

SECRETBENGAL and ONDINAAction with Japanese Raiders, 11.11.42.

0753/20 November.

SECRETMESSAGEIN

From: M.O.I.C. Fremantle

Date: 21.11.42.

Reol. 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^B

- 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 forecandle 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)
4th S.L.	I.P. (3)
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)	
O.I.C. (4)	

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21.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U/B
sunk.

(U. 517)

Aircraft from VICTORIOUS on passage to Greenock depth charged a German U-boat in 46° 10' N., 17° 8' W. (about 390 miles W.N.W. of C. Finisterre) at 1100 today. The U-boat then scuttled and OPPORTUNE picked up 51 survivors.

P.Q.19

C. in C. H.F. is prepared to sail the next P.Q. convoy without an auxiliary aircraft carrier, as it is proposed to use ACTIVITY, the only carrier available, for deck landing training. Depending on the experience of Q.P.15 and the number of destroyers that can be made available from the Home Fleet, C. in C. H.F. intends the convoy of 31 ships will either be run normally, or be divided into 2 or 3 separated escorted convoys run at about 3 day intervals, the faster convoy leaving. The convoy is to sail from Hvalfiord on 22nd Dec.

first /

South Atlantic.

At 1454 G.M.T. CITY OF KIMBERLEY reported that she was being machine gunned and bombed in 03.22 S., 38.42 W., by planes with Brazilian markings. The Brazilians state that whilst their plane was endeavouring to identify the ship the latter opened fire. Those planes which were sent out later could not succeed in identifying the ship and attacked with bombs which near missed.

SS. EMPIRE VOICE reported at 1913 G.M.T. that she was being followed by a suspicious vessel in 03.33 N., 29.18 W.

Blockade
runner
scuttled.

U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE reports that the group on patrol in the Atlantic narrows at 0652Z today encountered the blockade runner M.V. ANNELIESE ESSBERGER in 0° 54' N., 22° 34' W. the ship scuttled herself on the approach of the cruisers. 62 German prisoners were landed at Recife on 26 Nov. and handed over to the Brazilian Army for confinement.

F.O.C. West Africa today ordered that unescorted sailings between Takoradi and Pointe Noire may be resumed on Nov. 26, and ships may now unload at Accra, where a trawler screen is to be provided.

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.MediterraneanSink at
sight area
extended.

The sink at sight area in the Mediterranean is extended as from 0800Z today to cover the entire Mediterranean except (a) Turkish territorial waters (b) The area west of the line running from the Franco-Spanish border along the edge of Spanish territorial waters to a point 3 miles 90° from Cape de Creus (42° 0' N., 3° 19' E) thence to 39° 46' N., (4° 50' E.,) thence 180° to the coast of Algeria..

As a temporary measure only, French warships or merchant ships proceeding to south or west, west of 6° E., are not to be attacked unless otherwise ordered.

EURYALUS and 8 Hunts who escorted the 4 merchant ships of Operation "Stoneage" from Alexandria to Malta left Malta this morning to return to Alexandria (arrived 23 Nov).

P.228 reports one hit on an Oriani class destroyer at 1546 A in 40.30 N., 13.33 E. (approaches to Naples) Capt. S.10 reports the following submarine successes:- PARTHIAN sank a 4,000 ton escorted laden S.W. bound merchant ship north of Marittimo. 1614/18. ~~see p. 918.~~

At 1045/16 she probably hit with one torpedo a southbound 10,000 ton A/V unescorted N.W. of Marittimo: the vessel altered course for Trapani and reduced speed. TURBULENT sank an escorted German southbound 4,000 ton armed merchant ship in 39° 10' N., 9° 39' E. (Gulf of Cagliari) at 1627/11. P.35 sank an eastbound 6,000 ton passenger vessel in 38° 21' N., 15° 28' E., at 1317/17.

Two formations of B.24s attacked Tripoli early today and caused some damage to shipping and shore installations in the port.

There was a sharp air attack on Bougie at 1915 today for an hour, a considerable number of small bombs being dropped in the dock area. Two L.C.P. were destroyed, SS. OCEAN VISTA was superficially damaged, and some petrol was destroyed. There was also an air raid on Philippeville at dusk, but no damage was caused.

ROBERTS (damaged in air attack on Bougie, 11 Nov) reported today she was ready for sea in moderate weather.

Enemy dive bombers destroyed or damaged 10 Spitfires on Bone airfield today: 3 Ju.88s were shot down.

/French...

893

21.11.1942.

Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

French
merchant
shipping.

N.C.X.F. makes an interim report of the policy which is being followed in regard to French merchant shipping in North Africa, pending a final decision on a long term policy. Ships originally owned by any of the United Nations which were seized by Vichy on the fall of France are excluded, and are to be returned to their original flag and sailed to Gibraltar.

26 Bisleys attacked Bizerta docks last night.

Two formations of U.S. B.24s bombed Tripoli harbour today and report near misses on merchant vessels and damage in the harbour, R.A.F. Liberators repeated the attack tonight, causing further damage.

ARETHUSA (damaged on 18 Nov) entered Alexandria harbour this evening.

America & West Indies.

U/B attack
on ON. 145.

Convoy O.N. 145 which is now ahead of O.N.S.144 in which MONTBRETIA and 5 or 6 ships have been torpedoed, was attacked at 0317Z today in 43° 53' N., 55° 2' W. (180 miles S. of Cape Race) and three ships were torpedoed viz EMPIRE SAILOR which sank at 1320Z in 43° 24' N., 55° 12' W. and the tankers BRITISH RENOWN and BRITISH PROMISE: both of which reached Halifax.

An unidentified ship is reported to have been attacked today in 43° 43' N., 57° 22' W.

SS. EMPIRE STARLING is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 2220 G.M.T. today in 13° 5' N., 56° 20' W. (185 miles east of Barbados.)

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Londonderry Sloop Division. Following re-organisation of Londonderry Sloop Division is coming into force forthwith. Details. (C. in C. W.A. 1944A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Movements.

GUNNEL.

See p. 894 B

My 1800Z/20. Will be able to make good 85 miles per 24 hours dived by day. (?Escort) not required.

(GUNNEL 0250Z/21 to F.O.S.)

Your 0250/21. Have not received your 1800/20. Transmit it again if essential that I should have it.

(F.O.S. 1039A/21 to GUNNEL.)

North Atlantic dispositions.

Details.

(D.O.D.(H.) 1235A/21.)

See Lion Copy.

O.14
SOKOL
PRESTON NORTH
END.

O.14 and SOKOL sailed for Holy Loch. (Capt. S.9. 1637A/21.) *See p. 894 B*

S/M positions.

At 0800/22. Details.

(F.O.S. 1644A/21.) See Lion Copy. *p. 894 B*

P.224.

Request escort for passage Birkenhead to Clyde leaves a.m. 28th. Escort should arrive not later than 1200/27th.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1706A/21 to Capt. S.3.)

LAUDERDALE.

Intend sailing LAUDERDALE with C. in C. W.A. on board from Lough Foyle at 2300A/21, arriving Cumbræ 0700A/22. Request LAUDERDALE may be sailed for Londonderry after disembarkation of C. in C. W.A.

(Cdre. Londonderry 1754A/21.)

My 1754A/21. Sailed.

(Cdre. Londonderry 2240A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.

Patrols.

Patrol tonight. M.G.B 615 (S.O.) M.T.B.50, 54, proceeding St. Helens before dark and passing F Buoy if weather permits at 1815 and 0730 to

patrol between 50° 20' N 0° 10' W and 50° 30' N 0° 30' E. *See p. 895*
Codeword "Cadger". C.E.133 escorted by WORCESTER, PETERHEAD, ARISTOCRAT leaves Gate 1600, passes Beachy Head 2330. Keep to southward of convoy during its passage but do not approach it within 8 miles.

CHASSEURS 15 (S.O.), and 5, on E.A. 5 patrol. *See p. 895*

M.G.B. 56 (S.O.), 57, from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N between 1° 35' W and 2° 20' W. *See p. 895*

BLEASDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1241A/21 to HORNET.)

/My 0940/21...

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

MOST SECRET

1235A/21st November

Date 21/11/42

To C. in C. U.S. Fleet.
Repeated OPNAV.
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.
B.A.D. Washington. 593.

U.S. (X)

From Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Operating in Northern Waters: LONDON
SUFFOLK
8 destroyers.

Area Iceland (C): BERWICK
2 destroyers.

Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V.
ANSON
CUMBERLAND
GLASGOW
JAMAICA
NORFOLK
SHEFFIELD
3 destroyers.

Area Clyde: ARGUS
BITER.

Area Gibraltar. NELSON
RENOWN
RODNEY
FORMIDABLE
AURORA
ARGONAUT
BERMUDA
CHARYBDIS
DELHI
SCYLLA
STRIUS
WELSHMAN
9 destroyers.

Passage to U.K. DUKE OF YORK
VICTORIOUS
1 destroyer.

V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (F) (2)	1235A/21.	
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (2)	D.O.D. (H)	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.T.D. (M)		
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.D. (C)	D.A./S.W.	W.D.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Duty Captain (2)	Hd. of M.	D. of P. (2)
Captain Pim	U.S.N. (3)	D.D.I.C. (2)	Admiral
D.O.D. (H) (2)	and for Comnavu	I.P. (2)	Blake

894B

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1644A/21st November IN

From F.O. (S)

Date 21.11.42.
Time 1714

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

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Position of Submarines at 0800/22nd November and movements for next 24 hours.

Paras (A) (B) (C) and (D) of my 1601/20th November situation unchanged.

(E) GUNNEL position 49 degs 01' North 13 degs 51' West dived by day through position 49 degs 20' North 13 degs 50' West thence to R/V 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles Advance 85 miles per day. *See p. 894*

(F) HERRING position 49 degs 28' North 10 degs 30' West dived by day through 49 degs 45' 08 degs 01' West. thence on surface to 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles.

(G) BARB position 49 degs 20' North 09 degs 30' West dived by day through position 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles due R/V 180 degs Lizard 10 miles at 1000/23 November

Note (E) (F) and (G) proceed on surface East of 08 degs West.

(H) GRAPH position 49 degs 07' North 09 degs 13' West dived by day through 48 degs 40' North 12 degs 10' West towards 44 degs 55' North 12 degs 10' West.

(J) SEALION in Zone K.501

(K) DOLFIN position 44 degs 15' North 10 degs 08' West dived by day towards patrol in Zone K.505.

(L) BLACKFISH position 44 degs 40' North 13 degs 40' West dived by day through 44 degs 45' North 13 degs 21' West towards 49 degs 02' North 13 degs 21' West.

(M) TORBAY and OTWAY escorted by BREDA position 53 degs 10' North 05 degs 10' West proceeding towards Holy Loch speed of advance 7 knots. OTWAY will proceed independently to Barrow when in vicinity South of Isle of Man expected time of arrival Otway 0200/23 November, BREDA and TORBAY expected time of arrival Holy Loch 0400/23 November

(N) O.14 and SOKOL escorted by PRESTON NORTH END vicinity Noss Head via Minches to Holy Loch. Speed of advance 9 knots. Escort relieved by QUADRILLE in Minches A/M 23rd November *See p. 894*

(O) O.15 escorted by M.L. 345 leaves Dundee 0930/22 November due Rosyth 1330/23rd November,

1644A/21.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.

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 (3) & 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.D. (M)
U.S.N. (3)
Ad. Blake.
D.N.I. (4)

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Patrols. My 0940/21. Destroyer patrol cancelled tonight.
Contd. (C. in C. Nore 1514A/21.)
M.G.Bs 56 and 57 on patrol 15 miles S of Anvil
Point, E.T.D. Weymouth 1800/21, E.T.R. 0900/22.
Chasseurs 15 and 5 on patrol near E.A. 5 Buoy.
M.G.B. 615 and M.T.Bs 50 and 54 on patrol S of Beachy Head
passing F Buoy at 1815 and 0730.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1540A/21.) *See p. 894*

BODO. BODO should be returned to Western Approaches.
Request you sail her as convenient.
(D.O.D.(H.) 2345A/21 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Mining.

Off My 2201/17. R Type mine found in otter of
Dartmouth. BRECON CASTLE in 50° 18' 12" N 03° 29' 15" W
when hauling in sweep. Mine was cleared and sunk
by rifle fire.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1104A/21.)

Iceland. My 1730/16. Sweep completed. Negative results.
(A.C.I.C. 2150A/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

CASTILLO Intercepted 0310 G.M.T. SOS de SS CASTILLO
AMPUDIO. Position N of Cape Busto 43° 38' N
06° 20' W.
(Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 0426/21.)

Bay of One merchant vessel 18 miles 180° from 43° 56' N
Biscay. 7° 11' W, course 180°, speed 5 knots.
(A/C A70K 0400/21.)
N.R.2 one vessel entering Spanish waters position
43° 35' N 7° 19' W.
(A/C K of 172 Sqdn. 0445/21 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats By D/F at 0418Z U-Boat estimated to be in approx.
reported. 67° 30' N 2° 30' W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 0918A/21.)

U-Boat Am over enemy submarine in 45° 54' N 06° 41' W.
attacked. Was on surface course 070°, speed 10 knots, and
was subsequently seen to submerge.
(A/C 158 Sqdn. 0933/21 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy. Estimate nil hits.
(A/C 158 Sqdn. 0937A/21 to 19 Group.)

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War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

BUCHANAN
(sunk
12th Nov.)
Search for
Lifeboats.

Corrected P.C.S. of Lifeboat at 1623/20, 052° 32' N 015° 10' W, 050° 3 -4 knots. 2 Sunderland A/C assisting with search from daylight and will home you on to lifeboat. (C. in C. W.A. 0033A/21 to LULWORTH.)
(Corrupt group) boiler tube has reduced my maximum speed to 10 knots. My position 050° 31' N 014° 41' W. Request instructions. (LULWORTH 0236Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0236/21. Proceed to search as in my 0033/21. (C. in C. W.A. 0535A/21 to LULWORTH.)
Your 1441A/21. As CLARE is in the vicinity of lifeboats in 053° 18' N 014° 49' W, am already proceeding in accordance with your 1441/21. My P.C.S. 052° 42' N 013° 39' W, 030° 10. E.T.A. 1930. Request A/C may drop flares. (LULWORTH 1341Z/21 to C.inC.W.A.)
Men saved from boat by destroyer Il4.
(A/C IVY2. 1410/21 to 15 Group.)
C. in C. W.A. 1517A/21. Have picked up 16 survivors in 1 boat ex BUCHANAN at 1610A/21 in 053° 10' N 014° 50' W. 4 boats left ship. (CLARE 1611A/21 to C. in C. W.A. SAMSONIA, SNOWDROP.)
Your 1441A/21. Am proceeding in accordance with your 1512A/21 (CLARE 1652A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
If time available proceed to assist lifeboat in approx. 53.32 N 12.58 W. A/C BM3F is homing CLARE on to lifeboat.
(C. in C. W.A. 1749A/21 to ORIBI, MATCHLESS.)
My P.C.S. 053° 23' N 014° 11' W, 078° 18 knots. SNOWDROP co-operating in search. Am closing A/C BM3F who is over lifeboat. (CLARE 1801A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
Cancel my 1749/21. (C. in C. W.A. 1926A/21 to Admty.)
My 1611/21 and my 1801/21. Have recovered 22 survivors from 2nd boat in 053° 32' N 012° 54' W. 2 boats still not located. SNOWDROP continuing search. My evaporators are broken down. Have water for only 30 hours steaming. Permission is requested to proceed to Moville. (CLARE 2103A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
SS. BUCHANAN was torpedoed at 1910A (21st?) (W.D. Note: Cominch 1952Z/22 says 2120Z/12.) November in 052.00 N 026.02 W. (CLARE 2236A/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
LULWORTH return to Moville. If fuel permits SNOWDROP and SAMSONIA proceed to 52.50 N 12.01 W and search for barge carrying one Lockheed Lightning aircraft and remaining lifeboat. A/C will co-operate. (C. in C. W.A. 2246A/21 to LULWORTH, SAMSONIA, SNOWDROP.)

AMAZON. AMAZON arrived, fuelled and delayed with defects. (Cdre. Londonderry 0730A/21.)

M.M.S.50. My M/5 of 4th Nov. M.M.S.50 has received damage by collision. Date of completion uncertain. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1026/21.)

S.C.107 survivors. My 1840/18. Following seven survivors remain in hospital in Iceland. Names. Following further two signed on in BRYNHILD. (A.C.I.C. 1445A/21 to Admty.)

/Landing...

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Landing craft from Operation "Torch". Following craft disembarked from ULSTER MONARCH L.C.A. 319. L.C.S.(M) 29. Latter with extensive defects. Following craft were left behind - L.C.A. 240, 241, 316, 308. (S.O. A.S.C. 1740/21 to Admty.) *See next page Admty. 1556A/16. Large proportion of craft landed at Liverpool require hull and engine repairs. Request 4 joiners and 4 motor mechanics be drafted on loan to Bedlam Flotilla in order that reconditioning be expedited. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1742A/21 to Admty.)

PENNYWORT. Delayed in Stornoway for renewing of white metal. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1747A/21.)

JAMAICA JAMAICA is required to be fitted for Arctic service in accordance with A.L.D. 018066/41 dated 2nd Oct. 1942. In addition ship has had a burst boiler tube necessitating renewal of about 30 generator tubes work on which is partially completed. Progressing of work in connection with watertight subdivision is also required. Intend to sail JAMAICA to arrive Barrow on 24th Nov. and request she may be sailed for Scapa not later than 7th Dec. (C. in C. H.F. 2240A/21 to Admty.)

Ship in distress. Sailed Rescue Tug CHERBOURGEOIS 111 at 1945/21 to assist vessel reported in distress vicinity Aberporth. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2337A/21.)

Shipping and Convoys.

LEINSTER (D.S.34.) LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. My 1817/11 and 1816/11. Respective services of LEINSTER and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE have been transposed. (D.S.T. 0422A/21.)

M.K.F.2. W.S.25R. Convoy M.K.F.2 is due U.K. about 23rd Nov. comprising the following ships:-
(a) STRATHNAVER, CAMERONIA and CIRCASSIA for Glasgow.
(b) REINA DEL PACIFICO, ARUNDEL CASTLE, MOOLTAN and DUNNOTAR CASTLE for Tail of the Bank.
(c) MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE and DUCHESS OF RICHMOND for Liverpool.
(d) STRATHEDEN, STRATHMORE and EMPRESS OF CANADA for Tail of the Bank to be called forward to Liverpool by P.S.T.O. N.W. Ports as soon as berths are available.
2. As far as is known no personnel are on board with the exceptions of the following survivors:-
(a) STRATHNAVER R.N. 256. Merchant Seamen 219 Total 475.
(b) STRATHEDEN Merchant Seamen 256.
3. All the above vessels will be included in convoy W.S.25R with the exceptions of REINA DEL PACIFICO in W.S.25Q and STRATHNAVER, MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONE and MOOLTAN which require extensive overhauls.
(D.S.T. 0455A/21.)

/ORMONDE...

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- ORMONDE Understand ORMONDE is being used at Algiers for accommodating personnel whilst awaiting onward shipment. This vessel is urgently required in U.K. for further K.M.F. convoys. Request she be sailed as soon as possible and anticipated dates of sailing and arrival U.K. reported.
(D.S.T. 0456A/21 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)
- M.K.F.1(Y) Clyde portion M.K.F.1(Y) arrived comprising Survivors ORBITA, MARCHADA, LETITIA, U.S. Ship SAMUEL CHASE, from ARGUS and *ULSTER MONARCH with 120 survivors from WALNEY and HARTLAND. * *in previous page.*
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0808A/21.)
Your 1822/17. ORBITA and SAMUEL CHASE arrived 0726/21.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 1055A/21.)
- Q.P.15. Your 1902B/29th April. Following embarked in H.M. and Merchant ships of Q.P.15 for passage to U.K. Details.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0811A/21 to Admty.)
Following is a repetition of my 1057/21 begins.
R/C of Alten Fiord area not yet possible owing to weather.
Efforts continue. Ends.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1059A/21 to A.I.G. 47.)
- Operation From Natel 1911/19 it appears either EMPIRE F B. GILBERT or EMPIRE SKY definitely known to have EMPIRE been sunk by enemy action. Can you give me any GILBERT information. My 1606/14 and my 1002/20 refer. or EMPIRE (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0840A/21 to A.C.I.C.) SKY. Your 0840/21. No further information available. Admty. recypher and pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia and S.B.N.O. Archangel.
(A.C.I.C. 2155A/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
- M/Vs Your 1107/18 para 6. On no account must freezing- at in of ships or damaging of escorts by ice be Molotovsk. risked for sake of complying with Russian request for shipment of cargo.
(?S.B.N.O. North Russia 0846A/21 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
- E.N. Your 1518/20. Concur. convoys. (C. in C. Rosyth 1047A/21 to Admty.)
- K.X.7. My 1645/17. For SLAZAK read KRAKOWIAK. (C. in C. Plymouth 1047A/21 to Admty.)
A.M. 1835/20. (1)* A/S escort PENYLAN S.O., LAUDERDALE, MELBREAK, KRAKOWIAK.
(2) Request destroyers may be sailed to Milford Haven in time for conference at 1400A/29.
(C. in C. W.A. 1622A/21.) * *in 27/11 - p.1126*

/K.M.S.4...

899

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.4. Intend to sail LYME REGIS S.O. ARDROSSAN, LLANDUDNO, WORTHING, PETUNIA, WOODRUFF 1430A/22 for Greenock, E.T.A. 0600A/23. S.O.A. 9 knots to end of Q Z S 215, then 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1228A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Sailed 1330A ANTONIO, ANGLO AFRICAN, DELANE, EMPIRE HAVEN, TILAPA, INDIAN PRINCE, OCEAN TRAVELLER, ROBERT MORRIS, T.J. JACKSON escorted from 04 Buoy Q Z S 215 by CROCUS. Codeword "Silent 2".
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1508A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 1911/20. Cancel para 4 and substitute: Intend sailing ALBERNI escorting CORRALES and HERANGER 1500A/22 for Clyde. E.T.A. 1300A/23. Codeword "Silent 3".
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1528A/21.)
My 2250/19.
1. Amend sailing date and route as follows:-
R/V at 0900Z/27 in position:- (a) 270° Oversay 6 miles.
(b) 55° 30' N 10° 01' W. (c) 50° 01' N 18° 02' W.
(d) 42° 04' N 18° 01' W thence to (f).
 2. Speed should be adjusted to pass through position (g) at 1900Z/6.
 3. S.O.A. has been calculated at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
 4. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered (p) to (u) with instructions that, if straggling, ships are to keep 30 miles to starboard of route given.
 5. Fighter protection codeword "Horatius".
 6. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail convoy as requisite.
(D.O.D. (H.) 2346A/21.)

- P.Q.19. Your 2010/20. Request ships be moved in U.R. convoys as and when loaded and convoy assembled at Hvalfiord.
(C. in C. H.F. 1451A/21 to Admty.)
Your 2010/20. In late December estimate that 12 Home Fleet destroyers will be available. With minimum additional of two older destroyers to reinforce Home Fleet referred to in your para three thence close escort force for convoy would be seven Home Fleet destroyers plus four other destroyers, four corvettes, four trawlers.
- (2) Depending on experience of Q.P.15 and the total number of destroyers that can be made available from Home Fleet intend the convoy of 31 ships will either be run normally or be divided into two or three separate escorted convoys run at about three day intervals, fastest convoy leading.
 - (3) Fuelling at sea must be assumed impracticable and escorts will require not less than four thousand tons at Kola. Consequently freighters should be included in convoy.
 - (4) Convoy to sail from Hvalfiord 22nd December by 1800 miles route to Kola.
 - (5) Cruiser covering force operating under usual restrictions.
(C. in C. H.F. 1650A/21 to Admty.)
It is proposed to include in P.Q.19 two clean tankers which will load approx. 14,000 tons of aviation and other high-grade spirit. In view of lack of clean oil-storage at Murmansk please advise that satisfactory arrangements for discharging this petrol into rail tank-cars will be made, as was done on last occasion when petrol was sent to this port. Also approx. how long such discharge will take.
(D.T.D. 1836A/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- H.X.217. In view of loss of MONTBRETIA and probable delay of POTENTILLA request BURZA be sailed with B.6 escorting H.X.217.
(C. in C. W.A. 1544Z/21 to C.T.F.24.)
- ACCLIVITY Returning to Harwich owing to weather.
GORSELANDS (VICEROY 1630A/21.)
- W.P.252. Speed of convoy is to be adjusted during day 22nd. to arrive Dart Buoy 2200, proceeding thence at normal speed.
2. KRAKOWIAK is to pass Gate at 1000/22 to relieve CLEVELAND as S.O. escort.
3. On relief CLEVELAND to proceed Plymouth.
4. Estimated 0800 position W.P. 252, 180° Lizard Head 3 miles.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1631/21.)
My 1631/21 para 1. Plymouth ships are to be sent on ahead of convoy escorted by SHEPPEY.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1705/21.)
- North Russian Convoys. CYGNET, WOODPECKER are allocated to Londonderry for duty with North Russian convoys.
(C. in C. W.A. 1641A/21.)
CYGNET
WOODPECKER.
- SAN U.S. Navy have agreed to SAN AMBROSIO being replaced at Seidisfiord by a U.S. Tanker from Hvalfiord. Request this be arranged with C.N.O.B. and SAN AMBROSIO sailed to U.K. Request confirmation that three large mobile tankers will remain for Fleet attendance at Hvalfiord.
(D of Stores 1731A/21 to A.C.I.C.)
- Anti U-Boat procedure. C. in C. W.A. please pass to C.T.G. 24.7. Fully concur your 1919A/20.
(C.T.F. 24. 1805/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.109. ^{N.T. W.D.} Your 1130/21. WINCHELSEA departs for Iceland at 1000/22.
(C.T.U. 24.7.13. 1933Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.149. C.T.U.24.1.12 in BROADWAY plus SHERWOOD, POLYANTHUS, MORDEN, PICTOU, ORILLIA, PRIMROSE designated escort O.N.149. BROADWAY fitted with H/F D/F.
(C.T.G. 24.7. 2045Z/21 to C. in C. W.A.)
- M.K.F.2. (1) PELICAN, SENNEN escort for Clyde, Liverpool portions respectively, then proceed Londonderry.
see next page (2) Remainder of escort proceed Londonderry on passing.
(C. in C. W.A. 2255A/21 to PELICAN.)

901

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

M.K.F.2.

See previous page

Request urgent confirmation that JAMAIQUE and ERIDAN are included in M.K.F.2. If confirmed request report of details as to crew and conditions under which ships were taken up and sailed to U.K.
(D.S.T., 0454A/21 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Situation
Report
No. 17.

(1) Sink at sight zone extended as in a.m. 1349/17
(2) BRAMHAM. Holed and flooded aft by bomb at 1840/20 off Cap Bougaroni. She arrived Bougie a.m. today Saturday.
(2) Algiers. About 30 enemy aircraft raided harbour and Maison Blanche aerodrome for about an hour from 1845/20. Two or three bombs fell in dockyard. About 60 military casualties. DELHI was damaged aft by near miss but is seaworthy. DEWDALE damaged. *See p. 916*
(4) Oran. 2,500 ton capacity south dry dock raised and in operating condition dimensions in metres length 120 width 21.1 depth over sill when submerged 7.5
(5) Mers el Kebir. *C.S.10 in BERMUDA arrives p.m. today Saturday. Force H sailed a.m. today to sweep north eastward returning to Gibraltar tomorrow Sunday except for ARGONAUT and SIRIUS who join C.S.10 at Mers el Kebir to form Cruiser Striking Force.
(N.C.X.F., 0944Z/21 to Admty). **See next page 9 p. 909*

V.A. Gibraltar
area.

When my Headquarters moves to Algiers it is my intention that V.A. Gibraltar shall assume operational control over that part of "Torch" area which lies to the west of 2° 13' W.
(2) Gibraltar escort force will normally be at his disposal for this purpose except as required by me for operations with Mediterranean.
(N.C.X.F., 1047Z/21 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib. V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med).

Return of
"Torch"
Escorts to
U.K.

Your 0309/13 (?1309/13) 1932/15 and 2011/20. I am well aware of all these facts. It cannot be expected that in the course of a complicated operation minor departures will not be made from arrangements made two months ago, but you can rest assured that such departures are made with good reason.
(2) Your 2011/20. These ships will return with M.K.S.2. Examination of TON 6 will reveal that it is not applicable to K.X. convoys escorts.
(3) It has been observed that K.M.S. 4 exceeds by 8 the number of ships laid down as acceptable. No reference to me was made in this matter which further complicates the escort problem.
(4) The speedy return to U.K. of forces not earmarked to "Torch" forces has been kept well to the fore throughout.
(5) Admty. pass to C. in C. H.F. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(N.C.X.F., 1516Z/21 to Admty).

902

21.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Air Report, Operation Summary for 24 hours ended midnight
Attack on Nov. 20. U/B sightings and attacks from
U/B. Gibraltar. (A time) 3 sightings including 1
attack Wellington R179 0350 hours 35.00 N.
13.33 W. Co. 100° 15 knots contact by S/E at
12 miles, S/E switched off, on again at 4 miles and contact
given at 2½ miles. At 1 mile wake sighted visually from
500 ft. At ¾ mile S/L switched on and target illuminated
immediately. Attacked down moon 4 Torpex D/Cs dropped, 2
large explosions 1 on each side of U/Bs bow which was
beginning to submerge forward tanks exploded. 2 mins. later
illuminated explosion area showed white effervescing water
round D/Cs?
(H.Q.R.A.F. Gibraltar 0714Z/21.)
- G.U.F.2. Request route for G.U.F.2, to 40° West.
(N.C.X.F. 0845Z/21 to Admty.)
- C.S.10. Departure 0630 F.O.C. 10th Cruiser Squadron
see previous page -
in BERMUDA for Oran.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0853Z/21 to Admty. etc.)
- TRUANT. Your 0104A/20th (TRUANT to report P.C. and S.
see p. 902.B
on crossing 036° N.) My P.C. and S. 036° 00' N.
020° 37' W. 023° 10 knots.
(TRUANT 0946Z/21 to F.O.S.)
- M.K.S.1 (Y) Sailing telegram.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0956/21)
See Lion Copy.
- DERWENTDALE. To return to Gibraltar forthwith.
(Gibraltar 1018Z/21 to SPEY.)
- ARCHER My 1640Z/19. Request you will arrange for
aircraft. three aircraft with crews of No.833 Sqdn. to
embark in ARCHER for passage to U.K. Remainder
of Squadron are to remain at Gibraltar until
further orders. Request you will also embark any unserviceable
aircraft which ARCHER can stow without reducing her ability to
operate aircraft.
(N.C.X.F. 1117Z/21 to V.A. Gibraltar.)
- K.M.S.3. Sailed VENOMOUS, WIVERN, VERITY, ENCHANTRESS,
FLEETWOOD, ~~1~~/COREOPSIS, ~~1~~/FOAM, BRIXHAM, POLRUAN,
escorting PROGRESS (destination Oran), DINGLEDALE
(destination Algiers), BROWN RANGER, and HINDUSTAN (destination
Bone), to join K.M.S.3 in accordance with N.C.X.F.'s 1846/19th.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1145Z/21 to Escort K.M.S.3 (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)

X JONQUIL n.t. 1.3. * p. 833 - *see also 20/11*
p. 868

/K.X.6.

11.902.B

MOST SECRET

0956/21 Nov.

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.

From: V.A.C.N.S. Date: 21.11.42. Time: 1646.

NAVAL CYPHER (XD) BY CABLE.

Addressed. Admiralty. Rept. C. in C. W.A.,
N.C.R.F.

IMMEDIATE.

495. MKS One (Y) 0900 GMT/21/11
8 1/2 knots.

*See next page
v.p. 904*

A.	35	30	North	07	00	West
B.	36	20		10	00	
C.	38	28		15	00	
D.	40	28		17	02	
E.	43	45		17	50	
F.	51	10		17	11	
G.	54	30		13	45	
H.	55	26		08	31	

SPEY (S.O), ROTHER, STARWORT, LOUIS, *see p. 915*
POPPY, DIANELLA, ABERDEEN, Commodore Rear Admiral
Rawlings in S.S. JEAN JADOT, Vice Commodore Cdre.
Elliott in S.S. CITY OF WORCESTER. Stragglers

Route	J.	35	45	North	10	35	West
	K.	37	55		15	50	
	L.	40	25		18	25	
	M.	43	43		18	45	
	N.	47	00		18	40	
	O.	51	10		18	25	
	P.	54	48		14	42	
	Q.	55	26		08	31	

S.S. NOLISEMENT, ALGERIAN, SPIRO, OPORTO, join
from Lisbon in position 36 32 North 10 32 West
S.P. 02272 (26 (21) INCON 287 codeword
COCKATOO W/T Callsign WB Q Z H 929 S 384 Y363.

MKS One (Y) Cruising Order 2323333
CITY OF WORCESTER (Vice Com), STANNHILL (M/F),
SOBO, ALCINOUS, SPIRO MF, DUKE OF ATHENS MF,
DERFENTDALE, MF JEAN JADOT, (Com) KAIA KNUDSEN,
NOLISEMENT, MF OCEAN VOLGA, MF TIBA, OPORTO, CITY
OF CHRISTCHURCH, ZEBULON B. VANCE, OCEAN LIBERTY,
FORT CHIPEWYAN, MF OCEAN WANDERER (N/D), ALGERIAN,
Admiralty is requested to signal destinations to
Commodore. 0956/21

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D. (F) D.T.B.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1st Lord. | Capt. Pim. | I.P. (2) |
| 1st S.L. (2) | D.O.D. (H) (2) | W.D. |
| D.F.S.L. | D.O.D. (F) (2) | D.H.D. (M) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.C. (2) | D.O.D. (3) for action |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | U.S.N. (3) | D.T.D. (C) |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.A/S.W. | D. of P. (2) |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | Hd. of M. | D.M.S. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.D.L.C. (3) | C.C.O. (2) |
| | Adm. Blake (2) | D. of P. (Q) |
| | | Adm. Ramsay (4) |

RN

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1305Z/21st Nov. IN.

From.

N.C. X.F.

MOST SECRET

Date. 21.11.42.

Recd. 1940.

NAVAL CYBER 3 (S) BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed. North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report for Area X. Situation at 2002A/21.

1. H.M.S. TRUANT at 2100A/21st 037 degs 54 mins
019 degs 25 mins on surface 023 degs 10 $\frac{1}{2}$. *(amended see 2204Z/21) p.903*

2. H.M.S. TROOPER at 2100A/21st 38 22 10 01 diving
by day 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots, surfacing by night 9 knots to 225 degs
St. Vincent 10 at 1300A/22nd thence 36 40 07 30 at)
0200A/23rd at 10 knots.

3. H.M. Sub. P.311 at 2100A/21st 36 48 08 42
diving by day 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots surfacing by night 10 knots
through 36 40 07 30 at 0200/22nd to rendezvous with
escort in 35 59 06 15 at 1700A/22nd thence through
Straits of Gibraltar.

4. M.K.S.1 (Y). SPEY, ROTHER, COWSLIE, POPPY, DIANNELLA,
H.M.S. STARWORT, 35 31 07 02 through 36 20 10 01
thence 298 degs 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See previous page.*

5. M.K.S.1 (Y). (L), H.M.S. ABERDEEN, H.M.S.
RHODODENDRON, H.M.S. VIOLET, 4 merchant ships, R/v off
Lisbon at 2100A/21 thence to R/V M.K.S.1(Y) in position
36 32 10 32 at 1700A/22. H.M.S. RHODODENDRON
H.M.S. VIOLET then return Gibraltar 14. *See previous page*

6. K.M.S.3.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, NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN, *LUNENBURG, 35 57
05 57 through Straits of Gibraltar 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p.902.*

7. Task Force 39. 35 43 19 46 099 degs 9. **See next page*

8. K.M.S. 3 (G). H.M.S. BLACK SWAN, 1 sloop, 5 corvettes,
in Straits to Gibraltar 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

1305Z/21.

V.C.K.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.D.C.D. (M)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.D.J.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)
Ad. Ramsey. (4)
Ad. Blake. (2)
U.S.N. (3)
D. of P. (Q)

Advance Copy sent.
Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (F).

903

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- K.X.6. My 1330Z/18th Nov. (arrival K.X.6. less AQUILLA etc), EMPIRE GNOME and EMPIRE MINOTAUR arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 1202Z/21 to Admty).
- U/B. B.1. U-Boat nationality unknown sighted on surface about 0300 G.M.T. roughly 3 miles South of Calheta proceeding West. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1207/21 to Admty, S.O.I Gib)
- BALIVER. November 21st. German BALIVER ^{? BALDUR intended} arrived 21st to load iron ore. This vessel will be referred to as 61 in future. (H.M. Consul Bilbao 1210/21 to Admty. (R) M.E.W. etc) Passing action being taken by W. R. to F.O.S, H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A.
- (? BALDUR)
- ? Following has been received from unknown Station. Noon bearing 168° distance 248 miles from position B drifting W.N.W. (Gibraltar W/T 1215Z/21 to Admty. Note:- X 331 Portions missed.)
- LUNENBERG. (Corrupt group) E. T. A. Gibraltar 1640Z/21st. ^{See previous page} Asdic out of action R.D.F. faulty. (LUNENBERG 1225Z/21 to F.O.C.N.A.).
- Dispositions Situation report for area Y, 2004A/21st.
1. S/M (?TRUANT) at 2100A/21st 037.54, 019.25 on the surface 023°, 10½ (see 2204Z/21.).
2. U.S. AUGUSTA 031° (?35' or 05') 021.20 through 030.01 027.01 thence 270° 21. (N.C. X.F. 1243Z/21 to N.A.Stn).
- Sit Rep. for Area X. (N.C.X.F. 1305Z/21, 1903Z/21) See Lion Copy My 2000A/21st. (N.T. in W.D.) Situation Report, amend para.1 to read TRUANT at 2101A/21st 37.30 19.45 023° 10. (N.C.X.F. 2204Z/21). ^{See previous page}
- U/B. Following received on 385 K/Cs. Gibraltar W/T Any or all U.S. Naval vessels. S/M sighted 33.36 N. 10.05 W. at 0957A/21. T.O.R. 1628/21. (C. in C. Plymouth 1330/21 to Admty).
- U/B and A/C. S/M sighted off Funchal between ? 15 17 and Funchal. 1800 G.M.T. 20th steering North. Unknown aeroplane flew over Funchal 1920 G.M.T. steering south. A.O. (N.A. Lisbon 1430/2? to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty).

/HILDUR.....

MOST SECRETM E S S A G E · 1618Z/21st November.
IN.

MOST SECRET.

From Commandeth Gibraltar.

Date 21.11.42.
Time 2315Z

Addressed ABFOR London.

Ref. No. 1051.

1. November 20 Naval situation report 14. Oran: 2500 ton floating dock raised and in working order.
2. Tunisia south column: continuous contact maintained with Germans at Medjes El Bab. French counter attacked in morning suffered 100 casualties for day. Germans reported laying antitank mines and erecting defences. Continuous RCN by 503rd USA parachute Bn of area Gafsa Tebessa. Reinforcements for this Bn consisting 1st Rifle Co with anti-aircraft and anti-tank units, all from CTF, arrived Blida. North column: carriers and arm'd RCN cars from 78th Div mobile column rejoined 36th Brigade; remainder Co believed on foot in hills. Force at Djbel; Abiod reinforced by 1 Inf. Bn. of 36th Brigade. Continuous contact with Germans who are laying mines and erecting defences.
3. Algiers CG 1st army and CP left by sea for Jemmapes near Phillippeville. CP opened Jemmapes 0700 20th Nov. 28 medium tanks of 2nd Bn 13 AR en route Bone by LTC. Rail party 1st Bn (light) 1 AR en route Souk Ahras. 2 Co 701st TD Bn en route Bone by road.
4. CTF Oran 50th FA Bn alerted for move to Algiers. Cadre instruction of French arranged between French and CTF Staffs. Vicinity Oudjda 1 at Co and 1 Btry Arty in position cooperating with French Inf Bn in defences to NW.
5. 5 WTF Casablanca 25000 of total 32000 troops UGF 2 disembarked. Part 2 will follow, this ends part 1.

1618Z/21

Received in W.R. at 0210/23.

Ad copy D.C.
D.O.D. (F) D.D.I.C.AFHQ Distribution:

C/S (1) CAC(1) Brig. Jacobs. (W.C.O.) Def. Reg. (15)
Admiral (Wry) (15) Air Min. (AMSC) (15) War Office (15) D C/S
Mr (1) G-1(1) G-2(1) G-3 (8)(Action) G-4 (1) Sig.Off.(1)
Com. Douglas-Pennant(2). Brit. Civil Liaison (1)

E.T.O. Distribution: (for information copies).

1. Cables. 2. AG Records 3. Sec. G/S.
4. G-3 5. G-2.

1st Lord.	A.C.N.S.(W)	D.D.I.C.(2)	D. of L.D.
1st S.L.(2)	A.C.N.S.(T)	D.of P.(Q)	D.T.D.(3)
D.F.S.L.	N.A.1st S.L.	Hd. of M.	D.T.D.(M)
3rd S.L.	D. of P.(2)	Ad.Blake(2)	D.P.D.
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D.(H)(2)	Ad.Ramsey(4)	I.P. (2)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.O.D.(F)(2)	N.A.(T)	W.D.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.N.I.(4)		

964

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.HILDUR,
FENTRA.

Request destination route and if escort coasters will be sent for SS HILDUR one and SS FENTRA ready to sail from Port Lyautey French Morocco 1500Z/November 24th.
(U.S. Naval Port Director Port Lyautey in U.S.S. BARNEGAT, 1500Z/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ARMERIA,
CYCLAMEN.

Intend to sail ARMERIA and CYCLAMEN for Freetown at 1100/22nd. Routed through

(A) 35.51 N. 05.51 W.
(B) 35.46 N. 06.17 W.
(C) 29.45 N. 15.15 W.
(D) 23.25 N. 18.10 W.
(E) 20.50 N. 18.40 W.
(F) 20.01 N. 18.40 W. S. of A. 12 knots.
2. R.A.W.A. is requested signal onward route from position (F).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1659Z/21 to R.A.W.A.)

FOWEY
(survivors
from K.M.S.B.)

E.T.A. 2330A/21st LEONIAN, EMPIRE FOAM, BALTONIA, MALLOW, MYOSOTIS in company. A.F.O. 2901/41, FOWEY, 70, including 6 cot cases, BALTONIA, 49, Nil cot cases.
(FOWEY 1714Z/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoy
Enemy
A/C.

1 enemy A/C is shadowing Convoy "Syndicate", bearing 120° 4 miles. Position of convoy 36.19 N. 00.20 W. course 60° speed 14 knots.
(A/C C/S VALM 1745 B.S.T./21 to Gibraltar.)

U/B.

Following received from Gibraltar W/T. Sub. sighted 5 miles 300° true from Rabat at 1055A/21.
(Nore W/T, no T.O.O Recd. 1828/21.)
(C. in C. Plymouth 1746/21.)

EMPIRE DAY,
M.K.S.1 (Y)
see p. 902A.

To avoid undue delay am sailing EMPIRE DAY with about 1400 tons of her coal still on board in M.K.S.1 (Y)
(C.S. Gibraltar 1800Z/21 to Admty.)

ADVENTURE.

see next page

Your 1303/20th. Destroyers will R/V at 0900A/23 in 38.27 N. 11.55 W. Your speed assumed 18 knots.
(N.C.X.F. 1850Z/21 to ADVENTURE (R) WISHART, BRILLIANT, F.O.C.N.A., Admty., C. in C. Plymouth.)

N.C.X.F. in
AURORA.

Your 0103A/20 (Missing No. called for) Following is a repetition of my 2259Z/15 (begins) addressed Admty. F.O.I.Q. Comm. Algiers. Sailed 2115Z N.C.X.F. in AURORA, WISHART, BEAGLE for Algiers.
Q.B.A. 1 (Ends) T.O.O. 2259Z/15.
(V.A. Gibraltar 2059Z/21.)

904A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 1903Z/21st Nov. IN.
From: (W.C.X.F.) Date: 21.11.42.
Recd: 2219.

NAVAL CYPHER 3 (J) BY W/T.

Addressee: Ships and Authorities North Atlantic.
Situation area X.
My 1305/21st add now para 3.

- (9) H.M.S. ADVENTURE 47 54 14 44 through 46 59
14 45 and 43 01 14 40 thence 171 18.
- (10) H.M.S. WISHART, BRILLIANT, sail 1400A/22nd direct
R/V with H.M.S. ADVENTURE in 36° 27'N. 11° 55'W at 0900A/23rd.

1903Z/21.
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)
- Ad. Ramsay. (4)
- D.D. O.D. (M)
- D. of P. (2).

VS

905

21.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.U/B,
K.14.

By D/F at 1938Z/20 U-boat was estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 13° 00' N. 26° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0349A/21 to K.14.)

P.552.

see p.905c

Intend to proceed Pointe Noire to refuel through following route :

- (A) 008° 16' 009° 00' at 1200/21st.
- (B) 006° 40' 010° 10' at 0400Z/22nd.
- (C) 006° 20' 010° 30' at 1800Z/22nd.

dived by day through (B) and (C). E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0900Z/23rd. (P.552 0355Z/21 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.W.A. etc.)

Blockade
Runner
Scuttled.U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE^{group} intercepted blockade runner at 0652Z/21, believed ANNELIESE ESSBERGER. See F.O.C.W.A.*0015Z/22 and D.O.R. 1192.**p.94)*LEOPARD
(for
Mauritius.)

My 2101/20th, E.T.A. a.m. 27th November. (C. in C. S.A. 0823C/21 to Admty., C. in C. E.F. etc.)

see next page p.905D

Corvettes.

Your 0119/21st (N.T. in W.R.) Please sail Corvettes direct. Most grateful for your having returned them so early. (F.O.W.A. 0925Z/21 to N.C.X.F.)

O.19.

Your 1536/11th Nov. approved for D.S.O. 19 to proceed to U.K. on one Diesel Engine and two main motors.

2. When repaired Vulcan clutch should be kept as spare in COLOMBIA.

3. B.D.Z. concurs.

(D.O.D.(F) 1301A/21 to C.S. Simonstown.)

ALCANTARA.

see next page/p.887 (see next for A.F.D.)
R.A.W. Af. 1531/20th (ALCANTARA to be used as ocean escort and to fuel A/S escorts on passage) ALCANTARA is being recalled from patrol South of Cape and will be available if required. (C. in C. S.A. 1309C/21 to R.A.W.A. etc.)

INDOCHINOIS.

Alusnob Bahia's 2345/19th Nov. (Contained in Connav's 0735/20 re sailing of W.S.24 less INDOCHINOIS.) Grateful for early information of the results of any search for INDOCHINOIS. (D.O.D.(F) 1328A/21 to Comsolantfor (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Refuelling
U-boat.

In 015° 30' N, 029° W. (B.A.D. 1339Z/21.) See America and West Indies.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

1202C/21/Nov.

Date 21.11.42.

Naval Cypher (M) by
W/T & T/P

Time 1224

Addressed A. I. G. 125

IMPORTANT

M 3 A and B. *See Mauritius page - 905D.*
 H.M.S. ALCANTARA on patrol in area
 French Light Cruiser LEOPARD 034 degs
 28' South 025 degs 47' East to Mauritius 15 knots. *See Mauritius page*
 H.M.S. ENTERPRISE 031 degs 31' South 030 degs
 33' East to Simonstown 20 knots. *See pp 905D & 906*
 H.M.S. NORMAN with C F 8 off Saldanha
 Bay to the north 14 knots. *905D*
 H.M.S. EXPRESS with C D 2 034 degs 16' South
 023 degs 08' East to Durban 8½ knots.
 CATERICK about 034 degs 30' South 050 degs
 00' East to join C D 2.
 American transport ? (comma) WEST POINT
 029 degs 30' South 042 degs 20' East to the east
 21 knots. *See p. 919*

1202C/21.

Advance copy sent 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.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)
 P.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.T.D. (M)
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (C)
 D. of T. (2)
 Ad. Blake
 D.N.I. (4)

SECRET

1301Z/21 November.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From R.A. West Africa.

Date 21.11.42.

Received 2205.

Naval Cypher 3 (M) by W/T

Addressed Ships in area "P" of South Atlantic Station
south of 8 degs N. Admiralty. C. in C.
South Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.
R.N O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

STELLA POLARIS, NORWICH CITY, 04 01 19 20 052 degs
10. ST. ZENO, SPANIARD, MAGNOLIA, CANNA, proximity 03 40 08 45
to 03 16 08 28 thence 080 degs 5. NORTHERN DAWN,
COVENTRY CITY, escorting 03 20 04 25 to Takoradi 8½.
NORTHERN DUKE escorting 03 10 04 20 017 degs 8½ at
1957Z 21st. HYDRANGEA, PICT, ORFASY, 2 motor launches, with
T S.25 off Takoradi to west 8. SOUTHERN GEM escorting
off Lagos to Takoradi 9. HOLCOMBE, *ST. WISTAN*, BENGALI,
2 motor launches, off Lagos to Forcados 8. * 3. p. 906

1301Z/21.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. and Trade.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
A.C.N.S. (T).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt Pim.
Ops. (3).
O.D. (5).
I.C. (3).
M. (2).
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
D.R.S. Citadel.
D.D.O.D. (C) (2).
D.T.D. (4).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
I.P. (3)
4. W.D.

9054c

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1305Z/21st November.

From: F.O.C. W. Africa.

Date. 21.11.42.
Time. 2135.

Naval Cypher 3M by W/T

Addressed: A.I.G. 150, Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic,
N.O.i/c Takoradi, repeated R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT.

My 1305/21st part 2 final.

H.M.S. P.552 007 degs 30' south 009 degs 40' east to
Pointe Noire through (B) 06 40 south 10 10 east at 0400Z/22.
(C) 06 20 south 10 30 east at 1800Z/22nd diving by day. *See p.905*

Motor Launch and CHASSEUR patrolling off Funta Bay.

H.M.S. CORINTHIAN escorting off Pointe Noire 259 10.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS patrolling between 05 22 24 09 and 04
36 26 10.

H.M.S. AMARANTHUS about 06 00 24 00 to Freetown 12½.

Allied Naval Unit about 03 40 31 50 to south 12½.

Allied Naval Unit patrolling 04 10 23 18 to 05 00 29 00
thence 130 14.

1305Z/21

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F),

Note: Part one of this message timed 1301/21
circulated as "Secret".

- 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.
- A/S.W.
- Id. of M.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.O.D.(C)
- D.M.S.

HMB

SECRET

905D

SECRET

MESSAGE

1305C/21st Nov. IN

From C.in C.South Atlantic.

Date 22.11.42
Recd.2315

Naval Cypher (D) by E/T.

Addressed Flag Liaison Officer India C.in C.Eastern Fleet 999 Deputy C.in C.Eastern Fleet F.O.C.North Atlantic 258 S.B.N.O.Western Atlantic F.O.West African Force.

See p. 907A.

Weekly statement South Atlantic Station 21st November.

Area A M 5 A and B. H.M.S. ALCANTARA, Williamstown to Mauritius. * *See p. 905A*
F.S. LEOPARD, Durban to Cape. * *See pp 905 & 906*
H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, off Saldanha Bay to North. * *See pp 905A & 906*
H.M.S. NORMAN, Cape to Durban, * *See p. 905A*
(? H.M.S. EXPRESS), H.M.S. CATTERICK, Durban area, (? H.M.S. HURSELY), * *See p. 905A*
H.M.S. GENISTA, H.M.S. JASMINE, Simonstown O R
H.M.S. CONFLICT, H.M.S. NIZAM, H.M.S. FOXHOUND, ROCKROSE,
M L's, 380, 381, 382. Capetown, EMILE BAUDOT, F.S. COMMANDANTE
DUBOC, H.M.S. THYME, H.M.S. SPINDRIFT, MEAD, Durban,
H.M.S. BELLWORT, INCONSTANT, EREBUS, MANCHESTER CITY,
ENGADINE, Durban-Capetown, CECILE MAPLESON, Port Elizabeth,
KHETI, STORMWRACK, H.M.S. ATHENE, East London, H.M.S. COLOMBIA,
Sarkasen, H.M.S. FERNCOR D.S.

7 added: + not identified -

1305C/21

Advance copy sent Ops. C.D. Trade

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.H.S. (H)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim, Admiralty House
- Cps. (3)
- C.D. (5)
- C.D. 8
- C.I.C.
- M. (2)
- D.P.S.
- Mails
- M. S.
- D.A./S.W.
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- I.P. (3)
- P. I. O.
- B. L. O. (FT) (2)
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S. Citadel
- D.D.C.D. (C) (2)

906

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

ENTERPRISE. Sailed ENTEPRISE by route R.9 to position 035° 05' S. 020° 00' E, thence Simonstown.
see pp 905A & B. (2) E.T.A. 0700Z/23rd. Speed 21 knots.
(3) Shifting to group S.L at 1400Z/22nd.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1415Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

FANDANGO, Cancel my 1545/20th ^{1p.872} FANDANGO and KELT escorting
*KELT, tankers MIJDRECHT, BENTE, MAERSK, CISTULA are
T.L.D.M. being sailed direct to Takoradi, E.T.A. dawn 26th.
Convoy. (B.N.L.O.W.A. 1515/21 to R.A.W.A.)
* See below Your 1515/21st MIJDRECHT not to be included.
See my 1237Z/15th and my 1136Z/17th.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2200Z/21 to B.N.L.O.W.A. (R) Admty.)

Shipping (1) Unescorted sailings between Takoradi and
Takoradi, Pointe Noire may be resumed on 26th Nov. at
Accra. instruction of authorities addressed.
(2) Ships may now unload at Accra. Trawler
screen to be provided. One trawler for one
ship. 2 Trawlers for 2 to 3 ships. More than 3 ships are not
to unload at a time.
(3) COPINSAY, *KELT, *BENGALI, *ST. WISTAN remain under orders of
N.O.I.C. Lagos. * See above.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1525Z/21 to R.N.O. Lagos, B.N.L.O.W.A., N.O.I.C.,
Takoradi, (R) Admty., N.C.S.O. Duala.) * see p.905B.

CITY OF GKQ de VVVI to C. in C. South Atlantic pass to
KIMBERLEY, Admiralty GLCM. Following received at 1454
bombed by G.M.T/21 de GLCM AAAA 03.22 S. 38.42 W., CITY
Brazilian OF KIMBERLEY machine gunned 1453 G.M.T. and
planes. bombed 1500, planes with Brazilian markings.
1535 G.M.T., Brazilian Coast Station give no reply.
(Portishead Radio, 1530G/21 to Admty.)
See also S.O.I. Rio de Janeiro 1559Z/24.

PANORAMA. Your 1840Z/14 (re B.D.V. PANORAMA must be con-
sidered lost) In view of statement in Para. 3
casualties have been reported as missing.
(C.W./C.A.S. 1624A/21 to R.A.W.A.)

Shipping, Ref. A.M. 1913/19th. Reference positions. In
Reference view of para.(2) and (3) have no further
Positions. objection.
(C. in C. S.A. 1631C/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

CAMBRIA. ^{H.T.N.D.} Your 1740A/19th. Comslantfor advises he has no
escort available either now or in near future.
Can one of H.M. Trawlers at present effecting
repairs here be released for this work?
(N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 1639/21 to Admty.)

/SPENE ...

907

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

SPENE.

Cancel my 1310/21st (No trace in War Registry) correct version as follows. SPENE now proceeding under own steam. Position at 1300Z/21st 019° 49' N. 020° 05' W. course 180° speed 9½ knots.

(PORTSDOWN 1700Z/21 to R.A.W.A.)

NORTHERN ISLES.

(1) NORTHERN ISLES disabled and in tow of tug INTEGRITY in 009° 55' N. 027° 01' W. at 1200Z/21st course and speed 095° 7½ knots.

(2) Proceed to give escort if your endurance will permit and report how long you can remain in company.

(3) INTEGRITY carries Mersigs and S.P. 02172 (21)

(R.A.W.A. 1703Z/21 to BRIDGEWATER.)

GLENEARN.

Ref. A.M. 1639A/19th (proposal to divert GLENEARN to Pernambuco for onward convoy) GLENEARN diverted from position to new position H 015° N. 021° W. J 021° N. 022° W. E.T.A. position J November 28th a.m. Request you pass onward routeing instructions. (F.O.C.W.A. 1747Z/21 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

Your 1703Z/21st received corrupt. My P.C. and S. at 1900Z 008° 53' N. 027° 10' W. 075° 12. Expect to R/V 1100Z/22nd and can remain with them till their arrival Freetown any time Thursday 26th. Weather report.

(BRIDGEWATER 1901Z/21 to R.A.W.A.)

GLAUCUS.

Your 0910A/10th (Not identifiable in W/R) GLAUCUS not arrived Bahia. (B.R.L.O. Bahia 1805Z/21 to Admty.)

PHOEBE escort.

(1) F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU arrives Pointe Noire a.m. 1st of December.

(2) COMMANDANT DROGOU and ^{COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES will be required to escort PHOEBE to Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 1853Z/21 to B.N.L.O.W.A.)

A/S Sweeps.

(1) If fuel permits detail 2 trawlers to carry out A/S sweeps off Janella Bay Saint Antonio (017° 07' 30" N. 024° 59' 30" W.) where U-Boats are suspected to be fuelling.

(2) TURCOMAN searching off Janella closing the Bay at dusk 22nd and dawn 23rd.

(3) Trawlers detailed to refuel at Bathurst on completion.

(4) Report action taken.

(R.A.W.A. 1857Z/21 to PORTSDOWN (R) TURCOMAN, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia.)

Dakar.

21st Nov. Dakar P.R.U., no change. (F.O. West Africa 1937Z/21.)

SECRET

SECRET

MESSAGE

1933Z/21 Nov.

IN

From R.A. West Africa

Date 23.11.42.

Recd.1422

NAVAL CYPHER 3M BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic,
F.O.C.N.A., S.B.N.C. West Atlantic,
B.A.D., CONSOLANTFOR.

See p. 905B, C, D.

165. Weekly state 21st November. Freetown,
H.M.S. EDINBURGH CASTLE, P.614, H.M.S. MILFORD,
PHILOCTETES, SOUTHERN PRIDE, BURDOCK, ~~2~~COMMANDANT.
DROMOU, TAMARISK, ~~COMMANDANT~~ DETROYAT, KIBER. Freetown
area, AMARANTHUS, BRIDGEWATER, ~~3~~BAFHURST, H.M.S. DRAGON,
Takoradi area*Ulster. Luas area, SOUTHERN GEM,
HOLCOMBE, Pointe Noire, H.M.S. PHOEBE, Pointe Noire
area, CORINTHIAN, P.552, ~~Commandant~~ ESTIENNE D'ORVES. On
patrol in area, H.M.S. ASTURIAS, St. Pauls Rocks.

**not in list*

Cape Verde Is. detached, H.M.S. VINDICTIVE,
H.M.S. VELOX, H.M.S. VANSITTART, H.M.S. WIVERN,
(corrupt group) H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. VIOLET,
H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN,
H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. AUBRETIA, H.M.S. BRILLIANT,
H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. SNOWDROP, French Ship
SAVORGNAN -DE-BRAZZA, (?H.M.S. ROCKROSE), H.M.S.
ARMERIA, COWSLIP, PRESIDENT HOUDOUCÉ.
Correction H.M.S. ROCKROSE at Cape and BELLWORT.

1933Z/21.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D.

N.A.1st.S.L.	Mails.	
Capt Pim Admy Hse.	Movts.	
Ops. (3)	I.P.(3)	
O.D.(5)	O.I.C.	U.S.N.(3)
O.D.8.	D.T.D.(M)	F.O.S. by
D.P.S.	W.D.	Courier.
D.A/S.W.	P.N.L.O.	
M.(2)	B.N.L.O.(F.F)(2)	

War Diary.

21.11.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

EMPIRE VOICE, Signal received at 1913 G.M.T. 21st November
"Q" Report. from SS EMPIRE VOICE "position 03.33 N. 29.18 W.
followed by suspicious vessel".
(F.O.C.W.A. 2007Z/21 to Comslantfor, EMPIRE
VOICE, 2013/21.)

CORINTHIAN, S.S. Departure Pointe Noire 2000Z/21st CORINTHIAN to
COLUMBINE. 006° 07' S. 007° 06' E. to tow SS COLUMBINE to
Pointe Noire. 2 M.Ls as A/S escort.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 2100/21 to F.O.I.C. W.A. (R)
Admty. etc.)

909

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements. → EURYALUS, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, CROOME and HURSLEY arrived. *See 20/N-P.875-*
(V.A. Malta, 0200A/21 to Admty., etc.)
Sailed EURYALUS, DULVERTON, ALDENHAM, BEAUFORT, HURWORTH, EXMOOR, PINDOS, HURSLEY, BELVOIR.
(V.A. Malta, 0852/21 to Admty., etc.)

Force H, C.S. 10. Following is a repetition my 1422Z/20th (begins):
Addressed S.O. Force H, (R) F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, S.O.I.S., Capt. (S) 8, C.S.10 from N.C.X.F.
See pp 901 & 902
Request you will proceed with Force H a.m. tomorrow 21st. Take a cast to North? Eastward? until after dark, then return Gibraltar to arrive in daylight p.m. 22nd.
(2) F.O.C.S.(10) in BERMUDA will sail from Gibraltar to arrive Mers-el-Kebir before p.m. 21st. The 3 "Q" destroyers arriving there 21st with K.M.F.3 will stay.
(3) Detach SIRIUS and ARGONAUT on 22nd to join C.S.10 (see also N.C.X.F. 0944Z/21.)
(4) Please arrange berth of cruiser with Captain Port, preferably stern to Fort Mole (ends).
(N.C.X.F., 0558Z/21 to S.O. Force H.)

→ EURYALUS. After passing through position CC 033° 35' N. 019° 10' E. proceed through DD 033° 15' N. 022° 05' E. and EE 032° 15' N. 025° 05' E. thence direct to Alexandria searched channel. Speed 20 knots.
(2) Pass through position CC at 0300B/22nd.
(3) Fighter protection will be arranged.
(C. in C. Med., 0841B/21 to EURYALUS.)

Movements. Arrival 20th Nov. BURRA, SNAPDRAGON, ERICA, ST. MONANCE, M.L.350. Departures 20th Nov. BOSTON, WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY.
(S.O.(I.) Alexandria, 0912B/21 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Cositrep No.600 Part 2, Air. 20th Nov. Aircraft from Malta sunk a 2000 ton merchant vessel off Tunisian coast with bombs and torpedo. Another formation attacked two ships north of Cape Bon, scoring near misses with bombs on 8000 ton vessel.
(C. in C. M.E., 0915 G.M.T./21.)

Malta Convoy. My 1434B/20th (Situation report) para. 4. No ?
communicate is being issued.
(C. in C. Med., 0937B/21 to Admty.)

Air R/C. Visual forenoon Nov. 21st. Messina and Taranto, no change.
(V.A. Malta, 1024A/21 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., etc.)

910

21.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- W.S. 23A. Convoy W.S. 23A arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1045Z/21 to Admty., etc.)
- K.M.F. 3. My 1701Z/18th. K.M.F.3. Request fighter protection priority ?2 to 1° 20' E. then priority 1. Convoy codeword "Henbane".
(2) F.O.I.C. Algiers pass to A.O.C.. Eastern Air Command.
F.O.I.C. Oran pass to Command General 12th A.F.
(N.C.X.F., 1105Z/21 to A.O.C. E.A.C., etc.)
- M.E. Air Report. Night 18th/19th Nov. 6 B.17s despatched to make dusk attack on destroyers reported in Benghazi Harbour. No destroyers were seen and aircraft bombed alternative target dock area and railway sidings starting several fires. Many fires were already burning when arrived over target including 2 vessels on fire near harbour entrance.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1142Z/21.)
- M.K.S. 2. Sailing M.K.S.2 1800Z/21st, S. of A. 7 knots. Route 74, 34, 17, 73, 57, lettered L, M, N, A, B, thence (C) 36.00 06.30. (D) 36.46 10.00.
(E) 38.28 15.00. (F) 40.28 17.02. (G) 43.45 17.50.
(H) 51.10 17.11. (J) 54.30 13.45. (K) 55.26 08.31.
All positions N. and W. Stragglers route as convoy route to C, thence in envelope G, in which T and U have been corrected to conform to D and E above.
All Algiers ships hold Outcon 310 except ships for Gibraltar and (corrupt group) 91, 101, 53, (?09). Suggest issue complete set Incon tables by ocean escort. First 2 letters of convoy W/T Call Sign Q M taken from spare.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1146Z/21 to N.X.C.F.)
OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE and HYDERABAD are to be fuelled and sailed to overtake M.K.S.2 as through escort to U.K.
(N.C.X.F., 1237Z/21 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE, ROCHESTER, BLACK SWAN, HYDERABAD.)
My 1146Z/21st.
Convoy M.K.S.2 sailed 1700Z/21st Nov. 7 knots. Codeword "Ribband". Algiers Section 21 ships consisting of OCEAN TRADER, FORT AUGUSTUS, CALUMET, EMPIRE BAXTER, OCEAN VIRTUE, OCEAN VICEROY, *WEST POINT, DORELIAN, OCEAN VETERAN, JUNE CREST, GUDRUN MAERSK, LORIGA, EMPIRE SPLENDOUR, OCEAN RIDER, URLANA, all for Belfast for orders. Also WILLOWDALE, KRESFORD, ENNERDALE, BRITISH LADY, breaking off at Gibraltar.
Oran section consists of NAIRUNG, JOHN POPE, JOHN SERGEANT, MATHEW DEADY, REVERDY JOHN SON, HAMILTON, THOMAS HOOKER, and EMPIRE RUSKIN. Joining from Gibraltar EMPIRE DAY, and PORT STANLEY. Close escort to Gibraltar *ROCHESTER (S.O.), ERNE, LEITH, SCARBOROUGH, SPIREA, GERANIUM.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1807A/21 to N.C.X.F.) * see p. 915
* on passage Rio to Bombay! see p. 919
- P. 212. Move 30 miles 290° from ordered patrol position.
(Capt. S.10, 1219A/21 to P.212.)
see pp 911 & 912

/Landing ...

911

21.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Landing Craft. Following for C. in C. Middle East from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(M.E.) 327. Your CC/137 of 13th November.
The allocation of L.C.I.(L) and L.S.T.2 to British Forces has not yet been agreed by Combined Chiefs of Staff.

2. If our requests are agreed to it is intended to send you two flotillas (12 in each flotilla) of both L.C.I.(L) and L.S.T.2, in which case complete flotillas will be sailed to you when they become available, which is unlikely to be before 1st April 1943.

3. It is thought undesirable to send one of each type in advance of its flotilla which will include maintenance and administrative Staffs, but your wishes will be borne in mind should a convenient opportunity arise.
(Air Min., 1240Z/21 to Mideast.)

BLEAN, BLEAN is to join 58th Destroyer Divn. vice
COWDRAY. COWDRAY.
(N.C.X.F., 1254Z/21 to F.O.I.S.)

U/B. 1 submarine on surface 36.01 N. 01.40 W.
(C.S.10, 1330Z/21 to Gib. W/T.)

Submarines. Situation, in Western Med. at 2000Z/21.
(N.C.X.F., to S. and A., Area G.)
See Lion Copy. 1345Z/21/

Enemy M/V. One merchant vessel course 180°, speed 8 knots.
Position 36° 05' N. 11° 35' E.
(A/C C/S WSFR, 1356A/21 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Tug, F.O.I.S.'s 1507Z/20th (N.T. in W.D.)
ST. DAY. A tug should be sailed to Bone from Algiers.
H.M.S. ST. DAY may be retained in Inshore Sqdn.
for the time present.
(N.C.X.F., 1357Z/21 to F.O.I.S., F.O.I.C. Oran.)

PORPOISE, Following movements are to take place.
* P.212, P.44, PORPOISE? at 1800/21st through 33.30, 15.00,
P.46. 33.30, 12.50 Kerkenah Number 4 Buoy. To eastern
* *See previous page* area Malta 1030A/24th.
P.212 at 0900/22nd through 33.30, 15.00, 33.30,
12.50, 35.20, 12.15 to arrive Malta 1000A/25th.
P.44 at 1800/22nd by coastal route to Khoms, thence through
33.30, 14.15, 33.30, 12.50 to establish patrol off Kerkenah by
dawn 25th.
P.46 at 2330/22nd by coastal route to establish patrol off
Burat by dawn 23rd.

/Submarines ...

911A

Med.

MOST SECRET

1057 SECRET MESSAGE 1345Z/21 Nov. IN

From N.C.X.F. Date 21/11/42.
Recd. 2030

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed Ships & Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT

Sub. situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000Z 21st November. All subs. diving by day 2½ knots.

(i) H.M.S. URSULA 37 06 North 01 38 West through 135 Cape Palos 5 miles 39 27 North 01 26 East thence 50 surface speed 8 knots.

(ii) P.54 36 38 North 02 11 West following H.M.S. URSULA at same speed.

(iii) - P.221 38 41 North 04 44 East through 38 50 North 03 01 East thence 245 surface speed 8½ knots. *See p. 913*

(iv) H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT 36 47 North 01 50 West through 180 Cape de Gata 10, 135 Cape Palos 10, 38 56 North 03 01 East thence 90 surface speed 10 knots.

See next page
(v) H.M.S/M 217 pass Europa Point at 1600Z 22nd on the surface on 22nd through 180 Cape Calaburras 10 and then follow H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT surface speed 11 knots. H.M. Sub. 311 pass Europa Point at 2030Z 22nd and H.M.S. TRICOPPER at 2030Z 23rd both follow H.M. Sub 217 surface speed 10 knots.

1345Z/21

Adv. copy D.C., D.O.D. (F), D.D.I.C.

- 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)
- 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)
- Admiral Ramsey (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- U.S.N. (3)
- F.O.S. by courier.

HTC

War Diary.

21.11.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - con't.

PORPOISE,
P.212, P.44,
P.46.
(Contd.)

Submarines are to gain time where necessary by surface passage by day. No northbound ship from Tripoli is to be attacked. In view of moon condition submarines on coastal route must keep outside visibility distance from the shore. (Capt. S.10, 1400A/21 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Black Sea.

1. Russian E-Boats active in vicinity of Feodosia and Anapa; night Nov. 20th, sank 2 barges in Anapa.
2. In spite of bad weather enemy aircraft very (? group omitted). Large formations bombed Tuapse Nov. 18th. Nov. 19th 2 fighter aerodromes in Tuapse area attacked; 6 aircraft damaged on ground. 11 enemy aircraft brought down. Russian convoy also bombed.
3. Lull in land fighting probably due to supply difficulties. Russians consolidating newly gained positions. Concentration of 45 tanks reported north of Indyk. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 1414C/21 to Admty., etc.)

P. 217,
P. 219.

/ see previous page.
P.217 and P.219 sailing p.m. 22nd and 24th respectively for patrol off Naples cross 08° E. in 038° 37' N. at 2200A/26th and 28th respectively thence as ordered by you. (Capt. S.8, 1438Z/21 to Capt. S.10, (R) N.C.X.F.)

S/M
dispositions.

Propose moving submarines from Naples area to Bizerta Tunis approaches. Request approval. (Capt. S.10, 1507A/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8.) Approved. (N.C.X.F., 2235A/22.)

LADY DENISON
PENDER.

Your 1101/14th (not to S.N.O. Casablanca). Request you will sail LADY DENISON PENDER to Casablanca. F.O. in C. Casablanca is requested to arrange A/S escort for her during ?extension of cable carrying out operations, estimated duration 14 days. (N.C.X.F., 1517Z/21 to F.O.C.W.A.)

P. 42.

see p. 914

You have freedom of action within area bound 038° 46' N. 012° 40' E. and 013° 50'. (Capt. S.10, 1540A/21, 2352A/21 to P.42.)

K.M.S. 3.

My 1846/19th, para. 3. LUNENBERG, MONO. Request you sail destroyers from Mers-el-Kebir to R/V with K.M.S.3 at position (O) and escort Oran section into harbour. (N.C.X.F., 1541Z/21 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) QUIBERON, F.O.C. (10) C.S., VENOMOUS, C.C.U.S. Scouting Force 3.)

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- UTMOST,
UNA.
See p 917 With air and light surface night patrols and moonlight condition it will be prudent to withdraw to seaward for charging in order to maintain offensive. Recommend following route. UNA from 37.10, 10.35 course 012°. UTMOST from Cape Guardia 360 or from Canirock 060°. (Capt. S.10, 1541A/21 to UTMOST, UNA.)
- P. 228.
See p. 916 P.228 is to leave patrol after dark tonight 21st through 1. 038° 36' 011° 26'. 2. 038° 16' 008° 00' thence as ordered by Capt. S.8. (Capt. S.10, 1548A/21 to P.228.)
- Air A/S
Sweep. T.C.A. O.11 Wellingtons will carry out anti-submarine sweep in areas W K W A W R and W F leaving Gibraltar at 2230 tonight 21st. (N.C.X.F., 2557Z/21 to S.O. Force H, Ships escorting Convoys M.K.S.2, K.M.F.3, K.M.S.3, (R) F.O.I.S., F.O. in C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers.)
- P. 221.
See p. 911A P.221 in 038° 50' N. 003° 01' E. at 0600Z/22nd is proceeding arriving position 135° Cape Palos 10 miles at 2130Z/23rd S. of A. 130 miles a day. (Capt. S.8, 1602Z/21 to 8 S.F.)
- Trade from
N. Africa. At economic meeting last night Admiral Fenard presented list of available exports and requirements, explaining his committee at Algiers is to be the sole authority for Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco. Of immediate importance to us in export of fruit, dates and vegetables commencing December. At all times there are minerals and wine. They expect in return coal, petrol, fuel oil immediately. Payment to be requested through clearing house Algiers later. They want to use own shipping bringing supplies from Dakar and Martinique, particularly ground nuts, oil and sugar. Now hope to provide majority of escort for West Africa, Gibraltar, but there is no coal or oil at Dakar. (Cdre. Algiers, 1658Z/21 to N.C.X.F.)
- See p. 917* TURBULENT,
See p. 918 P. 35. Arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 1705A/21.)
- * TRAVELLER,
P.247.
** See p. 917* TRAVELLER R/V with sweeper 1039/23rd. Keep south of line 230° from end of marked channel, P.247 keep north of this line. (Capt. S.10, 1710A/21 to TRAVELLER, P.247, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- ACUTE. E.T.A. Bougie 0500Z/22nd, ALBACORE in company.
(ACUTE, 1725A/21 to N.O.I.C. Bougie, (R) Cdre.
Algiers, F.O.I.S.)
- Enemy Units, At 0930A/21st one medium A.M.C. and 2 medium
P. 42. merchant ships P.C. and S. 038° 21' 013° 13'
imp. 912 330° 10 unsuccessfully attacked. Counter attack
light. Palermo and vicinity considerable air and
A/S air patrol activities. Am withdrawing to vicinity of
Ustica for 24 hours. 4 torpedoes and 200 rounds of ammunition
remain.
(P.42, 1741A/21 to Capt. S.10, (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)
- ROBERTS. My 2237/18th, ready for sea in moderate weather.
(ROBERTS, 1745A/21 to S.O.I.S., (R) Admty.,
N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Bougie.)
- JUAN DE Left yesterday 10 hours Valencia, iron ore, enemy
ASTIGARRAGA destination.
(Spanish) (Cartagena, 1810/21 to Admty.)
Passing action being taken by War Registry to
F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C)
- Air R/C. Visuals afternoon 21st Nov. Messina, 3 cruisers
seen through cloud. Taranto, cloudy. Add to
my 1024A/21st Naples - no change.
(V.A. Malta, 1810A/21 to C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S.,
N.C.X.F., etc.)
- Gibraltar Your 0822/21 (Originated by War Reg.)
Sea Transport Following are repetitions of my 1413/12 and
Organisation. 1414/12.
2. Admty., D. of S.T., (R) P.S.R.X.F., V.A.
Gibraltar from N.C.X.F. My 1412/12. Sea
transport staff at Gibraltar is quite inadequate to work
required by "Torch". It is in any case unsuitable that Sir
Douglas Thompson who is chairman of N.A.S.B. should be respon-
sible to V.A. Gibraltar for the running of sea transport
services of the port. T.O.O. 1413/12. 2. V.A. Gibraltar,
P.S.T.O.X.F., (R) Admty., D. of S.T. from N.C.X.F. P.S.T.O.X.F.
is to assume responsibility for sea transport organisation at
Gibraltar from 0800 tomorrow 13th Nov. T.O.O. 1414/12.
(N.C.X.F., 1825Z/21.)
- ARETHUSA. Entered harbour.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1844B/21 to Admty., (R)
C. in C. Med.)

/LOTUS ...

21.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

LOTUS,
M.K.S. 1(Y)
M.K.S. 2.

See pp 902A & B

(916)
LOTUS unable to sail with remainder of escort group 24 in M.K.S. 1(Y) today owing to defects. If ready will be sailed with M.K.S.2 on 24th November.

(N.C.X.F., 1855Z/21 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A., A.S. Gibraltar, Cdre. F.)

French
Shipping,
N. Africa.

Interim report of policy of Allied C. in C. (N.C.X.F., 1910Z/21 to F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, (R) Cominch, A.F.H.Q.)
See Lion Copy.

Operation
"Torch",
information
for H. of C.

A statement will probably be made in House of Commons about 25th Nov., on the naval aspect of Operation "Torch".
Fullest possible particulars are required of following:- Enemy aircraft destroyed, probably destroyed and damaged by (a) ships, (b) naval aircraft.

Attacks on U-Boats, provisionally assessed as sunk, probably sunk, and damaged, by (a) ships, (b) naval aircraft and (c) R.A.F.

So that all naval losses may be included in statement, next of kin must first be informed. Details with dates of all known casualties in H.M. Ships lost are therefore most urgently required.

