Straits of Gibraltar escorted by H.M.S. FARNDALE course Eastward 10 knots. *\* Dist. Sunk up: 1041 - N.A.13. DIAMONS at 4200/20th*
6. H.M.S. TROOPER, at 2100A/20th 40 01 10 53 diving by day 2½ surfacing by night (?9) 155 degs. *See p. 857 & 875, & p. 878*
7. KMF 3, H.M.S. WESTON, 4 destroyers, 2 sloops, 2 corvettes, 2 cutters, 35 50 07 17 thence through Straits of Gibraltar 13.
8. KMS 3, H.M.S. BLACK SWAN, one sloop, 9 corvettes, 36 13 09 29 through 36 25 06 58 and 36 25 07 05 and 35 55 06 25 thence escort group 37 part company to Gibraltar remainder through Straits 7½. *See p. 867 & 876.*
9. ITHURIEL 4
10. H.M.S. ABERDEEN, H.M.S. RHODODENDRON, H.M.S. VIOLET, one merchant ship, 36 30 07 57 to Cape St. Vincent thence direct to Lisbon where merchant ship part company. Escort patrolling vicinity.
11. MKS one Y, ROTHER, SPEY, \*LOTUS, \*POPPY, \*DIANELLA, H.M.S. \*STARWORT, sail 1000A 21st through 35 (?30) (?07) (?01) thence 239 degs. (?10½) *\* See previous page*
12. (?U.S.S. AUGUSTA) 32 48 11 53 258 degs. 21. *See next page.*
13. H.M.S. MILNE 35 54 06 23 to Gibraltar 13.
14. *See p. 868 D*

1232Z/20.

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.  
 Presumably portion missed.

- |                |              |                 |             |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| V.C.N.S.       | Capt. Pim    | D.D.I.C.(2)     | I.P.(2)     |
| A.C.N.S.(H)    | D.O.D.(H)(2) | D. of Plans (2) | D.T.D.(M)   |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.A/S.W.        | D.T.D.(3)   |
| A.C.N.S.(T)    | D.D.O.D.(M)  | Hd. of M.       | D.T.D.(C)   |
| N.A. 1st S.L.  | D.C.(2)      | W.D.            | D. of P.(2) |
| Ad. Ramsey(4)  | Ad. Blake    | U.S.N.(3)       | D.N.I.(4)   |



# MOST SECRET

1234Z/20th November.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From N.C.X.F.

Date. 20th Nov. 1942

Recd. 1707

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed North Atlantic Station. Situation report for Area Y 1959A/20.

- (1) U.S. Submarine BLACKFISH, 42 10 20 01 at 2100A/20 on surface 11 1/2 course 000 degs. *see previous page*
- (2) H.M.S. TRUANT, 34 10 21 01 at 2100A/20 on surface 11 course 000 degs. *see previous page*
- (3) G U F 2, 7 destroyers, 31 01 25 18 through 31 01 30 01 thence (?293 degs) 12.
- (4) Task Force 39, one oiler, 2 tugs, one net tender, 25 small war vessels, 36 02 24 11 095 degs 9
- (5) U.S.S. AUGUSTA, 32 48 11 58 258 degs 21. *see previous page*

1234Z/20.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A./S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (3)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- C.C.R.T.
- Ad. Blake. (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)

Advance copy Duty Capt.  
D.O.D. (F). D.T.D.



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN

1236Z/20 November.

From N.C.X.F.

Date 20, Nov, 42.

Recd. 1800

NAVAL CYBER (S) BY W/T

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report for Area "Z" 2005A/20th.

- (1) G.U.F. 2,7 destroyers, 31 01 25 18 through 31 01 30 01 thence 277 degs. 12.
- (2) G.U.F. 1,7 destroyers, 36 19 38 50 through 36 40 40 01 thence North West 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- (3) PORTSDOWN, YESTOR, SPHENE, 24 22 22 51 170 degs. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

1236Z/20

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D. (F) & D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.I.
- Capt. Fin
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (3)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Ad. Blake (2)
- D.M.S.



# MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

IN

1452Z/20 November.

From N. C. X. F.

Date 20. Nov. 42.

Recd. 1830

NAVAL CYpher (S) by W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities North Atlantic  
(?/rea) X.

IMPORTANT.

My 1252Z 20th <sup>P. 868A</sup> add paragraph 14  
 H. M. S. VENOMOUS, H. M. S. WIVERN, H. M. S. VERITY,  
 H. M. S. ENCHANTRESS, H. M. S. FLEETWOOD, H. M. S. COREOPSIS,  
 H. M. S. JONQUIL, H. M. S. BRIXHAM, (?H. M. S. \*POLRUAN),  
 leave Gibraltar p.m. 21st to rendezvous  
 K M S 3 in position 035 degs. 55' 008 degs.  
 25' at 1700h 21st when 5 ships and escort leave  
 for Gibraltar.

\* ~~311~~ 833

1452Z/20

Advance copy D.C.,  
D.O.D. (F) & D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- J.C.N.S. (T)
- J.C.N.S. (H)
- J.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Fin
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D.C. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of Plans (2)
- D.I./S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D. of P. (3)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Ad. Blake.
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.N.I. (4)



# MOST SECRET

1710Z/20th November.  
 MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN  
 Date, 20.11.42.  
 From, Naval Cdr. X.F.  
 Recd. 2050.  
 Naval Code (I.1)(Secret) By W/T.

Addressed. Situation report for Area X of North Atlantic Station, i.e. that area bounded by the longitudes of 20 degs. West and 5 degs. West. and the latitudes of 43 degs. North and 27 degs. North.

IMPORTANT.

My 1232 20th paragraph 4. <sup>p. 868A</sup> For 042 degs. 10' North read 043 degs. 00' North.

1710Z/20.

Advance copy sent Ops.

V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 A.C.N.S. (T)  
 N.A.1st S.L.  
 Capt. Pim  
 D.O.D. (H) (2)  
 D.O.D. (F) (2)  
 D.D.O.D. (M)  
 D.C. (2)  
 D.D.I.C. (2)  
 D. of Plans (2)  
 D.A/S.W.  
 Hd. of M.  
 W.D.  
 I.P. (2)  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (3)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D. of P. (2)  
 Ad. Ramsey (4)  
 Ad. Blake  
 U.S.N. (3)  
 D.N.I. (4)

AJA.



869

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

NURIA, R.  
vessels  
carrying  
Swiss  
cargoes.

My 1749/19.\* NURIA R should leave Marseilles for Barcelona November 21st but owners cannot confirm definitely as all telegraphic communication from Marseilles suspended. Spanish Govt. requests assurance she will not be endangered.

Vessels authorized to carry Swiss cargoes to Genoa have to call at Gibraltar for control outward and homeward. Spanish Govt. suggest Gibraltar is in better/ to advise requisite naval authorities of these voyages and unless asked to do so Spanish Govt. will not therefore issue notice. NEUSTRA, SENORA DEL CARMEN and MARIA VICTORIA are now on passage to Genoa.

(N.A. Madrid, 1930/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A. F.O.C.N.A. please pass to N.C.X.F.)

\* re SS. NURIA on charter to Red Cross.

/ ? position omitted.

Enemy A/C,  
Funchal.

An enemy aeroplane sighted 1910 G.M.T. 20th November approaching from west no lights and no marks visible disappeared 1925 towards S.E. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 2001/20 to Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)



870

War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/B Ref. A.M. A.F. 30.39 S. 34.41 E.  
Positions. (C. in C.S.A. 0012 G.M.T./20 to B. A.M. S. Area  
3 C. Admtly).

CORINTHIAKOS. SSSS De SVKS (CORINTHIAKOS) torpedoed position  
unknown bound Aden.  
(Simonstown T.O.R. 0027 G.M.T. /20).

Greek Ship CORINTHIAKOS reported torpedoed at daybreak 20th  
approx. 56 miles 057° from Inhaka light. Have stopped sailings.  
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 1051B/20 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.  
E.F., Admtly, Cmdre. Durban, C.S.A.Beira).  
My 1051/20th. CORINTHIAKOS sunk by S/M German of about  
(?9 00) tons in position 057 degrees Inhaka light 35 miles.  
(C.S.A.Lourenco Marques 1620B/20 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.  
E.F. Comdre Durban, Admtly).