(D.P.D., 1st Lord Approves, 1910A/21 to N.C.X.F.)

LANCASTER,
ORMONDE.
M.K.S.2. (Algiers
section.)

See pp 910 & 916

LANCASTER being sailed to overtake. When joined detach ORMONDE with LANCASTER to Gibraltar at best speed. Route as for M.K.S.2. Codeword "Nora". F.O.I.C. Oran is requested to arrange fighter protection.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1944Z/21 to ROCHESTER, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran, LANCASTER.)

Destroyers &
Corvettes for
Greeks.

Your 1951/13th November.
(A) The efficiency and ability to work in all passages for Greek personnel is not up to the standard of British crews.

(B) Experience shows that the standard of upkeep and self refit in ships of the Royal Hellenic Navy is not so good as it is in our ships and Greek ships generally require a good deal more dockyard assistance than do ours.

(C) On the average the Greek C.Os of destroyers and small craft are senior to the British and this is liable to lead to difficulties when forces are combined.

(D) The number of escorts and minesweepers of all sorts in the Eastern Mediterranean is at present far below that required for safeguarding the important convoys now running and for the many other duties which these vessels are called upon to perform. It is therefore highly desirable that no reduction in the running time and efficiency of those now available should be accepted.

/(E) ...

SECRET

915A

SECRET

1910Z/21st November.
MESSAGE

IN.

From: N.C.X.F.

Date: 22 Nov. 42.
Recd: 0840;

Naval Cypher S (3) by W/T

Addressed: F.O. in Com. Oran, Comdrs. Algiers,
repeated Cominch, A.F.H.Q.

TACT. Following is interim report of policy
of Allied C. in C. on French Merchant Shipping in
North Africa pending final decision on long term
policy.

(1) French Merchant Shipping should be offered a
Charter under the terms and conditions already in
your possession for 1 (one) round port round
voyage from African ports to a United Nations port
and return to Africa.

(2) When in a United Nations port ships will be
defensively armed and degaussed under similar
conditions to other United Nations ships.

(3) Subsequent employment of French merchant ships
will be negotiated under an agreement between C.G.
American Force and French Authorities in North Africa.
These negotiations will be conducted by A.F.H.Q.

(4) Should French owners not be willing to negotiate
charter for one round voyage it may be necessary for
C.G. American Force to use his power under agreement
in order to clear ports as matter of military
necessity.

(5) Ships originally owned by any of the United
Nations which were seized by Vichy on the fall of
France are excluded from the above para. They
should be returned to their original flag and sailed
to Gibraltar if possible with a French or local crew
otherwise under naval crew. List of such ships was
published in M.F.W. "weekly summary of French merchant
ships" (supplied to S.O.(I)'s to S.O. Inshore
Squadron and U.S. N.L.O. London) and will be sent by
air to S.N.O. Casablanca.

(6) S.N.O. Casablanca is requested to withdraw prize
crews from French ships and allow French flag to be
rehoisted.

(7) Commodore Algiers pass to General Clark and
Flag Officer Inshore Squadron. A.F.H.Q. pass to

M.F.W.

915B

M.W.T. Flag Officer in charge Oran pass to
General Fredenall. S.N.O. Casablanca pass to
General Patton.

1910Z/21.

Advance copies Ops. O.D. Trade.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Controller
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(W)
A.C.N.S.(T)

Sec. 1
Naval Sec. 7
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
O.D.(5)
Ops.(3)
M.(2)
D. of P.(3)
O.I.C.(2)
I.P.(3)
W.D.

T/P for Dep. Con. (3))
D.N.C.(2)
D.N.O.(4)
D.A.S.(4)
S.D.G.(2)
D.(4)
M.F.
P.

Bath
(BA 3253)

Ad. Blake
D.N.I.(5)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
D. of S.T.(2)
D.E.V.D.(3)
A.F.H.Q. Norfolk Hse (3)
U.S.N.(3)
D. of P.(9)
Capt. Wharton
D.G.D.(2)
D.T.M.
D.N.O.(2)
D.N.C.
D.A.S.(L)
D.
I.M.N.G.

MES.

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - cont. / 5.

Destroyers & (E) A minor difficulty is that the Greek C. in C.
Corvettes for for political reasons does not like his ships
Greeks. being based on Alexandria and this is an
(Contd.) inconvenience so long as Alexandria remains a
main fleet base.

(F) I therefore feel that there are strong
objections to any of my British manned "Hunts" or corvettes
being turned over to Greek Navy and would very much welcome
additional ships being provided and manned by Greek crews and
this would appear to be easiest method of providing the
additional escort forces required in Eastern Mediterranean.
(C. in C. Med., 2110B/21 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy Units. Positions of ten unknown units 38.45 N. 9.20 E.
(A/C Call Sign W5U duty 'U', 2110/21 to A.H.Q.
Malta.)

One cruiser, 4 destroyers, 6 M/Vs P.C. and S. 38.37 N. 9.25 E.
180°, 10 knots.

(A/C W5UU, 2200A/21 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

(Repeats 2200A/21). A/C are to attack immediately.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2215/21 to A/C W5U duty 'X', W5U duty 'C',
W5U duty 'S'.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 38.32 N. 9.32 E., 180°, 10 knots.

(A/C W5UX, 2235/21 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

One cruiser, 4 destroyers, 4 M.T.Bs, 5 M/Vs, 38.15 N.,
9.25 E.

(A/C W5U duty 'U', 2349/21 to Malta.)

*P.228,
hit on
destroyer.

* *See p. 913*

One 7000 one 5000 ton merchant ship, two
destroyers P.C. and S. at ?(1546A)/21st 040°
30' 013° 33' 050° 14. One hit on Oriani
destroyer.

35 rounds H.E. left. Withdrawn 40 miles.

(P.228, 2114A/21 to Capt. S.10, (R) N.C.X.F.,
Capt. S.8, STURGEON, TRIBUNE.)

M.W. 13.

Total unloaded to 1700/21st is 8255 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 2216A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Algiers,
Situation
Report 11.

(A) 15 berth completing discharge.

(B) Air raid 2000 to 2200, no damage reported
harbour or Bay at 2300 - smoke most effective.

(C) Suspected minelaying by aircraft.

(D) No change.

(E) No change. (F) Convoy M.K.S.2 of 21 ships including
ORMONDE sailed 1730. LANCASTER detailed to overtake and
detach ORMONDE. *See p. 915.*

(G) 4 M.T. ships did not sail in escort of Convoy M.K.S.2,
discharge delayed by weather and air raid. DEWDALE side
plating damaged requires temporary repair here, otherwise
seaworthy. *See p. 901.*

(Cdre. Algiers, 2300/21 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.O.I.S.)

/Malta ...

917

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta Air
Report.A.I.119, 21st November. C.S.R.
Night 20th/21st Nov.

Intruder patrols were continued over Sicilian Aerodrome to prevent enemy bombers from taking off and thus to protect unloading of our convoy. No raiders approached Malta during the night and 1 Beaufighter and 2 Hurricanes on intruder patrols in Catania and Castel Coetrano areas saw no enemy aircraft.

Day 21st Nov.

Today 20 Spitfires have been airborne on interception and 60 Spitfires have made protective patrols over the convoy unloading in harbour and covering patrols over friendly shipping proceeding East. No raiders have crossed the coast and no attacks made on our shipping. At 1429 hours 6 enemy fighters approached Malta at great height but were forced to turn back when well North of Island. In addition 8 Spitfires carried out an offensive sweep South of Pantellaria to cover Beaufort strike but no enemy aircraft or shipping was sighted.

Night 20th/21st Nov.

At 2010 hours 1 T/V? 1500 tons was found 220° Marittimo 14 miles course 220° speed 8 knots. Albacore attacked with torpedo duplex contact only, depth setting 9 feet, dropped from 50 feet, range 300 yards, which ran well but no results were seen. Wellingtons made 8 successful bombing sorties to attack Bizerta Aerodrome.

Day 21st Nov.

3 Beaufighters on armed R/C patrol against Axis transport aircraft and shipping off East Coast of Tunisia destroyed 1 He. 115 290° Lino - 25 miles and attacked and damaged 1 flak ship 060° Kurist Tunisia 30 miles course 180° speed 8 knots. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2301/21.)

Enemy
Convoy,
Orders
to S/Ms.

Convoy report consider correct interpretation five destroyers six merchant ships course 165° speed (? 4). Probably split and enter both ports. Object merchant ships. A/C will drop flares hourly. UNA intercept south of line Plane Island - Zembra Is., P.247 north.
(Capt. S.10, 2320A/21 to *UTMOST, *UNA, *P.247.)

STURGEON.

My 2132/17th, patrol in Sector A.
(Capt. S.10, 2331A/21 to STURGEON, (R) TRIBUNE,
Capt. S.8.)

TURBULENT.

See p. 913

Intend sailing TURBULENT p.m. 22nd for Beirut routed via Sirte, El Agheila. Date of departure and route desired by C.O.
(Capt. S.10, 2336A/21 to Capt. S.1, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)

/ S/M ...

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.S/M
Reports.

(1) P.45 reports marking duties off Algiers successfully concluded. At 0020A/10 in position 37° 23' 07° 09' sighted westbound U-Boat.. At 0754A/14 in position 37° 25' 10° 11' fired salvo at escorted 3500 ton merchant vessel bound Bizerta, missed. At 1831A/14 in position 37° 26' 10° 12' fired one torpedo at northbound M/V escorted 3 destroyers missed. At 1939A/15 in position 37° 30' 10° 25' fired one torpedo at northbound escorted M/V, missed.

(2) PARTHIAN reports at 1614/13 north of Marittimo fired 4 torpedoes at 4000 ton laden south-westbound M/V with surface and air escort, one hit, enemy sank. At 1045/16 N.W. of Marittimo fired 4 torpedoes at southbound 10,000 ton A/V (?M/V) unescorted 15 knots, one probable hit, reduce speed and vessel altered to Trapani. Shadowing of liner on night 18th/19th on leaving Palermo foiled by rain squall and enemy's speed. PARTHIAN now docked duration about ten days.

See p. 913 (3) TURBULENT reports off Cavo 6 northbound ships passed. At 1627/11 fired two torpedoes at escorted German southbound camouflaged 15 knot 4000 ton M/V in position 39° 10' 09° 39', one observed hit enemy who had three or more guns sank in ten minutes. At 2210/12 saw smoke screen of battle fleet which passed ahead in poor visibility. At 2352/15 in position 50 miles south-west of Capri after four hours chase fired 4 torpedoes at southbound escorted tanker, missed.

(4) P.37 reports at 1400/14 fired 3 torpedoes at 2000 westbound fleet auxiliary missed. At 0705/17 fired 4 torpedoes at 10,000 ton eastbound transport off Cape St. Vito range 1500 yards, zigzag caused torpedoes to miss. At 1245/18, 12 miles north of St. Vito fired last torpedo at ship in escorted southbound convoy of 3 ships, missed.

See p. 913 (5) P.35 reports at 1619/12 in position 38° 39' 15° 45' fired salvo at second of 3 battleships in line ahead range 4000, missed, consider speed over estimated. At 0130/15 Commando returned from railway raid frustrated by wire and sentries. At 1317/17 fired two torpedoes at eastbound two funnel 6000 ton passenger in position 38° 21' 15° 28' one hit, sank, depth charge attack by T.B. ineffective.

(6) P.48 reports making operation in Algiers Bay successful at 1050/13 fired 3 torpedoes at 7000 ton escorted M/V leaving Bizerta, missed. At 0930/14 fired 3 torpedoes at 3000 ton escorted merchant vessel entering Bizerta, enemy combed tracks.

(7) P.43 reports at 1710/5 south of Stromboli fired 4 torpedoes at westbound U-Boat, missed. At 1550/10 Nov. same position sighted westbound U-Boat. At 2250/16 fired 4 torpedoes at medium sized southbound tanker range 800, one hit, vessel possibly beached Marittimo.

(S.10, 2351A/21 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

21.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Cables, My 1101Z/13/6 and your 1004Z/4/7. Combined
Madagascar signal board, East Africa, are agreed that L/T
communications to Madagascar are urgently required
in order to meet large increase of traffic
consequent upon occupation of Madagascar.

2. The Durban-Zanzibar cable was at one time looped into Mozambique and it is considered that this loop could be picked up and taken into Majunga.
3. Extra cable required would be of the nature of 250 miles.
4. Diversion of cable would also greatly increase the speed on the cable by working repeaters at Majunga.
5. Traffic between Kilindini and south America is increasing considerably and L/T delays on Fil traffic are considerable.
6. It is recommended therefore that the Durban Zanzibar cable should be diverted into Majunga and a cable office be constructed at Majunga.

(C. in C. E.F., 0826Z/21 to Admty).

WEST POINT.

See p. 905A

D. of S.T. 0427/12th Nov. (0427/11 intended re sailing of WEST POINT) E.T.A. WEST POINT at Bombay is now 29th Nov. Alexandria C.C.O. pass to P.S.T.O. Egypt.
(C. in C. E.F., 0842Z/21 to P.S.T.O.E. etc).

FREESIA,
RESOURCE.

FREESIA is being sailed as escort to RESOURCE to Durban arriving 2nd Dec. Intend she should remain in Durban area for present as a further reinforcement to your A/S forces.
(C. in C. E.F., 0914Z/21 to C. in C. S.A.)

Zig-Zag
Area.

Fully concur in C. in C. S.A's proposal of 1256C/20th Nov.
(Amendments to C.A.M.S.I. No. 156 Sec. 1(C))
(C. in C. E.F., 1329Z/21).

Liberators
employment.

Air Ministry have been asked in A.H.Q. India's 0408Z/9 to inform Admiralty of the proposals there in which concern the employment of Liberators being sent to India and Ceylon.

(2) A.H.Q. India propose that after sending four GR trained Liberators and crews to Ceylon remainder should train in Bengal and be manned by crews who need not be GR trained and that they should be used to build up 159 HB Squadron.
(3) It was understood that Adml. Somerville intended to discuss this question when in Delhi.
(C. in C. E.F., 1402Z/21 to Admty).

920

21.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

O.N.145
attacked.
EMPIRE
SAILOR
sunk.

See p. 923

Convoy attacked, 2 ships hit, 043.53, 055° (?02')
(C.T.U. 24.18.2, 0517Z/21, to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav
etc).

My 0317. EMPIRE SAILOR afloat, TIMMINS
standing by, request tug.

(C.T.U. 24.18.2.0518Z/21 to C.O.A.C.).

In view of attack and Connav's 0236/21st
propose to alter at day to (convoy route?)
North of Sable Island.

(C. T.U.24.18.2. 0546Z/21 to C.O.A.C.).

Your 0546/21st approved. Alter course to pass through
new position W. 044.20 N, 058. 30 W. X 044.20 N. 060.42 W,
thence to position B.

(C.O.A.C. 1240Z/21 to C. T.U.24.18.2.).

Position 043° (?55') N. 055° 12' W. Standing by EMPIRE
SAILOR torpedoed in number 4 hold. Survivors picked up.
investigated possibilities of salvage in daylight hours,
prospect good.

(TIMMINS, 0638Z/21 to C.O.A.C.(R) Admty).

Your 0638/21st Tug being sailed from Sydney (C.B) standing
by EMPIRE SAILOR.

(C.O.A.C. 1203Z/21 to TIMMINS).

EMPIRE SAILOR sank 1320Z/21st. 15 survivors rescued
remains on MINAS, one died of gas, 4 more suffering badly
from cyanide gas. Intend proceeding Halifax E.T.A. 1800Z/22.

(TIMMINS 1350Z/21 to C.O.A.C.).

→ 3 Ships
torpedoed.

My 0317/21st. 3 ships were torpedoed. BRITISH
PROMISE remained with convoy until Halifax.
BRITISH RENOWN ordered proceed direct Halifax
passing 20 miles North of Sable Island as her

maximum speed 7.75 knots, her position at 1315 043.45 N. 056.
45 W. P.C. and S. of convoy 043.43 N. 057. 22 W. 308° 9 knots.
Weather report.

(C.T.U. 24.18.2. 1430Z/21 to C.O.A.C.).

Your 1430/21st. My 1739/21st (N.T. in W.D.). Cancel
para.2. Intend to sail PENNEL at 2100Z/21st to meet BRITISH
RENOWN and escort her to Halifax.

(C.O.A.C. 1923Z/21st to C.T.U. 24.18.2.).

→ Connav Serial 21. EMPIRE SAILOR torpedoed sunk last
night 43.24 N. 55.12 W, Convoy O.N.145.

(Connav 2008/21 to Connaveu C.C.S.F. etc).

U /B.
Positions.

C.E.S.F's 1930/20th. Nov. Informs as follows
S/M estimate 0800/21st Nov.
(Connaveu 0844/21st to Admty).

O.N.S.
144,
(Ships sunk.)

Connav's 2100/20th. Nov, informs as follows:-
Connav Serial 20. Substitute PARISMINA and
WILDESTONE, both believed sunk, for MOSCHA D.
KYDONIEFS and VAN DE VELDE, both now reported
undamaged, serial 19.
(Connaveu 0947/21 to Admty).

/U.S.....

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21.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U.S. Movements. Arrival 20th Nov. U.S. Army Transport, STATE OF VIRGINIA and ENGLEMAN.
(Aruba W.I. 0954QP/21, 1102QR/23 to Admty).

Duties of B.R.L.Os. Your 0634/20. (W.R. signal requesting repetition of 1049/11 quoted in 1059/11). Following is a repetition of my 1049/11 (begins).
Addressed A.I.G. 130, A.I.G. 131, S.O.(I) Montevideo, B.R.L.O. Trinidad (R) A.I.G. 129. From S.B.N.O.W.A.: - Cancel my 2342/27 Oct. Following is gist of A.M. 1854/9 Nov. The duties of B.R.L.Os. are:-
1. To act as liaison between U.S.R.Os, and British interests, furnishing Admiralty as required with information as to local movements of British controlled ships and to have direct contact with British Master.
2. To maintain their records as hitherto and to supply U.S.R.Os. with up to date information not received from U.S. sources.
3. If dissatisfied with instructions issued to a British managed ship first to confer with the U.S.R.Os and if still dissatisfied to accept the U.S. ruling but to signal a brief report prefixed "important" to Admiralty, repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic and B.A.D. Washington.
4. To assist as they are able S.O.(I)s and Consular Officers in connection with Naval Intelligence duties. T. of O. 1049/11. (Ends).
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1208Q/21 to Admty).

Fuelling Escorts at Sea. Your 1525/12, not to B.A.D. or C. in C.W. A.: - C.T. F. 0345/12 para. A. concur. This will be done on all occasions when suitable tanker is included.

Para. B. We have now available for North Atlantic convoys five tankers fitted complete buoyant hose equipment for fuelling over stern. Four more are being converted and it is intended to fit others as available. Canvas hose has been found to be unsuitable since after first occasion of use new hose become porous. Rate of fuelling by 5 inch hose is ample but by 2½ inch hose it is too slow. It is proposed as an interim measure to provide sufficient tankers to cover all North Atlantic convoys with complete set of rubber hose is insufficient production in U.K. to meet these requirements. A supply of gear and instructions will be sent to Deputy Director, Naval Stores, New York.
Para. C. British Escorts and tankers will be supplied with C.B. 4080(R) 42 Oiling at Sea Instructions. U.S. Escort vessels have on several occasions been fuelled by 5 inch buoyant hose. No difficulties reports. It is suggested that this method should be regarded as the standard method of fuelling convoy escorts and that the alongside trough method should be fitted in tankers as subsidiary. Separate arrangements for east and westbound convoys do not seem necessary.
(D.T.D. A.C.N.S.(T) for approval and 4th S.L. 1319A/21 to Connav (R) C. T.F. 24, B.A.D., C. in C.W.A.).

/Refuelling...

War Diary.

21.11.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Refuelling
U-Boats.

My 1535/15th. Refuelling U-Boat estimated in 015.30 N. 029° W. at 2126Z/20th Nov. Has transmitted every other day on 10820 K/Cs, between 1900Z and 0100Z. (B.A.D. 1339Z/21 to R.A.W.Af(R) K.14, Cominch Admty).

TENACITY,
BRILLIANT.

My 2024Z/18/11. TENACITY returned St. Johns 1820Z/20 from search for SS. BRILLIANT. BRILLIANT, anchored Bona Vista Bay Newfoundland, being escorted St. Johns 21st Nov. (F.O.N.F. 1532Z/21 to Admiralty for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.).

U/B.

H.D.C. report S/M in 048.17 N. 064. 33 W. heading East at 1445Z/21st. (C.O.A.C. 1534Z/21 to G.B.7.A.G.).

→ A. T.29.

Sail ^{S.S.} QUEEN ELIZABETH designated A.T.29 about 24th Nov. to R/V in 056.18 N. 009.01 W. time 0800Z/29th route.
(j) 038.45 071. 30.
(k) 040.05 058. 30.
(l) 041.30 045. 30.
(m) 050.50 035. 40.
(n) 057.10 023. 25.
(o) 056.15. 008. 10.

Chop 0900Z/27th Nov. Fighter protection codeword "Mutual" Com.3 pass to Port Director. (Connav, 1541/21, to Port Director New York, Com.3. (R) Admty).

U.S.
Movements.

Arrivals U.S.S. ARIEL, U.S.S. EDWARDS. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1602Q/21 to S.B.N.O.W.A.).

MARIPOSA.

Your 1049/20 to SS. MARIPOSA. Voyage of this ship to Suez has been cancelled. (B.A.D. 1631Z/21 to C. in C.E.F.).

U/B
(N. Atlantic).

C.T.G. 26.7 reports S/M sighted 33.36 N, 10.05 W. at 0937/21. (Cominch 1635/21 to Admty).
C.T. G.26.7 reports S/M sighted 5 miles 300° true from Rabat at 1555A/21. (Cominch 1846/21 to Admty).

→ A.T.29.
A.T.32.

Modify my 2155 /2. Following is present schedule of fast transports all sailings to U.K.
A.T.29. QUEEN ELIZABETH from New York 24th Nov.
A.T.30. QUEEN MARY from New York 4th Dec.

A.T.31, QUEEN ELIZABETH from Halifax 11th Dec. A.T.32. QUEEN ELIZABETH, from New York 4th Jan.
B.A.D. Washington and Canadian Joint Staff Washington informed. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1932/21 to C.E.S.F.(R) Cinclant C. T.24 etc).
/Sub.....

923

War Diary.21.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.Para. 5A. *EMPIRE SAILOR torpedoed sunk and
unidentified attacked 45.57 N. 55.12 W.
21st November. FIREDRAKE sights S/M on
surface 49.08 N. 45.33 W. 9. 1519Z/20.
(Cominch 1950/21 to Admty).

* See p. 920

T.A.G.
Convoys
Routeing.It is observed that of six recent T.A.G.
Convoys, four were routed North of Curacao
and two south of Curacao but close past
Aruba.2. Can you obtain following information regarding
tankers loading at Curacao and Aruba:-(a) What is present procedure for joining vessels on to and
breaking off from T.A.G. and G.A.T. convoys?(b) Are such vessels escorted to and from main convoys as
they pass either north or south of the islands?(c) What factors govern the northerly or southerly routeing
of these convoys and which is preferable for the breaking off
and joining on of vessels?(d) As compared with Curacao, what extra loading time is gained
by a vessel, breaking off direct to and joining direct from
Aruba?3. Request reply be sent by air mail.
(D.T.D. 1957A/21 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1832Q/23).U/B
Positions.S/M estimate 21st Nov. and U.S.S/M Notice.
(Cominch 2045Z/21).ANADYR,
French.Extract from Fairmiss telegram. ?arrived.
(Port of Spain, 2103/21 to M.W.T.).U/B.
Positions.C.E.S.F. 1852/21st. 0800Q/22 S/M estimate.
(Comnaveu 2241/21 to Admty).U.S.
Movements.21st Nov. U.S.'s RANGER, CLEVELAND, SANTEE,
SUWANEE, ELLYSON, FITCH, EMMONS, and (R DMAIN)*
arrived Bermuda.

(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2243Z/21 to Admty etc).

*as received

21.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 303 Nov. 20.
Photos Buin Shortlands area on 20th show 10 vessels including 3 destroyers 2 possible destroyers, 1 minelayer, 1 patrol craft 1 tanker 1 destroyer beached partially sunk, 1 transport beached burning also at least 44 aircraft mostly fighters, considerable activity on aerodrome, additional dispersal areas under construction.

(2) 2 8,000 ton merchant ships 6 small merchant vessels reported Bula Passage morning 20.

(3) Fortress R/C Rabaul afternoon same day from 5,000 reported total 48 vessels including one probable heavy cruiser 1 destroyer 1 submarine, 5 merchant ships 40 unidentified vessels in harbour 15 fighters airborne but no interception. Aircraft attacked by 7 Zeros while returning over Bula area 1 destroyed 2 others probably.

(4) 5 Catalinas dropped bombs dispersal area and runway Kavieng Aerodrome night 18/19 causing fires destroying at least 1 aircraft, visibility poor. 1 Catalina bombed same area night 19/20 starting fire destroying 1 aircraft. Approx. 12 ships reported sighted east of Kavieng.

(5) Australians advancing on Sananda Rand, Gono following capture Soputa while American troops in contact with enemy around Buna. Later attacked by 7 Zeros ex (corrupt groups) 20th. Air operations again hampered by bad weather conditions.

(6) Large merchant vessel departed Dilli to eastward afternoon 20th enemy bombers arrive same morning from West. Further enemy troops reported en route Baucau.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0244Z/21 to Admty etc).

Movements. Departure Vila 19 Nov. U.S.S. ELLET escorting PERIDA and BOSCHFONTEIN. Departure Espiritu Santo 21st Nov. LEANDER and U.S.S. WOODWORTH. E.T.A. Auckland 25th Nov.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 0325Z/21 to Admty).

CHEVREUIL Following from British Consul Papeete (begins). CHEVREUIL sailed 1500/20th for Bora Bora with High Commr. D⁸Argenlieu who will embark there for U.S.A. CHEVREUIL request repetition of this message to F.N.F.L. through Admty. 0115Z/21 (Ends).
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2119M/21 to Admty).

MONOWAI

Your 1704/7th Oct. ^{p.200} re conversion of MONOWAI. Admty. concurs in paras 2 and 3.
(M.Branch 2347A/21 to N.Z.N.B. (R) B.A.M.R.)

MOST SECRET.

925

21.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions at 1200Z/21.
(D.D.I.C., 1425A/21, 1450A/21).

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

C. in C.U.S. Fleet reports that SS BUCHANAN (New York to Liverpool independently) was torpedoed by a U-Boat and sunk in 52° N. 26° W at 2120Z/12.

Attacks by our aircraft during the past week have resulted in the torpedoing of a 4,000 ton ship off Norway and 6,500 and 1,500 ton ships and an escort vessel off the Texel, and damage to 3 minesweepers off Zeebrugge.

Bomber Command aircraft laid 83 mines last night off Biscay ports.

76 U.S. heavy bombers were despatched today to attack the docks at Lorient, but owing to cloud only 11 attacked.

North Atlantic.

S.O. Force H arrived at Gibraltar this evening in NELSON, with RODNEY, FURIOUS, FORMIDABLE and 12 destroyers.

South Atlantic.

SS. ALCOA PATHFINDER was sunk at 0200 today by a submarine, off Oro Point, 50 miles south of Inhaka.

Mediterranean.

The attack on Tripoli was repeated last night by 8 Liberators. No shipping was seen in the harbour on account of effective smoke screen and

/the.....

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War Diary.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - *cont'd.*

the aircraft bombed the dock area. Bisleys attacked Bizerta last night.

At 2100 today a Wellington torpedoed a 1,500 ton merchant ship leading two 5,000 ton merchant ships steering West in 85° Cape Carbonara 88 miles. The ship was afterwards sunk by a submarine (?UTMOST) by gunfire.

America & West Indies.

The U.S.Navy Dept. are again being pressed for the return of B.5 escort group, as the Admiralty wish to form two reinforcing groups for the north Atlantic convoys, working from the U.K. or Iceland; they can just manage to get together one group from ships returning from Operation "Torch" which are not required for the follow up convoys. On 26th Nov. B.A.D. Washington notified the Admiralty that the C. in C.U.S.Fleet had issued orders for the release of B.5 group.

SS.AEGEUS which sailed from Trinidad on 9th Oct. for Saldanha Bay and Durban is overdue and is considered to be probably a U-Boat casualty.

SS.APALOIDE was torpedoed and presumed sunk at 2220Z today in 15° 11' N. 54° 39' W.

Australia.

Two destroyers or a light cruiser and a destroyer were sighted in 6° 45' S. 149° E. steering 260° at 0515 today and were shadowed and attacked in the evening by strong forces of Fortresses and B.25s. The larger vessel was hit. One Fortress was shot down by the Ships' A/A fire.

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- LAUDERDALE. Arrived Clyde LAUDERDALE with C. in C. W.A. on board.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0806A/22 to Cdre. Londonderry)
- P.224 N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1706A/21. Regret no escort vessel is available from 3rd or 7th Flotillas. Request one may be provided as asked for by N.O.I.C. Liverpool.
(Capt. S.3., 0931A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
- JAMAICA My 2240/21. Proceed to Barrow passing Hoxa Gate at 0700A/23.
See p.931 2. Adjust speed to arrive Lightning Knoll buoy at 1130/24.
(C. in C. H.F., 1043A/22 to JAMAICA).
- BARB, HERRING, SHAD. Escort will meet BARB 1000/23, HERRING 1400/23 at (H) and may be accompanied by one or more S/MS.
See p.929A (Capt. S.3., 1115A/22 to BARB, HERRING). Intend sailing LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting SHAD at 1100/23 to R/V with BARB in the vicinity of D one buoy, thence R/V with HERRING at 1400/23 180° Lizard Head 10 miles, thence by standard route to Clyde, E.T.A. 2100/24.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1214A/22). Intend sailing Minesweeping trawlers BILSDEAN and ARMANA at 0700/23 to R/V with BARB in 180° Lizard Head 10 miles. After contact escort BARB to D 1 buoy to R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE and SHAD.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1224A/22 to C. in C. Plymouth).
- GUNNEL, BLACKFISH. → Cancel my 1525/19. Orders for LAUDERDALE as follows:-
See p.929A 1. R/V with GUNNEL at 1400A/25 in 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles and escort to Falmouth.
2. Sail with GUNNEL to R/V with BLACKFISH at 1000A/26 in 180° Lizard Head 10 miles.
3. Escort GUNNEL, BLACKFISH to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1122A/22 to Cdre. Londonderry).
- FURIOUS. A.M. 1235/21. Operational Area add FURIOUS.
(D.O.D. (H), 1228Z/22 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).
- W.A. Command. Situation at 2001A/22. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1357A/22) See Lion Copy.
- OTWAY, TORBAY. BREDA 1230/22. No escort available. Suggest BREDA escorts OTWAY and TORBAY to Barrow, then takes TORBAY to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1517A/22 to Capt. S.7.) Your 1230/22. and C. in C. W.A., 1517/22. Proceed with OTWAY and TORBAY to Barrow-in-Furness, thence with TORBAY to Clyde.
(Capt. S.7., 1725A/22 to BREDA).

928A M

MOST SECRET

1357A/22/Nov.

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

SITUATION AT 2001A/22nd November, 1942

Section N.E.

LAFOREY		55 26 06 06	To Scapa	20
0.14 SOKUL	PRESTON NORTH END	58 34 05 49	Through Minches to Clyde	9
MAZURKA 3 Trawlers		57 46 06 24	To Aultbea	10
2 M/V's	AYRSHIRE	58 44 03 54	To Loch Ewe	7½

SITUATION AT 2001A/22nd November, 1942.

Section S.E.

OTWAY		53 23 04 50	To Barrow	7
TORBAY	BREDA	53 23 04 50	To Clyde	12
FLEET UNIT	OPPORTUNE BULLDOG BEAGLE WESTCOTT MALCOLM GLAISDALE ORIBI MATCHLESS	55 05 11 54 to	55 25 08 thence Clyde	16½

OPPORTUNE detaching to Scapa

LAFOREY		55 26 06 06	To Scapa	20
2 M/V's towed by 4 tugs		54 42 05 13	To Clyde	7
LYME REGIS ARDROSSAN LLANDUDNO WORTHING PETUNIA WOODRUFF		53 51 04 52	To Clyde	13½

HESPERUS 53 53 04 55 To Londonderry 11

LULWORTH 55 19 08 56 To Merville 10

M.K.F.2. PELICAN 55 27 06 34 To Liverpool 13
SEMMEN

PELICAN breaking off with 12 ships for Clyde

O.N.S.(M) 148 GOODWIN 52 01 05 26 To Belfast 7¾
2 Trawlers

CONVOY Unescorted 52 02 05 25 Northbound 7½

2 M/V's ALBERNI 53 49 04 25 To Clyde 9

M.K.S. 1(X) LONDONDERRY 55 13 09 20 to 55 25 08 35 thence 10
(E) 2 Sloops
3 Corvettes

2 M/V's....

928B

2 M/V's Escorted 56 00 07 17 To Clyde 10

SITUATION AT 2001A/22nd November, 1942

Section N.W.

S.C.109(E) SKENNA 58 02 33 28 to 58 01 19 59 6
C.T.U. WENTASKIWIN
24.1.13. GALT
AGASSIZ
SACKVILLE
U.S.S.LEARY

H.X.215 HURRICANE 58 43 19 15 to 57 01 14 57 thence
C.T.U. WATCHMAN 56 35 08 29 9 1/2
24.1.15 DAHLIA
MONKSHOOD
WALLEFLOWER

SITUATION AT 2001A/22nd November, 1942

Section S.W.

FLEET UNIT OPPORTUNE 55 05 11 54 to 55 25 08 28 16 1/2
BULLDOG thence Clyde
BEAGLE
WESTCOTT
MALCOLM
GLAISDALE
ORIBI
MATCHLESS

OPPORTUNE detaching to Scapa

TRUANT 40 57 17 47 to 44 20 15 50 10

ADVENTURE 41 26 14 19 to 40 02 13 58 18

SNOWDROP Searching in
1 tug vicinity
53 54 12 06

O.N.S.146 HARVESTER 48 43 31 02 to 43 30 37 00 7
C.T.U. GARLAND
24.1.17 ORCHIS
LOBELIA
NARCISSUS
ACONIT
ROSELYS
7 Trawlers

O.N.147 RESTIGOUCHE 53 34 30 31 to 48 30 37 02 9
C.T.U. ST FRANCIS
24.1.14. ARVIDA
AMHERST
CECILIANDINE
DAUPHIN
SHERBROOKE

1357A/22.

V.C.N.S. U.S.N.
A.C.N.S.(H) D.A/S.W. D.D.O.D.(M)
A.C.N.S.(F) (2) Hd. of M. Ad. Blake
A.C.N.S.(T) D.D.Z.C.(2) Ad. Ramsey (4)
N.A.1st S.L. I.P.(2) U.S.N. (3)
Capt Pim W.D.
D.O.D.(H) (2) D.T.D.(M)
D.O.D.(F) (2) D.T.D.(3)
E.M. D.C.(2) D.T.D.(C)

22.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- O.15 Rosyth arrival O.15 escorted by M.L.345.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1540A/22).
- M.F.V.2013 A.M. 2154/20. Intend to sail M.F.V. 2013 and 2017
M.F.V.2017. on 26th November for Scilly Isles, thence
Gibraltar routed through.
(A) 180° Bishop's 5 (B) 049° 10' N., 012° 40' W.
(C) 043° 01' N., 012° 30' W. Request onward
route from C to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1633A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
- DUKE OF YORK. My 1411/19 and R.A.(D) H.F., 1552/20 and 1853/19.
MATCHLESS, LIMBOURNE, and OPPORTUNE are to
proceed to Clyde.
(2) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail
DUKE OF YORK escorted by these destroyers for
Scapa as convenient on 25th November.
(C. in C. H.F., 1648A/22).
- TRUANT. A. Estimated you will cross 043° N., in 016° 35'
See next page
4 p. 938^A
W., at 0900A/23. From there proceed diving by
day direct to new position
E. 045° 01' 013° 50'. F. 049° 20' 013° 50' to
arrive G. 180° Bishop Rock 10 at 0800/28 whence
you will be escorted Clyde.
(F.O.S., 1721A/22 to TRUANT).
- S/M At 0800/23. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S., 1844A/22) See Lion Copy.
- ORIBI. Intend to sail ORIBI for Scapa at 1630A/23.
E.T.A. 1200A/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2034A/22).
- Operations. */522 intended.*
- Patrols. Intend R.M.Ls. 322 (S.O.) and 497 to patrol
tonight between following positions:-
(A) 50° 20' N., 2° 30' W.
(B) 50° 13' N., 2° 50' W.
2. Leave Weymouth at 1900 by Q.Z.S. 382, and
leave patrol-line at dawn. Code word "Device".
E-boat patrol to cover convoys.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1140A/22 and 1315A/22).
M.T.M.W.D. My 0930/22. Patrols cancelled.
(C. in C. Nore, 1458A/22).

MOST SECRET

929A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1844A/22nd November.

IN

FROM: F.O.(S)

DATE: 22.11.42.

RECD: 1913

P/L BY SECRET T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

119.

Positions of submarines at 0800 23rd November and movements in following 24 hours.

Paras. A, B, C, D of my 1601 20th November unchanged.

(E) GUNNEL 49 degs. 30 mins. 12 degs. 17 mins. diving by day towards 50 degs. 01 mins. 08 degs. 01 mins. speed 85 miles a day.

See p. 928
(F) HERRING 49 degs. 45 mins. 06 degs. 40 mins. on surface to rendezvous 180 degs. Lizard 10 miles at 1400A 23rd November with escort.

(G) BARB 49 degs. 50 mins. 05 degs. 50 mins. on surface to rendezvous 180 degs. Lizard 10 at 1000A 23rd with escort.

(H) GRAH 48 degs. 10 mins. 12 degs. 10 mins. diving by day course 180 degs.

(J) SEALLON in Zone K 501.

(K) DOLFIJN in Zone K 505

(L) BLACKFISH 46 degs. 58 mins. 13 degs. 15 mins. diving by day to 49 degs. 02 mins. 13 degs. 21 mins. thence through 49 degs. 12 mins. 12 degs. 55 mins. *See p. 928*

(M) O.14 and SOKOL 56 degs. 40 mins, 07 degs. 00 mins. escorted by Z.5 to Clyde 9 knots.

(N) TRUANT 42 degs. 55 mins. 16 degs. 45 mins. diving by day towards 45 degs. 01 mins. 13 degs. 50 mins. *See previous page.*

1844A/22

p. 938A

A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.C.D.(H)(2)
D.C.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)

MFG

Advance copies D.C. D.O.D.(H) D.D.I.C.

War Diary.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations con/j:-

Patrols. (4) 2 M.T.Bs. and 1 M.G.B. patrolling S.E. of
Contd. E.A. 5 buoy.
(5) 2 M.G.Bs. patrolling between St. Catherines
and St. Albans Head.
(6) 2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A. 5 buoy.
(7) 2 R.M.Ls. patrolling S.W. of Portland Bill.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1703A/22).
Keep to Eastern end of patrol. A/C are searching enemy
convoy route. If suitable target is found information will be
passed to you by C. in C. and your unit is then to proceed
through Q.Z.X. 771, through 147° Beachy Head 21 miles and 143°
Beachy Head 29 miles to attack and sink the enemy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1948A/22 to M.G.B.611. (R) M.T.Bs.
84 and 86).

Allied Air Activity.

U.S. Bomber Your attacks against the U-boat operational
Commands. ports are greatly appreciated and are a valuable
complement to the offensive being carried out
by Coastal Command in the Bay.
(1st S.L., 0001A/22 to 8th U.S. Bomber Command).

Catalinas H.Q.C.C., 1150A/22 See North Atlantic.
for
Gibraltar.

Enemy Air Activity.

West of 1 Focke Wulfe sighted.
Ireland. * (SNOWDROP 1013/22). * See next page
Enemy aircraft was Ju.88. Disappeared to Westwards
of 52° 50' N., 12° 11' W.
(SNOWDROP, 1018/22 to 15 Group).

Mining.

Explosion. EGLINTON reports that heavy explosion accompanied
by flame on surface was observed at 1945/20
bearing 321° estimated distance about 10 miles
from 54 D Buoy. Position of EGLINTON at time
54 D Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 1037A/22).

Enemy Intelligence.

SVEVE. See Casualties. p. 932

War Diary.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

Barge with A/C. One barge with aircraft in 053° 41' N., 012° 25' W.
* (SNOWDROP, 0105Z/22 to SAMSONIA). * *See previous page*
Following received from aircraft. Search area 33 HY 2327.
(Plymouth, W/T, 0850/22 to Admty).
My 0444/22. A/C will home you from 1415 to SNOWDROP standing by raft. Position now reported to be 053° 54' N., 012° 06' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 1323A/22 to SAMSONIA).
Your 0105/22. Are you towing Barge. Report P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A., 1405A/22 to SNOWDROP).

Lifeboat from BUCHANAN. One empty lifeboat in tow broke adrift and has been abandoned in 054° 32' N., 010° 36' W.
(CLARE, 0351A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
Arrived CLARE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1510A/22).

Landing Craft from Operation "Torch". A.M. 1556/16. ~~BATORY~~ Craft returned
ØLCP (R) 548, 752, 753, 771, 778, 835, 845, 904.
LCP ~~X~~(L) 137. LCM (3) 566. All Operationally Fit.
Craft Not returned LCP(L) 138. Total Loss.
LCP(R) 550, 901, 902, Whereabouts Uncertain.
Following ships returned with no Craft,
WINCHESTER CASTLE, SOBIESKI, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, MACHARDA. My 1857A/19. Add Craft left behind, LCM (3) 639, state unknown.
(S.O.A.S.C., 1010A/22 to Admty).
My 1010/22. Add MACHARDA all craft last seen on beach stranded in sinking condition. Believed total loss.
(S.O.A.S.C., 1055A/22 to Admty).

* LAUREL BANK sunk. My 2337 A/21. CHERBOURGEOIS III returned 0745/22. Vessel in distress was salvage trawler LAUREL BANK which sank at 0215/22. Crew landed.
** Not identified* (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1031A/22 and 1301A/22).

JAMAICA. *See p. 928* Your 2240/21. JAMAICA can be taken in hand by Messrs. Vickers of Barrow for the renewal of thirty generator tubes.
2. Arctic fitting and watertight subdivision work will be progressed concurrently.
3. N.O.I.C. Barrow is requested to sail the ship for Scapa on completion of the renewal of the generator tubes or not later than 7th December.
(D.O.D. (H), 1152A/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

BIARRITZ, RUISSEAU. Torpedo target vessel SS. BIARRITZ caused slight damage to waterboat RUISSEAU and lock gate rails whilst entering Methil Docks at 1317 on 21/11/42. Damage to BIARRITZ consists of starboard boat skid slightly damaged.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1542/22 to Admty).

/CLAN...

War Diary.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

CLAN
MACTAGGART,
(sunk 16/11)
survivors.

E.T.A. Londonderry. Details of Survivors.
(LULWORTH, 1610A/22).

ARGUS,
TITANIA.

Admty. 1646/19. Estimate to complete permanent repairs not less than 3 weeks would be required. To effect sufficient repairs and carry out vital defects, it will be necessary to retain ship at Elderslie as long as possible. Intend to work to complete by 2359/6th December, so as to sail for Tail o' the Bank by 1200/7th December or at latest by 1200/8th December. It will be necessary to postpone refit TITANIA until completion of ARGUS.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1809/22 to Admty).

SVEVE

Empty float marked "SVEVE, BERGEN" was seen in 046° 35' N., 017° 10' W., at 1200/21.
(R.A.A. H.F., 1820A/22 to Admty).

HORNPIPE.

Returning Granton. Stokehold fan damaged. Cancel my 1815/22.
(HORNPIPE, 1940A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth).

See p. 936

Shipping & Convoys.

KVISTVIK
and
JOHANNESSEN

Your 1029/21. *N.T. in M.D.*
1. KVISTVIK and JOHANNESSEN.
2. My position 067° 07' N., 009° 10' E.
3. Information was transmitted 20th without success.
(JUNON' 0531A/22 to F.O.S.)

E.N. 64

E.N. 64 arrived less CAMPUS.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 0730A/22).

K.M.S. 4

Clyde arrival CROCUS */ See p. 940* escorting "Silent 2".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0844A/22).
Sailed code word "Silent 3" in accordance with my 1528A/21.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1500A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Sailed LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, WORTHING, *PETUNIA, *WOODRUFF in accordance with my 1228A/21. LLANDUDNO delayed owing to absentees among ship's company.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1648A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

** See p. 940*

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- TJALDUR. Intend to sail 1500/24 SS. TJALDUR (corrupt group) for Faroe Islands with troops routed by my 1218/9th October. E.T.A. 0800/26th Request escort and fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1012/22).
A.M. 1859A/16 and my 0945/17. If additional sailing of TJALDUR to Faroes from Aberdeen is to take place 1st December, propose CHIDDINGFOLD should provide escort and H.F. destroyer escort troop ships sailing Invergordon to Lerwick on same day. (A.C.O.S., 1714/22 to Admty).
Your 1012/2. CHIDDINGFOLD will provide escort and will be sailed to arrive Aberdeen p.m./23rd. (A.C.O.S., 1305A/22 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).
- Q.P. 15 ~~SOCRUSHITELNE~~ British officer from Russian destroyer providing local escort Q.P.15 (?reports as follows) damaged. Left convoy speed 9 knots in approx. 074° 17' N. 042° 34' E. at 0800A/20. Wind S.E., force 9. Visibility 1.5 miles. Weather improving from p.m./21st.
(ii) Russian SOCRUSHITELNE one of local escort reported having been pooped and disabled in approx. 074° 30' N., 043° E. at 1320A/20th. 4 Russian destroyers and smaller craft attending her. There has been considerable Russian radio activity in consequence.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1026A/22 and 1445A/22).
Russians report S/M K.3 left area 2 A at 0500/22.
K one leaving Kola Inlet so as to arrive in area 2 A at about 1400A/24.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1617A/22 to Admty).
One Q.P.15 reaching longitude 005° E., omit position (ZZ) and steer direct for position (HH) 066° 42' N., 016° 19' W.
(2) This signal is being passed to ships of QP 15 by B.A.M.S. (C. in C. H.F., 1958A/22 to S.E.C., Q.P.15).
- F.S467 Owing to defects in SLEIPNER and shortage of
F.N875. destroyers, only one escort from Rosyth Escort Force can be sailed for F.S467 and F.N875. Request second escort may be provided from Nore Command as far North to Tyne as practicable. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1209A/22 to C. in C. Nore).
Capt. (D) 16's 1135/22. Part company with F.S467 at B Four Buoy, thence returning to Harwich or as ordered by Capt. (D) 16.
(C. in C. Nore, 1436A/22 to HAMBLEDON).
Your 1209/22. This will be arranged. My 1436/22 and D.16's 1135/22, which is being passed to you, refer.
(C. in C. Nore, 1444A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth).
- T.U. 24.1.11 Task Unit No. 24.1.11, ST. LAURENT, (S.O.)
(S.E. 110.) BATTLEFORD, CHILLIWACK, EYEBRIGHT, NAPANEE, SHEDIAC, KENOGAMI sailed St. Johns Newfoundland 1930/23 to relieve Task Unit No. 24.18.8 in 047° 56' N., 051° 32' W., at 1000/24.
See p.954
(C. in C. H.F., 1322Z/22 to C.T.U. 24.18.8).

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

D.S. 34,
D.S. 35,
S.D. 35.

A.M. 2008/12. Convoy D.S. 34. SS. LEINSTER will sail in place of SS. LLANSTEPHEN CASTLE.

2. Speed of LEINSTER 16 knots.

3. Convoy D.S. 35 consisting of SS. LEINSTER will sail from U.K. 12th December.

4. She will return as S.D. 35 and will be required to call at Faroes en route to Clyde.

5. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange for two destroyers of 17th Division to provide escort for D.S. 35.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1325A/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

K.X.7

1. Para. 1. Add SS. ANTONIA destination Gibraltar

2. Route by Q.Z.L. 18. through position
(l) 180° Fastnet 10 miles.
(m) 50 35° N., 12 58° W. (n) 46° N., 14° W.
(o) 40° N., 13° W. (p) 36 30° N., 09 31° W. thence to Gibraltar

3. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered A to E with instructions to open out and keep 30 miles to starboard of route if straggling.

Ships which straggle before reaching M should if returning conform to M.A.R.I. Sect. I para. 5 (f).

4. Fighter protection codeword "Taunton".
(D.O.D. H., 1328A/22 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
A.M. 1835/20. Amend para. 1: For Hurlva read Huelva
For Nau read Oran.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1638A/22 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

K.M.F.4

A.M. 1357/20. Amend as follows:-
Para. 1 (a) Delete SS. BRITANNIC, DERBYSHIRE, OTRANTO, TEGELBERG, VOLENDAM, LEINSTER.
Add LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE destination Gibraltar.
Para. 1 (B) Destination Oran add SS. DERBYSHIRE
SS. OTRANTO, SS. MONARCH OF BERMUDA. Destination Bone.
SS. VOLENDAM. Destination Bougie SS. TEGELBERG. Para. II.
Speed of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE 13½ knots.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1334A/22).

A.M. 1357/20. 1. P.C. 74 is to arrive Barry Roads a.m./25th to escort Bristol Channel portion to Clyde.

2. SARDONYX is to R/V Liverpool portion November 27th as arranged by N.O.I.C. Liverpool and is to return Londonderry when Clyde portion has been met.

3. Escort Clyde (A) EGRET S.O., PHILANTE, BANFF, CLARE, EXE, SWALE to arrive Clyde p.m. on 26th (B) QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT.
(C. in C. W.A., 2314A/22).

A.M. 1357/20. K.M.F.4. Route as follows:-
R/V at 0900Z/28 in position D. 270° Oversay 6 miles.
E. 55.12 N., 13.02 W. F. 51.30 N., 18.28 W. G. 50.00 N., 19.35 W. H. 39.18 N., 17.40 W. J. 36.10 N., 13.15 W. K. 36.00 N., 10.00 W.

2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered P to V.

/with...

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - *1-1-1/2*

K.M.F.4 with instructions that, if straggling, ships are
Contd. to keep 30 miles to starboard of route given.
3. Estimated S.O.A., 12½ knots.
4. Speed is to be adjusted to pass Europa Point
at 0100Z/5 December.
5. Fighter protection code word "Collins".
(D.O.D. (H.), 2335A/22).

Special C. in C. W.A., 1155A/20. *N.T.N.H.2* NORTHERN GIFT (S.O.)
Convoy.. and NORTHERN FOAM will be sailed to arrive Milford
Haven 0900A/25.
(F.O.I.C., N.I., 1518A/22).

S.C.109 Your 1130/19. Report forthwith if you are
remaining with convoy or are intending to
proceed to Iceland to refuel.
(C. in C. W.A., 1541Z/22 to SKEENA).
Your 1541/22. Intend to remain until dawn 24th, proceeding
to Iceland for fuel, returning to convoy daylight 26th. Estimate
corvettes should leave dawn 26th in approx. position (e). U.S.
Destroyer LEARY joined. P.C.S. at 2000, 057° 52' N., 033°
30' W., 090° 6.
(SKEENA, 1841Z/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Anti Reference W.A.C.I., 300 para. 2. (Repeats
U-boat C. in C. W.A., 1919A/20).
procedure. (C. in C. W.A., 1656A/22 to A.I.G.32, 479 N).

ASHANTIAN SS. ASHANTIAN is expected on completion of
(F.N.877). loading to be sailed for Clyde in convoy F.N.877
28th November.
2. Ship carries most important cargo and all
possible measures should be taken to secure her
safety.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1810A/22 to C. in C. Nore).

K.X.6 A. My 2207/20.
1. AQUILLA will not now complete repairs until
2nd December.
2. As convoy must be delayed until her arrival
at Milford Haven it is not anticipated that it
will leave before 6th December.
3. Escort arrangements should be adjusted accordingly.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1818A/22 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

SCOTTISH Your 1345/21. Request confirmation that
AMENITY. SCOTTISH AMENITY is adapted to fuel H.M. Ships.
(?SCOTTISH (C. in C. H.F., 1832A/22 to A.C.I.C.)
AMERICAN).

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.

E.N.65

Owing to HORNPIPE's boiler defect. Have assumed S.O. close escort for E.N.65. (BERKSHIRE, 2220A/22 to C. in C. Rosyth). *See p. 932*

R.U.50

(1) When ready SALADIN is to proceed at best speed to Reykjavik.
(2) A.C.I.C. is requested to retain WINCHELSEA and sail SALADIN (S.O.), WINCHELSEA, as additional escort to R.U.50
(C. in C. W.A., 2346A/22 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry, A.C.I.C.)

937

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force "X" (Torch)

Situation Report No.18. 1. 2 ships of K.M.S.3 GRANGEPARK and PRINCE HAROLD (PRINZ HARALD) torpedoed and sunk in 55.54 N. 10.32 W, at 0910/20th Nov torpedo exploded in OCEAN PILGRIM's A.N.D. Ship undamaged.
2. Enemy convoy of 5 merchantmen escorted by one cruiser, 4 destroyers and E-Boats sighted at 2110/21st Nov by A/C in 38.45 N. 09.20 E. course 180° 10 knots.
3. Algiers. 20 berths for discharging are satisfactory.
4. Admiralty pass to A.F.H.Q. (N.C.X.F. 1105A/22).

Removal of H.Q. to Algiers. Cancel my 1047 /21st. Further signal will be made on this subject. (N.C.X.F.1153A/22 to Admty (R) F.O.C.N.A. V.A. Malta, C. in C.Med).

Situation at 1958A/22nd. 1. U.S.Cruiser AUGUSTA 30.01 30.46 270° 21.
2. G.U.F.2. 7 destroyers 31.38, 36.12, 277° 12.
3. U.G.S.2. 6 destroyers 29.52, 37.01, 094° 9.
(N.C. X.F. 1258 A/22).

Trawlers & M.M.S. Your 1726/18. These are not required for the present but would like to retain a call on them if mining menace develops. 110 foot M.T.Bs and M.G.Bs already asked for, are required at the first possible opportunity of getting them out here. (N.C.X.F. 1632A/22 to D.N.C.X.F.).

L.S.G. for "Backbone." Suggest consideration be given to return to U.K. of one L.S.G. She would then be well placed to re-equip with L.C.M.s for "Backbone" if necessary. (D.O.D.(H) 1939A/22 to N.C. X. F. Admiralty C.C.O.).

Intended air activity. N.C.X. F. 2121/22.

937A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E. 1518Z/22nd Nov.

IN.

From. ~~Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.~~ ~~Date.~~ 23.11.42.

To. ABFOR, London.

PRIORITY. No.1124 Edited Literal Copy.

To. Combined Chiefs of Staff. From. Eisenhower.

1. In connection with employment of French North African Merchant shipping, the many problems which have arisen create implications of such far-reaching import that shipping agreements of Allied Nations are involved.

2. The French authorities in North Africa have appointed Admiral Lemonier an executive chief for all French merchant shipping outside Metropolitan France. As the result of conferences with Mr. Kerr, W.S.A. representative on my staff, they have stated the following as their desires:

- (a) To operate vessels under French Flag and under control of French owners and of administration in North Africa.
- (b) To employ French tonnages to meet essential requirements between North Africa and French colonies.
- (c) To pool any tonnages which they consider in excess of requirements for (b) next above. Pooled tonnage to be operated by Allied shipping authorities with French Representation.
- (d) To negotiate insurance etc. with Allied governments.

3. Some of the difficulties of the above desires are that it gives French shipping privilege of not pooling all shipping as for Allied Nations. It prejudices the existing arrangements with French shipping already under our control. The presence of French North African shipping in neutral ports may cause legal difficulties and subject it to action by Vichy France. It creates difficulties as to uniformity of wage rates with other French crews.

Cont. 4.

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

4. Little headway has been made in negotiating for a one-trip journey terminating in Allied ports. I have now offered French owners a charter for a round trip of Allied ports at rates equivalent to present rates for Norwegian tonnage with commitment to arm and degauss ships at Allied ports.

Insufficient time yet to receive reaction. I consider it so essential to move shipping from bombing danger and to secure essential return cargo for first trip that I am prepared to meet otherwise unsatisfactory demands for this first round trip.

5. Any shipping which was seized by Vichy on the fall of France and which is now in North African ports will be returned to original owners.

6. I desire to secure a directive for the charter or control of subject shipping which will meet so far as practicable the desires of the French but which will not place them in such an advantageous position that dissatisfaction will be incurred among Allied shipping. I am of the opinion that this shipping should be pooled for Allied uses and that along with Allied Nations North African French must depend on fair allocation of shipping for their support. In order that it may not be subject to seizure at neutral ports by Vichy action, desirable that French Flag be not flown by ships which might by chance reach neutral ports.

7. An informal suggestion that a French admiral visit Washington to negotiate terms has not at present been approved by me.

8. In connection with this message I am cognizant of clause 8 of the pending agreement with French authorities in North Africa and of my power under clause 4.

Cont. 9.

MOST SECRET

- 3 -

9. It is my opinion that the numerous implications noted above can only be recognised and adjusted where the larger picture is known and where information and records are available. I therefore feel that the matter must receive the consideration of the C.C.S. and that a directive in regard to the terms under which French North African shipping may be employed forwarded to me.

1518Z/22.

(Relayed to AGWAR by Signal Centre).

Circulation to:

- Brig. Jacob.
- Foreign Secretary.
- War Registry, Admiralty.
- C.6. Telegrams, War Office.
- A.M.C.S. (C).
- C.C.O.
- Ministry of War Transport.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- P.A.S. (S)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- Duty Capt.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- Hd. of M. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake.
- D.T.D. (3)
- Ad. Ramsey. (4).

Recd. in War Reg. 1240/23

SECRET

937D

M E S S A G E. 1805Z/22nd Nov. IN

From. Gibraltar.

Date. 22.11.42.

Time. 2215Z.

P/L.

Addressed. ABFOR London.

IMPORTANT.

Edited Literal Text.

1. Naval. GEORGE PARK and PRINCE HAROLD KMS 3 torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic. Algeriers: 20 discharging berths, operating satisfactorily.
2. Tunisia: General Barre ignored instructions on the 20th, alleged from Petain, to cease fire. French detachments on 19th attacked German train near Sfaz and patrol near Gabes, capturing 5 of the latter. At Medjes El Bab, French casualties of the 20th reported 25%. French fell back on Cued Zarga. Fight contact on road Beja-Mateur. Germans on the 20th lost 11 light tanks in renewed attack on British North Column, 15 miles West of Mateur.
3. Algiers: Axis raid of the 20th did little damage to harbour, shipping or airport, the 60 casualties reported in Sitrep 14 are military of which about 20 killed. Also 5 planes destroyed on ground and 11 killed at airport. Ground echolons of: 2nd Bn. 503rd Parachute Inf., 64th TC Co, 340th Bomb Sq., 154th Observation Sq., and 48th Fighter Sq., arrived by rail from Oran at midnight of the 19th. 5th FA Bn. enroute from Oran.
4. GFF 1 Btry. AA and 1 Inf. Co., guarding airfield at Nouvion 0168. Balance of Combat Command "B" alerted for MFF. General Clark made a visit on 19th.
5. WFF: All troops of UGF 2 debarked, 50% cargo, 4 transports unloaded at midnight 20th. Patrol CT 47 visited Pasha Marrakech; well received.

/6.....

937^E

2.

6. Air Gib: 27 Anti Submarine Sorties, no sightings or attacks; 2 enemy aircraft sighted by 6 Spitfires, 4 Hurricanes dispatched to theatre. EAC area: B-17's escorted by P-38's attacked Tunis airfield by day, inflicting heavy damage; 5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 5 probably destroyed, and 20 damaged on ground. In ensuing combat 3 MiG's shot down by B-17's and 1 by P-38. 1 P-38 crashed on return. In another raid by B-17's on Bizerta, 3 large fires were started and 5 enemy aircraft destroyed on ground. No reports of R.A.F. activity.

7. This is SITREP 15, November 21st.

1805Z/22.

1st Lord. Received from A.F.H.Q.
1st S.L. (2) 0602/23rd November.

4th S.L. A.F.H.Q. Circulation.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F) No. 1. Cable.
A.C.N.S. (T) No. 2. A.G. Records.
A.C.N.S. (W) No. 3. Sec G/S.
Parl. Sec. No. 4. G-1.
Fin. Sec. No. 5. G-2.
Nav Sec. No. 6. G-3.

N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt Pim.
D.A/S.W.
M. (2)

D.N.I. (5) Adml Usborne.
Ops. (3) Adml Blake (2)
C.B. (5) Adml Ramsay (4)

D.T.D. (4) C.N.A.S.
D.T.D. (H) A.C.N.A.S.
D.T.D. (C) D.N.A.D.
Cdr. Holbrook. D. of P. (3)
D.T.M. D. of P. (Q)

D. of S.m. (2)
O.I.C. (3)

JA I.P. (3)

C.C.R.T.
W.D.
Press Division.
I.M.N.G.
D. of Salvage.

937A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E. 2231Z/22nd Nov.

IN.

From. Gibraltar.

Date. 23.11.42.
Recd. 0200Z.

Addressed. ABFOR London.

Ref. 1148. JB/JVL. Paraphrase.

1. Report 15. Following is para 1 (b) to G-2 report.

2. Bizerta reported congested with stores and petrol.

3. General information: Godlette Channel Tunis cleared on 20th November for partial use. French population in Tunisia reported favourable to allies except French Navy at Bizerta.

4. Part Two. Naval.

French Fleet: nothing to report.

Italian Fleet. various air recon. sightings report 1 cruiser, 4 destroyers, 4 M.T. boats and 5 Merchant Vessels at 120 miles south of Cagliari heading south at 10 knots.

5. Part Three. Air. Recon.

9 enemy craft operated over theater, at least 3 covering West Med. North of 38 North, 2 flow West Africa coast to Algiers before dawn, third along coast to Oran afternoon. All 3 reporting our shipping. Of remaining planes, 1 recon. over Tunisia and attacked by our fighters. and at least 1 E/A made weather recon., area unknown.

6. There are available no reports of bombing.

2231Z/22.

1st Lord.	D.S.D. 9 (2)
1st S.L. (2)	D.T.D. (3)
4th S.L.	D.T.D. (M)
A.C.N.S.	D.T.D. (C)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.A/S.W.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	Hd. of M. (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.N.A.D.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.A.C.D.
C.N.A.S.	C.C.L.S.
A.C.N.A.S.	Ad. Blake. (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	Ad. Ramsey. (4)
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D. of L.D.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	U.S.N. (3)
D.C. (2)	I.P. (2)
D. of P. (2)	W.D.
D. of P. (Q)	F.O.S. by courier.
D.D.I.C. (2)	C.C.O. (2).
D.N.I. (4)	

Advance Copy sent.
1st Lord. A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L. D.C.,
D.O.D. (F)., D.D.I.C.
D. of P.

A.F.H.Q. Distribution.
C.S., C.A.O. Sec G/S (2)
Normal Int. Dis.

ETO Distribution.
No.1. Cables. No.2. A.G.Rec.
No.3. Sec. G/S. No.4. G-1.
No.5. G-2. No.6. G-3.
No.7. G-4.

Recd. in War Reg A.M./23.

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CYCLAMEN, My 1305Z/21, addition to para 11. Leave Gibraltar
ARMERIA. 1200A/22 through 035° 51' 005° 51' to 035° 46'
006° 17' thence 231° 12.
See pp 938 & 939
(N.C.X.F. 0212A/22 to S & A N.A. Stn. Area X.)

K.M.S.3.G. Arrival BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, CARNATION, MYOSOTIS,
MALLOW with Gibraltar portion K.M.S.3.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0406A/22.)

WEYBURN. Sailed to rejoin K.M.S.3 *in area 2-9.*
(F.O.C.N.A. 0701A/22 to VENOMOUS (R) Escorts of
K.M.S.3.)

SS. GENEROSO Swiss SS. GENEROSO (1437 gross tonnage) Swiss
colours painted on side sailing 1000 tomorrow
Monday for Genoa routed from Gibraltar to pass
west of Iviza, thence 10 miles north of Cape Gabalia (?Cabaleria)
(Minorca), thence 10 miles north of Revellata Point (Corsica),
thence 12 miles south of Genoa, thence direct to Genoa. Speed
8 knots, ship is not to be interfered with while on this route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1033A/22 to V.A. Malta 765. Capt. S.1. Capt. S.10.
S & A in Area G. Admty.)

U/B. S/M sighted on surface 000° 15 miles from M.K.S.1(Y)
in 036° 37' N 010° 03' W. S/M submerged.
*(SPEY 1130Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)
** see next page.*

Catalinas AT 436. 22 Nov. Owing to shortage of aircraft
for Gibraltar. occasioned by heavy losses on operations I propose
halting at Gibraltar as temporary reinforcements
the four Catalinas proceeding to 212 and 270 Sqdns.
Aircraft and crews will continue to destination
when present emergency is resolved.
(H.Q.C.C. 1150A/22 to Air Min.)

Ships for Intend to sail ships detailed in N.C.X.F. 1842Z/20
Oran and (N.T. in W.D.) less 77th M/S trawler group at
Algiers. 0530/23 routed through:-
(Q) 36.05 N 05.20 W. (R) 35.42 N 03.01 W.
(S) 35.38 N 02.14 W. (T) 35.56 N 00.50 W.
(U) 36.33 N 00.19 W. (V) 36.53 N 02.58 E. S of A 9½ knots.
(2) Oran Section will part company position (T).
(3) Communication. Constant guard on Gibraltar broadcast as
ordered by S.O.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1216A/22 to S.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Oran. Cdre. Algiers.
(R) N.C.X.F.)

K.X.7. Your 1835/20, para 4. Do not wish to steam
Lisbon section twice through submarine area.
Escort will be sent to break off with Lisbon
section earlier. Para 7. This will be arranged but possible
that they will be required for a X.F. convoy of very slow ships.
(N.C.X.F. 1223A/22 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1250A/22nd November.

From: N.C.X.F.

Date. 22.11.43.

Time. 1743.

Naval Cypher 3 by W/L.

Addressed: A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT.

1. H.M.S. TRIUMF 41 03 17 43 023 degs on the surface 10. *See p. 928*
2. H.M.S. TROOPER, 33 48 08 46 through 33 40 07 30 and 35 59 06 15 surface by night 10 diving by day 2½ thence through Straits of Gibraltar escorted. *929A*
3. ARMERIA, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, 35 19 06 59 231 degs 12. *See p. 928 1939*
Situation at 2002A 22nd.
4. H.M.S. ADVENTURE, 40 43 14 06 through 40 02 13 58 to 37 03 10 03 to 36 30 09 29 thence to Gibraltar 10. *See next page*
5. H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S. WISHART, 36 34 08 05 to 2½ H.M.S. ADVENTURE in position 38 27 11 55 at 0 30' 10" and escort to Gibraltar. *See p. 929.*
6. MKS One (Y), H.M.S. STURWORT, H.M.S. ABERDEEN, ROTHER, *SPRY, COMSLIP, POPPY, DANIELLA, 36 44 10 56 298 degs 8½. ** See previous page*
7. H.M.S. VIOLET, H.M.S. RHODODENDRON, 36 21 09 23 to Gibraltar 10.
8. Task Force 39, one oiler, 2 tugs, one net tender, 29 small war vessels, 35 06 15 23 through 35 05 15 01 thence 102 degs 9.

1250A/22

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(H), D.T.D.

V.C.H.B.
A.C.H.J. (H)
A.C.H.J. (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.

Adml. Blake (2)
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D. (H)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
C.C.O. (2)
Adml. Ramsey (4)

MOST SECRET

938B.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1656A/22/November.

From N.C.X.F.

Date 22.11.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Time 2058.

Addressed Ships and Authorities N.A. in Area X.

IMPORTANT

My 1250A 22nd para 4 for 40 43 14 06 read
41 32 14 20. Add new para 9 H.M.S. VELOX and S/M*P.311
35 57 05 36 through Straits of Gibraltar eastward.

1656A/22.

* L.P. 940
948A

Advance copies D.C. D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.

re:- situation at 2002/22
H.M.S. ADVENTURE'S
position etc.

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.
Ad. Blake (2)
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)
C.C.C. (2)
E.M. Adml. Ramsey. (4)
MFG

War Diary.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

EMBLA. Swedish SS. EMBLA (1053 G.T.) painted on side in black letters on white ground C. International, Swedish colour fore and aft, also red cross on side and on board aft, sailing 1600 today Sunday from Gibraltar to Marseilles. Speed 7 knots. Ship is not to be interfered with on this voyage.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1251A/22 to Area G. etc.)
(Capt. S.8. 1321A/22 to 8 S.F.)

Route for G.U.F.2. Your 0845/21. Please confirm signal refers to G.U.F.2.
2. Understand G.U.F.2 sailed 17th Nov. in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1917/17.
3. Your situation report 1300/21 gives position for G.U.F.2.
4. Route for this convoy is not known in Admty.
5. Recommend route for next G.U. convoy from Casablanca through position - P. 30.50 N 13.01 W. Q. 29.35 N 16.02 W. R. 35.00 N 29.10 W. S. 38.10 N 39.59 W.
(D.O.D. H. 1323A/22 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
Reply: N.C.X.F. 2152A/23.

K.X.6. (stragglers) Your 1330Z/18. Please state if TRITON, TRANSVAAL, QUERCIA and YTHAN BRAES have arrived.
(D.O.D. H. 1326A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1330/18. *TRITON,*TRANSVAAL,*QUERCIA and *YTHAN BRAES have arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1845A/22.) *The/long V. for C.O. ** Update Boat for C.O.

CYCLAMEN ARMERIA My 1659/21. Sailed CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA Q G A 111 Q G B 135.
See pp 938A & 938A
(V.A.C.N.A. 1331A/22 to R.A.W.A.F.)

LA MALOUINE Arrival a.m. FF. ship LA MALOUINE in K.M.S.3. (V.A.C.N.A. 1342A/22 to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Gibraltar Air Report. MS 4734 Al. 180 22 Nov. for 24 hours ended 2400/21.
1. A/S escorts. A/S patrols. U/B sightings and attacks from Gibraltar nil.
2. No enemy activity over Rock.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar 1408/22.)

U/B attacked. Sub. attacked 34.39 N long. 08.18 W at 1300Z/22. (U.S. Warship 1400/22 to Gib. W/T.)

WISHART BRILLIANT ADVENTURE *See pp 938A* Sailed 1300 WISHART, BRILLIANT to R/V ADVENTURE in 38.27 N.11.55 W at 0900/23 and escort to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1439A/22 as amended by 0535A/23 to Admty. ADVENTURE. (R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.EMPIRE
ELAINE
BELNOREMPIRE ELAINE and BELNOR both for Freetown with valuable cargoes will leave U.K. with K.M.S.5. 2. *PETUNIA, *CROCUS and *WOODRUFF escorts of K.M.S.4 will be required to escort them from approx. 40° N to Freetown. ** See p. 932*

3. Admty. will arrange R/V.
4. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail escorts as necessary. (D.O.D. (F) Approved. A.C.N.S. (F) 1647A/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

*WISHART
P.311.** See previous p.
** See p. 938/3*Have encountered S/M ^{**}P.311 on surface in position 252° Cape Trafalgar 25 steering 100°. I had no information of this. She expected to arrive R/V with escort in position 220° Cape Trafalgar 16 and quotes Capt. S.8's 1946Z/21. (WISHART 1700Z/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)BALDUR *intended.*
BALIVER
(German)

Your 1210/21, please furnish particulars of size and appearance of ship No.61 and previous name if obtainable. (D.D.I.C. 1737A/22 to Consul, Bilbao.)

VAL DE LA
HAYE

Your 0952/14 (route for SS. VAL DE LA HAYE) Master replied ship has not enough fuel and no charts for route suggested. He asks can he go to Gibraltar coastwise? (Madrid 1858/22 to Admty.)

W.R. Note: N.A. Madrid's 1858/22 and Admty. 1553/23 to N.A. Madrid and F.O.C.N.A. both re route for SS. VAL DE LA HAYE, have been passed to C. in C. Plymouth and H.Q.C.C. for information at the request of D.O.D. (H).

Force H.

Arrivals S.O. Force H in NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, ASHANTI, ESKIMO, TARTAR, PENN, PARTRIDGE, PATHFINDER, PORCUPINE, LOOKOUT, METEOR, VANOC, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE. (F.O.C.N.A. 2002A/22 to Admty.)

G.U.F.1(A)
G.U.F.2.

Your 1123/22 (1323A/22 intended) Convoy which sailed from Casablanca on Nov. 17th should have been named G.U.F.1(A). Returning ships of (?second) fast convoy named G.U.F.2 in accordance with C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1420/17. (N.C.X.F. 2152A/23 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

K.M.S.3.

*See H. 944, 7
249A/13, 7950*
N.C.X.F. 2208/19 indicates destination of OCEAN VICTORY as Bougie. This should read Algiers. Destination of HINDUSTAN is Bougie not Bone as indicated.

2. JAMES MONROE and FRANCIS SCOTT KEY in addition to Oran general cargo have Vehicles for Bone. Request arrangements be made for both ships to proceed Bone for first discharge.
3. KONG SVERRE ex EMPIRE GRENFELL destination Algiers was omitted from signal presumably in error. (D.S.T. 2345A/22 to P.S.T.O. Gib.)

941

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Blockade Runner Scuttled. ?ANNELIESE ESSBERGER. Following received addressed F.O.C. West Africa from Comsolantfor (begins) U.S. cruiser MILWAUKEE group reports encountered blockade runner at 0652Z/21 000° 54' N 022° 34' W. Ship was scuttled upon approaching. Identity doubtful but muster roll read ANNELIESE ESSBERGER. Prisoners taken (Ends)
(F.O.C. W.A. 0015Z/?22 to Admty.)

EMPIRE VOICE "Q" Report. Intercept at 0335 G.M.T. de Sierra Leone Radio. ZZZ de GNFL (EMPIRE VOICE) QQQQ 03.33 N 29.18 W followed by suspicious vessel TOR 030 unread. Sierra Leone Radio controlling station.
(Call sign GNFL doubtful).
(Port Patrick Radio 0435/22.)

Intercept from VPG Takoradi Radio QQQQ RAMILIES/GNLR position 03.33 N 29.18 W followed by suspicious vessel T.O.R. VPG 0409/22 ends.

(Valentia 0443/22.)

W.R. Note: With reference to signals 0443/22 from Valentia Radio and 0435/22 from Port Patrick Radio, ship referred to is probably EMPIRE VOICE.

MIJDRECHT. Your 2200Z/21. Regret MIJDRECHT had already been sailed in view of Admty. 2030A/18 (presumed 2036/18 intended) and indefinite delay to *CORINTHIAN, my 1155/21 refers.
(B.N.L.O. W.A. 0855/22 to R.A.W.A.)
* See p. 942 B.

LADY DENISON PENDER Your 1517/21. As I am informed operation on cable starts in 022° 20' N 020° 00' W intend to sail LADY DENISON PENDER p.m. 23rd Nov. escorted by BURDOCK and SOUTHERN PRIDE who will provide screen until relief can be provided by S.N.O.

Casablanca.

As LADY DENISON PENDER will have to burn lights at night suggest (?screen) of 2 is necessary.
(F.O.W.A. 1047Z/22 to N.C.X.F.)

DRAGON Departure 0925Z/22 DRAGON in accordance with your 1119Z/?21.
(?N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1052Z/22 to R.A.W.A.)

LÉOPARD Ref. A.M. 1621/13 (presumably 1621/15 intended) and C. in C. E.F.'s 1156/21 to C. in C. S.A. only. See p. 942 A
F.S. LÉOPARD reported maximum endurance 3400 miles at economical speed 12 knots.
2. F.N.F.L. 1245/16 passed to F.S. LÉOPARD and ship informed that further instructions would be signalled.
(C. in C. S.A. 1107C/22 to Admty. C. in C. E.F.)

/Tankers...

942

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Tankers
for
Trinidad. Your 1921/20. Provided speed permits, prefer that NORVIK and DRUPA be sailed Trinidad in convoy referred to in your 1531/20 para 3. If either unable make convoy speed then they should be sailed Bahia not Pernambuco owing congestion at latter port.
2. Presume OLTENIA II (Tanker Message) and BENTE MAERSK will also join this convoy for Trinidad. (D.T.D. 1151A/22 to F.O.C.W.A.)
- C.D.2. Capetown 1500C/21 CATTERICK to overtake and (?escort) C.D.2. (C. in C. S.A. 1224C/22 to Admty. Cdre. Durban, N.L.O. East London.) *See next page.*
- Air R/C
patrols. Propose to discontinue "Torch" R/C patrols except for daily P.R.U. of Dakar. One aircraft will be kept at "readiness" and others at "available". (R.A.W.A. 1225Z/22 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. N.C.W.N.T.F. Air H.Q. Gibraltar. N.O.I.C. Casablanca.) Concur (N.C.X.F. 1903A/24.)
- K.14
U/B. Ref. A.M. 0349A/21. (D/F bearing on U-Boat) Made attack on U-Boat type Graf 1835Z/20 in 013° 05' N 025° 50' W course 110° speed 12 knots, fired 4 torpedoes at 1000 yards. Obviously she saw my torpedo track made sharp turn of 090° and ran away. R.A.W.A. 1721Z/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Passed through 015° 30' N 029° 00' W at 0300Z/22 report blank. (S/M K.14 1245Z/22 to R.A.W.A. Admty.)
- M.L.281
attack
on U/B. C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) M.L.281. (B) 2055/21. (C) 6° 16' N 13° 12' W. (D) 7. (E) 2200/21. No visible result. (F.O.C.W.A. 1310Z/22 to Admty.)
- ASTURIAS
See p. 942^B Leave position (B) 006° 22' N 024° 00' W at 2000/22 Nov. and patrol independently to position (X) 001° 00' N 029° 00' W thence to Freetown. S of A 14 knots. (F.O.C.W.A. 1331Z/22 to ASTURIAS. (R) Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet. Comsolantfor.)
- U/B. Following received X 329 BAMS 3B/3C VZSQ. From N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, - possible submarine sighted 34.24 S 25.03 E. (Simonstown W/T 1405 G.M.T./22.)
- Pernambuco
congestion. D.T.D. 1507A/22. See America and West Indies.

/Vichy...

MOST SECRET

942A.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

~~12240/22nd~~ November
IN

Date 22.11.42
Recd. 1507

From C. in C. South Atlantic

Naval Cypher (M) 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, F.O.C. West Africa,

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. ALCANTARA 020 degs 50' South 019 degs 00'
East to Capetown 18 knots

THYME with FRANCHE COMTE and SAN VERANCIO 034 degs
55' South 019 degs 30' East to 034 degs 29' South
021 degs (?44') East (? H.M.S. MORRIS DANCE) 038 degs
12' South 023 degs 25' East 10

H.M.S. EXPRESS^{*} CATTERICK, with C. D. 2 034 degs 15'
South 025 degs 50' East to Durban 8½ ** see previous page*

French Light Cruiser LEOPARD 032 degs 10'
South 032 degs 30' East to Mauritius 15 *see p. 941*

H.M.S. ENTERPRISE 035 degs 05' South 022 degs 20'
East to Simonstown 21

H.M.S. NORMAN 032 degs 00' South 016 degs 50' East
to Capetown 18.

12240/22

Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Fin
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)

AFP

MOST SECRET

942 B.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1433Z/22nd November.

IN

From: F.O. Commanding West Africa.

Date. 22.11.42.

Time. 1309.

Naval Cypher M by W/T.

Addressed: 150.

IMPORTANT.

COMMANDANT DROGOU F.S., escorting off Freetown to south east 10.

H.M.S. STELLA POLARIS, H.M.S. NORWICH CITY, 6 20 16 20
052 degs 10.

H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, about 7 10 18 59 to Freetown 13.

sup 942 H.M.S. ASTURIAS about 06 22 24 09 to 01 00 29 00 14.

H.M.S. SIZENO, H.M.S. SPANLARD, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, CANNA,
escortng about 3 30 6 55 080 degs 5 at 2000Z 22nd.

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, PICT, ORFASY, 2 motor launches, with T.S. 25,
about 4 20 one 50 to (?west) 8.

SOUTHERN GEM, escorting Lagos (Nigeria) to Takoradi 9.

HOLCOMBE, H.M.S. ST. WISTAN, one M.L., escorting Lagos
(Nigeria) to south east 8.

H.M.S. NORTHERN DUKE, escorting one 30 one 30 125 8½.

H.M.S. *CORINTHIAN, 2 M.L.'s, about 6 07 south 7 06 east
towing to Pointe Noire. * *sup 941*

H.M. S/m P.552 6 20 south 10 35 east to Pointe Noire 10.

M.L. and CHASSEUR patrolling Funta Bay.

1433Z/22

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.T.D.

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)
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.D.O.D.(C)
D.T.D.(3)
D.M.S.
R.O.(2) by Courier.

HMB

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Vichy
Ships.

Aircraft reports Vichy Merchant Vessels ANDRE MOYRAND and ST. HULBERT with one Aeropostal escort vessel at 1006/21 Nov in 13° 39' N 17° 19' W course 000° speed 7 knots.
(S.O.I.) Freetown 1718Z/22 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

COLUMBINE
(reported
disabled
20th Nov.)

Following has been read. Been drifting disabled for past three days, still waiting for reply to repeated requests for assistance, position at noon today bearing 168° 238 miles from position B. Master.
(COLUMBINE 1810Z/22.) Located by CORINTHIAN 0107Z/23. q.v.

INDOCHINOIS
EMPIRE ZEAL
FRANS HALS
ANDREAS
VEERHAVEN

Ref. INDOCHINOIS straggler from W.S.24, last spoken 11th Nov. in 00° 14' N 30° 42' W. Italian broadcasts on 14th Nov. and 15th Nov. claim U/B commanded by Gazzana sank ships identified as EMPIRE ZEAL, FRANS HALS, ANDREAS and VEERHAVEN, and in addition "an armed British motor ship of 10,000 G.R.T." Consider this was probably

INDOCHINOIS.

(D.D.I.C. 1820A/22 to Cominch. R.A.W.A.F. C. in C. S.A. S.O.I.) Montevideo. S.O.I. Rio de Janeiro. H.M. Consul Pernambuco.) W.D. Note: C. in C. S.A. 1232C/23 reports that INDOCHINOIS arrived at Capetown 21 Nov.)

Zigzagging.

In open waters in South Atlantic and Indian Oceans merchant ships of 10 knots and over are to zigzag by day and on moonlight, except in heavy weather or fog, when proceeding independently or after dispersal from convoy in area northward of a line drawn from the coast of Brazil along 10° S to 26° W.
Thence to 42° S 4° E. thence to 42° S 39° E. thence to 31° S 45° E. thence to 14° S 80° E. thence to 00° S 90° E. thence along 90° E to the coast of Bengal.
2. Gulf of Aden is included in this area, but ships are not to zigzag in the Persian Gulf westward of 57° E, though orders to do so may be issued at any time.
3. C.A.M.S.I. 176/42, in course of distribution, will be amended. (D.T.D. 1836Z/22 to B.A.M.S. All areas. (Negative A.I.G.12.) British B.A.M.S. Lettered Message JQ.)

Dakar

21st Nov. Dakar P.R.U. no change.
(F.O.W.A. 1937Z/22 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

DESPATCH
transfer
of S.O(I)

It is hoped to complete arrangements for transfer of S.O(I) Montevideo and staff to Rio de Janeiro by 15th Dec.
In view of large volume of Secret Records, C.Bs, Cyphers, etc. to be transferred, request that arrangements be made for DESPATCH if available or a British merchant ship to take these to Rio de Janeiro after that date.
(S.O.I.) Montevideo 2205Z/22 to Admty.)

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Enemy Convoy, Speed of convoy 10, mean course to midnight
S/Ms. 180°. Consider land fall may be Ras Engela
about 0500. Still probably some ships
destination Tunis.
(Capt. S. 10 0155A/22 to UTMOST, UNA,*P.247.)
+ See p. 949
- P.35. Ref. P.35 impending refit, request date she
should arrive U.K.
(Capt. S. 10 0321/22 to F.O.S.)
About 1st March 1943.
(F.O.S. 2309A/23.)
- U/B. Submarine sighted 37.02 N. 95.12 E. (?05.12 E.)
(BISCAYNE U.S.S. 0355A/22 to Gib. W/T.)
(A/C TV5 duty J 0355A/22 to Gib.)
- ACUTE, ACUTE and ~~12~~ ALBACORE~~1~~ arrived at 0700A/22nd.
ALBACORE. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 0813A/22 to S.O.I.S. (R)
Cdre. Algiers.) *See 21/11 - p. 944.*
See p. 946
- Bougie, Your 1929/20th. Concur in employment of
*Oran. ST. CHARLES at Bougie. Oran Harbour is being
cleared by F.O.I.C. Oran under whose orders
**See p. 947* KING SALVOR is redirecting work. French
Authorities at Oran have been given permission
to salve French Destroyers.
(N.C.X.F. 092??/22 to F.O.I.S. (R) F.O. Oran,
Cdre Algiers.)
- Movements. Arrival 21st Nov. BARFORD, Z.9, JERVIS, KELVIN,
ORION, DIDO, CLEOPATRA, PETARD, Greek Destroyer
SPETSAI, GLOXINIA, LUBIAN (?NUBIAN) KLO, (?BOSTON)
SOUTHERN SEA, DELPHINIUM, WHITEHAVEN, *JANUS,
JAVELIN, CROMARTY, PAKENHAM, PALADIN, XARETHUSA.
Departure 21st Nov. REDWOOD, MAPLE. **See p. 951*
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0946B/22 to Admty., C. in
C. Med.) *X See p. 949*
- "Bosom" Following has been read: Convoy "Bosom" is
A/C. being shadowed by one enemy aircraft who bears
000° from the centre of the convoy height
9000 feet. P.C. and S. of convoy 33.14 N.
22.01 E. 110° 18 knots.
(EURYALUS 1024/22.)
- K.M.S.3. Cancel my 2312Z/21st (?2311Z/21st intended re 12th
Division expected to R/V with K.M.S.3 at 1745/22)
See pp 940, Intend sailing 12th Division from Oran at 1830A/
949A & B. 22nd to carry out A/S patrol during night, R/V
950 with K.M.S.3 at 0700A/23rd in position O.
(QUIBERON 1029A/22 to Senior Escort K.M.S.3.
(R) F.O. (?Oran), C.S.10, N.C.X.F.)

/K.M.S.O.2 ...

War Diary.22.11.1942.
SundayFOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- K.M.S.O.2. Sailed K.M.S.O.2. HARDINGHAM, EMPIRE RUSKIN, THOMAS HOOKER, ENSIS, BAYOU CHICO, NAIRUNG, RICHARD H. LEE, JOHN J. (POE)? and SAYONARA for Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1040A/22 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)
- M.T.B.260. Intend sailing M.T.B. 260 for Alexandria leaving Tobruk 1800/22nd, E.T.A. 0800/23rd speed 25 knots. Pass through position Troble Luck bend thence direct route Alexandria, single operator watch on 425. Mine barrage, inform convoys "Siren" "Cradle" "Pulley" "Boxer" "Bosom".
(V.10 1044B/22 to A.I.G. 62, C.C.F.)
- Cositrep No.601. Part 2. Air. Night 20/21 Nov. torpedo aircraft from Malta attacked a 1500 ton ship off West coast Sicily. Results unobserved.
21 Nov. Fighters made two patrols over Agedabia Area and provided patrols over shipping without incident. Two formations American B.24s refuelling at Gambut, bombed Tripoli Harbour, claiming near misses on merchant vessels. A warehouse was hit also and two large fires started on mole, one believed ammunition dump burning. R.A.F. Liberators repeated attack during night, starting further fires and explosions on Mole.
(C. in C. M.E. 1100 G.M.T./22.)
- URBINO. A.M. 1216/8th Oct. 1941. SS URBINO stranded Ergriya Reef (corrupt group) Gulf of Suez. CONFEDERATE sailed to assistance. Damage unknown.
(Supt. of Salvage, Eastern Med. 1105B/22 to Admty.)
- Oran, Mers-El-Kebir. Re oiling facilities.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1105Z/22 to N.C.X.F.)
- TRITON. Leave patrol as necessary pass through (1) 035° 46' 027° 30' at 2200B/24th (2) 034° 32' 030° 18' at 0300B/26th, thence direct to arrive Beirut searched channel at 0615B Nov. 28th.
(Capt. S.1 1107B/22 to G. S/M TRITON (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, G. S/M PAPANICOLIS, C.C.F.)
- M.T.Bs for Tobruk. M.T.Bs 265, 266, 315 and 316 sail from Alexandria 1700/22nd through "Cold" 1900/22nd, "Frost" 0300/23rd, "Snow" 0530/23rd, arriving at Tobruk 0700/23rd for relief of boats in 20th Division. Constant W/T Watch will be kept on 425 k/cs. codeword "Solar".
(C.C.F. 1110B/22 to V.10 (R) A.I.G. 72 etc.)

/Enemy Units ...

946

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy Units. 2 merchant ships, 1 escort vessel 360° Cape Gallo 15' course 320° speed 10.
(Capt. S. 10 1129A/22 to S/M P.42.)

* P.228, Onward route for P.228 dived by day through
P.221. 038° 16' N. 008° 00' E. at 0800/23, 038° 50' N.
* *see pp 445-49* 003° 01' E. at 0030/25, 135° Cape Palos 10
450 miles at 0200/26. Further route follows.
(2) Onward route for P.221 dived by day through 135° Cape Palos
10 miles at 2230A/23 180° Cape de Gata 10 miles at 0800/24th,
180° Cape Calaburras 10 miles at 0500/25th thence on surface
to Gibraltar 10 miles at 0500/25th thence on surface to
Gibraltar to arrive 1000/25th.
(3) All times zone minus 1.
(Capt. S.8 1138A/22 to 8 S.F. (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S. 10.)

TURBULENT. TURBULENT sails 1600A/22nd cover passage patrol in
see next page Gulf of Sirte then Beirut. Route through (1)
035° 00' 014° 12' (2) 033° 38' 016° 52' thence
slower coast crawl to Ras Ali thence after sunset 26th, up
to meridian 018° 58' E. to 034° 26' next as ordered by Capt.
(S) 1. C. in C. Med. is requested to inform R.A.F. Middle
East that TURBULENT may operate on surface in Gulf of Sirte.
(Capt. S. 10 1147A/22 to Capt. (S) 1, P.211, C. in C. Med.
(R) S/Ms on Patrol.)
Sailed TURBULENT.
(V.A. Malta 1625A/22.)

MANXMAN, Your 1848/16th (?1846/16 intended re blocking of
WELSHMAN. Sousse harbour. Is MANXMAN now required remain
Malta) In view of Admiralty 1525/15th (? 1525/17
(Hush) should not MANXMAN read WELSHMAN?
(N.C.X.F. 1152A/22 to C. in C. Med.)

Ships from Intend to sail OCEAN VISTA, EVIVA, and BRAMHAM
Bougie. at 2230A/22nd escorted by *ACUTE, *ALBACORE, and
ALARM. E.T.A. Algiers 1200A/23rd. Expected
date of unloading CITY OF NORWICH 23rd, ARTEMUS
WARD 25th, DERWENT HALL 28th.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1200A/22 to Cdre. Algiers
(R) F.O.I.S.)
See also 1400/22. *next page*. * *see p. 944*

VINDICTIVE. Sail at 0500A/23 escorted by MILNE and ITHURIEL
and proceed to Mers-el-Kebir at S. of A. 20
knots, routed through 8 13 93. C.S.10 is
requested to arrange berth.
(N.C.X.F. 1207A/22 to VINDICTIVE (R) Capt. (D) 3,
MILNE, ITHURIEL, C.S.10, N.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C.N.A.,
A.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (S) 8.)

→ P.42, Proceed after dark today via North coast Sicily
train to Gulf Eufemia thence via Stromboli back to your
wrecking. present area by dawn 26th. Object to sink

/West ...

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- P.42,
train
wrecking
(contd.) West or Southbound shipping and to destroy by
gunfire 1 train on Messina Palermo line and
1 on mainland.
(Capt. S. 10 1225A/22 to P.42 (R) C. in C. Med.
Capt. S.1.)
- R/C. Visuals forenoon 22nd Nov.
(1) Taranto, Messina, Naples, no change.
(2) Photographs Cagliari p.m. 21st Nov.
7 Submarines, 7 M.T.B. 1 Destroyer.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1238A/22 to C. in C. Med.,
N.C.X.F. etc.)
- TRIBUNE. My 2132/17th. You have freedom of action in
Sectors (B) and (C) and area between them.
*TURBULENT reports favourable position to patrol
at night 210° Carina Point 15 miles.
(Capt. S. 10 1252A/22 to TRIBUNE (R) STURGEON
Capt. S.8.)
** See previous page.*
- Salvage, F.O.I.S.'s 1929A/21st (N.T. in W.D.) SALVOR
Oran. engaged in salvage operations in channel Oran
See p. 944 cannot be released for other operations. Most
desirable that French Salvage Tug ST. CHARLES
be made available as soon as possible to clear obstructions
adjacent to oil fuelling pier in order that rest of storage
ashore may be made available to British unit based at Oran.
(F.O.I.C. Oran 1305A/22 to N.C.X.F.)
- THRASHER. Arrival.
(V.A. Malta 1312A/22.)
- Bougie, Situation report 1330A/22nd. Sharp air attack
Air attack. at 1915 last night for (corrupt group) an hour.
10 enemy A/C dropped considerable number of small
bombs in dock area. 2 L.C.P. destroyed and
about 1000 gallons of petrol. OCEAN VISTA, superficial damage
above water line. Owing to lack of road transport and to air
raids CITY OF NORWICH (?will not be) unloaded till (?23rd)
ARTEMUS WARD 25th, DERWENT_HALL 28th approx.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1400/22 to F.O.I.S. (R) Cdre. Algiers.)
See previous page.
- M.K.F.3. Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail convoy
M.K.F.3 p.m. November 25th routed through 100 89
2 68 72 37.
(D) 35.40 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.

/Escort ...

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

M.K.F.3. Escort Algiers section *WESTON, *WELLINGTON,
(contd.) *FOLKESTONE, *TOTLAND, *GORLESTON, TEST, *WAVENEY.
Oran section joins in position 2 at 1200A/26th;
escorts will be signalled later.

Gibraltar section joins in position 36° 00' N. 06° 41' W. at
1000A/27th. F.O.C.N.A. and Force "I" Oran are requested to
signal Cdre. Algiers repeating to me name and speed of ship
(corrupt group) inclusive. Cdre. Algiers pass to A.O.C.
Eastern Command.

(N.C.X.F. 1405A/22 to Cdre. Algiers, Force I Oran, F.O.C.N.A.)
Times advanced 24 hours. * See p. 949
(N.C.X.F. 1313A/23.)

P.217. P.217 leaves Gibraltar 1630A/22nd proceeding
See next page to East on your route. 155 miles a day.
(Capt. S.8, 1440A/22 to TROOPER, P.311.)

DULVERTON, DULVERTON and EXMOOR proceeding Tobruk to fuel,
EXMOOR. E.T.A. 1715.
(DULVERTON 1517B/22 to C. in C. Med.)

HELVIG, Controlled minefields at Oran, Mers-El-Kebir,
Minefields. and Algiers are not required. HELVIG should not
sail with K.M.8⁴. *See 20/11 - p. 862A*
(N.C.X.F. 1548A/22 to Admty. (R) O.I.C. Oran,
Cdre. Algiers.)

Your 1132/20th. Controlled minefield will not be laid.
Harbour defence areas are to be repositioned as required.
Positioning of small indicator loops will be decided later.
Books are being forwarded.
(N.C.X.F. 1630A/22 to F.O.I.C. Oran, ?A.S.O. Force H.)

BASARABIA, My 1706 Nov. 18th. (?1744/18 intended) in view
TRANSILVANIA. of further reports, raise grading B.2. No
further details yet.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1655C/22 to S.O.I. Med. etc.)

Swedish Relief Ships. My 1048/21st not to C. in C. Med. (N.T. in W.R.)
EROS proceeds position 036° 00' N. 020° 30' E. to
Kalamata. Remainder proceed position (5) direct
2 miles South of Castello thence through position
(B) to (O). They are to be given safe conduct.
(Capt. S.1 1704B/22 to Greek Sub. PAPANICOLIS
(R) C. in C. Med.)

Oran. N.C. X.F's 1644/4/11.
(2) Situation unchanged.
(5) Searched Channel Swept, Negative result.
(F.O. Oran 1801A/22 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

/Situation ...

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

948A

MOST SECRET

1536/22 November.

From N.C.X.F.

22 11 42.

Naval Cypher JJ by W/T & T/P

Time 1940.

Addressed A.I.G. 262

IMPORTANT

S/M situation report western Mediterranean
2000A 22nd November. All S/M's diving by day 2 1/2 knots
unless otherwise stated.

(1) H.M.S. URSULA 038 degs 20' North 000 degs 12' east
H.M. S/M P.54 037 degs 56' North 000 degs 15' West both
through 39 27 north 01 26 east thence course 50 degs
surface speed 8 knots. Both proceeding on surface on 24th

(2) P.221 38 30 north 02 08 east through 135 degs
Cape Palos 10 and 180 degs Cape de Gata 10 surface speed 8 1/2
knots *see p. 946*

(3) P.228 through (?) 38 16 north 08 00 east at 0800A
23rd thence 275 degs surface speed 11 knots. *see pp 946 945a*

(4) H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT 037 degs 47' North 000 degs
08' East through 38 56 north 03 01 east thence 090 degs
surface speed 10 knots

(5) P.217 pass Europa Point 1700A 22nd through 180
Cape Calaburras 10, 180 Cape de Gata 10, 135 Cape Palos
10 thence follow H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT surface speed 11 knots.

P.217 proceed on the surface on 2nd. *see previous page*
(6) *H.M.S. P.311 and H.M.S. *TROOPER pass Europa Point
at 2130A 22nd and 23rd respectively proceed to eastward
on same route as P.217. Surface speed 10 knots.

* *see p. 938B* 1536A/22. * *see p. 938A*

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

- A.C.N.S.(F) (2)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- Capt Pina
- 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)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Ad. Blake (2)

E.M.

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Situation Western Desert - Tobruk - 19 112 tons petrol
Report No.295. 288 tons stores discharged. AA defences
completed. 20th 2 L.C.Ts discharged further
655 tons. Derna Harbour swept, no mines
exploded A.A. guns installed covering harbour and Pass.
Benghazi, air R/C shows extensive damage to moles and jetties.
Sweeping commences shortly.
(2) 15th C.S. and 12th and 14th Y.F. arrived Alexandria.
*ARETHUSA severe hull damage and internally gutted by fire all
before no 61 bulkhead. EURYALUS and 8 Hunts (?now) returning
to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med. 1816A/22 to Admty.)
* See p. 944

S/M Routes. After consultation with C.C.F. propose that
submarines should always be routed clear of
area within 30 miles of North African coast
between 020° E. and 030° E. Submarines outside
this area will not be attacked.
(S.O.S. Alexandria 1820B/22 to Capt. S.1.)

Algiers. Your 1911A/20th (Re Labour position in Algiers)
As position at other port is not yet stabilised,
request parties be kept at 7 days notice for the
present.
(N.C.X.F. 1843A/22 to Admty. (R) Cdre. Algiers.)

Movements. Algiers arrivals WESTON, AVONDALE (?AVONVALE)
*FOLKESTONE, *TOTLAND, AZALEA, *WAVENEY, *GORLESTON,
*WELLINGTON with K.M.F.3, MINNA from Bone.
Departures. OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE, HYDERABAD to
overtake M.K.S.2, LANCASTER escorting ORMONDE to
Gibraltar.
(Cdre. Algiers 1850A/22 to Admty.)
* See p. 948

K.M.S.3. Following arrangements are intended.
(S.O.I.S. 1905Z/22 to Cdre. Algiers, VENOMOUS)
See Lion Copy.

S/Ms. My 1715A/20th. Expect P.247 24 hours late,
keep North of line 230° from end of searched
channel. PORPOISE keep South.
(Capt. S. 10 1935A/22 to P.247, PORPOISE,
TRAVELLER, (R) Subs. on Patrol.) * See p. 944

Oran area, T.C.A.O.30. Request you will consult F.O.I.C.
fighter Oran and Senior Officers 12th Air Force at Oran
protection. on arrangements for fighter protection for
convoys in Oran sector and see what further action
is required to provide 12th Air Force with
necessary information to enable them to engage enemy in Oran
area. Fighter protection priority was requested for convoy
K.M.F.3 which was shadowed and reported by enemy aircraft at
1745A/21st in 036° 19' N. 000° 20' W. Convoy M.K.S.2 for which
standing fighter patrol had not been requested by me was reported

/being.....

949A

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 1905Z/22nd Nov. IN

From:- S.O. Inshore Squadron.

Date. 23/11/42.

Recd. 0547

N.CODE L(1) BY T/P

Addressed:- Comdre. Algiers. H.M.S. VENOMOUS.
Repeated. Naval Comdr X.F. H.M.S. LAMBERTON.

IMPORTANT.

See /p/ 940, 944, 950

Following arrangements are intended for K M S 3. EMPIRE WYCLIFF, BENEDICT, EMPIRE PRINCE, EMPIRE BANNER, and BEGUM are to enter Algiers with Algiers portion of convoy.

(?) 5 Ships will be berthed first, probably on arrival.

(2) Remaining ship for forward ports will be joined by Ocean Coast to BONE and by H.M.S. LAMBERTON, H.M.S. WHEATLAND, BLEAN, H.M.S. CONVULVULUS, and H.M.S. VETCH, as additional escorts.

(3) H.M.S. VENOMOUS, H.M.S. WIVERN, H.M.S. VERITY, and H.M.S. FLEETWOOD, escort remaining with convoy as escort to BONE.

(4) Algiers portion to be detached in position Q 036 degs 53' North 002 degs 54' East. Ships from Algiers will join in this position at 1300Z Nov 24th.

(5) Prefix route through (R) 037 degs 23' North 005 degs 45' East

- (S) 037 degs 16' North 005 degs 15' East
- (T) 037 degs 10' North (006?degs) (?30') East
- (U) 037 degs 11' North (?007 degs) 23' East
- (V) 037 degs 02' North 007 degs (?48') East
- (W) 090 degs CAP DE (?GARDE) Light 2 thence

190 degs to anchorage off Port. Speed to be adjusted to pass through Portion (S) at 0230Z Nov. 25th.

N.C.S. BOUGIE Portion escorted by 3 vessels detailed by S.O. to part company at 0300Z. Escorting ships are to leave this portion at Bougie and follow route of convoy at best speed.

(7) PHILLIPEVILLE Portion are to part company off that port, escorted by H.M.S. CONVULVULUS H.M.S. VETCH and H.M.S. FLEETWOOD. Escort to remain at Phillipeville until required to escort returning ships.

(8) BONE. . . .

949^B

(8) BONE escorting ships are to remain, under way in vicinity of BONE Portion if ships are anchored during night 25th 26th November to provide covering A/S protection. Destroyers of this escort are to sail at 0600Z November 26th in company at best speed to Algiers.

(9) Fighter cover arranged for 24th 25th and 26th codeword REDBREAST.

1905Z/22.

Advance Copy. Duty

Capt.,
D.O.D.(F).
D.T.D.

✗ POSITION intended.

✗ As received
"Through" intended.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(2).
- D.F.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).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D.(H)(2).
- D.O.D.(F)(2).
- D.C.(2).
- D.D.I.C.(2).
- D.A/S.H.
- Hd. of M.(13).
- D.T.D.(3).
- D.T.D.(M).
- D.T.D.(C).
- D.of.P.(2).
- D.of.P.(1).
- Ad. Ramsey.(4).
- Ad. Blake.(2).
- D.of.S.(2).
- D.H.S.
- I.P.(2).
- W.L.

ps

War Diary.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Oran area,
fighter
protection.
(contd.)

being shadowed by enemy aircraft at 0950A/22nd in 270° Cape Tenez 15 miles. Both reports were rebroadcast intended for information of F.O.I.C. Oran.
3. My air S.O. will fly to Oran a.m. tomorrow 23rd and report to you.
(N.C.X.F. 2028A/22 to F.O. 10th C.S. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran.)

ALYNBANK.

ALYNBANK leaves Mek at 0730A/23rd to join Algiers portion of convoy K.M.S.3 in position 93. Send 1 destroyer to escort her.
(F.O. 10 C.S. 2131A/22 to QUIBERON (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, ALYNBANK.)

*P.228,
enemy units.

*See pp 946 &
948A

P.C. and S. 2 medium merchant ships in ballast, 1 small armed merchant cruiser 039° (?04') 011° 16' 260° 8 shadowing (?0) large aircraft over convoy.
(P.228 2200Z/22 to Capt. S. 10 (R) Capt. S.8, N.C.X.F., Subs. on patrol.)
W.D. Note.- 1 M/V damaged and another sunk, see 0131A/23.

K.M.S.3.

See pp 940, 944 & 949A & B.
F.O.I.S. 1905A/22nd (N.T. in W.D.) Request you will arrange to inform me on arrival at Algiers length of anticipated draught of remaining ships destined for Bone. The 5 ships originally destined for Bone now unloading at Algiers will be berthed on arrival, and should close Southern entrance where tugs and pilots will meet, remainder anchoring as convenient East of 03° 06' E. and North of a line 090° from Monument on Fort L'Empereur.
(Cdre. Algiers 2207A/22 to S.O. of Escorts M.K.S.3.)

Enemy M/Vs.

Position of 3 enemy merchant vessels 39.13 N. 11.23 E. course 280° speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S T6MC 2225A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta)
Have attacked enemy with torpedoes and

estimate one hit.

(A/C C/S T6MC 2255A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta).

Attack 3 enemy M/Vs which were in 39,13 N. 11.23 E. course 260°. Speed 10 knots at 2225A.

(A.H.Q. Malta 2255A/22 to A/C C/S T6MZ).

Malta Air
Report.

A.I. 120 22/November. C.S.R. Night 21/22 Nov. 1740 hours and 2000 hours, 2 Beaufighters were airborne for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

Day 22nd Nov. Today 20 Spitfire Sorties have been made in protective patrols over the convoy unloading in harbour and Spitfire bombers have attacked Southern Sicilian aerodromes. No enemy aircraft have crossed Coast and no attacks made on our shipping.

(A.H.Q. Malta 2225/22).

/S/M....

951

22.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.S/M
dispositions.Your 1507/21st (Proposal to move S/Ms from
Naples area to Bizerta-Tunis approaches)
approved.
(N.C.X.F. 2235A/22 to Capt.S.10).

P.44.

Burat Patrol operating tonight.
Shore defences probably alert after gun attack
last night. Approach route 220° to 065°
(P.44 2241A/22 to Capt.(S) 10, (R) P.46, C. in C.
Med.)Enemy
Units.P.C. and S. of 1 M/Vs and 2 Destroyers 39.58 N,
14.0 E. 360° 10 knots.
(A/C C/S T6MZ 2300A/22 to A.H.Q. Malta).P.C. and S. of 1 large vessel (uncertain
whether Battleship or Battle Cruiser), 2 cruisers 39.58 N. 14.00
E.

(A/C C/S T6MC. 2300A/22 to A.H.Q.Malta).

Your T.O.O. 2300, do not attack.

(A.H.Q.Malta 2225Z/22 to A/C C/S T6MZ).

GLENROY.
*JANUS.**See p. 944
(Thoum munt)*My 1345/7th*October. GLENROY with JANUS
in company left Alexandria p.m./22nd Nov. for
Port Said for onward passage to U.K. Anticipated
date of arrival Aden a.m./28th November.
(C. in C.Med 2358B/22 to Admtty etc).
*Programme for GLENROY.

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Warning to
M/Vs of
U-Boats.

When necessary to give immediate warning to merchant ships of a U-Boat in the Persian Gulf or Gulf of Oman whose presence has not previously been reported by S.S.S.S. message. You should originate a general signal to merchant

ships in the area affected in P/L saying U-Boat reported in position (blank) any further instructions which you may wish to give should be signalled separately using Mersigs or P/L according to circumstances. Such a signal is only to be made if the warning is founded upon a reliable sighting, sinking or an actual attack.

(3) This procedure is in force in Gulf of Aden also where similarly narrow waters make use of A.F. messages (C.A.M.S.I. 20) undesirable.

(C. in C. E.F., 0931Z/22 to S.N.O.P.G.)

Shipping
Reference
Positions.

Ref. 1232Z/9th November. The following amendments are to be made -

1. After position Number 2 add two new positions and reference letters as follows. F/P
(a) Cape Point AD, CS, HC, KM, PF.

(b) Cape Agulhas CW, HX, GK, MY, RJ.

2. After position Number 8 add one new position and reference letters as follows. F/P Cape Saint Mary Madagascar KE, AU, GO, MG, PT.

3. Renumber positions throughout from 1 to 35. Thus Diego Suarez become 13.

(C. in C. E.F., 1709Z/22 to A.I.G. 90.)

Zigzagging.

D.T.D. 1836Z/22.
See South Atlantic.

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

53 Sqdn., Personal for C.A.S. from Evill.
Trinidad. Ref. Webber W. 296. Navy Department have been most prompt in meeting request for return of 53 Squadron to U.K. Preliminary orders for preparation for move were issued immediately they were informed verbally of request. Adm. King in personal letter to me today confirms that he has issued orders "for the transfer of this Squadron to the Naval Air Station, Quonset, where it is to be prepared in all respects for departure by December 15th".
2. He concludes his letter "I appreciate very much the very fine service this Squadron has rendered".
(Rafdel, Washington, 0249/22 to Air Min.)

R. 7 Cominch 2155/21.
patrol. U.S. Sub. Notice: At 2130/22 U.S.S. R.7 departs Base M for patrol station 40 miles radius centred at 29° N. 61° W. Speed is 120 miles daily. Course is 139°. Surfaced darkness. Submerged daylight.
(Comnaveu, 0506/22 to Admty.) *sailed - see p. 956*

AUGUSTA C.R. No. 853. This is Cominch 2025/21,
U.G.S.2. addressed to U.S.S. AUGUSTA for action and to Comnaveu for information (Comnaveu pass to Admty. for information): Convoy in my 2114/12 will be in your vicinity about 0400Z/23. Your 0850/19.
(Comnaveu, 0906/22 to Admty.)

U/B. Following has been read: From ship using Naval General Call Sign AG.
1 S/M on surface bearing 038° distance 7 miles course unknown. My position 49.15 N. 46.35 W.
(Halifax W/T, 1100Z/22 to C. in C. W.A., etc.)
Following has been read from ANCHUSA. Submarine previously reported has dived, am hunting.
(Halifax W/T, 1112Z/22 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)
Following has been read: My 1112Z. (? O), have attacked and lost contact.
(ANCHUSA, 1125Z/22.)
(Corrupt group) delayed and attacked U-Boat in 049° 25' N. 046° 35' W. at 1100Z/22nd.
(? F.O.N.F., 1201Z/22 to FAME.)

P.553. Cominch 0805/22, U.S. S/M Notice. P.553 departed Halifax 1300Z/21 for Pictou, N.S. proceeding on the surface, escorted by BROCKVILLE and QUESNEL speed 9 knots via: A. 44.32 N. 63.00 W. - at 2000Z/21.
B. 44.32 N. 62.49 W. C. 45.14 N. 60.48 W. D. 45.22 N. 60.48 W. via Gut of Canso, passing 2 miles off Cape George, thence Pictou N.S. E.T.A. 1700Z/22.
(Comnaveu, 1127/22 to Admty.)

954

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N. 146,
U/B. D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 1046Z indicate U-Boat may be in vicinity of convoy. (D.D.I.C., 1215A/22 to Escorts O.N.146.)

S.C. 110. Task Unit No. 24.1.11 ST. LAURENT (S.O.),
See p. 933 BATTLEFORD, CHILLIWACK, EYEBRIGHT, NAPANEE,
SHEDLAC, KENOGAMI sailed St. Johns N.F. 1930/23rd
to relieve Task Unit No. 24.18.8 in 047° 56' N. 051° 32' W.
at 1000/24th.
(C.C.N.F., 1322Z/22 to C.T.U. No. 24.18.8., (R) C.T.G. No. 24.7,
C. in C. W.A., etc.)

Pernambuco, M. of W.T.R. at Rio de Janeiro has reported
congestion. that port facilities at Pernambuco are much
overcrowded. It appears that U.S. Squadron
based there utilise alongside berths when in
harbour and that this squadron is likely to be increased in
near future resulting in still fewer berths being available
for merchant ships.
2. Adm. Ingram suggested to M. of W.T.R. that southbound ships
should be diverted to Rio de Janeiro instead of Pernambuco but
we are not in favour of this proposal for ships bound Capetown
on account of greatly increased length of voyage. We would
prefer increased use of Bahia.
3. As the matter is essentially one for U.S. Authorities to
settle it is difficult for us to butt in but we should be glad
if you would find out what action Navy Dept. is taking to
improve matters.
(D.T.D., 1507A/22 to B.A.D.)

U/B 22nd November S/M Estimate and U.S. Submarine
Positions. Notice.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1531/22, 1532/22, 1640/22,
1642/22, 1959/22.)

Floating N.S.H.Q.'s 1714/22 and F.O.C.W.A.F.'s 1531/20.
Dock. Further delays in completion of tugs ADVANTAGE
and ASPIRANT just reported may involve another
postponement of docks sailing date. Further
signal will be made as soon as situation is clear. We are
asking Navy Dept. to provide substitute tugs.
(B.A.D., 1545Z/22 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., etc.)

MANSFIELD. Departure for San Sebastian (sic).
(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1601Z/22 to (? C. in C. S.A.)
N.S.H.Q., Cominch C. & R., B.A.D., C.E.S.F.,
Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, N.O.I.C.
Shelburne.)
Your 2006/20 sailing MANSFIELD 1400Z/22nd to Boston routed
through 042° 30' N. 066° 00' W. thence destination. Speed 18
knots E.T.A. 1300Z/23rd.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1556Z/22 to B.A.M.R.)

/Western ...

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Western
Support
Force,
B.5 Escort
Group.

Whilst the U-Boat threat West of Cape Race remains small the adoption of the proposals in A.M. 1920A/18th November will go some way towards meeting the more serious threat in the Western part of the Central Atlantic. This can however only be considered as a temporary expedient, especially since it has the effect of reducing

the Western Local Escort to token strength. It is therefore essential to provide more permanent reinforcement to the mid-ocean groups.

2. With our heavy commitments in the Mediterranean and for P.Q. Convoys it is obviously impossible to strengthen the escort of all convoys and the only alternative is to provide reinforcing groups working from the U.K. or Iceland (C). A minimum of 2 such groups is required. We can just scrape together one such group from ships returning from "Torch" assault and which are not required for the follow-up convoys.

3. In my 1957/11th October we asked for the return of B.5 group. We are fully aware how inconvenient the return of this group would be, but in view of the grave situation with which we are faced in mid-Atlantic, it is requested you will press the U.S. Navy Department for the immediate return of this Group.

4. In view of the serious position of the oil stocks in the U.K. it is of the greatest importance to prevent the U.S. Authorities abolishing the G.N. - N.G. convoys as a result of the withdrawal of B.5 Group and they should be urged to reduce the strength of escorts of N.K. - K.N. convoys in preference.

(D.T.D., Approved by 1st S.L., 1615A/22 to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

MONOWAI.

Admiralty's 2347/21 (re conversion of MONOWAI).
When could ship arrive?
(B.A.M.R., 1632Z/22 to N.Z.N.B.)
Reply: N.Z.N.B., 1509M/24.

AEGEUS.

Your 2146Z/20 (N.T. in W.D.) AEGEUS (Greek) now considerably overdue is probable submarine casualty.
(D.T.D., 1644A/22 to N.S.H.Q.)

WANDERER.

F.O.C.W.A's 1531/20th.
WANDERER is S.O. of escort O.N.145 now under attack by U-Boat. Remaining escort consists only of 2 corvettes and 1 "Bangor" minesweeper. Consider therefore it is impossible to recall this ship so as to refuel and sail to arrive Freetown on 4th Dec. Unless otherwise ordered by (?me) C.O.A.C. is to order WANDERER to remain with convoy subsequently proceeding to New Orleans by 1st January.
(N.S.H.Q., 1714Z/22 to C.O.A.C., (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, etc.)

/ U.S. ...

22.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S.
Movements.

Bermuda departures U.S.S. Submarine^{*}R.7 on patrol. U.S.S. RANGER, CLEVELAND, SANTEE, SUWANNEE, ELLYSON, FITCH, RODMAN, EMMONS. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1749Q/22 to Admty.) * *in p. 53.*

NORSEMAN,
cables.

C.C.S.F's 1555/20th being passed to Admty. and S.O.I. Kingston. Intend NORSEMAN to repair San Juan, Kingston cable on completion of repairs in Santiago area. Then to repair new breaks in Barbados - Turks Is. cable in U.S. before other repairs mentioned in C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2236/18 of September. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 1812Z/22 to Admty.)

Cable
Repairs.

Your 1911/29th Oct., 1537/21 and my 1812/22. *(NT. 24.2)*
Douglas Area Manager Cable and Wireless Barbados states he is unable to assess relative urgency of repairs to recent cable breaks.

2. Request you will arrange for Cable and Wireless Head Office to keep me fully informed of relative priority of repairs or that they authorize Douglas to decide priority. Failing this intend to allocate priority in order that co-ordination of NORSEMAN's movements and provision of escorts may be effectively arranged.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1822Z/22 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)
Reply: Admty. 1702A/25.

O.N. 146,
U/B.

D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 1727Z indicate that U-Boat may have reported convoy. (D.D.I.C., 1919A/22 to Escorts O.N. 146.)

NIPIGON,
defect.

E.T.A. 0830Z/23rd (boiler hours). Reserve feed tank leaking. In company NORANDA iron bound Q.O 89.240183 (as received) NORANDA galley ray burner out of order. (NIPIGON, 1940Z/22 to C.O.A.C.)

Sub attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. A. BUCHANAN torpedoed sunk 52° N. 26° W. 2120Z/12.
Para. B. Unidentified* attacked area 43.43 N. 57.22 W. 21st November.
Para. D. Civilian Pilot Army Transport plane sighted sub on surface 24.45 N. 97.25 W. 2306Z/21, course 90. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1952Z/22 to Admty. for O.I.C. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
* BRITISH RENOWN, BRITISH PROMISE, see 2050/23.

U/B
Positions.

C.E.S.F. 1902/22, containing S/M estimates for 0800Q/23. (Comnaveu, 2154/22 to Admty.)

War Diary.22.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 304230, November 21st.
R/C Buin Shortlands area morning Nov. 21 reported 7 vessels including 2 destroyers 4 merchant vessels (8 to 10,000 tons), 1 smaller merchant ship also 3 flying boats, 5 float planes. Nil shipping sightings Buka Passage but 12 twin engined bombers on drome strafed by Fortress, 1 destroyed.

(2) 4 enemy destroyers sighted south of Gasmata afternoon 21st Nov. and shadowed to 6° 56' S. 149° 26' E. at 0615Z/21 course 230° speed 30 knots. Strong force Fortresses, B.25s, Marauders, Bostons and Beauforts ordered to attack but bad weather prevented sightings during night.

(3) 1 Catalina bombed Kavieng Aerodrome night 20th/21st scoring hits on dump and dispersal bay. 5 ships observed anchored West Kavieng.

(4) Enemy resistance encountered in Buna - Gona area where enemy using heavy mortars and field guns. Strong forces Bostons and B.25s carried out repeated bombing and strafing attacks enemy positions Buna area during day and Sanananda Point encountering heavy attack fire from Buna.

(5) 11 enemy fighters departed Lae heading South East morning 21st November.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0800/22 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Arrival 21st November, Brisbane, U.S. Transport PAUL REVERE, U.S. Fleet Oiler VICTORIA. Townsville, victualling stores issuing ship MERKUR. Darwin, Dutch Naval Stores Ship SOEDOE. (A.C.N.B., 1800/22 to Admty., Connav.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions at 1200Z/22.
(D.D.I.C., 1439A/22, 1441A/22.)

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.

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

38 heavy bombers, with fighter cover, attacked the dock installations at St. Nazaire today.

Bomber Command aircraft laid 83 mines in Bay of Biscay ports last night.

Force X.

N.C.X.F. reported today that the results achieved by British ships engaged in Operation "Torch", against enemy aircraft are, so far as is at present known, as follows. The records are not yet complete.

(a) By gunfire from ships. Destroyed 25, probably destroyed 15, damaged 36, of these R.F.A. DEWDALE destroyed 3, probably destroyed 1, damaged 3. IBIS shot down 3 before she was sunk.

(b) By carrier aircraft. Six French destroyed, 2 probably damaged. Two Axis destroyed, 3 damaged.

North Atlantic.

Aircraft reported 9 ships or "enemy battle fleet" at 2235 today in 47° 22' N. 3° 50' W. (20 miles west of Belle Ile) steering east at 15 knots.

South Atlantic.

It was stated by the B.B.C. this evening that French West Africa, including Senegal where the port of Dakar is situated, has declared for the United Nations. However, intercepted military orders issued on 24th instructed that the protection of certain frontiers against British and de Gaullist troops was to be maintained; and on 27th Nov. R.A.F. R/C over Dakar was met by heavy and accurate A.A. fire. The position appears anomalous and confused.

/Dutch ...

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Dutch M.V. KOTA TJANDI made a submarine distress message at 1430 G.M.T. in 17° 28' N. 34° 13' W.

D.S. K.14 reported that she identified a ship as KOTA NOPAN and attacked unsuccessfully with gunfire at 1400Z in 17° 15' N. 34° 10' W.: K.14 states that the vessel did not answer her challenge.

A/S trawlers YES/TOR and VIVIANA searched St. Antonio (C. Verde Is.) at dusk today, where U-Boats are suspected to be fuelling, without result. TURCOMAN is also searching off Janella (St. Antonio).

It is reported that SS. BENALDER which was torpedoed on 8th Nov. in 4.19 N. 2.44 W. (120 miles W.S.W. of Takoradi) arrived at Takoradi on 11th Nov. in tow.

Mediterranean.

N.C.X.F. sent the following message today to the Admiralty and C. in C. Mediterranean:-
(A) The situation in Western Mediterranean now is:
(1) Army are building up strength about 40 miles west of Bizerta but not yet ready to assault.
(2) Air forces forward in Algeria not yet fully established, lacking in maintenance, petrol, long range warning and communications. Effort fully absorbed in support of Army and security of bases.
(3) Cruiser and destroyer force going to Algiers waiting to move to Bone when fighter arrangements allow. (Note: The object of stationing cruisers at Algiers is to provide a covering force for convoys along the coast. They are at the disposal of F.O.I.S., but are ordered not to be employed to the eastward of 5° E. except with adequate and continuous fighter protection unless to engage a surface enemy force threatening our shipping.)
(4) Force H cannot base forward of Oran and has to quit there and come back to Gibraltar to make room for large convoys at intervals.
(5) Maintenance convoys for ports forward of Algiers running lightly escorted without proper cover.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

(6) There are no aircraft in "Torch" area suitable for reconnaissance in Sardinia - Sicily triangle, either for the offensive work of (3) or for the security of (5).

(7) No air-sea striking force available or in sight.

(8) Big air-land bombing force building up and now in action against shore targets only.

(B) The enemy is getting supplies into Bizerta and Tunis by sea. All information at our disposal as well as the actual situation make clear that this bridgehead is the vital factor determining whether or not the Axis are to be evicted completely from Africa and that the liquidation of this bridgehead through which the supply of Tripoli is intended has become the immediate concern of all forces in the Mediterranean.

Requirements.

(C) Viewing the Mediterranean as a whole the requirements are -

(1) To destroy the Axis supply line.

(2) To assure the maintenance of Malta.

(3) To destroy the Axis forces in Africa.

(D) (C) can be achieved by -

(1) Surface forces as in A(3) and the Malta force detailed in Admiralty 2222/22 para. (E)2.

(2) By air action at sea.

(3) Submarines. All these courses call for extensive air reconnaissance to render them effective, particularly (1) Malta's reconnaissance force is not at present adequate to provide this.

(E) Extensive reconnaissance backed up by air striking is also essential for (C)(2).

(F) (C)(3) follows as the natural corollary of the achievement of (C)(1) and (C)(2).

(G) To sum up. It seems it is in the interests of all in the Mediterranean Theatre:-

(1) To strengthen Malta reconnaissance aircraft to the utmost forthwith.

(2) To increase the power of Malta's seaward air striking force. Without these two factors our Naval effort will be nugatory, the sea supply to Malta insecure and even that to forward ports in Algeria might be subject to surface interference.

(H) Ability to strike at land targets in Africa, Sicily, Sardinia is a growing asset both in Algeria and Libya. It is for urgent consideration that Malta should immediately now be reinforced strongly to form the prime sea reconnaissance and sea striking centre, if necessary to the exclusion of all other air operations there except own fighter defences leaving the care of enemy land and air targets to the "Torch" Eastern air force and M.E. (G) Quick action will lead to quick results and the dividend will be enormous: co-ordination of the air effort of the Navy in the Eastern Air Command, Malta and M.E. is a matter of the highest urgency. Probably the quickest method will be an immediate meeting of representatives of all concerned at Algiers(?).

961

23.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.F. 3.

It is reported that Convoy K.M.F.3 was attacked by torpedo aircraft today and one ship was sunk. The Cunard W.S. liner SCYTHIA (19,761 tons) which had been in Convoy K.M.F.3 was hit by one torpedo, apparently in an air raid on Algiers between 0300 and 0600 today, and was safely berthed in harbour.

K.M.S. 3
attacked.

Convoy K.M.S.3 was attacked by enemy torpedo aircraft at 2240A today in 36° 38' N. 2° 55' E. (west of Algiers). At 0125A/24 VENOMOUS reported that one ship had been sunk and one (presumably damaged) was continuing with the convoy.

It is reported that 2 ships blew up entering La Goulette (Tunis), probably as the result of mines laid by our aircraft on the night 12th/13th Nov. (q.v.). A.O.C. is prepared to carry out further minelaying, and N.C.X.F. suggests Bizerta.

Wellingtons bombed Bizerta docks last night.

UTMOST
lost.

UTMOST reported at 1231A that he had torpedoed a ship north of Bizerta and had expended his torpedoes, and at 2247A that he was returning to Malta. His approximate position was then 37° 40' N. 11° 3' E. Nothing more has been heard of UTMOST. At noon 24th Nov. Rome Radio claimed a British S/M.

East Indies.

SS. CRANFIELD was torpedoed at 0025Z in 8° 42' N. 76° 38' E. (off Cape Comorin). At 0305 G.M.T. she reported that she was sinking and abandoning ship.

SS. TILAWA (B.I. liner 10,000 tons) was torpedoed at 2050 G.M.T. in 7° 36' N. 61° 8' E. (about 500 miles S.E. of Socotra) and sank after a second attack at 2230 G.M.T. BRIMINGHAM picked up 641 survivors and CARTHAGE also carried out a search, but found only 4 native survivors. *Total personnel on board was 950, including 578 Indian passengers.*

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

It is reported from Delhi that Japanese M.V. AFRICA MARU was sunk on 21st October in Formosa Straits, by a submarine.

U.S.A.A.F. report that Tinko Aerodrome, Canton was bombed today. Hangars and barracks were hit and 7 plus aircraft were destroyed on the ground and one taking off.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Air-Raid
Warning
procedure.

D.C.I.48 is suspended for ninety days from 0001A from 28th November.
2. During this period the procedure in C.A.F.O. 2261/42 is to be adopted.
3. Naval Authorities are requested to inform Plymouth Escort vessels of this new procedure when they are next in harbour.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1701A/23.)

Movements.

* VICTORIOUS, E.T.A. Greenock in VICTORIOUS with DUKE OF YORK, DUKE OF YORK. MATCHLESS, OPPORTUNE, and LIMBOURNE 1000A/23.
* See p. 965 & 966 BULLDOG, BEAGLE, WESTCOTT, MALCOLM, and GLAISDALE, fuelling at Londonderry.
(R.A.A. H.F. 0030A/23.)
Arrived R.A.A. H.F. in VICTORIOUS with DUKE OF YORK, MATCHLESS, *(?ORIBI) and OPPORTUNE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1118A/23.)
* LIMBOURNE in London.

BARB. My 1224/22. Sailed (BILSDEAN and ARMANA.)
See p. 963 C (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0713A/23.)
My 1224/22. Escorts returned.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1301A/23.)

CALGARY. My 1618A/18. ^{N.I. N.I.D.} CALGARY delayed 48 hours.
See p. 967 (K.M.S.S.) (F.O.I.C. N.I. 1145A/23 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

ANSON. Intend to sail ANSON for Rosyth to give leave 26th November and to return to Scapa 5th Dec.
(C. in C. H.F. 1202A/23 to Admty.)

North Atlantic dispositions. My 1235/21. Operating in Northern Waters.
Amend destroyers to read 10.
Area Iceland (C) Amend destroyers to read 0 (none)
Area Clyde Delete ARGUS, BITER.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1212A/23 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

W.A. Command. Situation at 1957A/23. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 1358A/23)
See Lion Copy.

WINCHESTER. Detach WINCHESTER at daybreak tomorrow to proceed Rosyth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1512A/23 to WESTMINSTER.)

S/M Positions. At 0800A/24. Details.
(F.O.S. 1632A/23)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

963A

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1358A/23rd November.
IN

From, C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date, 23.11.42.

Recd, ?

P/G

Addressed, Admiralty.

SITUATION AT 1957A/23/11.

Section N.E.

TANATSIDE		53 49 04 11	To Plymouth	16
ESCAPADE		56 33 07 15	Northabout to Sheerness	20
ONSUJ 148	HELLIER II	57 22 06 57	To 270° Oversay 6 miles	6
EN. 65	MINUET HORNPIPE BERKSHIRE MULLET	58 43 04 15	To Loch Ewe	8
WN 64	SALTERELO SPURS	58 16 05 30	To Methil	8

Section S.E.

JAMAICA		56 57 07 11	To Barrow	16
ORIBI		55 18 05 52	To Scapa	20
U.S.S/M SHAD	LA CAPRICIEUSE	50 46 04 51	To Clyde	14½
U.S.S/M BARB				
U.S.S/M HERRING				
WHITEHALL		53 48 04 51	To Tyne	10
TORBAY	BREDA		Vicinity Lam-lash To Clyde	12
C.14 SOKUL	QUADRILLE	55 53 07 13	To Clyde	9
SNOWDROP TOWING BARGE		54 37 10 05	To North Channel	3
ESCAPADE		56 33 07 15	Northabout to Sheerness	20
ONSM 143	1 Trawler		Sails Belfast To 270° Oversay 6 miles	7
ONS 148	MIGNONETTE	53 55 04 46	To 270° Oversay 6 thence 56 10 15 00	7
MKS.1 (X)	PRESOTT	54 04 05 08	To Liverpool	5

CONVOY.....

963B

Section S.E. (Contd.)

CONVOY	DERBY COUNTY	52 05 05 24	Northbound	8
ONSO 148	Unescorted	Sails Clyde 2130A/23	270° Oversay 6 miles	7
ONSUJ 148	HELLIER II	57 22 06 57	To 270° Oversay 6 miles	6
GLAISDALE		Off skerries	To Portsmouth	20
One M/V	Escorted	52 05 05 24	To Liverpool	9

Section N.W.

SC 109	SKEENA	57 54 29 05	To 53 01 19 59	6
C.T.U.	WETASKIWIN			
24.1.13	GALT			
(E)	AGASSIZ			
	SACKVILLE			
	U.S.S. LEARY			

Section S.W.

TRUANT		43 32 15 48	To 45 01 13 50	3 by day 10 by night
ONS .146	HARVESTER	46 30 33 35	To 43 30 37 00	7
C.T.U.	GARLAND			
24.1.17	ORCHIS			
	NARCISSUS			
	LOBELIA			
	ACON IT			
	ROSELYS			
ON.147	RENTIGOUCHE	50 42 34 12	To 48 30 37 02	9
C.T.U.	ST. FRANCIS			
24.1.14	ARVIDA			
	AMHERST			
	CELANDINE			
	DAUPH IN			
	SHERBROOKE			
HX. 215	HURRICANE	53 53 14 30	To 56 35 08 29	9½
C.T.U.	WATCHMAN			
24.1.15	DAHLIA			
(E)	MONKSHOOD			
H X 215	WALLFLOWER	Detaching at 2200A/23		12
(Fast Portion)				

1356A/23.

V.O.N.S.	Duty Capt. (2)	D.T.D. (3)
A.C.N.S. (H)	U.S.N.	D.T.D. (C)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.A/S.W.	D.N.I. (4)
A.C.N.S. (T)	Hd. of M.	Ad. Blake (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.G. (2)	Ad. Ramsey (4)
Capt. Pim	I.P. (2)	C.C.R.T.
D.O.D. (H) (2)	W.D.	D.M.S.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.T.D. (M)	

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MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 1632A/23rd November. IN.

From. F.O.S. Date. 23.11.42.
Recd. 1701.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. Admiralty.

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Positions of submarines at 0600A 24th November and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) O.14, BOKOL, escorted by Z.5 arrive Holy Loch a.m. 24th November from North Channel.

(B) TORBAY, escorted by BRENDA arrives Holy Loch a.m. from Southward.

(C) SHAD, BARB, HERRING, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 52 degs. 14' North 05 degs. 30' West proceeding to Clyde.

** see p. 963*
(D) GUNNER, 49 degs. 45' North 10 degs. 01' West proceeding dived by day towards 50 degs. 02' North 07 degs. 59' West speed 25 miles a day.

(E) BLACKFISH, 49 degs. 13' North 12 degs. 20' West proceeding dived by day towards 49 degs. 45' North 08 degs. 01' West.

(F) GRAPH, 44 degs. 55' North 10 degs. 10' West proceeding dived by day through 44 degs. 55' North 06 degs. 58' West for patrol in Zone K. 502. *see next page*

(G) SEALION, in Zone K. 501.

(H) DOLFIN, in Zone K. 505.

(J) TRUANT, 44 degs. 38' North 14 degs. 18' West proceeding dived by day through 45 degs. 01' North 13 degs. 50' West and 49 degs. 20' North 13 degs. 50' West.

(K) P. 312, vicinity 70 degs. 53' North 22 degs. 26' East.

(L) P. 216, vicinity 70 degs. 52' North 21 degs. 08' East.

(M) UREDD, vicinity 70 degs. 32' North 20 degs. 01' East.

(N) JUNON, Zone K. 9.

1632A/23.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D. of Plans (2) |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | D.A/S.W. |
| N.A.1st S. L. | Hd. of M. |
| Capt. Pim | W.D. |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | I.P.(2) |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(M) |
| D.D.O.D.(M) | D.N.I.(4) |
| Duty Capt.(2) | |
| D.D.I.C.(2) | |

964

23.11.1942
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

P.55.

from Blyth
Intend sailing P.55 escorted by VALSE at 1700A/25 for Holy Loch to R/V in 000° Cape Wrath 7 miles with relief escort to be provided by Capt. (S) 3 at 0900A/27.
(Capt. S.6 1729A/23 to Capt. S.3.)

A.F.D.19.

C. in C. Nore's 1354/2 and my 1800/13. Intend sailing A.F.D.19 towed by EMPIRE LARCH (Tow Master), EMPIRE BASCOBEL, and ABOLLE 4 leaving Needles 1300/26 for Dunstaffnage.
(2) Tow will be sailed astern of sweepers and ahead of convoy P.W.254 till clear of searched channels, when tow will take station close astern of convoy and proceed in company by convoy route.
(3) PENYLAN will be available to provide extra close escort for A.F.D. parting company in time to arrive Milford Haven p.m. 28th. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange such extra escort as may be available.
(4) In event of tow being unable to keep up with convoy PENYLAN will remain with A.F.D. together with light forces detailed.
(5) Air escort will be arranged. Codeword "Jovial".
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1815A/23)

SNOWDROP.

(Search for barge carrying A/C.)

See 22/11 - p.931

2/12.967

On relief by SAMSONIA, SNOWDROP is to proceed to Londonderry to fuel. Commodore Londonderry is to sail SNOWDROP for Tyne as convenient to refit.
(C. in C. W.A. 2126A/23.)

Operations.Biscay S/M
Patrol.
GRAPH.

My 1844/22 para. (H). Amend to read GRAPH 46° 55' N. 12° 10' W. diving by day through 44° 55' N. 12° 10' W. at 0200/24. Then to zone K.502.
(F.O.S. 0052A/23 to Admty.) *see previous page*

Patrols.

1. Intend M.L.303 (S.O) and R.M.L.523 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 35' W. and 2° 20' W.

2. Leave Portland at 1800 by Q.Z.S.382 and patrol line at dawn/24.

3. Object. Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Object".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1101A/23 and 1256/23.)

→ PENYLAN is to proceed with M.T.B. 55 (S.O), 50, M.G.B.609 to patrol between 50° 35' N. 0° 37' E. and 50° 27' N. 0° 08' E. passing E.A.3 buoy at 1800/23. 0745/24 anchor St. Helens if weather unsuitable. Codeword "Device". If ordered to intercept enemy on his coastal route, Q Z X 771 is to be crossed by passage 1. Aircraft will search enemy route. Chasseurs 41 (S.O) and 11 patrolling south of E A 5. Portland patrol M.L.123 (S.O) R.M.L. 523 between 2° 20' W. and 1° 35' W. on latitude 50° 20' N.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1345A/23 and 1530A/23.)

N.T. M.D. My 0825A/22. M.T.Bs 619, 626 and 631 returned.

(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1705A/23 to A.C.O.S.)

N.O.I.C. Lerwick's 1705/23. Patrols C and A carried out as planned. No shipping targets encountered.
(A.C.O.S. 2235/23 to Admty.)

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23.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Catalina
A/C for
Gibraltar.H.Q.C.C. 1150A/22. Concur.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0145A/23 to Air Ministry.)Convoy
S.C.109.3 Fortresses will be sweeping along your track
from 0730Z/24 until 1500Z/24.
(C. in C. W.A. 1747Z/23 to Escorts S.C.109.)A/C for
*VICTORIOUS.R.A.A. 1333/18. ^{p-782} Concur.
(C. in C. H.F. 1844A/23 to Admty.)*See pp 963 & 966.*Mining.Lyme Bay
sweep.The 4th M.S.F. will be operating in the following
area beginning 24th November and continuing
until completion(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.Fishing trawlers are to be warned to keep clear
of this area until further notice.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1021/23 to R.N.O. Brixham.)North
Channel.Commodore M.K.S.1 (one) (X) Liverpool section
reports floating mine in 054° 53' N. 005° 30' W.
at 0940A/23. Searched area but could not
locate. My P.C.S. 054° 44' N. 005° 22' W., 161°,
6 at 1100A/23.
(PRESCOTT 1115A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)Enemy Intelligence.

Two Coasters.

2 coasters in 46° 50' N. 06° 20' W. course
310°, 5 knots.
(A/C 8 F L Duty G 1324/23 to 19 Group.)S.W.Norway.
Prohibited
Areas.According to the Norwegian Press the German Naval
Authorities have prohibited navigation in the
following areas:-

1. Stavanger Harbour between 2300 and 0500.
 2. Talgo Fjord and Mastra Fjord in Stavanger area
from one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise.
 3. Karmsund between the Signal Station, Haugesund and the
Signal Station Kopervik from one hour after sunset to one hour
before sunrise.
 4. Bergen Harbour from one hour after sunset to one hour before
sunrise.
 5. Navigable waters East of Lero (Bergen) at all times.
- Another Press notice states that the entrances to Bergen, Lervik,
Haugesund with Karmsund, and Askevold are closed between 2200
and 0600.

(D.N.I. 1659A/23 to F.O.S., A.C.O.S.)

/Nine ...

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - contd.

Nine Ships.

9 ships position 47° 22' N. 3° 50' W.
(A/C FR5N 2220/23 to 19 Group.)
My number one. P.C.S. of enemy 47° 22' N.
03° 50' W. 090°, 15. Returning to base aileron
unserviceable.
(A/C FR5N 2235/23 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat
sunk by
VICTORIOUS.

(U. 517)

* VICTORIOUS aircraft depth charged U-Boat in 46°
10' N. 17° 08' W. at 1100/21. U-Boat then
scuttled and OPPORTUNE picked up 5 officers, 46
ratings survivors and will land them at Greenock.
(R.A.A. H.F. 0045A/23 to Admty.)

* see pp 963 & 965

U-Boats
reported.

North Russia. See Shipping.
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on
surface and observed to submerge. When first
sighted was on course 290°, estimated speed 14
knots.
(A/C TK7 Duty Z. 1300A/23 to 19 Group.)

Probable
U-Boat
method of
attack.

The following is passed for information.
(2) The following method of attack was probably
employed by the enemy on several occasions
during the passage of a homeward bound West
African convoy and in view of the success
achieved by the U-Boats may well be repeated.
(3) Approach was probably made submerged from ahead and so timed
that the U-Boat was able to surface inside the screen shortly
after dark. Attack was made at very close quarters, on
occasions inside the columns, and escape made on surface at high
speed.
(4) The escort on this occasion was weak, had not been trained as
a group, was without H/F D/F and was hampered by rough weather
and breakdowns in A/S and type 271. It is not considered that
this type of attack would be so likely to achieve success with a
properly equipped and trained group using H/F D/F but should
this method of attack develop it can be countered by keeping
down U-Boats ahead of convoy during daylight while convoy takes
evasive measures. Existing measures should suffice after attack.
(5) The Germans claim that all the U-Boat Commanding Officers
involved in these attacks were unexperienced and on their first
or 2nd cruise.
(C. in C. W.A. 2354A/23 to Escorts of Western Approaches.)

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- Unknown Ship. Intercepted 0039 G.M.T. de D3YF. S O S S O S
S O S followed by dash, strength 3.
(Burnham Radio 0139A/23 to Admty.)
- Rescue of Barge with A/C. My P.C.S. at 0740, 54° 20', 10° 57', 057°, 3.
Tug not met.
(SNOWDROP 0820Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
SNOWDROP P.C.S. at 0840A/23, 054° 20' N.
010° 57' W., 057°, 3 knots, towing barge. Join
SNOWDROP without delay and take in tow. Report
your P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A. 1204A/23 to SAMSONIA.)
C. in C. W.A. 1204A. Speed increased to 4.9 knots at
1030A. Request SAMSONIA's frequency and call sign.
(SNOWDROP 1250Z/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
Have searched from position in your 1550A/22 to off Achill
Head, thence up to 054° 49' N. 011° 43' W., thence down to
(2 corrupt groups) 054° 08' N. 011° 42' W. Now searching
towards N.W. Have been in communication with Sunderland.
Now complying your 1204A/23.
(SAMSONIA 1500A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)
- See p. 964
- AZERBAIDJAN. Admiralty's 1216A/8/10/41. Details of damage.
All at Reykjavik, war casualty. Afloat, no cargo.
Vessel ready for sea. Towage not necessary.
(A.C.I.C. 1823A/23 to Admty.)
- Shipping and Convoys.
- K.M.S. 5. Anticipate following ships will require to arrive
Clyde December 6th LONDONDERRY, BIDEFORD, LANGGUARD,
LULWORTH, HASTINGS, *LOUISBERG, WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT,
*CALGARY, CAMROSE, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA, REGINA,
KITCHENER.
(C. in C. W.A. 0015A/23 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
* See p. 963 X See next page.
- SCOTTISH AMERICAN. Your 1832/22. Confirm that SCOTTISH AMERICAN
is adapted to fuel H.M. Ships.
(A.C.I.C. 0032A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
- K.M.S.4. Clyde arrival ALBERNI escorting CORRALES and
HERANGER. Codeword "Silent 3".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0814A/23 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
Your 0930A/20. Intend sailing FORT YORK, TADOUSSAC,
DORNOCH and ILFRACOMBE to commence sweep at 0900Z/24. Speed of
sweep 7½ knots.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1106A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - con/2.

- K.M.S.4. (contd.) My 0930/20. Cancel para. (3) and substitute as follows. Route of convoy
(A) 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900Z/27.
(B) 055° 30' N. 010° 01' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 1825A/23 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
- M.K.F.2. Following arrived 0300/23 REINA DEL PACIFICO, CIRCASSIA, MOOLTAN, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, STRATHMORE, ARUNDEL CASTLE, STRATHNAVER, EXCELLER, SALACIA, STRATHEDEN, EMPRESS OF CANADA, CAMERONIA.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 0901A/23.)
Arrived LARGS, KEREN, GLENGYLE with Clyde portion of M.K.F.2.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0904A/23.)
- Q.P.15. Weather prevented oiling. FORESTER detached to Seidisfjord (Iceland). Intend detaching remaining Destroyers p.m. 23rd if oiling impossible. Remaining South West of Bear Island West of 010° E.
(C.S.1 0901A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
Weather report 3656 9456. My position 070° 08' N. 000° 58' E.
(FORESTER 0910A/23 to C.S.1.)
0232 G.M.T. U-Boat 071° 33' N. 030° 15' E.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1055A/23.)
Liberator aircraft will sweep along your track tomorrow 24th. After convoy is met aircraft will carry out A/S sweep in your area.
(A.C.I.C. 2030A/23 to Escorts Q.P.15.)
All my destroyers detached to fuel Seidisfjord. Intend remaining covering position until 0100A/25th unless I hear convoy has crossed 002° W. earlier, then proceed Hvalfjord.
(C.S.1 2359A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)
- Special Convoy. Cancel my 1518A/22. Admiralty's 1818A/22 refers.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 0945A/23 to A.I.G. 184.)
- H.X.215. Your 1753/22. "Snowflake" trials should take place immediately it is dark. On completion ships capable of arriving Bar Light vessel by 1130A/25 are to be detached escorted by WALLFLOWER. Clyde and Belfast ships capable of this speed are to proceed in company. WALLFLOWER to break off as convenient to arrive Holyhead a.m. 25.
(C. in C. W.A. 0952A/23 to Escorts H.X.215.)
- M.K.S.1 X. Arrived* LOUISBURG with convoy M.K.S.one (X).
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1215A/23.)* *see previous page.*
(K.M.S. 5)
- O.N.S.148. Detail one corvette to relieve MIGNONETTE with O.N.S.148 at Altacarry. Rendezvous at 1130A/24th.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1436A/23 to HESPERUS.)

/Your ...

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - con. 1/2.

- O.N.S.148
(contd.) Your 1436A/23. VANESSA detailed and ordered to return Lough Foyle when remainder of group join.
(HESPERUS 1729A/23 to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- TJALDUR. A.C.O.S. 1714/22. Concur.
(C. in C..H.F. 1447A/23 to A.C.O.C.)
Your 1915/22. If movement of S.D.35 takes place as in A.M. 1325A/22 para. 4, additional sailing of TJALDUR will not be required. Please confirm therefore that escort can be arranged as in para.5 of A.M. 1325A/22 in order that extra sailing of TJALDUR may be cancelled.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1631A/23 to A.C.O.S.)
- M.K.F.4. Intend sailing CITY OF PRETORIA and PARDO from Barry Roads at 1400/25, ELISABETH BAKKE (Nor.) join Scarweather at 1715/25th to Clyde, E.T.A. 1600/26. Escorted by P.C.74. Codeword "Peroration".
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1519A/23.)
- R.U.50.
P.Q.19. Sailed SALADIN in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2346A/22. Arriving Reykjavik 1000A/25.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1720A/23 to A.C.I.C.)
My 2203/18. It has now been decided that the following British ships are to remain in Iceland for next P.Q. convoy and not to return in R.U.50. EMPIRE ARCHER, EMPIRE CLARION, DALDORCH, DOVER HILL, BRIARWOOD.
2. M.O.W.T. request that Captain Lawrence be informed of this alteration and that he should assist S.S.T.O. in ascertaining any requirement for stores etc. that may require to be sent from U.K. advice of which should be signalled as soon as practicable to D. of S.T. Captain Lawrence thereafter should return U.K. as convenient.
3. Request AZERBAIJAN be sailed Loch Ewe for orders in R.U.50. Cancel my 2213/18. ^
(D.T.D. 1847A/23 to A.C.I.C.)
- M.K.S.1. The following arrived 1450/23. ALPHARD, BENALBENACH, DELILIAN, EMPIRE MORDRED, HOUSTON CITY, HAVILDAR, STESSYLT, CLIONA, MAJA, NORLYS.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 1745/23.)
- Signal
Letters and
Call Signs. In future merchant ships' signal letters and, where applicable, current War W/T Call Signs are to be verified and shown in routeing instructions given to Masters. This applies to all ships, irrespective of nationality, trading in interests of United Nations, except ships on U.K. Coastal voyages.
(D.T.D. 2005A/23.)

970

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X. *See p. 983.*

Enemy Aircraft Losses. Your 1910/21. Records of damage to enemy aircraft are necessarily incomplete since light forces operating forward are actively and profitably engaged and have had little time for written reports.

(2) Total results known to me up to noon 22nd Nov. are as follows:-

(a) By gunfire from ships. Destroyed 25, probably destroyed 15, damaged 36. Majority Ju.88 and S.M.79.

(b) By carrier aircraft. (1) Against French in the assault. At Oran, 3 destroyed, 2 probably damaged. At Algiers, 3 destroyed.

(2) Axis aircraft. Carriers of Force H destroyed one Ju.88, one Heinkel and damaged 3 Ju.88.

(3) Results obtained by gunfire are very encouraging and indicate what can be achieved with adequate close range weapons resolutely handled. The majority of the execution has been done by the small ships of the Inshore Squadron.

Outstanding result so far reported is R.F.A.*DEWDALE (Master R. Grimer) who destroyed 2 Ju.88 and 1 Heinkel. Probably destroyed 1 Ju.88 and damaged three Ju.88. IBIS destroyed two Ju.88 and one Heinkel 111 before she was sunk. (N.C.X.F., 1304A/23 to Admty.) ** See p. 983*

Attacks on U/Bs. Your 1910/21. Following summary of U-Boat attacks up to noon 22nd Nov. is in amplification of my 1734Z/18 and contains additional results.

(2) Total by all British sea and air force since 6th Nov. in "Torch" area, definitely sunk - 6; probably sunk 10; possibly damaged - 23, including 21 claimed damaged by R.A.F. aircraft which figure I consider should be treated with reserve pending Admiralty assessment.

(3) Details are as follows.

(A) Results by Ships.

Sunk - 2. Probably sunk - 7. Damaged - 2.

Detailed incidents.

Sunk (1) 1 ~~unidentified~~ ^{EMO} Italian by LORD NUFFIELD on 10th Nov. in 36.53 N. 02.47 E. Prisoners sent U.K.

(2) U.660 by STARWORT ^{LOTUS} on 12th Nov. in 36.07 N. 01.00 W. 29 prisoners being sent U.K.

Probably sunk. 1 believed German by ACHATES on 8th Nov. in 36.06 N. 00.44 W. One by WESTCOTT on 8th Nov. in 36.40 N. 00.53 W. One ^{by URSULA} by URSULA on 11th Nov. off Cap de Gata. One by VENOMOUS on 12th Nov. in 35.40 N. 09.56 W. following attack on HECLA and MARNE. One by CLARE on 12th Nov. in 37.41 N. 00.41 W. One by WRESTLER ^(U.305) on 15th Nov. in 36.07 07.35 W. following attack on AVENGER. One ^{by LOTUS} by LOTUS on 13th Nov. in 37.04 N. 02.55 E. ~~sunk~~.

Damaged. 2 by VERITY on 11th Nov. in 36.01 N. 01.13 W. and in 36.05 N. 00.41 W.

(B) By Naval aircraft.

Sunk - 1, but not claimed by F.A.A. This was only a case of finishing off a cripple already heavily damaged by R.A.F. Hudsons who should have credit for the kill. Submarine stated by prisoners to be U.331 was forced to the surface and disabled by Hudsons p.m. 17th Nov. off Algiers. It was machine-gunned by Martlets and sunk by torpedo from Albacore of FORMIDABLE. 2 survivors were picked up by Walrus from Algiers.

/(C) ...

23.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X. - *London*.

Attacks (C) By R.A.F. aircraft.
on U/Bs. Total sunk - 4 including U.331 above.
(Contd.) Probably sunk - 3.
Claimed damaged 21 of which one may later be
assessed probably sunk.

Details as follows -

Sunk (1) One German still unidentified beached 70 miles north-east of Oran p.m. 14th after being attacked by 4 Hudson aircraft of No. 500 (G.R.) Squadron. 44 prisoners sent to U.S.A.

(2) Unknown. Attacked by Hudson aircraft of No. 500 (G.R.) Squadron 30 miles north of Algiers at 1030/15. Four depth charges were dropped. Very heavy explosion followed. Gun was blown into air and conning tower collapsed. U-Boat sank with several other explosions. Attacking aircraft severely damaged by explosion and later abandoned. 2 of crew rescued. Probably sunk by R.A.F.

(1) Unknown. Attacked by Hudson aircraft of No. 500 (G.R.) Squadron in position 38.08 N. 02.15 E. at 1120/7. Submarine had just submerged. After attack submarine surfaced slowly and bomb was dropped close to bow. Submarine slipped back bow remaining above surface at angle of 60° for about 4 minutes then disappeared. Large oil patches and bubbles appeared during next 20 minutes.

(2) Unknown. Attacked by Hudson aircraft of No. 500 (G.R.) Squadron in position 36.55 N. 00.20 W. at 1030/13. After attack stern of submarine rose vertically from water and slowly sank. Air bubbles rose in volume for about 2 minutes.

(3) Unknown. Attacked by Hudson aircraft of No. 500 (G.R.) Squadron in position 37.36 N. 01.58 E. at 1015/15. Submarine was attacked when crash-diving. Stick burst across bows which were then submerged. 5 minutes later air bubbles 10 to 12 feet across rose continuously for 4 minutes. Oil also appeared and 45 minutes later had spread over an area of 4 miles. Claimed damaged by R.A.F. besides the above.

48 other attacks have been made of which 21 are claimed to have damaged the U-Boat concerned.

(N.C.X.F., 1341A/23 to Admty.)

Publicity. Your 1910/21. Following points may be worth making subject to security considerations.

(A) Operation does not appear spectacular because owing to strategic surprise being achieved everything went according to plan.

(B) 150 M/Vs made the 3000 mile trip from United Kingdom to the landing beaches and ports. All arrived untouched except one U.S. Transport torpedoed in the stern. This does not include the even larger number of ships which followed up.

(C) Convoys subjected to severe though fruitless air attack. Large number of enemy aircraft shot down by ships gunfire, a particularly satisfactory aspect.

(D) Whole operation great tribute to seamanship of those concerned. Heavy weather encountered in Atlantic successful passage of large convoys through narrow waters of Straits of Gibraltar without lights and no moon. Approach to destination involved tricky manoeuvring of large bodies of ships.

/(E) ...

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X - contd.

Publicity. (E) Losses of ships inevitably followed once
(Contd.) initial surprise lost. Considerable risks
necessary to land men and stores over open
beaches as far forward as possible during period
before transport and communications established ashore. Losses
not large in proportion to gains as own troops advanced over 400
miles to eastward in 14 days.
(F) Over 120,000 men complete with all requirements of modern
war were placed ashore in the assault convoys.
(G) Our great regret that a number of French destroyers were
sunk or damaged. They fought gallantly but British naval
weight of gunfire was superior. A pitiful waste of effort
which should have been directed against Axis invaders of their
country.
(2) Gallant attacks by BROKE, MALCOLM, WALNEY and HARTLAND.
(3) For details of S/M and naval air effort see also my 1304/23
and 1341/23.
(4) Above refers to British performance only but consider
presence of U.S. ships in convoys and of similar excellent work
by Western Naval Task Force should be mentioned. A particularly
satisfactory feature was the close understanding and good co-
operation of these large forces of mixed British and U.S. units.
(N.C.X.F. 1730A/23 to Admty.)