MARINA. Following received from Lands End Radio to Admtly:-  
Intercept 2338 GMTS 500 K/Cs De ZSC to BAMS  
Following received. BAMS De KBZR\* 30.39 S. 34.41  
E.vessel astern blew up 2206 GMTS/19 TOR 2325  
GMTS/19. No rebroadcast.  
(C. in C. Plymouth 0038/20). \*MARINA.  
Ref. A.M. AF 25.20 S. 34.10 E.  
(C. in C.S.A. 0134G.M.T./20 to BAMS Area 3 C,Admtly),

U/B. Following received from R.O. Port Harcourt.  
United Africa Co. Agent Akassa report having  
received information S/M cruising off coast of  
Cape Nun and Sengana. Last seen by native of  
Okumbiri near Cape Nun about 9th Nov. Has also  
received report strange craft navigating zigzag course. No  
information from lighthouse keeper. No regular communication?  
except by canoe.  
(N.C.S.O.Lagos 0835Z/20 to Admtly etc).

P.552. Your 1806Z/19th not to B.N.L.O. W.Africa.  
Do not proceed within 100 miles of Quicongue  
unless other instructions are received from  
S.N.O. F.N. F.L. Pointe Noire.  
Surface forces and possibly patrol boats from Pointe Noire will  
be operating against S/MS.  
(F.O.C.W. Af. 0935Z/20 to P.552,(R) C. in C.S. A. B.N.L.O.W. A.)

TURCOMAN After fuelling at St. Vincent (C.V.) you are  
to search to carry out search for U-Boats reported to be  
Janella Bay. using Janella Bay, San Antonio.  
Consult British Consul St.Vincent (C.V.).  
*See p. 871A* Report your intentions by immediate signal to  
enable aircraft to co-operate if possible.  
(F.O.C.W.Af.1027Z/20 to TURCOMAN,(R) B.C.St.Vincent (C.V.) Admtly)

/?PIERRE BUTLER...



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War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

?PIERCE  
BUTLER.  
*Sup. 874*

Following has been read on 500 K/Cs. SSSS from  
KENL(undecypherable)  
(Simonstown W/T 1100 G.M.T./20 to Admty)  
See 2146/20.

Movements. Arrival Pointe Noire 1000Z/20th, FANDANGO,  
KELT, escorting tankers MIJDRECHT and CISTULA  
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 1105/20, to F.O.W.A.(R) Admty  
etc).

DRAGON. Departure 20th Nov.  
*See next page* -(S.O.(I) Freetown 1111Z/20, to Admty etc).  
1. Intend to sail DRAGON from Bathurst  
at 0900Z/22nd Nov. for U.K. via Ponta Delgada. Route D. 014.00 N.  
019.00 W. E. 024.00 N. 024.00 W. F. 034.00 N. 024.00 W.  
Thence to Ponta Delgada, S. of A. 16½ knots. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada  
1200Z/26th Nov.  
2. After fuelling at Ponta Delgada DRAGON to sail at 0900Z/27th  
Nov. Route G. 039.00 N. 026.00 W. H. 049.00 N. 023.00 W. J. 054.00 N  
018.00 W. K. 055.00 N. 011.00 W.  
thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A., S. of A. 14 knots.  
3. DRAGON shifts to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 2000Z/23rd  
Nov. and to home W/T organisation at 2000Z/27th Nov.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1119Z/20 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. etc).

Situation F.O.C.W.Af. 1145Z/20, 1545C/20,  
Reports. See Lion Copy.

Zig-Zag Present zig-zag area off Durban is limited to the  
Area. Southward to parallel 031° South when eastward of  
Meridian 033° East.  
2. Propose zig-zag area off Cape be extended  
forthwith to parallel 040° S. between Meridian 010° E. and 040° E.  
Thence to eastward of line joining positions 040° S. 040° E.  
and 031° S. 045° E.  
3. C. in C.E.F. is requested to signal concurrence or remarks  
direct to Admiralty in order that amendments to C.A.M.S.I No. 156  
Section one (c) may be promulgated as early as possible.  
(C. in C.S.A. 1256C/20 to C. in C.E.F. Admty).  
Concur:- C. in C.E. F. 1329/21).

CITY OF Due Pernambuco 14th not yet arrived.  
CAIRO. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1301Z/20).  
(Sunk 6th Nov)

RESOLUTION. Sailed (A) RESOLUTION to Kilindini  
(B) Escorted by NAPIER, HOTSPUR, (C) Local escort  
*Sup. 883.* until 0500Z/21st. FORTUNE.  
(Cdre.i/c Durban 1312Z/20 to Admty etc).

/Ascension...



871A

# MOST SECRET

1143Z/20th November.  
 MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN  
 From. F.O.C. W.Africa. Date. 20.11.42.  
 Recd. 1614.  
 Naval Cypher 3 (M) By W/T.

Addressed. Ships in Area P of South Atlantic Station, north of 8 degs. North. Admiralty. C.in C. South Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. TURCOMAN, about 13 25 28 15 to St. Vincent through 13 12 27 27 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . *See p. 870*

Submarine K.14, 12 30 25 45 (?354 degs., 010 degs., 336 degs.) 9 at 1959Z 20th. *See p. 885*

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, 08 45 31 35 090 degs. 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ . *See p. 885*

H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, ~~██████~~. BULLMOUTH, H.M.S. \*RELIANCE, 10 10 31 20 095 degs. 9. *\*not identified ? R.F.A. RELIANT.*

BARDELL, 2 M.L's, 10 59 17 20 to Bathurst 8.

H.M.S. DRAGON, 09 25 16 25 to Bathurst 13. *See previous page*  
 2 M.L's, 09 (?10) 14 50 to Freetown 9.

Allied naval unit, about 10 35 33 10 to South 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

1143Z/20.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- Duty Capt.(2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.D.O.D (C)(2)

AJA.



# MOST SECRET

1545C/20th November.  
 MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN  
 Date. 20.11.42.  
 From. C.in C. South Atlantic. Recd. 1725.

Naval Cypher (3)(M) By W/T.

Addressed. Ships in Area Q of South Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report E.

American transport WESTPOINT 038 degs. 40' South  
 033 degs. 15' East to the East 21 knots.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA on patrol in M 3 A and B.

H.M.S. EXPRESS with C D 2 034 degs. 46' South 019  
 degs. 08' East to Durban 8½ knots. *see p. 872*

1545C/20.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.  
 A.C.N.S. (H)  
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)  
 A.C.N.S. (T)  
 N.A. 1st S.L.  
 Capt. Pim  
 D.O.D. (H) (2)  
 D.O.D. (F) (2)  
 Duty Capt. (2)  
 U.S.N.  
 D.A/S.W.  
 Hd. of M.  
 D.N.I.C. (2)  
 I.P. (2)  
 W.D.  
 D.T.D. (M)  
 D.T.D. (C)  
 D.T.D. (3)



War Diary.

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Ascension. C.O.U.S.Army Force at Ascension has requested ships should be informed that they must not approach Island unless they have been identified and identification acknowledged.

2.Request all authorities concerned may be informed (a) that ships are not normally to be routed within 50 miles of this Island.(b) when it is necessary for ship to approach within 50 miles, N.O.I.C.Ascension to be informed and ship instructed that they are not to close the Island until they have been identified and identification acknowledged.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1533Z/20 to Admty,C. in C.S.A. etc).

COLUMBINE. Following has been read. Following from (S. African S.S.) COLUMBINE engine broken down. Tug urgently ~~See next page~~ required have wired same yesterday to BANANA but no reply position 006. 07 S. 007.06 E.  
(Simonstown Radio 1400Z/20).

Floating Dock Escort. F.O.C.W.A. 1531Z/20. See America & West Indies. *A. 887*

\* ILEX HOLCOMBE. My 1531Z/20 in view of further depletion of Freetown escorts which will be caused by provision of escorts for A.F.D. 24. Request consideration be given to ILEX and HOLCOMBE remaining in West Africa until arrival of dock at Freetown.  
*\* See p. 887*  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1541Z/20 to Admty).

T.L.D.M. Convoy &c. Now intend sailing KELT escorting tanker BENTE MAERSK from Pointe Noire p.m./21st E.T.A. Takoradi, dawn 26th FANDANGO, two M.Ls escorting tanker CISTULA will be sailing p.m./21st as northbound TLDM convoy.E. T.A.  
Duala a.m./24th for onward routeing.  
(B.N.L.O.W.Af.1545/20)  
Cancelled by 1515/21, q.v. *p. 906.*

EXPRESS C.D.2. Departure 1200Z/20th EXPRESS escorting CD2 shift to W/T Organization for area J at 1700Z/23rd (C. in C.S. A. 1713C/20 to Admty, Cdre i/c Durban, N.L.O.Port Elizabeth, N.L.O.East London).  
*See p. 87/13*

A.M.Cs. Cancel A.M.1106/12, and ref. your 1149/18. CARNARVON CASTLE, CHESHIRE, and CILICIA, will be leaving U.K. with W.S.25 about 15th Dec. ASTURIAS should be sailed to U.K. for refit on relief by one of these about the end of Dec.  
(D.O.D.(F) 1811A/20 to F.O.C.W.Af).