Situation 1. Situation report 16 of November 22nd.
Ref. No.1183. 2. Naval, Algiers: Smoke defence of harbour
reported effective during air raid 21st Nov. 8
personnel ships of K.M.F.3 berthed and all
personnel discharged prior to air raid 22nd Nov.
Oran: Oil storage facilities for 45,000 tons located.
Mers-el-Kebir: Anti-torpedo nets being laid.
3. Tunisia: French Algerian Div. concentrating along border.
French troops on Anderson's front will operate under his command.
Gafsa: Enemy Mex patrols on roads.
Gabes - Gafsa threatened the town night 20th/21st. Bulk 2nd Bn.
503rd Parachute Inf. withdrew to Feriana early 21st. French
and U.S.A. troops reoccupied Gafsa 22nd. Medjex El Bab: 21st
Nov. Germans withdrew to E Bank.
Djebel Abiod: 21st Nov. British report Germans thinning out.
Beja: 8 miles to N.E. 21st Nov. Italians supported by dive
bombers attacked French colonials; driven off. Inf. Co., and
A.A. units from C.T.F. for 503rd Parachute Inf. en route from
Blida 21st Nov.
4. Algeria: C.P. First Army closed Jenappes 221400Z opened
Constantine.
5. C.T.F.: Bulk CC B prepared for move to E.T.F.
6. W.T.F.: Unloading U.G.F.2 continues satisfactorily.
7. Air. 44 A/S sorties from Gib. and North African Bases, 3
sightings. 1 M/G attack, 2 enemy aircraft sightings, 1
inconclusive combat. E.A.C. area: Bisleys attacked Bizerta
night 21st/22nd results unknown. Spitfire squadron moved to
Soik El Arba from Bone. Bone airfield dive bombed 21st. 10
Spitfires destroyed or damaged on ground, 3 Ju.88 shot down.
(Commandeth Gibraltar, 1512Z/23 to Abfor London.)

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X - Contd.

12th C.S.

Your 1452/19th Nov. (Organisation of Fleet) para. (a). This will be known as the 12th Cruiser Squadron. (D.O.D.(F), 1556A/23 to N.C.X.F.)

Losses.

Your 1910/21 (Requesting details of losses be signalled for statement to be made on Operation "Torch".) Casualties. All known casualties up to and including 20th Nov. have been reported to Admiralty by signal or by service air mail.

2. In those ships when nominal lists were not available, survivors names have been reported.

3. Cdr. P.C. Yorke who should proceed to U.K. by air tonight Monday is taking a letter giving a summary of casualties. (N.C.X.F., 1634A/23 to Admty.)

Water for
M/Vs.

Your 1230/18. You should consult F.O.C.N.A. regarding use of distilling ship GRYFEVALE. F.O.C.N.A's 1245/6 refers. Vessel is at Bathurst. (D. of S.T., 2006A/23 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Intelligence. Ref. 1202.

1. Intelligence Report 16: covering period from 1201Z/22nd Nov. to 1200Z/23rd Nov.
2. (Land.)
3. Naval. Last P.R.U. French Fleet 20th Nov. no major change. Light enemy forces patrolling of approaches Toulon. Italian fleet: At 2300Z/22nd Nov. a large warship and 2 cruisers 60 mins. S.S.W. of Naples steering North.
4. Air. R/C. Enemy concentrated R/C of North Africa coast, During the early part of Nov. 22nd, 5 enemy aircraft reported seven our ships off Algiers, Cap Tenex and East Arzeu. Bombing: On 22nd Nov. dive bombers operating from Tunis attacked Souk El Arba airdrome from which we operate. (Gibraltar, 2140Z/23 to Abfor London.)

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

VINDICTIVE. (2 corrupt groups) sailed VINDICTIVE escorted by
See 22/11-p.946 MILNE and ITHURIEL. Relevant Q.B. and Q.B.B.
messages held and Q.B.A.3.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0344A/23 to Admty. C.S.10, F.O.I.C.
Oran).

F.O.C.N.A., See F.O.C.N.A., 1439/22.
0535A/23.

BELGIAN FISHERMAN. Ref. A.M. 1545A/12th (BELGIAN FISHERMAN bound
Takoradi may require coal bunkers at St.
Vincent). Vessel has not arrived St. Vincent C.V.
Please inform *TURCOMAN who expects to R/V
vessel today to escort to Freetown.
(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent (C.V.) 0545/23).

* *See p. 978B*

Air Report. Opsum to midnight 22 Nov. Hudson ZED/1404 on
Met flight at 1333 hrs. 37.03 N., 12.59 W. 200°
8 kts. Sighted U/B on surface. As D/Cs were not
carried Hudson attacked with front and turret
guns, tracer bullets observed to hit C/T.
U/B submerged nose first and stern lifted out of
water at angle of 30° nothing further observed.
(HQ. R.A.F., Gibraltar 0745Z/23, 0757Z/23).

Movements. Departure 0600 for Oran H.M. Trawlers NEGRO,
GOTH, FILEY BAY, ELBURY, for Algiers, M.Ls. 458
443, Motor Minesweepers 53, 114, 70, 85, 68,
one, 92, 116. (group omitted) 118. Q.B.A.3.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0904A/23 to Admty etc).
Arrival LANCASTER escorting SS. ORMONDE.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0934A/23 to Admty).

Aircraft Facilities. Following is my 1225Z/22 passed to you for
information. (begins) from (3 corrupt groups)
Western Task Force Action C. in C. U.S. Fleet,
(?information) Opnav, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet,
Com (corrupt group) Wing. Your 1746Z/19
(N.T. in W.R.) Operation of large seaplanes Port Lyautey
possible, however, take off may be delayed for favourable wind.
No base facilities available except boats and buoys large
crane at air station dock. Hydro chart (2 corrupt groups)
328 - one correct. Facilities available at various fields for
24 O S 2 U planes.
(?Western T.F. 1000Z/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Aircraft...

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. *40 N / 20 W*

Aircraft Units. Squadron 833 is being brought up to an I E strength 6 Swordfish, drawing on Gibraltar A R pool.
(2) On completion 3 Swordfish only will be available as reserve for 18 shore based aircraft of 813 and 833 Squadrons.
(3) With present limited maintenance facilities at shore bases it is considered to maintain operational efficiency there is an urgent demand that the immediate supply of 6 further A R Swordfish and that Gibraltar pool should be maintained at minimum 50% of I E shore based aircraft and 25% of flying personnel.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1132B/23 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. R.A.A.)
Concur (N.C.X.F., 1812A/24).

VAL DE LA HAYE. Your 1858/22 not to F.O.C.N.A. No objection to coastwise route to Gibraltar.
2. Your 1949/12 has been passed to F.O.C.N.A. who has been requested to arrange escort informing you.
(D.O.D. (F) 1553A/23 to N.A. Madrid (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
N.A. Madrid's 1949/12th Nov. is being passed to you.
2. Admty. proposed route to U.K. but Master has reported that he has not enough fuel and no charts for route proposed and has asked if he can proceed to Gibraltar coastwise. See A.M. 1553/23rd Nov.
3. Request you will arrange escort informing N.A. Madrid.
(D.O.D. (F) 1607A/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SEAKAY Intend sailing SEAKAY escorted by BOREAS and G.U.F.2. VELOX at 1700A/24th routed through
See next page for correct time as report.
(A) 35.56 N., 06.30 W. (B) 35.00 N., 06.35 W.
(C) 33.50 N., 07.(?45) W., to join G.U.F.2.
S. of A 14 knots. Arriving position (C) at 0800/25th then as ordered by you. On return escorts will be available to escort WINOOSKI from Casablanca and Coaster FINTRA and HILDUR from Port Lyautey to Gibraltar as arranged by you. CONTESSA will not be completed in time to catch GU.F. 2 Destroyers will transport 200 of crew of ALMAACK. F.O. Casablanca pass to Port Captain Port Lyautey.
(N.C.X.F., 1615A/23 to F.O. Casablanca, (R) F.O.C.N.A.,
Port Capt. Port Lyautey, A.O.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. F., Capt. (S) 8)

S/M DIANELLA. Friendly submarine escorted by BOREAS eastbound passes through 180° Europa Point 2 at 2130A/23rd thence 180° Cape Calaburras 10. Speed 10 knots.
TROOPER - See next page - 12.1013
(?DIANELLA) assumes U patrol about 0030A/24th.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1625A/23 to ROCHESTER.(R) Escorts of M.K.S.2, LOCH OSKAIG).

A/S Air searches. T.C.A.O.11 Intend A/S Air Searches one Wellington 1800/23 to 0300/24 one Wellington 2100/23rd to 0600/24 both to 039° 00' N., 013° 00' W.
(N.C.X.F., 1646A/23 to S. and A. West of Gib).

MOST SECRET

945A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1303A/23rd November IN

From N.C.X.F.

Date 23.11.42
Time 2221

Naval Cypher (3) "S" by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G.63.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 2004A/23rd Submarine TROOPER escorted by H.M.S. BOREAS 35 57 05 36 through Straits to eastward. *See previous page p.984A*

(2) ARMERIA, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, 32 22 11 25 through 29 45 15 15 thence 202 12

(3) H.M.S. ADVENTURE, ~~H.M.S. WESHARE~~
H.M.S. BRILLIANT, (?36) 24 08 50 to Gibraltar *See 22/11-p.939-18.*

(4) Task Force 39, 34 20 11 (202) to Casablanca 9.

(5) M K S one (Y) ROTHER, SPEY, COWSLIP, STARWORT, POPPY, DIANELLA, ABERDEEN, 38 17 19 38 through 38 28 15 01 and 40 28 17 02 thence E S *(Amended, See 0920A/24)*

(6) M K S Nought, 4 Sloops 6 Corvettes pass Europa Point 0600A 24th in position 36 01 06 20 through 36 01 06 30 thence 285 7. 4 Sloops 3 Corvettes return Gibraltar 1300A 24th.

(7) MKS 2 G (?H.M.S. BLACKSWAN), H.M.S. FOWEY, H.M.S. MYCOSOTIS, H.M.S. CARNATION, MALOUTINE, join MKS 2 in position 36 01 06 20 at 1300A 24th. *See p.976*

(8) SEAKAY escorted by H.M.S. BOREAS *U.S. destroyer NIBLOCK and*
~~H.M.S. VILIX~~ leaves Gibraltar 1700A 24th through 35 *M840*
56 06 30 thence 182 14. *See previous page.*

1303A/23.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C. *(Amended)*

- 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)
- 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)
- F.O. (S) by Courier.

- D.M.S.
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(3)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Ad. Blake.(2)
- U.S.N.(3)

(Amended)
1108A/24
p.1015
See 2/30/201A/24
p.1011 & 0615A/24
p.1013

945B

MOST SECRET

MOST
SECRET

MESSAGE

1308A/23 Nov.

IN

From: N.C.X.F.

DATE: 23 Nov. 1942.
RECD: 2216.

NAVAL CYPHER 'S' by W/T.

Addressed: Situation Report for Area 'Z' of North
Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 1956A. 23rd.

- (1) U.G.S. 2 6 destroyers 29 40 32 49 093 degs. 9.
- (2) H.M.S. DRAGON 21 18 19 53 342 degs. 15½.

1308A/23.

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, Admiralty Hse.
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.T.D. (3).
D.T.D. (C).
Ad. Blake. (2).
Ad. Ramsay (4).

DEC.

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.M.K.S.2
Gibraltar
Section.*See p. 975A*

My 0935Z/18 para. 4. Ocean escort is to consist of BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, MYOSOTIS F.S. LA MALOUINE, CARNATION, MALLOW, STONECROP, AUBRETIA, VIOLET. Para. 5 is cancelled. (N.C.X.F., 1650A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. F.O.S. Capt. (S) 8, Cdre. F).

ROCHESTER,
OXLIP,
HONEYSUCKLE,
HYDERABAD.

OXLIP, HONEYSUCKLE and HYDERABAD are to be detached to Gibraltar with you. (N.C.X.F., 1710A/23 to ROCHESTER).

Swiss Ships.

Following four ships leave Genoa for ports West of Gibraltar on approved voyages. Swiss chartered Spanish ship MARIA VICTORIA 25th November, Swiss MALOJA and ALBULA 26th Swiss LUGANO 27th. (D.E.W.D., 1818A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Force H.

Force H. including (?Fleet) Units leaves Gibraltar p.m./24th and arrives Mers el Kebir a.m./25th. (Capt. S.8., 1928A/23 to 8th S.F.)

U/B

(Submarine) sighted by fishing boat on surface at (?03) 00/21 south of Calheta (Maderia) A.O. (N.A. Lisbon, 1938/23 to S.O. (I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty).

Water for
M/Vs.

Your 1230/18. You should consult F.O.C.N.A. regarding use of distilling ship GRYFEVALE. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1245/6 refers. Vessel is at Bathurst. (D.S.T., 2006A/23 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)

U.S. Mine
Divisions.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to N.C.X.F. for information. Following is my 2037Z/22. (Begins) Your 1414Z/21 intend to sail U.S. Mine 19 and 21 for home waters after arrival and indoctrination of escort vessels and mine sweepers of Task Force 37. (Cdr. Sea Frontier W.T.F., 2040Z/23 to Cinclant (R) C.T.F.29).

G.U.F. 1 (a)
G.U.F. 2.

Your 1323/22nd. Convoy which sailed from Casablanca on Nov. 17th should have been named G.U.F.1 (a). Returning ships of (?second) fast convoy named G.U.F.2 in accordance with Cominch 1420/17th. (N.C.X.F., 2152A/23 to Admty).

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Air attack
on convoy.

Convoy using code word "Untrue" being attacked by unknown number of enemy aircraft. Position of convoy is 36.38 N., 2.55 E., course 080° speed Z. (As received).
(Gibraltar 2240A/23 to Admty).
My 2240, torpedo aircraft.
(Gibraltar W/T, 2342A/23).

TASAJERA,
BACHAQUERO.

Landing ships tank TASAJERA and BACHAQUERO escorted by RHYL, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR are to be sailed for Casablanca at 1000A/24 Nov. to arrive 1600A/25 Nov. TASAJERA and BACHAQUERO are to embark military units ordered by A.F.C.P. message No. 1208 T.O.O. 2226Z/23 Nov. not to TASAJERA and BACHAQUERO, and are then to be sailed to Gibraltar by F.O.I.C. Casablanca with same escort. Outward route through.
(p) 35.54 N., 06.35 W., to (q) 33.50 N., 07.45 W. direct. F.O.I.C. Casablanca pass to C.G.W.T.F.
(N.C.X.F., 2352A/23 to F.O.C.N.A. Force I, Casablanca).

South Atlantic.

NEPAL,
FORTUNE.

Sailing NEPAL, FORTUNE escorting 7 ships to Capetown routed inshore. N.C.S.O. Durban[#] 0758 /23rd refers. (2) Shift to group S.L. at 0100Z/24.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0731Z/23 to Admty etc).^{*N.T.M.W.D.}

W.S. 24.

ILEX pass to Admty. for (?all) addressees (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Convoy W.(?S) 24 Ind. at 0800Z/23 Nov. 021° 57' S., 021° 31' W. 134° 13.3 knots.
My 1244Z/19, E.T.A. position P now 0330Z/30 Nov. Intend shifting to W/T (?watch) for area Q at (?09)00Z/24th Nov. (?Last) QG(?A) message received.
(Capt. D.11., 0815Z/23 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., (R) Comsolantfor etc).

^{2.5}
COLUMBINE
(disabled
20/11).

Located COLUMBINE (?005°) (?38') S., 006° 43' E. "A". Join me at best speed. (corrupt group) course 260°.
(CORINTHIAN, 0107Z/23 to M.L.s 244, 272 (R) F.O.C., W.A. B.N.L.O.W.A.) *see p. 978c*

C.F. 8

Sailing telegram. code word "Profit". Escorts NORMAN, ALCANTARA.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 0625Z/23 to Admty etc).
See 1504C/23. *p. 979*

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

P.552
See p. 979 Arrival Pointe Noire 0900Z/23.
(L.O. W.A., 1145/23 to F.O.C.W.A.)
My 1145/23rd P.552 will remain at Pointe Noire about 3 days to make good minor engine defects.
(L.O. W.A., 1155Z/23).

PHOEBE PHOEBE 1531/9th Nov. and 1701(?12th). Request Admiralty intentions regarding disposal of turret.
(R.A.W.A., 1147Z/23 to Admty. (R) PHOEBE, B.N.L.O. West Africa)

Port Bouet. My 1107/16th. Aircraft reports increase of one merchant vessel 4,000tons at Port Bouet on 22nd. Nov.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1209Z/23 to Admty).

Tankers for Trinidad. A.M. 1151/22nd. Intend to sail Trinidad convoy early December. Convoy to include NORVIK, DRUPA, OLTENIA II, BENTE MAERSK, MIJDRECHT, CISTULA, DORDRECHT. Request escort may return with eastbound convoy from North.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1213Z/23 to Admty).

INDOCHINOIS Your 1820/22. INDOCHINOIS arrived Capetown 21/11. Please see N.C.S.O. Capetown's 0907/22.
(N.T. in W.D.)
(C. in C. S.A., 1232C/23 to Admty).
INDOCHINOIS is not required to rejoin convoy. Request you will sail her independently.
(D.T.D., 1854A/23 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

START POINT. Have you any news of START POINT due Freetown 15/ Nov. ex O.N. 141?
(D.T.D., 1239A/23 to S.O.(I) Freetown).

U/B. B.A.D. 1333Z/23. See America & West Indies.

Attacks on U/Bs. To further interest in recent local events it would be much appreciated if advanced information of assessment committee's (?figures) on U-boats attacked in this area could be given.
(R.A.W.A.F., 1333Z/23 to Admty).

Lagos. Re extension of floating dock. (S. of S. for Colonies 1445/23 to Govr. Nigeria) See Lion Copy.

948A

Unparaphrased version of a Secret Cypher Telegram
not One Time Table

OZ 1972
TOO 1310Z/23
TCD 1340Z/23

MOST SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

IMMEDIATE

From:- Air Ministry
To:- G.O.C.-in-C. West Africa

OZ 1972 23rd. Nov. 1942.

From Chiefs of Staff.

There is a possibility that General de Gaulle may be contemplating independent action against Vichy West Africa. We do not consider this a serious possibility in view of General Leclerc's commitments (vide O/74627 of 21 Nov. from C.-in-C. Middle East). You should, however, keep careful watch for signs Free French preparations for move against NIGER Province, and report at once. Such a move might seriously prejudice negotiations between Americans and Blotson. War Office 81380 (M.O.4) of 21 Nov. refers.

T.O.O. 1310Z/23

Circulation.

Brigadier Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
War Registry, Admiralty.
C.6. Telegrams, War Office.
A.M.C.S.
C.C.O.

ADMIRALTY DISTRIBUTION.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (A)
2
N/A 1st S.L.
D.O.O. (F) (A)
D.N.I. (4)
D of P. (2)
Duty Capt.
D.O.I.C. (2)
H.M.S. D.H.P. (9)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.O.
No. Blake

948B

MOST SECRET

1331Z/23rd November.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
 Date. 23.11.42.
 From. F. O.C. W. Africa. Recd. 1614.
 Naval Cypher 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.

K. 14, 17 30 34 50 290 9 at 1957Z 23rd. *See p. 994*
 Two motor launches, escorting, 12 10 17 28 to Bathurst 7½.
 PORTSDOWN, SPHENE, 11 10 20 02 to Freetown through 10 01
 20 01 9¼.
 ARRAN, 2 motor launches, escorting off Bathurst to Freetown
 8.
 H. M.S. BRIDGEWATER, NORTHERN ISLES, tug, 09 15 19 59
 095 degs. 7½.
 ST. LOMAN, NORTHERN CHIEF, tug, about 09 02 18 10 095 degs.
 9.
 H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, 08 05 15 25 to Freetown 12½.
 BURDOCK, SOUTHERN PRIDE, escorting off Freetown to 10 01
 17 02 thence 323 9¼.
 YESTOR, VIVIANA, off ~~San~~ Antonio to Bathurst 9. *See p. 959*
 TURCOMAN, off St. Vincent to Bathurst 8½. *See p. 974*

1331Z/23.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

- 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)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.M.S.
- D.D.O.D.(C)
- N.I.D.10.

AJA

978c

MOST SECRET

1345Z/23rd November.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 23.11.42.

From. R.A. West Africa.

Reed. 1653.

Naval Cypher 3 (M) By W/T.

Addressed, Ships in Area P of South Atlantic Station, South of 8 degs. North. Admiralty. O. in C. South Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT.

F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting 05 41 11 55 130 10 at 2000Z 23rd.

ST. ZENO, SPAN IARD, MAGNOLIA, CANNA, escorting about 04 01 03 55 to Takoradi 5 1/2.

HYDRANGIA, PICT, ORFASY, one motor launch, escorting with T.S. 25 about 01 35 04 40 to Equator 03 54 thence 270 9.

NORTHERN DUKE, escorting 00 35 01 30 East 132 9.

ST. WISTAN, HOLCOMBE, one M.L., escorting off Niger River to North 8.

3.3. COLUMBINE
CORINTHIAN, two M.L.'s t wing 05 20 South 07 55 East (7293 degs.) 6. *see p. 977*

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, through 02 15 27 55 to 01 01 20 59 thence 065 degs. 14.

FINDANGO, KELT, escorting about 00 20 South 05 50 East to Takoradi 9.

1345Z/23.

- V.O.N.3.
- 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.(2)

AJA.

SECRET

948D

M E S S A G E

1445/23rd November.
OUT

TO: Governor Nigeria
(Sir B. Bourdillon)

Date 23/11/42

C I P H E R

From Secretary of State for the Colonies

18368/42. No. 1757 Secret

Following from Admiralty. Begins.

Lagos Floating Dock Extension.
Investigation of proposal to extend at fore end
indicates 3 possible methods of procedure.

(a) Replace existing bow end pontoon by new
pontoon, build new walls on former and join up. This
preferred as no work needed on end platform and no
period when two pontoon lengths of wall overhang.

(b) Build new walls on new pontoon, join up,
then exchange new and existing bow end pontoons.
This involves cutting off end platform and period
of overhang of two pontoon lengths of wall.

(c) As (b) but not finally exchanging pontoons.
This involves cutting off end platform.

Propose that method (a) should be adopted
as being simplest and giving least time dock out of
action. All alternatives require temporary mooring
arrangements whilst exchanging pontoons.

Request your remarks, on receipt of
which drawings will be sent.

2. Presume R.N.O. Lagos has informed you
that Lagos dock should not repeat not be put out
of commission until A.F.D. XXIV is ready for use at
Freetown. Ends.

1445/23

Received from C.O. 1520/24

Circulation:

Admiralty (Mil. Branch) - Mr.E.A. Crutchl

3rd S.L.
Vice Controller
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A. to A.C.N.S.(F)
A.S.(C)
Ops.(3)
O.D.(5)

D.M.S.
D.A/S.W.
D. 57 O.B.
E. in C.
D.N.C.
D. of P.(3)
I.P.(3)
W.D.
M.(6)

D.(4)(D.021552/42)
D.N.C.)E
P.)A
E. in C.)T
S.W.R.)F

BY COURIER

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements. Capetown arrivals 23rd NORMAN, ALCANTARA.
Imp. 977 Simonstown arrival 23rd ENTERPRISE. Capetown departure 1045Z/23rd (?ALCANTARA) for Freetown with convoy C(?F) 8 escorted by NORMAN to latitude 030° S. Shifting to W/T organization for Area P at 0700Z/27th E.T.A. (?Freetown) 1700Z/3rd Dec. (C. in C. S.A., 1504C/23 to Admty. R.A.W.A. (R) Comsolantfor).

P.552 1. P.552 is to be sailed for Simonstown through
Imp. 978 position X. 010° 01' S., 011° 01' E. Z 017° 01' 010° 00'. All positions S. and E. D. 028° 20' 012° 00' E. 031° 00' 015° 00' F.033° 12' 30" 017° 37'. thence by searched channel to Simonstown.
2. Report estimated time sailing, E.T.A. position (X) and E.T.A. position (E). S. of A. (?9) knots.
3. P.552 is to shift from group E.T. to broadcast S.L. on passing position (X). (R.A.W.A., 1603Z/23 to B.N.L.O.W.A., (R) P.552 Admty. etc).

"S" report, Following is a repetition of 1445 G.M.T. call
?KOTA TJANDI. sign (corrupt group) position 17.28 N., 34.13 W. at 1410 G.M.T. chased by submarine. (CALIFORNIA STAR, 1632/23 to Admty, C. in C. W.A.) W.D. Note Presumably KOTA TJANDI. Following received from KOTA TJANDI, Position 18° 18' N., 34° 13' P.S.T. at 1413 G.M.T./23. (Bombay W/T, No T.O.O./23 to Admty. Recd. 0551/24)

BENALDER SS. BENALDER hit by torpedo in convoy 18th Nov. in 04° 19' N., 02° 44' W. Ship arrived Takoradi 1600/10/11 in tow by MORRIS DANCE (?BARBRAKE) and Tug. Written report being forwarded together with any claims for salvage. (R.A.W.A., 1653Z/23 to Admty).

Ascension. Ships are not to close Ascension Island until the shore authorities have identified them and have given permission to proceed. (D.T.D., 1815Z/23 to B.A.M.S.).

Movements. Arrival 22nd Nov. Brazilian Minelayer CRAVELA^A and submarine Chaser C.S.2.
Arrival 23rd U.S. Destroyers* GEO. E. BADGER, DAVIS. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1941Z/23 to Admty).
** Captain T. D. ...*

ANNELIESE U.S.S. MILWAUKEE intercepted Blockade Runner
ESSBERGER. believed to be ANNELIESE ESSBERGER at 0054 N. 22.34 W., about ?0700Z/21. Ship scuttled. Prisoners being landed Recife 24 for questioning by U.S. interrogators. (Cominch 2031/23 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

KOTA NOPAN
(Dutch, Axis
control).

Attacked merchant ship in 017° 15' N., 034° 10' W.
at 1400Z/23rd with gunfire, distance 4 miles, she
did not answer my challenge and was identified as
KOTA NOPAN, no hits, disappeared in westerly
direction.
(D.S. K.14, 2100Z/23 to F.O.C. W.A.)

Suspicious
Ship.

(1) Unidentified ship sighted by aircraft in
001° 42' S., 013° 38' W. at 1045Z/23 Nov.
course 309° estimated speed 9 knots.
(2) Description.
(F.O. W.A., 2247Z/23 to Comsolantfor etc)
W.D. Note - Was U.S. NARBO, See 1631Z/24.

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.228 attack on enemy M/Vs. My 2200. 1500 tons merchant ship damaged, A/c (as received) sunk by gunfire. 750 rounds Oerlikon remain. (P.228 0131A/23 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8.)
 P.228's 2200/22 and 0131/23. Estimate P.228 will now pass $038^{\circ} 16' 008^{\circ} 00'$ at 2200A/23, bombing restrictions arranged accordingly.
 (Capt. S.8. 0922A/23 to 8 S/M.F.)
 My 0922. P.228 is to pass $038^{\circ} 50' 003^{\circ} 01' E$ at 0600A/25 and 135° Cape Palos 10 miles at 1900A/26.
 (Capt. S.8. 1020A/23 to 8 S/M.F.)
 My 0922. For 2200/23 read 0400/24. Cancel my 1020.
 2. P.228 is to proceed diving by day through $038^{\circ} 50' 003^{\circ} 01' E$ at 2130/25 and 135° Cape Palos 10 miles at 0030/27.
 (Capt. S.8. 1650A/23 to 8 S/M.F.) *p. 984^A*

Enemy convoy. Ref. A.H.Q. Malta 2215/21 and Capt. S.10. 0155A/22 (aircraft ordered to attack one cruiser, 4 destroyers and 6 merchant vessels). Was the convoy attacked?
 (1st. Sea Lord 0240A/23 to V.A. Malta.)
 Your 0240A/23. (?striking force) of Wellingtons found target but were unable to attack owing to difficult conditions of visibility. Flares were dropped to assist submarines who are still close off Bizerta and Tunis but no report of attack yet received.
 (V.A. Malta 1042A/23 to Admty.)

P.211. E.T.A. R/V 1330A/24. My position $32.50 16.20$ course 330° 11 knots diving by day. One docile prisoner.
 (P.211 0246A/23 to V.A. Malta. Capt. S.10. (R) C. in C. Med.)
 P.211 arrives R/V 1330A/24, diving by day from position $032^{\circ} 50' 010^{\circ} 20'$ at 0246A/23.
 (Capt. S.10. 1156A/23 to PORPOISE. P.247. P.211. TURBULENT, (R) S/Ms on patrol.)

Enemy small craft. P.C.S. of one barge and one small craft $31^{\circ} 38' N 15^{\circ} 50' E$ course 300° speed 10 knots.
 (A/C C/S 8VNR 0410/23 to 201 Group.)
 Position of 5 unknown vessels $32^{\circ} 13' N 15^{\circ} 24' E$.
 (A/C C/S 8UHV 0430/23 to 201 Group.)

Enemy M/Vs. 3 medium laden merchant ships, no surface escort unless E-Boats, camouflage cargo. P.C.S. $038^{\circ} 36' 010^{\circ} 52' 090^{\circ} 9$.
 (P.228 0845A/23 to Capt. S.10.)

982

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

NIEUW Sailed 0435 G.M.T. E.T.A. Diego Suarez p.m. 1st.
AMSTERDAM Dec. Route, X. 011° 57' N 046° 20' E.
Y. 012° 06' N 048° 34' E. Z. (?013°) 19' N
053° 50' E. A. 012° 28' N 055° 35' E.
B. 005° 40' S 051° 25' E. C. 009° 49' S 052° 30' E.
EQ. Capetown. NY. Port Elizabeth. VG. Durban. S of A 17
knots. B 19 knots. Endurance 13½ days.
(N.C.S.O. Suez 0901B/23 to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival 22nd Nov. SOUTHERN MAID, PROTEA, CUMBRAE.
Departure 22nd. Nov. SOUTHERN SEA, DELPHINIUM,
JANUS, SNAPDRAGON, BURRA, ERICA, WHITEHAVEN,
CROMARTY, BOSTON, GLENROY, SOUTHERN MAID, M.T.Bs
265, 266, 315, 316. *See p. 985.*
(S.O.I.) Alexandria 0920B/23.)

Enemy Position, course and speed of one medium sized M/V
M/V (not exceeding 10,000 tons) 33.30 N 11.20 E 144°
8 knots.
(A/C U3FE 1005A/23 to Hal Far.)

Convoy All ships and escorts in company are to enter
Algiers. Algiers.
(S.O.I.S. 1035A/23 to H.M. Trawler RONSAY
(?RONALDSAY) (R) Cdre. Algiers.)

PALADIN C. in C's 2106/22 not to all addresses (N.T. in W.D.)
PETARD PALADIN, PETARD, ANTWERP sailing 1630/23.
ANTWERP (Corrupt group) 1815 direct to boom 0930/24
(Corrupt group) 1130 Tobruk Boom 1210/24. S of A
16 knots or better, codeword "Major". Request
fighter escort p.m. 23rd and from dawn 24th.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1106B/23 to A.I.G.72.)

Enemy P.C.S. of enemy, 1 medium merchant vessel not
Units. exceeding 10,000 tons, 1 destroyer are 35.33 N
11.32 E 230° 10 knots.
(A/C using call sign U3FE 1132A/23 to Hal Far.)
W.D. Note: Another version given 39.33 N not
35.33.

R/C. Forenoon visuals 23rd Nov. (1) Messina 5
cruisers, 3 destroyers, 3 torpedo boats.
(2) Naples cloudy.
(V.A. Malta 1136A/23 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.
etc.)

M.K.S.2A. My 1544A/22 not to all addressees. (N.T. in W.D.)
See p. 988 & 990
(Movements)
Intend sailing 5 ships M.K.S.2A at 1730Z/23 Nov.
to Gibraltar for onward routing to U.K. routed
64, 80, 32, 28, 16. S of A 7 knots. Codeword
"Surtees" escorts SANDWICH (S.O.) CLACTON, BUDE.
(Cdre. Algiers 1201A/23 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C.
Oran. F.O.C.N.A. Admty. F.O.I.S. SANDWICH.)

/Air R/C...

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Air R/C.

Unless additional R/C is asked for, it is intended due to present shortage of P.R.U. aircraft to cover Naples and Messina once a day. Taranto will be covered every other day until next convoy starts from east.

(V.A. Malta 1210A/23 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.)

UTMOST
ship
torpedoed.

Your 0627/23 (N.T. in W.R.) ship torpedoed. Torpedoes expended. Returning direct to position B, Q B B 255 daylight 24th usual (?R/V) 1016A/25. (UTMOST 1231A/23 to S.10. (R) S/Ms on patrol) W.R. Note:- Last signal received from UTMOST. Position thereby apparently compromised. See Capt. S.10. 1714A/27.

TRAVELLER.

Arrived.
(V.A. Malta 1253A/23.)

Force X.
Situation
Report
No.19.

(1) Algiers. L.C.Ts are ferrying tanks and L.C. repair lorries to eastwards. Air raid 2000-2200 21st Nov. when smoke defence was most effective. Situation report 17 item 3.

*DEWDALE side plating being temporarily repaired otherwise seaworthy. 8 personnel ships of K.M.F.3

berthed and all personnel discharged before air raids from 1845 - 2000 22nd Nov. no damage so far reported but suspicions of minelayers. *L... p. 970

(2) Mers el Kebir. GUARDIAN has started laying southern section of A.T. Baffle. On completion northern section will be laid and French A/S nets will be reinforced by A.T. curtain of French materials. 1½ moveable nets for ships protection will also be prepared. P.B.E.O. reports oil fuel storing for 45,000 tons located at Oran.

(3) Aircraft R/C reports 3 enemy merchantmen 39.13 N 11.23 E, course 260° 10 at 2225 22 Nov. and 1 large vessel, 2 cruisers 39.58 N 14.00 E course 360° speed 10 at 2300 22 Nov.

(4) S.10 reports at 2351/21, PARTHIAN torpedoed and sunk 4000 tons laden S.W. bound merchantman north of Marittimo at 1614/13.

Also on 16 Nov when N.W. of Marittimo one probable torpedo hit on southbound 10,000 ton merchantman which reduced speed and altered towards Trapani. TURBULENT sunk escorted German merchant vessel 4000 tons southbound in position 39.10 N 09.39 E at (P.1627/11?)

*P.35 torpedoed and sunk eastbound 6000 ton passenger ship in position 38.29 N 15 28 E at 1347/17. P.43 at 2250/16 hit southbound tanker with one torpedo vessel possibly beached Marittimo. P.45 90° 37' N. 0° 48' missed various targets.

(N.C.X.F. 1302A/23 to Admty.)

* 1627/20 not used
see p. 918.

X see p. 990

M.K.F.3.

My 1405/22. Advance all times 24 hours. F.O.I.C. Oran acknowledge.

(N.C.X.F. 1313A/23 to Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oran.)

/Air...

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Air R/C requirements. Request you will inform A.O.C. Mediterranean existing situation affecting R/C requirements "Torch" area is as follows:-

A.1. It is hoped to base a cruiser and destroyer force at Bone in the next few days.

2. Force H cannot be based at present further east than Oran.

3. Lightly escorted convoys are moving between Algiers and Bone coastwise without cover.

B. R/C is required to enable strikes by A (1) and by your air and submarines.

2. To guard against raids by enemy surface force on A.(3) or interception of A (2) by superior force.

3. Suggest if R/C B (1) is adequate, B (2) will be thereby also achieved.

(N.C.X.F. 1322A/23 to V.A.M.)

Enemy Units. P.C.S. 1 merchant vessel 1 destroyer 37.58 N 14.47 E 170° 10 knots.
(Aircraft U3F Duty D. 1345A/23 to Hal Far.)

P.44. My 1400/21. Proceed with despatch by route given to 033° 30' 012° 50' thence to patrol vicinity (?032°) 52' 012° 52'. Merchant ships leaving Tripoli are not to be attacked.
(Capt. S.10 1416A/23 to P.44. (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. S/Ms on patrol.)

Mines in enemy waters. Reported 2 ships blew up entering La Goulette. Ref. my 1115A/13 (not to C. in C. Med.), in view of this success probably due to mines laid night 12th/13th A.O.C. preparing to carry out further mining. If you concur request early directions where mines should be laid.

(V.A. Malta 1420A/23 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med.)
Your 1420/23, excellent, please thank A.O.C.(?) Lay at your discretion I would suggest narrow channel into Bizerta and inside outer breakwater.
(N.C.X.F. 1829A/23 to V.A. Malta. 22nd Escort Group.)

Enemy Units. 1 merchant vessel, 1 destroyer position 37.58 N 15.37 E course 170° speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S U3F Duty D 1425A/23 to Hal Far.)

Following has been read from Malta. P.C.S. of 5 small vessels (merchant vessels not exceeding 2000 tons). 33.27 N 21.33 E. 230° 8 knots at 1630B.
(A/C C/S A9S Duty 1430/23 to 201 Group.)
Following has been read from Malta W/T. Position of enemy units 33.10 N 22.01 E.
(A/C A9S 1505 G.M.T./23 to 201 Group.)

MOST SECRET

984A

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE IN

1438A/23 November.

From N.C.X.F.

Date 24.Nov.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Recd. 0005

Addressed Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine situation report in Western Mediterranean at 2000A 23rd.

- (1) H.M. S/m. P.221 37 40 North 00 05 West through 135 degs. Cape Palos (? 10) thence 10 miles from Spanish coast to (?northwards) 8½ knots.
- (2) H.M. S/m. P.228 38 16 North 08 29 East through 38 16 North 08 00 East, 38 50 North 03 01 East thence 245 degs. 11 knots. *See p. 981.*
- (3) H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT 38 48 North 02 36 East through 38 (?56) North 03 01 East 38 56 North 06 59 East 38 37 North 08 01 East 10 knots.
- (4) H.M. S/m. P.217 36 55 North 01 32 West through 135 degs. Cape Palos 10 following H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT 11 knots.
- (5) H.M.S/m. P.311 36 30 North 02 48 West through 180 degs. Cape de Gata 10 following H.M. S/m. P.217 10 knots.
- (6) TROOPER passes Pantellaria Island 2130 23rd thence through 180 degs. Cape (?Calabruvas) 10 following H.M. S/m. P.(?311) 10 knots. *See p. 975A*
- (7) H.M. S/m. *P.219 ~~returning~~ Gibraltar 1630 24th following TROOPER 11 knots. **See next page.*
- (8) All above (4) diving by day 2½ knots (?surface) speed as stated.
- (9) H.M.S. URSULA 40 00 North 02 16 East H.M. S/m. P.(?54) 39 29 North 01 30 East both on the surface by day 8 knots course 50 degs.

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.C. (M)

1438A/23

Ad. Ramsay (4)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (3)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A/S.W.

Advance copy to
- D.C., D.D.I.C.
D.C.D. (H) & (F)
I.P. (2) Ad. Blake (:
Hd. of M. W.D.
F.O.S. by courier.

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy My 1630 Nov. 11th.
Morale. (A) Growing depression among Italian circles here. Intensified by recent return of Consul General who is greatly affected by being bombed out of his house while visiting Genoa. North Africa is assumed lost.
(B) In German Embassy circles possibility of defeat is now frequently discussed but grip of party machine even on army is considered to preclude any change of regime.
(C) Wife of Von Papen returned from Germany last week spoke to intimate friend of a possible defeat "being salvation of German people who might be cleansed by the ensuing suffering". (Both Papens are good Catholics.)
(D) All above A.1.
(S.O.(I.) Istanbul 1533C/23 to D.N.I.)

P.219. P.219 sails 1630A/24 and proceeds 10 miles off Spanish coast to Pantellaria 135° Cape Palos 10 miles at 0030A/26 thence through 038° 56' 003° 01' E. 038° 56' 006° 59' E. 038° 37' 008° 01' E. 155 miles a day.
See previous page.
(Capt. S.8. 1604A/23 to 8 S.F.)

TRIBUNE Leave patrol area after dark tonight 23rd Nov. by following route 1. 039° 50' 012° 50'. 2. 038° 52' 011° 42'. 3. 038° 04' 011° 52'. to make landfall off Marittimo. Further orders follow.
(Capt. S.10 1632A/23 to TRIBUNE (R) S/Ms on patrol. N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8.)

Force H. Request you will sail with Force H NELSON, RENOWN, FORMIDABLE, (?GERANIUM) MILNE, LOOKOUT, PENN, PATHFINDER, PORCUPINE, PATHFINDER (as received) ESKIMO, TARTAR, METEOR, PUCKERIDGE, p.m. tomorrow Tuesday 24th to arrive Mers el Kebir.
(N.C.X.F. 1644A/23, as amended 1338A/24 to S.O. Force H. (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc.) *See p.1016*

C.S.10 for Algiers. Request you will sail BERMUDA with ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, QUIBERON, QUENTIN, ITHURIEL, to arrive Algiers p.m. tomorrow 24th. Cdre. Algiers to arrange berth inside breakwater for cruisers.
See p.989
(N.C.X.F. 1645A/23 to C.S.10. (R) Capt. D.6. S.O. Force H. F.O.C.N.A. F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oran. Capt. S.8.)

My 1645/23. The object of stationing cruisers at Algiers is to provide a covering force for your convoys along coast. They are at your disposal for this purpose but must not be employed to eastward of 005° 00' E except with adequate and continuous fighter protection unless to engage a surface enemy force threatening our shipping.

(N.C.X.F. 1856A/23 to F.O.I.S. (R) C.S.10.)
N.C.X.F. 1645/23. Intend sailing at 0730A tomorrow 24th
E.T.A. 1600A/24 Gate 1700A.
(C.S.10. 2157A/23 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- ST. DAY. Your 1145Z/22. Steam tug ST. DAY will be sailed 2100A/24 by eastbound route to join convoy at position 36 at 0630/25. Ship naval pendant will be used as identification. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1653A/23 to F.O.I.S. Cancelled, 1625/24. q.v.)
- Patrol. Cavoli Marittimo patrol impossible tonight unless weather conditions here improve. (V.A. Malta 1730A/23 to N.C.X.F. (R)F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers.)
- K.M.S.3. G. A portion of this convoy K.M.S.3 will proceed fighter protection. These convoys will require fighter protection priority 1. H. Fast troop carrying ships will be leaving Algiers p.m. 24th proceeding eastward. They will require fighter protection priority 1. Further signal will be made. My 1740A/22 part 3 final. (Cdre. Algiers 1740A/22 to ?ROBERTS.)
- RORQUAL minelaying. Your 1246/22 not to N.C.X.F. (N.T. in W.R.) Assuming RORQUAL arrives Malta about Dec. 1st. and ready to leave for minelaying Dec. 3rd. following are proposals.
- (1) If Axis traffic still using Bizerta and Tunis freely 3 groups
 - (a) in direction 360 from 360 Cape Blane signal station one
 - (b) in direction 330 from 022° Canirock light 5.
 - (c) in direction 110 from 057° Cape Carthage light 7.2.
 - (2) If Tripoli (Libya) more important approach from close S.W. of Pantellaria to lay 2 lines
 - (a) in direction 090° from 344° Pantellaria harbour light 21.
 - (b) in direction 090° from 348° Pantellaria harbour light 14.5.
- Subsequent patrol would be off Cavoli for scheme 1, off Spartevento Cape Toabria 2. (Capt. S.10 1742A/23 to Capt. S.1. (R) C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.)
- TAKU exercise. Following is a repetition of my 1415/23 (begins) TAKU repeated N.O.I.C. Port Said, S.N.O. Levant Area, Beirut, C. or C.O. Commander D Beirut, from Capt. S.1. N.O.I.C. Port Said's 1652/22 (?you) are to R/V at 0615B/26 in Beirut exercise R/V position (?Z) carrying out A/S exercises with (?2) M.Ls. Exercise orders and Buffs will be sent over from M.L. Enter Beirut on completion about noon. TAKU acknowledge. 1415/23. (Ends) (Capt. S.1. 1751B/23 to TAKU.)
- Troop Movement. General Larkin requires one personnel ship convoy troops Oran to Algiers. Please instruct urgently. ANDES, RANGITIKI, MARIPOSA, BORINQUEN, available. (S.T.O. Liaison Oran 1825A/23 to D.S.T.) Reply: D.S.T. 0045/25.

/Western...

23.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Western Mediterranean now is 310. (A) The situation in Western Mediterranean now is

Appreciation by N.C.X.F. (1) Army are building up strength about 40 miles west of Bizerta but not yet ready to assault.
(2) Air forces forward in Algeria not yet fully established, lacking in maintenance, petrol, long range warning and communications. Effort fully absorbed in support of Army and security of bases.

(3) Cruiser and destroyer force going to Algiers waiting to move to Bone when fighter arrangements allow.

(4) Force H cannot base forward of Oran and has to quit there and come back to Gibraltar to make room for large convoy at intervals.

(5) Maintenance convoys for ports forward of Algiers running lightly escorted without proper cover.

(6) There are no aircraft in "Torch" area suitable for R/C in Sardinia - Sicily triangle, either for the offensive work of (3) or for the security of (5).

(7) No air-sea striking force available or in sight.

(8) Big air-land bombing force building up and now in action against shore targets only.

(B) The enemy is getting supplies into Bizerta and Tunis by sea. All information at our disposal as well as the actual situation make clear that this bridgehead is the vital factor determining whether or not the Axis are to be evicted completely from Africa and that the liquidation of this bridgehead through which the supply of Tripoli is intended has become the immediate concern of all forces in the Mediterranean.

(C) Viewing the Mediterranean as a whole the requirements are
(1) To destroy the Axis supply line.
(2) To assure the maintenance of Malta.
(3) To destroy the Axis forces in Africa.

(D) (C) can be achieved by
(1) Surface forces as in A (3) and the Malta force detailed in Admty. 2222/22 para (E) 2.
(2) By air action at sea.
(3) Submarines all these courses call for extensive air R/C to render them effective, particularly (1) Malta's R/C force is not at present adequate to provide this.

(E) Extensive R/C backed up by air striking is also essential for (C) (2).

(F) (C) (3) follows as the natural corollary of the achievement of (C) (1) and (C) (2).

(G) to sum up. It seems it is in the interests of all in the Mediterranean Theatre:
(1) To strengthen Malta R/C aircraft to the utmost forthwith.
(2) To increase the power of Malta's seaward air striking force. Without these two factors our Naval effort will be nugatory, the sea supply to Malta insecure and even that to forward ports in Algeria might be subject to surface interference.

(H) Ability to strike at land targets in Africa, Sicily, Sardinia is a growing asset both in Algeria and Libya. It is for urgent consideration that Malta should immediately now be reinforced strongly to form the prime sea R/C and sea striking centre, if necessary to the exclusion of all other air operations there except own fighter defences, leaving the care of enemy land and air targets to the "Torch" eastern air force and M.E.

(G) Quick action will lead to quick results and the dividend

/will be...

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - *cont'd.*Western
Mediterranean
Appreciation
by N.C.X.F.
Contd.

will be enormous. Co-ordination of the air effort of the Navy, Eastern Air Command, Malta and M.E. is a matter of the highest urgency. Probably the quickest method would be an immediate meeting of representatives of all concerned at Algiers (?).

(N.C.X.F. 1842A/23 to Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) V.A.M.) Reply: Admty. 1315A/25.

M.K.F.3.

Sailed advance portion convoy M.K.F.3 1700Z/23 to Gibraltar. S of A 13 knots. Convoy codeword "Harper". Commodore Master of DUCHESS OF YORK.

Vice Commodore Master of NEA HELLAS. Consists of 8 vessels, STAFFORDSHIRE, DUCHESS OF YORK, NEA HELLAS, LEOPOLDVILLE, ORION, COAMA, BERGENSFJORD and CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS. Routed through positions 74.12 56.82 57 thence by approach route to Gibraltar. Incon Tables not held by vessels. Close escorts WESTON (S.O.) TOTLAND, WELLINGTON and AVON VALE.

(Cdre. Algiers 1846A/23 to N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. F.O.I.S.)

My 1846A/23, NEA HELLAS not sailed.

(Cdre. Algiers 1948A/23.)

M.K.S.2.A.

136982.4
990

Sailed delayed portion of M.K.S.2 1800Z/23 to Gibraltar for onward routeing, S of A 7 knots. Convoy codeword "Surtees". Commodore Master of MELMORE HEAD. Consists of 6 vessels, MAHSUD, MELMORE HEAD, OCEAN STRENGTH, TORR HEAD, OCEAN VISTA and Cable Ship MIRROR. Routed through positions 64 80 32 28 16 thence by approach route to Gibraltar. Incon Tables not held by vessels. Close escorts SANDWICH (S.O.) BUDE, CLACTON with PALORMARES in company. (Cdre. Algiers 1847A/23 to N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. F.O.I.S)

E.A.C.
Report.

Op. Summary No.11. Covering period 1800 hrs. 20 Nov. to 1800 hrs. 21 Nov.

1. 26 Bisleys Sorties despatched Bizerta Docks night 20 Nov. 19 Sorties successful. Hits

observed on docks. No losses.

2. Enemy activity. Approx. 30 A/C attacked Maison Blanche and Port of Algiers. Main attack against Maison Blanche where 4 P.R.U. Spitfires, 3 Beaufighters, 2 P.38s and 1 B.17 were destroyed and 9 Beaufighters damaged. The P.R.U. unit was demolished and requests have been made for these duties to be carried out by Malta until the Unit is reformed. Casualties slight. Beaufighters were airborne but did not intercept as they are not yet fitted A.1. Bone attacked during night 20th and during day 21st. 10 Spitfires destroyed or damaged on the ground. (A.A.?) Some personnel casualties. 3 Ju.88s and 1 Fighter destroyed in Bone Area. Our losses in air nil.

3. G.R. activity. Harbour patrol Algiers dawn to dusk by Walrus and Swordfish. Four Hudsons swept area LBXP 3015 XTXP 3540 CZRG 4000 ZTRG 3000 between 0800Z and 1400Z.

5. Squadrons of the 12th Air Force U.S.A.A.F. are being moved into Eastern Algeria as aerodromes become available. They are operating under the Commanding General 12th Air Force to the operational plans of the Eastern Air Force.

(E.A.C. Algiers 1910/23.)

/HELVIG...

War Diary.

23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

HELVIG. Your 1548A/22. HELVIG has on board Loop equipment for detection of Human torpedoes for Algiers. Confirm HELVIG is not required. (D.T.M. 1936A/23 to N.C.X.F.)

MILNE N.C.X.F.'s 1614A/23 (N.T. in W.R.) Owing to steering defects QUALITY cannot sail tonight. QUALITY. MILNE and QUALITY are to pass the Gate at 2215A today Monday and 0745A tomorrow Tuesday 24th respectively and proceed to Gibraltar, to arrive MILNE a.m. QUALITY p.m. 24th. Report E.T.A. before sailing. (C.S.10 2001B/23 to Capt. D.3. (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. D.6. F.O.I.C. Oran. QUALITY. F.O.C.N.A. 8th S/M.F.) My 2001/23. MILNE E.T.A. 1000A/24. route through 93 13 8. (C.S.10 2244A/23 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

C.S.10. C.S.10 with 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers leaves Oran a.m. 24th Nov. arrives Algiers p.m. 24th Nov. (Capt. S.8. 2004A/23 to 8 S/M.F.)

Troops from Middle East. C. in C. M.E.F. movements 1/75350 23rd Nov. not to all addressees. Shipping required for 12500 all ranks to South Africa. 2. Propose allocating HIGHLAND MONARCH ex Suez about 3rd Dec. to capacity in addition to 500 German P.O.W. for America. EMPIRE TROOPER, EMPIRE WOODLARK ex Suez about 6th Dec. to capacity. 3. In addition may WEST POINT ex Suez about 10th Dec. be used to capacity? 4. Move considered extremely important. 5. Request concurrence (2) and (3). 6. F.O.C. Red Sea Force requested to arrange escort. 7. Agree with C. in C. M.E.F. (P.S.T.O. Egypt 2033B/23 to Admty. for D.S.T. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. etc.) Reply: D.S.T. 2146/25.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 121 23rd Nov. Night 22nd 23rd Nov. 4 Beaufighters on intruder patrols over Sicilian aerodromes to protect unloading of Malta convoy saw no enemy aircraft airborne and no raiders approached Malta during the night. Day 23rd Nov. 28 Spitfire sorties have been made to protect unloading of convoy and to intercept several raids which turned back before reaching Malta. No enemy aircraft crossed the coast and no attacks were made on our shipping. 12 Spitfires Fighter sweep south of Sicily experienced heavy rain and sighted no enemy shipping or aircraft. 8 Beaufighters sorties have been made in successful armed R/C patrols against Axis transport aircraft flying to Tunisia. 4 Beaufighters patrolling Sousse Sfax area. At 0907 hours 240° Lampion 40 miles sighted a two masted schooner course 180° speed 5 knots which they attacked and damaged with cannon fire. 22nd Nov. R/C Sfax. Entrance still blocked no shipping present. Gabes, no shipping visible. Tunis, no shipping. Tripoli. Largest warehouse on Spanish quay demolished another warehouse partially destroyed and 2 badly damaged in raid 21st Nov.

/Night...

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con 15.

Malta Night 22/23 Nov. Wellingtons made 8 successful
Air bombing sorties to attack Bizerta docks, first
Report. attack 1815 - 2145, hits on dock side started
Contd. fire. 4000 lb HC bomb burst near dockside goods
station. In second attack, hits along quayside
near the dockside goods station and across
harbour entrance.
Rain and low cloud prevented full observation of results.
Beaufighters attacked dispersed aircraft on Palermo aerodrome
from 2000 to 2017 hours with cannon fire from 500 feet adverse
weather conditions prevented accurate results being observed.
4 special Wellington 8s on shipping R/C patrolled from Marittimo
to Cavoli and in the Palermo Naples and Sfax DMS area. 1
Wellington found at 2100 hours 085° Cape Carbonnara 88 miles one
M/V 1500 tons leading two M/Vs 5000 tons course 260° speed 10
knots. Wellingtons attacked leading M/V with 1 torpedo contact
only depth setting 9 feet dropped 50 feet range 800 yards scoring
a hit amidships followed by red flash and large column of black
smoke. M/V was later sunk by submarine gunfire.
Another Wellington and 1 Beaufort attacked remainder of convoy
with 2 torpedoes but no hits were observed. Day 23rd Nov.
3 Beauforts carrying torpedoes escorted by 5 Beaufighters were
despatched to attack convoy of 1 M/V 4/5000 and one D/R sighted
by Baltimores 1032 125° Kuriat 27 miles course 230° speed 10
knots. At 1358 Beauforts found 100° Mahdia 12 miles 1 D/R 1 M/V
4/5000 course 360°. Speed 6 knots but did not attack as convoy
was northbound. Flak from D/R shot down 1 Beaufighter into sea.
No other shipping was found.
(Air H.Q. Malta 2058Z/23, 2129/23, 2144/23, 2201/23.)

TIGRIS (1) Intend sailing TIGRIS p.m. 25th for working
up and anti-U-Boat patrols in an area within 20
miles of 038° 01' N 007° 30' E.
(2) Request S/Ms on passage may be routed at least 15 miles
clear of this area from a.m. 30th until further notice.
(3) TIGRIS will subsequently return to Gibraltar or (?Algiers)
to complete stores before proceeding to join 1st S/M.F.
(Capt. S.8. 2120A/23 to Capt. S.10. (R) Admty. etc.)

M.W.13. Total unloaded to 1700/23, 19132 tons of which
3000 tons aviation spirit.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 2121A/23 to C. in C. Med.)

Movements. Algiers arrival with Bougie section M.K.S.2A,
ACUTE, ALBACORE, BRAMHAM, ALARM. From Jijelli
L.C.Ts 152, 164, 169, 170. Departures to
Gibraltar, PALOMARES, CLACTON, BUDE, SANDWICH with *M.K.S.2A,
WESTDALE, TOTLAND, WELLINGTON, AVON VALE with *M.K.F.3 to
Philippeville and Bone. QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL
SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN escorted by WILTON, BICESTER, ZETLAND.
(Cdre. Algiers 2204A/23 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S.)

P.35 Your 0321/22 (re P.35 refit, request date arrival
U.K.) About 1st. March 1943.
200 / 982 988
(F.O.S. 2309A/23 to Capt. S.10.)

Med
9904

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. No T.C.O.A/23rd November. IN

From. N.C.X.F.

Date: 23.11.42.
Recd: 2322.

Naval Cypher S by W/T.

Addressed, Ships & Authorities in Area G

IMPORTANT.

Brief situation report for Area West of Algier's 20(?)21A 23rd S/M's excepted.
(1) M K S 2 36 13 04 07 West through Straits of Gibraltar (?7) knots.
(2) K M S (?3) 36 35 00 42 East through 100 degs. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ (?Tunis).
(3) 4 Merchant ships 3 (?trawlers) 36 (?20) 00 20 East through 34 100 and 51 7 knots.
(4) NEGRO 3 trawlers 2 M.Ls 10 motor minesweepers 35 43 03 18 through 13 93 and (?38). 8 knots in position N and 3 trawlers to Oran from 93 (?48).

No T.O.O.A/23.

Advance Copy. 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)
- 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. (3)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Ad. Blake. (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- D.M.S.
- D.D.O.D. (C) (2)

mb

War Diary.

23.11.1942.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

CRANFIELD Following has been read. S S S S CRANFIELD now torpedoes. sinking 8° 42' N. 76° 38' E. now abandoning ship.
(Colombo W/T, T.O.R. 0305 G.M.T./23 to Admty.)
CRANFIELD torpedoes at 0025Z/23rd Nov. 008° 42' N. 076° 38' E. (C. in C. E.F., 0350Z/23 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)

AFRICA MARU Following from Delhi. AFRICA MARU sunk 21st (sunk 21st October.) by S/M in Formosa Straits. (C.O.I.S. Eastern Fleet, 0711Z/23 to Admty. for D.N.I.)

W.S. 24. 1. Following are already grouped for onward passage of W.S.24 on East Indies Station.
(A) W.S.24 fast section to Bombay consisting of ATHLONE CASTLE and STIRLING CASTLE. Ocean escort (corrupt group) proceed to vicinity of Seychelles thence FROBISHER to Bombay.
(B) W.S.24 slow section to Aden consisting of ADAWA STAR (subject to decision) EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND and including any other ships of suitable speed as arranged by P.S.T.O. Simonstown.
(C) Ships available for escort W.S.24 slow section are CHITRAL due Durban 30th Nov. and CAPETOWN now at Durban.
2. Request your concurrence or remarks and request you will inform necessary authorities accordingly.
3. BIRMINGHAM will be sailed to Aden Durban December 2nd. (C. in C. E.F., 0942Z/23 to C. in C. S.A.)

BENGAL, BENGAL arrived Colombo this morning. C.O. Lt.- action with Cdr. J. Wilson, R.I.N.R. raiders 11th (A) Enemy raiders definitely identified as November. AIKOKU MARU 10,500 tons and KUNIKAWA MARU 6863 tons.
(B) Ref. Comdre. Western Australia 0345Z/18th.
There was no name visible on poop of raider sunk. Gun armament of both ships considered to be 6, probable 5.-5 inch, 4 guns to broadside.
(C) First raider sighted at 1144 L T bearing 290° 8 miles course 110°. Second raider sighted 1154 bearing 310° 10 miles course 125°. BENGAL decided to sail straight into attack hoping his action would enable ONDINA to make good escape. At 1156 he increased to full speed and altered course to 260° straight for first and largest raider who did not open fire until 1212 when range had been closed to 3500 yards. BENGAL replied at once and hit with (? 6th) (? round) causing explosion and large ammunition fire aft. Second raider opened fire at BENGAL at 1215. With range at 3500 yards BENGAL altered to course roughly parallel and opposite to enemy and avoided serious damage by skilful manoeuvring altering toward fall of shot when engaged by enemy, minimum range was 2500 yards. At 1245 BENGAL was running short of ammunition and decided to break off the action, enemy being now about 7 miles distant from ONDINA.

/Second ...

23.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

→ BENGAL, Second raider continued to engaged victim who action with escaped to westward under cover of smoke. At raiders 11th 1308 ONDINA was observed to be hit abaft bridge. November. At 1312 very large explosion was observed on (Contd.) first raider who had been burning continuously. Nothing more was seen of this ship subsequently. ONDINA was last seen at 1320 steering 190°. At 1340 (? he) ceased making smoke and nothing was in sight. (D) Damage sustained by BENGAL one unimportant hit aft in officers baggage room. Shrapnel damage fore and aft with one large hole starboard bow above water. Estimate 200 rounds fired at BENGAL. (E) No casualties. Behaviour of ship's company was beyond reproach. (F) Consider that Lt.-Cdr. Wilson's gallant determined action worthy of the utmost praise. (F.O.I.C. Ceylon, 1051Z/23 to Admty.)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 23rd Nov. 0340Z MARYBOROUGH, BENGAL, 0845Z DEVONSHIRE, 1230Z LISMORE. (S.O.I.) Colombo, 1249Z/23 to Admty., etc.)

→ C.M. 35B. My 0701/20th Nov. SONTAY. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and DUNERA forming C.M. 35B E.T.D. Kilindini p.m. 25th Nov. E.T.A. Bombay 5th Dec. Ocean escort WORCESTERSHIRE. 2. SONTAY escorted by DAUNTLESS and possibly KANARIS E.T.D. Kilindini p.m. 25th Nov. E.T.A. Aden 3rd Dec. 3. Request necessary authorities may be informed. (C. in C. E.F., 1328Z/23 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N., etc.)

"Q" Your 2119/20th. Reply is contained in my Information 1241/19th Nov. for Shipping. (C. in C. E.F., 1411/23 to Admty.)

→ EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, SONTAY, bad coal. Your 0701Z/20. Request report by signal on EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and SONTAY giving suppliers, type and quality of bunkers in each case. Also stating whether either is making dangerous smoke and if so giving reasons. Also giving particulars of other causes referred to in your paras. 1 and 2. (D.T.D., 1836A/23 to C. in C. E.F.)

BADARPUR, M. of W.T. require BADARPUR released from BRITISH Admiralty service on return Abadan. In replacement (tanker message) BRITISH CHEMIST will be CHEMIST. available for your orders on return Abadan from Massawa. (D. of S., 1953A/23 to C. in C. E.F.) Cancelled by 2000A/25, q.v.

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

TILAWA Following has been read: SSSS 07.36 N. 61.08 E.
torpedoed. TILAWA sinking.
(Colombo W/T, T.O.R. 2050 G.M.T./23.)
Now abandoning ship.
(Colombo W/T, 2118/23.)
TILAWA torpedoed at 2050Z/23rd Nov. in 007° 36' N. 061°
08' E.
(C. in C. E.F., 2150Z/23 to S. & A. E.I. Stn.)
Proceed with all despatch to SS. TILAWA attacked by U-Boat
and sinking in 007° 36' N. 061° 08' E. at 2120 G.M.T. today.
(C. in C. E.F., 2156Z/23 to BIRMINGHAM, (R) Admty.,
F.O. Ceylon.)
Following has been read. From TILAWA. SSSS assistance
quickly needed 07.36 N. 61.08 E.
(Kilindini W/T, T.O.R. 2206Z/23 to Admty.)
Following received from TILAWA. Not sinking further,
recalling boats. T.O.R. 2135 G.M.T./23.
(Colombo W/T, No T.O.O./23.)

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- U.S. Movements. (2) Departures 23rd Nov. U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN for Las Piedras. (Aruba 1102QR/23 to Admty.)
- K.14. *See p. 978B* Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 23rd Nov.

Ship	Position.	Course.	Speed
S/M K.14	17½° N. 35° W.	290°	9

(D.O.D.(F) 1103Z/23 to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)
- U.S. Movements. Departures U.S.S. MOFFETT, U.S.S. WINSLOW, U.S.S. GREENE, U.S.S. BELKNAP, Brazil C.S.1 escorting T.26, ALBEMARLE, GOLDSBOROUGH, MATAGORDA. (F.O.I.C. Port of Spain 1302Q/23 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- BRITISH PROMISE (attacked 21/11.) *See p. 996* Attack by S/M (i) BRITISH PROMISE (ii) British Tanker Company (iii) 0310Z/21st Nov. 045° 53' N. 055° 02' W. in O.N.145. (iv) and (v) directly ahead of convoy Y steering same course (vi) On surface. (vii) Damaged. (viii) No casualties. (ix) Too dark for description. (x) Torpedo. (xi) All books and documents retained on board. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1319Z/23 to Admty. etc.)
- BRITISH RENOWN. (attacked 21/11.) *See p. 996* Attacked by S/M (1) BRITISH RENOWN. (2) British Tanker Company. (3) 0308Z/21st Nov. (? 014° or 043°) 53' N. 055° 02' W. in O.N.145. (4) Not seen. (7) Damaged. (8) No casualties. (10) Torpedoes. (11) All books and documents retained on board. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1321Z/23 to Admty. etc.)
- B.Y.M.S. Your 2130/20 and 2128/20 to Admiralty. Am most reluctant to sail these boats to Iceland for reasons given in my 1320/5th Nov. 1200 gallons of upper deck cargo has now been carried by six B.Y.Ms in complete safety and all C.Os are anxious to carry it. 800 revolutions does not give a speed of nine knots since Bilge keels have been added and they have also increased consumption of fuel. Suggest Lieut. Bewley, R.N.R. of B.Y.Ms, 2, S.D. of present group visit you by air to discuss recent behaviour of these boats in heavy weather and performance etc. with latest additions. Earnestly request that you will reconsider decisions (A) to sail boats to Iceland and (B) not to allow deck cargo for two days. (F.O.N.F. 1332Z/23 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)
Reply: B.A.D. 1925Z/24.
- U/B. My 1339/21st. Estimate same U-Boat in position 017° N. 032° W. at 2003Z/22nd. Good fixing on 10820 k/cs. (B.A.D. 1333Z/23 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) K.14 Cominch, Admty.)

War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

T.G.34.9. This is C.T.G. 34.9 despatch 1210/22nd. Admiralty pass to N.C.X.F. for action "Refer C.T.F. 34 despatch 1220/16th (N.T. in W.R.) T.G. 34.9 will cross longitude 40° W. at 0700⁰ November 23rd." (Radio, Washington 1415Z/23 to Admty.) Passing action being taken by W.R.

O.N.S.146,
U/B. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report of a convoy or important unit, 1458Z/23rd. Another at 1333Z/23rd. 10510 k/cs. (Cominch 1534/23 to C.T.U. 24.1.17.)

U/B
Positions. S/M estimate November 23rd and U.S. Submarine Notice. (Cominch 1544/23, 1545/23, 1610/23, 1611/23, 1612/23.)

Convoy
U.G.S.2. My 1714/15. Add ARTIGAS (Pan.) (N.S.H.Q. 1548Z/23 to Admty.)

INDOCHINOIS. My 1820/22, not to Comsolant 4. INDOCHINOIS arrived Capetown 21st November. (D.D.I.C. 1609A/23 to Cominch.)

TOWER GRANGE. Overdue Trinidad British TOWER GRANGE. (S.O. (I) Kingston Jamaica 1624R/23 to Admty. etc.)

British
HAMILDOC. Cancel my 1011/20th, ship arrived. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1626R/23 to Admty. etc.)

A.T.29. Sailing telegram. (Port Director, N.Y. 1628Z/23 to Connav.)

Connav
Convoy
Reports. Connav daily situation report to H.X. O.N. and S.C. mid-ocean escorts at sea will cover area 47° W. to "Chop" date about longitude 35° W. Presume C. in C. W.A. will cover area East of "Chop". (Connav 1823/23 to Admty. etc.)

WALKER,
ST. ALBANS. Admty. 2130/22/10 not to C.T.F.24. Relieve WALKER in T.U. 24.18.7 at St. Johns N.F. approx. Dec. 4th. Intend WALKER proceed U.K. for refit on relief by ST. ALBANS. (C.O.A.C. 1831Z/23 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.F. 24, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

/T.A.G. ...

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War Diary.23.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- T.A.G. Convoys. Ref. A.M. 1957/21 (re procedure of tankers for Curacao and Aruba breaking off from T.A.G. and G.A.T. convoys.) Reply direct to Admiralty by air mail. Copies to me. Report to me by signal if unable to answer any questions. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1832Q/23 to B.R.L.Os Curacao, Aruba (R) Admty.)
- S.C.110. Estimate S.C.110 will be in position 49 10 N. 51.20 W. at 1000Z/24th. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.18.8 1930Z/23 to F.O.N.F. (R) Connav.)
- Western Support Force. Place Admiralty 1920A/18 into (?effect) as soon as practicable. It is intended that Comtask 24 retain operational control of reinforcing groups at all times and that destroyers will be returned to Western Local Escort Group whenever considered necessary without reference to higher authorities. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2040/23 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) C.T.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D. C.T.S. Washington C.E.S.F.)
- Sub.attack & sighting summary. Para. A. BRITISH RENOWN and BRITISH PROMISE torpedoed 43.53 N. 55.02 W. about 0310Z/21 reported as unidentified ships my 1930/21 and 1952/22. *see p. 994.*
Para. B. ANCHUSA attacks sub. on surface about 49.06 N. 47 W. 1100Z/22.
Para. C. P.C.469 attacks sound and torpedo track contact 12.08 N. 63.08 W. 0618Z/03. Sub. sight 22.45 N. 58.25 W. 0837Z/23.
(Cominch 2050/23 to Admty., for O.I.C.)
Connav serial 22 and 23. BRITISH RENOWN and BRITISH PROMISE both torpedoed 21/11 43.53 N. 55.02 W. Both proceeding with convoy O.N.145.
(Connav 2102/23 to Commaveu etc.)
- Instructions for Neutral shipping. My 1611/27 Sept. Revised instructions issued by Navy Department effective 20 Nov.
2. Ports of call only Philadelphia and New Orleans also Mobile when loading coal, only.
3. Four approach lanes specified.
(A) Philadelphia to Westward of 65° W. between 38° N. and 38° 40' N.
(B) Gulf to Westward of 65° W. between 28° N. and 29° N.
(C) Northern ports in West Indies to Westward of 55° W. between 19° N. and 20° N.
(D) Caribbean to Westward of 50° W. between 15° N. and 16° N.
4. Position route and speed to be reported to Connav when entering lane and daily noon position thereafter and also while in Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.
5. Instructions similar in other respects.
(B.A.D. 2109Z/23 to Admty.) See also B.A.D. 2049/25.

/B.A.Ts ...

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23.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

B.A.Ts. Leave Bermuda at 1300Z/25th November with
L.C.Is. B.A.T.6, B.A.T.10, L.C.I. (L) 7, 97, 161, 162,
163, 210 and 244 and proceed through position (A)
33.50 N. 55.10 W. (B) 34.45 N. 45.20 W.
(C) 34.40 N. 33.40 W. (D) 35.40 N. 20.15 W.
to Gibraltar. S. of A. 10 knots.
2. Communication B.A.M.S. and 500 k/cs. All ships hold
Merchant Ship S.Ps with S.P.02272 (20) and (21). B.A.Ts also
hold S.P.02404 (5) Mercantile secret call sign issued.
International signal letters of L.C.I.(L) 6 are CZLJ. Remaining
signal letters follow to certain addressees.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2152Z/23 amended 2012Z/24 to L.C.I.(L) 6 (R)
C. in C. W.A. Admty., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. F.O.C.N.A. Cominch, S.O.(I)
Jamaica, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda.)

RESTIGOUCHE. On being relieved request permission to proceed
to Halifax to complete installation of gunnery
control and communications to R.D/F type 271
estimated period 5 days. Further request mails
and pay sheets be forwarded. Weather 051° 35'
033° 54', 3862, 0536.
(RESTIGOUCHE 2200Z/23 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C.
etc.)

U/B. Shore watcher reported sighting possible S/M
in vicinity 044° 27' N. 064° 07' W. at 2030/23rd.
(C.O.A.C. 2203Z/23 to C.T.F. 24.)

BATTLER. Norfolk arrived 0300Z/23.
(N.S.H.Q. 2220Z/23 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No.305 22nd November.
4 warships sighted off Finschafen heading towards
Vitiaz Strait at high speed morning 22.
(2) Two destroyers sighted 6° 45' S. 149° E. course 260 at
0515/22 shadowed and attacked during evening by strong forces
Fortresses and B.25s scoring one direct hit on stern, one miss
25 feet from stern. Larger vessel possibly light cruiser.
One Fortress shot down by ships' A.A.
(3) Reports indicate minimum 27 maximum 50 enemy aircraft
operating from Lae Aerodrome 22nd, including approx. 12 dive
bombers, remainder fighters. 12 Beaufighters, 9 Bostons attacked
grounded aircraft installations this drome during afternoon 22nd.
Several barges Lae Salamaua area also destroyed.

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23.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - *contd.*

- Situation (4) Fifteen dive bombers escorted by 8 Zeros
(contd.) intercepted by 12 Aircobras off Buna morning 22.
1 Aircobra lost. Dive bombers headed Lae without
dropping bombs.
- (5) Enemy aircraft losses from all operations assessed at 19.
- (6) Our troops closing in on enemy positions Buna area where
enemy offering strong resistance. Strong forces Boston and
Marauders with Aircobras P.38s to cover attacked enemy
positions this area during day.
- (7) 7 Beaufighters attacked Beck (Timor) afternoon 22, results
not observed.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1105Z/23, 1145Z/24.)

Movements.

Departure Vila 22 November. U.S.S. ELLET
escorting U.S.S. KITTYHAWK. Departure Auckland
1832Z/23 U.S.S. *DELPHINUS, ~~ESPIRITU SANTO~~ 28
November. *Espritu Santo*

(D.N.I. Wellington 1947Z/23 to Admty.)

** not in file.*

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions at 1200Z/23.
(D.D.I.C. 1420A/23, 1448A/23.)

Submarines attacked.

In Torch area up to noon 22nd Nov.
(N.C.X.F. 1341A/23.)
See Force X, *page 970.*

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War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Q.P.15.

Capt. D.8 reported at 1030 that the convoy is understood to be badly scattered as the result of constant gales. He has been patrolling for the last 24 hours in 73° 40' N. 7° 30' E. (about 190 miles W.S.W. of Bear Island). ICARUS lost touch p.m. 20th. ORWELL has been detached to search for the survivors of SS GOOLISTAN which has been reported torpedoed in 75° 30' N. 8° 0' E. and D.8 is now sweeping down both sides of the route to collect stragglers, of which he has intercepted 7.

Four other stragglers are being escorted by other escorts not in company with D.8, and one is 10 miles astern. This accounts for 12 of the 30 ships which sailed from The Dvina on 17 Nov. UREDD, P.216 and P.312 were recalled from patrol at 2305A today, to Lerwick.

KOMSOMOLETZ, the fourth and last of the four independently routed Russian ships from north Russia, arrived at Akureyri at 1850 today. The remaining 3 ships were to be sailed after Q.P. 15.

At 1650 today aircraft reported 4 probable torpedo boats steering west at 15 knots in 43° 32' N. 3° 44' W. It is thought that they may be proceeding to escort SPICHEREN at Ferrol or tankers ANTARKTIS and NORD ATLANTIC and M.V. BESSEL (fitted with tanks in her holds) now lying at Vigo to a Biscay port. Orders were sent to SEALION and GRAPH to proceed on patrol to intercept the blockade breakers.

Bomber Command aircraft laid 76 mines last night off the Frisian Islands and Biscay ports.

Torch Area.

The division of Naval responsibility in Torch area consequent on the advancing of Allied Force H.Q. and N.C.X.F. to Algiers (see 25 Nov. and 26 Nov.) is detailed in N.C.X.F. 2007A/24. R.A. Hall, U.S.N. will assume the title of S.N.O. Casablanca Area (S.N.O.C.A.) from 0001Z/26, and V.A. Gibraltar will assume operational control of the Western Torch Area from 0001Z/26 subject to the general direction of N.C.X.F.

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Force H. sailed from Gibraltar today for Mers-el-Kebir.

The Air Ministry report, with reference to the minelaying carried out by Bomber Command during the early autumn, that whereas in August there were 131 departures of ships from Bilbao (where iron ore is shipped to Bayonne and Bordeaux) in September there were only 55.

South Atlantic.

SS POLYDORUS reported being shelled by a submarine at 2324 G.M.T. in 7° 52' N. 28° 33' W.

A survivor of SS MOUNT HELMOS reports that his ship was torpedoed about 75 miles South of Lourenco Marques at 0930 today.

N.C.S.O. St. Vincent reports that SS START POINT was torpedoed on 10 November in 13° 12' N. 27° 27' W. There is no news of any survivors.

An unidentified ship was sighted at 1315Z today 30 miles N.E. by E. of Grytviken, South Georgia (54° S. 38° W.) No allied ships are known to have been in the area at this time; the description of the ship fits that of PERSEE (ex PIERRE L.D.) which was last reported in the Far East and is likely to make the passage to Europe.

Mediterranean.

Orders were given today, redisposing the submarines of the 10th Flotilla against the following routes in order of priority:-
(1) Vichy - Bizerta (2) Sicily - Corsica.
(3) Tunisian coastal routes to Sousse, Sfax and Tripoli. (4) Tripoli - Carat (?)

/Aircraft ...

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - contd.

Aircraft report a torpedo hit on two escorted merchant ships in 39° 32' N. 12° 7' E. (170 miles N.E. of Bizerta). STURGEON (on passage from Naples area to Algiers) was told to investigate the position. A 7/8,000 ton merchant ship escorted by a destroyer was torpedoed by a Wellington from Malta at 2125 in 320° Ustica 75 miles and left stationary down by the stern and surrounded by oil.