/OSMOND....



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War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.OSMOND,  
INGRAM.Departure 19th Nov. U.S. <sup>Scap/air. Trinidad</sup> Dest. OSMOND INGRAM.  
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1903Z/20).

Tankers.

Your 2036/18th.

1. Oiler ORANGELEAF cannot be spared until arrival of ECHODALE. CISTULA requires further repairs before ocean voyage, date of completion not yet known.
2. Intend sailing NORVIK and DRUPA about 24th Nov. for Pernambuco. Escort will be provided part way.
3. Anticipate OLTENIA and BENTE MERSEK being ready at Freetown about 30th. Arrangements not yet clear for escort.
4. Rio de Janeiro has been asked if docking date of CORINTHIAN can be delayed to permit of MIJDRECHT being escorted Bahia.
5. No details yet known regarding convoy referred to in Comsolantfor's 1658/13th.  
(F.O.C.W.A. 1921Z/20 to Admty).

P.R.U.Dakar.

20th Nov. no change.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1911Z/20 to N.C.W.N.T. F. Admty, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Air H.Q. Gib).

Congestion  
at  
Pernambuco.

To relieve congestion in port request you will select five coal fired ships to take minimum bunkers with safe margin for Trinidad and sail them earliest possible.

M.O.W.T. representative at Rio de Janeiro has been advised.  
(D. T. D. 1956A/20 to B.R.L.O. Pernambuco)  
(2004A/20 to B.R.L.O. Rio).

?COLUMBINE.

*See previous page.*

The following has been read from O.N.A. from ZSQX (Ship's name undecypherable in W.R.)  
Noon position. 258 miles bearing 166° from position B drifting totally disabled require urgent assistance - Siminsen Master.  
(Simonstown W/T 2030Z/20).

LÉOPARD.

Simonstown departure 1750Z/20th.  
F.F.LÉOPARD for Port Louis, Mauritius. Route R.8 to position (6 ) thence through  
(A) 028.30 S. 045.00 E.  
(B) 022.30 S. 056.00 E.  
S. of A. 15 knots. Shifting to W/T organization for area J at 2300Z/22nd and N.U. at 1900Z/24th  
(C. in C.S.A. 2101C/20 to Admty, C. in C.E.F. etc).

LOUISE  
MOLLER.  
Survivors.

My 1216C/18 Nov. Survivors state LOUISE MOLLER sunk in approx. 30.50 S. 35.54 E. at 0530G/13 Nov. by U-Boat about 1000 tons with large gun forward, small gun aft, and European crew.  
(C. in C.S.A. 2136C/20 to Admiralty (R) Com i/c Durban).

/SS...



War Diary.

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SS. PIERCE  
BUTLER.

*see p. 871.*

PIERCE BUTLER (U.S.) torpedoed at 1100Z/20th  
in 029.53 S. 036.41 E. Further details  
not available.  
(?C. in C.S.A. 2146C/20).  
Independently routed from Baltimore to Mombasa and  
Suez.  
(D.O.R. 1191)



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20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Operation "Stoneage" All merchant ships arrived. Escorts entering. (V.A. Malta 0031A/20.)  
DULVERTON, HURWORTH, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, BELVOIR and PINDOS arrived. (V.A. Malta 0105A/20.)  
Transports BANTAM (?DENBIGHSHIRE) MOORMACMOON, ROBIN LOCKSLEY arrived. (S.T.O. Malta 0130/20.)  
\* EURYALUS, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, CROOME and HURSLEY arrived. (V.A. Malta 0200A/20.) \* *pp. 877 & 879*
- P.211. Available. 4400 gallons fuel. 26 rounds ammunition. 8 torpedoes but 3 suspected. 4 tubes. Large T.L.C. depot ship laden petroleum sunk in 30.23 18.48, also 4 various. Suggest working westward coastwise. (P.211 0101A/20 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- U/Bs. U-Boats were sighted by aircraft today 19th in 035° 14' 015° 20' and 034° 50' 016° 22'. (Capt. S.10. 0101A/20 to TRAVELLER, THRASHER.)
- K.M.F.3. My 1701Z/18. Escort for Oran section QUIBERON, QUENTIN, QUALITY. Ocean escort and AVON VALE to Algiers. WESTON pass my 1701Z/18 to destroyers. (N.C.X.F. 0535Z/20 to WESTON, QUIBERON (R) Capt. S.8th S.F. A.O.C. Gibraltar. Escorts of Convoy M.K.F.3, (?K.M.F.3) Admty. F.O.I.S. F.O.I.C. Oran. Cdre. Algiers. F.O.C.N.A.)  
*Supp. 867.4  
868A.4  
878*
- AUDUN, ZAAAN, SAYONARA. Request you will sail AUDUN and ZAAAN ex T.E.5 to Algiers and Bougie respectively at next opportunity and SAYONARA to Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F. 1000Z/20 to F.O.I.C. Oran. (R) Cdre. Algiers. N.O.I.C. Bougie. S.O.I.S.)
- ST. DAY. Your 1152Z/18. Weather conditions experienced at Bougie during past few days are such that I consider tug is essential for efficient working of port. Propose therefore to retain ST. DAY. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1003A/20 to F.O.I.S.)
- P.R.U. of French Ports. P.R.U. Toulon 1240/19. Since 18th Nov. 2 S/Ms departed Mourillon Yards, 1 now in Petite Rade heading towards entrance channel, other not seen, 1 S/M chaser departed.  
P.R.U. Marseilles 1300/19 2 M/Vs 300/350' departed since 18th Nov.  
P.R.U. Etang de Berre 1 tanker 485', 5 M/Vs 280/460' arrived since 8th Nov. 9 tankers, 15 M/Vs now present. (D.D.I.C. 1053A/20 to C. in C. Med. C.O.I.S. Alexandria. V.A. Malta. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A. (R) H.Q.C.C.)



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War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.S.3. For Cdre K.M.S.3. Tankers BRITISH CHIVALRY and CARDIUM to join Oran section. Following tankers *see pp 867 & 868A* will join convoy with Mediterranean escort p.m. 21st. DINGLEDALE for Algiers, BROWN RANGER for Bone.  
(2) Cdre. Algiers pass to Bone.  
(N.C.X.F. 1105Z/20 to BLACK SWAN. (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc.)  
My 1846/19 (See N.A.) Amend position Q to read 036° 53' N 002° 54' E.  
2. Cdre. Algiers pass to Bone, Philippeville, C.G.12 Air Corp, and A.C.O. Eastern Command.  
(N.C.X.F. 1215Z/20 to BLACK SWAN, F.O.I.S. F.O.I.C. Oran. Cmde. Hirota, N.O.I.C. Bougie. N.O.I.C. Philippeville. N.O.I.C. Bone. (R) Admty. NASTURTIUM, C.G.12 Air Corp A.C.O. Eastern Command)

UNA. *see next page + p.879* UNA sails 1130A/20 through F keeping north of line F to D through B thence to patrol Gulf of Tunis. Keep south of line D to F.  
(Capt. S.10. 1107A/20 to P.35. TURBULENT. (R) S/MS on patrol.)  
Departure UNA.  
(V.A. Malta 1133A/20.)

\*UTMOST *see next page* information. P.221 reports traffic appearing to approach from westward hugging Cape Blanc. E-Boats encountered at night, much air activity including S/M search.  
(Capt. S.10. 1109A/20 to UTMOST.)

ARETHUSA. *see next page* Two tugs are on their way but will make slow progress. It may not be practicable for you to enter (?Great Pass) until weather moderates. You should consider riding out gale hove to stem to wind.  
(C. in C. Med. 1130B/20 to ARETHUSA (R) C.S.15th. N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)  
Have ARETHUSA in tow.  
(PETARD 1345B/20.)  
Am remaining hove to outside Great Pass during night. Your 1035B/20 intend to retain PETARD A/S screen.  
(ARETHUSA 1800B/20 to C.S.15. (R) PETARD.)  
E.T.A. about midnight with ARETHUSA in tow 3 knots.  
Request lights now and at intervals.  
(PETARD 2040/20 to R.A. Alexandria. (R) C. in C. Med. R.A. 15 C.S.)