P.211 reports successful results whilst on patrol, including the torpedoing on 16 Nov. of a 2500 ton ship bound for Benghazi from Ras Ali: the ship, on her beam ends, burned for 24 hours. PORPOISE at 2200/17 torpedoed a tanker in approx. 33° N. 14° E. and sank it on the following night. Yesterday she sank by gunfire the southbound 739 ton ship, manned by Italian naval personnel, laden with benzine for Tripoli.

YACOMA/
?GIALOMO.

P.247 has amplified her report of 15 Nov. of sinking a*U-boat. At 1544A/9 in 38° 34' N. 12° 9' E. (about 30 miles N.W. of Cape San Vito, Sicily) she fired a salvo at a westbound 700 ton Italian U-boat and obtained 3 hits. There were no survivors, but oil and wreckage were seen.

*GRANITO

East Indies.

SS MENELAUS reported sighting a submarine at 0300 G.M.T. in 7° 0' N. 79° 30' E.

H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. propose to alter the present ^{air} boundaries between Iraq, Aden and India to facilitate the operation of land based aircraft engaged in shipping protection between Aden and the Gulf of Omar.

During patrol 6 to 24 Nov. TRUSTY hit with one torpedo one of two northbound merchant ships on 17 Nov. The vessel, a 9000 ton motor ship was last seen very low in the water making towards Lankawi Island, north of Penang.

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24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.China.

U.S. aircraft today bombed shipping between Canton and Hongkong, sinking one 6/8000 ton merchant ship.

America and West Indies.

One tanker in each H.X. and S.C. convoy is to be detailed for fuelling the escort on passage. Arrangements are being made to allocate tankers fitted for oiling over the stern to O.N. and O.N.S. convoys. These will load at New York and return in corresponding H.X. and S.C. convoys.

Australia and New Zealand.

2 Japanese destroyers sunk.

A light cruiser and 4 destroyers were sighted in Vitiaz Strait (between New Guinea and New Britain) this afternoon and were attacked by aircraft during the night in the Huon Gulf area (north coast of New Guinea) and two destroyers were sunk and one damaged.

A.C.N.B. estimate the present strength of the Japanese Navy to be as follows:-

Battleships:	7	effective,	3	damaged.
A/C Carriers:	2	"	2	"
Converted carriers:	5	"		
Heavy cruisers:	? 15	"	7	"
Light cruisers:	6	"	9	"
Destroyers	71	"	14	"
S/Ms	59	"	3	"

1003

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Searching of M/Vs. A.M. 1255A/6th November. Add new paragraph as follows:-
2. "Excluding Eire traffic specially exempted by A.M. 1639B/30th April not to all addressees, British and Allied Merchant ships independently routed to the U.K. from Spain, Portugal or Eire must also call at one of the above Search Ports".
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1221A/24.)

Movements.

P.55. Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde at 0900A/26 by searched channel and Minches to 000° Cape Wrath 7 miles, E.T.A. 0900A/27 to R/V VALSE and P.55, thence escorting P.55 to Clyde by reverse route, E.T.A. 2100A/28. Speed northwards 14, southwards 9 knots.
(Capt. S.3, 1023A/24.)
See p.1004A

GUNNEL. LAUDERDALE will meet you in R/V at 1400A/25 and escort you to Falmouth.
(Capt. S.3, 1025A/24 to GUNNEL.)
See p.1004A

TRUANT. Intend sailing CUTTY SARK from Clyde at 2200A/26 by standard route 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 0800A/28 to R/V TRUANT and escort her to Clyde at 12 knots, E.T.A. 2100A/29.
(Capt. S.3, 1027A/24 and 1541A/25.)
See p.1004A

ARGUS. My 1809/22. Understood sailing date from Tail of Bank has been deferred to 11th December. Propose to complete work on vessel by 2359/9th Dec. and to sail for Tail of Bank noon 10th Dec.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1049/24 to Admt.)
A.M. 1646/19 para. 2. ARGUS is not now required to be ready to sail until 11th December.
(D.O.D.(H), 1819A/24 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

ANSON. V.A.2 is requested to proceed in ANSON to Rosyth, passing Hoxa Gate at 0200A/26.
2. Speed is to be adjusted to arrive Beamer Rock 1530A/26.
3. R.A.D. is requested to detail 3 destroyers to screen and return to Scapa when detached.
My 1202/23 refers.
(C. in C. H.F., 1242A/24.)

North Atlantic dispositions. A.M. 1235/21. Area Clyde : Add DUKE OF YORK, VICTORIOUS, 2 destroyers. Delete "Passage to U.K."
(D.O.D.(H), 1251A/24 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)
See next page.

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24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- H.34. Intend sailing H.34 escorted by QUADRILLE at 2000A/25 from Rothesay to Londonderry, E.T.A. Lough Foyle Buoy 0800A/26. (Capt. S.7, 1410A/24.)
- A.F.D. 14. C. in C. Portsmouth 1815/23 para. 3 and 4. Escort for Floating Dock 14 and convoy P.W.25² will be *GORLESTON, TYNEDEALE, 3 A/S trawlers, 2 M/S trawlers, and 3 M.Ls. latter to Lands End..
2. In event of separation GORLESTON, M/S trawlers, and M.Ls will remain with dock. TYNEDEALE and A/S trawlers will escort convoy.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to take escort in vicinity Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1657A/24.) *See Note:-
- VICTORIOUS. Your 1955/23. Approved for VICTORIOUS to be at 48 hours notice from 1200/24 for 7 days, and thereafter at 12 hours notice for 5 days. (C. in C. H.F., 1710A/24 to R.A.A.H.F.)
- S/M Positions. At 0800/25. Details. (F.O.S., 1801A/24.) See Lion Copy.
- DUKE OF YORK. Intend to sail DUKE OF YORK escorted by LIMBOURNE, OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS at 1030A/25 for Scapa, E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 0930A/26. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1926A/24.)

Operations.

- Patrols. 1. Tonight ALBRIGHTON is to proceed to patrol with M.T.B. 243 (S.O.), 84, 86 and M.G.B.615 between 50° 32' N. 00° 40' E. and 50° 27' N. 00° 05' W. passing E.A3 Buoy 1800 and 0745. Anchor St.Helens if weather unsuitable. Codeword "Device".
2. During first part of night keep to Eastern end of patrol and, if ordered to intercept enemy in his coastal route, Q.Z.X. 771 is to be crossed by passage one. Aircraft searching enemy route.
3. C.W.136 (S.O. Escort GARTH) passes Beachy Head 0155 and arrives E.A5 0900/25. Keep approximately to southward of it as far as patrol-line permits during its passage.
4. CHASSEURS 15 (S.O.) and 11 on E.A5 patrol.
5. Portland patrol. M.L.123 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 532 between 50° 20' N. 01° 45' W. and 50° 13' N. 02° 50' W. *See p.1005*
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1152A/24 and 1544A/24.)
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1210A/24 to GARTH.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 1801A/24th November. IN.

From, F.O.S.

Date. 24.11.42.
Recd. 1820.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. Admiralty.

130. Positions of submarines at 0800/25th November and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. GUNNEL 50 degs. 01 mins North 07 degs 55 mins West on surface due R/v 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1400A/25th November, with LAUDERDALE thence to Falmouth. *See p.1003*
- B. BLACKFLSH 49 degs 35 mins North 03 degs 55 mins West dived by day through 49 degs 45 mins North 08 degs 01 mins West thence on surface towards position 130 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles.
- C. GRAPH in zone K.501. *See pp1005 & 1006*
- D. SEALION on patrol in vicinity of 42 degs 31 mins North 09 degs 13 mins West. *See pp1005 & 1006.*
- E. DOLFIN in zone K.505.
- F. TRUANT 46 degs 55 mins North 13 degs 50 mins West dived by day through 49 degs 20 mins North 13 degs 50 mins West. *See p.1003*
- G. P.312 vicinity 70 degs 53 mins North 22 degs 26 mins East. *See p.1008*
- H. P.216 vicinity 70 degs 52 mins North 21 degs 08 mins East. *See p.1008*
- J. UREDD vicinity 70 degs 32 mins North 20 degs 01 mins East. *See p.1008.*
- K. JUNON zone K.9.
- L. P.55 escorted by VALSE leaves Blyth 1700 25th November for Holy Loch. Speed of advance 8 knots. *See p.1003.*

1801A/24.

Advance Copy sent.
Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (H)
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).

1005

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - con/5:-Patrols.
(Contd.)

1. Intend to sail M.L. 123 and R.M.L. 532 to patrol tonight on line between 50° 20' N. 01° 45' W. and 50° 13' N. 02° 50' W., leaving Weymouth 1800/24 by Q.Z.S.381, returning from

→ patrol-line at dawn. Codeword "Advent".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1201A/24 and 1432A/24.) *See p.1004*
Patrol tonight.

1. 2 motor gunboats (L) Z.23.
2. 3 motor gunboats (S) Z.20.
3. 2 motor gunboats (L) vicinity 53° 10' N. 03° 00' E., moving to Z.17 at 2300 or earlier if conditions are unsuitable.
4. 2 M/L Z.14.
5. 2 M/L Z.12.

6. 3 motor gunboats (S) Z.9.
7. 4 M.T.Bs near 52° 22' N. 04° 25' E.
(C. in C. Nore, 1521A/24 and 1611A/24.)
2 M.Ls on patrol 15' S. Portland Bill.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1625A/24 and 1831/24.)
Departures M.G.Bs. 61, 60, 65. M.T.Bs. 30, 32, 34, 70.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1657A/24.)
My 1657. M.T.B.32 and M.G.B.60 returned to harbour with engine defects.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1754A/24.)

M.Ls 142 and 140 patrolling near Rye Buoy until 0400/25 when they proceed to Dover.

M.G.Bs 110, 7, and 108 from Dover patrolling south-eastward from "D" buoy. E.T.D. 2130, E.T.R. 0130/25.

(V.A. Dover, 1802A/24.)

→ My 1201A/24 and 1432A/24. "Advent" sailed 1823A/24.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1835A/24.)

M.T.B. patrol tonight.

- 2. Forces employed. M.T.Bs 203 (S.O.), 202, and 236.
3. Patrol. Near 135° Dartmouth 20 miles. After P.W.253 has passed Start Point at about 0100/25, M.T.Bs are to keep about 10 miles to south-eastward of Convoy.
4. Object. To cover P.W. Convoy and to intercept E-Boats, if necessary by ramming. *See next page.*
5. Information. P.W.253 was reported by enemy aircraft at 1655/24. E-Boats attack may be expected from Guernsey or Cherbourg. P.W.253, passed Dart Buoy about 2359/24 speed 8 knots. W.P.253 passed Dart Buoy 2200/24 speed 7 knots.
6. Execution. Proceed at 2200/24 to patrol. Leave patrol at daylight 25th and return to Dartmouth. While on patrol M.T.Bs are to remain stopped conducive with safe navigation and covering convoy.

7. Codeword "Obstacle".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1957A/24.)

→ Sailed "Obstacle". M.T.Bs 202 (S.O.), 240, 236.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2210/24 and 2320/24.)

S/M Patrol
off Vigo.
SEALION,
GRAPH.

See p.1014

(1) German ships ANTARKTIS, NORD ATLANTIC, and BESSEL (vide Talbot Booths) lying at Vigo may leave shortly. They are most likely to proceed (?) Bay of Biscay ports. Their speed is probably reduced by long stay in harbour.

(2) After dark tonight SEALION proceed diving by

/day ...

1006

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

S/M Patrol day to establish outer patrol vicinity 042° 30' off Vigo. N. 009° 13' W. Keep clear of zone K.505.
SEALION, (3) At 0001/25 GRAPH enter and patrol zone K.501.
GRAPH, (4) Ships are to be attacked in accordance with
(Contd.) F.S.L. 1.
(5) Bombing restrictions follow.
(F.O.S., 1646A/24 to S/MS.)

My 1632/23. Amend as follows. Para. (F). GRAPH enter and patrol zone K.501 at 0001/25.
Para. (G). SEALION leaves K.501 after dark 24th, proceeding clear of zone K.501 to patrol in vicinity of 42° 30' N. 09° 13' W.
(F.O.S., 1807A/24 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

M/Vs. My Nr. One position 47° 10' N. 03° 30' W, course attacked. (?) 238°, speed unknown. Large vessel was leading formation. Result of attack unobserved.
(A/C 224 Sqdn., 0745/24 to 19 Group.)

P.C.S. of one enemy merchant vessel (less than 2000 tons) 46° 53' N. 02° 24' W., 090°, 5 knots. Have attacked enemy with bombs level. Estimate no hits.
(A/C C/S 8RMI, 1104/24 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Position (? latitude) 03° 55' W., 160°, 5 knots.
(A/C C/S CK9 duty 'P', 1725/24 to 19 Group.)

Bombing My 1237/20. Request you will extend area as restrictions. follows, western limit to 010° 30' W. and southern limit to 042° N. as from 0001/25th.
(F.O.S., 1642/24 to A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

746 Sqdn. My 2304/16. Permission has now been received from the Air Ministry for 746 Squadron to move to Ford on December 1st. Provided this squadron has its full complement of ratings, stores, equipment and at least one target and one A.I. Fulmar it should move as arranged.
(D.N.A.D., 1821A/24 to R.A.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoys You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1655/24.
P.W. 253, (C. in C. Plymouth, 1857A/24 to Escorts*P.W.253
W.P. 253. and W.P. 253.) *See previous page*

1007

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Lyme Bay
clearance
sweep. Area swept from Northern limit to a width of
4 cables. Negative result. Intend to sail
0800 tomorrow anchoring at Torbay or Beer Roads
as convenient at about 1730.
(M/S 4, 1758A/24 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off
Santander. Aircraft reports sighting at 1650/24 4 destroyers
in 43° 32' N. 3° 44' W., course 270°, about 15
knots.
Comment: Probably 4 torpedo boats which may be
proceeding to escort SPICHERN at Ferrol or tankers at Vigo to a
Biscay Port.
(D.D.I.C., 2320A/24.)

Casualties and Defects.

Search
for Boat. Proceed as necessary to arrive in 054° 56' N.
013° 35' W. at daylight tomorrow and search for
boat with 12 men seen by aircraft at 1515A/24.
A/C will co-operate.
(C. in C. W.A., 1647A/24 to LEAMINGTON.)
Am over a dinghy in 54° 58' N. (? longitude). I have fuel for
3 hours remaining.
(A/C 1LU Duty 'K', 1810/24 to C.C.1.)
LEAMINGTON sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1647A/24.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1900A/24.)

Shipping and Convoys.

- Q.P. 15. Destination of Q.P.15 now Loch Ewe.
2. On crossing latitude 73° N. steer for new
position 00 066° 49' N. 015° 04' W. Omit HH.
3. Thence to position: PP 070° Langanes 10. QQ 090°
Glettinganes 2.5. RR 064° 53' N. 013° 18' W. SS 064° 36' N.
013° 28' W. TT 063° 58' N. 014° 59' W. UU 060° 01' N. 010°
15' W. VV 001° Butt of Lewis 7, thence to Loch Ewe by normal
route.
4. Particular accuracy is necessary between position QQ and RR.
5. The Minesweepers of the escort are to sweep convoy from
position QQ to position SS, subsequently returning to Seidis-
fjord to fuel if necessary and thence Scapa.
6. A.C.I.C. is requested to provide maximum anti-submarine air
protection.
7. Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER with *ECHO, *IMPULSIVE, INTREPID,
*ICARUS after refuelling at Seidisfjord in accordance with my
1943/14 are to meet Q.P.15 off Glettinganes and provide escort
to position VV.
8. On relief by Capt. (D) 8, *MUSKETEER with *ORWELL, *MIDDLETON,
LEDBURY and *OAKLEY are to refuel at Seidisfjord then proceed
unprotected. **See next page.*

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Con/8.

Q.P. 15.
 (Contd.)

9. Corvettes remain with convoy to sixth.
 10. S.O. of escort in company pass new route and destination to Cdre. and A.M. Q.Z.L. 51 and A.M. Q.Z.L. 52 to escorts from North Russia.

(C. in C. H.F., 0148A/24 to A.C.I.C., Capt. D.8, MUSKETEER, HALCYON.)

My P.C.S. 070° 35' N. 001° 40' E., 240°, 8. American ESEK HOPKINS 10 miles astern. → OBDURATE 25 miles astern approx. Weather 9992 0402.

(ONSLAUGHT, 1001A/24.)

Your 0148/24. Have intercepted 7 stragglers. Commodore and minesweepers not met. Understood convoy badly scattered constant gales. Maintained patrol for last 24 hours in 073° 40' N. 007° 30' E. with MUSKETEER, ECHO, OAKLEY and MIDDLETON. ORWELL detached to search for survivors of GOOLISTAN reported torpedoed in 075° 30' N. 008° 00' E. Am now sweeping down both sides of route in 2 groups 30 miles apart at best speed. Intend to provide escort for any ship met. Consider most ships are ahead of me. ICARUS lost touch pm. 20th.

Approx. position at noon/23rd. IMPULSIVE 073° 40' N. 011° 40' E. proceeding down route. (corrupt group) escorting DAN-Y-BRYN 073° 50' N. 007° 24' E. CAMELIA escorting EXFORD 073° 40' N. 005° 00' E. BRYONY escorting ST. OLAF and WHITE CLOVER 075° 30' N. 005° 30' E. (Possible position (?)).

My P.C.S. 073° 28' N. 005° 34' E., 226°, 10 knots. Presume all stragglers should proceed Akureyri. Suggest orders to this effect be promulgated by B.M.S. Weather 4862 7777.

(Capt. D.8, 1030/24 to C. in C. H.F.)

Intend following subsequent movement for cruiser covering force and destroyer. F.O. 1st C.S. in LONDON and ONSLAUGHT to proceed to Scapa.

→ 2. SUFFOLK and OBDURATE to Hvalfjord.

→ 3. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail SAN AMBROSIO escorted by FORESTER for U.K. as convenient after arrival of SCOTTISH AMERICAN at Seidisfjord. A.C.I.C's 1345/21st refers. Destination will be signalled. *See next page.

4. F.O.C. D/F Home Fleet is requested to sail 1 destroyer for Hvalfjord after arrival of F.O. 1st C.S. at Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F., 1700A/24.)

(1) Leave patrol forthwith for 090° Out Skerries 5 miles, thence Lerwick, through following positions: UREDD (a) 070° 02' 013° 01'. P.216 (b) 069° 58' 010° 30'. P.312 (c) 071° 05' 019° 01' (d) 070° 01' 009° 59'.

(2) Proceed diving by day when within 60 miles of Norwegian Coast, thence on surface at C.O's discretion.

(Capt. S.9, 2305A/24 to UREDD, P.216, P.312.)

Proceed forthwith diving by day through 068° 01' 011° 20', 069° 20' 013° 50' to patrol vicinity 069° 40' 016° 30' E.

2. Further instructions follow.

3. Keep a good look-out for U-Boats bound Andfiord.

(F.O.S., 2316A/24 to JUNON.)

Expect A/S air escort by Liberator aircraft from 1045 to 1705 tomorrow. 2nd Liberator may also be seen on A/S sweep in your area.

(A.C.I.C., 2356A/24 to Escorts Q.P.15.)

See p.
 1004A

1009

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.M.S. 4. Sailing of LLANDUDNO is to be cancelled. N.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to hold an immediate enquiry into the cause of the large number of absentees among the ship's company.
(C. in C. W.A., 1102A/24.)
Intend sailing convoy escorted by 30th Escort Group passing Clyde Boom 1500A/26 to pass through position (a) at 1000A/27.
Codeword "Horatius".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1204A/24.)

K.M.F. 4. C. in C. W.A. 2314A/22, N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1519A/23.
Intend sailing P.C.74 0330A/25 to arrive Barry Roads 1100A/25.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1143A/24.)
Intend sailing GLOUCESTER 1500A/25 for Clyde in accordance with Admty. 1357/20. E.T.A. Toward Point 0830A/26.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1524A/24.)

D.S. 34. D.S.34 leaves Clyde 28th November. Your 1555A/22.
Request CASTLETON be instructed to R/V with convoy in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0845A/29.
Intend ST. MARYS should escort convoy from Clyde. A.O.C.S's 1220A/18 refers.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1516A/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

SAN Your 1345/21. Assuming SAN AMBROSIO will sail
AMBROSIO. with oil fuel cargo, destination is Scapa.
In Russia page Propose escort be provided by Units of Q.P.15
escort, arriving Seidisfjord p.m. 26th.
2. If empty, destination is New York for orders, in which case ship should join Q.P.15 off Seidisfjord and proceed to Loch Ewe for onward routing in O.N.150.
(D.T.D., 1511A/24 to A.C.I.C.)

TJALDUR. My 1012/22. Sailed escorted by CHIDDINGFOLD.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1542/24 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

R.U.51, BUG. BUG now sailing R.U. 51.
(S.S.T.O. Iceland, 1830A/24 to D.S.T.)

KOMSOMOLETZ. Akureyri arrival your 1245/15th para. 1.
(A.C.I.C., 1850/24 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

North Russian and North African Convoys. Instructions contained in C.A.M.S.I.164/42 paras. 1 and 2 regarding aircraft torpedo attacks are to be stressed at conferences for North Russian and North African convoys.
(D.T.D., 1942A/24.)

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

A.T. 29.
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH)

Convoy A.T.29 is due Clyde 29th November.
2. Total of approximately 11,000 personnel will disembark 30th November.
3. Approximately 7,350 personnel including 630 Italian P.O.W. will embark at the Tail of the Bank on 2nd December and 3rd December.
(D.S.T., 2324A/24 and 2234A/25.)

1011

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

- A.F.H.Q. 1. Command Post A.F.H.Q. closes Gibraltar 0001Z November 25. Advance Message Centre Algiers becomes A.F.H.Q. Algiers same date and hour.
2. Registered telegraph and cable address for A.F.H.Q. Algiers is Freedom, Radio call sign is Y.Q.V, Telegraph call letters are A.F. location of Command Post is: Saint George Hotel, Mail address is A.P.O.512, Mail from U.S.A. care P.M. New York. Mail address from U.K. is A.P.O. 512 U.S. Army. Sending establishment adequate signal channels between A.F.H.Q U.S.A. and U.K. traffic will be extremely restricted and must therefore be limited to essential messages and air mail be used to a maximum.
(Commandant Gibraltar 0828Z/24 to Abfor London.)

Operation Torch. Add to my 1730/23rd November. Suggest reference to fact that British forces included Polish and Dutch warships. Reference might also be made to special assistance in form of R.C.N. escorts. (N.C.X.F. 0923A/24 to Admty.)

Attacks on U/Bs. Admty 1303A/24. See U-Boat Campaign.

Situation. Ref. No. 1237.

1. Situation report No.17 of November 23rd.
2. Naval; K.M.F. 3 attacked by torpedo aircraft in Mediterranean. One ship sunk. Algiers: Ferrying troops from K.M.F.3 Eastward in LSI has begun. Raids by torpedo aircraft. Merchant vessel hit but safely berthed. Cruiser striking force now based here to cover convoys.
3. Tunisia: 22 Nov. generally quiet with active patrolling by both sides. Djebel Abiod small enemy attack repulsed 22. British trap 40 prisoners.
4. Algiers 5th F.A.Bn. arrived 21st departed for Guelma. Balance C.C.B en route from Oran. Unloading K.M.F.3 proceeding satisfactorily.
5. Oran C. in C. arrived from Gib. departed for Algiers.
6. Casablanca 30% cargo U.G.F.2 unloaded.
7. Air. Intensive A/S operations continued from Gib. and North African Bases. 26 Bisleys attacked Bizerta night 20/21 U.IV scoring hits on docks. 6 intruder Bisleys also bombed Tunis and Bizerta air dromes. No losses sustained in these operations. Routine and convoy patrols combined. Fighter sweeps and T.A.C. R sorties in 78 Div. area 21st Nov.
(Commandeth, Gibraltar 1611/24 to Abfor London.)

*SEAKAY, MAYO, NIBLACK. F.O.I.C. Oran 1931Z/23rd (N.T. in W.D.) Sailing of SEAKAY, MAYO and NIBLACK is postponed until further notice.
* *See p.1013* (N.C.X.F. 1801A/24 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca.)
41015

/Naval ...

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X. - contd.

Naval Aircraft and Reserves. I am at present operating two aircraft carriers for which there is no reserve of Albacore aircraft on the station, and no reserve of flying personnel other than crews of Swordfish Aircraft already fully employed on local A/S patrols.

2. Request early information of arrangements intended for dispatch of adequate aircraft, spares and personnel for carrier reserve.

3. My 1640Z/19. It is essential to retain 813 Squadron at Oran and Algiers for A.S.V. and A/S patrols for the present. In addition the flight at Algiers provide the sole torpedo air striking force in the Western Mediterranean and it will probably be required to move them forward soon. 833 Squadron is the only Squadron available for local A/S patrols at Gibraltar which are essential. It is therefore intended to embark in ARCHER only three Swordfish nearing major inspections. ARCHER already has 3 Swordfish for her own protection. My 1640Z/19 and Admiralty 1815/16 refer.

4. V.A.C. N.A's 1132/23. Fully concur and in addition I consider maintenance personnel of R.N.A.S. Gibraltar should be increased to enable major inspections to be carried out locally.

(N.C.X.F. 1812A/24 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, F.O. Force H. FORMIDABLE.)

"Torch" Area, limits of commands. The following division of Naval responsibility in "Torch" area under the general control of N.C.X.F. is intended consequent on moving forward of N.C.X.F. to Algiers.

(1) R.A. Hall, U.S. Navy will assume the title of S.N.O. Casablanca area (S.N.O.C.A.) from 0001Z/26

Nov. He will undertake the responsibilities laid down in T.S.G.O. Number 8 and will in addition route ships and convoys from Moroccan ports to 10° West and between Moroccan ports.

(2) The Northern limit of S.N.O.C.A. Area is 35° North. The southern limit is 028° 40' N. Air and surface forces under his command may operate as far to the westward as is within their capabilities.

(3) V.A. Gibraltar will assume operational control of the Western Torch area from 0001Z/26th subject to the general direction of N.C.X.F. He will work in close co-operation with S.N.O.C.A. who has the independent responsibilities laid down in (i).

(4) The northern limit of Western Torch area is 043° (00') N. The southern limit is 020° 00' N. The eastern limit is 002° 13' W. The western limit is (040°) 00' W.

(5) V.A. Gibraltar will inform S.N.O.C.A. of the routing of all ships in Western Torch area south of (035°) 00' N. S.N.O.C.A. will similarly inform V.A. Gibraltar if he routes ships north of 035° 00' N.

(6) S.N.O.C.A. is authorized to obtain direct from the Admty. the route between 010° 00' W. and 040° 00' W. for convoys sailed from Moroccan ports.

(N.C.X.F. 2007A/24 to V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) F.O. W.A.F. S. and A. "Torch" Admty., Cominch, C. in C. Lant.)

1013

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

Intelligence. 1. My 2007/17 para.1. Further reports indicate that vessel sunk was probably SIKOKU or HOKOKU MARU and that vessel which escaped resembled KUNIKAWA MARU.

2. Blockade Breaker ANNELIESE ESSBERGER, intercepted by U.S. Forces and scuttled in 00.54 N. 22.34 W. at 0700Z/21.

3. SPICHERN probably still at Ferrol. KOTA NOPAN could by now be between 25° and 30° South. Other outward bound blockade runners probably now in Pacific or Indian Oceans. Some ships probably on passage to Europe from Far East. (D.D.I.C. 1951A/24 to A.I.G.13 etc).

North Atlantic.

M.K.S.2. Sailed BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, MYOSOTIS, CAMPION, STONECROP, AUBRETIA, LA MALOUINE, CARNATION, MALLOW and Gibraltar portion M.K.S.2 to join main convoy and relieve present escort. (V.A.C.N.A. 0344Z/24 to Admty).

See next page p. 1016 & 1017

*SEAKAY, HILDUR, FINTRA. Cancel my 1615A/23rd. SEAKAY will be escorted by U.S. Destroyer escort of WINOOSKI. HILDUR, FINTRA are to be escorted to Gibraltar by escorts of TASAJERA and (?BACHAQUERO) on return journey. My 2352 refers. *p. 975* * *See next page*

* *See p. 1011 & 1105* 2.F.O.I.C. Casablanca pass to Port Captain, Lyautey. (N.C.X.F. 0615A/24 to F.O.I.C. Casablanca. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar Force. 8th S/M F. Port Capt. Port Lyautey, A.O.C. Gib. TASAJERA, RHYL).

Air Report. AI. 184 24th Nov. Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 23rd Nov. U-Boat sightings and attacks from Gibraltar. Hudson F.H.462 Met. Flight at 1101 hours 37.12 N. *attacked U-Boat CO 290/14 kts. with M/Gs 800 rounds fired many tracer hits on C/T and Hull, no crew visible. U-Boat crash dived violently stern lifting clear water and spout of water rose to 20 feet. (H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar 0735Z/24.) * 14.53.W.

U/B. Attacked. LORD NUFFIELD attacked S/M 292 G.A.R. 42 at 0420/24th. LORD HOTHAM type 123 A defective. Weather Report. *(SCOTTISH 0755A/24 to N.C.X.F.).

* *See p. 1015*

G.U.F.2. My 1206Z/21st, not to Admiralty (N.T. in W.R.). Route proposed by Admiralty for GUF.2 is through P.30.50 N. 13.01 W. Q.29.35 N. 16.02 W.

R.35.00 N. 29.10 W. S. 38.10 N. 39.59 W. This may be altered by you in order to effect exchange of destroyers with U.G.S.2. in accordance with your 1625Z/21st. Keep me and Admiralty informed of your intentions. (N.C.X.F. 0852/24 to F.O.I.C. Casablanca (R) Admty, F.O.C.N.A.).

/Situation.....

1014

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Situation My 1303A/23rd*amend para.5 (?) to read 39.06, 15
2004/23. 24, 015° 9.
(N.C.X.F. 0920A/24, to S. and A. N.A.Stn)
*Lion Copy only.

M.K.S.2.A. ROCHESTER. 0701A/24th (N.T. in W.R.). Following
see p/1016, 1017, 1021 is a repetition of my 0155A/24th addressed
Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, SANDWICH, Escorts
of convoy M.K.S.2.A. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Capt.(S) 8th N.C.X.F.
A.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran 1900/23rd.
Route for Sunderland K.S.2A through (Z) 36.15 N. 00.01 W, then
through 72 and 10.
Oran R/V in position (Z) at 1600A/24th T.O.O. 0155A/24th (Ends)
(2) My 0406/24th (N.T. in W.R.) no longer concerns you.
(N.C.X.F. 0943A/24 to Admty, SANDWICH).

M.K.F.3. 7 Ships E.T.A. Gibraltar 0230Z/25th Nov.
(WESTON 0945A/24th to N.C.X.F.).

German It is reported that there is considerable activity
tankers of German tankers at Vigo which suggests their
Vigo. possible early departure. Graded B.2.
see p. 1005 (D.D.I.C. 1005A/24 to F.O.C.N.A. etc).

Safe Following ships sail from Genoa on date shown
Conduct bound for Gibraltar.
Ships. A. Nov. 25th Spanish MARIA VICTORIA 3619 gross
tonnage speed 8 knots.
B. Nov. 26th.
1. Swiss MALOJA 1788 gross tonnage speed 8 knots.
2. Swiss ALBULA 1220 gross tonnage speed 8 knots.
C. Nov. 27th Swiss LUGANO 6942 gross tonnage speed 8 knots.
2. Ships have their national colours painted on side and
are routed to 10 miles North of Revellata Point (Corsica)
10 miles North of Cape Cabalaria (Minorca) West of Iviza thence
to Gibraltar.
3. Ships are not to be interferred with on this voyage.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1005A/24 to A.I.G. 262 etc).

M.K.S.2. Escorts of convoy M.K.S.2.(G) sailed to join
see previous page escorts of convoy M.K.S.2. in 036.00 N. 006.20 W.
14/11/42-17 at 1200 Z/24th. SS. EMPIRE DAY, LOCHEE, trawler
PORT STANLEY. Destination unknown. Stragglers
route as convoy route escorts of convoy M.K.S.2. No ships join
from Lisbon.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1026A/24 to Admty).

Movements. Sailed L.S. Ts TASAJERA, BACHAQUERA, escorted by
RHYL, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR for Casablanca.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1115A/24 to Admiralty, N.C.X.F.
N.O.I.C. Casablanca).

1015

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

P.219. P.219 sails at 1600 today dives for trim in
see p. 1017 1025 position 080° Europa Point 2 for $\frac{1}{4}$ hour thence
 in accordance with my 1438/23rd.
 (N.C.X.F. 1224A/24th to A.I.G. 262, Force H.).
 P.219 sails 1600A/24th eastbound keeping 10 miles off
 Spanish coast. Trim dive will be carried out in position
 060° Europa Point.2.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1245A/24 to S.O. Escorts of Convoy U.G. F.
 (R) Capt.(S) 8th).

ADVENTURE. Arrival 0810 ADVENTURE escorted by WISHART
 BRILLIANT.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1308A/24 to Admty).

LOCH OSKAIG. Position 035.34 N. 002. 45 W. Motor Assault Craft
 Assault Craft. P.59 - 15 found abandoned, have taken in tow.
 Propose passing over to ANTIGONE when met
 tonight. Weather report.
 (LOCH OSKAIG 1400A/24 to N.C.X. F.).
 Your 1400/24th Approved.
 (N.C.X.F. 1710A/24 to LOCH OSKAIG).

SCOTTISH. Am being attacked by enemy aircraft 062.degs.
 CARB 51 miles.
 (SCOTTISH 1406/24 to Gibraltar W/T).
 Detached M.L. 336, L.C.T. 135, L.C.T. 160 to Jijelli
 owing to weather. My 1406 and 1445 (1443 intended. re TUDOR
 attacked by enemy aircraft - N.T. in W.D.), 24th torpedo bomber.
 Weather report.
 (SCOTTISH 1605 A/24 to N.C.X.F.).

CALANDA. Swiss steamship CALANDA sails 1900/24th for
 Genoa routed west Ivaza, 10 miles north of
 Revellata Point (Corsica), 10 miles North of
 Cape Cabalaria (Minorca) thence Genoa.
 Speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots, R.X. 4163 gross tonnage, black hull national
 colours and Switzerland painted on side.
 Ship is not to be interfered with this voyage.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1427A/24, 1727A/24 to S. and A. in Area G, V. A. Malta
 Capt.S.1. etc).
 Swiss CALANDA leaves Gib.1900 /24th for Genoa by approved
 route speed $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
 2.Ship is not to be molested if on this route.
 (Capt.S.8, 1649A/24 to 8th S.F.).

P.221. Convoy arriving Gibraltar 0230/25th from
 information. Eastward. STORNOWAY left Almeria 1200 /24th
 escorting one M.V.coastwise to Gibraltar.
 (Capt.S.8, 1552A/24, to P.221 (R) N. C.X. F.).

SEAKAY. *Cancelled*
see 17p 1011 1013
also p. 1017 N.C.X.F. 1615/23rd. SEAKAY will be unable to
 sail until 0001/25th due to defects.
 2. SEAKAY escorted NIBLACK and MAYO E.T.A.
 position (C) at 1500/25th.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1608A/24 to F.O.I.C.Casablanca (R) Port Capt.Port
 Lyautey, A.O.C.Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.). /Force H.....

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Force H. Sailed Force H. in NELSON, RENOWN, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, *MILNE, LOOKOUT, PENN, PATHFINDER, METEOR, PARTRIDGE, ESKIMO, TARTAR, PUCKERIDGE, PORCUPINE for Mers El Kebir. Relevant Q.B., Q.B.A., and Q.B.B. messages held.
See p. 1023
(F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/24 to Admty, F.O.I.C.Oran).
** See next page*

VEGA. Sailing 1900/24th SS VEGA 1094 gross tonnage speed 8 knots for Marseilles. National colours and Red Cross marking painted on hull. Routed coastwise Cape to Cape to Cape San Sebastian then direct Marseilles.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1627A/24 to S. and A.N.A.).

A/S Air T.C.A.O. 40. Intended A/S Air Search 2 patrols. Wellingtons 2100/24th to 0600/25th Area W.K, W.A, W.R. W.F, 2 Wellingtons 2100/24th to 0600/25th between 037° North and 040° North between Coast and 014° West.
(N.C.X.F. 1644B/24 to all concerned in "Torch").

KINGSTON My 1246A/24th (N.T. in W.D.) add new para 7. CHRYSOLEITE. KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE one motor vessel off Tarifa coastwise to Guadalquivir where motor vessel part company 7½, KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE then return Gibraltar direct 10. Cancel para.4.
(N.C.X.F. 1714A/24th).
Sailed KINGSTON CHRYSOLEITE at 1700 escorting SS. WILLOW-DALE to Seville.
(V.A.C.N.A. 2352A/24 to Admiralty).

TIGRIS. Leaves Gibraltar 1600/25th 10 miles from Spanish coast to 180° Cape de Gata 10 miles then through:-
W. 135° Cape Palos 5 miles at 0030/27th.
X. 039° 00' 003° 06' E.
Y. 039° 00' 006° 30' E.
Z. 038° 01' 007° 30' E. to patrol within 20 miles of Z. S. of A. 155 miles a day.
(Capt.S.8. 1720A/24 to S.S.F.).

M.K.S.2(A). Request you will sail convoy M.K.S.2.(A) *See p. 1014 & 1021* at 1800A/27 routed through:-

H.36.00 N. 06.25 W.
K.36.00 N. 07.20 W.
L.36.00 N. 10.00 W.
M.38.28 N. 15.00 W.
N.40.28 N. 17.02 W.
O.43.45 N. 17.15 W.
P.51.10 N. 17.11 W.
Q.54.30 N. 13.45.W.
R.55.26 N. 08.31 W.

2.Convoy to consist of TORRHEAD, MAHSUD, OCEAN STRENGTH, MELMORE HEAD, OCEAN VISTA, ENNERDALE and any other ships available.
3.Escorts *LANCASTER, *WELLS, *OXLIP, *HONEYSUCKLE, *HYDERABAD, and LOTUS.
** See next page*

** See next page*

/(4).....

1017

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

M.K.S.2. (A)
Contd.

4. Lisbon section escorted by VIO^{LET} and RHODODENDRON R/V in position, (36.42 N. 1109 W.) at 1200A/29.
5. Admiralty is requested to signal destination.
6. A.O.C. Gib. requested to arrange an escort. (N.C.X.F. 1743A/24, 0940A/25 to V.A. Gib).
Amended also by 2046A/25, q.v. p 1054.

?BALDUR.

Your 1737/22nd. Particulars of vessel 61 appears to tally with those given Lloyds Register except she has not cruiser-stern.

Vessel arrived with name plate, which has since been removed, hung on wing of bridge. She carries gun mountings fore and aft and is painted dark grey.
(Consul Bilbao. 1825/24 to Admty (R) B.N.A. Madrid S.O. (I) Gib.) See Page 1096.

*MILNE,
QUALITY.

Arrivals a.m. MILNE, p.m. QUALITY. (N.O.I.C. Gib. 1834A/24 to Admty (R) F.O.I.C. Oran C.S.10, N.C.X.F.).

* See previous page

WELLS.

My 1246A/24th. N.T.M. W.D.
Add new para. (8) WELLS 036.24 008.25, 22 knots to search vicinity of 036.36, 009.47 for survivors thence direct to Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F. 1855A/24).

P.219.

Sailed 1630 P.219 Q.B.81, Q.B.A.2, Q.B.B. 304, Q.B.C. 513 less 503. (F.O.C.N.A. 1911A/24 to Admty etc).

*M.K.S.2.

Arrivals SCARBOROUGH, GERANIUM, SPIREA, DEPTFORD COLTSFOOT, *OXLIP, *HONEYSUCKLE, ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, ANTELOPE, *HYDERABAD, from M.K.S.2. (N.O.I.C. Gib. 1926A/24 to Admty).

See pp 1014 & 1016

* See previous page (M.K.S. 2 (A))

AVENGER.

It is particularly desired to obtain as soon as possible all available information regarding loss of AVENGER. Request any details you may have.

(D.T.S.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (W) 1933A/24 to V.A.C.N.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C.W.A., (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

MAYO,
NIBLACK,
WINOOSKI.

U.S.S. MAYO, U.S.S NIBLACK arrived 1100 with 86. WINOOSKI. (Naval Fuel Ship) (F.O.C.N.A. 1950A/24 to Admty, S.N.O. Casablanca (R) N.C.X.F.).

See p 1015

1018

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Attack on U/B. U-Boat attacked By U.S. A/C at 1645Z/23 in 007.45 S. 015.20 W. (F.O.C.W.A. 0130Z/24th to Ships in Area P.(R) Admiralty,N.O.I.C. Ascension, C. in C.S.A.)

KOTA TJANDI "S" Report. Following received from Sierra Leone Radio SSSS KOTA TJANDI position 17.28 S. 34.13 W. at 1430 G.M.T./23 (Ends) 0046/24. Latitude doubtful. (Valentia Radio.No. T.O.O./24 to Admty). (Port Patrick Radio 0159/24 to Navycharge, Greenock).
KOTA TJANDI SSSS at 1430Z/23rd Nov. Dutch S/M K.14 estimated in 017° 15' N. 034° (906') W. at 1430Z/23rd Nov. (R.A.W.A. 0135Z/24 to Admty).

SCOTTISH CHIEF. (Torpedoed 20th Nov.). JASMINE and GENISTA arrived with 12 survivors ex British Tanker SCOTTISH CHIEF torpedoed in estimated position 30.39 S. 34.41 E. at 2134/20 Nov. All C.Bs sank with ship. (Cdre.Durban 0813Z/24 to Admty,(R)S.O.(I) Capetown).

CAMBRIA. Ref your 1740A/19th. (Shortage of cable stocks, Cable Ship CAMBRIA to pick up abandoned ex German Cable). and my 1639/21st. (Release of H.M. Trawler on repair work for escort). Comsolantfor advises present S/M situation warrants vessel proceeding without escort. Vessel sails tomorrow a.m.unless you advise otherwise. (N.C.S.O. Pernambuco 0915/24 to Admty),

START POINT (Torpedoed 10th Nov). Your 1239A/23/11.(as received) N.C.S.O. St. Vincent reports START POINT torpedoed in 13.12 N. 27.27 W. on 10th November. No news of any survivors. (S.O.(I) Freetown 0929Z/24 to Admty).

Suspicious Ship. My 2247Z/23rd (Unidentified ship sighted by A/C) R/C by Sunderland A/C takes place today 25th. Result will be reported. (R.A.W.A. 1035Z/24 to Comsolantfor, ASTURIAS).
My 2247/23rd. Ship identified as U.S.NARBO bound Surinam from Capetown. (F.O.W.A. 1631Z/24 to Comsolantfor, ASTURIAS).

BELGIAN FISHERMAN. Had not arrived St.Vincent 23rd Nov. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1208Z/24 to Admty,(R) N.C.S.O. St. Vincent).

Search for U/Bs fuelling. *YES/TOR and *VIVIANA closed positions given in your 1857Z/21st dusk 23rd Nov. Careful search of San Antonio has proved fruitless.*TURCOMAN not encountered. Now proceeding via Janella and St.Iago. E.T.A.Bathurst 1230Z/17 27th. (YES/TOR 1300Z/24th to N.O.I.C.Freetown, (R) N.O.I.C.Bathurst,R.A.W.A. TURCOMAN).

* See p.1018B

/PIERCE

MOST SECRET

1018A.

1217Z/24 November.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 24.11.43.

Received 1840.

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T

Addressed Ships in Area P. South Atlantic Station south of 8 degs N
Admiralty. C. in C. South Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.
R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT.

COMMANDANT DESTROYER, RUMBA, 3 motor launches, with
convoy S T 44 off Freetown to 07 50 14 12 thence 126 8.
COMMANDANT DROGOU, escorting, 03 05 08 51 to 02 26 08 07 thence 93 10.
H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, SPICET, ORFESSY, one motor launch, with T 3 25, 00
08 07 46 278 9 at 2001Z 24th. H.M.S. ASTURIAS, 02 43 25 26 01 14.
PANDANGO, KELT, escorting, 01 28 03 02 east to Takoradi 9. NORTHERN
DUKE, escorting, about 02 40 south 04 28 east to 03 south 05 east
thence 114 9. CORINTHIAN, 2 M.L., towing, 04 50 south 10 48 east
to (corrupt) 77P.552, off (2 corrupt groups) 10 south 11 east 9.
X GULNARE, HOLCOMBE, escorting off Forcados to Lagos. GLENLEARN, 00 18
south 17 10 346 16.

x 57 WISTAN *sup 1019* ** sup p. 1020* 1217Z/24.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.
D.O.D.(F) and 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.D.I.C.(2).
I.P.(2).
W.D.
D.T.D.(M).
D.T.D.(3).
H.M.S.
D.O.D.(G).
D.N.I.(4).

MOST SECRET

1018B

MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

1301Z/24th November

From R.A. West Africa

Date 24/11/42
Recd. 1605

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Addressed Ships in Area "P" of S. Atlantic Station
North of 8 degrees N. Admiralty, C. in C.
South Atlantic, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.

IMPORTANT

D.S. K.14,18 47 38 22 230 9. *See p.1033*

H.M.S. VIVIANA, YESTER, about 17 10 22 20 to
Bathurst 9. *See p.1018*

H.M.S. TURCOMAN, about 15 20 21 55 to Bathurst 8½.

ARRAN, 2 M.L.'s, escorting, 10 10 13 30 to
Freetown 9½.

At 1959Z 24th.

PORTSDOWN, SPHENE, 09 32 17 38 to Freetown 9½.

H.M.S. BURDOCK, H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE, escorting,
10 02 17 03 to 12 01 18 30 thence 342 9½.

H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, H.M.S. NORTHERN CHIEF, escorting,
about 08 42 14 36 to Freetown 9.

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. NORTHERN ISLES, 08 56 16
(?59) to Freetown 7½.

1301Z/24

Advance copy 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.

Capt. Pim.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.T.D.(M)

D.C.(2)

U.S.N.

D.A./S.W.

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C.(2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

D.D.O.D.(M)

D. of P.(2)

D.N.I.(4)

D.M.S.

D.D.O.D.(C)

D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(C)

MOST SECRET

1018e.

M E S S A G E

IN

1325C/24th November

MOST SECRET

Date 24/11/42
Recd. 1450

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Naval Cypher M by W/T and T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 125.

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, with CF 8, 027 degs. 30' South 015 degs. 00' East to Freetown 13½ knots.

H.M.S. EXPRESS, CATHERICK, with CD 2, 030 degs. 20' South 030 degs. 48' East to Durban 6½.

NEPAL, H.M.S. *FORTUNE, with DC 1 (one), 033 degs. 25' South 027 degs. 40' East to Capetown 8½. *see p. 1019.

THYME, 037 degs. 05' South 021 degs. 10' East to Capetown 12.

H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, 032 degs. 15' South 016 degs. 50' East to Freetown 20. ~~see~~ p. 1019

SOUTHERN BARRIER, TERJE, ROODEPORT, STELLENBERG, and STEINBERG, searching in vicinity of 033 degs. South 011 degs. 30' East.

1325C/24.

Advance copies Duty Captain
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.
Captain Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
Duty Captain (2)

U.S.N.
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.

SECRET

1018 D

MESSAGE 1357B/24th November IN

FROM: C.S.A. Lourenco Marques DATE: 3.12.42.
RECD: 1455

NAVAL SHORE CODE N (2) BY CABLE.

Addressed: C. in C. South Atlantic C. in C. Eastern
Fleet Comd, Durban Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE.

GUNDA Norwegian torpedoed and (?sunk) 2230 19th
approximate position 025 degs 40' South 033 degs 53'
East report is by 4 native crew believed sole
survivors.

1357B/24.

Advance Copy Ops, O.D. O.I.C. Trade

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
Parl. Sec.
Financial Sec.
Naval Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.A./S.W.
M.(2)
D.N.I.(5)
Ops. (3)
O.D.(5)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
Cdr. Holbrook
D.T.M.
D. of S.T.(2)
O.I.C.(3)
I.P.(3)
G.C.R.T.
D.
Press Division
I.M.N.G.
Director of Salvage
Admiral Usborne

G.

1019

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.PIERCE
BUTLER.
(torpedoed
20th Nov).

PIERCE BUTLER
* FORTUNE arrived with 61 crew from (corrupt group)
(Newhaven) torpedoed in 029.40 S. 036.35 E. on
20th Nov. at 1045. C.Bs were all jettisoned
by Master and N.L.O. and seen to sink. No
casualties.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1449C/24 to Admty etc).

* see p.1018c

INDOCHINOIS

Your (2854) 23rd(1854/23 intended re sailing
of INDOCHINOIS). INDOCHINOIS delayed at Capetown
for marking will R/V with W.S.24 off Cape about
30th Nov and accompany convoy onward. P.S.T.O. Capetown 1505/24
refers.(arrangements for onward moves of personnel)
(C. in C.S. A. 1507C/24 to Admty).

U/B.

PPPP S/M sighted 10.56 N. 31.16 A? at 1445 G.C.T.
/24. Navcom.
(Cominch 1547/24 to Admty).

CITY OF
KIMBERLEY.

At 1850 G.M.T. 21st Brazilian patrol plane from
Fortelaza whilst endeavouring to identify ship
about 25 miles northwards Mucuisse was fired at
from ship. 3 planes sent out later met ship
northwards Menacura and not succeeding in identifying,
attacked with bomb which near missed. At the same time W/T
intercepted message from British Merchant ship CITY OF
KIMBERLEY reporting she was being bombed, whereupon patrol
was withdrawn. Commander air base Recife (Pernambuco) claims
master's action irregular if not criminal
(S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro 1559Z/24 to Admty.)
S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro's 1559Z/24th is being passed to
you.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2107Z/24 to Admty).

ENTERPRISE.

see p.1018c

Capetown departure 1320Z/24th. ENTERPRISE for
Freetown calling Pointe Noire for fuel.
Route:- A. 028.30 S. 015.00 E.
B. 018.00 S. 011.00 E.
C. 007.00 S. 011.00 E.
D. Point Noire.

E. Equator 005.00 W. thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. West Africa,
S. of A. 20 knots, E.T.A. Pointe Noire 1300Z/28th. shifting
to W/T organization for Area P. at 0500Z/27th,
(C. in C.S.A. 1625C/24 to Admiralty, F.O.I.C. W.A. B.N.L.O.
W.A.).

Tankers.

Departures Pointe Noire 1600Z/21st *FANDANGO,
*KELT escorting tankers CISTULA, BENTE, MAERSK,
MIJDRECHT routed through A. Equator 000°
E.T.A. Takoradi dawn 26th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 1715/24 to R.A.W.A.).

* see p.1018A

/CUBA...

1020

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- CUBA, CUBA is ready to proceed to U.K. Request information whether ship should join convoy in North Atlantic.
(F.O.W.A. 1723Z/24 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. D. of S.T.).
Reply 1921/26th.
- L.S.8. S.O.(I) Freetown's 1859/21 Nov. reporting
S.T.42. arrival of L.S.8, According to Admiralty information 6 ships sailed from Takoradi to join L.S.8 on 16th June/1942. Request clarification. Further request composition of S.T.42, no sailing telegram for this convoy having been received.
(D.T.D.1844A/24 to F.O.C.W. A.).
(Reply:- 1300/25)
- Air R/C Your 1225/22nd (Propose to discontinue "Torch"
Patrols. R/C patrols except for daily P.R.U. of Dakar).
Concur in maintaining daily P.R.U. only. I will inform you of situation as soon as possible.
(N.C.X.F. 1903A/24 to F.O.C.W.A. Admiralty, S.N.O. Casablanca).
- Movements. Departure 22nd Nov. U.S. ^{Santhana T. 24} ~~Sleep~~ HUMBOLDT. Arrival 23rd, Brazilian Battleship SAO PAULO. Arrival 24th U.S. Cruisers CINCINNATI, MILWAUKEE, U.S.S. Destr. SOMERS, Brazilian Minelayer CARIOCA.
(R.O. Pernambuco 2015Z/24 to Admty).
- Suspicious Ship. Following received from South Georgia:-
S.Georgia. Vessel sighted by whaler to northward course 90° (?good) speed. Description. South Georgia advised American Ships may be sighted occasionally.
(N.O.I.C. Falkland Isles. 2253Z/24 to C. in C.S.A.)
- LYRAS. LYRAS. Due Montevideo 19th from Lourenco Marques not yet arrived.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 2309Z/24 to Admty).
- POLYDORUS Following has been received SSSS, 8.53 N. 28.55.
"S" Report. W. POLYDORUS gunned by S/M.
(Portishead Radio, T.O.R. 2324 G.M.T. /24 to Admty).
- P.552. Your 1603Z/23rd para.2. Expected time of
~~San p. 1018A~~ sailing P.552 from Point Noire 1800Z/26th.
E.T.A. position X 1030Z/28th. E.T.A. position E. 1400Z/4th.
S. of A. 9 knots.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 2355/24 to R.A.W.A.F. CERES (R) Admty, P.552, C. in C.S.A. F.O.S.).

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

THRASHER

*See p. 1025
+ 1026*

THRASHER sailing 1115A/24th westbound.
(Capt. S.10., 0117A/24 to P.211).

K.M.S.3

My 2340A (N.T. in W.R.) One ship sunk, one continuing. BRIXHAM has survivors.
(VENOMOUS, 0125A/24 to N.C.X.F.)

M.K.S.2 A.

*See p/p 1014,
1016, 7 1017*

Force "I"Oran's 1900A/23rd. Route for M.K.S 2 A. Through (Z) 36 (?15) N., 00.01 W., then through 72.(?81) 10. Oran section R/V in position (Z) at 1600A/24th.
(N.C.X.F., 0155A/24 to Cdre. Algiers Force "I" Oran, SANDWICH, Escorts K.M.S. 2 A (R) F.O.C.N.A. Capt. (S) 8 A.O.C. Gibraltar).

Movements

23rd Nov. Port Said arrival JANUS, DELPHINIUM, GIORGIOS AVEROFF, M.L. 1046, SEAHAM, GLENROY, SOUTHERN SEA, Departure DELPHINIUM, JANUS, SOUTHERN SEA, GLENROY.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0231B/24 to Admty etc).

Oran-Algiers Movement.

My 1726A/23rd not to C.S.10 (No trace in W.R.) Add to Shipping Protection Signal. 3 cruisers and 3 Destroyers leave Oran 0730Z/24th for Algiers E.T.A. 1600Z/24th. Codeword "Duff". Request fighter Protection Priority 2.
(Cdre. Algiers, 0334P/24 to R.A.F. etc).

Movements.

Arrival 23rd Nov. REDWOOD, MAPLE, T.L.C.112, HURWORTH, HURSLEY. DULVERTON, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, ROMEO,*EURYALUS, BEAUFORT, BELVOIR, M.L. 358, ST. ISSEY, M.T.B. 260, PINDOS, F.12. Departures 23rd. ANTWERP, PALADIN, PETARD. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0927B/24 to Admty C. in C. Med).
** See next page*

Convoy "Temple" attacked.

Convoy "Temple" is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft type unknown position 37.10 N., 5.54 E. course 090° speed 13 knots.
(QUEEN EMMA, 0952/24 to Gibraltar).
Am being shadowed. My position at 1040A, 37° 11' N., 06° 11' E. Was attacked during the night.
(QUEEN EMMA, 1050A/24 to S.O.I.S.)
"Temple" 2 is being attacked by 4 aircraft.
Position 37.13 N., 7.11 E.
(QUEEN EMMA 1330A/24 to Gibraltar).

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- S/M Dispositions. Cancel my 2326/20th. Submarines should be disposed to operate against following routes in order of priority as follows:-
Vichy - Bizerta, (2) Sicily - Corsica,
(3) Tunisian coastal routes to Sousse, Sfax and Tripoli (4) Tripoli - Carat.
(C. in C. Med., 10747/24 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1).
- Tankers. The following distribution of tankers to take place: DEVON COAST to complete from WELSH COAST then to Bougie as harbour attendant, MORAY COAST to be returned to Gibraltar. EMPIRE BAIRN to Algiers as harbour attendant.
Authorities addressed to arrange passage in first available convoys.
(2) Codre. Algiers pass to N.O.I.C. Philippeville. (N.C.X.F., 1030A/24 to N.O.I.Cs, Oran, Algiers, Bougie, Philippeville Bone (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
- Operation "Stoneage". Convoy was sailed from Port Said p.m./16th Nov. with escort of *EURYALUS and seven Fleet destroyers At 0700/17th Nov. fifth D.F. relieved Fleet destroyers for fuelling at Alexandria. Fifteenth C.S. less EURYALUS and Fleets joined convoy daylight 18th Nov. ** see previous page (Movement, Alex.)*
2. At 1110/18th Nov. six Ju.88s attacked, no damage, one A/C seen to crash. At 1620/18th Nov. in 33.29 N., 21.10 E. 26 Ju. 52s ? passed ahead of convoy on N.E. course escorted by two fighters. Four of our fighters attacked, each claimed to have damaged A/C.
3. After dusk 18th Nov. 15th C.S. less EURYALUS and Fleets covered convoy to northward. Force attacked by T/B A/C and ARETHUSA hit (see my 1434/20th Nov para. 1) single torpedo bombers attacked convoy at 1852 and 1905. Latter A/C claimed as probably destroyed by SS. ROBIN LOCKSLEY.
4. Fighter protection from Malta from daylight 19th Nov. Very rough weather experienced all day. Three Spitfires crashed ahead of convoy cause uncertain. 15th C.S. and Fleets remained in company from 0700 - 1400/19th Nov. Convoy reached Harbour without incident 0130/20th Nov. followed by EURYALUS and "Hunts". ARETHUSA arrived Alexandria 1845/21st Nov.
5. Return passage of EURYALUS and "Hunts". 22nd Nov. force shadowed by Ju.88 from 0800 to 1000 and from 1500 till dark. After dark EURYALUS unsuccessfully attacked by single torpedo bombers.
(C. in C. Med., 1058B/24 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., V.A.M., etc).
My 1058/24th. Request no publicity until completion of operation "Portcullis".
(C. in C. Med., 1748B/24 to Admty).

/Situation...

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Situation (1) Philippeville and Bougie report air raids
Report No.20 at dusk 21/11. No damage at former.
(2) Algiers. Ferrying of troops ex K.M.F.3 to
eastwards in L.S.Is. commenced p.m. 23/11.
Further raids from torpedo aircraft between 0300
and 0600/23. SCYTHIA hit by one torpedo in No. 1 hold, now
berthed inharbour. No mines located. Return convoys from
Algiers are being sailed in two portions to relieve congestion
and danger to ships.
(3) Sitrep 17, item 5. Cruiser striking force are based on
Algiers to cover convoys.
(4) K.M.S. 3 attacked by torpedo aircraft at 2240/23, one ship
sunk.
(5) Sitrep 16, item 4. Now reported depth of channel to Inner
Harbour 18 feet.
(6) Mers el Kebir. NELSON, RENOWN, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS and
10 destroyers due a.m. 25/11. *see p. 1016*
(7) Gibraltar. Two L.S.T sail for Casablanca to load vehicles.
*(8) P.228 reported 3 enemy M/V laden in 38.36 N., 10.52 E.
course 090° speed 9 at 0845/23. *see pp 1026 71026A*
(N.C.X.F., 1126A/24 to Admty).

12th C.S. Ships addressed are to form 12th C.S. as from
0800/25 with flag R.A-C.H.J. Harcourt C.B.E.,
as F.O. 12th C.S. in BERMUDA.
(N.C.X.F., 1135A/24 to F.O.C. 10th C.S., BERMUDA,
ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, AURORA, (R)
S.O.(I) Freetown, N.O.I.C. Malta, Admty.
C. in C. Med).

MANXMAN My 1617/23. When MANXMAN has loaded with mines
sail her as early as convenient for Algiers.
(N.C.X.F., 1152A/24 to V.A. Malta, (R) F.O.I.S.
etc).

Your 1152/24th. Intend to sail MANXMAN at 1600A/25th routed
through position A A 035° 39' N., 014° 22' E.
B B 037° 07' N., 013° 15' E. C C 037° 18' N., 012° 47' E.
D D 037° 39' N., 012° 12' E. E E 037° 47' N., 011° 41' E.
F F 038° 09' N., 010° 51' E. thence 10 miles North of Cape
Bougaroni and 10 miles North of Cape Bergut to Algiers.
(2) MANXMAN will pass through position F F at 0100A/26th
subsequent S. of A. of 30 knots.
(3) Fighter protection codeword "Burner" W/T call sign B.D.Q.
frequency 5837.5 H/F transmission.
(4) Ship will decypher messages bearing D.G. Q.H.
(5) Request information of friendly forces likely to be
encountered west of Bizerta may be passed to MANXMAN.
(V.A. Malta, 2346A/24 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers etc)

Bizerta Your 1829A/23 (N.T. in W.D. A.O.C. intend laying
Minelaying. 8 mines tonight 24th 25th at Bizerta inside outer
breakwater.
2. Mines will not be sterilized and will have no
time delay.
(V.A. Malta, 1158A/24 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C.
Med).

/Convoy...

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Convoy. Your 1900/23 (N.T. in W.R.) NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN, LUNENBURG are to continue with convoy to Gibraltar. *2-1027*
(N.C.X.F., 1210A/24 to F.O.I.C. Oran).

P.212 R/V is 1016A/25th. My 2322/12 */N.T. & M.D.* UTMOST keep North
UTMOST. P.212 South of dividing line.
(Capt. S.10., 1215A/24 to P.212, UTMOST).

- BADARPUR Your 1642/19. Owing to increased requirements in Mediterranean intend to retain Oiler BADARPUR under my orders after discharge at Port Sudan. (C. in C. Med., 1215B/24 to Admty).

→ STURGEON. Leave Naples after dark 24th through position *1-1029*
(1) and (2) alternative TRIBUNE's route in my 1632/23rd (3) 038° 24' 008° 01'. Thence Algiers as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. Your route crosses that of a friendly S/M in position 038° 27' 008° 30'.
(Capt. S.10., 1216A/24 to STURGEON (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

Capt. (S) 10's 1216. Pass 038° 24' N., 008° 01' E. at 0400A/27th and proceed to pass 038° 42' N., 003° 01' E. at 0100A/29. Report on crossing 007° east whether you have sufficient fuel to reach Gibraltar, if not you will be routed to Algiers.

(Capt. S.8., 1804A/24 to STURGEON (R) 8th S/M F. N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 10).

THUNDERBOLT.	Your onward route through (1) 38.24 08.38.		
P.311,	(2) 38.30 11.16. (3) 38.00 11.44.		
TROOPER.	Submarine	Through QBB 255	Arrival end
		daylight on	of Malta
			searched
			channel.
	THUNDERBOLT	Nov. 27th	1032A/28th
	P.311	29th	1135A/30th
	TROOPER	30th	1041A/1st
			December.

Further information for passage of Sicilian Channel and arrival at Malta will be signalled. Attention is called to

→ STURGEON route in my 1216/24th. THUNDERBOLT is not to approach position (3) before 2359/26th for THRASHER westbound to clear.

(Capt. S.10., 1218A/24 to THUNDERBOLT, P.311, TROOPER (R) S/M on patrol Capt. (S) 8).

My 1218/24th. Sicilian Channel route is through positions A. 38° 00, 11.44. B.37.48 11.44. C. 37.42 12.14. D. 37.19 12.50 E. 37.11 13.12. F. 36.10, 14.00. Make B to D. at 120 feet during daylight, or if battery power insufficient dive from C to D. Run M D synchronizing at C.O's discretion. Westbound S/M make passage at 80 feet. Further signal for approach to Malta follows.

(Capt. S.10., 1828A/24 to THUNDERBOLT, P.311, TROOPER).

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

→ THRASHER

*See p. 10219
1029*

(?THRASHER) sails 1300A/25th for Gibraltar. Routed as in N.O.I.C. Malta's 1215A/10th Oct. to position A, thence through (1) 038° 14' 010° 14' (2) 038° 12' 007° 58'. Thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. Daily advance 150. No torpedoes carried. (Capt. S.10., 1220A/24 to N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8).

Your 1220. In order that bombing restrictions may be instituted west of 008° E., request you will state time at which submarine proceeding to west crosses 008° E. (Capt. S.8., 1606A/24 to Capt. S.10).

TRIBUNE.

See p. 1027

My 1632/23rd. Make situation report Naples approach when clear. Onward route from position 350° Marittimo 5 direct to 037° 26' 010° 19'. Thence patrol within 15 miles 037° 26' 010° 00'. Enemy approach routes are chiefly 180° to Ras Engela, thence coastwise and 240° from North of Marittimo close north of Canirock. UNA is patrolling in Gulf Tunis.

(Capt. S.10 1222A/24 to TRIBUNE (R) Subs on Patrol, N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, N.O.I.C. Bone). Reply: see 1801/24.

My 1222/24th. Amend onward route to read from position 350° Marittimo 5 miles through 1. 038° 14', 011° 21'. 2. 038° 05' 010° 15' thence direct to patrol position.

(Capt. S.10., 1816A/24 to TRIBUNE, Subs on Patrol (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8. N.O.I.C. (?Bougie).

P.217,
* P.219:

** See pp 1015, 1017
91026A*

Capt. (S) 1 1438/21st. Onward route for P.217 and P.219 through 038° (724') 008° 40' 038° 26' 009° 50' thence direct to established patrol line off Bizerta details later. THRASHER westbound cross onward route in position 038° 14' 009° 54' at about 0400A/27 STURGEON route in my 1216/24th.

(Capt. S.10., 1224A/24 to P.217, P.219, (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1).

R/C Italian ports.

Forenoon Visuals 24th Nov. (1) Messina 5 cruisers (2) Naples 3 Battleships, 4 cruisers and 8 destroyers.

(3) Palermo 1 cruiser in Dock.

(4) Taranto not carried out owing to Engine trouble. Hope to cover p.m.

(V.A. Malta, 1236/24 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. etc).

P.44

See p. 1028

You were probably sighted at 0930 today. At 0939 A/C reported 1 merchant ship stationary, 1 mile off Muara.

(Capt. S.10., 1305A/24 to P.44).

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

S/Ms Arrival PORPOISE P.247 P.211.
(V.A. Malta, 1353A/24 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,
Capt. S.1).
see p. 1030

"Tudor" "Tudor" is being attacked by enemy aircraft in
A/C attack. position 060° C A R B 45 at 1445.
(SCOTTISH, T.O.R. 1443/24 to Gib.W/T).

P.228 P. 228 passes 038° 50' N., 003° 01' E. at
see p. 1023 & 1026A 2130/25th 135 Cape Palos 10 miles at 0030/27th.
From this position P.228 is to proceed through
J. 180° Cape de Gata 10 miles at 1900/27 H 180°
Cape Smelabunas 10 miles at 0630/28th thence on surface to
arrive Gibraltar 1030/28th.
(2) P.228 is not to pass position H before 0630/28th.
(Capt. S.8., 1534A/24 to 8th S.F. (R) N.C.X.F, V.A.C.N.A.)

ST. DAY Cancel my 1653A/23. Intend to sail ST. DAY at
2300A/24 by Eastbound route to join convoy at
position 284° Bougaroni 36 miles. 124 ship's
naval pendant will be used as identification.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1625A/24 to S.O.I.S. (R)
N.O.I.Cs. Bone, Philippeville).

Enemy Following received from M.A. Berne. Despatch
Intelligence. 2330/23rd Nov.
(1) Shot reports following which he has received
this evening from his own agent just arrived
from Italy whom he rates A.1.
(2) A large scale German-Italian landing at Tunis and Bizerta
is planned for night of Nov. 24th/25th.
(3) For this purpose all Italian coastal air forces of
Adriatic, Crete and Greece and all submarines stationed in Crete
and those detailed for Western Med. (about 55 submarines)
are to guard the Taranto-Sicilian coast - Cape Blanc zone from
tomorrow morning (Nov. 24th).
(4) Embarkations for this operation will take place at Naples,
Bari, Taranto, Palermo and Cagliari.
(5) Shot will doubtless give the same report to source A
shortly and his message, if source is not clear, might be
mistaken for confirmation.
(6) Shot's word for landing first paragraph above as
"Debarquement" not "atterrissage".
(W.O. No T.O.O./24 to C. in C. ME., (R) Govrs. Malta, and Gib).
1. Reported from M.A. Berne that German-Italian large
scale landing at Tunis and Bizerta planned for night 24/25
Nov.
2. (details).
3. This report passed to C. in C. M.E., Malta and Gibraltar in
W.O. cypher telegram 81808 of 24th Nov.
4. No credence given to details in para. 2 above.
5. Ref. para. 1 above, in view of congested state of ports
and difficulties of transport, considered most unlikely.
(D.N.I., 1640A/24 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Malta)

MOST SECRET

1026A

1604A/24 November.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From Naval Commander X.F.

Date 24.11.42.

Received 2056.

Naval Cypher (S.3) by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 262. Ships and Authorities Area G.

IMPORTANT

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at
2000A 24th.

- (1) H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT 38 56 north 05 41 east through 38 56 north 06 59 east to 38 37 north 08 00 east 10 knots. *see p.1024*
- see p.1025* (2) H.M. Submarine P.217 38 20 north 01 26 east through 38 56 north 03 01 east following H.M.S. THUNDERBOLT 11 knots.
- (3) H.M. Submarine P.311. 37 47 north 00 (908) east following H.M. Sub. P. 217 10 knots. *see p.1024*
- (4) H.M.S. TROOPER 36 32 north 02 31 west through 180 Cape de Gata 10 miles 135 Cape Palos 10 following P. 311 10 knots. *see p.1024*
- (5) P. 228 38 26 north 06 38 east through 38 50 north 03 01 east thence 245 degs 11 knots. *see p.1023 & 1026*
- (6) URSULA 42 04 north 05 33 east. P. 54 41 37 north 04 49 east both courses 050 degs 8 knots
- (7) All the above submarines diving by day 2½ knots. Surface speed as stated.
- (8) P. 219 leaves Gibraltar 1600/24th through 180 Cape Calabunas 10 at 2100/24th thence diving by day 2½ knots surfacing by night 11 knots follows TROOPER. *see p.1017*
- (9) P. 221 36 29 north 03 04 west on surface 10 miles from Spanish Coast to arrive Gibraltar 1000/25 8½ knots.
- (10) TIGRIS sailing 1600A/25th on surface 11 knots on 25th then diving by day 2½ follows P. 219. *see p.1016*

1604A/24.

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.C.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).
C.C.L.S.
F.C.S. by courier.

BIW

1027

War Diary24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- RORQUAL. RORQUAL leaves Haifa searched channel at 1800B Nov. 25th mean course 275°. Submarines are not to be attacked within 20 miles of 033° 00' 034° 16' during night 25th/26th. (Capt. S.l., 1701B/24 to TAKU, RORQUAL).
- Cagliari. Visuals at 1600, Cagliari 5 merchant ships, 5 6,000 tons, 6 submarines. (V.A. Malta, 1727 A/24 to N.C.X.F. etc).
- Oran Move- N.C.X.F's 1644A/24. Nov. ments. (2) NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN, LUNENBURG left: *See p. 1024* FILEY BAY, GOTHIC, NEGRO, ELBURY arrived. (3) D., Anchorage and searched channel swept, negative results. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1747A/24 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)
- Naples, Your 1222/24th. *p. 1025* Two merchant ships entered 1410 TRIBUNE. 21st south extremity Boca Grande. Destroyer left Loango Boca 0400/22nd and heavily attacked me using British asdic procedure. No major defects but attack excellently conducted. Considerable air activity and several sailing vessels patrolling approaches to Loango Boca. (TRIBUNE, 1801A/24 to Capt. S.10 (R) N.C.X.F. etc).
- Enemy M/V Aircraft reported at 1425A 1 small merchant ship 090° Mahdia Lighthouse 6 miles course south 5 knots. (Capt. S.10., 1802A/24 to P.44).
- PAKENHAM, NUBIAN, → RORQUAL. PAKENHAM and NUBIAN sailing at 2000/24th and proceeding by Port Said inshore route position 031° 43' 030° 19' and thence through 033° 06' 034° 31' to Haifa. S. of A. 20 knots. RORQUAL leaving Haifa 1700/25th course 275° 11 knots. (S.O.S., Alexandria, 1804B/24 to TAKU (R) Capt. (S) 1).
- Bougie (Situation Report). 35 in number 5 pound charges remaining 4 depth charges Mark VII ex tug ST. DAY. 42 depth charges capsized in L.C.M. due to enemy aircraft action - diver attempting to recover in 3 fathoms. Very little smoke remaining. Demands have been forwarded by Military. Impossible at the moment to berth more than 4 large merchant ships at any one time. In bad weather maximum of 3 and 1 ships can anchor in (corrupt group) harbour.

/Slight...

SECRET

1027A

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.)

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1710Z/24th November. ^{IN.}

From: N.C.X.F.

Date: 8th Dec. 1942.
Recd: 1950.

Naval Cypher (H) by W/T.

Addressed: N.O. i/c Oran. Repeated: D.S.T.,
P.S.T.O. X.

IMMEDIATE.

S.T.O. Liaison Officer. 1825 23rd. ^{*} This request is not backed by A.F. H.Q. All ships named are to sail in M K F 3.

1710Z/24.

* Most secret distribution.

Advance copy - Ops., O.D.,
Trade.

1st S.L. (2)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
M. (2)
O.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (3)
D. of S.T. (2).

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
Ad. Blake (2)
U.S.N. (3)
C.C.O. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

MJW

1028

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Bougie
(Situation
Report).
Contd.

Slight enemy aircraft activity last night believed to be mine laying. Living conditions of naval personnel ashore poor but improving slightly. Port watering facilities for ships remaining limited owing to bomb damage and poor water supply.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1837A/24 to F.O.I.S.)

BORINQUEN

S.T.O. Liaison Oran's 1825A/23. BORINQUEN allocated for eastward sailing. (N.C.X.F., 1937A/24 to N.O.I.C. Oran (R) D. of S.T.) Received too late. See 1251A/27.

Malta Air
Report.

A.1 128, 24th Nov.
Night 23/24th Nov. No enemy air activity. Day 24th Nov. 34 Spitfire sorties have been flown to protect unloading of Malta Convoy. No attacks were made on our shipping. Spitfire - bombers have attacked southern Sicilian aerodromes. (0810 or 0840?) hours, 2 Spitfires on offensive sweep shot up gun position on Lampedusa. 1015 hours, 15 Me. 110s and Me. 202s approached Malta at great height and were intercepted north of Island by 6 Spitfires but enemy although having height advantage avoided combat and returned to Sicily. Spitfires attacked Comiso aerodrome at 1405 hours dropping 6 250 lb. G.P. bombs scoring hits on the aerodrome and on an A.A. Battery. Inaccurate heavy and light flak was encountered. 1426 hours 3 Spitfire-Bombers escorted by 4 Fighter-Spitfires despatched to attack Gela aerodrome. Owing to 10/10th cloud at 5,000 feet over target area only 1 Spitfire located aerodrome and dropped 2 250 lb. G.P. bombs but cloud prevented observation of results. 6 Beaufighter sorties have been made on successful armed reconnaissance patrol against axis transport aircraft flying to Tunisia. (details).
(A.H.Q., Malta, 2009/24).

*P.44
P.46.

* See p.1025

If position compromised by attack P.44 is to move to operate close to East of Turrquenes. Dawn is the important time for P.46 to be close off Burat returning as circumstances dictate at other times.
(Capt. S.10., 2015A/24 to P.44., P.46 (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1).

M.W.13

Total unloaded to 1700/24th 23,925 tons of which 4,200 tons aviation spirit.
(V.A. Malta, 2156A/24 to C. in C. Med).

/Enemy...

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units. Following has been read. Addressed Air H.Q. Malta Command. Four merchant vessels 37.45 N., 11.35 E. course 045° speed 8 knots. (Aircraft X 3 P Duty U 2215A/24).
Following has been read. Three Merchant vessels, three unknown, 38.05 N., 11.54 E. course 080° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/S X 3 P Duty W., 2225A/24 to A.H.Q. Malta). (Alexandria W/T, 2225A/24).
Following has been read 1 destroyer 1 merchant vessel in 39.37 N., 12.07 E. course 180° speed 8 knots? (another version 10 knots) (Alexandria W/T, 2240/24).

STRATHAIRD STRATHAIRD escorted by one destroyer from Algiers will pass position 2 at 0630 on 26th course 270° speed 18 knots. Request you will provide relief for escort for passage to Gibraltar as my destroyer is urgently required back at Algiers. (S.O.I.S., 2230A/24 to S.O. Force H (R) N.C.X.F.)

TRAVELLER A.M. 1418/4th Oct. and 2336/15th Oct. TRAVELLER Petrol carrying. after first voyage with petrol in No. 3,4 and 5 main ballasts reported surfacing and diving in rough weather definitely dangerous due to reduction in buoyancy and no (?continuous) blow to No. 4 tank.
(2) Consider use of 3 and 5 feasible but 4 should not be used.
(3) Full report will be forwarded on return TRAVELLER to Beirut. (Capt. S.I., 2314B/24 to Admty).

P.48 P.48 and P.45 sailing 1300A/25 and 26th Nov. respectively usual route through Q.B.B. 255 thence through (1) 038° 14' 011° 21' (2) 038° 05' 010° 15' to patrol off Bizerta. (Capt. S.10., 2319A/24 to S/Ms on patrol (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

X STURGEON, S/M crossing 8° E., STURGEON 2000A/26th THRASHER
* THRASHER. 2100A/27th.
* See pp 102, 9 (Capt. S.10., 2323A/24 to Capt. (S) 8, STURGEON, 1025 THRASHER).

X See p. 1024.
M/V hit Aircraft report one torpedo hit on 2 escorted by A/C. merchant ships in 039° 32' 012° 07' Close position and investigate. (Capt. S.10., 2357/24 to STURGEON).

1030

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.P.211,
PORPOISE,
P.247,
R. of P.*BICE, 269 GRT. auxiliary
siding vessel. (Station official)*

(1) P.211 reports by 1945/8 in position West of Cape Gallo to intercept damaged cruiser spent following five hours in visual or Asdic touch with destroyers but cruiser not sighted.

(2) At 1331/13 off Susa gunned and sank Italian Brigantine 400 tons laden edible oil and barley bound Tripoli. Ships papers and weeks recognition also Captain captured.

(3) At 0845/16 sighted 2,500 ton M.V. fitted for landing tanks bound Benghazi from Ras Ali and chased it on surface until 1250 when enemy turned south and anchored off Ras Ali, P.211 fired two torpedoes at 2200 one hit, ship on beam ends burnt for 24 hours.

(4) At 0800/17 fired torpedo at lighters off Ras Ali followed by violent explosion. At 2025/17 fired torpedo at large schooner anchored off Elwbrega hit, vessel settled on bottom.

(5) At 06(?)7/18 sank light ship 10 miles 065 from Ras Ali by gunfire nobody on board. At 0910 in position 025 Ras Ali 5 engaged T.L.C. with gun. Two hits ammunition near after gun exploded.

(6) At 0830/21 off Ras Ali fired one torpedo at T.L.C. missed. At 1026/22 off Ras Sultan engaged T.L.C. with lighter in tow, two hits with gun, ammunition expended.

(7) Road transport offers vast number and variety of targets which may be engaged without opposition, but submarine attack on T.L.C. difficult due to heavy return fire.

(8) PORPOISE reports at 0555/17 in position 33.05 14.15 sighted approaching U-boat, attack developing promisingly but U-boat put down by aircraft.

(9) Air attack on tanker observed 2200/17 two hits ship alight stem to stern. Following night tanker afloat on even keel small fire aft, fired one torpedo and sank ship. *[Sunk on 19th - Torpedo attack]*

GIACOMO

(10) At 0916/23 off Kerkenah sank by gunfire southbound 739 ton ship YACOMA laden benzine for Tripoli, two prisoners, ship wore Italian Naval Ensign manned by Naval personnel.

(11) P.247 reports at 1544A/9 in position 38.34, 12.09 fired salvo at westbound 700 ton Italian U-boat range 800 yards, 3 hits no survivors but oil and wreckage. P.247 identified vessel as same class as U-boat sunk by ITHURIEL in "Pedestal" convoy operation.
*GRANITO.

(12). At 0907/16 in position 37.30, 10.40 fired three torpedoes in very rough weather at southbound 5,000 ton M.V. escorted one destroyer, missed. On return passage steering 060 towards Marittimo several small unidentified craft on Asskerki bank possibly minelaying or reporting vessels.

(S.10. 2359/24 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

1031

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

MENELAUS
U/B Following has been read from MENELAUS 07° 00'
79° 30' E. Submarine sighted, VPB (Colombo Radio)
(Bombay W/T 0300 G.M.T. /24 to Admty.)

W.S. 23B. Arrival MAURITIUS with W.S. 23B.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0349Z/24 to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.
S.O.(I) Colombo. S.O.(I) Kilindini.)
CAPETOWN CASTLE and DILWARA ex W.S. 23B arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0842Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

Addu
Atoll Your 1257/19 Nov. ^{p. 846.} para 2. Confirmed Addu Atoll
should have priority. Para 3 and 4. B.S. JAN DE
WAELE and BARMILL will be available Addu Atoll,
former will be available to proceed to Diego
Garcia. Para. 5, none available.
(F.O. Ceylon 0507Z/24 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.
etc.)

Aircraft
Operational
Boundaries. Re Boundaries between Aden, Iraq and India Commands
for operating land-based aircraft.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 0949Z/24 to 222 Group. C. in C.
E.F. A.H.Q. India etc.) See Lion Copy.

ALCOA
PATHFINDER Portuguese paper reports sinking of SS. ALCOA
PATHFINDER off Oro Point 50 miles south of
Inhaka. 42 survivors landed.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 1201B/24 to C. in C. S.A.
C. in C. E.F. Cdre. Durban. Admty.)
Sinking confirmed. See 1101B/26.

CERES. Arrival 24th Nov. (Kilindini)
(F.O.E.A. 1248C/24 to Admty.)

Movements. Colombo arrival 24th Nov. 0150Z ASTER, (?05)10Z
LISMORE. Departure 0530Z, CITY OF DURBAN, 1130Z
MARGUERITE, 1130Z BENGAL, 1130Z LISMORE, 1205Z
MARYBOROUGH.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 1509Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

CARTHAGE
* BIRMINGHAM Proceed with all despatch to 007° 36' N 061° 08'
* TILAWA E to assist BIRMINGHAM in search for survivors of
* ^{p. 1031} TILAWA. Report your P.C.S. and E.T.A. repeated to
BIRMINGHAM. Acknowledge forthwith.
(C. in C. E.F. 1528Z/24 to CARTHAGE (R) BIRMINGHAM.
F.O. Ceylon. Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

VASNA VASNA left, E.T.A. Diego Garcia a.m. 29th Nov.
Owing to brief stay and quarantine restrictions
proceeding without refuelling.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 1700Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET

103/A

~~0949Z/24th~~ November.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 25.11.42.

From. H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East.

Recd. 0439.

CYPHER.

Addressed. 222 Group. C. in C. Eastern Fleet. A.H.Q. India.
A.H.Q. Aden. A.H.Q. Iraq. Repeated H.Q. 207 Group.
225 Group. C. in C. Ceylon. Admiralty. Air Ministry
Whitehall.

MS. 4830. A. 209 24 Nov.

207 Group pass 2nd addressee A.M.W. pass 9th addressee.

Experience has shown that owing to the present routing of shipping between Aden and the Gulf of Oman, the operational boundaries laid down in 222 Group signal A. 392 24 Oct. as amended by A. 400 26 Oct., are unsound and cause unnecessary changeover of responsibilities and patrols between Aden, Iraq and India Commands when operating land based GR aircraft.

2. It is therefore proposed that the following boundaries between Iraq, Aden and India should be instituted to allow for operation of land based ~~repetition land based~~ GR aircraft by Iraq and Aden
(A) Aden to extend Eastern boundary up to 57 degs. 30' East
~~repetition 57 degs. 30' East. Other boundaries unchanged.~~

~~(corrupt portion. Check and repeat being obtained)~~

(B) Boundary between Iraq and India to be a line southwards along meridian 60 degs. East to a point 24 degs. North repetition 24 degs. North, thence in an arc radius 100 nautical repetition 100 nautical miles with centre Ras El Hadd to a point bearing 090 degs. repetition 090 degs. from Ras El Hadd 100 nautical miles distant, then on same arc to a position 21 degs. North repetition 21 degs. North and 60 degs. 30' East repetition 60 degs. 30' East thence a straight line to position 20 degs. North repetition 20 degs. North and 60 degs. East repetition 60 degs. East then a line due South to position 17 degs. 25' North repetition 17 degs. 25' North and 60 degs. East repetition 60 degs. East thence a straight line to position 16 degs. 05' North repetition 16 degs. 05' North and 57 degs. 30' East repetition 57 degs. 30' East.

3. Summary. Aden responsible all land based GR Gulf of Aden and Arabian sea west of longitude 57 degs. 30' East to latitude 10 degs. North and along this parallel to the African coast. Iraq responsible for all land based GR Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with boundaries as described in para 2. India responsible GR East of the boundaries described in paras. 2 (A) and (B) above.

4. All other operational boundaries laid down in 222 Group signal A. 392 Oct. 24 to remain unchanged. Administrative boundary will remain as detailed in H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.S. 50973/ORG Nov. 1 1942.

5. Request your comments ?222 Group ?225 Group. C. in C. Ceylon, Admiralty 933 Air Ministry Whitehall for information only.

0949Z/24.

Recd. from Air Ministry 0940/25.

Distribution overleaf.

1031 B

-2-

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.P.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
A.C.N.A.S.
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
D.N.I. (4)
C.C.L.S.
D.A./S.W.
Ad. Bellairs
Ad. Blake
Hd. of M.
D.A.M.
D.A.M.R.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.C. (2)
I.P.
W.D.

Air Ministry Circulation

S. of S.
C.A.S.
V.C.A.S.
A.M.S.O. (2 copies)
A.C.A.S. (P) (2 copies)
A.C.A.S. (O)
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D. of Plans
D.D.P. (C) (2 copies)
D.O. Ops. (Action)
D.W.O.
S. 6.
D.D.P.D.
D.O.N.C.
War Registry Admiralty (2 copies)
(T.O.O's 1000Z/24, 1001Z/24, 1055C/26
refer).

AJA.

MOST SECRET

10318

Date. 25.11.42.

From War Registry.

Correction to MS 4880 from H.Q.R.A.F. M.E.
T.O.O. 0949/24. MOST SECRET.

Amend corrupt portion Para 2. to read:-

"57 degs. 30' East. Other boundaries unchanged."

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.N.A.D.
A.C.N.A.S.
D.A.C.D.
D.N.I. (4)
C.C.L.S.
D.A/S.W.
Ad. Bellairs
Ad. Blake
Hd. of M.
D.A.M.
D.A.H.R.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
Duty Capt. (2)
I.P.
W.D.

AJA.

MOST SECRET

103/D
Lion

M E S S A G E. 1207Z/24th Nov.

MOST SECRET.

From C. in C., Eastern Fleet. Date. 25.11.42.

Recd. 0125.

Naval Cypher "M" by W/T. CORRECTION

Addressed Eastern Fleet, 151 Y. Admiralty. C. in C.,
South Atlantic. Repeated C. in C., Red Sea Force
Commodore I/C Durban.

IMPORTANT.

155. Movements Summary Number 24 November 24th

(1) H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM left Bombay 21st November for
Kilindini diverted P.M. 23rd November to assist torpedoed
ship TILAWA due (?Abadan) about 27th November. *See p.103*

(2) H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE and H.N.M.S. HEMSIEK left
Fremantle 24th November escorting convoy O.W. 3 ships.
To rendezvous with and hand over convoy to H.M.S. GAMBIA
thence returning Fremantle. Convoy routed East of Maldiva
is thence Persian Gulf. Speed of advance 10 knots.

(3) H.M.A.S. TOOWOomba and H.M.A.S. CESSNOCK left
Fremantle 21st November escorting one tanker to Diego
Garcia due December 7th thence Kilindini due December
15th. Joining convoy O.W. 25th November.

(4) H.M.S. GAMBIA left Colombo 24th Nov. to rendezvous
with and take escort to convoy O.W. on 29th November in
position 021 degs. 24' South 095 degs. 30' East.

(5) (H.M.S. RESOLUTION?) escorted by H.M.S. NAPIER and
H.M.S. HOESPUR left Durban 20th Nov. due Kilindini 26th Nov.
routed via Mozambique Channel.

(6) H.M.S. CARTHAGE left Aden 23rd Nov. due
Kilindini 29th Nov. *See p.103*

(7) H.M.S. ALAUNIA left Bombay 22nd Nov. due
?Bandar Abbas 26th Nov.

(8) ~~H.M.S. CHITRAL~~ left Bombay 18th Nov. due Durban
30th Nov. routed East and South of Madagascar. *See 23/11-p.99*

(9) H.M.S. RAIPURA? left Kilindini 20th Nov.
escortting convoy C.M. 35 3 ships due Aden 29th Nov.

(10) H.M.S. ALBATROSS escorting N.S.I.S. HONG SIANG
left Kilindini 20th Nov. due Durban 27th Nov. routed via
Mozambique Channel.

(11) H.M.S. RESOURCE escorted by H.M.S. FREESIA left
Kilindini 23rd November due Durban 1st December routed
via Mozambique Channel.

(12) H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE leaves Kilindini *per*
25th November escorts convoy (~~2 corrupt groups~~) 35 B, two
ships due Bombay 5th December. *(C.M.)*

/((13).....

1051 E

(13) H.M.S. DAUNTLESS and H.H.M.S. KANARIS leaves Kilindini p.m. 25th November escort H.T. SONTAY due Aden 3rd December.

(14) (?French Light Cruiser LÉOPARD) left Simonstown 20th November due Mauritius 27th November thence Australia.

1207Z/24

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D. (F) & D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- 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.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.N.L.O.
- B.H.L.O.F.F.
- P.N.L.O.
- N.L.O. Australia House.
- D. of S.

C.

MOST SECRET

1031

NO. T.O.O./24th November.
MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
Date. 25.11.42.
From. AGWAR, Washington. Recd. ?

Addressed. USFOR London.

URGENT.

No. R. 3504. 24 Nov. .1942.

For Eisenhower.
Signed Marshall.

1. Attack by Axis in Tunisia appears imminent with aid of reinforcements through Italy according to MA report Bern believed reliable as follow:

Axis troops since November 14th entered Italy moving south included one Austrian Infantry Division, one mixed division parachutists and marines from rest centres in Austria, one rapid motorized division, one Rumanian Armoured Division.

2. 4 German Divisions have been sent to Taranto and Sicily since November 14th. On night 24-25 November strong debarkation German and Italian troops expected at Bizerte and Tunis. Urgent all Italian aviation available Adriatic Sea Greece, Crete, Central Mediterranean and 55 submarines to assure observation zone Taranto, Sicilian Coast, Capboane from Tuesday morning 24 November.

3. Naples, Bari, Cagliari, Palermo, Taranto expected embarkation points. Approximately 30,000 Axis troops with 350 tanks Tripoli and 25,000 Axis troops Tunis can participate in operations.

4. Expected daily reinforcements 1,000 to 3,000 infantry by air transport. Effective total 100,000 planned by December 1st.

No. T.O.O./24.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
C. W. A. S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (H)
NBY. Sec.
H. A. L. S. L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D.

Hd. of M.
D.N.A.D.
A.C.N. A.S.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.S.D.9 (2)
D. of P. (Q)
C.C.O. (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
Ad. Blake
Ad. Osborne
D. of L.D.

(Relayed to Commandeth
Gibraltar by Signal
Centre).

Air Ministry Circulation

Brigadier Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.6 Tals, War Office.
A.M.C.S.
C.C.O.

Received from Air Ministry 25/11.

War Diary.

24.11.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

ENGADINE
ATHENE

Your 1350/21 Nov. (N.T. & W.D.)

ENGADINE should not complete petrol system.

(2) She is to proceed to Noumea via Australia as soon as ready for sea. She is not required to embark Martlets from Kilindini.

(3) ATHENE is also to be sailed for the same destination as soon as ready.

(4) Both ships are to come under operational control of C. in C. Pacific Fleet on arrival in South Pacific area.

(D.O.D.(F.) Approved A.C.N.S. F. 1726A/24 to C. in C. E.F.)

Liberators.

Your 1402Z/21. Air Ministry have now arranged to despatch sufficient Liberators to equip both No. 159 Heavy Bomber Squadron and No. 160 G/R Squadron.

(D.A.C.D. 1843A/24, 1710A/25 to C. in C. E.F.)

1033

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

S.C.110. My 1322/22. CHILLIWACK delayed by defect, sails at 1000/24 to overtake S.C.110. (F.O.N.F. 0052Z/24 to C.T.U. 24.18.8. C.T.U. 24.1.11.)

U/B positions. C.E.S.F. 1936/23 giving 0800Q/24 sub. estimate. (Comnaveu 0821/24 to Admty.)

Movements Summary. 1800 G.M.T. 24th Nov.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
S/M K.14.	19° N 39° W	299°	9
A.T.29	39° N 71½° W	083°	26½

(D.O.D. (F.) 0946Z/24 to Opnav. (R) Comnaveu.)

Japanese Fighter A/C. Information on Japanese Fighters received from Navy Dept. states that they use smoke release from behind cowlings for purposes of deception and that these aircraft are also equipped with leak proof gasoline tanks. (Alusna 1036/24 to Admty. Air Min.)

BRILLIANT (torpedoed 18 Nov. O.N.S.144) (1) SS. BRILLIANT. (2) Socony Vacuum Oil Co. New York. (3) 0903Z Nov. 18th 50.45 N 45.53 W. (4) Not seen. (5) Not seen. (6) Not known. (7) Vessel hit amidships by torpedo, caught fire, but fire was extinguished by crew, vessel arriving St. Johns Nov. 22nd. (8) Missing (names) (9) Not known. (10) Torpedo. (11) All C.Bs safe on board ship. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1236Z/24 to Admty. Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q.)

ACONIT LOBELIA When relieved by Western Local Escort direct ACONIT, LOBELIA proceed St. Johns N.F. Report to C.C.N.F. for partial fuelling and to embark passengers and/or freight for St. Pierre. Thence when directed by C.C.N.F. ACONIT, LOBELIA proceed St. Pierre. Corvettes involved advise C.T. 24 E.T.A. St. Pierre also advise time required at Argentia to make good any existing defects. C.C.N.F. pass to N.O.I.C. St. Pierre. (C.T. 24. 1319/24 to C.T.U. 24.1.17. (R) C.C.N.F. N.O.I.C. St. Pierre.)

Shipping U.S. Ports. All neutral including Eire shipping not under British or U.S. management is permitted to call only at Philadelphia and New Orleans on Gulf and Atlantic seaboard for loading or bunkering. Details. (D.T.D. 1331A/24, 2024A/24 to F.Os.I.C.)

1034

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

EMPIRE 2 lifeboats 27 survivors ex EMPIRE STARLING British
STARLING Ship landed Barbados 24th by M.T.B. 335. 2 boats
(sunk still missing with remainder of crew, none killed,
21 Nov.) believed 3 injured of whom two have landed, one
condition serious. Master taken prisoner. Ship
torpedoed 2220 G.M.T. 31st Nov. 185 miles east of
Barbados, seen sinking. Secret documents thrown overboard in
weighted bag. Submarine reported to be (description) Believed
German Nationality, survivors state C.O. kept out of sight.
A tanker believed neutral with white top side was in sight
during forenoon 21st Nov. Air search being carried out by 3
R.A.F. planes for 2 hours up to 50 miles eastwards of Barbados.
(Harbour Master, Barbados 1407/24 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I.) Jamaica.
B.S.N.O. Trinidad.)

U/B (Cominch 1612/24 to Admty.)
positions.
U.S. S/M
Notice.

→ZWARTE ZEE. Request you will order ZWARTE ZEE to proceed as
recommended in your 1531/19, which was passed to
other addressees in N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1612Q/19.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 1639Z/24 to C.C.S.F. (R) N.O.I.C.
Trinidad. Admty. etc.)

Floating My 1945/22 (N.T. in W.D.) Whole situation
Dock, (A.F.D. XXIV.) regarding ~~docking~~ (?dock) most unsatisfactory and
Tugs. arrangement for escort should be postponed.
2. Having recently promised dock, tugs and CAIRO
(~~corrupt~~) would be ready by mid December, Navy
Dept. now estimate following dates which in view of past
experiences should not be regarded as reliable; (A) Dock 22nd Jan.
(B) CAIRO* 23rd Jan. (C) ADVANTAGE and ASPIRANT mid February.
(* W.D. Note: - Barge attached A.F.D. 24 see 0215/25.)
3. Every effort is being made to impress on Navy Dept. the
necessity of giving us reliable information in view of having to
collect escorts from long distances.
4. Suggest (A) we aim at sailing dock and (~~corrupt~~) CAIRO 1st. Feb.
→with ZWARTE ZEE, ROODE ZEE, ORIANA and DESTINY (B) ASPIRANT and
ADVANTAGE to proceed to Bermuda and Trinidad as soon as ready.
U.S. (?Authorities) could probably give some assistance at those
ports during interval between departure of Dutch Tug and arrival
of ASPIRANT and ADVANTAGE (C) Re-allocation - ORIANA to Suez,
DESTINY to Freetown, ADVANTAGE and ASPIRANT to New York on
return of Dutch Tug.
(B.A.D. 1805Z/24 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)

Sub. attack Para B. U.S.S. BISCAYNE sights sub. 37.02 N 05.12 E
and sighting 0255Z/22.
summary. Para C. SS. KOTA TJANDI sights 17.28 N 34.13 W
1430Z/23. Coast watchers sight sub. 44.27 N 64.07
W 2030Z/23. C A P plane sights sub. crash diving
32.24 N 79.54 W 2045Z/23. BRITISH PROCTOR plane
sights sub. 10.56 N 61.16 W 1445Z/24.
(Cominch 1822/24 to Admty.)

1035

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ALGORMA

Bermuda arrivals 23 Nov. U.S.S. ALGORMA.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 1825Q/24 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

U/B.

U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1834Z/24. 10510 K/cs ENIGMA.
(Cominch 1852/24 to C.T.U. 24.1.14.)

G.A.T.23.

Arrivals U.S.S. BIDDLE, U.S.S. TURQUOISE, U.S.S. P.C.545, U.S.S. P.C. 624, U.S.S. YEATON, U.S.S. PYRO escorting G.A.T.23. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1922Q/24 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty. S.O.(I.) Kingston.)

B.Y.M.S.

Your 1332/23. It must be realised that although additional deck cargo increases comfort it reduces ability to survive an exceptional sea. Your proposals approved subject to assurance that weather can be accurately forecast.

2. On no account should barrels be filled with sea water on completion of fuelling.

3. A visit by Lieut. Bewley to Washington is concurred in. (B.A.D. 1925Z/24 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty.)

Concur. D.M.S. 1619A/25.

B.A.Ts.
L.C.Is.

My 2152/23 being passed to F.O.C.W.A. Amend sailing time and date to read 1300Z/25 Nov. (S.B.N.O. W.A. 2012Z/24 to L.C.I (L) 6. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. Cominch. F.O.C.W.A. S.O.I. Jamaica. Usnob, Bermuda.) Former amended.

BUTTERMERE
WASTWATER
MEADOWSWEET

1. Take WASTWATER under your orders and leave Bermuda at 1230Z/26 Nov. Proceed at 12 knots so as to arrive in 038° 29' N 064° 00' W at 1830Z/27 Nov. and R/V in that position with MEADOWSWEET and cable ship LORD KELVIN.

2. Take over A/S patrol from MEADOWSWEET and load with LORD KELVIN until completion cable repairs.

3. On completion escort LORD KELVIN to Halifax where you will receive further orders.

4. (Communications).

(S.B.N.O. W.A. 2142Z/24 to BUTTERMERE (R) WASTWATER, MEADOWSWEET, C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

Para 4 amended (S.B.N.O. W.A. 2313Z/25.)

U/B
attacked.A/C attacked S/M in 042° 03' N 063° 28' W at 2015/24.
(C.O.A.C. 2152Z/24, 2250Z/24 to GB7A.)Secrecy of
Messages

My 0411/17 July. It is observed that correction to cover para 5 of A.M. 1204/15 July has not been included in correction No.2 to C.B.01618L/42. Request this amendment may be issued. (B.A.D. 2221/24 to Admty.)

/Fuelling...

1036

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Fuelling from Tankers S.C. and H.X. convoys. C.E.S.F. has instructed B.R.L.O. New York to detail one tanker in each S.C. and H.X. for fuelling escort on passage. It may therefore at times be necessary for a tanker to be relegated to an S.C. or to load from New York pool if no other ship is already available for a particular convoy. Assume this is concurred in by M.W.T. (N.S.H.Q. 2241Z/24 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. B.R.L.O. New York.)

U/B Positions. C.E.S.F. 241837 S/M estimate at 0800/25Q. (Comnaveu 2256/24 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese Fleet losses. Your 0351/22 not to C. in C. E.F. or Admty. (a) Sunk 13/14 Nov. one battleship, 3 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, five destroyers. Sunk 14/15 Nov. one battleship or heavy cruiser, 3 large cruisers, one destroyer. Nil names, unknown, but believed that battleships concerned were Japanese Battleship Kongo and Japanese Battleship Haruna classes. (b) Our estimate of Japanese Navy afloat at present moment is as follows: Battleships 7 effective (probably MUSASHI, YAMATO, MITSU, ISE, HYUGA, FUSO, YAMASHIRO.) 3 damaged (possibly Jap B/S NAGATO, KIRISHIMA, HIYEI.) A/C carriers, 2 effective, (ZUIHO, HOSHO.) two damaged, (ZUIKAKU, SHOKAKU.) Converted carriers, 5 effective, (HITAKA, HAYATAKA, UNYO, OTAKA.) Heavy cruisers 15?, effective (NACHI.) 7 damaged (names unknown) Light cruisers, 6 effective, (including ABUKUMA, TAMA, KISO.) 9 damaged (names unknown) Destroyers 71 effective, 14 damaged. S/MS 59 effective, 3 damaged. (c) Should be glad of confirmation of (b). (A.C.N.B. 1034Z/24 to F.L.O. India. (R) C. in C. E.F. C.O.I.S. E.F. Admty.)

O.W.I. Convoy sailing telegram (4 ships) (destination Abadan.) (Cdre. W. Australia 1108Z/24 to Admty.)

Situation. Digest serial No. 306 Nov. 23rd. Allied pressure continues against enemy resistance Buna Area. Strong forces of Bombers and Fighters bombed and strafed enemy positions this area in support of ground operations during day. 2. Photos Lae aerodrome 23rd show 38 Fighters of which only 14 appear serviceable remainder includes many known damaged for some time. Also 6 bombers all damaged. 4 B.25s 1 Fortress dropped bombs this drome night 22nd causing large explosion off runway. 3. 1 B.25 on R/C engaged and probably destroyed Zero, Vitiaz Strait area, morning 23rd.

/4. 3 Hudsons...

1037

War Diary.24.11.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - Lon/5.

Situation Contd. 4. 3 Hudsons successfully attacked Penfop Aerodrome (Koepang) where large fire started while 6 Beaufighters strafed Native Huts Lyautey causing 3 fires. For Serial No. 304 Nov. 22nd read Serial No. 305.

5. A.F. please pass above message to Comsouwespac. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 1145Z/24 to Admty. etc.)

Note by A.M.C.S. This is plain language of groups you passed to us for decypher. Apparently "figure 0" when written as "Q" is also the American way of showing "and".

MONOWAI Your 1632/22. Ship available to sail from 1st. Dec. E.T.A. will be signalled when port of destination known.

2. Owing to limited drawing office staff in New Zealand and present heavy commitments it would be appreciated if design for reconstructions could be prepared in U.S.A. to save delays. Necessary drawings could be forwarded in advance of ship. (N.Z.N.B. 1509M/24 to B.A.M.R. (R) Admty.)

SOLACE Arrival Auckland and U.S.S. SOLACE. (D.N.I. Wellington 1840Z/24 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions at 1200Z/24.
(D.D.I.C. 1406A/24, 1420A/24.)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly summary. My 1059/22 July.

1. Bay area. A/C from VICTORIOUS depth charged a U-Boat at 1100/21 in 46° 10' N 17° 08' W. U-Boat scuttled herself and a destroyer picked up 51 survivors. (U. 517.)

2. Operation "Torch". (a) Nov. 15th. Hudson A/C north of Algiers attacked a U-Boat. C/T collapsed and A/C was damaged by debris. U-Boat believed sunk. Another Hudson in Western Med. produced air bubbles and oil patch 4 to 5 miles in diameter. (b) Nov. 17th. R.A.F. A/C N.W. of Algiers attacked U-Boat on surface and claimed 2 hits, U-Boat being disabled on surface. Four hours later this U-Boat was torpedoed and sunk by Albacore A/C from FORMIDABLE. Two survivors. (U. 331.) (c) Nov. 19th. Searchlight Wellington A/C in Western Med. attacked U-Boat* and produced effervescence in the water and an explosion occurred in forward part of U-Boat. (D.A/S.W. 1303A/24 to Cominch etc.)

W.D. Note: * The attack took place in 35° 0' N 13° 33' W see H.Q.R.A.F. Gibraltar 0714Z/21.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The intentions of F.O.S. for maintaining the submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay are given in his 1212A/25.

Aircraft reported a merchant ship with 3 escorting vessels at 2240 today, steering 190° in 47° 50' N 4° 50' W.

"Torch" Area.

Allied Force H.Q. left Gibraltar p.m. today in SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS for Algiers. N.C.X.F. follows with his personal and operational Staffs in AURORA tomorrow.

South Atlantic.

The position of the attack on SS. ANDREAS, reported on 9th Nov. to have been sunk on 4th Nov. is now given as 0° 44' S 32° 20' W. The submarine is described as of French type.

Mediterranean.

12th C.S.
constituted.

As from 0800 today BERMUDA (Flag of R.A. C.H.S. Harcourt C.B.E.) ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS and AURORA form the 12th Cruiser Squadron, based on Algiers, with duties as detailed on 23rd inst.

Force Q.

The cruisers BERMUDA (C.S.12) ARGONAUT and SIRIUS, with destroyers QUIBERON, QUENTIN and ITHURIEL are to be known as Force Q.

Interception
of Bizerta
Convoys.

The following dispositions have been made to intercept convoys to Bizerta:
(A) Force Q will carry out a sweep on the line Bizerta - Marittimo on the night 26/27 Nov., returning to be under fighter cover of Bone or Malta at daylight 27th.
(B) Force H (arrived at Oran 1730A/25) at sea near 4° E in support.

/ (C) SCYLLA...

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean--cont'd.

Interception
of Bizerta
Convoys.
Contd.

- (C) SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS to join F.O. H. after landing A.F.H.Q. Staff at Algiers on 26th Nov.
- (D) *N.C.X.F. leaves Gibraltar p.m. 26th in AURORA for Algiers. F.O.I.S. is arranging the operations of Force Q. * *see previous page.*
- (E) Malta has been asked for maximum air R/C and air striking.
- (F) Six Swordfish with torpedoes are moving to Bone.

P.48 and P.45 sail from Malta today and tomorrow respectively, to patrol off Bizerta.

Aircraft laid 8 magnetic mines off Bizerta last night. Wellingtons made 15 Sorties to attack Bizerta docks in the early hours of today. Heavy bombers from Egypt attacked Tripoli last night. Wellingtons bombed Tunis docks this evening. Damage included a direct hit with a 4000 lb. bomb on oil tanks.

P.42 reports that during the past week she estimates that 50 to 100 westbound transport planes daily passed along the north coast of Sicily.

SS. AURORA was sunk in Philippeville harbour by air attack last night. The vessel was empty.

One of two escorted merchant vessels making for Libya was hit with a 500 lb. bomb by a Beaufighter from Malta at 0930 today in 320° Misurata (Tripolitania) 15 miles.

P.54 reports that the Captain and 2 hands have been lost overboard; Capt. S.8 ordered him (26th Nov.) to return to Gibraltar.

Force K.

C.S.15 in CLEOPATRA with DIDO, EURYALUS, JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN and *NUBIAN* left Alexandria this evening for Malta. * To sail - see pp 1060 & 1065

X see pp 1059, 1060, 1062, 1066

East Indies.

Now that the intensity of U-Boat activity in the Cape and Durban areas appears to have diminished C. in C. Eastern Fleet is asking for the return of some of his destroyers, in order to restore

/mobility...

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies. - Contd.

mobility to Force A and to enable the training of battleships and cruisers to continue. (The vessels temporarily lent to South Atlantic comprised 6 destroyers, 3 corvettes and one whaler.) There are indications of increased Japanese submarine activity in the Indian Ocean and still further strengthening of the A/S forces available is desirable.

SS. CRANFIELD is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk in 8° 26' N 76° 42' E.

China.

U.S. aircraft bombed and machine gunned the docks at Hankow today, but there is no report of damage. Tonight, the oil refinery at Bangkok was bombed.

America and West Indies.

Western
Support
Force
formed.

In view of the repeated attacks on trans-Atlantic convoys in the area between 35° W and 45° W, mainly outside the present range of shore-based aircraft, and the much reduced threat to these convoys in the area west of Cape Race when provision of air coverage is easier, the Admty. on 18th Nov. proposed to the U.S. Authorities that as a temporary measure all destroyers be withdrawn from the Western Local Escort Force and formed into groups based on St. Johns N.F. and known as the Western Support Force. One group would join each H.X. and S.C. convoy off Cape Race, to reinforce the escort as far as about 35° W where it would transfer to a northerly routed O.N. convoy and return with it to the vicinity of St. Johns which will be their base. On 23rd Nov. C. in C. U.S. Fleet gave orders to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet to put into effect the Admty. proposal as soon as practicable, and on 25th Nov. the plan was placed in effect. The numerical designation of the Western Support Force is 24.12. Approx. 3 destroyers comprising a support group will be sailed to support each regular eastbound mid-ocean group and will remain therewith until reaching the vicinity of 35° W., at which they will detach and join the designated westbound group. It is intended that Comtask 24 shall retain operational control of the reinforcing groups at all times and that the destroyers will

/ be returned...

1041

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - contd.

Western
Support
Force
Formed.
Contd.

be returned to the Western Local Escort Group whenever considered necessary, without reference to higher authorities. The names of the destroyers transferred to the Western Support Force are given in C.O.A.C. 1541Z/25.

O.N.S.
146.

Convoy O.N.S. 146 has been scattered by a gale this morning in 45° 50' N 35° 0' W. Ships for South Atlantic are proceeding independently.

SS. SOUTHAMPTON and ST. GEORGE were torpedoed and shelled in 41° N 72° W at 1220 and 2030Z today.

Convoy
O.N.S.
144.

SS. MOUNT TAURUS is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk by a submarine at 2205Z/17 in 55° 16' N 36° 11' W in O.N.S. 144 (see 18th Nov.)

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Support Force. C. in C. W.A. 1612A/25. See A. & W.I.

Movements.

GUNNEL. 4 Main engines out of commission. (Corrupt group) gear (? drive). Maximum speed auxiliary engine 5 knots. (? Will) meet escort at 1400A/25. (GUNNEL 0600A/25 to F.O.S.)

Request you retain GUNNEL at Falmouth until further directions. GUNNEL has defect on all 4 main engines.

(F.O.S. 1532A/25 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

GUNNEL now in company in 049° 40' N. 006° 40' W. GUNNEL proceeding on Auxiliary engine maximum speed 5 knots. Main engines out of action. E.T.A. Falmouth 0430A/26.

→ (LAUDERDALE 1600A/25.)

All 4 (? main engine) out of commission. Maximum 5 knots on auxiliary engine. Now in company of escort.

(GUNNEL 1945A/25 to C.S.S.50.)

DUKE OF YORK. Sailed DUKE OF YORK escorted by LIMBOURNE, OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS, in accordance with my 1926/24. *p. 1004.* (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1038A/25.)

ARGUS. Your 1049/24. Concur in proposals. *p. 1050* (D.O.D.(H.) 1145A/25 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

S/M At 0800A/26. Details. Positions. (F.O.S. 1602A/25) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic dispositions. Details. (D.O.D.(H.) 1204Z/25 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet) See Lion Copy.

A.F.D.19. *H.T. m.v. 2* My 1610A/25, para.4. A.F.D. 19 towed by EMPIRE LARCH (Towmaster), EMPIRE BASCOBEL, and ABEILLE 4 will sail in company. astern of convoy. If tow is unable to keep up with convoy PENYLAN, BREVIK, DROBAK, and M.Ls 181, 259, and 488 will remain with tow using Codeword "Jovial". My 1815A/23 refers. *p. 964* (C. in C. Portsmouth 1645A/25 to Admty.)

BLACKFISH. Intend sailing LAUDERDALE at 0630/26 to R/V BLACKFISH 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 1000/26, thence by standard route Clyde. E.T.A. 1500/27. Codeword "Obstacle". (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1750A/25.)

Your 1228A/25. BLACKFISH proceeding in accordance with your 0106A/20. Request total bombing restrictions. (BLACKFISH 1820A/25 to F.O.S.)

1042A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE **MOST SECRET** 1204z/25th November OUT
Date 25.11.42

To C.in C. U.S. Fleet,
Repeated OPNAV,
C.in C. Atlantic Fleet,
B.A.D. Washington, 748.

TYPE X (U.S.A.)

From Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Operating in Northern Waters LONDON
SUFFOLK
4 destroyers

Area Iceland (C) BERWICK
6 destroyers

Area Scapa KING GEORGE V
ANSON
CUMBERLAND
GLASGOW
NORFOLK
SHEFFIELD
5 destroyers

Area Clyde DUKE OF YORK
2 Destroyers

Area Gibraltar NELSON
RENOWN
RODNEY
FORMIDABLE
FURIOUS
AURORA
ARGONAUT
BERMUDA
CHARYBDIS
DELHI
SCYLLA
SIRIUS
WESHMAN
10 destroyers.

1204z/25

for D.O.D. (H)

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

MOST SECRET

1602A/25th November.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 25.11.42.

From. F.O.(S).

Recd. 1618.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. Admiralty.

149.

Position of submarines at 0900A/26th November and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) P. 312 70 degs. 19' North 11 degs. 58' East on surface through 70 degs. 01' North 09 degs. 39' East thence towards Lerwick 10 knots.
- (B) P. 216 70 degs. 02' North 11 degs. 19' East on surface through 69 degs. 58' North 10 degs. 30' East towards Lerwick 10 knots.
- (C) UREDD 68 degs. 50' North 11 degs. 19' East on surface towards Lerwick 8 knots.
- (D) JUNON dived by day in vicinity of 69 degs. 35' North 16 degs. 20' East. *See next page - (sp "Lipson")*
- (E) P. 55 escorted by VALSE off Tod Head to Holy Loch via Minches 8 knots.
- (F) BLACKFISH on surface due 180 degs. Lizard 10 miles from Westward at 1000A/26th November thence escorted by LAUDERDALE to Holy Loch speed 10 knots.
- (G) TRUANT 49 degs. 20' North 13 degs. 50' West dived by day towards 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles speed 125 miles per day.
- (H) GRAPH in zone K. 501
- (J) DOLFIN in zone K. 505.
- (K) SEALION in vicinity 42 degs. 30' North 09 degs. 13' West.

1602A/25.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D.

A. N.S. (H)
 N. 1st S.L.
 Capt. Pim
 D.O.D. (H) (2)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 D.D.O.D. (M)
 D. 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)

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

M.F.V. 2013
M.F.V. 2017.

My 1633/22. Amend time of sailing to read 29th November.
(2) Request onward route.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1757A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P.314.

My 1044/18. Intend to sail P.314 escorted by CAPE PORTLAND 1315/27 northabout to Clyde.
E.T.A. Cumbraes 0800/28.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1911A/25.)

Landing
Craft at
Oran.

*Should be
on P.1050.*

It is understood that about 56 L.C.Ms, 12 L.C.A. and 9 L.C.P. remain at Oran having been handed over to the Americans. A proportion of spare gear was landed but the crews have returned to U.K. In view of shortage of landing craft for future operations suggest as many as possible be shipped to U.K. in M.K. convoys.
(D.N.C. X.F. 2245A/25 to N.C.X.F.)

Operations.

Operation
"Upsil@on".

(1) My 2316/24. Dependent on result of enquiry now being made, present intention is for you to re-embark men left ashore and, if practicable, land remainder of stores in 069° 28' 35", 017° 33' 45" about 1700A/27th or 28th, returning Lerwick on completion.
2. Report as soon as practicable whether you have sufficient fuel for this operation.
(F.O.S. 0234A/25 to *JUNON.) * *see previous page.*

Operation
"Gearbox".

*(Spitzbergen
reliefs.)*

Please repeat to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C.
NAMSOS arrived at 0005Z/25.
(Gearbox 0320Z/25 to Admty.)

Operation V.P.
(Patrol
N.1630A.)

541. Cancel my 1135/23 and 0925/24. Carry out V.P
(1) Patrol C for Charlie, A for Adam. Patrol N for Nan if you patrol R for Roger.
(2) C A 626 and 631. N 620 and 623. R 618.
(3) 0800A Thursday 26th Nov.
(4) C A 3 N one R 3.
(5) Yes at Station Cdr. Sumburgh's discretion.
(6) Yes.
(7) 0800A 60 miles from point of exit.
(A.C.O.S. 1140/25 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

/Patrols ...

1044

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - contd.

- Patrols. → 1. Intend to sail M.G.Bs 52 (S.O) and 51 tonight, to patrol on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 20' W. leaving Weymouth at 1800 via Q.Z.S. 382 and returning from patrol line at dawn 26. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1146A/25.)
1. BLEASDALE is to proceed to patrol tonight with M.T.B.55 (S.O) 49, 50, M.G.B. 611 between 50° 27' N. 0° 05' W. and 50° 32' N. 0° 40' E. passing Gate 1615 ahead of convoy and returning to pass E.A.3 Buoy at 0745. Anchor St. Helens if weather unsuitable. Codeword "Cadger".
2. Convoy C.E.134 leaves Gate 1630, passes Beachy Head 2345, S.O. escort GARTH. Keep approximately to southward of it as far as patrol line allows and then keep to Eastern end of patrol line. If ordered to intercept enemy on his coastal route, cross Q.Z.X. 771 by passage One. Aircraft reconnaissance on enemy route.
- 3. Portland patrol M.G.B. 52 (S.O.) and 51 on 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 20' W.
4. M.G.B. 316 (S.O) and 326 leaves Needles 0215 by searched channel to Portland Bill, thence to West Bay returning in daylight.
5. CHASSEUR 15 (S.O) and 5 patrolling South of E.A.5. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1317A/25.)
- My 1146A/25. Cancel Patrol owing to weather. Boats to remain at short notice in harbour. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1514A/25.)
- 1 destroyer, 3 M.T.Bs, 1 M.G.B. patrolling S.E. of E.A.5 buoy.
- 2 M.G.Bs patrolling S. of St. Albans Head.
- 2 Chasseurs patrolling near E.A.5 buoy.
- 2 M.G.Bs Needles-West Bay 0215/26, 0645/26. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1615A/25.)

Exercises.

- P.34. My 1602/25. Add Para. (1), P.34 exercising off Plymouth between 1000 and 1645/26. (F.O.S. 2152A/25 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

- Convoy S.C.109. A/S air escort will be given by American Catalina A/C from 0958/25th to 1854/25th. (A.C.I.C. 0030A/25 to Escorts S.C.109.)
- A/C in Sea. My 1722. ^{at 17.00} M.L.519 sailing from Appledore now to join in search. (C.in C. Plymouth 1731A/25 to Escorts. P.W.253, W.P.254.)
- Enemy M/V attacked. Hits observed on one enemy merchant Vessel position unknown, course 320°, speed 4 knots. (? Origin 2300/25 to 18 Group.)

1045

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- Harwich. At 1221A/25 one Magnetic Mine exploded by Sweeper in $51^{\circ} 53.9' N. 01^{\circ} 33.7 E.$ Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1534A/25.)
- Lyme Bay clearance. Swept area extended to width 1.1 miles from Northern limit. Intend proceeding 0820 tomorrow anchoring Torbay or Beer Roads as convenient at about 1730. (M/S 4 1628/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- Portsmouth. One moored Mine German Type Q or R swept by 9th M/S F and sunk by rifle fire in $50^{\circ} 20.3' N. 01^{\circ} 08' W.$ (C. in C. Portsmouth 1708A/25.)
- Rosyth. A.M. Q.Z.S. 175 and A.M. Q.Z.S. 152 searched to width of 1.1/4 cables each side of centre line. A.M. Q Z S 317 and Inch Keith Gate channel searched to width of 1.1/4 cables. Above are the latest searched approach channels to Rosyth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1714A/25 to Ships.)

Enemy Intelligence.

One Merchant vessel, 3 escorts in (?latitude) $04^{\circ} 50' W.$
(A/C C/S 72 2240/25 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.

- U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy submarine in $47^{\circ} 27' N. 04^{\circ} 00' W.$ S/M was sighted on surface. (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty E 0003/24 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in $47.40 N. 04.42 W.$ on surface, course 090° , speed 12 knots. Have attacked with bombs level and estimate one hit. (A/C C/S 7ZT Duty E. 0253/25 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in $58^{\circ} 10' N. 023^{\circ} 40' W.$ Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C 7 RAC of 206 Sqdn. 1425/25 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 206 Sqdn. Duty C. 1436/25 to 15 Group.)
 250° , 14 knots. (A/C 206 Sqdn. Duty C. 1632/25 to 15 Group.)
- U-Boats reported. Am over enemy S/M in $039^{\circ} 39' N. 011^{\circ} 35' W.$ on surface, course 350° , speed 15 knots. (A/C C/S TK7 Duty H. 0155Z/25 to 19 Group.)
Inward bound U/B estimated near you. (D.D.I.C. 1117A/25 to TRUANT.)

1046

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Emulsified
Fuel-Oil
from
ARGONAUT.

Your 1555A/28/10. Sludging experienced in ships tanks have been successfully reproduced with various types of fuel oil at Haslar. Investigation is proceeding but is likely to be lengthy. Meantime recommend that the ballasting-water be added in the shortest possible time and, if circumstances permit, ballasting should be postponed if weather is unfavourable. Agree with all points in proposed H.T.M.
(A.F.E.S. Haslar 1415A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Casualties and Defects.

GUNNEL.

See Movements. *p. 1042.*

Search for
BUCHANAN's
Boats.

Am circling flares 45 00 N. 19.58 W.
(A/C N. of 220 Sqdn. 0315A/25 to 15 Group.)
Aircraft will home you on 385 k/cs commencing 0600A and every $\frac{1}{4}$ hour for 3 minutes. Boat is reported to have a red sail and a large yellow flag.
(C. in C. W.A. 0322A/25 to LEAMINGTON.)

Lifeboat located and 17 uninjured survivors on board BUCHANAN independently routed Rassay to Liverpool sunk Nov. 12th. Towing lifeboat back. E.T.A. Merville 0900A/26th.

(LEAMINGTON 1115A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Thanks to excellent co-operation from 15 Group, I am glad to report that all survivors from the four lifeboats lowered by SS BUCHANAN have now been rescued.

(C. in C. W.A. 1149/25 to Admty.)

Lifeboat.

Am over lifeboat 54° 56' N. 13° 55' W.
(A/C 220 Sqdn. 0430A/25 to 15 Group.)

AVENGER.
(sunk in N.A.
15th Nov.)

Admiralty particularly desire to obtain as soon as possible available information regarding loss of AVENGER. Request GLAISDALE be instructed to forward any details direct to Admiralty.
(C. in C. W.A. 1201A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Landing Craft
from
Operation
"Torch".

STRATHNAVER (76th Flotilla) all craft left behind.
SALACIA (88th Flotilla) L.C.M.(3) 616, 621 left at Oran.
LLANGIBBY CASTLE (72nd Flotilla) which arrived in SALACIA L.C.P. (R) 626, 751, 754, 836, 838, 839, 840, 841, 844, 849 all damaged.

L.C.M.(3) 565 left at Oran.

REINA DEL PACIFICO. (58th Flotilla) craft returned L.C.A. 77, 168, 246, 318, 363, 367, 425, 426, 427, 428. L.C.S.(M) 27, also L.C.A. 308 ex ULSTER MONARCH all damaged.

L.C.A. 77, 363, not repairable within 14 days.

L.C.A. 423, 447 lost on operation.

My 1740/21 remaining craft ex ULSTER MONARCH left Arzeu.

H.M.S. KEREN. (52nd Flotilla) all craft left in Algiers harbour except L.C.A. 309, L.C.M. (3) 518, 635 which broke adrift whereabouts uncertain.

/MONARCH ...

1047

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

Landing Craft from Operation "Torch" contd. MONARCH OF BERMUDA. (59th flotilla) L.C.A. 302, 394 456 arrived in H.M.S. GLENGYLE extensively damaged. Remaining 8 L.C.As left at Oran, one a complete loss.
H.M.S. GLENGYLE. (51st Flotilla) arrived with all craft extensively damaged. 83rd Flotilla all boats left at Algiers.
BENALBENACH (90th Flotilla) L.C.M.(3) 521, 552, 586, 588, left behind.
(S.O. A.S.C. 1247A/25 to Admty.)
A.M. 1556A/16. MARNIX, VAN ST. ALDEGONDE arrived 24/11 with L.C.P.(R) 623, 627, 913, 914, 916 and 917 all with hull damage and requiring engine overhaul.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1802/25 to Admty.)

PHILANTE. A.M. 1357A/20 para.6. PHILANTE cannot sail owing to engine defects.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1306A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

→ IRONCLAD. Master of IRONCLAD reports rudder damaged and useless, Shaft Tunnel flooded, 4 feet of water in number 5 hold, 12 feet starboard side and 6 feet port side in number 4 hold. Water not yet under control. Will consider it inadvisable to attempt to move until water is under control, although ship has now swung clear of rock. Request information possibility of salvage tug with pump being sent. Latest report number 4 hold gaining 10 inches per hour. Salvage pump urgent to avoid beaching.
(DANEMAN 1555C/25 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

→ Sabotage. U.S. Authorities have received information that 4 seamen ex U.S. ship IRONCLAD are being sent in the escort of Q.P.15 and are under arrest for sabotage.
2. Request reason for arrest may be signalled forthwith.
(D.T.D. 1717A/25 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

Shipping and Convoys.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN. My 1345/21. SCOTTISH AMERICAN escorted by WINDERMERE sailed at 1330/24 for Seidisfjord to relieve SAN AMBROSIO.
(N.O.I.C. Reykjavik 0040A/25 to Admty.)

K.M.F.4. C. in C. W.A. 2314A/22 and my 1143A/24. Sail P.C.74 to comply.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0415A/25 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
Cancel my 1504A/24, my 1506A/24, my 1524A/24, my 1526A/24 and my 1626A/24.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1026A/25.)
K.M.F.4. My 1036/25. Sailed, codeword "Junction"
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1430A/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Intend ...

1048

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - *LOA 13:*

K.M.F.4. Intend sailing SARDONYX 1330Z/27 escorting
(contd.) OTRANTO, DEMPO, DERBYSHIRE, ANTENOR, MALOJA,
VOLENDAM, TEGELBERG, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, SAMARIA,
DUCHESS OF BEDFORD for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles,
E.T.A. 0900Z/28 in accordance with A.M. 1357A/20
and 2335A/22nd and C. in C. W.A. 2314A/22. S.O.A. 10 knots.
When Clyde portion has been met SARDONYX is to return Londonderry.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1532A/25.)

Q.P.15. My 2356/24th cancelled.
(A.C.I.C. 0416A/25 to Escorts Q.P.15.)
Is area 2 still occupied if so for how long.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1152A/25 to F.O.S.)

Merchant ships in company with Cdre. proceeding to Loch Ewe
routed as in my 0148/24.

2. Other escorted merchant ship proceeding by same route to
position (FF). Thence Seidisfiord by swept channel through
65° 21' 42" N. 13° 27' W. and 65° 18' 12" N. 13° 43' 30" W.
These ships join Q.P.15 off Seidisfiord if possible. Ships
arriving too late are to be collected into an escorted group and
sailed for Loch Ewe. Request you will arrange organization in
Seidisfiord area accordingly and detail escorts for escorted
group when formed.

3. Merchant ships not in company with Commodore or any of H.M.
ships are being instructed to proceed Akureyri through position
(HH). Two destroyers are to be detailed to work from vicinity
of positions (HH) and (OO) and direct these stragglers to
Akureyri. These destroyers will later be required to provide
onward escort from Akureyri to Reykjavik as directed by A.C.I.C.

(C. in C. H.F. 1249A/25 to Capt. D.B., A.C.I.C.)

Arrival OBDURATE, ICARUS, and FORESTER 1325N/25.

(R.N.O. Seidisfiord 1540A/25.)

E.T.A. Seidisfiord 2130A/25 for Diesel Oil. No other ship
in company. R.D.F. 285 and 272 and Asdic out of action. Have
140 tons silver bullion on board. Southern limit of Spitzbergen
ice edge was 075° 55' N. 017° 00' E. on 22nd.

(ULSTER QUEEN 1700A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 1152/25.

1. S/Ms were withdrawn a.m. 25th November by order of C. in C. H.F.
and Area 2 is now clear.

2. Regret you were not previously informed.

(F.O.S. 1826A/25 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Your 1234A/25. My position 068° 05' N. 011° 50' W.

Steering for position OO at best speed. Have not seen any
Merchant Ships although convoy route has been (two corrupt groups)
followed since passing YY at 0500A/23. Have insufficient fuel to
escort convoy to Loch Ewe. Propose proceed to Seidisfiord for
fuel.

(BLUEBELL 2000A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Liberator aircraft will carry out sweep in your area from
1000/26 to P.L.E.

(A.C.I.C. 2335A/25 to Escorts Q.P.15.)

S.C.109. Detach LEARY to Iceland forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A. 0916Z/25 to SKEENA.)
Rejoin convoy immediately.
(C. in C. W.A. 1401Z/25 to LEARY.)

/O.N.149 ...

1049

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- O.N.149. Convoy sailing delayed due to fog. Amend final R/V. Position (J) 1330A/27. (C. in C. W.A. 1416Z/25.)
- TJALDUR. Request you will escort TJALDUR Thorshavn instead Sorvaag. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1501A/25 to CHIDDINGFOLD.)
- H.H. ROGERS, Master of H.H. ROGERS, fitted with spar deck reports that when carrying deck cargo ship becomes unmanageable in heavy weather. CLAM. 2. Request you will consider placing this ship and CLAM similarly fitted in rear of convoys in future to enable them to drop out if necessary without danger of collision. (D.T.D. 1730Z/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.S.146. Your 1549A/25. Southbound ships proceeding between 1800Z/24 and 1800Z/25. Commodore reports owing to bad weather Admiralty's 1852/22 passed to following ships only: EGTON, CAMERATA, THEOMITOR. My P.C.S. are 046° 12', 035° 10', 205^b, 6. Convoy forming up. (HARVESTER 1900Z/25 to C. in C. W.A.)
- W.S.25 Q. As AORANGI will not be ready for inclusion in STRATHEDEN. W.S.25 Q STRATHEDEN Code No. P 24 will be included instead and not in convoy W.S.25 R. 2. She will embark in K.G.V. Glasgow p.m. 25/11 and a.m. 26/11 returning to Tail of the Bank noon tide 26/11. 3. At Tail of the Bank on 27/11 personnel ex WINCHESTER CASTLE will be transferred to STRATHEDEN. WINCHESTER CASTLE will be omitted from W.S.25 Q. (D.S.T. 2149A/25.)
- W.S.25 R. STRATHMORE and ORMONDE will not now be included in Convoy W.S.25 R. (D.S.T. 2151A/25.)
- D.S.35. Convoy D.S.35 comprising LEINSTER will sail Clyde 12/12. 2. Vessel will embark to full capacity at Tail of the Bank on 11/12 and 12/12. 3. On disembarkation of Iceland vessel will return to Clyde via the Faroes. (D.S.T. 2152A/25.)
- M.K.S.3. It is desired to sail SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN to Gib. to reinforce Escdrts of Convoy M.K.S.3. As turn round of SPEY and ROTHER in U.K. will be short, request latest date they should arrive Gib. may be communicated as soon as known. (C. in C. W.A. 2342A/25 to C. in C. X.F.)

1050

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.Naval Air
Squadrons,
ARGUS.*comp. 1042*Your 1640Z/19 not to R.A.N.A.S. Gibraltar and
A.O.C. Gibraltar and your 1117Z/21.(A) It is intended that ARGUS should leave U.K.
for Gibraltar about 11th Dec. with 6 Walrus and
flying and maintenance personnel vide my 0202A/12.She would also bring out 6 reserve Albacores and 3 reserve
Swordfish for the carriers and 813 Squadron respectively. It
is requested that the remainder of 833 Squadron referred to in
your 1117Z/21 may be returned to U.K. with flying crews and
squadron personnel in ARGUS on her return passage.(B) Your 1640Z/19 para. (2), balance of personnel for 813
Squadron are already on passage.(C) Swordfish cannot be substituted for Wellingtons since they
are urgently required for Auxiliary Carriers with North Atlantic
convoys.

(1st S.L., 1314A/25 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Landing
Craft.Re 56 L.C.Ms, 12 L.C.A. and 9 L.C.P. handed over
to Americans at Oran.

(D.N.C.X.F., 2245A/25 to N.C.X.F.)

See Home Commands. *p. 1043*North Atlantic.?Enemy T/Bs.
SPICHERN.At 1650/24th Nov. aircraft reported P.C. and S.
of 4 probable torpedo boats 043° 32' 003° 44'
270° 15 knots. They may be proceeding to escort
SPICHERN at Ferrol or tankers at Vigo to Bay of
Biscay Port.(F.O.S., 0019A/25 to Submarines operating South of 51° N.)
Following received from B.N.A. Madrid. Tanker SPICHERN
apparently still anchored and no indication of intentions.
Ministry of Marine says privately damage severe and she has
asked permission to execute repairs. Matter passed to M.F.A.
As she arrived in present state so she could sail. Amawaiting
further information. T.O.O. 1243/24.(D.D.I.C., 0306A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.,
F.O.C.N.A.)Motor
assault
craft
P.59-15.My 1400/24th. Position 035° 37' N. 003° 25' W.
ANTIGONE'S tow parted. Presume sunk. Proceeding,
E.T.A. 1400A/25th.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 0040/25 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F.)

/SPEEDWELL ...

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

RHYL,
SPEEDWELL,
HUSSAR. U.S. Naval Port Director Port Lyautey's 1830Z/24.
RHYL, SPEEDWELL, and HUSSAR, escorting TASAJERA
and BACHAQUERO from Casablanca to Gibraltar have
see next page
p. 1052A & 1053 been directed to proceed (? via) Port Lyautey to
R/V with HILDUR and FINTRA. S.N.O. is requested to give time
and position of R/V off Port Lyautey. Route onward through
position - (A) 035° 48' N. 006° 17' 30" W. (B) 180° (Tarifa)
4 miles. My 0615A/24th and 2352A/23rd refer.
(N.C.X.F., 0115A/25 to U.S. Naval Port Director, Port Lyautey,
in U.S. Ship BARNEGAT, S.N.O. Casablanca, RHYL.)

M.K.F. 3. Arrival* WESTON, WELLINGTON, XAVON VALE, TOTLAND
with 1st part M.K.F.3.
see p. 1052A (F.O.C.N.A., 0724A/25 to Admty.)

* *see p. 1061*X *see p. 1053*

Air Report. W.X.8861. A.I.185 25th November. Opsum for
24 hours ending midnight 24th November.
U-Boat sightings and attacks from Gibraltar
(A time). Hudson Q/233 1135 hours (corrupt group) 4002 Co.
040° 6 knots, attack made 30° across port bow on reciprocal of
U/Bs course. 4 D/Cs torpex dropped. U-Boat partially on
surface. D/Cs appeared to burst round U/B. Oil appeared
immediately after attack and 3 minutes later air bubbles.
Nothing further seen.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gib., 0740Z/25.)

? Repairs. 1600/24 (N.T. in W.D.) It is requested arrange-
ments be made with British for temporary repairs
at Gibraltar. N.C.X.F. 1119Z/20 (N.T. in W.D.)
estimates 3 weeks in dock to accomplish. Advise prospective
date ready for towing to U.S. Admiralty please pass to N.C.X.F.
and Comseafreighter W.T.F. for information.
(Vice Opnav, 1116Z/25 to Comnav, (R) C.T.F.38, C.T.G. 26.7,
Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.)

CLYDE. Intend sailing CLYDE p.m./26th for U.K. passing
042° 59' 012° 31' W. at 2000A/29th shift wire-
less watch at that time thence as ordered by
F.O.(S).

2. CLYDE is painted dark blue.
3. Wireless watch.
4. S.Ps carried.
5. F.O.(S) 1149/8th Jan. (torpedoes).
6. F.O.S. 1202/18th. CLYDE does not carry this list as
S.I.S. part 4 section 55 has not yet been received.
(Capt. S.8, 1150A/25 to Admty.)

/RHYL ...

1052

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

RHYL patrol. RHYL proceed with SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, TASAJERA and BACHAQUERO so as to R/V with HILDUR and FINTRA off Port Lyautey in position 315° Mehedia light 3 at 1600Z/26th Nov.

2. RHYL proceed on patrol with all above ships to Gibraltar.

3. RHYL confirm route has been received from N.C.X.F.

4. RHYL report N.C.X.F. information me (A) Time of departure Casablanca. (B) E.T.A. Gibraltar.

5. BARNEGAT inform FINTRA and HILDUR.
(F.O.I.C. Casablanca, 1245Z/25 to RHYL, BARNEGAT, (R) N.C.X.F.)

U.G.S.2. In view of apparent concentration of U-Boats north-east and north-west of Madeira route is to be amended as follows. On crossing 24° W. pass through new position (P) 31.15 N. 17.30 W.; new position (Q) 31.30 N. 12.28 W.; new position (R) 34.27 N. 09.10 W.; and thence as ordered by N.C.X.F.
(D.O.D.(H), 1317A/25 to Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.2.)

A/S Patrol Casablanca. 349. T C A O 2 para. 3. It is desired to promulgate provisional arrangements made for A/S patrol in your area for information of Admty. and F.O.C.W.Af.

(2) Request you will confirm (1) that you can now undertake A/S air coverage of Allied convoys off west Morocco coast between 035° N. and 030° N. (2) that maximum practical range of P.B.Ys for convoy escort is 300 miles from Port Lyautey and Casablanca.

(3) A.O.C. Gibraltar will concentrate his air patrol north of 033° N.

(4) N.C.X.F. is moving to Algiers. If combined A/S sweeps in either areas are required overlapping latitude 035° N. they will be proposed to you by V.A. Gibraltar.
(N.C.X.F., 1326A/25 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, A.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.A.F., Admty.)

WELLS. Return Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1329A/25 to WELLS.)
E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800A/26th.
(WELLS, 1525A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

?Enemy Units. At 1230A/25 A/C reported one medium vessel and one small vessel in 42° 10' N. 08° 50' W.
No course or speed.
(D.D.I.C., 1352A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ENNERDALE, L.S.G. Your 1939/22 (re return to U.K. of one L.S.G.) ENNERDALE sails in M.K.S. 2(A) leaving Gibraltar 27th Nov.
(N.C.X.F., 1433A/25 to Deputy N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., C.C.O.)

/VAL ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From N.C. X.F.

1321A/25th November.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) by W/T.

Date. 25.11.42.
Recd. 1944.

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 2000A 25th.

(1) M.K.S. 2, H.M.S. BLACK SWAN, H.M.S. MYOSOTIS, H.M.S. CARNATION, H.M.S. MALLOW, H.M.S. AUBRETTIA, H.M.S. FOWEY, CAMPION, STONECROP, LA MALOUINE.

36 45 09 56 through

36 46 10 01 thence

295 degs. 7.

(2) Port: S/M GOFINHO, Port: S/M DELFIN, with Gunboat LAGOS, exercising in Gezimbra (?Area) East of Cape Espichel.

(3) U.S. destroyer MAYO, U.S. destroyer NIBLOCK, ~~U.S. SEAKAY~~ tanker, 35 25 06 34 through 33 50 07 45 to Casablanca 13. *See p. 1053*

(4) H.M.S. RHYL, H.M.S. SPEEDWELL, H.M.S. HUSSAR approx. 33 54 07 08 proceeding to R/V 2 merchant ships off

Mehediya and escort to Gibraltar. *See pp 1051 & 1052.*

See p. 1051 (5) M.K.F. 3, H.M.S. WESTON, H.M.S. WELLINGTON, H.M.S. FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTONE, WAVENEY, sail 1700

26th through 36 01 06 35 thence 266 13. *See p. 1054 * See p. 1053*

(6) H.M.S. CLYDE leaves Gibraltar 1400A 26th through

35 58 06 16 and 36 40 07 30 thence 235 Cap. St. Vincent

10 on surface 12½ knots. *See p. 1051*

(7) WELLS 36 14 07 21 to Gibraltar 20. *See previous page.*

1321A/25.

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)

C.C.O. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

Ad. Blake (2)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

D.M.S.

D. of P. (2)

D.D.O.D. (M).

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) D.T.D.

MOST SECRET

1052B

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
13241/25 November

From N. C. X. F.

Date 25.11.42.

Recd. 2121

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed A.I.G.64.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 1958A 25th.

(1) U G S 2., 30 47 25 04 065 deg 9.

(2) H.M.S. DRAGON, 33 03 24 01 through
34 01 24 01 to Ponta Delgada 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(3) Swedish relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA 36 01 33 17
090 deg 12.

13241/25

Advance Copy D.C. 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. 4. 1st S.L.

Capt. Fin.

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.T.D. (M)

D.C. (2)

U.S.N. (3)

D.A./S.W.

Hd. of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

~~W.D.~~

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (C)

D. of P. (2)

C.C.O. (2)

Ad. Blake. (2)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P. (Q)

TH.

1053

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- VAL DE LA HAYE. Ref. Admty. 1553/23rd. R/V can be arranged 3 miles off Cape St. Vincent provided three days' warning given. Assume ship will coast within territorial waters from Santander to R/V. (F.O.C.N.A., 1514A/25 to N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty.)
- ARCHER. Request you will sail ARCHER for U.K. with M.K.F. 3. (N.C.X.F., 1610A/25 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., ARCHER.)
- ~~Force Q.~~
Movements Sailed H.M.S. SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, BOREAS,*AVON VALE for Algiers. Relevant Q.B., Q.B.A., Q.B.B. messages held. (F.O.C.N.A., 1634A/25 to Admty., Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.) * See p.1051
- M.K.F. 3A. 5 ships E.T.A. 0800A/26th. Oran ship did not join. SS. STRATHALLAN has 100 tons measurements (as received) Algiers stores to discharge. *(FOLKESTONE, 1703A/25 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. D.13.) * See pp 1052A & 1054
- OCEAN LIBERTY, REVERDY JOHNSON. OCEAN LIBERTY in M.K.S. 1(Y), and REVERDY JOHNSON in M.K.S.2 have defective D.G., least safety depths 18 fathoms and 14 fathoms respectively. (V.A.C.N.A., 1710A/25 to Admty.)
- TIGRIS. Capt. (S) 8 2120/23rd. Sailed 1600 TIGRIS. Q.B.81, Q.B.A.2, Q.B.B. 304, Q.B.C. 513. (F.O.C.N.A., 1711A/25 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., F.O.(S), Capt. S.1.)
- G.U.F. 2. Sailed U.S.S. MAYO, U.S.S. NIBLACK, with SEAKAY to R/V convoy G.U.F.2. (F.O.C.N.A., 1728A/25 to Admty., F.O.I.C. Casablanca.) See p.1052A
- T.F.39, convoy. Task Force 39 composed MAUMEE, U.S. Minesweepers BRANT, REDWING, YEW, 8 P.C., 9 Y.M.S., 8 S.C., plus (? convoy) composed of TASAJERA, BACHAQUERO escorted by RHYL, HUSSEN (?HUSSAR) and SPEEDWELL arrived Casablanca 1330Z/25th Nov. See pp 1051 & 1052 (F.O.I.C. Casablanca, 1730Z/25 to N.C.X.F., Admty.)
- LUCY ESSBERGER. My 1215 Nov. 20th (re German tanker LUCY ESSBERGER now has Spanish flag painted on side) regret information incorrect. (Cadiz, 1742/25 to Admty., S.O.I. Gib., N.A. Madrid.)

/FOLKESTONE ...

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.FOLKESTONE,
AZALEA,
GORLESTON,
WAVENEY.*See p. 1052A*

Fuel berth on arrival. FOLKESTONE on SANDWICH at 42 bow north. AZALEA on NASTURTIUM at 36 west side bow south. GORLESTON and WAVENEY east side of tanker at 35 berth bow north. J.T.S.G.O. 131 and Q.K.A.61. Merchant ship close examination station Rosia for pilot. (F.O.C.N.A., 1925/25 to FOLKESTONE, AZALEA, GORLESTON, WAVENEY.)

M.K.S. 2A.

My 1743/24th, para. 3. *p. 1016*
Delete LANCASTER, WELLS. Add GERANIUM, COLTSFOOT, SPIREA. (N.C.X.F., 2046A/25 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.S. 2.

Arrival SANDWICH, PALOMARES, BUDE, CLACTON, NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN, LUNENBERG with M.K.S. 2 (-) A.O.H.G. (as received - repetition requested). (F.O.C.N.A., 2112A/25 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.)

South Atlantic.O.N.149,
O.N.S.150.

Your 2241/24 (Request dates of leaving U.K.) O.N.149 - 25th Nov. O.N.S.150 - 1st Dec. (D.T.D., 0327A/25 to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C. W.A.)

* ALCANTARA,
W.S. 24.** See p. 1054B*

My 1504/23rd (re ALCANTARA sailed for Freetown with C.F. 8.) cancel reference to ALCANTARA. In view of B.A.D. 1805/24th ALCANTARA has been ordered to leave C.F.8 and to provide additional ocean escort to W.S.24 to Durban. (C. in C. S.A., 1114C/25 to R.A.W.A., Admty.)

ORDUNA.

D.17 ORDUNA sailed 24th Nov. for Capetown, E.T.A. a.m. 27th Nov. Personnel on board. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1134C/25 to S.T.O. Capetown.)

AMARANTHUS.

Arrival 24th Nov. AMARANTHUS. Consolantfor pass to T.G. 23.2 and 23.3. (S.O.(I.) Freetown, 1141Z/25 to Admty., etc.)

/Suspect ...

1054 A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1115z/25th November
IN

Date 25.11.42
Recd. 1441

From F.O.C. West Africa

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T

Addressed Ships in Area "P" of South Atlantic Station,
South of 8 degs N., Admiralty, C.in C. South Atlantic,
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

~~H.M.S.~~ *MYTONGATE, H.M.S. WELLARD, 004 degs 40'
018 degs 25' 052 degs 9½.

** only found in Log of the Reporter*

H.M.S. RUMBA, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, 2 motor
launches, with S T 44, 006 degs (?35') 012 degs 30'
125 degs 8 at 2001 25th.

One M.L. (?escorting), 006 degs 35' 012 degs 30'
(?to) Robert Port 8.

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, ORF 85Y, one M.L., with T S 25,
001 degs 30' 009 degs 59' 355 degs (?8).

H.M.S. PICT, 001 degs 40' 010 degs 12' to Roberts Port
10.

F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, escorting, 002 degs 15' 004 de
50' 094 degs 10½.

U.S. Destroyer SIGOURNEY, H.M.S. *WELLESLEY, escorting,
003 degs 20' 001 degs 20' to Takoradi 9.

** R.N. Training Est; L'pool!*

H.M.S. NORTHERN DUKE, escorting, 004 degs 10' South
007 degs 30' East (?113 degs) 9½.

See p 1053 H.M.S. CORINTHIAN, off Pointe Noire 259 degs 11.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, 005 degs 05' 020 degs 30' 065 degs
14.

1115z/25

Advance copy to Ops. O.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.D.I.C. (2)
D.A/S.W.
Duty Capt. (2)
I.P. (2)

U.S.N.
Hd. of M.
W.D.
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
D.D.O.D. (C)
R.A.C.F.
D.M.S.

AFP

MOST SECRET

1054 B.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1317C/25th November

FROM: C. in C. South Atlantic. DATE: 25.11.42
RECD: 1449

Naval Cypher "M" 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. West Africa.

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, and ROTTERHAM, with
W.S.24, 030 degs 50' South 010 degs 45' West to 031 degs
30' South 005 degs 15' West 13.3.

NEPAL, and H.M.S. FORTUNE, with D.C.1, 034 degs
15' South 023 degs 15' East to Capetown 8½.

H.M.S. EXPRESS, and CATTERICK, with C.D.2, 031 degs
30' South 033 degs 45' East to 033 degs South 036 degs
East 8½.

H.M.S. ENTERPRISE 025 degs 00' South 013 degs
40' East to Pointe Noire 20.

SOUTHERN BARRIER, TERJE, ROODEPO(?EL)T,
STELLENBERG, and STEENBERG, searching in vicinity 033 degs
South 011 degs 30' East.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA 024 degs 45' South 012 degs
30' East to 034 degs 30' South 003 degs 00' East 15.

1317C/25

See p. 1054

≠ Alternative ROODEPOORT.

Advance copy Duty Capt., 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.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
H.d of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
D. of P.(2)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
I.P.(2)

W.B.
Duty Capt.(2)
Admiral Blake.

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Suspect Ship. Cancel my 1738/15 June 1941. ESMERALDA, OMEGA and TROPICUS are no longer suspect. B.N.A. Buenos Aires 1505/24 (N.T. in W.D.) to B.A.D. and B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro refers. (D.E.W.D., 1212A/25 to F.O.W.A., S.B.N.O.W.A., etc.)

Suspicious Ship S. Georgia. Your 2253Z/24. Request time and position of sighting. (D.D.I.C., 1255A/25 to N.O.I.C. Falkland Isles, (R) C. in C. S.A.) Your 1252/25th (1255/25 intended). Time 1315 G.M.T. 24th position N.E. by E. from Grytviken South Georgia 30 miles distant. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 2311Z/25 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

L.S.8, L.S.13, A.M. 1844A/24th. S.T. 42. (1) N.C.S.O. Lagos 1005Z/15th Nov. not to Admty. reported sailing of convoy L.S.8. This convoy should have been number L.S.13 and signal should have been repeated Admty. (2) Colombo convoy S.T.42 was reported N.C.S.O. Freetown's 1555Z/13th Nov. not to all addressees. (F.O.C.W.A., 1300Z/25 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.C.S.O. Freetown, Sierra Leone, R.N.O. Lagos.)

COLUMBINE (disabled 20th Nov.) Arrival Pointe Noire a.m. 25th* CORINTHIAN with SS. COLUMBINE in tow. (B.N.L.O. W.A., 1315/25 to R.A.W.A.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O. Duala, N.C.S.O. Capetown.) * See p. 1054A

My 1315/25th. CORINTHIAN reports it is imperative to do external boiler cleaning before proceeding. Estimate required 5 days. Your 1133/23rd expected sailing 1st Dec. (B.N.L.O. W.A., 1325/25 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

ANDREAS. My 2105Z/9th Nov., 1105/12th from N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. not to Admty., and my 1745Z/13 to Admty. only. ANDREAS. Statements taken from Greek officers at Fortaleza give position of ship when attacked as 000° 44' S. 032° 20' W. Only one submarine mentioned and described as of French type with a small alternator carried abaft C/T. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1403Z/25 to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Montevideo, S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro.)

/ELISE ...

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War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

ELISE. Norwegian tanker ELISE instructed by owners to proceed to U.K. or U.S. port for complete engine refit, cannot arrive Rio de Janeiro by 13th. Maximum revolutions 80, speed 6 knots, doubtful if cleaning ship's bottom would give $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Estimate time of refit if done at Capetown $3\frac{1}{2}$ months. Request instructions. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1451C/25 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Rangefinder C. in C. S.A., 1453C/25.
repairs,
Durban Area.

Ships of A.M. 1928/31/10 (see under East Indies). This
long endurance matter has been reconsidered following receipt
sailing to of C. in C. E.F. 1241/19 and C. in C. Med.
ports on 1901/14 and it has been decided that shipping
E.I. Stn. and concerned should call at a South African port
Red Sea. for onward routing instructions to destination.
(2) C. in C. S.A. is requested to say to which
South African port ships should be routed and to
ensure that they have appropriate charts for
destination and for ports to which they may be
diverted.
(D.T.D., 1612A/25 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C.
E.F., etc.)

Movements. Arrivals 25th Nov. NORTHERN ISLES, NORTHERN CHIEF,
ST. LOMAN, Tugs BOLD, INTEGRITY.
(S.O.(I.) Freetown, 1621Z/25 to Admty., etc.)

DUCHESS OF Comsolant for yesterday 24th received signal from
ATHOLL U.S.*Destroyer OSMOND INGRAM to effect that a
(torpedoed heavy lifeboat ex DUCHESS OF ATHOLL had been
10th October) located $000^{\circ} 20' N. 029^{\circ} 20' W.$; no personnel
and no information of value. Boat could not be
completely destroyed.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1640Z/25 to Admty.)

WANDERER. Cancel my 1531Z/20/11 ^{not to N.S.H.Q.} Request
(A.F.D. 2340Z/25) WANDERER be sailed for Freetown as soon as
available.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1703Z/25 to B.A.D., Admty., C.O.A.C.,
C. in C. S.A., S.B.N.O.W.A., S.B.N.O. Trinidad,
N.S.H.Q.)

CYCLAMEN, Your 1931Z/24th and A.M. "A" reference 1557A/25.
LADY DENISON Expect to meet LADY DENISON PENDER on a line
PENDER. joining position C and X at 1400Z/27th. My P.
C. and S. 25.14 N. 17.32 W. 203° , 12. Weather
report.
(CYCLAMEN, 2001Z/25 to F.O.W.A., (R) N.C.X.F.,
BURDOCK, SOUTHERN PRIDE.)

/Attacks ...

1057

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Attacks
on U/Bs.

Admty. 2027A/25.
See U-Boat Campaign.

GLENEARN.

Approached by planes of U.S.S. OMAHA 02.21 N.
18.00 W. 0930Z/25 vessel claiming to be H.M.S.
LESERAN said she was proceeding London from
Capetown. Ship was armed and flew white ensign. Course 343°
zigzagging speed 16. Possibility she is GLENEARN.
(Cominch, 2119/25 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)

Freetown
bunkers.

My 1927/25 August cancelled. Bunkering arrange-
ments for those transports which have to call
Freetown should now revert to basis of minimum
lifting South Africa and capacity bunkering
Freetown.
(D. of S.T., 2144A/25 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown,
D.S.T.O. Durban, S.T.O. i/c Freetown, C. in C.
S.A., R.A.W.A.)

South
African
Division.

Re return to Union.
(D.S.T., 2146A/25.)
See Mediterranean.

POLYDORUS,
"S" Report.

Received 2324 G.M.T. POLYDORUS S S S S 8.53 N.
28.55 W. gunned by sub.
(Burnham Radio, No T.O.O./25, Recd. 2324/25.)
Received 0108 G.M.T. POLYDORUS, corrected
position 7.52 N. 28.33 W.
(Burnham Radio, 2300 G.M.T./25.)
Dutch SS. POLYDORUS reports being gunned by
submarine in 08.53 N. 28.55 W. at 2324 G.C.T./25.
(Cominch, 2347/25 to Admty.)