Toulon. P.R.U. Toulon 1240/19. No change. Can Algiers pass to Gen. Clarke?  
(N.C.X.F. 1227Z/20 to Force H. F.O.I.S. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran. Cdre. Algiers.)

Bougie. Situation report 1300A/20. Enemy aircraft suspected of laying two mines last night. Sweepers report negative results. OCEAN VISTA, CITY OF NORWICH, ARTEMUS WARD and EVIVA escorted by (corrupt group) should sail p.m. 21st. 10 L.C.M. 4 L.C.A. and 4 L.C.P. (R) arrived Jijelli 0100/20.  
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1311A/20 to F.O.I.S.)

/Landing...



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20.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Landing craft. N.O.I.C. Bougie 1406A/20 to F.O.I.S. Total of 20 landing craft sailing from Jijelli dusk tonight Friday arriving Philippeville dawn tomorrow Saturday. Request you will inform me of safe arrival and sail after dark for onward passage to Bone. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1521A/20 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville. N.O.I.C. Bone. F.O.I.S.)

Ships for M.K.S.2. N.C.X.F.'s 0935Z/18 para 7 nil. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1411A/20.)

ALYNBANK S.O.I.S. 2130Z/18. Request you sail ALYNBANK to join K.M.S.3 for passage to Algiers. (N.C.X.F. 1415Z/20 to F.O.I.C. Oran.)

Situation Report No.294. Western desert. Mersa Matruh railway trains arrived 16 Nov. later position improving rapidly. Derna jetty and small piers for lighters undamaged Derna Pass blown, only foot traffic for at least three days from 17th Nov.

(2) Own submarines (A) TAKU reports that she sank a southbound escorted tanker at 0804B/26 Oct in 38.04 N 25.27 E and a caique in vicinity of Kupho and probably sank merchant ship at 1056B/31 Oct in 37.30 N 24.036-3 (as received) (24.88 E) P.44 reports probable hit on escort of the Regolo Class cruiser hit by P.46, (my 2001B/9) at 1649B/8 in 38.15 12.47 E (B) UNA reports two hits on three cruisers and three destroyers at 0725B/10 the same force as that hit by UTMOST at 1737B/10 (my 1912B/10) Later R/C indicates no hits on cruisers but each submarine probably sank one destroyer. *X ATTILIO REGOLO. \* See previous page.*

(3) WELSHMAN arrived Malta 1245B/18 with stores.

(4) Four merchant ships arrived Malta 19th. ARETHUSA, EURYALUS and 5th D.F. entered Malta remainder 15th C.S. and 14th D.F. now returning to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med. 1434B/20.) *\* See previous page. (bombed during passage to Malta & returned later.)*

*\* See p. 875 & 879.*

Visuals midday 20th Nov. Taranto, Messina and Naples, no change. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1448A/20.)

FORMOSA, EROS and CAMELIA Swedish relief ships. Following is a repetition of my 1330/20 addressed A.I.G. 262 (begins) Pass Gibraltar for Greece at 1200Z/20 routed through position (a) 180 Spartevento Cape 20. (b) 000 Ustica 5 thence along north coast Sicily to Straits of Messina. Speed about 12 knots. These ships have been given safe conduct (ends). (N.C.X.F. 1450Z/20 to S/Ms on patrol.)



War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

URSULA and P.54 sailed 20th for patrol in Gulf of Genoa. Intend to retain operational control of these submarines when east 008° E. (Capt. S.8. 1506/20 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F.)  
*See next page.*

GUARDIAN netlaying. (3) GUARDIAN has started laying southern section A T baffle. On completion northern section from breakwater extension will be laid and subsequently existing French A/S net will be reinforced by A T curtain using French material. GUARDIAN will also prepare with material in LEONIAN 1½ sets marble nets for ship protection. My 1531 part 3 follows. (?S.O. Force H 1531Z/20 to ? ) W.R. Note: other parts not received.

Force H Oran. (1) Force H will sail 0900Z/21 Nov. and operate to southward of Balearic Islands.  
(2) Berth arrangements at Mers El Kebir.  
(3) Baffles and nets.  
(4) Harbour defence asdic material is in port but records and drawings were lost in HARTLAND, H.D.As and loop minefield will require resiting as existing A/S net fouls position shown in T S G. 12 plate 3. Available 5 pound charges are exhausted and fresh supply required immediately.  
(5) FURIOUS, cruiser, and destroyer have been refuelled from ABBEYDALE who now has following amount remaining fuel oil 5300 tons diesel oil 480 tons aviation 100 Octane 148667 gallons. No information is yet available of any oil storage ashore. Daily expenditure of fuel at sea by Force H as composed at present is 2000 tons, consequently another oiler is an immediate necessity for operating Force H from here. (S.O. Force H 1536Z/20 to N.C.X.F.)

K.M.F.3. Cdre. Algiers 1746Z/19 does not apply to Oran Section. Pass to Commodore. (N.C.X.F. 1603Z/20 to S.O. escorts of convoy K.M.F.3. (R) Cdre. Algiers.)  
*See pp 667, 668  
7675*

Brief Situation Report for Area West of Algiers 2002Z/20 S/Ms excepted. (2) T.E.5 036° 37' 000° 52' E 070° 7.  
(3) K.M.F.3 passes Europa Point approx. 0100Z/21 routed through 28.82 2 speed 13. (N.C.X.F. 1609Z/20.)

S/M situation. In Western Med. at 2000Z/20. (N.C.X.F. 1614Z/20.) See Lion Copy.



**MOST SECRET**

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1614Z/20th November

IN

Date 21.11.42  
Recd. 0305

From N.C.X.F.

Naval Cypher (S) by T/P

Addressed Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANTSubmarine situation in Western  
Mediterranean at 2000Z/20.

1. H.M.S. URSULA (?36) 30 north 04 06 west  
proceeding through 180 degs Cape De Gata 5 miles  
(?225 degs) Cape Palos 5 miles thence direct to  
(?Philippeville) surface speed 8 knots. *See previous page*

2. (?P) 54 by same route 40 miles astern  
of H.M.S. URSULA. *See previous page*

3. (?H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT) passing Europa  
Point 2030/20 escort to 180 degs Cape Calabunas 10  
then unescorted through 180 degs Cape De Gata 10  
and (?135 degs) Cape Palos 10 surface speed 10  
knots.

(Group omitted) (?P) 221 38 24 north  
07 09 east through 38 50 north 03 01 east thence  
245 degs surface speed 11 knots.

5. All above submarines diving by day 2½  
(?knots).

6. P.51 36 30 north 02 38 west proceed to  
(?Gibraltar) (?on surface) 8½ knots 5 miles  
Spanish coast. *See p. 868*

1614Z/20

Advance copy Duty Capt.,  
D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)  
N.A.1st S.L.  
Capt. Pim.  
D.O.D.(H)(2)  
D.O.D.(F)(2)  
D.D.O.D.(M)  
Duty Capt.(2)  
D.D.I.C.(2)  
D. of Plans(2)  
D.A/S.W.  
Hd. of M.  
W.D.  
I.P.(2)  
D.T.D.(M)



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War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

S/Ms approaching Malta. Cancel (?previous) instructions for approach to Malta. \*EURALYUS and 8 Hunts leave Malta eastbound at 0900A/21. \* *see pp 875 & 877*  
 (A) TURBULENT and P.35 are to wait dived within 3 miles of (?035°) 44' 014° 04' and 035° (?46') 014° 13' respectively. P.35 proceed ?on the surface after dawn to reach her position. Submarines are to surface at 1130A and proceed to R/V with sweeper at end of searched channel at 1330A/21.  
 (B) THRASHER and TRAVELLER route as in my 2157A/19. Remain east of THRASHER 016°. TRAVELLER 016° 30' until 1600A (?21) thence R/V with sweeper at end of searched channel at 1101A/22. TRAVELLER keeps north THRASHER south of a line 230° from end of searched channel.  
 (Capt. S.10 1641A/20 to TURBULENT. P.35. THRASHER. TRAVELLER.)  
*\* see p. 881*

P.247. Leave patrol after dark 21st Nov. through 037° 36' 010° 41' and A to make landfall off Marittimo thence B to F to R/V with sweeper(s) at 1038A/23. *see p. 868A*  
 \*UNA's route night 21st 22nd from B through 037° 46' 011° 15' and 037° 32' 010° 41'.  
 (Capt. S.10. 1715A/20 to P.247. (R) S/Ms on patrol)  
*\* see p. 876*

M.Ls. N.C.X.F's 1644A/4.  
 (2) M.Ls 1152, 1221 and 1225 sailed <sup>for</sup> Algiers for onward routing in accordance with S.O.I.S's 1550A/16. *N.T. & D.*  
 (F.O.I.C. Oran 1725Z/20 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Sink at sight area. K.189. Commencing 0800Z/21.  
 The area within Mediterranean within which ships may be sunk at sight without warning by all surface ships submarines and aircraft is extended to cover the whole of the Mediterranean except:  
 (a) Turkish territorial waters. (b) The area to west of the line running from Franco-Spanish border along edge of Spanish territorial waters to a point 3 miles 090° from Cape de Creus (042° 00' N 003° 19' E) thence to 039° 46' N 004° 50' E thence 180° to Algerian coast.  
 (2) Neutral ships entering this area with permission of United Nations will be granted safe conduct alongside a defined route only and will burn navigation lights and wear illuminated national colours. Such movements will be promulgated.  
 (3) As a temporary measure only, French warships or merchant ships proceeding to south or west, W of longitude 006° 00' E are not to be attacked unless otherwise ordered.  
 (4) The following Swiss chartered ships passed Gibraltar eastbound for Genoa on (?18th) showing routed through west of Inviza, 10' north of Cape Hisalera Minorca, 10' N of Revellata Point Corsica thence Genoa, ALBUAA 13th Nov. MARIA VICTORIA 16th Nov. N.S. DEL CARMEN 17th Nov. LUGANO 18th Nov. MALOJA 19th Nov. Ships to return by reverse of outward route and are not to be attacked.  
 (5) V.A. Gibraltar is to assume responsibility for promulgation of warnings under para 2.  
 (N.C.X.F. 1727Z/20 to All S & A concerned in "Torch". V.A. Malta. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.N.A.)

/ U/B...



War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

U/B. A/C report one S/M position 035° 58' N 018° 26' E proceeding south submerged at 1425/20th. (S.O. S/Ms Alexandria 1730B/20 to TRAVELLER, THRASHER. (R) Capt. S.l. Capt. S.lO.)

Escort Groups, fuel. Fuel from <sup>\*</sup>DEWDALE in Bay when supplies exhausted from lighter alongside Aris L'Ames Est. On completion anchor as convenient in Bay. Escort group 36, 23rd. Escort group and destroyer division 17 will be required for A/S patrol early a.m. Sunday, further signal following. LANCASTER instruct motor minesweeper to berth on VIENNA, North side of Mole de Passageurs. <sup>\* Same p 854p</sup> (Cdre. Algiers 1740Z/20 to Escort Group 36. 23rd. Escort Group Destroyer Division 17, BLEAN (R) F.O.I.S.)

BRAMHAM damaged. Sailed BRAMHAM 1830A/20 E.T.A. Bougie 2320A/20. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1845A/20.) Enemy aircraft bombing. (BRAMHAM 1934/20.) Have been hit by a bomb. (BRAMHAM 1940/20.) My position 290° Bougaroni 2. (BRAMHAM 1942/20.) Following has been read. Addressed: Algiers W/T. Holed by bomb aft and flooded up to No.114 bulkhead (?P.C.S.) 270° Bougaroni 1, 270° 10 knots. Intend to try and make Bougie, E.T.A. 0500A/21. Have 9 casualties through being severely burnt. (BRAMHAM 2045A/20, amended 2303A/20.) Send ALARM to stand by BRAMHAM damaged in position 290° Cape Bougaroni 2. (BULOLO 2101A/20 to Bougie (R) BRAMHAM.) My 1545Z/20 (N.T. in W.R.) Add to shipping protection signal for 21st. Nov. BRAMHAM damaged 2 miles off Cape Bougaroni. Movements will be signalled when known. Request fighter protection if possible and day fighter protection priority 2 from dawn. N.O.I.C. Bougie pass to R.A.F. Jijelli. (Cdre. Algiers 2117/20 to A.O.C. (?Eastern Air Command.) F.O.I.S. 2101A/20. ALARM not required. (BRAMHAM 2136A/20 to Bougie (R) S.O. Spare Force No.9. ALARM.) BRAMHAM damaged proceeding Bougie at 10 knots. E.T.A. 0500/21. You are to proceed in accordance with my 2136A/20, disregard BRAMHAM 2045A/20. (Algiers W/T 2154A/20 to Inshore Squadron. BRAMHAM.) My 2045A. Amend E.T.A. to read 0400. Have following passengers on board. (BRAMHAM 2303A/20 to F.O.I.S. (R) N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers. N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

Movements. Algiers arrivals from Jijelli, M.L.444 escorting L.C.T. numbers 135, 160. Departures to Oran DEPTFORD, COLTSFOOT, F.S. Chaser escorting F.S. FALCON. To Philippeville French Sub. Chaser escorting F.S. LES ISSEES. To Gibraltar TARANA. (Cdre. Algiers 2050Z/20 to Admty.)

/TRAVELLER...



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War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

TRAVELLER. Unable to arrive before dawn 23rd Nov.  
*See p. 679.* (TRAVELLER 2144A/20 to Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.228 Withdrawing 40 miles. Unsuccessfully attacked third Italian U-Boat making arrival point 180° Imperatore Point 1.5 miles within last 24 hours on course 050° thence 090°. \*CITTA DE SPEZIA armed merchant cruiser entered harbour 0900A/18. One torpedo left.  
 (P.228 2228A/20 to Capt. S.10. (R) Capt. S.8. TRIBUNE, STURGEON.) \*not in C.B. 1815

Malta I.117 20 Nov. C.S.R. Malta. Night 19/20.  
 Air Safe arrival at midnight of our convoy was  
 Report. protected by 7 Beaufighter intruder sorties over aerodromes and 15 Wellington bombing sorties on aerodromes in Southern Sicily. As a result no attack was made on convoy during the night and there was continuous air raid warning over Southern Sicily. 1724, 4 raiders having failed to find our convoy east of (?Malta) approached Island. 2 Beaufighters were airborne (see my A.I.114) but enemy jettisoned bombs in sea and returned. 52 Spitfire sorties have been made of which 28 were on interception patrol 16 to protect friendly and 8 on R/C patrol. No enemy aircraft crossed the coast. 0525, 4 Spitfires were airborne on interception but raiders turned back before reaching Malta. 1224, 15 Me.109s probably on R/C approached Malta at great height and were intercepted north of Island by 8 Spitfires who forced raiders to turn back without crossing coast. 1335 to 1620, 16 Spitfires were airborne for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 8 Spitfires were despatched on armed R/C patrols over Pantelleria and Lampedusa but ten-tenth cloud was encountered and no enemy aircraft or shipping were seen. Night 19/20th Nov. 7 Wellingtons were despatched to attack Catania aerodrome; 1 aircraft which did not locate Catania dropped 4 500 lb and ten 250 lb bombs on Augusta harbour 20th Nov. 17 Beaufighters 3 carrying bombs and 3 torpedo Beauforts carried out offensive sweeps between Sicily and Bizerta. 1106 hours 1 section of 4 Beaufighters found 078° Kuriat 32 miles 1 M/V 2000 tons course 270° speed 15 knots. 1 Beaufighter attacked vessel with 2 250 lb 3 seconds delay bombs scoring 1 direct hit amidships. All Beaufighters raked vessel with cannon and machine guns. M/V was left circling and on fire and was attacked again at 1525 hours by 3 Beauforts, 1 probable hit with torpedo depth setting 9 feet, contact dropped from 60 feet range 1000 yards. M/V was later seen sinking and abandoned. 1237 hours 4 Beaufighters found 335° Cape Bon 55 miles 1 M/V 5/6000 tons and 1 M/V 8000 tons 1 submarine course 050° speed 10-15 knots. S S M crash dived. 2 Beaufighters scored near misses on larger M/V with 4 250 lb 3 seconds delay bombs dropped from mast height. All 4 Beaufighters raked M/V with cannon and machine guns and observed strikes on decks. 8 Spitfires airborne to protect the return of Beaufighters and Beauforts.  
 (A.H.Q. Malta, 2232/20, 2158/20, 2259/20.)