1058

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Troop Oran's 1825/25.
Movements All ships mentioned are urgently required and
Oran- delay is most undesirable.
Algiers. 2. Can you use BERGENSFJORD or LEOPOLDVILLE
instead?
3. If impracticable propose BORINQUEN be used
but confirmation will follow when U.S. agreement
obtained.
(D. of S.T. 0045A/25 to P.S.T.O.X.F.).
My 0045/25. Allied Force H.Q. London have no jurisdiction
over BORINQUEN.
2. Shortage of time has precluded reference to U.S. War
Department.
3. A.F.H.Q. London state that if employment of BORINQUEN
is essential decision must be taken by A.F.H.Q. in the
theatre.
(D. of S.T. 1822A/25 to P.S.T.O.X.F.).

PORPOISE May I use PORPOISE for another patrol? She has
TRAVELLER, just done well and 4 inch guns invaluable for
* THRASHER. coastal traffic. Intend sailing TRAVELLER
* *See p. 1065* Friday to carry out R/C required in my*0201/22nd
thence patrol Gulf of Hammamet thence Beirut
(Capt.S.10. 0059/25 to Capt.(S) 1st (R) C. in C
Med). *N.T.M.V.D.
See Also Capt.S.10.1130/26.
1. Your 0059/25th. Concur provided C.O. is quite satisfied
2. Your 1220/24th. Assume THRASHER is not being used for any
operation. She should return home without any further
commitment.
(Capt.S.1. 1010B/25 to Capt.(S) 10.(R) Capt.(S) 8. C. in C.Med
N.C.X.F.).

Enemy Following has been read:- Position of 4 M/Vs
M/Vs. 37.25 N. 11.05 E. Course 045° Speed 8 knots.
(A/C C/S X3P Duty T. 0130A/25).
Another version of signal gives 37.05 N.
Three merchant vessels. Position 37.35 N. 11.42 E.
Course 360° Speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S X3P Duty U. 0311A/25 to 201 Group).

P.42. During past week estimate 50 to 100 westbound
intelligence. transports planes daily along north coast
Sicily. Am attacking train Cape Suvero.
(P.42. 0249A/25 to Capt.S.10).

S.O.S. Following received on 5000 K/Cs from Gibraltar
W/T.CQ DE O N.I. S.O.S, S.O.S. VX3PU.(undecypher
able) 37.38 N. 11.54 E.T.O.R. 0339A.
(Nore W/T, No.T.O.O./25. Recd.0348).

1059

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.228. *See p 106313* My P.C. and S. 038.35, 005.43 E. 277° 7, sea 54 propose proceeding on surface until the weather moderates or your 1532(1534 intended) 24th can be complied with, whichever is earlier. (P.228, 0501A/25 to Capt.S.8 (R) N.C.X.F. ?F.O.C.N.A.).

Your 0501 acknowledged. Do not proceed on surface tomorrow 26th.

2. You will not be covered by total bombing restrictions until Air Authorities at Algiers have been informed.

3. Report tonight if more than 35 miles astern of original schedule.

(Capt.S.8.1140A/25 to P.228).

My 1140. Do not proceed on surface by day. Estimate you will be in position 038.43, 004.01 E. at 2000 tonight submerged bombing restrictions arranged accordingly. Report tonight estimated S. of A.

(Capt.S.8. 1340A/25. to P.228 (R) 8.S.F.).

GLENROY, Suez Nov.25th departure South GLENROY with
JANUS. JANUS in company at 0630.
(F.O.C.Red Sea Force 0732B/25 to Admty (R)
C. in C.Med etc).

NUBIAN. NUBIAN is to return to Alex. with utmost
See pp 1060, 1065 despatch.
71066 (C. in C.Med 0744B/25 to Capt.(D) 12. NUBIAN)
You will be required to complete with fuel immediately on arrival and sail as soon as ready to overtake C.S.15 sailing for Malta at 1800/25th. Further orders follow.
(C. in C.Med 1045B/25 to NUBIAN (R) C.S.15. R.A.Alex.
(R.A.(D) Med. Capt.(D) 12, Capt.(D) 14).

URSULA. *See p 106313* My position 041.20 N. 004.22 E. delayed by weather and engine defect. Intend proceed on surface today and tomorrow.
Weather report.
(?URSULA 0835A/25 to Capt.(S) 8 (R) N.C.X.F.).

Movements. Departure WILTON, ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL
ULSTERMAN.
(F.O. Philippeville 0845A/25 to F.O. I.S.(R)
Cdre.Algiers).

Minelaying 8 magnetic mines set no delay laid night 24th/25th
Bizerta. at Bizerta inside outer breakwater.
(V.A.Malta 0845A/25 to C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F.(R)
S.O.I.S. Cdre.Algiers).

/Movements.....

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. Arrivals 24th Nov, SOUTHERN SEA, DELPHINIUM, M.T.B 265, departures 24th November. BARFORD, *See p. 1064* ****PAYDAY**** SABI, M.L.C. 61 (97?), 13, 14, 38, 9, ZINGARELLA, PROTEA, REDWOOD, CUMBRAE, GLOXINIA, NUBIAN, PAKENHAM, M.L. 350, 358, T.L.C. 107, 138, 154, 157. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0908B/25 to Admiralty, C. in C.Med). ***not identified. See below (Tobruk.)*

Currency Oran. Serious situation damaging British prestige imminent through landing by ships of sterling currency which Banks are officially forbidden to exchange for French Holders. Request all ships' Masters be warned against use ashore of sterling or be supplied with B.M.A. notes or equivalent American notes before sailing. (S. T.O. Liaison Oran 0923/25 to D.S.T., P.S.T.O. "Torch")

URBINO refloated → A.M. 1216/8th Oct. 1941 CONFEDERATE reports URBINO refloated on 23rd Nov. ship dry. (Supt.Salvage Alexandria 0927B/25 to Admty).

Enemy Units. Following received from call sign SIK. One destroyer, 2 medium vessels position 34.52 N. 11.40 E. course 360°, speed 12. (Alex W/T 1040A/25).

OVULA → A.M. 1216/8th Oct. 1941, CONFEDERATE sailed to assistance of tanker OVULA stranded Shadwin Isle, damage unknown. (Supt.Salvage (via Alexandria W/T) 1045B/25 to Admiralty).

Force K, for Malta. *See p. 1065* Force K. CLEOPATRA, DIDO, EURYALUS, JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN, are to leave Alexandria at 1800/25th Nov. for Malta by following route:-
PP.032.14 N. 025.19 E.
QQ.032.33 N. 023.40 E.
RR.033.05 N. 022.40 E.
SS.033.06 N. 021.08 E.
TT.032.27 N. 019.39 E.
VV.035.22 N. 014.05 E.

(Group missing 20 knots).

2. NUBIAN is to leave Alexandria as soon as completed with fuel to join Force K, reporting intentions. *See p.p. 1059, 1060, 1065, 1066*
3. BELVOIR, HURSELY, PINDOS, are to accompany Force K until darkness 26th Nov. when they are to return Alexandria by reverse of outward route - fuelling Tobruk if necessary.
4. Air Authorities are requested to arrange fighter protection and anti-submarine air protection as far as possible for Force K, and fighter protection for "Hunts" returning.
5. Codewords, Force K. "Roman," NUBIAN, "Metril" Hunts, "Nourishing."

(C. in C.Med 1047B/25 1555B/25 to C.S.15th etc).

My 1047/25th, "Roman" one hour late.

(C. in C.Med 2044B/25 to A.I.G.72. etc).

My 1047/25th. BELVOIR, PINDOS, HURSELY may be used for escort but are required at Alex. by a.m./30th Nov.

(C. in C.Med. 1215B/25 to S.O. Force I.(R) R.A.Alex, Tobruk(or C and C Office) BELVOIR, Capt.(D) 5th D.F.).

/TURBULENT...

SECRET

1060A.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

0954Z/25th November.

IN

From. Algiers.

Date: 25.11.42.

Addressed. Usfor London.

No. 522.

Edited Literal Text.

1. The attitude of the French military and civil authorities has improved noticeably since the publication of today's news that French West Africa has joined the United Nations. They have agreed to arrest and intern all objectionable Axis men and women in the Constantine area tonight and tomorrow morning and to place guards on vulnerable points. The general attitude of the French Army in the forward areas is also reported on as much improved.

2. A raid on an Italian out post position by parachute Bn last night is reported as successful, 22 being taken. Reports have not yet been received of planned raids by commandos in the DJ Aboid area. In an armoured patrol action 22nd November near El Aroussa we lost 2 armoured cars.

3. U.S. Lightnings operating from Tobessa report a successful 2 days in Gabos Sfax area having destroyed in air or on ground 12 Italian troop carrying aircraft on Ja. 88 and 2 other Italian planes today and 11 enemy tanks yesterday. Intense enemy air activity during the afternoon on the roads in the areas Modjex El Bab Boja. U.S. Parachute Bn under Col. Raff continues to operate actively in general area Sbeitla. Exact locations of his parties and those of French working with him not yet known.

4. Disembarkation and concentration of KM 3 troops is proceeding according to plan. During past twentyfour hours, weather has deteriorated with widespread rain in mountains, in consequence Philippeville Aerodrome unserviceable.

0954Z/25.

Received from War Office: 0115/27.

War Office Circulation.

93 TORCH.
U.S.N. (3)
Ad. Usborne.
A.F.H. Q. Norfolk
Hsq. (3)
H.W.R. (2)

Internal. C.6. Tels. W/O.
External. Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
A.M.C.S. (C).
Brig. Jacob.
C.C.O.

1061

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TURBULENT. Onward route through (1) 034.26 018. 58
See p. 1065
17 miles K.
at 1200B/28th (2) 034.26, 030.33 at 0700B/2nd,
thence direct to arrive Beirut Searched Channel
0615B/3rd December. Estimate your daily advance 145 miles until
December 2nd when you may run on the surface during daylight.
(Capt.S.1. 1129B/25 to TURBULENT (R) 1st S/M.F. Captain
Coastal Force, C. in C.Med Capt.(S) 10, C.S.15, R.A.(D) Med).

Force Q. Intend BERMUDA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, QUIBERON,
QUENTIN and ITHURIEL be known as Force Q.
(F.O.I.S. 1155A/25, to N.C.X. F.(R) F.O. 12th
C.S., etc).
(Corrupt Group) BERMUDA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, QUIBERON,
QUENTIN and ITHURIEL are to form force Q under F.O. 12th C.S.
in BERMUDA.
2. My 2007/24th is number K.197.
(N.C.X.F. 1700A/25 to A.I.G. 259. Inshore Squadron).

Situation 1. A.F.H.Q. moving to Algiers leaving Gib. in
Report No.21. SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS p.m. today Wednesday.
N.C.X.F. follows with personal and operational
staffs in AURORA tomorrow Thursday. *See next page*
2. Aircraft from Malta reported 5 merchant ships
5000-6000 tons and 6 S/Ms at Cagliari at 1600/24.
3. Two convoys were attacked by aircraft east of Algiers midday
24th Nov, the former by torpedoes. No damage reported.
4. U-Boat activity in Western Mediterranean has declined.
Last ship torpedoed by U-Boat in this area was LALANDE on 14th
November. LORD NUFFIELD attacked contact east of Algiers at
0020/24 and *WESTON escorting K.M.F.3 attacked U-boat in 36.18
N.03.20 W. *See p. 1051* *X See p. 1066*
5. A/S air patrols west of Gibraltar had three sightings and
one attack by searchlight ?Wellington off Burlings at 0150/25.
Depth-charges dropped, S/M remained surfaced and returned
gunfire, wounding pilot.
6. Admiralty pass to A.F.H.Q. London.
(N.C.X.F. 1156A/25, to Admiralty (R) C. in C.Med etc).

Bi-Weekly WX. 8941.A.685. 25th Nov.
Opsum No.76. Night 20/21st Nov. 8 Hurricanes sorties on patrol
over Tobruk without incident. 21st November Bad
weather restricted operations.
4 Hurricanes protection of shipping off Cyrenaica
without incident.

Total 23 B.24s despatched in 2 formations to attack shipping
and harbour installations at Tripoli. Of first formation
9 returned early owing to bad weather en route and mechanical
troubles, remaining 6 claim near misses on M/Vs in harbour 1
hit on Spanish Mole, another on warehouse. Large volumes of
smoke seen rising from harbour when aircraft left. Second
formation 8 B.24s arriving over target about 4½ hours later
towards dusk saw a M/V smoking and low in water being towed
from harbour entrance. These B.24s started 2 large fires on
Spanish Mole 1 of which appeared (to be?) ammunition dump
burning. 1 B.24 crashed landing on return. Write off 8
Liberators repeated attack during night 21st/22nd Nov. No
shipping seen in harbour owing to effective smoke screen and
A/C bombed dock area causing 2 explosions fires near base of
Spanish Mole.

/All...

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War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-Weekly All A/C refuelled Gamut on outward journey.
Opsum No.76. Gamut on outward journey. Total 119000 lbs.HE.
Contd. Night 21/22 Nov. 8 Hurricanes sorties on patrol
over Tobruk area.
Night 22/23 Nov. 1 A.S.V. 3 torpedo Wellingtons
searched for enemy shipping in Gulf of Sirte. No sightings. 7
Hurricane sorties on patrol over Tobruk.
23rd November. Bad weather hampered operations. 1 Beaufighter
29 Hurricanes protective patrols over shipping off Western
Desert Coast and Delta 1 Hurricane crashed pilot killed.
Night 23/24 Nov. 5 Halifaxes 17 Wellingtons (bombed ?)
Heraklion Aerodrome Crete, 12 Wellingtons bombed Kastelli
Pediada Aerodrome. 14 Hurricane sorties on patrol Tobruk area
without incident.
24th November. 10 P.40s sorties on patrol over minesweepers
Benghazi area 12 P.40s on patrol Deena Martiba area without
incident.
(H.Q. R.A.F.M.E. 1211Z/25.)

MANXMAN. V.A.Malta's 2346A/24th. MANXMAN may overtake
a Westbound Coastal convoy during daylight
26th, exact position unknown. Fighter
protection arranged.
p.1069
(Disruption) (F.O.I.S. 1216A/25, to MANXMAN (R) N.C.X.F.Cdre.
Algiers V.A.Malta).
V.A.Malta's 2346/24th. Para.5. Please comply.
(N.C.X.F. 1413A/25 to F.O.I.S.(R) V.A.Malta).
Departure MANXMAN.
(V.A.Malta 1600A/25 to Admty etc).
My 1216A/25th. You may meet F.O.C.S. 12 with 3 Cruisers?
and 3 destroyers due Bone daylight tomorrow Wednesday from
Algiers.
(S.O.I.S. 2242A/25 to MANXMAN (R) N.C.X.F.).

R/C Italian Forenoon visuals 25th November. Taranto 3
ports. Battleships 2 Destroyers Messina, cloud. Naples
cloud Palermo one Cruiser in dock. Cagliari,
10 M/Ss (3,6 - 7 thousand, 4 4 - 5 thousand
and 3 2 - 3 thousand), 8 S/Ms.
(V.A.Malta 1225A/25 to C. in C.Med, Cdre.Algiers,
N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S.).

Enemy My 1237A/25th* Request maximum effort both
Convoys. (Corrupt group) and striking be exerted.
My 1322/23rd to V.A.Malta only A and B refer.
(N.C.X.F. 1231A/25 to V.A.Malta (R) S.O.I.S.
C.S.10. S.O. Force H. C. in C.Med).
*W.R.Note 1227 intended - limited distribution)
See Also 1532A, 1536A.

Movements. Arrival FLEETWOOD, CONVULVULUS, VETCH with R.M.S.
3, and 2 Motor Minesweepers.
(N.O.I.C.Philippeville 1245A/25 to F.O.I.S.(R)
Cdre. Algiers).

/Western...

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War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Western Mediterranean appreciation. Your 1842/23. We agree with your views and the Chiefs of Staff have issued the necessary directives to A.O.C. in C.Middle East instructing him to keep fully in touch with General Eisenhower and to give maximum support to "Torch". Tedder is shortly visiting Malta and Gibraltar to discuss with Governor Malta and General Eisenhower co-ordination of policy for air operations throughout Mediterranean. Tedder will be accompanied by General Brereton commanding U.S. Air Forces Middle East. This visit should meet the proposals in para.G of your message quoted.

2. At this meeting you will no doubt discuss what reinforcements of aircraft are required in the "Torch" area or Malta. Welsh will have full details of aircraft available in Coastal Command which might be of assistance in the Central Mediterranean. (D.A.C.D. Approved 1st S.L. 1315A/25 to N.C.X.F.)

SS.AURORA Sunk. SS.AURORA sunk approx. centre inner harbour during Air attack night of 24th. Vessel empty, no casualties. Investigating salvage possibilities, 6 British born survivors proceeding to Algiers. There were no E.T. sailings tonight. 24 crew survivors proceeding Algiers by train. Master, Chief Engineer, Chief Officer retained here. (D.S.T.O. Philippeville 1340A/25 to P.S.T.O. X.F.(R) D. of S.T.)

P.46 Enemy Units. Aircraft reported at 1039A/25th, 2 M/Ss, 2 escort vessels, 1 escorting aircraft 320° Cape Misurata 15 miles course 130° slow speed. (S10. 1401A/25, to P.46).

E.T.1.(P). Intend sailing convoy E.T.1.(P) at 1830A/25th EMPIRE (?BAIRN) (Commodore) MEROPE, JADE, AKABAHRA and 2 escorts. S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. Algiers 1830A/26th. (N.C.S.O. Philippeville 1426A/25 to F.O.I.S.(R) Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie). Note:- Previously circulated with T.O.O. 1411/25.

Oran facilities. Ref. report on repair facilities Oran. Request withdraw proposal to divert supplies for H. (?grp omitted) Wood to Oran as it is anticipated Gibraltar can make adequate first supply direct to Oran in near future. (F.O.C.N.A. 1446Z/25, to N.C.X.F.(R) S.O. Force H. F.O.I.S., F.O.Oran).

SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, *in Murone Range* SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS E.T.A. Algiers 0900A/26th. Request gates at 0930. Expect to pass through position 56 at 0100A/26th course 073° 26 knots. (SCYLLA 1502A/25 to Cdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F. Force H. Capt.(S) 8, CHARYBDIS).

/PARTRIDGE...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From N.C. X.F.

1500A/25th November.

NAVAL CYPHER S by W/T & T/P.

Date. 25.11.42.
Recd. 2010.

Addressed A.I.G. 262.

IMPORTANT.

Brief situation report for area west of Algiers
2002 A 25th. S/MS excepted.(1) H.M.S. SCYLLA H.M.S. CHARYBDIS 2 destroyers
35 48 N. 03 08 W. through 50 54 89 to Algiers 27. *see pp 1053 etc.*

(2) M K S 2

(0) 36 01 N. 05 10 W to Gibraltar 9.

(3) M K F 3 ?T 36 10 N 02 31 W through 22 to
Gibraltar 13 (4?) (L or T) E 6 sail 0900 A 26th through
78 70 68 93 to Oran 7 knots.

1500A/25.

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H)
D.T.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. (F) (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)

U.S.N. (3)

Adl. Ramsey (4).

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 1616A/25th November.
 IN
 From, Naval Com. X.F. Date, 26.11.42.
 Recd, 0415.
 Naval Cypher 3 By W/T.

Addressed. Ships and Authorities in Area G.

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at (2 groups missing) Z 25th.

1. P. 217, H.M. Submarine 038 degs. 56' North 004 degs. 40' East through 038 degs. 56' North 006 degs. 59' East and 038 degs. 37' North 008 degs. 01' East 11 knots. *see p. 1067*
2. H.M. Submarine P. 311 038 degs. 48' North 002 degs. 37' East through 038 degs. 56' North 003 degs. 01' following P. 217 10 knots.
3. H.M.S. TROOPER 037 degs. 47' North 000 degs. 08' (?East) following P. 311 10 knots.
4. H.M. Submarine P. 219 036 degs. 55' North 001 degs. 32' West through 035 degs. Cape Palos 10 following H.M.S. TROOPER 11 knots.
5. H.M.S. URGULA in Gulf Genoa. *see p. 1067*
6. H.M. Submarine No. 54 041 degs. 58' North 005 degs. 23' East course degrees 50 6 knots. *see pp 1066 & 1067.*
7. H.M. Submarine No. 228 038 degs. 43' 004 degs. 01' East through 038 degs. 50' North 003 degs. 01' North from 245 degs. 10 knots. *see p. 1059*
8. All above submarines dive by day 2½ knots surface speed as stated.
9. H.M.S. TIGRIS leaves Gibraltar 1600 25th on the surface 11 knots until dawn 26th then dive by day 2½ knots 10 miles off Spanish coast then follow P. 219. *see p. 1053*

1616A/25.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F)

- 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.
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D. of P.(Q)
- Ad. Blake (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- F.O.S. By courier.

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War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PARTRIDGE, N.C.X.F.(11717)/24th.(N.T. in W. R.) PARTRIDGE
LOOKOUT. and (?LOOKOUT) detached off Oran at 1500 A/25th
see next page proceeding to join you.
sp. 1068 (S.O. Force H. 1503A/25 to SCYLLA(R) N.C.X.F.
PARTRIDGE, F.O.I.C.Oran).

Force H. Your 0925/25th.(N.T. in W.R.). If you are still
at sea, remain at sea. Orders follow.
(N.C.X.F. 1528A/25 to S.O. Force H.(R) N.O.I.C.
Oran).
(Arrived Oran. See 1730A/25).

Dispositions Following dispositions have been made to
to intercept intercept convoys to Bizerta.
convoys, (A) Force Q. C.S.12, in BERMUDA, SIRIUS, ARGONAUT
Force Q, 3 destroyers, to carry out sweep on line
Force H. Bizerta - Marittimo night 26/27 returning to be
under fighter cover Bone or Malta daylight 27th.
(B) Force H at sea in vicinity 4.00 E. in
support.

(C) SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, joining F.O.H after landing A.F.H.Q.
Staff Algiers on 26th.

(D) I am proceeding to Algiers in AURORA leaving Gibraltar
p.m./26th(Modified, see 2359/25), F.O.I.S. is arranging
operations of Force Q.

(E) Malta has been asked for maximum of air R/C and air striking

(F) 6 Swordfish with torpedoes moving to Bone.

(N.C.X.F. 1532A/25 to Admty).

My 1231/25th. Request you will conduct the movement of
Force H to provide distant support for force Q.

2. Do not proceed eastward of 04° East in daylight unless to
engage enemy.

3. Return to Mers el Kebir p.m./27th if situation permits.

4. SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, AVON VALE, BOREAS, will join you from
Algiers on completion of disembarkation. AVON VALE, and BOREAS
should then return to Gibraltar.

(N.C.X.F. 1536A/25 to S.O. Force H.(R) F.O.I.S. C.S.10,
V.A.Malta, C. in C.Med).

Enemy Emergency Air Attack.
A/C. 1 airplane 32.11 N. 19.48 E.
(S.O.14th Escort Group 1540B/25 to Alex.W/T).
My 1540 A/C identified JU.88.
(S.O.14th E.G. 1609B/25).

Movements. 25th Nov. Port Said arrival GLOXINIA, CUMBRAE,
PROTEA, Departure Minelayer 354, Schooner
see p. 1060 * SAMIKA, FALK, CUMBRAE, GLOXINIA, PROTEA,
R.F.A.CHANGTE. (U.S.S.)
(N.O.I.C.Port Said 1607/25 to Admty etc).

**not identified.*

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War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.212
*THRASHER.
See p.1058

Arrival P.212.
Departure - THRASHER.
(V.A.Malta 1630A/25 to Admty etc).

Y.Flight.
813 Sqn.

My 1840/19th para. 2, not to S.O.I.S. Naval Aircraft of Y flight 813 Squadron are urgently required for A/S operation off Tunisia. Request F.O.I.C.Oran will arrange for their return to Gibraltar A.M. tomorrow/26th to load torpedoes.
2. A.O.C.Gibraltar is requested to arrange return passage to Maison Blanche via Oran as soon as possible.
3. T.C.A.O. 10 para.5, Request F.O.I.C.Oran will arrange with 12th Air Forces for local anti-Sub. patrols within 50 miles of Oran. S.O.I.S. pass to Eastern Air Command. F.O.I.C. Oran pass to 12th Air Force.
(N.C.X.F. 1634A/25, to F.O.I.C.Oran (R) A.O.C.Gibraltar etc).

PARTRIDGE
LOOKOUT.
See previous page p.1068

E.T.A. position 50 at 2000A/25th. Speed approaching from position 56, 25 knots. LOOKOUT in company. Request your position, course and speed.
(PARTRIDGE 1650A/25 to SCYLLA) See 2143/25.
1-1068

FOULA,
HUNDA.

N.C.X.F's 1644/4.
2.FOULA, HUNDA, sailed escorting convoy to Arzeu.
5. C anchorage and searched channel swept, negative results.
(F.O.I.C.Oran 1710A/25 to Admty.(R) N.C.X.F.).

STURGEON.

Capt.(S) 10. 2323/24th (re STURGEON and THRASHER) Comply my 1804/24th. *N.T. & N.S.*
(Capt.S.8.1720A/25 to STURGEON).

*Force H.

Force H, less PARTRIDGE, LOOKOUT arrived Oran.
(S.O. Force H. 1730A/25 to N.C.X.F.(R) N.O.I.C. Oran).

Force K.
See p.1060

Force K. CLEOPATRA, DIDO, EURYALUS, JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN,*NUBIAN leave Alexandria 1800/25 for Malta, due 1500 /27th, F.O.C.S.15 in CLEOPATRA. ** See pp 1059, 1060, 1066*
(C. in C.Med.1821B/25 to Admiralty, V.A.Malta, N.C.X.F. (R) C.S.I.S.).
C.S.15 with 3 cruisers and 4 fleet destroyers on passage to Malta expect to pass through 032.27 019.31 at about 2100B/26th course 300° 20 knots. You are to keep south of latitude 032° until dawn/27th.
(Capt.S.1. 2147B/25 to *TURBULENT (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. (S) 10. C.S.15).
** See p.1061*

/Ships.....

1066

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Ships from
Bougie.

My 1037A/25th (N.T. in W.D.) Intend sailing CITY OF NORWICH escorted by ACUTE, ALBACORE at ?2000A tonight, E.T.A. Algiers 0630A/26th. (?OCEAN) CITY 6726 tons in H.110 feet speed 11 knots ballast has envelope A. French ship SIDI BRAHIM not ready to sail. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1837A/25, to F.O.I.S.(R) Cdre. Algiers, N.C.S.O Algiers).

P.54.
C.O. lost.*See p. 1063B*

Captain and 2 hands lost overboard proceeding direct to Algiers my position 041.53, 005. 15 E. (?approximate) S. of A. 30 miles a day in present weather. Weather report. (P.54 1905A/25 to Capt.(S) 8. N.C.X.F.S/Ms on Patrol)

HERO.

Your 2023/23rd Nov. HERO should be sent to U.K. as convenient, via Malta if you consider her in a fit state, otherwise via the Cape. Request your proposals. 2. Refitting port will communicate later. (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1910A/25 to C. in C.Med).

Movements.

Algiers arrivals SCOTTISH, LORD HOTHAM, *LORD NUFFIELD, STROMA, ES (5 grps missing) M.M.Ss 171, 92, 118, 116, 70, 85, 1, 114, 68, M.Ls 458, 443, from Gibraltar, M.L.336, LCTs 135, 160, from Bone. (Cdre. Algiers 1954A/25 to Admty, (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S.).

** See p. 1061*

NUBIAN.

See pp 1059, 1060, 1065

MWM.40.
(A) 2100.
(B) 12 knots.
(C) Full speed.
(D) 26 knots.

Intend joining S.O.(15) C. S. at dawn, intend proceeding by similar route. (NUBIAN 2015Z/25 to R.A.Alex.(R) C. in C.Med. S.O.15th. C.S. Capt. D.14).

NUBIAN sailed.
(R.A.Alex. 2106B/25 to R.A.15 C.S.).

Information
for S/Ms.

Own surface force may operate in your vicinity p.m./26th to a.m./27th. Attention is called to TON 4 appendix II section VII. (Capt.S.10. 2021A/25 to TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT, P.217. THRASHER, (R) S.O. 10th S.F.N.C.X.F. S.O.I.S.).

Intended
Air R/C.

Intended R/C tomorrow Thursday 26th. P.R.U. a.m. and p.m. of Taranto, Messina, Naples, and Palermo and a.m. of Cagliari, Bizerta, and Tunis. (2) Patrol night of 26th/27th. (A) Marittimo - Ustica - Palermo Area. (B) Marittimo - Spartevento Cape

/Sardinia.....

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War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Intended
Air R/C.
Contd.

Sardinia.

(C) South of Messina.

3. Serviceability of A/C may not permit of all 3 being carried out in which case priority subject to instructions will be (2) (A) (B) (C) (V.A.Malta, 2035A/25 to C. in C.Med. (R) N.C.X.F etc).

Bone Convoy.

Arrived "Redbreast." Escort returned Algiers 1900 (group missed) 25th. Same codeword. (N.O.I.C.? Bone 2052A/25 to F.O.I.S.(R) Cdre. Algiers, A.O.C.E.C. VENOMOUS).

Add to my 1647A/25th (N.T. in W.D.) (C) 4 Merchant Ships and 3 escorts leave Bone p.m. 25th estimated position (06.15?) 26th. 037° 05 N. 005.30 E. East bound, 6 knots. Fighter protection from daylight required.

(Cdre. Algiers 2104A/25 to A.O.C.E.A.C. R.A.F. Maison Blanche, R.A.F. Jijelli, R.A.F. Bone, S.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Bougie, Philippeville, Bone.

P.217.

My position 2000A/25th, 038.53 004.06 E. surface speed 9 knots. Expected time of crossing 008° E. 0300A/27.

L p. 1063B

(P.217 2117A/25 to Capt.(S) 8 (R) N.C.X.F.? Capt.(S) 10 S/Ms on Patrol).

CAMELIA,
FORMOSA,
(Swedish
safe
conduct).

My 1048/21st not to C. in C.Med (N.T. in W.R.) Position CAMELIA and FORMOSA at 0900/25th, 036.25. 019. 00.
(Capt.S.1. 2118B/25 to PAPANICOLIS+ (R) C. in C. Med. 1st S.F.)

P.54.

* URSULA.

** L p. 1059 B*

P.54 in position 41.35 04.50 at 0601/25th. URSULA in position 41.20 04.22 at 0835/25th. Estimated S. of A 5 knots until daylight 26th when both S/Ms are to proceed diving by day. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged accordingly, and also now in force North of 43°.
(Capt.S.8. 2123A/25 to P.54 URSULA).

Malta Air
Report.

A.I.129. C.S.R.Malta.

Night 24th/25th Nov. No enemy air activity. 25th. 26 Spitfires sorties have been flown to protect unloading of Malta convoy. No attacks were made on our shipping. 4 Spitfires were airborne to cover arrival of flying Fortress bringing A.O.C. in C. from Middle East. 4 Spitfires were airborne to protect cruiser leaving Valetta Harbour. 0955 hours, 15 ME 109s approached Malta at great height on fighter sweep and in spite of partial R.D.F. interference were intercepted north of Island by 8 Spitfires which damaged 1 ME. 109 without loss to themselves and forced remainder to return to Sicily. 1040 hours, 4 Spitfires intercepted 8 Me.109s North of Malta damaged 1 ME 109 without loss to themselves and forced remainder to turn back.

/Night.....

1068

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. Contd. Night 24/25th Nov. 1 special Wellington 8 on shipping R/C Cavoil Marittimo area sighted 2115 hours 240° Marittimo 25 miles 4 M/Vs 5/6,000 tons course 045° speed 8 to 10 knots. 5 special Wellington 8s were despatched to locate and attack enemy shipping in area North of Ustica from Cape San Vito to the Lipari Islands, and from Marittimo to Cape Bon and Bizerta. 2125 hours 1 Wellington found 320° Ustica 75 miles 1 M/V 7/8,000 tons 1 D/R course 180° speed 10 knots and attacked with one torpedo contact only depth setting 9 feet dropped from 80 feet range 1,200 yards scoring hit on stern of M/V followed by red and yellow explosion. Much debris thrown in the air and considerable smoke screen. M/V left stationary down by stern and surrounded by oil. Wellingtons made 15 sorties to attack Bizerta docks. First attack carried out in very bad weather with low cloud rain and electrical storms and 3 A/C brought bombs back. 4 Wellingtons dropped bombs and 5 flares, bursts being observed on quays and in dockside area. In second attack 8 Wellingtons dropped bombs bursts seen all along water front across quays and at harbour entrance. 4000 lbs bombs fell between barracks and Arsenal, and on Dockside Area. 2 Wellingtons machine gunned searchlight positions from 1500 and 4000 feet. 5 bomb-carrying Beaufighters despatched to attack Palermo Docks encountered electrical storms, thick cloud, and severe icing conditions and only one A/C found the target. Two bombs dropped on docks but effective smoke screen prevented observation of results. One Beaufighter missing. 8 Successful Beaufort Sorties were made at 1645-2130 hours and (2050 or 2250?) - 0225 hours to lay mines in Bizerta Harbour. 8 1500 lb Magnetic mines were laid in entrance to harbour and between tips of Northeastern Jetties. Day 25th Nov. 0930 hours, 8 Beaufighters of which 4 carried bombs attacked two M/Vs 2/3000 tons with 2 E/Vs in position 320° Misurata 15 miles course 150° scoring a direct hit with a 500 lb. bomb on the Port Bow of one M/V and Raking Vessel with Cannon and Machine Gun Fire. Cannon strikes observed on bridge of M/V. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 2131/25, 2143/25).

SCYLLA,
PARTRIDGE,
LOOKOUT.*See pp 1064 &
1065*

N.C.X.F. 1438A/25th (N.T. in W.R.) LOOKOUT, and PARTRIDGE have joined me. As I have 2 destroyers I have ordered the former to rejoin you. (SCYLLA 2143A/25 to S.O. Force H. (R) N.C.X.F.).

Troops from
Middle East
to S.Africa.

Your 2033/23. Proposal to return whole of 1st South African Division to Union to reorganize is under consideration but is causing grave concern in view of difficulties involved in subsequent possibility of having to return to M.E. two armoured divisions. 2. Pending decision your proposals should not be proceeded with. 3. Agreed. (D. of S.T. 2146A/25 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

/Circling...

1069

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Circling
Torpedo,
Algiers.

Object dropped by A/C on shore on Algiers near harbour at about 2330/24. Thought to be circling torpedo. (Details) Markings indicate German origin. Request any previous information held may be signalled.
(S.O.(I) Algiers 2255A/25 to Admty).
Reply:- Admiralty 2034A/27.

RORQUAL

RORQUAL left Haifa searched channel at 1800B/25th routed direct to 034.13 019.04 at 2000B/30th, thence Malta as ordered by you. Daily advance 155 miles. She carries no petrol or spare torpedoes.
(Capt.S.I. 2302B/25 to Capt.(S) 10.(R) C. in C. Med. F.O.15th C.S. 1st S.F. V.A.Malta, R.A.(D) Med).

M.K.F.3.

M.K.F.3. Oran Section proceed (2 grps missed) knots independently without (?escort) from position Y at 1230 through position 32.22 to Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C.Oran 2310A/25 to N.C.X.F.(R) F.O.H).

Dispositions. 1 6 destroyers left Bone 1900/25 for Algiers. Speed 20 knots.
2. Force Q. 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers, left Algiers for Bone 2230/25th, 25 knots.
3. Convoy of 3 escorts and 4 vessels left Tocopilla for Algiers 1800/25, 6 knots.
* 4. MANXMAN 0600/26 037.35 N. 007.50 E. course 255° 30 knots.
(F.O.I.S. 2358/25, to S.O. Force Q, VENOMOUS, FLEETWOOD).

* See p 1062

C.S.12.

My position 0700A/26th 037.23 N. (?005°) 52' E. course 90°.
(C.S.12. 2359A/25 to Cdre.Algiers, QUENTIN, ITHURIEL).

N.C.X.F.
for Algiers.

My 1532/25 Nov. Para.D Now intend to proceed to Algiers by air leaving 0900 tomorrow 26th to confer with Gen. Eisenhower and Air Vice Marshal Tedder.
(N.C.X.F. 2359A/25, to Admty).

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Cranfield. CRANFIELD torpedoed and sunk in position 008° 26' N 076° 42' E (?9) surgical cases (cot) Indian fireman presumed killed. (N.C.S.O. Cochin 0515Z/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

ENGADINE 1. Admty. 1736/24 (?1726/24 intended) Please
ATHENE sail ENGADINE direct to destination as soon as completed providing A/S escort as far as to seaward as possible. Ocean escort will not be provided. Route will be signalled.
2. Bellman hangar and stores for Eastern Fleet should be disembarked at Durban for onward transport to Kilindini at first opportunity. HONG SIANG may be most suitable ship for some stores.
3. Request estimated date of completion of ATHENE.
(C. in C. E.F. 0844Z/25 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C.S. Durban. ENGADINE. Cdre. Durban. Admty.)

T.F.38 Upon near completion of unloading of T.F.38
T.F.37 intend to intercept T.F.37 before dark on 29th or 30th to exchange 21 (?T) destroyers for same number. Have DD fully fuelled for return trip. Harbour congestion may require your delaying day or so. Be ready to pass by hand orders to relieving T.F. Cmdr. chosen by C.T.F. 38.
(C.S.F. W.T.F. 0950B/25 to C.T.F.37. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. C. in C. U.S. Fleet. N.C.X.F. Admty.)

Eastern Fleet Now that the intensity of submarine activity in Cape and Durban areas appears to have diminished request consideration be given to the release of some Eastern Fleet destroyers so as to restore mobility to Force A and to enable training of Eastern Fleet battleships and carriers, which has been much restricted, to be progressed.
2. There are indications of increased Japanese submarine activity in Indian Ocean and for this consideration still further strengthening of the A/S forces available is desired.
3. In addition to 6 destroyers, 3 corvettes and one whaler have also been temporarily lent to South Atlantic, subject to recall if U-Boat activity increases.
4. I should like the long-endurance N class back first and the early return of 2 of them would enable me to order Force A to sea working together before next 2 destroyers have to leave Kilindini to refit.
(C. in C. E.F. 1042Z/25 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.) *See (213C/27, South Atlantic.*

India Air Report. Summary 25th Nov. No,255.
(b) Operations Nov. 22. U.S.A.A.F. report 6 Liberators bombed Mandalay railway targets. 9 B.25s escort 7 P.40s bombed Haiphong sinking one M/V estimated 12,000 tons many fires. (A.H.Q. India 1128/25.)

SECRET

1040A

SECRET.

MESSAGE

0618z/25th November. IN.

From. N.O. I/C. Colombo.

Date. 27.11.42.

Recd. 1415.

Naval Cypher (15) by Cable.

Addressed. Admiralty. C. in C.M.F. C.P. R.I.N. S.N.O.
Persian Gulf.

325.

Ceylon movement summary Number 26. of 25th Nov.

- (1) H.M.S. FALMOUTH and D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZWAN leaves Bandar Abbas 27th Nov, escorting P.B.14.
- (2) H.M.S. SONAVATI leaves Bombay 26th Nov. escorting SANPHLA to Colombo.
- (3) H.M.S. ASTER and H.M.S. LAUNCESTON leaves Colombo 25th Nov. escorting M.D. 18. H.M.S. ASTER due Bombay 29th Nov. H.M.S. LAUNCESTON proceeding 282 from vicinity Bombay due 1st Dec.
- (4) H.M.S. MARGUERITE left Colombo 24th Nov. escorting MATIANA, due Addu Atoll 27th Nov. Diego Garcia 1st Dec. Addu Atoll 10th Dec.
- (5) H.M.A.S. LISMORE and H.M.S. BENGAL left Colombo 24th Nov. escorting M.D. 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ due Bombay 29th Nov.
- (6) H.M.I.S. MADRAS and H.M.I.S. JUMNA left "Hormuz" 24th Nov. escorting P.D. 13 due Bombay 29th Nov.
- (7) H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ and H.M.I.S. JUMNA leaves Bombay 30th Nov. for Addu Atoll.
- (8) H.M.S. BROUGH left Colombo 24th Nov. due Cochin 25th Nov., thence escorting MAHARAJA to Colombo.

0618z/25th

Advance Copy. Ops. O.D. Trade.

N.A. 1st. S.L.
Capt. Pin. Admiralty House.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.D. 8
O.I.C.
M. (2)
D.P.S.
Mails.
Movts.
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.T.D. (M)
I.P. (3)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
D.D.O.D. (M).

BT32.

1071

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Enemy Unit. By D/F on 16220 K/cs at 0740Z/25 position of unknown enemy unit possibly surface craft was 006° north 089° east. Reliable fix. Call sign NA-RA-E.
(C. in C. E.F. 1214Z/25 to S & A E.I.S.)

MAURETANIA

Sailed 1030Z/25 E.T.A. Fremantle 3rd Dec. p.m. Route - T. 000° 00' 077° 30' U. 017° 05' S 085° 30' V. 032° 02' 105° 55'.
S of A 18½ knots. Vessel escorted by DEVONSHIRE.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 1234Z/25 to Admty.)

Somaliland personnel.

Ref. para 4 my 61327 of 31st Oct. (0023/31, re joint orders for Naval and Military personnel in part of British Somaliland and Ethiopia being planned - N.T. in W.D.)

Joint order signed with C. in C. Med. 24th Nov. being promulgated 7th Dec. Copy being forwarded for approval.
(G.O.C. in C. E.Africa 1400/25 to W.O. Received from W.O. 1615/27 Nov.)

M.N.B.D.O.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (M.E.) 329.

We have taken into account your views expressed in CC/125 of 5th Nov. and CC/128 of 10th Nov. but feel that these are outweighed by the advantage of maintaining and operating M.N.B.D.O.2 as a complete unit.

2. We propose therefore to concentrate M.N.B.D.O.1 in the Indian Ocean theatre as soon as practicable. You should take steps in consultation with C. in C India to give effect to this decision.

3. We are preparing M.N.B.D.O.2 for despatch to Mideast in W.S.26, subject to the availability of space in that convoy which is being examined by Service Departments, and to your proposals on priority.

4. Although M.N.B.D.O.2 has been allotted to your Command, its employment will depend on the needs of the Mediterranean theatre as a whole, and you should be prepared to envisage its use in operations in the Western Mediterranean in case of need.
(Air Min. 1641Z/25 to Cs. in C. Middle East. (R) C. in C. India. C. in C. E.F.)

BADARPUR

Cancel my 1953/23, not to C. in C. Med. Owing to increased requirements in Mediterranean (Tanker Message) BADARPUR will be retained by C. in C. Med. after discharge Port Sudan.
(D of S. 2000A/25 to C. in C. E.F.)

/TILAWA...

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

TILAWA
(sunk
23rd Nov.)

Following received from BIRMINGHAM (Begins)
TILAWA sank after 2nd attack at 2230Z/23rd.
Wreckage in 007° 45' N 061° 10' E at 1000Z/25th.
641 survivors recovered from rafts and boats on
line extending 220° 15 miles from wreckage.
Average current 2/5 knots 260°. Master considers

all lifeboats have been accounted for. A few rafts with
survivors maybe on or beyond line searched. Am proceeding
Bombay for fuel and to land injured survivors in need of
hospital treatment.

My. E.T.A. Bombay 1030Z/27th. Cdre. R.I.N. acknowledge.
T.O.O. 1749Z/25th (Ends.)
(C. in C. E.F. 2007Z/25 to Admty.)

1073

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Western Support Force, 24.12.

(Cominch pass to B.A.D. and C.G.S.W.)
This operational plan for Western Support Force hereby placed in effect. Plan based on following considerations:-

- (1) Directive contained in Admty. 1920A/18th as modified by Cominch 2040/23rd.
- (2) Fuel limitations of available destroyers.
- (3) Necessity of extreme flexibility in operation.
- (4) Very recent enemy activity vicinity Cape Race as far West as 55° W.
- (5) Assumption that early information from Cominch, Admty. N.S.H.Q., as to general trends apparent in U-boat movements will be supplied.

- A. Western Support Force is under operational control of C.T.F. 24 with F.O.N.F. as active deputy regarding formation of Groups servicing and sailings.
- B. Numerical designation Western Support Force 24.12.
- C. Approximately 3 destroyers comprising a support group will be sailed to support each regular eastbound mid-ocean group and remain therewith until reaching vicinity 35° W., at which detach and join designated westbound group.
- D. Continuation of support duty contingent on vessels never dropping below prudent limit fuel endurance and assuming that full advantage will be taken of fuelling at sea, particularly on Eastbound run.
- E. Command of a combined mid-ocean escort group and support group will be exercised in accordance provisions Atlantic convoy instructions Article 16.
- F. Western Support Force normally based St. Johns with Argentia available stand by and repair base should facilities St. Johns be overstrained.
- G. Present allocation of destroyers now assigned W.L.E.F. should allow for four operating destroyers for Western local run between Westomp and Momp, remainder with Western Support Force.

(C.T.F. 24 0005/25 to Cominch, Cinclant, Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., Canadian General Staff, Washington, C.E.S.F.)

Your 0005/25.

1. Intend following transfers to Western Support Force from Western local escort force: *MONTGOMERY, WITHERINGTON, BUXIA (?BUXTON) ST. ALBANS H.M.S. WANDERER, ROXBOROUGH, CHELSEA, CALDWELL, GEORGETOWN, MANSFIELD, *CHURCHILL, SALISBURY, LINCOLN, HAMILTON.
** in P. 1075*
2. Have assumed ST. ALBANS relieves, WALKER, latter proceed to U.K. for refit. *See P. 1075*
3. Proposed date of transfer for all ships to be 30th Nov. (C.O.A.C., 1541Z/25 to C.T. 24 F.O.N.F. (R) Cominch, etc).

"S" Report.

Following received on 8290 k/cs begins:-
SSSS De Unknown Station posn. 10° 38' N., 52° 17' W. 0000 G.M.T. sighted sub.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0107/25 to Admty).

Intercepted 0008 G.M.T. 8290 k/cs De MWQO (indecypherable)
SSSS 10.30 N., 52.17 W., 0000 G.M.T. sighted submarine.
(Burnahm Radio, No T.O.O. to Admty. Recd. 0507).

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War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

A.F.D. 24 Your 0136/25 (Sent by War Reg. refers to B.A.D's 1805/24 (Docking Situation)). CAIRO is the barge accompanying A.F.D. 24. (B.A.D. Washington 0215Z/25 to Admty).

Attacks on Comnaveu, 0816/25. See U-boat Campaign.
U/Bs

Curacao Understand from U.S. Authorities that next
Convoy. opportunity for convoy to Puerto la Cruz on or
 about 6th Dec.
 (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 0910QR/25 to Admty. D.N.I.)

Movements 1800 G.M.T./25th.Nov.
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed
 S/M K.14 20½° N., 42° W. 299° 9
 A.T. 29 40° N., 59° W. 083° 26½.
 (D.O.D. (F), 1001Z/25 to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).

Signal Your 0033A/20. Do not consider proposed painting
Letters large International Signal Letters both sides
on sides Merchant Ships will be sufficiently helpful our
of M/Vs. own Forces or troublesome to enemy to place such
 system in effect because -
 (A) enemy forces as well as our own both at sea
 or in port can more readily identify the ships;
(B) for experienced air and surface personnel signal flags more
effective. The difficulty of world wide promulgation and the
ease with which enemy can imitate the system.
(2) If proposed system using war time radio call sign in place
of international call sign is placed in effect the above proposal
will compromise radio call sign.
(3) Above proposal is diametrically opposed to Admty 2055A/16
Oct. indicating desirability of keeping names of Merchant
Ships sunk from the enemy.
(4) This proposal is also contrary to the efforts made to
conceal the identity of ships by painting out their names and
house markings.
(Cominch, 1238/25 to Admty).

QUEEN New York departed 1230/24 H.M.T. QUEEN ELIZABETH.
ELIZABETH. (N.S.H.Q., 1308Z/25 to D.S.T.)

ILE DE San Francisco arrived 1915/24 ILE DE FRANCE.
FRANCE. (N.S.H.Q., 1309Z/25 to D.S.T.)

1075

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

CAMBRIA Following received (begins) Addressed Cominch (C and R) Fairmiss from Alusnob Recife. Recife 0945Z/26, CAMBRIA, British Cable ship, to repair cables Recife 0945Z/26. CAMBRIA, British Cable Ship, to repair cables and return Recife 1801/26. (Ends).
(B.A.D., 1351Z/25 to Admty).

U/B S/M estimate Nov. 25th and U.S. S/M Notice.
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1538/25, 1539/25, 1605/25, 1606/25, 1607/25, to Admty).

WALKER, Following received from C.O.A.C. (begins)
ST. ALBANS. A.M. 2130/22nd Oct. Is it intended that ST. ALBANS joins the Western local escort force? If so request ST. ALBANS relieve WALKER in Task Unit 24.18.7. at St. Johns N.F. approx. Dec. 4th.
see p. 1073
Intend WALKER proceed U.K. for refit on relief by ST. ALBANS. Time of origin 1831Z/23 (ends). Request Admty. will reply.
(C. in C. W.A., 1612A/25 to Admty).

B.Y.M.S. Your 1621/12. Concur in your 1925/24.
see next page
(D.M.S. 1619A/25 to B.A.D. (R) F.O.N.F.)

Cable Your 1822/22. Cable & Wireless have undertaken
Repairs. to advise Douglas of the relative urgency of cable repairs in your area and are instructing him to keep you fully informed.
(D.S.D., 1702A/25 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) B.A.D.)

Shipping Your 2103/17, para. 2 (Allocation of ports to
Routes. which application should be made for ocean route) S.O.(I) Callao 2045/16 Nov. is being passed to you.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1709Q/25 to B.A.D. (R) Admty).

O.N.S.146. Convoy scattered in gale in 45.50 N., 35.00 W. at 1000Z/25. 15 ships for south Atlantic proceeding independently crossing 38° N., between longitude 30° W., and 39° W., thence 180°. (D.T.D., 1742A/25 to S. and A. N.A.)

CHURCHILL, (1) Your 1700/16. When ready request CHURCHILL
MONTGOMERY. be sailed direct to St. Johns N.F.
see p. 1073 (2) F.O.N.T. is requested to report date MONTGOMERY will arrive Charleston for refit. Commandant 6th U.S. Navy District Charleston please pass to CHURCHILL.
(C.O.A.C., 1745Z/25 to B.A.M.R. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. etc).

1076

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

L.C.I.(L)s. My 1731/23 and S.B.N.O. W.A.'s 1912/23 passed to Admiralty only under T.O.O. 2045Z/25 (N.T. of any in W.D.)
(1) Second batch of L.C.I.(L)s could probably be ready to sail with LARIAT as sole escort on 8th Dec.
(2) Convoy being organized by Navy Dept. cannot sail before about 25th Dec. due to delay in completion of both American and British L.G.Ts.
(3) In view of Sherwood's report should second batch L.C.I(L)s sail when ready or wait until American convoy can leave in which case they would probably receive stronger escort.
(4) Para. 3 of your 2007/3. Third batch will be ready to sail about 20th Dec. and could be included in U.S. Convoy subject to ocean going C.Os. being available by then. B.Y.M.S.C.Os. might be used if returned promptly in U.K.
(5) Subsequent batches will come forward at about ten day intervals.
(6) Navy Dept. have asked if British escort could meet their convoy in vicinity of Azores, where any escorts they may be able to provide would probably require to fuel. Admiralty pass to C.C.O.
(B.A.D., 1851Z/25 to Admty).

Collision. Schooner LILLIAN E. KERR believed sunk after collision with ALCOA PILOT Nov. 13th.
(N.S.H.Q., 1908Z/25 to Admty. Connav).

TURKSIB TURKSIB (Russian) ashore at Scotch Cape Unimack Fyland Nov. 24.
see p. 1077
(N.S.H.Q., 1947Z/25 to Admty).

B.Y.M.S. Weather permitting intend sailing B.Y.M.S.15 and 16 by great circle to Londonderry a.m./26th Nov. Communications, two operator. periods in accordance with B.A.D. 2247/9th Oct. 1942 and 1405/27th Oct. 1942.
see previous page
(F.O.N.F., 1954Z/25 to Admty (R) B.A.D. etc).

O.N.S. 144 survivors. Rescue Ship PERTH arrived Halifax 1600Z/25 with following survivors on board PARISMINA 53, MOUNT TAURAS, 38, and PRESIDENT SERGENT, 44 including Commodore Brook and staff of six ratings
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 2003Z/25 to Admty, Cominch).

PRESIDENT SERGENT. (sunk 18/11). Attack by S/M (1) PRESIDENT SERGENT (2) Anglo-Saxon Petroleum. (3) 0505Z/18th Nov. 054° 07' N., 038° 26' W., in O.N.S. 144.
(4) Not Seen (7) Believed sunk (8) See my 2038 /25th Nov. with list of survivors and missing.
(10) Torpedo (11) Complete set C.Bs. and C.R.Is. thrown overboard in steel (Perforated?) (?boxes)
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 2036Z/25 to Admty etc).

/Shipping...

MOST SECRET

1046A

~~MOST SECRET~~

~~MESSAGE~~

IN

2031/25/November.

From COMNAVEU

Date 25.11.42.

P/L by D/R

Time 2315

Addressed Admiralty

CR No. 17

Cominch's 1449/25 (Serial 49) addressed to Admiralty and ComnavEU contains changes in his 2056/18, as follows:

CLEVELAND, RANGER, SUWANEE and SANTIAGO are at Norfolk. MASSACHUSETTS and TUSCALOOSA departed from Norfolk 25th November.

MILWAUKEE and CINCINNATI at Recife. NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA and WICHITA at New York.

AUGUSTA at sea. MEMPHIS separated from UGS 1 on 19th November.

NORTH CAROLINA, SARATOGA, HONOLULU, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS and ALTAMAHAN are in South Pacific.

BOGUE is at San Diego. RALEIGH in Alaskan area.

TRENTON and PHOENIX on patrol. NASHVILLE, INDIANAPOLIS and LOUISVILLE at sea.

2031/25

Advance copy sent D.C. D.C.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

✓ Filed as 0958/19

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt Pim
D.C.D. (H) (2)
D.C.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.N.I. (4)
A.C.N.A.S.
D.N.A.D.
Hd. of Air
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (0)
W.R. File 1449/25

E.M.

1077

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Shipping Connav serial 24 and 25. *TURKSIB aground since
Casualties. 21st Nov. UNHJAK passed en route Portland to
Vladivostock.
(Connav, 2048/25 to Comnav). * *2048/25*

Instructions My 2109/23. From purely routeing considerations
for Neutral to achieve exclusion of neutrals from main ship-
Shipping. ping lanes and major assembly ports is good
and it is thought that no objection can be
raised to Navy Department instructions.

(2) Implementation calls for elimination of
Trinidad as control port and if necessary the transfer of
control organization elsewhere. If British control is to be
maintained then selection of port, should be as near the
neutral lanes as possible, e.g. ~~St. Thomas~~ which could also serve
as Emergency Bunker Port in place of St. Thomas.
(3) Maintenance of Bermuda if necessary or advisable would
have to be accepted even though not well placed for the
Philadelphia approach lane.
(4) Your comments are requested.
(B.A.D., 2049Z/25 to Admty).

MOUNT TAURUS Attack by S/M. (1) MOUNT TAURUS.
(sunk 17/11). (2) Rethymnas and Kulukundis Ltd.
(3) 2205Z 17th Nov. 55.16 N., 36.11 W., in O.N.S.
144 (4) Not seen (group omitted) ship sank.
(8) See my 2126/25 with list of survivors and
missing. (10) Torpedo. (11) Complete set of C.Bs
and C.R.Is. in iron box went down with ship.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 2124Z/25 to Admty. Cominch, (R)
N.S.H.Q.)

LINDENHALL Your 1320/2/4/40. LINDENHALL Nov. 7th, 0220
(sunk 7/11). locality apparently around 130 miles N.W. of Port
of Spain Trinidad. Survivors of the crew state
that details of C.Bs. not known to them (no
officers survived) but that all must have gone
down with ship which was struck by 2 torpedoes, broke in two
amidships, bows and stern coming out of the water momentarily
and sank within 30 seconds. U-boat not sighted at any time.
For particulars of survivors see Consul General's signals
(masts 40 and 41) to Shipminder on Nov. 20th. All remainder
which were signed on in London in early Feb. 1942 and 1 male
British passenger embarked in Trinidad for passage to the U.K.
presumed lost.
(C.S.A. New Orleans, 2142Z/25 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Sub attack Para. A. WILDWOOD three torpedo misses 08.33 N.
and sighting 59.24 W. 1128Z/12 October. EMPIRE STARLING
summary. torpedoed sunk 13.05 N., 56.20 W., 2220Z/21
Yellow and Green Letter V on Conning Tower U.88
type. Plane attacks sub on surface 42.03 N.,
63.28 W., 2015Z/24 Course 270.
Para. C. SS. AFRIKA sights Sub. 10.38 N., 52.17 W. 0000Z/25.
Army plane sights sub on surface course East 30.20 N. 81.05 W.
1227Z/25.
(Cominch, 2202/25 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/U/B...

1077A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E 2355Z/25th November.
OUI.

Addressed Britman Washington. Date 26.11.42.

CYPHER.

From Air Ministry.

OZ.2018 25th November 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 362.

Although we are not convinced that we are adopting the best possible procedure, we are prepared to accept JAN procedure subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Incorporation in JAN of satisfactory procedure for codress messages.
- (b) Mutual agreement on all subsidiary points, such as meanings of procedure letters, so as to reduce as far as possible the changes of "language" which British Services would have to learn.
- (c) Time of introduction of JAN in any part of British area of strategic responsibility to be decided by British Chiefs of Staff to ensure co-ordination between all forces involved.
- (d) Date of abrogation of existing British-U.S. Naval procedure agreement to be determined mutually.

These details should be capable of settlement by the combined experts in Washington. You should also point out to the U.S. Chiefs of Staff that JAN procedure, modified as above to become the Combined procedure, must be presented in concise form and limited to essentials; otherwise it will never be mastered quickly by junior operators already trained in other procedures.

2. The introduction of this procedure will inevitably take a considerable time, probably up to nine months, before it will be ready to come into force in all theatres.

3. For your own information we are taking this step, with full knowledge of the difficulties and disturbances which will arise, with the sole object of keeping

relations/.....

1077^B-

MOST SECRET

2.

relations sweet, but we are not prepared indefinitely to give way in the face of unyielding attitude. You should therefore make full play of the policy outlined in J.S.M. 483, paragraph 3.

2355Z/25

Circulation:

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
War Reg. Admiralty.
C.6. Tels, War Office.
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.
Capt. Layman, W/T Board.

Received from Air Ministry 0411/26.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
SEC.
N.A. 1st S.I.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Bellairs.
D. of L.D.
D.O.D. (H) (2)

1078

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

U/B

Shore watcher reports sighting S/M in approx. 047° 27' 40" N., 055° 28' 12" W., p.m./25th. (C.O.A.C., 2207Z/25 to G.B.7 A. C.T.F.24).

Delay to
Slow
Ships,
Trinidad.

We are concerned at delays of slow ships at Trinidad awaiting T convoys to the eastward. Convoy speeds appear to vary between 10 and 8 knots and B.R.L.O. has more than once reported that slower ships are delayed by awaiting slow convoys. Would it be possible to arrange that all convoys which have to disperse should be run at 8 knots, thus conforming to N.G. and G.A.T. convoys?
(D.T.D., 2240A/25 to B.A.D.) Reply: B.A.D. 2141/27.

Neutral
Shipping
and U.S.
Ports.

All neutral including Eire shipping not under British or U.S. Management is permitted to call only at Philadelphia and New Orleans on Gulf and Atlantic seaboard for loading or bunkering, and also at Mobile for loading coal only.

2. Approach lanes are:-

- (A) To Philadelphia between 38° N., and 38° 40' N., from 65° W.
 - (B) To New Orleans or Mobile between 28° N., and 29° N., from 65° W.
 - (C) To Northern ports in West Indies, between 19° N., and 20° N., from 55° W.
 - (D) To Caribbean between 15° N., and 16° N., from 50° W.
3. Position, course and speed to be reported by W/T to Navy Department, Washington when entering lane and at noon daily thereafter and also while in Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.
4. Prior to sailing for U.S. port nominal list of passengers and crew is to be given to American Consul.
5. Neutral shipping referred to in para. 1 above and not proceeding to U.S. port is advised to keep at least 500 miles from U.S. coast line.
- (D.T.D., 2330A/25 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.W.A., etc).

U/B

Submarine attack lat. 08.53 N., long. 28.55 W. at 2320 G.C.T./25.
(U.S. Nav. Com (Cominch) 2345/25 to Admt B.A.M.S. 3 A).

JAN
Procedure.

Prepared to accept. C.O.S. (W) 362 (Air Min. 2355Z/25 to Washington) See Lion Copy.

Previous page.

1079

War Diary.25.11.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals. Auckland 2112Z/24 H.M.N.Z.S. LEANDER and U.S.S. WOODWORTH. Auckland 0328Z/25, U.S.S. ROAMER. Departures. Auckland 2140Z/24, U.S.S. TRYON, Noumea 27th Nov. Auckland 0036Z/25, H.M.N.Z.S. INCHKEITH, Norfolk Island 1900Z/27. Auckland 0042Z/25 U.S.S. WOODWORTH escorting BRASTAGI, MORMOCPOEF, and AMERICAN LEGION, Noumea 2000Z/27. *? NORMACIPBAT m/27. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0427Z/25 to Admty).
Arrivals. Townsville 24th Nov., U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON, H.M.A.S. SWAN. Port Moresby 23rd, STUART. Departures Milne Bay 23rd, STUART for Port Moresby. Fremantle 23rd, CESSNOCK, TOOWOOMBA for Kilindini, via Diego Garcia, U.S. Minesweepers LARK and WHIPPOORWILL for Exmouth Gulf, ADELAIDE and Neth. Light Cruiser HEEMSKERCK on escort duty Indian Ocean. WARRAMUNGA ("Tribal" class destroyer) commissioned at Sydney (N.S.W.) 23rd Nov. (N.B. Melbourne, 0651Z/25 to Admty etc).

Situation. Digest Serial No. 307, Nov. 24.
Reports Buin Shortlands Area evening 24th indicated 16 vessels including 1 sloop 9 Destroyers 4 merchant ships including 1 tanker 2 submarines.
(2) 1 Light Cruiser 4 destroyers sighted Vitiaz Strait = 6° S., 147½° E. heading south east afternoon 24th, later attacked by Fortresses B.25s Beauforts Huon Gulf Area during night, 2 direct hits 1 destroyer, 1 direct hit another large destroyer both sunk. One Destroyer also damaged by two near misses dead water for 25 minutes and last observed proceeding 7 knots. This vessel one light cruiser and another destroyer last observed heading towards Vitiaz Strait at 1440Z/24.
(3) Our attacks continue against well organized enemy positions Buna Area. Strong forces of Fortresses Bostons Maurauders B.25s Beaufighters add Kittyhawks carried out continuous attacks Buna Sanananda - Gona Area during day dropping 1,093 bombs and firing about 9,000 rounds machine gun and cannon.
(4) Enemy fighters and bombers again operating from Lae Aerodrome.
(5) 18 medium bombers in 6 flights of 3 aircraft each attacked Darwin early morning 23rd. 1 shot down by fighter, 1 other probably by A/A fire, no damage or casualties.
(6) Two bombers dropped bombs Port Moresby Area night 24/25 without effect.
(7) Five Hudsons bombed Dilli Aerodrome 24th. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 1000/25 to Admty etc).

War Diary.

25.11.1942.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions at 1200Z/25.
(D.D.I.C., 1400A/25, 1424A/25).

Submarines Attacked.

Cominch
Report.

Your 1059B/22/7. Listening contact made by picket sailing vessel off Savannah Nov. 18th. Engine noises and tapping sounds heard. Attacked on Asdic contact by U.S.S. S.C. 672, large quantities of oil obtained covering 10 miles.

U.S.S. P.C.490 attacked sub. next morning when sighted on surface Plane picked up trail of bubbles subsequently and patrol craft attacked. Results inconclusive. Week ending 2400Z/22, 23 attacks reported.
(Comnavu, 0816/25 to Admty).

West Africa.

Your 1333Z/23. Following are November assessments of attacks carried out in your area.

2. Key to assessment is:-

A. known sunk B. Probably sunk C. Probably damaged (A) D. Probably damaged (B) E Probably slightly damaged F. Insufficient Evidence of Damage G. No damage. H. Insufficient Evidence that a U-boat was Attacked I. Target attacked not a submarine.

3.

Date	Ship or A/C	Position	Assessment
3rd Aug.	NEPAL	00° 04' S. 09° 49' W.	H
4th Aug.	VELOX	06° 57' N. 14° 07' W.	I
9th Aug.	CORINTHIAN	03° 58' N. 01° 26' W.	H
12th Aug.	M.L. 494	01° 00' N. 00° 45' W.	I
15th Aug.	CORINTHIAN	02° 56' N. 07° 19' W.	H
20th Aug.	CANNA	07° 41' N. 14° 03' W.	H
21st Aug.	VELOX	07° 29' N. 14° 52' W.	F
31st Aug.	M.L. 281	03° 22' N. 12° 50' W.	H
*5th Oct.	PETUNIA	02° 21' N. 14° 30' W.	G A.
5th Oct.	CROCUS	07° 52' N. 14° 09' W.	B
15th Oct.	PUCKERIDGE	09° 25' N. 16° 36' W.	H

* BARBARIGO sunk. See 5/10 - p.129.

4. Further signals will be made monthly.
(D.A/S.W. 2027A/25 to R.A.W.A.)

*Rubbish - Barbargo was known to be still
D.D. 14/9/65 operating in June 1943 & disappeared
on trip for Madeira & Bataria*

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

The Admiralty sent a message today to naval authorities at home and abroad stressing the importance of ensuring the safety and expediting the movements of tankers. At the beginning of the year heavy casualties were suffered by the United Nations' tanker fleet which has not yet been built up to meet the full requirements of petroleum transport which are expanding in almost every part of the world. On 29th November the Admiralty stated that the sufficiency of tankers for the war effort generally is seriously in doubt and they proposed that tanker convoys should be run direct from the West Indies to the "Torch" area which takes over 200,000 tons of oil a month. The crux of the problem is escorts, and the Admiralty asked N.C.X.F. (29 Nov). to look into the possibility of providing destroyers and corvettes to meet this requirement.

Home Commands.

Convoy
Q.P.15.

ORWELL reported today that she has BELMORCANAL, intercepted on 24th November, in company. INTREPID has found TEMPLE ARCH (Cdre. of convoy) DAN-Y-BRYN, EMPIRE MORN, CHARLES R. McCORMICK and COPELAND. The minesweeper, SALAMANDER has condenser trouble and her speed is reduced; FORESTER and IMPULSIVE proceeded to her assistance. The general position of the convoy is near Iceland (C). Seven ships (EMPIRE TRISTRAM, VIRGINIA DARE, PATRICK HENRY, OCEAN FAITH, SAHALE and 2 Russians, apparently TBILISI and PETROVSKI) arrived at Akureyri today and ten (TEMPLE ARCH, DAN-Y-BRYN, EXFORD, ESEK HOPKINS, WILLIAM MOULTRIE, CHARLES R. McCORMICK, EMPIRE MORN, COPELAND, (Rescue ship) BELMORCANAL, EMPIRE SNOW) are being escorted past Seydisfiord to the U.K. by INTREPID (S.O.) and 5 other escorts. LAFAYETTE put into Seidisfiord. IRONCLAD is ashore in the White Sea (refloated and reached Molotovsk on 1st Dec)

At 0215 a Leigh Light Wellington of Coastal Command attacked 3 enemy destroyers off Lorient. Escorted merchant vessels were attacked off Bayonne this morning and this afternoon.

The Russian Icebreaker A. MIKOJAN was damaged by explosion this evening in 68° 48' N., 45° 23' E. (30 miles west of Kolgner Island).

26.11.1942.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

N.C.X.F. sailed from Gibraltar at 1245A today in AURORA with BRILLIANT, for Algiers.

H.M.T. LEYLAND has been sunk while on patrol in Gibraltar Bay, as the result of collision with a merchant ship.

South Atlantic.

SS. POLYDORUS, which reported being shelled by a submarine on 24 Nov. reported this morning that she was being chased and continuously shelled in 7° 54' N., 27° 6' W. (about 1,000 miles west of Freetown)

SS. DORINGTON COURT (Calcutta for U.K.) was attacked by 2 U-boats this morning with torpedo and sunk by gunfire after being abandoned, about 105 miles S.E. of Inhaka, Lourenco Marques.

The Chiefs of Staff have notified the requirements which they wish put forward at the forthcoming meeting on 28th with the Governor General of French West Africa. The Admiralty requirements are:- (a) Flying boat bases of which there are several along the coast, in order to extend air cover to West African convoys. Port Etienne, 350 miles north of Dakar is suggested. (b) Fleet air arm base for some of the large number of auxiliary carriers which will come into service during 1943. The use of the airfield at Quakam (Dakar) is coveted. (c) Use of the cruiser Dock and workshops at Dakar. (d) Advanced base for local escorts from Freetown. (e) Water facilities. Supplies at Freetown are barely adequate.

Mediterranean.

U.S. B.24s bombed Tripoli Harbour today and report that a ship was hit and set on fire. Another B 24 attacked a merchant ship in Khoms harbour; the vessel captured.

/An...

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.- Contd.

An M.T.B. base has now been established at Ras el Hilal (32° 56' N., 22° 10' E) near Derna. There have been no enemy air attacks on the Western Desert ports, so far. South African M/S I IMHOFF and 2 M.Ls. are 24 hours overdue at Benghazi. The first two supply ships arrived at Benghazi today: cargo was discharged into Italian lighters.

America & West Indies.

The Chiefs of Staff are asking the U.S. for assistance on two points in connection with the Battle of the Atlantic:-

(a) The provision of very long-range aircraft capable of operating in the blind spot in the middle of the Atlantic where our convoys have recently suffered losses from U-boat attacks.

(b) The provision of long-range aircraft fitted with a type of A.S.V. which the Germans will find it difficult to counter.

SS. BARBERRYS in S.C.110 reported at 1812 G.M.T. today that she was torpedoed in 50° N., 46° W. (about 300 miles N.E. of St. Johns). She is also reported to have been damaged by a gale last night and to be proceeding to St. Johns N.F. on 29 Nov.

SS. CLAN MACFADYEN was torpedoed and sunk at 2315Z today in ~~8° 57' N., 59° 48' W.~~

9° 0' N 59° 50' W

1084

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.General.Petroleum
transport.

At the beginning of this year heavy casualties were suffered by the United Nations tanker fleet which has not yet been built up to meet the full requirements of petroleum transport which are expanding in almost every part of the world.

2. During the next six months the transport of petroleum will call for a new high level of exertion and ingenuity from all concerned.

3. The safety of tankers remains the first consideration. It is of almost equal importance to ensure that the round voyage is accomplished in the minimum time.

4. Every opportunity of affording escort must be taken. Naval authorities having occasion to move an escort vessel from one port to another should consider whether this will provide a special opportunity and should inform N.C.S.Os accordingly. Whenever a tanker is in port all concerned should scheme to complete her business and get her again on the move.

5. Tankers are necessarily hustled at both ends of their round voyage and the crews suffer by comparison with those in other trades. Every opportunity must be sought to provide amenities and ease the way for tanker crews while in port. It will generally be possible to arrange transport for a Master wishing to visit the Naval authorities or his ships agent. Nothing will do more to smooth relations and give satisfaction than advice or help in obtaining delivery of mails.

(D.T.D. 2206A/26.)

HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Use of
Spanish
territorial
waters.

F.O.S's 1646/24. If German ships ANTARKTIS, NORD ATLANTIC and BESSEL sail, instructions in my 0140/9 Oct. apply.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1738A/26 to F.O.S.)

S.M.Z.40. Under certain conditions enemy ships lying in Spanish ports may be attacked in Spanish territorial waters providing -

(A) Care is taken to avoid damage to neutral shipping or persons and property ashore.

(B) Attack is not made in harbour or its immediate approaches.

2. S/Ms are not to be observed inside territorial waters.

3. Great importance is attached to avoiding unnecessary infringements of territorial waters and if a successful attack is made S/Ms should not remain longer in vicinity than is necessary to observe results of attack.

4. S/Ms will invariably be informed of ships to whom these instructions apply.
(F.O.S. 1849A/26, 1622A/27 to Capt. S. Home. Comsubron 50.)

Defence of U.K.Lerwick
A/A
Guns.

My 1925A/14. Possibility of manning additional four H.A.A. guns at Lerwick with existing personnel in the Island is under examination by A.A. Command.

2. Having regard to the shortage of A.A. Command personnel in U.K. it is unlikely that guns will be provided unless they can be manned under the above arrangement.
(A.C.N.S. (H.) 1707A/26 to A.C.O.S.)

1085

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

ANSON Scapa departure V.A.2 in ANSON screened by INGLEFIELD, FURY, BLANKNEY. (A.C.O.S. 0154A/26.) Rosyth arrivals 26th Nov. ANSON escorted by INGLEFIELD, FURY and BLANKNEY. Escort returned Scapa passing May Island 1345/26. (C. in C. Rosyth 1455A/26.)

GUNNEL Arrival GUNNEL. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 0820A/26.)

BLACKFISH My 1750/25. Sailed. (LAUDERDALE) *p. 1086*
p. 1086A (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0830A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DUKE OF YORK Scapa arrivals 0920 DUKE OF YORK with LIMBOURNE, OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS. (A.C.O.S. 1010/26.)

SALADIN Reykjavik arrival, your 1720/23. *N.T. n. W. D.*
(A.C.I.C. 1048A/25 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

CLYDE Your 1150/25. Request CLYDE may be routed dived by day through (B) 043° 00' 013° 22' (K) 049° 10' 013° 22' (J) 049° 50' 012° 34' (H) 049° 50' 009° 01' 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, thence as ordered by Capt. S.5. to Portsmouth. *p. 1095A*
41096 (F.O.S. 1059A/26 to Capt. S.8.)
Your 1059. CLYDE passing 043° 00' 013° 22' W at 2100/29 and holds your 1059.
(Capt. S.8. 1346A/26 to F.O.S.)

Floating Intend to sail Phillips Floating dock to Plymouth dock. in tow of RESOLVE with PORTZIC as stand-by tug and escorted by COMMANDER EVANS, POINTER, INCHGOWER, SEDDON at 0800/27. Request fighter escort. Codeword "Plumb".
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1151/26 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

North Operating in Northern Waters: LONDON, SUFFOLK, Atlantic 2 destroyers. dispositions. Area Iceland (C): BERWICK, 8 destroyers. Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD, 7 destroyers. Area Rosyth: ANSON. Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, AURORA, ARGONAUT, BERMUDA, CHARYBDIS, DELHI, SCYLLA, SIRIUS, ARCHER, ADVENTURE, WELSHMAN, 10 destroyers. (D.O.D. (H.) 1246A/26 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

W.A. Situation at 1956A/26. Details. Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1358A/26.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

1085A

1358A/26th November.
MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
Date. 26.11.42.
From. C. in C. Western Approaches. Recd. 2045.
P/L

Addressed. Admiralty.

Situation at 1956A/26th November, 1942.

Section N.E.

CASTLETON		58 47 04 15	To Port Z.A.	15
O.N.U.J. 149	KINGSTON BERYL	57 49 06 21	270° Oversay 6	9
E.N.66	HORNPIPE WOLVES	58 07 05 36	To Loch Ewe	5

Section S.E.

U.S.S/M BLACKFISH	LAUDERDALE	51 32 04 52	To Clyde	15
HURRICANE		55 18 06 36	To Liverpool	13
EGRET BANFF CLARE EXE SWALE			Sails London- derry 2200A/26 To Greenock	12
O.N.149	MOLDE	53 58 04 57	270° Oversay 6 thence 55 45 15 02	9
O.N.M.149	Escorted		Sails Belfast 270° Oversay 6 0330A/27	9
O.N.C.149	Unescorted		Sails Clyde 270° Oversay 6 2315A/26	9
H.M. 73	DERBY COUNTY	52 52 05 04	To Barry Roads	8
Convoy	BETTER	51 59 05 29	Northbound	8
K.M.S.4	TAY 9 Corvettes 3 Minesweepers	55 18 05 07	270° Oversay 6 thence 55 30 10 01	7½
O.N.U.J 149	KINGSTON BERYL	57 49 06 21	270° Oversay 6	9

Section N.W.

S.C.109 C.T.U. 24.1.13 (E)	SCIMITAR KINGOUP WETASKIWIN GALT AGASSIZ SACKVILLE	57 28 17 22	To 57 02 15 01 thence 56 40 08 30	6½
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/ UR. 51.....

1085 B

Section H.W. (Contd.)

U.R. 51	MAZURKA BLACKFLY PIROUETTE CLEVELLA	61 28 13 35	To 62 00 15 06 thence 62 51 21 29 7
SKEDDA		57 00 15 10	To Londonderry 13
ANCHUSA		56 15 19 21	To Londonderry 12
O.N.S. 148 C.T.U. 24.1.16	HESPERUS VANESSA GENTIAN HEATHER MIGNONETTE SWEET BRIAR	56 39 17 52	To 57 20 22 20 6
M.K.S. 1(Y)	SPEY 1 Sloop 5 Corvettes	49 48 15 00	To 50 00 15 00 thence 55 00 10 00 9

51

1358A/26.

- 1st S.L. (2)
- 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.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D. of P. (2)
- Hd. of M.
- D.N.I. (4)
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.M.S.
- W.D.
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Ad. Blake (2)

WA.