/ S/M...



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War Diary.

20.11.1942.  
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

S/M  
Patrols.

My 1412/16.

(1) Your (?dispositions) are to include covering  
Tunisian coastal approach route to Sfax and  
Tripoli.

(2) Tripoli is of greater importance than minor ports and  
beaches in Gulf of (?Sirte) the most important of which is Burat.  
(C. in C. Med. 2326B/20, 1209B/21 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F.  
V.A. Malta.)

T.E.5.

E.T.A. T.E.5, 0600Z/21.

(LANCASTER 2359Z/20 to N.O.I.C. Algiers (R)  
F.O.C.N.A.)



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War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

W. S.23. 1 Owing to bad coal and other causes EMPRESS OF  
C.M.25. RUSSIA ex W.S.23 is unable to reach Bombay and  
is now in Kilindini.  
2. For similar reasons not yet fully ascertained  
SONTAY ex C.M.35 is unable to reach Aden and is being brought  
into Kilindini.  
3. As Indian section of C.M.35 consists of DUNERA only. She will  
be brought into Kilindini to sail with EMPRESS OF RUSSIA as  
C.M.35 B. about 24th Nov. Arrangements for onward passage of  
SONTAY will be promulgated when extent of her trouble is  
known.  
P.S.T.O. Egypt is requested to state whether special priority  
attached troops in SONTAY.  
(C. in C.E.F. 0701Z/20 to Com. R.I.N. P.S.T.O. Bombay). Report  
Requested by Admiralty.  
(D.T.D.1836A/23).

HILDASAY. HILDASAY sailed for Tamatave routed through  
positions:- A. 020. 00. 056. 40, B., 018.20,  
050.00 S. of A.10 knots.  
(N.O.I.C.Mauritius 0921Z/20 to Admty etc).

MARIPOSA. Request you will observe following route  
instructions on East Indies Station. (Details)  
(C. in C.E.F. 1049Z/20 to U.S.S.MARIPOSA, (R)  
C. in C.S.A. F.O.R.S.C.A. Cdre.i/c Aden.  
Alusna Rio De Janeiro). Voyage cancelled.  
See B.A.D.1631Z/21.

Movements. Arrivals <sup>Kilindini</sup> 20th Nov. REVENGE, BLACKMORE, DERWENT.  
Departures 20th Nov. ALBATROSS.  
(F.O.E.A. 1217Z/20 to Admty).

Japanese One off Madras 16th Nov. may also have been  
U-Boats. sighted in position 010. N. 081 E. 18th Nov.  
One by D/F fix 009° N. 095° E. 18th Nov.  
(C. in C.E.F. 1321Z/20, 1331Z/20, to S. and A.  
E.I.Stn).

Guns ex Your 1315/30. The four 6" guns ex RESOLUTION  
\* RESOLUTION. should be returned to U.K. for re-arming  
A.M.Cs. Two mountings should be retained for  
\* *see p. 871* gunnery school and the other two returned to  
U.K. as convenient.  
2. Pass to C.G.S. Pretoria and G.O.C.C.A.  
(D.N.O.1334A/20 to C. in C.E. F.).

"Q" Information Can a reply to A.M. 1938/31/10 now be  
for Shipping. given?  
(D.T.D.2119A/20 to C. in C.E. F.)  
Reply: 1411/23.



War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Signal  
Letters on  
Sides of  
M/Vs.

Following signal has been received from C. in C. Eastern Fleet (quotes 1421/26/10 q.v.)  
(2) There have been several instances of raiders in visual contact with H.M. Ships escaping through difficulties of identification and it is therefore desired to do everything possible to minimise error in this respect.

(3) It is considered that the disadvantages of this proposal are slight and the advantages considerable. It is accordingly proposed to approve it for all United Nations managed ocean going ships and your concurrence or remarks are requested.

(4) The letters should be as large as possible to allow of identification at a considerable range.

(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S. (T) 0033A/20 to Cominch) Reply: Cominch, 1238/25.

\*POTENTILLA,  
x O.N.S.144.

\*See p. 886

x See next page

Your 1449Z/19th. On relief PONTENTILLA proceed (?St. Johns N.F.) for inspection and further decision as to localizing dry docking. Remainder escort proceed (?Argentia) fuelling St. Johns N.F. if necessary.

(C.T., 24. 0111Z/20 to Comtask 24.1.4).

Your 0111Z/20 acknowledged. ROSE has three survivors PRESIDENT SERGENT 1 (?DOMINA) 2. VERVAIN 52 from YAKA including three non cot cases. POTENTILLA 27 from MONTBRETIA 2 officers 23 ratings, all Norwegian including 5 non cot cases and 2 English ratings.

(C.T.U. 24.1.4., 1151Z/20 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connnav, Admty. Capt. (D) Liverpool, C. in C. Western Approaches, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G.24.7).

Your 1151Z/20th on relief (?disabled) ROSE, VERVAIN proceeding St. Johns N.F. to disembark survivors thence Argentia (?request instructions as to) EGLANTINE waiting and proceeding with other 2 or proceeding Argentia singly at your discretion.

(C.T.24., 1957Z/20 to C.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) A.I.G. 302 plus Capt. (D) Liverpool).

OSTRANDER  
"S" Report.

Following received:- From Lands end Radio. Intercept 0714 G.M.T. 500 k/cs De WSL SSSS De? A? K? 39.5 ? 52.32 W., Abandoning ship. Reception doubtful.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0816/20 to Admty).

Following received from lands End Radio.

Intercept 0736 G.M.T. 500 k/cs C Q from VCE (Cape Race Radio) Following from WSL (Amagansett Radio) KITR (OSTRANDER) SSSS 39.55 N., 52.32 W., abandoning ship, can't use I F, 0638 G.M.T. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0837/20 to Admty).

SS. OSTRANDER reports torpedoed and abandoning ship in 039° 55' N., 052° 32' W., at 0659Z/20.

(C.O.A.C., 1158Z/20 to G. B 7 A).

U/B  
Positions.

Following is C.E.S.F's 1821/19. Submarine estimate 0800Q/20th.

(Comnaveu, 0826/20 to Admty).



War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

→ O.N.S.144, Ships Sunk. *See previous page.*  
Following is Connav's 2100/19 (Connav Serial 19) addressed to Comnav for action and to S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, N.S.H.Q., N.O.B. Bermuda, Commanders Eastern, Gulf, Panama, Caribbean Sea Frontiers for information:  
Ships O.N.S.144 Serial 18 were YAKA, MOSCHA D. KYDONIEFS, MOUNT TAURUS, VAN DE VELDE, PRESIDENT SERGENT. Escort MONTBRETIA. 1 still unknown. Standard approx. position 54 N., 37 W. All believed sunk.  
(Comnav 0828/20 to Admty).

ZWARTE ZEE. S.B.N.O. Trinidad's 1612/19th Nov. Presume you will advise Cominch that ZWARTE ZEE is not required New Orleans until later.  
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 0929Q/20 to B.A.D. (R) Admty etc).

U/B U-boat by D/F at 0921Z/20th in vicinity 042° 30' N., 056° 30' W., accuracy within 30 miles frequency 10510 k/cs and group ENIGMA.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1000Z/20 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. Opanav).

BRITISH HAMILDOC. BRITISH HAMILDOC overdue Georgetown.  
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1011R/20 to Admty etc).  
*not identified - ? BRITISH HARMONY.*

Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T./20th Nov.  

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
ASTURIAS	07° N., 25° W.	Patrol	Blank
* BRIDGEWATER	10° N., 31° W.	094°	12
* S/M K.14	12½° N., 25½° W.	289°	9

(D.O.D. (F), 1021Z/20 to Opanav (R) Comnav).  
*\* See p. 871A*

Movements. Arrivals U.S.S. MOFFETT U.S.S. BELKNAP, U.S. ALBEMARLE, U.S.S. MATAGORDA, U.S.S. GOLDSBOROUGH.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1032Q/20 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

Operation "Torch". Your 2111/18 (Summary of names and flags of all foreign merships sunk or damaged at Algiers. etc) The information is being obtained.  
(D.T.D., 1135Z/20 to Connav).

ANCHUSA H.X. 215. My 1328Z/19th Amend to read ANCHUSA sails 1030/21st (F.O.N.F., 1222Z/20 to C.T.24).  
My 1022Z/20 (1222Z intended) ANCHUSA routed through A. 53.37 N., 38.15 W. B. 54.30 N., 37.10 W. thence Great Circle to Londonderry in order to search for survivors of O.N.S.144 en route.  
(F.O.N.F., 1907Z/20 to C.T.24 C.T. Group 24.7. Admty. ANCHUSA N.S.H.Q., Cominch, C. in C. W.A.)



20.11.1942.  
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ATTACKER San Francisco departed 1800Z/19 ATTACKER for trials.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1223Z/20 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.P.C)

L.C.I.C., Sail 8 British L.C.I.C. and 3 B.A.L.S. when  
B.A.L.S. ready from Norfolk to Bermuda. S.B.N.O. West Atlantic is requested to issue onward route in accordance (?B.A.D's) 1801Z/10 (N.T. in W.D.) and to report time of departure estimated S. of A. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1224Z/20 to Com.5).

Western Support Force. Your 1920A/18 (Proposal to decrease attacks on North Atlantic convoys). Fully concur. Recommend this be placed into effect as soon as possible. (Cominch, 1337/20 to Admty).

U/B Fisherman sighted S/M approx. 046° 02' N., 061° 37' W., proceeding Northward at 1210Z/20th. (C.O.A.C., 1341Z/20 to GB 7 A C.T.F.24).

O.N.S.144 POTENTILLA attacked U-boat in 049° 17' N.,  
attack on (045°) 22' W., between 0830 and 1036Z/20th  
U/B. when SS. lost. U-boat on surface initially reflected some oil. FIREDRAKE, U.S. Destroyer BADGER, POTENTILLA, VERVAIN, carried out sweep 2 hours, (?no) result. Now rejoining O.N.S. 144, P.C. and S. 1100Z/20th 049° 09' N., (045°) 47' W. (A) 217° 7½ knots, weather report.  
(FIREDRAKE, 1432Z/20 to Connav (R) C.T.F., 24. Admty etc).  
U-boat sighted on surface dived 049° 08' N., 045° 33' W. at 1519Z/20th. Contact (?not) regained, search abandoned after 2 hours U.S. Destroyer BADGER in company. O.N.S.144 will steer 270° for 4 hours during night.  
(FIREDRAKE, 1729Z/20 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty etc).

ROXBY. ROXBY in O.N.142 due Halifax Nov. 17th has not arrived. C. in C. W.A.'s 1509/12 not to B.R.L.O. New York refers.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1446Z/20 to Admty. Connav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., B.R.L.O. New York).

LARIAT Sailed H.M.R.T. LARIAT to Barbados for docking and onward passage Norfolk in accordance with my 1142/14th Nov. E.T.A. Barbados 1200Z/21 Nov. E.T.A. Norfolk 2000Z/3 December.  
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1502Q/20 to S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty. etc).

*U 264  
attacked  
not sunk*

*U-184  
sighted by  
POTENTILLA - 7Ps:  
49° 25' N. 45° 25' W.  
144. Row (no name)*

*S. p. 884*



20.11.1942.  
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- ATTACKER San Francisco departed 1800Z/19 ATTACKER for trials.  
(N.S.H.Q., 1223Z/20 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.P.C)
- L.C.I.C., Sail 8 British L.C.I.C. and 3 B.A.L.S. when  
B.A.L.S. ready from Norfolk to Bermuda. S.B.N.O. West Atlantic is requested to issue onward route in accordance (?B.A.D's) 1801Z/10 (N.T. in W.D.) and to report time of departure estimated S. of A. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1224Z/20 to Com.5).
- Western Support Force. Your 1920A/18 (Proposal to decrease attacks on North Atlantic convoys). Fully concur. Recommend this be placed into effect as soon as possible. (Cominch, 1337/20 to Admty).
- U/B Fisherman sighted S/M approx. 046° 02' N., 061° 37' W., proceeding Northward at 1210Z/20th. (C.O.A.C., 1341Z/20 to GB 7 A C.T.F.24).
- O.N.S.144 attack on U/B. POTENTILLA attacked U-boat in 049° 17' N., (P.884) (P.045°) 22' W., between 0830 and 1036Z/20th when SS. lost. U-boat on surface initially reflected some oil. FIREDRAKE, U.S. Destroyer BADGER, POTENTILLA, VERVAIN, carried out sweep 2 hours, (?no) result. Now rejoining ON.S. 144, P.C. and S. 1100Z/20th 049° 09' N., (P.045°) 47' W. (A) 217° 7½ knots, weather report. (FIREDRAKE, 1432Z/20 to Connav (R) C.T.F., 24. Admty etc).  
U-boat sighted on surface dived 049° 08' N., 045° 33' W. at 1519Z/20th. Contact (?not) regained, search abandoned after 2 hours U.S. Destroyer BADGER in company. O.N.S.144 will steer 270° for 4 hours during night. (FIREDRAKE, 1729Z/20 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty etc).
- ROXBY. ROXBY in O.N.142 due Halifax Nov. 17th has not arrived. C. in C. W.A.'s 1509/12 not to B.R.L.O. New York refers. (N.S.H.Q., 1446Z/20 to Admty. Connav, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., B.R.L.O. New York).
- LARIAT Sailed H.M.R.T. LARIAT to Barbados for docking and onward passage Norfolk in accordance with my 1142/14th Nov. E.T.A. Barbados 1200Z/21 Nov. E.T.A. Norfolk 2000Z/3 December. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1502Q/20 to S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty. etc).

U 264  
attacked  
not sunk

~~POTENTILLA - P.884~~  
49° 25' N. 45° 25' W.  
1100Z/20th



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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

A.F.D. Escort. B.A.D.'s 2229/4 and 1629Z/18. Following proposals for escorts of dock are based on A/S escorts being required at New Orleans on 1st Jan.

(1) WITHERINGTON to be sailed from Halifax to reach New Orleans by 1st Jan. having recently

boiler cleaned.

(2) WANDERER to be sailed to reach Freetown by 4th Dec. or if this not possible to sail with WITHERINGTON.

(3)\*ILEX, WANDERER one sloop and two corvettes to sail from Freetown about 4th Dec. escorting convoy to Trinidad to boiler clean at Trinidad and arrive New Orleans by 1st Jan.\* See p 872

→ (4) BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER if escort duty with LORD KELVIN completed to arrive New Orleans to be ready 1st Jan. after boiler cleaning.

(5) C. in C. S.A. is requested to say if ALCANTARA can be made available as ocean escort and to fuel A/S escorts on passage. Admiralty are requested to say if any other ship is available for this duty and to arrange for a tanker to R/V in order to conserve fuel in ocean escort..

(F.O.C.W.A, 1531Z/20 to B.A.D., C.O.A.C., C. in C. S.A., Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A., S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

→ BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER.

Intend sailing BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER to comply with N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 2025/18th. Trawlers will remain with LORD KELVIN until completion of repairs and then escort her to Halifax. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1542Z/20 to Admty).

U/B Positions.

S/M estimate 20th Nov. and U.S. Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1545/20, 1546/20, 1611/20, 1612/20, 1613/20, 1846/20).

Cables

Your 1702/18 (not received in Admty) Recommend breaks - San Juan Kingston be repaired completion of present duties Santiago and thereafter repairs in Windward Isles. Escort will be provided. (C.C.S.F., 1555Z/20 to S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D. etc) W.R. Note: Above message passed to Admty. by S.B.N.O.W.A., See S.B.N.O.W.A., 1812/22 Nov.

SAMUEL CHASE K.M.F.4

See p. 862-A

In view of my 1241/20 (No trace in W.R.) and the postponement of "Backbone" propose to load and sail SAMUEL CHASE in K.M.F.4 and request that SAMUEL CHASE be routed to United States by N.C.X.F. in next GU.F. convoy. For Admiral Bieri. Request approval. (Comnavu, 1622/20 to C. in C. A.F. (R) Cominch, Admty. Cinclant, A.F.H.Q.)



War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

MEADOWSWEET. Your 0759/20 (W.R. Signal requesting repetition of C.O.A.C's 1350/17) Following is a repetition of C.T.F. 24's 2347/16 (begins) - Action S.O.A.C. from C.T.F. 24 C. in C. W.A., 1213Z/16. Utilise MEADOWSWEET at your descretion until such time as necessary to have her arrive Argentia 20th Dec. Text message 2347Z/16 (Ends).  
(C.O.A.C., 1829Z/20 to Admty).

MILLTOWN,  
LISCOMB. Have LISCOMB in company position 2 miles North of Cape George steering 060°. In view of your 1759B/20\*suggest we sweep between Port Hood Island and Cape Tormentine covering Northumberland Strait.  
(MILLTOWN, 1931Z/20 to (corrupt groups) Capt. D. Halifax). \*N.T. in W.R.

EASTGATE,  
U/Bs locating ships. Master of SS. EASTGATE sailed Punta Arenas for Panama on 18th Nov. has expressed apprehension as to U-boats using H/F position reports for locating ships. Request you will explain to him in sense of A.M. 1905/21/8 para. 9 and state our views unchanged.  
(D.T.D., 1957A/20 to B.R.L.O. Cristobal).

BRILLIANT  
(torpedoed  
18 Nov. on  
S.C.109). SS. BRILLIANT from S.C.109 anchored off Bonavista Bay due to weather. Further signals will follow.  
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns 2003Z/20 to Admty).

B.Y.M.S. F.O.N.F., 1516/19 and my 2016/6. (re sailing of B.Y.M.S. by great circle to Londonderry). In view of former signal propose to route all B.Y.M.S. via Halifax St. John's and onwards via Iceland on favourable weather report. Do not intend to agree to any deck cargo being carried.  
(B.A.D., 2128Z/20 to Admty).  
Your 1516/19 see my 2128/20 to Admty.  
2. Request C.O.S. be informed that 800 rev. giving 9 knots is economical speed for B.Y.M.S.  
(B.A.D., 2130Z/20 to F.O.N.F.)

Sub attack  
and sighting  
summary. Para. A. WIDESTONE, PARISIMINA torpedoed sunk 54. 30 N., 37.10 W., 17/18 Nov. MOSCHA D. KYDONIEFS and VAN DE VELDE my 2131/19 cancelled. WETASKIWIN sights sub. about 53.45 N., 44.45 W., 0649Z/19.  
\*POTENTILLA attacks Sub. on surface 49.17 N., 45.22 W. 0830 to 1036Z/20.\*

\* ~~418Z~~ ~~sub by POTENTILLA in~~ ~~Attack on U 264 - not sunk~~  
49°23' N., 45°23' W., ENE. of ~~see p. 886~~ /Para. B....  
St. John's, N.F. (A/SW list) ~~for amended posi.~~



20.11.1942.  
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Con't.Sub attack  
and sighting  
summary.  
Contd.Para. B. ROTHELEY U.45 type. Unidentified attac  
attacked 39.55 N., 52.32 W., 0659Z/20.Para. C. U.S.A.T. SAMUEL GRIFFIN sights sub.  
0048 S., 45.10 W., 1730Z/17. C.G.R. 140 Y.P.  
attack periscope and sound contact 32.38 N.,  
79.38 W., 1955Z/19. P.C. 490 attacks Sub. on  
surface 31.20 N., 79.45 W., 1010Z/20.Para. D. P.C.677 attacks contact 15.59 N., 87.45 W. 1645Z/19.  
Tug NANCY MORAN sights sub. on surface 43.29 N., 66.07 W., 0915Z/  
19. Fisherman sights sub. course North 46.02 N., 61.37 W.,  
1210Z/20. A.M. 92. sights periscope 31.52 N., 80.38 W., about  
2000Z/20. C.G. Station sights sub. 42.57 N., 70.35 W. 1622Z/20.  
(Cominch, 2150/20).

O.N.S.144

Numerous transmissions on 10510 k/cs indicate that  
you are still being reported.(N.S.H.Q., 2250Z/20 to C.T.U. 24.18.6 C.O.A.C.  
F.O.N.F., (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A., U.S.C.N.O.)



War Diary.20.11.1942.  
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Auckland U.S.S. AMERICAN LEGION.  
(S.O.(I.) Wellington, 0040M/20 to Admty.)

BENGAL, Details of action with raiders on 11th Nov.  
ONDINA. (N.O.I.C. Fremantle, 0753/20 to Admty.)  
See Lion and Tiger Copies.

Situation. Digest serial No.302 November 19th.  
Two small merchant vessels 2000 - 4000 tons Buka  
Passage noon 19th where considerable equipment  
reported landed including fuel, ammunition, railway lines,  
trucks, engines, motor lorries, power rollers, abundant building  
material.  
(2) One destroyer sighted in Vitiajz Strait heading north  
morning 19th while one cruiser, one destroyer reported hove to  
off Finschaffien during afternoon and later proceeding north.  
Also two possible light cruisers reported 5° 36' S. 152° 5' E.  
course 30° morning same day.  
(3) Australian forward troops in contact with enemy near Gona  
and others approaching Soputa while American troops have  
contacted enemy at Cape Endaiadere.  
(4) Bad weather considerably hampered air operations during day  
which were limited R/C in New Guinea area.  
(5) 15 enemy fighters one bomber observed Lae Aerodrome and  
Pinnaces operating in Harbour.  
(6) Two Beaufighters attacked Manatuto (Timor) and two other  
Baucau during 19th.  
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 2115Z/20 to Admty., etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1300A/20 estimates.  
(D.D.I.C., 1456A/20, 1507A/20.)



**SECRET**BENGAL and ONDINAAction with Japanese Raiders, 11.11.42.

0753/20 November.

SECRETMESSAGEIN

From: M.O.I.C. Fremantle

Date: 21.11.42.

Reel. 1108

NAVAL CYPHER (X) by CableAddressed: Admiralty, repeated Australian  
Commonwealth Naval Board.

Your 1715/18. At 1125/11 November  
H.M.I.S. BENGAL and tanker ONDINA were steering  
299 degs. ten knots in line ahead when two merchant  
vessels were sighted. Bearing 220 degs. course  
020 degs. high speed one mile apart. Visibility  
good sea calm. BENGAL challenged and received no  
reply. At 1205 raider one opened fire on BENGAL.  
BENGAL and ONDINA turned 90 degs. to starboard, to  
bring raider astern. BENGAL signalled rendezvous  
for following day and ordered ONDINA to act  
independently. As soon as this signal had been  
passed BENGAL turned 180 degs. to engage raider  
one. Raider two did not fire and kept some  
distance to Southward of raider one. ONDINA  
opened fire. On opening fire BENGAL'S shots fell  
short and ONDINA'S over, with sights set to  
8,000 yards. Raider's target was BENGAL. ONDINA'S  
fifth shot scored a hit aft and appeared to cause  
a fierce fire. Raider then directed fire of one  
gun on ONDINA. ONDINA scored five more hits in  
rapid succession on bridge, superstructure, and stern.  
Explosion occurred which blew off raider's stern.  
She ceased fire with exception of foremost gun,  
and sank by the stern. Up to this time ONDINA had  
topmast and aerials shot away. On seeing raider one  
out of action raider two closed from the Southward  
and opened fire. BENGAL altered to Southward to  
engage her, and was hit and set on fire. BENGAL  
turned to the North East and dropped smoke floats.

At/.....



890<sup>B</sup>

- 2 -

At this time BENGAL was lost to sight from ONDINA who thought she was sinking. Raider then shifted fire to ONDINA who was repeatedly hit and her Captain killed. All ammunition being expended ONDINA hoisted white flag and as firing continued abandoned ship. Raider approached to 1500 yards machine gunned boats killing Chief Engineer and three Chinese crew and hit ONDINA with two torpedoes. She then went to position of raider one's sinking. Forty minutes later she returned to ONDINA and fired another torpedo which missed. She then made off to North Eastwards. At 1630 Second Officer and Third Engineer with Gunlayer and three of crew boarded ONDINA found engines intact and corrected 55 degs. list. At 1800 remainder of crew returned to ship and at 2200 proceeded for Fremantle. A fire in fore-castle was extinguished. ONDINA sank all Secret books and documents in weighted bags. Torpedoes ran shallow. Following members of ONDINA'S crew appear to have warranted special recognition, the Master Horsman (killed) Second Officer Bakker Third Engineer Leys Gunlayer Able Seaman Hammond R.A.N.R. Quartermaster Ah Kong.

0753Z/20

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C.  
& Trade.

1st Lord	D. of P. (5)
1st S.L. (2)	D.A./S.W. (2)
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V.C.N.S.	W.D.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.P.D.
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.S.D. (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)	M. (2)
H.A. 1st S.L.	U.S.N. (5)
Comd. Pin	Ad. Arbuthnot
Ops. (3)	Cdr. Halbrook
O.D. (5)	H. & ...
D.W.I. (4)	D. of S. (5)
D.T.D. (4)	
D.T.D. (10)	
D.T.D. (C)	
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1