1086

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

A.F.D.19. My 1815A/23. Sailed Needles 1345/26 with PENYLAN.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1406A/26.)
Intend to sail BLEASDALE from Needles 0900/27 by
standard convoy route, speed 20 knots, to overtake A.F.D.19 in
vicinity of Longships at 1730/27 (if not overtaken before) and
take over S.O. of escort from PENYLAN.
2. BLEASDALE ordered to proceed to Milford Haven on relief by
W.A. Escort for duty as in A.M. 1912A/16. A.M. S.1835A/20
(para 6), 1852A/20, and C. in C. W.A. 1622A/21 also refer.
3. PENYLAN has defect which makes her unsuitable for ocean
passage.
C. in C. Plymouth is requested to order her to return to
Portsmouth on relief, escorting W.P. convoy if desired.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1540A/26 to Admty.)

S/M At 0800A/27. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S. 1554A/26.) See Lion Copy.

Four Request you will sail four arctic-fitted trawlers
Trawlers to Reykjavik to arrive by 3rd Dec. They will be
for required to act under the orders of C. in C. H.F.
Iceland. (A.C.N.S. H. 1603A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
A.M. 1603/26.
1. Request you will comply.
2. NORTHERN GEM completing working up at
Tobermory Nov. 29th may be sent if necessary.
(C. in C. W.A. 1926A/26 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

GURNARD 1. Request you will sail GURNARD on 28th Nov.
to pass through 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at 1800
29th thence diving by day through -
A. 049° 10' 009° 00'. B. 049° 10' 012° 26'. C. 045° 01' 012°
26' to waiting position 044° 50' 010° 01' W. GURNARD will be
ordered into a patrol zone when other S/Ms are clear.
2. Estimated S.O.A. of GURNARD 200 miles per day diving by day.
GURNARD to pass through position C at 0200/2nd.
3. Object of GURNARD in accordance with F.S.L. one.
(F.O.S. 1647A/26 to (?) N.O.I.C. Avonmouth.)
My 2101/26.

See p. 1085 (2) LAUDERDALE is required at Milford Haven by 1400A/29.
(3) Unless passage of GURNARD can be advanced to allow of this
C. in C. Plymouth is requested to relieve LAUDERDALE as requisite
using WOLVERINE if he has no other escort conveniently available.
(4) WOLVERINE to Londonderry on completion.
(C. in C. W.A. 2352A/26 to F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth.)

MIAOULES F.O.I.C. Tyne's 2005/25.
On her arrival at Scapa request you will take
MIAOULES under your orders for working up prior
to proceeding to the Mediterranean.
(D.O.D. (H.) 2016A/26 to R.A.D. H.F.)

MOST SECRET

1086A.

MOST SECRET ~~MESSAGE~~ 1544/26 November IN

From F.O.S.

Date 26/11/42.
Recd. 1636

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

154. Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/27th November and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. SEALION on patrol vicinity of 42 degs. 30' North 09 degs. 10' West.
- B. DOLFIJN on patrol Zone K 505. *see next page*
p.1088
- C. GRAPH on patrol Zone K 501.
- D. TRUANT position 49 degs. 32' North 10 degs. 09' West dived by day due 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles 0800A/28th to R/V with CUTTY SARK, thence Holy Loch.
- E. BLACKFISH escorted by LAUDERDALE position 54 degs. 28' North 05 degs. 04' West due Holy Loch 1500/27th November. *p.1085*
- F. P.314 escorted by CAPE PORTLAND leaves Barrow 1315/27th November for Holy Loch expected time of arrival 0900/28th November
- G. P.55 escorted by VALSE vicinity Cape Wrath for Holy Loch via Minches. LA CAPRICIEUSE takes over escort duties 0900A/27th November. Speed of advance 8 knots.
- H. JUNON on patrol in vicinity 69 degs. 40' North 16 degs. 20' East. *see next page*
- J. P.312 position 67 degs. 32' North 06 degs. 55' East on surface for Lerwick 8 knots.
- K. P.216 position 67 degs. 08' North 06 degs. 57' East on surface for Lerwick 8 knots.
- L. UREDD position 66 degs. 28' North 07 degs. 18' East on surface for Lerwick 7 knots.

1554A/26

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(H)

A.C.N.S. (H)
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.L.
I.F. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.N.I. (4)

REC

1087

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Upsilon" My 0234/25. Enquiry still proceeding. Do not attempt to carry out operation until you receive further instructions.
(F.O.S. 1217A/26 to JUNON.)

Patrols. ALBRIGHTON, M.G.B. 608, M.T.Bs 243, 95 and 85 are to proceed to Yarmouth Roads before dark today and remain there at immediate notice.

2. If ordered to proceed on patrol, ALBRIGHTON and coastal craft are to patrol in vicinity of 50° 20' N between QZX 776 and 2° W.
3. M.G.Bs 52 and 57 standing by at Portland.
4. CHASSEURS 41 (S.O.) and 5 patrolling south of E A 5. if weather allows.
5. ALBRIGHTON and coastal craft return to harbour as convenient after daylight 27th.
6. Attention drawn to C P G P 6283.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1310/26 to HORNET, Capt. D.I.)
My 1603/26.

Add M.L.300 sails Tyne 1900 for patrol east of Blyth returning daylight.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1825A/26.)

SEALION SEALION will probably be recalled on 1st Dec. If for reasons of fuel shortage SEALION is forced to withdraw before that date she is to proceed to vicinity of 043° N 010° 30' W and report situation. Onward route will then be signalled.
(F.O.S. 1734A/26 to S/Ms.)

Allied Air Activity.

Attack on enemy destroyers. Have attacked enemy consisting of 3 destroyers. P.C.S. of enemy 46° 28' N 4° 59' W 045° 20 knots.
(A/C C/S DJ5A 0215/26 to 15 Group.)

Catalinas for Gibraltar. Your 1150A/22. Approved.
(Air Ministry 1531A/26 to C.C.)

Anti-E-Boat sweep. 16 Group Aircraft will carry out anti-E-Boat Sweep between positions.
(A) 150° Portland Bill 20.
(B) 160° Start 20.
(C) 220° Eddystone 25.
from 1830 today till dawn 27th to cover passage of convoys.

2. To avoid contact between aircraft and our own forces convoy escorts are not to leave vicinity of convoys unless ordered, or unless requested by aircraft to attack damaged enemy.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1609/26 to Escorts P.W.254 and W.P.254.)

1088

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Clearance
of
QZX 866
etc.

Your 1133/19. 9th Minesweeping Flotilla will be placed under your orders when you require them. (D.M.S. 1238A/26 to F.O.C. Dover.)

Minelaying
Positions.
Operation
Q.U.2.

The following centre-positions for future minelaying operations are established.

1. Q.U.2. 52° 22' N 04° 24.5' E.
2. Q.U.3. 52° 33.5' N 04° 31.5' E.
3. Q.U.4. 52° 53.8' N 04° 39' E.
4. Q.U.5. 52° 53' N 04° 32' E.
5. Q.U.6. 53° 19' N 04° 43' E.

Prepare to carry out operation Q.U.2 on 30th Nov. or next suitable night with M.L.F.51 carrying A S Y 33 mines fitted with 40 day sterilizers.

(C. in C. Nore 1802A/26, and 1134A/29 to BEEHIVE.)

Humber.

At 1353/26 one magnetic mine exploded by sweepers in 048° Spurn Light 10 miles.

At 1415/26 one magnetic mine exploded by sweepers in 052° Spurn Light 11 miles. Details.

(F.O. Humber 2250A/26.)

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
M/Vs.

P.C.S. of enemy unit 6 M/Vs 47° 21' N 04° 45' W. (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty V. 0234/26 to 19 Group.) Aircraft reported one merchant ship 3 escorts 047° 50' N 004° 50' W course 190° at 2240/25. (F.O.S. 0242A/26 to S/Ms.)

Enemy
convoy.

Two enemy destroyers two merchant vessels in 043° 35' N 01° 38' W course 010° speed 14 knots. (A/C K5G Duty C. 1506/26 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.One U-Boat bearing 020° 2 miles course 060° speed 11 knots, my position 043° 31' N 008° 34' W.
* (DOLEYN 0740A/26 to Admt.)

* 1086A

U-Boat
attacked.

On day 24th Nov. N.W. of Ferrol a Halifax at 2,5000 ft., investigated a Wake seen 4 miles ahead. Identified a U-Boat. The U-Boat dived two or three seconds before the A/C attacked. 6 depth charges were dropped from 200 feet and the explosions straddled the U-Boat track. The Halifax circled for ten minutes but no results were observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1215A/26.)

1089

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.

A/S Cancel my 1848/28 Aug.
Bombs 8½ pound Bakelite bombs, but no larger size, may
for be used against all submarines when fully submerged
exercise. and against all British submarines on the surface
except H and Swordfish classes and ex U.S.A.
submarines. Bombs are not to be used against
Allied submarines on the surface pending the concurrence of
their respective Authorities, which is being sought.
2. When used against submarines on the surface the following
conditions are to obtain:
1. Personnel are not to be on the bridge or casing.
2. Aircraft are not to drop bombs until a set period after a
prearranged signal has been made by the submarine and a time
limit is to be imposed for each run.
3. Bombs are not to be dropped from a height greater than
300 feet.
(F.O.S. 1448A/26 and 1916A/29 to Capt. S. S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Casualties and Defects.

AVENGER C. in C. W.A. 1201/25. GLAISDALE reports
sup. 1095 (1) Heard and saw only one violent explosion
about 0320/15. Gathered AVENGER disintegrated.
(2) Incident took place when convoy had just completed emergency
turn to starboard.
(3) GLAISDALE picked up 535*survivors, 10 being from AVENGER.
(Capt. D.I. 1525A/26 to Admty.) * As received.

IRONCLAD IRONCLAD is reported ashore north of Hotdearvetz.
DANEMAN in company. Request you investigate and
report situation. No ships ready to leave Dvina.
On completion of present task detail one ship to remain with
DANEMAN and IRONCLAD, and the other to return to Iokanka.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1002A/26 to M/S.6.)
My 1044/26. Colonel Petrov will arrive in Soviet patrol
vessel (corrupt group) tomorrow and SCHVAL has been ordered to
proceed to IRONCLAD's assistance.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1317A/26 to DANEMAN.)
U.S. S.S. IRONCLAD ashore 4 miles 190° Veshnyak Island
Light. DANEMAN in attendance. Following damage reported.
Rudder damaged and useless, shaft (jammed?) flooded 4 feet water
in number 5 hold 12 feet starboard and 6 feet port side in
number 4 hold. Vessel has swung clear of rocks. Water gaining
only very slowly. Salvage Steamer*SALVAL is proceeding from
Iokanka to her assistance.*LEVER PETROVIN Soviet Patrol Boat
60 left Molotovsk today to take charge of salvage operations.
If refloated vessel will proceed Iokanka for temporary repairs,
and thence Kola Inlet.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1610A/26 to Admty.)**N.S. Inlet 10/19*

CLARE *sup. 1091* Sailed my 1317A/25. CLARE and SWALE delayed by
SWALE defects.
(Cdre. Londonderry 2230A/26.)

1090

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

TJALDUR

Your 1012/22. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 0305A/26.)
My 1608/26. Amend destination of CHIDDINGFOLD
and troop carrier to Aberdeen via South Fair Isle
Channel.
(A.C.O.S. 1756/26.)

Q.P.15. → ULSTER QUEEN arrived Seidisfiord 2245/25.
(A.C.I.C. 0440A/26.)

Following merchant ships in 068° 40' 011° 10'
at 0600/26. S.O.A. 8½ knots. TEMPLE ARCH (Cdre of convoy)
DAN-Y-BRYN (Vice Cdre. of convoy) EMPIRE MORN, CHARLES R.
MCCORMICK, COPELAND, escorted by BRITOMART, HAZARD, BERGAMOT,
BRYONY. INTREPID and LEDBURY proceeding Seidisfiord.
(2) After fuelling intend INTREPID, LEDBURY and two others
rejoin Cdre. a.m. 27th. when corvettes and minesweepers will be
sent Seidisfiord as convenient to fuel.
(3) Cdre. should arrive off Seidisfiord about 1000A/27.

→ *INTREPID 0720A/26.)

Have serious condenser trouble and am only able to do 4
knots. My position 068° 05' N 011° 40' W, course 226°.
Request assistance.

→ *SALAMANDER 1042A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

→ My 1700/24. para 3. SAN AMBROSIO should be sailed in
compliance with A.M. 1511/24. FORESTER may be started as escort
but, if not so required, is to come under orders of Capt. D.8.
My 1249/25 refers.

(C. in C. H.F. 1043A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

E.T.A. in LONDON 2300 today.

(C.S.I. 1137A/26 to C. in C. H.F. A.C.O.S. (R) ONSLAUGHT.)

My P.C.S. at 1200A, 067° 49' N 013° 43' W, 208° 9 knots.

Russian BELMORCANAL in company intercepted at 072° N 003° W at
2230/24. Capt. D.8's 1030A/24. Searched vicinity 075° 30' N
008° E for 10 hours without success. Abandoned search in
northerly gale. Swept route from EE through ZZ to present
positions. Nothing further seen.

(ORWELL 1202A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

My P.C.S. are 064° 29' N 013° 48' W 230° 15 knots. E.T.A.
Hvalfiord 0900A/27. Weather 0904 3100.

(SUFFOLK 1231A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

→ SALAMANDER 1042A/26. FORESTER and IMPULSIVE are proceeding
at 1400A to assist SALAMANDER.

(Capt. D.8. 1232A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

From information received it is possible that some ships
may be in an area bound by 065° N to 068° N and 000° to 008° W.
Request air R/C.

(Capt. D.8. 1245A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

→ SALAMANDER's 1042/26. Detail 1 destroyer or escort vessel
who has fuelled to proceed to assist SALAMANDER.

(A.C.I.C. 1305A/26 to Capt. D.8.)

→ Your 1025/26. SAN AMBROSIO cannot sail until she has
transferred lubricating oil and diesel fuel to SCOTTISH AMERICAN
due Seidisfiord today. If she is ready in time concur in SAN
AMBROSIO joining Q.P.15. If not ready she must sail as already
arranged escorted by FORESTER. In meantime FORESTER may be used
as required by you. Concur in your other proposals.

(A.C.I.C. 1310A/26 to Capt. D.8.)

→ INTREPID 0720A/26. INTREPID, LEDBURY, SHARPSHOOTER,
BLUEBELL will act as escort. WILLIAM MOULTRIE and ULSTER QUEEN
will join off Seidisfiord.

(Capt. D.8. 1450A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

/Have...

1091

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - con/s.

- Q.P.15. Contd. Have effected temporary repairs. Am now making 8 knots. My position 067° 55' N 011° 56' W. (SALAMANDER 1500A/26 to A.C.I.C.) Proceed passing Switha 1200A/27 to Hvalfiord routed through 058° 50' N 007° 02' W thence through Reykjanes Passage. On arrival act under orders SUFFOLK. (R.A.D. H.F. 1642A/26 to FURY.) 7 merchant ships stragglers from Q.P.15 have arrived Akureyri today. (A.C.I.C. 1920A/26.) Your 1245/26. Air cover will be given to main convoy and search for stragglers will be made to northwards along Q (?P) track. (A.C.I.C. 1946A/26 to Capt. D.8.) INTREPID's 0720A/26. For EMPIRE BAFFIN read EMPIRE MORN. E.T.A. position QQ 1000A/27. (BRITOMART 2015A/26 to A.C.I.C.) My 1920A. Names of merchant ships are - EMPIRE TRISTRAM, VIRGINIA DARE, PATRICK HENRY, OCEAN FAITH, SAHALE, and two Russian ships anchored off Hrisey Island. (A.C.I.C. 2235A/26.) TEMPLE ARCH (Cdre of convoy) DAN-Y-BRYN (Vice Cdre of convoy) EXFORD, ESEK HOPKINS, WILLIAM MOULTRIE, CHARLES R. MACCORMICK, EMPIRE MORN, COPELAND, ULSTER QUEEN, BELMORCANAL pass by Seidisfiord 1100/27 routed as in C. in C. H.F. 0148/24. 2. Escort. INTREPID (S.O.) ICARUS, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA. Add para 1 - EMPIRE SNOW. (Cape D.8. 2250A/26 1324A/27 to A.C.I.C.) Your 2032A/26. Join Cdre. in position QQ at 1000A/27, thence ORWELL to Seidisfiord. (Capt. D.8. 2258A/26 to ORWELL.) Your 1245/26. 2 Catalina aircraft will search area from 1005 to 2003 tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth 2338A/26 to Capt. D.8.)
- S.C.109. Detach U.S.S. LEARY to Iceland forthwith. (C. in C. W.A. 0844Z/26 to SKEENA.)
- K.M.F.4. Intend to sail Clyde portion pass Clyde Boom 2300A/27. to R/V with Liverpool portion in position (D) at 1000A/28. Codeword "Collins". (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0938A/26.) My 1317A/25. *CLARE will be delayed by defect. Intend sailing her to join K.M.F.4 in position D at 0900Z/28. A.M. 2335A/22 refers. * *See p. 1089.* (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1054A/26.) A.M. 1357/20 para 6. TANATSIDE will provide additional escort as far as Gibraltar in place of PHILANTE who is unable to sail owing to defects. 2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to return TANATSIDE to U.K. from Gibraltar using her as escort for the first convenient convoy. (D.O.D. (H.) 1242A/26.) My 1357/20, para 1 Sec. (a). AORANGI, WINCHESTER CASTLE and CALIFORNIA EXPRESS will not sail with convoy. STRATHEDEN destination Algiers will be included in Clyde section. (D.O.D. (H.) 1307A/26.) A.M. 1357/20. para 1 (a). Amend destination of HELVIG to read Algiers. (D.O.D. (H.) 2204A/26.)

/Your...

1092

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - 4 on 15.

- K.M.F.4. Your 1532/25. *p. 1048*
Contd. 1. For SARDONYX read HURRICANE.
2. Request you will give necessary orders to HURRICANE who is to proceed Liverpool on completion of escort.
(C. in C. W.A. 2237A/26 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- D.S.34. Route (P) 270° Oversay 6 miles (Q) 058° 30' N 014° 30' W (R) 060° 50' N 020° 30' W, thence Reykjavik. Codeword "Product".
(C. in C. W.A. 1024A/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- K.M.S.4. My 1106A/23. Amend time of commencement of sweep to read 0900Z/27.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1033A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
- N.T. 1206/25.* My 1206/25. Amend R/V in position Z. 52° 27' N 14° 38' W at 0900Z/29. Speed 7½ knots.
(C. in C. W.A. 1058A/26 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff.)
- N.T. 1902/14.* My 1902/14, para 1 Section O. BLENHEIM will not sail. Section G add SS. HAMPTON LODGE.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1253A/26.)
- K.M.S.4. The following sailed 2230. Pendant numbers of ships.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 2350/26 to D.S.T.)
- CONQUEROR You will be required to act as additional escort
F.S.472 in F.S.472.
F.N.877 (2) On meeting F.N.877 transfer and act as special
E.N.68F escort within convoy to ASHANTIAN.
W.N.67 (3) On arrival Methil you are to give maximum
ASHANTIAN protection in anchorage to that ship.
(4) Sail with E.N.68 (fast) which leaves Methil at 2130/20th. Close escorts SALTARELO, SPURS.
Again give special protection within convoy to ASHANTIAN.
(5) Transfer and give A.A. cover to W.N.67. Close escorts VELETA, COTILLION.
(6) Throughout 2,3 and 4 your primary duty is the protection of ASHANTIAN.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1120A/26 to CONQUEROR.) (See also C. in C. Rosyth 0711A/28.)
- A.T.29. Admty. 0145/18. As the only destroyers available
(QUEEN are SARDONYX, LEAMINGTON, BADSWORTH, two latter
ELIZABETH) of whom are working up, propose destroyer escort be not provided.
(C. in C. W.A. 1252A/26 to Admty.)
- M.K.S.2. N.P. and N.K. Amend route from new M. 40° 01' N 16° 29' W to new N. 49° 28' N 16° 30' W to new O. 55° 05' N 10° 02' W thence to K.
(D.O.D. H. 1710A/26 to Escorts M.K.S.2.)
- P.Q.19. Replenishing stores of 5 British ships mentioned in Admty. 1847/23 should be on basis of 6 months voyage. Ships should be ready to sail fully stored, bunkered and watered during 2nd week Dec.
(D.S.T. 1944A/26 to D.S.T.O. Iceland)

War Diary.

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

THE
EARL.

Your 1732A/26. ^{N.S.M.D.} Diversion not passed.
(HORNPIPE 2130A/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

1094

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

French Shipping N. Africa. Agwar, Washington, R. 3568, from Combined Chiefs of Staff to Eisenhower, 0200Z/26. See Lion Copy.

C.S.12. Following is a repetition of my 1135A/24th. (N.C.X.F. 1829A/26 to all concerned in "Torch" etc.)

A/S Air Searches. T.C.A. 0.11, Nov. 27th, intend A/S air escort. T.E.6, one C dawn to dusk, one H dawn to 1300. M.K.F. 3, one C dawn to dusk, one H dawn to 1300. M.K.S.2, one C dawn to dusk. Intend A/S air search four S/L Wellington between :-
035° and 037° N. to 016° W. from 2200 26th to 0800 27th. Four C between 034° and 036° N. to 023° W. all day. Five H between 035° and 037° N. to 014° W. 1000 to 1900. (N.C.X.F. 1916A/26 to all concerned in "Torch".)

Reports of Damage to Ships. My 1651A/17. Request that in addition to letters X and Y the letter D for Duff be used to signify that dry docking is required in U.K. (D.T.D. 1942A/26 to N.C.X.F.)

North Atlantic.

P.54. Your 1905/25th. Return to Gibraltar diving by day by reverse of your outward route. Report E.T.A. Cape Palos when you cross 041° 00' N. (Capt. S.8 0720A/26 to P.54 (R) 8th S.F.)
*see pp 1102
71103A*

Air Report. A.1 187. Opsum to midnight 25th November. U/B sightings and attacks. Catalina ?L/210 A 1117 hrs. 36.36 N. 11.31 W. 270/12 kts sighted on surface but submerged before attack could be made. Catalina L/210 at 1324 or 1024 hrs. 36.18 N. 10.30 W. 270/8-10 kts. attacked with (?D/Cs) which fell 50 - 60 yards ahead of swirl on U/Bs tract, nothing seen. Catalina U/210 at 1132 hrs. 41.10 N. 12.00 W. 350/10 kts. submerged before attack could be made. Wellington H/179 at 0148 hrs. 39.39 N. 11.35 W. 350/15 kts. sighted by S/L. U/B fired 2 star white red cartridge and opened fire on A/C which still held U/B in S/L. M/G fire hit A/C and wounded pilot. Attack pressed home and four D/Cs released, first of which exploded 10 ? yds. from starboard quarter. A/C also attacked with guns. U/B made no attempt to dive and was last seen on surface. No oil bubbles or wreckage observed. A U.S.A.A.F. A/C sighted a U/B at 1300 hrs. position 33.32 N. 08.10 W. (Gibraltar 0735Z/26.)

/DRAGON ...

MOST SECRET

1094A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0200Z/26th Nov. IN.

From: Agwar Washington.

Date 26.11.42.
Recd: 0500

Addressed: Usfor. London.

No. R.3583. 26th Nov. 1942.

URGENT.

From: Combined Chiefs of Staff.

To: Eisenhower.

Importance of moving French ships from North Africa promptly is concurred by the combined shipping adjustment board in Washington. You are authorized at your discretion to make best possible temporary arrangements under which rights of both parties for long-term agreement will not be prejudiced. We have no objection to temporary use French Flag for voyages to United States or United Kingdom provided ample measures are taken to prevent escape of any ship to a neutral port. Permanent arrangements would have to be worked out between representatives North African French and combined shipping adjustment board as such arrangements necessarily will affect arrangements now being negotiated in connection with other French ships. **FAN 23***. We agree that under long-term arrangements this French North African shipping should be pooled for Allied uses and that North African French should depend upon fair allocation of shipping by combined shipping adjustment board in same manner as other Allied Nations.

As information, the cargo of food, drugs, and other supplies has been taken over by Lend Lease and will be forwarded with Army cargo in early convoy; these supplies originally booked to be carried to North Africa by four French ships now being held here for arming and degaussing.

0200A/26.

Recd: in War Reg.0205/27. * Presumably No.1124 from Commandeth, Gibraltar.
Relayed to Algiers under the same number.

(Circulation)

1st Lord.

1st S.L.(2)

D.F.S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F) (2)

A.C.N.S.(W)

A.C.N.S.(T)

P.A.S.(S)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H) (2)

D.O.D.(F) (2)

D.N.I.(4)

D of P (2)

D.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D of P (2)

D.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D of P (2)

Hd of S.(2)

L.P.(2)

W.D.

Brigadier Jacob.

Foreign Secretary

First Sea Lord.

C.G. Tels. War Office.

A.M.C.S.(C)

C.C.O.

Ad. Blake,

D.T.D.(3)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

D.E.W.D.(3)

MOST SECRET

1095

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

DRAGON. Arrived Ponta Delgada 1100 G.M.T. 26th.
See p. 109513 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0935/26 to S.O.(I.) Gib.)
 Passed by N.S.C.O. Ponta Delgada. Admiralty
 pass to all addressees. Ref. F.O.C.W.Af. 1119Z/20th. S. of
 A. 16 knots. E.T.A. position K 2200Z/30th.
 (DRAGON 1955Z/26 to Admty.)
 / Passing action being taken by War Registry to C. in C. Western
 Approaches. Repetition of address being obtained.
 / Re sailing of H.M.S. DRAGON and route.

RHYL, My 1245Z/25th, part 1. T.O.O. 1237Z/25th.
 patrol. Date of R/V postponed on verbal instructions
 from C. in C. A.F.
 (S.N.O. Casablanca 1010Z/26 to RHYL, BARNEGAT (R)
 N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar.)

ADVENTURE. Request you will sail ADVENTURE as early as
 convenient escorted by two destroyers to 1700'W.
 thence independently for U.K. Admiralty is
 requested to arrange escort to meet and to
 communicate destination.
 (N.C.X.F. 1017A/26 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty.,
 C. in C. W.A.)

IMPERIALIST, ALRESFORD apparently not in Melilla. INNESMOOR
 Melilla not entering until 1600. My position 090°
 M/Vs. Melilla 3 miles. Request instructions.
See p. 10953 Weather report.
 (IMPERIALIST 1030A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)
 Your 1030/26th. Remain in vicinity of Melilla until
 INNESMOOR is ready to sail on completion of loading.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 1309A/26.)

LEYLAND Regret to report LEYLAND sunk when on patrol
 sunk. on Gibraltar Bay, as a result of a collision with
 merchant ship. Further report follows.
 (V.A.C.N.A. 1038A/26 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

AVENGER. Your 1935A/24 (1933/24 intended, re loss of
See p. 1089 AVENGER) No information available here.
 (2) 12 survivors of whom Senior was a Petty
 Officer were sent to U.K. in SS MOOLTAN in M.K.F.2.
 (V.A.C.N.A. 1040A/26 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

MARIA My 1818/23 (Ships leaving Genoa for ports West of
 VICTORIA. Gibraltar on approved voyages) SS. MARIA VICTORIA
See p. 1096 sailing postponed until 28th November.
 (D.E.W.D. 1112A/26 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)

/BALDUR ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1310/26th Nov. IN.

From: F.O.C.N.A. Date 26.11.42.

Recd: 1953

Naval Cypher (3) S by W/T.

Addressed: Situation Report for Area 'X' of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

(1) H.M.S. CLYDE, 036° 10' 006° 35' on surface 12½ through 36 40 07 30 to 225° St. Vincent 10 at 0700 27th thence dived by day 2½ course 338° *See p. 1085 91096*

(2) M K S 2, H.M.S. BLACK SWAN, H.M.S. MYOSOTIS, H.M.S. CARNATION, H.M.S. MALLOW, H.M.S. AUBRETTIA, (?H.M.S. FOWEY), CAMPION, STONECROP, LA MA LOUINE, 38 06 13 55 through 38 28 15 01 thence 322° 7.

(3) Portuguese S/m GOFINHO, Portuguese S/m DELFIM, gunboat LAGOS, ~~CEZIMBRA~~ *CEZIMBRA* area, East of Cape Espichel.

(4) M K F 3, LANCASTER, H.M.S. WESTON, H.M.S. WELLINGTON, H.M.S. FOLKESTONE, WELLS, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, 036° 01' 006° 08' through 036° 01' 006° 35' and 036° 25' 007° 10' and 036° 30' 010° 01' thence 296° 13. *See p. 1096*

(5) U G S 2, 6 destroyers, 031° 15' 021° 02' through 031° 15' 017° 30' thence to 087° 9. *See next page*

(6) M K S 2 (a), H.M.S. GERANIUM, H.M.S. SPIREA, H.M.S. HONEYSUCKLE, COLTSFOOT, HYDERABAD, LOTUS, sailing 1800A 27th through 036° 00' 006° 25' and 036° 01' 007° 20' thence to 270° 7.

1310A/26

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (H) - . . .

- 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.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)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Ad. Blake (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- D.H.S.
- D.N.I. (4)

1095B

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1312A/26th November.

IN

Date, 26.11.42.

From, F.O.C.N.A.

Reed, 2102.

Naval Cypher 3 By W/T.

Addressed. Situation Report for Area Y of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation 1958A/26th.

- 1. H.M.S. DRAGON leaves Ponta Delgada 1000A 27th through 40 01 23 01 thence 013 degs. 14. *see p. 1095*
- 2. U.G.S. 2, 6 destroyers, 31 15 21 02 through 31 15 17 30 thence 087 degs. 9. *see previous page.*
- 4. Swedish relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA, 36 01 27 19 090 degs. 12.
- 5. Trawlers BREDON, DUNKERBY, BUSSLER, approach Horta from North West speed 10 knots. E.T.A. dawn 27th, dawn 28th, dawn 29th, respectively, DUNGFON, INKPEN, BIRDLIP, INDIAN STAR, in company.

1312A/26. *see next page*

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H)

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- H.A.1st B.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.Blake (2)
- Ad.Ramsey (4)
- D.I.S.
- D.N.I.(4)
- F.O.S. By courier.
- A.L.O.
- D.E.W.D.(3)

AJA.

SECRET

1095c

1314A/26th November.
IN.

SECRET.

MESSAGE

From. F.O.C. North
Atlantic.

Date. 26. 11. 42.

Room. 2100.

NAVAL CIPHER 'S' BY W/T.

Addressed. Situation Report for Area "Z" of North Atlantic
Station.

IMPORTANT.

(One) *TREMERA, H.M.S. CYCLIMEN, 020 degs. 06 mins.
018 degs. 40 mins. to southward 12. * *see 10.1098*

(2) Trawler BREDCON, DUNKERK, BUSIER approaching
Horta from northward and westward speed 10 knots expected time
of arrival dawn 27th dawn 28th dawn 29th respectively DUNCTON,
INCPIN, BIRDLIP, INDIASAR in company. *see previous page.*

1314A/26.

Advance Copy Sent Ops., O.D.

V.C.N.S. Capt. Pim,

A.C.N.S. (H) Ad. Hso.

A.C.N.S. (F) Ops. (3)

N.A. 1st S.L. O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (3)

I.P. (3)

D.S.D.9. (2)

D.A/S.W.

D.M.S.

W.D.

D.T.D. (4)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

D.M.S. Citadel.

EC.

MOST SECRET

1095D

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1420A/26th Nov. IN.
From: F.O.C.N.A., Date 26.11.42,
Recd: 1719.

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T.

Addressed: Ships and Authorities Area G.
IMPORTANT.

Brief situation report for area
west of Algiers 2001A 26th. S/ms excepted.

(1) H.M.S. AURORA, BRILLANT, 36 32 North 01 34 West
through 12 to Algiers 24. *Supp. 1096 3101*

(2) T E six 36 07 North 03 47 West through 70 68
93 seven knots

(3) IMPERIALIST off Melilla. *Supp. 1095*

~~(4) ST. NECTAN and one merchant ship 35 54
North 05 05 West through 35 50 04 59 West to
Melilla 8.~~

*Cancelled
FOCNA 1720A*

1420A/26

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.,
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.L. 1st S.L.
Capt Pin
D.O.D.(H) (2)
D.O.D.(F) (2)
Duty Capt (2)
U.S.N.
D./S.V.
Hd of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.F. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
L of P (2)
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Ramsey (4)

1096

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

BALDUR,
Bilbao. Your 1825/24 (particulars of vessel 61) Please repeat name, approx. G.T. and length. BALDUR 5805 G.T. was sunk off Norway in February 1940. (D.D.I.C. 1134A/26 to Consul, Bilbao.) Reply: 1659/27.

AURORA,
BRILLIANT. Sailed N.C.X.F. in AURORA, BRILLIANT. (F.O.C.N.A. 1245A/26 to Admty. Cmdre. Algiers, F.O.I.S., (R) N.C.X.F.)
*See p. 1095D
1101*

CLYDE. Capt. (S) 8's 1150/25. Sailed 1400. Only such Q messages affecting passage held. (F.O.C.N.A. 1452A/26 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc., 1701 A/26 to Escorts M.K.F.3.)
*See p. 1095A
1095A*

SEAKAY. SEAKAY with MAYO and NIBLACK arrived Casablanca, 1135Z (? today). (S.N.O. Casablanca 1455A/26 to N.C.X.F.)

M.K.F.3. Sailed WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, WELLS, LANCASTER, ARCHER, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, WAVENEY with M.K.F.3. (F.O.C.N.A. 1708A/26 to Admty., C. in C. W.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)
See p. 1095A

Swiss
Cargoes
for Genoa. N.A. Madrid's 1930/20. para. 2. When vessels are due to call at Gibraltar for control there is no need to arrange safe conduct through Admty. In such cases F.O.C.N.A. will notify movements to naval and air forces. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to reply to para.1. (Head of M. approved by A.C.N.S.(F) 1758A/26 to N.A. Madrid, F.O.C.N.A.)

Spanish
M/V. Spanish Merchantman left harbour 1700 G.M.T. for France. (Consul, Bilbao 1822/26 to Admty.)

MARIA
VICTORIA. My 1005/24th. Sailing of MARIA VICTORIA delayed until 28th November. (F.O.C.N.A. 2241A/26 to S. and A. Area G, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, (R) N. Cdr.X.F. Admty.)
See p. 1095.

T.L.
Ships. The two tank landing ships should be sailed for Gib. at once with their escort. (N.C.X.F. 2300/26 to F.O.I.C. Casablanca (R) F.O.C.N.A. High Commissioner in AURORA.)

1097

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

POLYDORUS. Following received from POLYDORUS at 2330Z/25th. Position 008° 53' N. 028° 55' W. Gunned by S/M. (2) Plotted position of POLYDORUS was 009° 42' N. (017°?) 00' W. Proceeding to Freetown at 13 knots. (3) Report immediately if gunfire sighted and estimated position. (F.O.C.W.A. 0015Z/26 to ARRAN (R) Admty.)

Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercepted 0717 G.M.T. 500 k/cs (POLYDORUS) SSSS unread 54' N. 27° 4' W. unread. Reception doubtful. Controlling station Lands End Radio. (C. in C. Plymouth 0821/26 to Admty.)

Following received from POLYDORUS. Intercepted by Portishead Radio 0736 G.M.T. SSSS 7.54 N. 27.4 W. continuous shelling. (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O. Recd. 0857/26.) Intercepted 0726 G.M.T. (POLYDORUS) SSSS 7.54 N. 27.6 W. gunned by submarine. (Portishead Radio No T.O.O. 26 Recd. 0950.) Intercepted by Portishead Radio 0758 G.M.T. SSSS 7.41 N. 27.03 W. at 0800 G.M.T. chased by submarine. (POLYDORUS No T.O.O./26.) Intercepted 0847 G.M.T. from POLYDORUS. SSSS 7.41 N. 27.3 W. submarine chasing and shelling again at 0840. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1000/26.) Intercepted by Portishead Radio 0930 G.M.T. SSSS at 0930 G.M.T. 7.36 N. 27.9 W. our fire caused submarine to drop astern to 7 miles. (POLYDORUS No T.O.O. Recd. 1036/26.) Following received from POLYDORUS. Submarine dropping astern, heading south east. (Portishead Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1154/26.)

DORINGTON COURT. DORINGTON COURT reported sunk 100 miles North of Inhaka. 40 British survivors. Details will be signalled when obtained. *See next page* (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 0917B/26 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. Cdre. Durban.)

Coastal Convoys. Should coastal convoys between Lagos and Pointe Noire be reconstituted following procedure will be adopted. (1) F.O.W.A. informs R. N.O. Lagos and B.N.L.O. W.A. escorts. (2) Main southbound convoy will be organized by R. N.O. Lagos who will signal addressees repeated F.O. W.A. Admty., intending date of convoy leaving Lagos. On receipt of this signal addressees are to send immediately names, speed and destination of ships expected to join. R. N.O. Lagos will then signal R/V and pendant numbers of convoy instructions being passed at R/V. (3) Main northbound convoy will be organized by B.N.L.O. W.A. in same manner. (4) Intermediate convoys between Port Harcourt and Lagos will be organised by R. N.O. Lagos. (F.O.C.W.A. 1131Z/26 to R.N.O. Lagos, B.N.L.O.W.A., N.C.S.O. Duala etc.)

/My 0917/26 ...

1098

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

DORINGTON COURT. My 0917/26. Information incorrect. Ship is DORINGTON COURT in position 135° Inhaka 105 miles, 38 survivors, 4 missing.
See previous page (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 1150B/26 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. Durban, Admty.)
My 1150/26th. Master reports ship hit by torpedo and sunk by gunfire from 2 submarines after being abandoned. One submarine of 1500 tons freshly painted. Other not clearly seen.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 1510B/26 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. Durban.)

BURMA. Request report of latest position regarding BURMA.
2. Owners are very averse to ship being towed to Durban.
3. For your information it is intended to retain her in service as troopship after repairs have been effected.
(D.S.T., 1022A/26 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini, (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban.)

Experimental Marine Craft. My 1518/6 Nov. and Admty. 2105/12th Nov. (circulated to D.F.S.L. only) it appears that with exception of automatic control of plane incidence Hook has been working on parallel lines to Admiralty in this matter, in view of his circumstances there is every likelihood that he will take his ideas and results of experiments to other interested parties if his services are not required by Admiralty. Request early instructions on this point in order that Hook may be told definitely whether Admiralty are interested.
(C. in C. S.A., 1053C/26 to Admty.)

ARMERIA. From position (F) 020° 01' N. 018° 40' W. proceed to (G) 015° N. 019° W. thence Bathurst. Report E.T.A.
See p. 1095c (R.A.W.A.F., 1201Z/26 to ARMERIA, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.C.N.A.)

F.T.T.3. Departure 26th Nov. BRIDGEWATER, MORRIS DANCE with F.T.T.3.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1337Z/26 to Admty.) *See p. 1098B*

BANFORA. H.M. Transport BANFORA sailed 24th Nov. E.T.A. Pernambuco 7th Dec. Requirements. Passengers on board.
(S.T.O. Capetown, 1402Z/26 to Admty., etc.)

A/S Trawlers for Cape Area. Departures 25th Nov. p.m. for Freetown, CAPE WARWICK, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY and LE TIGER.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1420Z/26 to Admty.)

/FROBISHER ...

MOST SECRET

1098A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

12430/26/November.

From O.in C. South Atlantic

Date 27.11.42.

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Time 1325.

Addressed A.I.G.125

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, and ROTHERHAM, with W.S.24,
034 degs 15' South 005 degs (230') West to Cape 13.3 knots.

NIPAL, and H.M.S. FORTUNE, with D.C. one, 035 degs
South 019 degs 30' East to Capetown 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

THYME, with C.F.9, 031 degs 30' South 017 degs East
to Freetown 14 knots.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, 030 degs South 009 degs East to
034 degs 30' South 003 degs East (215) knots.

H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, 017 degs 30' South 011 degs East
to Pointe Noire 20 knots.

SOUTHERN BARRIER, TERJE, ROODEPORT, STELLENBERG,
and STEENBERG, searching in the vicinity 033 degs South
011 degs 30' East.

12430/26

Advance copy sent 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.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. of P.(2)

D.M.S.

Ad. Blake

E.M.

MOST SECRET

1098B

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1251Z/26th November IN

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 26.11.42.
Recd. 2018.

NAVAL CYPHER 'M'3. BY W/T

Addressed Ships in Area 'P' of South Atlantic Station
South of 8 degs. North Admiralty C. in C.
South Atlantic N.C.I/C. Takoradi R.N.O.
Lagos.

IMPORTANT

NORWICH CITY, from Freetown to Robertport. 9.
BRIDGEWATER, MORRIS DANCE, escorting, 07 55 14 30 unknown
8 at 2000Z/26th. *See p. 1098.*
ARCTIC EXPLORER, WELLARD, 06 50 15 40 to Freetown 9½.
H.M.S. ASTURIAS, 07 30 15 25 to Freetown 14.
H.M.S. PIGEON, 05 10 11 01 to Robertport 10.
H.M.S. HYDRANCEA, ORFASY, Motor Launch, with S.T. 25, about
04 40 10 15 to Marshall thence Freetown 8.
H.M.S. RUMBA, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, 2 Motor Launches,
with S T 44, 04 40 09 55 to Pointe Noire 02 07 36 thence
076 degs. 8.
SOUTHERN GEM, about 02 35 04 10 searching for A/C.
F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, escorting, 02 01 (900) 40
(9094 degs. or 303 degs.) (910)½.
HOLCOMBE, H.M.S. ST. WISTAN, escorting from Lagos to
Takoradi 8.
CANNA, H.M.S. SPANIARD, escorting from Takoradi to Lagos 8.
H.M.S. ST. ZENO, H.M.S. NORTHERN DAWN, H.M.S. COVENTRY CITY,
H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE, tugs, off Takoradi to Pointe
Noire 5½.
Submarine P.552 off Pointe Noire 182 9.

1251Z/26.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D. (F) D.T.D.

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)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A/S.W.
Head of IL
W.D.
I. P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)

D.M.S.
D.D.O.D. (G)
D.T.D. (3).

MAIL.

1099

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

FROBISHER, (C. in C. E.F., 1621Z/26.)
BIRMINGHAM, See East Indies.
HAWKINS.

West Africa, political situation. West Africa War Council yesterday considered matters arising out of operations in North Africa as they affected this area.

2. Council viewed with some concern U.S.A. arrangements with Darlan and Boisson particularly as affecting local relations with the Free French. My personal loyalty to Free French ships under my command is involved and I would wish to reassure them as soon as possible. At present they are disgusted and inclined to blame British Government.

3. Resident Minister has sent telegram to Minister of Defence stressing importance of maintaining unified direction of Naval operations in West Africa Area including Dakar and hopes this will be borne in mind where spheres of influence are considered. Council felt arrangements for naval liaison with Dakar should be in British hands.

4. Doubts were expressed whether deep water quay project at Freetown should be continued in view of shipping space entailed. Governor, Sierra Leone, asked to report whether quay required for non-operational purposes. I expect he will reply, no, particularly as piles ex South Africa may not resist teredo and Government does not want to be left with difficult maintenance problem.

5. I told Council I thought Admiralty would wish to continue with Naval Dockyard and corvette jetty, though floating dock might be held if Dakar became available to us. If delay acceptable under new conditions Freetown timber could eventually build corvette jetty and save shipping space from Guiana.

6. Aerodrome construction. It is suggested that work should stop on certain aerodrome principally fighter and army co-operation. Possibility of Hastings being turned over to Navy was mentioned as was use of Komenda by R.A.F. for sea R/C duties. A.O.C. and I will forward recommendations shortly.

7. Council agreed no action can be taken pending decisions on policy from home on these matters but any early guidance which can be given would be welcome.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1833Z/26 to Admty.)

CUBA. Your 1723/24 (request whether CUBA could join convoy in North Atlantic on way to U.K.) Ship will proceed independently throughout voyage.
(D.T.D., 1921A/26 to F.O.C.W.A.)

O.N.S. 146. Hove to in 45° 50' N. 35° 00' W. at 1000Z/25. Convoy scattered, southbound ships proceeding independently as routed.
(D.T.D., 1949A/26 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) C. in C., S.A., S.O.(I.), Montevideo.)

/Suspicious ...

1100

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Suspicious Ship, S. Georgia. An unidentified ship was sighted at 1315Z/24 30 miles N.E. of Grytviken, South Georgia (54° S. 38° W.) Comment: (1) No allied ships are known to have been in this area at the time. (2) Description of ship fits that of PERSÉE (ex PIERRE L.D.) which was last reported in Far East and is likely to make passage to Europe. (D.D.I.C., 2017A/26 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.S, Cominch, Comsolantfor, N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands.)

Movements. Departure 25th Nov. Brazilian Submarine Chaser C.S.2. Departure 26th British Cable Ship CAMBRIA. (R.O. Pernambuco, 2022Z/26 to Admty.)

ALDINGTON COURT (sunk 21st October.) CITY OF CHRISTIANIA arrived Montevideo yesterday with 3rd Officer and 9 other survivors from British ALDINGTON COURT sunk by 2 torpedoes at 2045 G.M.T. 31st Oct. in 030° 20' S. 002° 10' W. C.Bs. thrown overboard in weighted bag before ship sank. S/M large with 2 4" guns. Boats were called alongside and Chief Officer questioned by German Officer. 2nd Boat with Master and 27 men last seen 2nd Nov. heading E.S.E. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2112Z/26 to Admty.)

A.N.D. Ships. Your 1730/14th Oct. which is amendment to instructions for Master of A.N.D. Ships. Request verification that position to be added and deleted is 004° N. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 2127Z/26 to Admty.)

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War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

AURORA. My 2111/25th (N.T. in W.D.) Route through position 82, 76, and 12 to arrive Algiers ^{See p/109539} daylight tomorrow Friday. S. of A. 24 knots, fighter protection priority 3 in Oran sector. (N.C.X.F., 0955A/26 to AURORA, (R) BRILLIANT, F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H, Cdre. Algiers, F.O. Oran, Capt. (S) 8.)

WOOLWICH. My 1051/25th (N.T. in W.D.) WOOLWICH is to leave Port Said p.m. 27th Nov. to arrive Alexandria a.m. 28th Nov. escorted by PAKENHAM, PETARD, *GUILLEMOT, EXMOOR and 2 further escorts as detailed by N.O.I.C. Alexandria who is requested to sail EXMOOR to arrive Port Said as convenient on 27th Nov. Any merchant ship of suitable speed awaiting escort to Alexandria may be included. (C. in C. Med., 0028B/26 to F.O.(D) Med., N.O.I.Cs. Port Said and Alex.) * at Harwich - ? 240X1111A m/26 - See p.1143.

"Hunts". 2 "Hunts" with good endurance will be required to sail for Port Said p.m. on 29th Nov. Report names. (C. in C. Med., 0034B/26 to DULVERTON, (R) ORION.)

PARTRIDGE, LOOKOUT. E.T.A. 0630A, LOOKOUT in company. (PARTRIDGE, 0115A/26 to S.O. Force H, (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, etc.)

P.228. Your 1340/25th. My position 038° 48' 003° 07'. E. Estimated S. of A. 160 miles per day. Weather report. ^{See p.1103A} (P.228, 0130A/26 to Capt. S.8, (R) Subs. on patrol.)

P.228's 0130. P.228 is to pass 135° Cape Palos 10 at 0500/27th, 180 Cape de Gata 10 at 2300/27th and then proceed on surface at discretion 10 miles from Spanish coast to arrive Gibraltar 1300A/28th. (Capt. S.8, 1146A/26 to 8 S.F., (R) N.C.X.F.)

Force "Q". Return to Algiers. (S.O.I.S., 0231A/26 to Force Q.)

Water, Oran. This is S.T.O. Liaison Oran message 1843A/25 addressed D. of S.T. London, (R) P.S.T.O. "Torch", Gibraltar, (begins). Owing to severe shortage of water request all ships routed to Oran area carry maximum quantity of fresh water and be ordered to discharge utmost possible before leaving. (S.T.O. Liaison, Oran, 0846A/26 to D.S.T.)

/Movements

War Diary.

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. Arrival 25th Nov. M.L. 358, REDWOOD, G.S. SAKTOURIS, NUBIAN. Departure 25th Nov. SOUTHERN SEA, PINDOS, DELPHINIUM, HURSLEY, KELVIN, DIDO, JERVIS, EURYALUS, BELVOIR, JAVELIN, NUBIAN, CLEOPATRA. *See 25/11-11.1060*
(S.O.(I.) Alexandria, 0914B/26 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Force H. Your 1536A/25th. Intend to proceed Mers-el-Kebir at 1600A today Thursday and pass through 037° 40' N. 002° 30' E. at 1700A/27th steering (? 70°, 03° or 115°) S. of A. 16 knots. (2) Request SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, AVON VALE and BOREAS may be instructed to (corrupt group) me accordingly.
(S.O. Force H, 0934A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S., Capt. S.8, C.S.12, etc.)

S.O. Force H, 0934/26th. Owing to weather time of arrival at Algiers is 1400A. Time of completion disembarkation will be reported as soon as known.

→(SCYLLA, 1310A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.O. Force H, C.S.12, F.O.I.S.) *arrived - see p.1107*

Tunis, mining. Would you like Tunis mined tonight 26th/27th? (V.A. Malta, 1000A/26 to N.C.X.F.)

*P.54, C.O. lost. *see p.1103A*
Regret P.54 reports loss of C.O. (Lieut. Oxborrow) and 2 ratings overboard on 25th Nov. P.54 expects to arrive Gibraltar about 3rd Dec. prior to return to U.K.
(Capt. S.8, 1006A/26 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

→SCYLLA, A/C. Following has been read from Gib. W/T. I am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft. Bearing 200° one mile. My position LBRV 5042 (36.50 N. longitude indecypherable) course 085° speed 19 knots.
(SCYLLA, 1030A/26 to Algiers W/T.)

Information for S/Ms. *see p.1066*
My 2021/25th. Operation is postponed 24 hours. P.311 and P.219 decode my 2021/25th (M.S.772).
(Capt. S.10, 1122A/26 to TRIBUNE, THUNDERBOLT, P.217, THRASHER, P.311, C.S.I.O., N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S., Capt. S.8.)

PORPOISE, PARTHIAN. My 0058/25th (0059/25 intended). Cumulative minor defects in PORPOISE make further patrol unwise. About Dec.1st PORPOISE will sail Gibraltar and PARTHIAN Beirut both direct without torpedoes.
(Capt. S.10, 1130A/26 to Capt. S.1, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. S.8.)

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26.11.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

WELSHMAN. Your 1125/15th not to 15th C.S.
see p. 1106 Intend to sail WELSHMAN for Haifa at 1200A tomorrow 27th routed through positions AA 035° 22' 014° 00'. BB 034° 31' 014° 54'. CC. 033° 10' 021° 40', and subsequently as ordered by C. in C. Med. S. of A. 23½ knots till 0600A/28, then 18½ knots.
(2) Fighter protection codeword "Merit". W/T Call Sign B C U frequency 5950 x 18 k/cs.
(3) Dangerous area, two tables held.
(V.A. Malta, 1139A/26, 1236A/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) 15 C.S.)
(Capt. S.10, 1246A/26 to RORQUAL, TURBULENT.)

→ P. 42. Establish patrol forthwith within 10 miles Cape Inglyallo. R/C indicates westbound traffic from Palermo may be expected very shortly.
(Capt. S.10, 1226A/26 to P.42.)

Italian Repatriations. Arrived SAGITTA in company with GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO. *(M/46.)*
(N.O.I.C. Massawa, 1245Z/26 to Admty.)

S/Ms *see next page*
see p. 1106 (1) At 2100A/27th disposition of offensive dispositions, submarines will be: P.42 off Cape Gallo. P.45 instructions. and P.48 on patrol on surface 340° from Marittimo distant (? 55) and 11 miles respectively. UNA in Gulf of Tunis. TRIBUNE within 10 miles of 037° 26' 010° 00'.
(2) Submarines on passage between longitude 080° 00' and Malta during dark 27th/28th will be: THUNDERBOLT, P.311 eastbound, P.217 approaching Bizerta from northward.
(3) In view of these dispositions and the indication that U-Boats are not in operational areas request that your orders in TON 4 App. 2 Sect. 7 may be in abeyance from 1700A/27th until 0700/28th, and that during this period submarines shall not identify themselves but dive and avoid; and that surface forces shall not attack a submarine or contact unless it has first taken offensive action.
(Capt. S.10, 1259A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) C.S.12, S.O.I.S., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Subs. on Patrol.)
Approved. (N.C.X.F., 1001A/27.)

Mers-el-Kebir, berthing difficulties. (1) Small swell experienced since arrival yesterday showing Mers-el-Kebir unsuited at present to accommodate more than 3 heavy ships except in fine weather.
(2) Berths on extension of Mole proved untenable. Both A/C Carriers had to anchor to southward of Mole during the night after parting wires and breaking up dump lighters which are local substitutes for catamarans.
(3) The only other alongside berth which has necessary depth for a heavy ship is immediately east of French S/M LA PSYCHE wreck but has hitherto been in use as a merchant ship unloading berth.
(4) The heavy ships anchor berth inside French battleship BRETAGNE wreck and that immediately to seaward of wreck have

/proved ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1330A/26th Nov. IN

From Capt. (S)8.

Date 26.11.42.

Recd 2251.

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities in area G

IMPORTANT.

Submarine Situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000A 26th November.

- (i) H.M. S/M P.217 38 56 North 06 59 East through 38 (?37) North 08 01 East thence Eastward 9 knots.
- (ii) H.M. S/M P.311 38 56 North 05 14 East through 38 56 North 06 59 East following H.M. S/M P.217 10 knots. *see previous page*
- (iii) H.M.S. TROOPER 38 48 North 02 37 East through 38 56 North 03 01 East following H.M. S/M P.311 10 knots. *see previous page*
- (iv) H.M. S/M P.219 38 20 North 01 26 East following H.M.S. TROOPER 11 knots.
- (v) H.M.S. TIGRIS 36 55 North 01 32 West through 135 degs Cape Palos 5 miles and 39 00 03 06 East thence to 090 degs 11 knots.
- (vi) H.M. P.228 38 08 North 01 11 East through 135 degs Cape Palos 10 miles thence to 10 miles off Spanish coast to Gibraltar 11 knots. *see p.1101*
- (vii) H.M.S. URSULA 42 17 North 05 53 East course 50 degs 5 knots.
- (viii) H.M.S. STURGEON from East passing by 38 24 North 08 01 East at 0400 27th thence to 274 degs 9 knots.
- (ix) H.M. P.54 in approximately position 41 43 North 05 10 East proceeding to Gibraltar 5 knots. *see pp 1094 & 1102*
- (x) All submarines diving by day 2½ knots surface speed as stated but may be delayed by weather.

1330A/26.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) and D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (F)(2)	D.D.O.D. (M)	Hd. of M.
N.A. 1st S.L.	Duty Capt. (2)	W.D.
Capt. Pim	D.D.I.C. (2)	I.P. (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D. of Plans (2)	D.T.D. (M)
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.A/S.W.	

1104

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. *wn/s.*

Mers-el-Kebir, berthing difficulties. (Contd.) proved satisfactory but the laying of mooring would improve them further. A third berth approx. 135° Mers-el-Kebir light 8.5 cables is practicable but more exposed.

(5) Eyebolts on North Quay have proved too weak (? for) destroyers stern wire and must be strengthened or replaced by bollards. N.O.I.C.

Mers-el-Kebir has been requested to (? arrange) this.

(6) Berthing wires, hurricane hawsers and catamarans are unobtainable locally. Request Gibraltar may be instructed to send sufficient for heavy ships berthing east of French battleship BRETAGNE wreck and of berths on extension of Mole when weather permits use of these berths.

(7) Tug *RESTIVE is only tug with sufficient power to handle heavy ships. At least one (? other) powerful tug is required.

(8) Swell has delayed work on the A/T Baffle and only 2 sections have been laid. Gate in existing A/S net is now inoperative.

(S.O. Force H, 1355A/26 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

** see next page - (link at Ocean)*

THRASHER. 1. Pass 038° 12' 007° 58' E. at 2100/27th and proceeding diving by day through 038° 56' 003° 01' E. at 1200/29th, 135 Cape Palos 10 at 2130/30th, 180 Cape de Gata 10 at 1200/1st Dec. thence 10 miles from Spanish coast to Gibraltar to arrive 1100/2nd Dec.

Proceed on surface at discretion on 2nd Dec. and do not cross 004° 35' W. before 0700A/2 as our A/S patrol will be operating to east of Gibraltar.

(Capt. S.8, 1458A/26 to THRASHER, (R) 8th S/M. F., F.O.C.N.A.)

French Units. French merchant ship LES ISSERS and armed trawler GOELAND being sailed at 1830A/26th for Algiers by French authority. E.T.A. (? Algiers) 1430A/27th. Request fighter protection at dawn. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1515A/26 to S.O.I.S., (R) Cdre. Algiers.)

P.45, P.48. Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 1529A/26.)

Air R/C. Visuals afternoon 26th Nov.
(1) Taranto, Messina, Naples and Palermo - thick cloud.
(2) Forenoon visuals. (3) Allow, Cagliari cloud, Bizerta 4 merchant ships, Tunis 3 merchant ships.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1741A/26 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., etc.)

Vessels for Turkey. Following is a repetition of my 1003/21st Oct. to C. in C. only (begins): C. in C. Med. from B.N.A. Ankara. Admiralty informed Turkish N.A. London that crane lighter ALGARNA sailed for Turkey on 5th August and diesel lighter for Submarines on 24th August.

(2) Please inform me when these vessels arrive at Suez.

T.O.O. 1003/21st (ends).

/(2) ...

1105

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - *con di.*Vessels for
Turkey.
(Contd.)

(2) Is there any information regarding whereabouts of these vessels as Ministry of National Defence have been making further enquiries? (N.A. Ankara, 1750C/26 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

Enemy
minelaying
off Algiers.Operation summary No. 14 - covering period 1800 hours 23rd Nov. to 1800 hours 24th Nov.
3. Algiers Harbour patrolled dawn to 1115 hours. Walrus unable to continue patrol owing to heavy swell. M.K.S. 2A escorted dawn to 1112 hours and 1300 hours to dusk. M.K.F.3 escorted 1220 hours to 1513 hours. Catalina also escorting convoy. (? 4) Enemy activity Bone. Aerodrome bombed during night 23rd Nov. - 24th Nov. No damage to Aerodrome, but 4000 gallons petrol (approx.) and small arms ammunition destroyed on pier by parachute flare. From 2350 hours to 0615 hours a total of 31 A/C operated Algiers Bay probably minelaying. Of these 6 E/A crossed the coast.
(Eastern Air Command, 1755Z/26.)

NURIA.

My 1930 Nov. 20th (re SS. NURIA on charter to Red Cross.) NURIA is expected to leave Marseilles for Barcelona Nov. 28th.
(N.A. Madrid, 1818/26 to Admty.)

Bougie.

Situation report. Little enemy air activity in last 24 hours. Swell decreasing, 2 M.T. ships safely (? berthed) and discharging. Awaiting arrival of tug which is urgently required (? Weather report.)
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1843A/26 to S.O.I.S.)ROBERTS,
M/Vs.Your 1720/25th to ROBERTS. M.T. ship ARTEMUS WARD ready to sail a.m. 27th, DERWENT HALL p.m. 28th, at present rate of discharge. Propose weather permitting ROBERTS, *ARTEMUS, and DERWENT HALL should sail p.m. 28th. Request escort be allocated.
* See p. 1179.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1850A/26 to F.O.I.S., (R) ROBERTS, Cdre. Algiers.)Units at
Oran. →N.C.X.F's 1644/4th.
(2) FOULA, M.L.1142 arrived. Minesweeping and patrol vessels in Oran area: 8th Trawler Group: SHIANT, EDAY, INCHMARNOCK, KERRARA. 10th Trawler Group: FOULA, WESTRAY, KINTYRE, MUNDA. 20th Trawler Group: NEGRO, GOTH, ELBURY, FILEY BAY. H.M. Trawler FLUELLEN, CHARLES MACIVER, *ZUBAR, *RESTIVE, M.Ls Nos. 280, 463, 469, 471, 480, 483, 1142, 1127, 1128, 1139.
(N.O.I.C. Oran, 1853A/26 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers.)** Not identified - ? SAYONARA 2/1/42.**** See previous page.*

/Enemy ...

1106

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Hospital Ship. Following has been read. P.C. and S. of enemy hospital ship is 36.02 N. 16.15 E., 360°, 16 knots, now stationary.
(Call sign TLUP, 1900A/26.)

TRIBUNE, Be in following positions by dawn 27th both from
UNA. Canirock Light: TRIBUNE 044° 7, UNA 063° 31.
Imp p. 1102 Important you are not sighted by aircraft.
South-westbound targets justify full salvos if
in convoy.

(Capt. S.10, 1909A/26 to TRIBUNE, UNA, (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S., C. in C. Med., S/Ms on patrol.)

While accurately maintaining patrol position given in my 1909/26th you should not proceed North of line 064° from Cape Guardia. Note carefully suspicious movements of any small shipping to North and Westwards, do not break W/T silence to report until ordered.

(Capt. S.10, 2340A/26 to TRIBUNE, UNA.)

Malta Situation. IZ 2368. Malta Intelligence Summary period 2000A/25 to 2000A/26. Air. R/C in accordance with out Operation Order No. 12, 3rd Nov.
Photos Sicilian aerodromes show following

changes between 8th and 25th Nov. (details)

(2) No enemy air activity.

(3) Night 25th/26th Nov. Wellingtons bombed Tunis docks dropping three 4000 lb., 40 500 lb. and 55 250 lb. bombs. Hits scored on petrol dumps, buildings on north and east sides of canal, railway installations, marshalling yards, warehouses, and near bridges in docks area. One 4000 lb. bomb dropped at 1946 hours scored direct hit on oil tanks, starting very large fire and several smaller fires. These fires still blazing furiously when later aircraft left at 0959 hours. Another 4000 lb. bomb started fire near barracks. Beaufighters on offensive sweep north of Tripoli and off east Tunisian coast destroyed north-bound Ju.52 carrying troops in position 115° Cape Bon 46 miles and shot up with cannon one two-masted schooner 080° Melita 30 miles course 210.

Army. Unloading continues.

(Govr. Malta, 1910Z/26.)

TURBULENT,
* WELSHMAN.

* *Imp p. 1103*

TURBULENT's estimated position at 0001B/28th 033° 18' 018° 58' steering 360° speed 11 knots. She has been informed of your route.
(S.O.S. Alexandria, 2006B/26 to WELSHMAN.)

RORQUAL
minelaying.

Your 1742/23rd. It is not desired that mines should be laid as suggested in proposal 2.
(C. in C. Med., 2028B/26 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1.)

Force H,
S/Ms.

Force H passing through 037° 40' N. 002° 30' E. at 1700 tomorrow Friday steering 070° 16 knots.

/They ...

1107

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Force H, S/MS. (Contd.) They are acting in support of an operation taking place East of 008° E. and will not normally detour East of 004° E. unless to engage enemy. (Capt. S.8, 2032A/26, 0949A/27 to 8th S/M.F., (R) S.O. Force H.)

Movements. Algiers arrivals: WILTON, ZETLAND, BICESTER, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, CONVULVULUS, VETCH, FLEETWOOD, * SCYLLA, * CHARYBDIS, * AVON VALE, * BOREAS, ACUTE, ALBACORE, MINNA, WIVERN, VENOMOUS, VERITY, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, BLEAN, MANXMAN, (? LEE). * ~~2035A/26~~ 2035A/26.
Departures to Philippeville and Bone: ZETLAND, BICESTER, LAMERTON, QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2035A/26 to Admt.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.131, 26th November C.S.R.
Night 25th/26th Nov. 2 Beaufighters on intruder patrols over Sicilian aerodromes to protect unloading of Malta convoy saw no enemy aircraft airborne and no raiders approached Malta during night. Day 26th Nov. Our activity restricted by very bad weather conditions. 16 Spitfire sorties made to protect unloading of Malta convoy. No attacks made on our shipping. 6 Beaufighter sorties have been made on armed R/C patrols against Axis transport aircraft and shipping off Tunisian Coast and in Gulf of Tripoli. Beaufighters flew in pairs, 1 in each carrying bombs. 0904 hours Beaufighters attacked a 2 masted schooner position (083 or 080°) Melitat 30 miles course 210° dropping 2 250 lb. G.P. bombs from 50 feet, bombs fell short but 2 Beaufighters attacked vessel with cannon fire and observed strikes amidships.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2051/26.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of enemy - 2 destroyers 2 merchant vessels - are 41 08 (sic), 225°, 8, weather report.
(A/C T1UC, 2120A/26.)
Following has been read: P.C. and S. of enemy (1 M/V, 2 destroyers) 37° 30' N. 9° 50' E., 225°, 10 knots.
(A/C T1US, 2200A/26.)
Following has been read - My 2120A, P.C. and S. of enemy (3 destroyers, 2 merchant vessels) are 37.36 N. 10.51 E., 270°, 8.
(Alexandria W/T, 2250A/26.)

Force Q. C.S.12 and Force Q sailed Algiers for Bone at 1930A.
(N.C.X.F., 2227A/26 to S.O. Force H, (R) N.C.X.F., in AURORA.)

/L.Cs ...

1108

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- L.Cs lost. L.C.P.⁽⁴⁾120 was sunk in position 35 miles E.N.E. of Bardia 0747/20th Nov. L.C.M.⁽⁴⁾139 beached now considered total loss. All the above result of heavy weather.
(C. in C. Med., 2240B/26 to Admty.)
- Situation Western Desert. M.T.B. base now established at
Report Ras-el-Hilal (32.56 N. 22.10 E.) Four M.T.Bs
No. 297. proceeding Malta shortly spares and maintenance
staffs sent in Force X (see para. 3 below).
Sweeping of approaches to Benghazi being satisfactorily carried out. Working of Western Desert ports proceeding smoothly, no enemy air activity as yet.
2. P.212 sank by gunfire and torpedo Italian merchant ship SCILLIAN bound from Tripoli for Italy off Kerkenah No.1 buoy at 2100/14th Nov. Ship was carrying 780 British prisoners and 200 Italian military and crew. P.212 picked up 62 survivors (2 naval 24 military 36 Italians), One naval rating ex SIKH (Admty. see V.A.M's 616/589/2 of 18th Nov. 1942.)
3. Force K (C.S.15 in CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, DIDO, D.14 in JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN, NUBIAN) due Malta 27th Nov.
4. Casualties in ARETHUSA (see my 1434/20th Nov. para. 4) were 155 killed and 42 wounded (includes one officer killed and one wounded).
5. GLENROY and JANUS have left Suez for refits in U.K.
(C. in C. Med., 2328B/26, 1242B/27 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)
- P.46, P.44. P.46 has freedom of action in area, leave for Malta after dark 27th proceeding on surface days at your discretion to R/V with minesweeper at 1302A/29th. Be close off Light Buoy dawn tomorrow.
P.44 patrol off Kerkenah No.4 Buoy, attack only southbound traffic.
(Capt. S.10, 2330A/26 to P.46, P.44.)

1109

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B. Sighted S/M at 0340 course 000° at 0420 S/M submerged in 7° 48' N 81° 50' E.
(A/C Call sign 7GFD 0435/26 to C/S C94 (East Indies Area.))
Following has been read by Bombay Fort. Report owing to (?oil track) growing in course of 006° knots 9.
(A/C Call sign 7GF Duty D. 0455Z/26 to 222 Group. H.Q. Ceylon.)

CARADOC Your 1611/25 (N.T. in W.R.) not to C.S.4. and defects. S.N.O. P.G. (1) Disconnect starboard shaft to enable propeller to trail. Avoid high speed on port shaft torque not to exceed 4/5ths power.
(2) (a) Are fractures and cracking at end of teeth?
(b) What is maximum length?
(3) Relief ship not available until about 18th Dec.
(C. in C. E.F. 0923Z/26 to CARADOC. (R) Admty. S.N.O.P.G. C.S.4.)

ALCOA My 1201/25. (1201/24 intended re sinking of SS. PATHFINDER ALCOA PATHFINDER) Confirmed sinking of ALCOA PATHFINDER at 0200/22 by large submarine. New paint. Letter H on C/T believed followed by figure 47. 2 survivors at Lourenco Marques, understood remainder proceeding Durban and Durban already has details. (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 1101B/26 to Admty. etc.)

ENGADINE My 0844Z/25. Route from Durban through A. 033° 30' S (?040°) E. B. 036° 30' S 049° 30' E C. 039° S 061° E D. 040° S 070° E E. 040° S 085° E F. 038° 30' S 095° E (G?) 036° S 105° E. thence Fremantle.
(C. in C. E.F. 1335Z/26 to C. in C. S.A.)

RANPURA P.S.T.O. Egypt 2035/23 (2033/23 intended)
1. Request you will sail RANPURA as Ocean Escort and provide local A/S escort in Gulf of Aden.
2. Convoy will be known as M.C.2.
(C. in C. E.F. 1435Z/26, 0914Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Aden. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. Admty.)

C.M.35B. Sailing telegram. Escort WORCESTERSHIRE.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 1453Z/26 to Admty.)

Movements. ^{Kilindini} Arrivals 26th Nov. IPSWICH, RESOLUTION, HOTSPUR, NAPIER, departures 26th Nov. WORCESTERSHIRE.
(F.O.E.A. 1513/26 to Admty.)

/FROBISHER...

SECRET

1109A

0749Z/26th November.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Date. 26.11.42

Recd. 1714

Naval Cypher (8) by W/T

Addressed Eastern Fleet 193 X, Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, 229, E.O.Red Sea and Canal Area, S.O.I.C.Durban.

IMPORTANT.

498. Movement summary number 25 26th November.
- (1) H.M.S. BLIMINGHAM due Bombay 27th November with survivors of steamship TILAWA. *See next page*
 - (2) H.M.S. CARRIAGE item 6 summary number 24 diverted on 24th Nov. to search for survivors of steamship TILAWA. *See next page*
 - (3) H.M.S. DEVONSHIRE escorting one transport left Colombo 25th November due Fremantle 3rd December.
 - (4) H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE item 12 summary number 24 sailing p.m. 26th November *See previous page.*
 - (5) H.M.S. DAUNTLESS and H.M.S. K HARRIS item 13 summary number 24 sailing delayed.

0749Z/26

Advance copy Ops., O.D., Trade.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(P)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
Ops.(3)
O.D.(5)
O.D.8
O.I.C.
H.(2)
Mails.
Movts.
D.A./S.W.
W.D.
I.P.(3)
D.P.B.
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(4)
P.N.L.O.
D.N.I.(5)

1110

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

FROBISHER 0942/23 Nov. para 3.
 *BIRMINGHAM (1) FROBISHER will replace BIRMINGHAM as escort
 HAWKINS W.S.24 in fast section arriving Durban 4th Dec.
 * *see previous page* (2) Intend HAWKINS (due to dock 8th Dec.)
 to sail from Kilindini in company with FROBISHER.
 Cdre. Durban is requested to confirm that HAWKINS also can be
 received on 4th Dec.
 (C. in C. E.F. 1621Z/26 to C. in C. S.A. Com. I.C. Durban.
 (R) C.S.4. Admty.)
 Reply: Cdre. Durban 1414/27.

CARTHAGE Continue search during daylight tomorrow 27th
 search for paying particular attention to area south east
 TILAWA of today's search allowing for drift.
see previous page (2) Return to Kilindini after dark bringing any
 survivors found.
 (C. in C. E.F. 2107Z/26 to ?CARTHAGE. (R)
 BIRMINGHAM. F.O.I.C. Ceylon. Com. R.I.N. Admty.)
 My 0028/26 (N.T. in W.D.) and my 2107/26.
 CARTHAGE (?has) searched area A 26th Nov. in
 perfect weather conditions. Only one empty raft
 found.
 (C. in C. E.F. 2114Z/26 to Admty.)

1111

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

U/B.
Positions. C.E.S.F's 1904/25,
(Comnaveu 0816/26 to Admty).

Movements. Departures U.S.S.BRECKENRIDGE, U.S.S.P.O.
495. P.C. 565, P.C. 609 escorting T. A.G.
24, CLARKIA.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 0952Q/26 to S.B.N.O.W.A.(R)
Admty etc).

A.F.D.24. Your 1805/24th para.4, A.F.D.XXIV, Approved.
2.When repairs are completed DESTINY should be
allocated to S.B.N.O.W.A. until required for
service with dock.
(D.O.D.(F) 1033A/26 to B.A.D.).

Australia
and N.Z.
Division. Re return from Middle East.C.O.S.(W) 363.
(Air Min.1100Z/26 to Britman, Washington)
See Lion Copy.

B.Y.M.S. My 1954/25th(Re intended sailing of B.Y.M.S.
15 and 16). Sailing delayed 24 hours.
(F.O.N.F. 1158Z/26 to Admty).

U/B
attacked. A/C Call sign P.U.(?9) K attacked S/M after
latter submerged (?047°) 18' N. 050° 26' W.
at 1152Z/26th.
(C.O.A.C. 1225Z/26 to G.B 7 A. (R) C. T.F.24.
etc).

ANNELIESE
ESSBERGER. 62 German prisoners from ANNELIESE ESSBERGER
have been landed at Recife and handed over to
Brazilian Army for confinement. They consist of
12 merchant marine officers and 26 men and
following naval personnel:- One doctor, one Warrant Gunner
and 22 ratings. Some navigational gear, ordnance material
and papers were captured. Two interrogators from Navy Dept.
arrive Recife Saturday 28th. Navy Dept. provided advance
information which enabled effective dispositions of Task
Group to be made and first contact was made by R. D.F. at
night at 25,000 yards.
(B.A.D. 1409/26 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.). *Reply: Admty 0055/28*

NEWTON
PINE.
ALDINGTON
COURT. Request information whether NEWTON PINE, and
ALDINGTON COURT should now be presumed lost.
(N.S.H.Q. 1429Z/26 to Admty (R) Connnav).
Reply: 1705A/30.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

MOST SECRET

1100Z/26th November

Date 26/11/42

To Britman Washington.

Cypher

From Air Ministry.

IMMEDIATE

OZ.2019. 26th November 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (W) 363.

Your J.S.M. 499.

Reason for linking return of New Zealand Division with that of 9th Australian Division is that Prime Minister of New Zealand has made this request in a telegram dated 20th November to the Prime Minister.

2. Following is summary of principal reasons for his request:-

(a) Manpower difficulties in New Zealand;

(b) Nearly three years since the main body of the Division left their home country;

(c) Heavy casualties suffered - 18,500 out of total of 43,500;

(d) Effect on New Zealand public opinion if Australian Division were withdrawn from and New Zealand Division remained in Middle East.

3. Prime Minister has telegraphed to President (No.208 of 24 November) saying that he agreed with Marshall's view (Your J.S.M.494) and suggesting that Combined Chiefs of Staff should consider implications of return of both Divisions and lay their views before the Dominion Governments concerned.

4. Prime Minister also sent personal telegrams to Mr. Fraser and Mr. Curtin, texts of which were communicated to President in Nos. 209 and 210 of 24th November.

5. We ourselves do not like the withdrawal of these

Divisions /

1111B

2.

Divisions on military grounds. If they were British troops there would be no question of their relief. Political and Imperial considerations may prove over-riding, but in any case, there can be no question of the Divisions taking their equipment and transport with them. (See C.O.S. (W) 358).

6. We agree your paragraphs 2 and 3. Implications of move are being urgently examined here but results not likely to be in time for Combined Chiefs of Staff meeting next Friday.

1100Z/26.

Circulation -

Brigadier Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord

C.6 Tels., War Office
A.M.C.S.(C)
C.C.O.

Received from Air Ministry a.m./27.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D. of P.(2)
D. of P.(Q)
Head of M.
I.P.(2)
~~W.D.~~
D.N.I.(4)
D.C.(2)
D.D.I.C.(2)

GMM

1112

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

T.F.35. This is Cinclants 252033 addressed to Comcrudiv
U.G.F.3. 8 for action repeated to Admiralty, N.C.X.F.,
C.T.G. 31.8. C.T.G.26.7 for information. Task
Force 35 composed of PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK,
Desron, 15 less DAVISON plus PARKER under command of Rear
Admiral Davidson. Task Force 35 will escort Convoy U.G.F.3.
from New York about December 7 to N.W. African ports. Route
will be as prescribed by Connav Operational control will
shift from Cinclant to Admiralty on passing 40° W. thence
to Cincaf on passing 10° W. MERRIMACK or a substitute will be
included in convoy to fuel destroyers at sea and one fast
tanker will return with you for same purpose. Ships of
convoy destined for Mediterranean ports will be turned over
to British escort at point prescribed initially by Cominch.
Ships of Taskforce 35 while in African waters are available
only for local escort and not for other tasks. Task Force
35 will escort convoy G.U. F. 3 on return passage as directed
by Commander N.W. African Sea Frontier in accordance with
routeing by Admiralty. Unless otherwise directed by Cinclant
Task Force will return to New York.
(Comnav, 1431/26 to Admiralty.).

Movements	1800 G.M.T./26th Nov.			
Summary.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	S/M K.14	22½° N, 45½° W.	299°	9.
	A.T.29.	41½° N, 45½° W.	037°	26½.
	(D.O.D.(F) 1453Z/26 to Opnav (R) Comnav).			

U/B. U-Boat in position 044.10 036.(?20')
(S.O. 16th A/S Striking Force, 1515Z/26 to Connav)

PARISMINA Attack by S/M. 1 PARISMINA.
(Sunk 18th 2. United Fruit Co, 0510Z/18 Nov 54.07 N.38.26 W
November). in O.N.S. 144.
4. Not Seen.
7. Ship sank.
8. See my 1533/26 Nov. with list of survivors.
10. Torpedo.
11. Complete set C.Bs and C.R.Is. went down with
ship.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1531/26 to C. in C.U.S. Fleet,
(R) N.S.H.Q.).

U/B. S/M estimate 26th Nov. and U.S.S/M Notice.
Positions. (Cominch, 1545/26, 1546/26, 1618/26, 1619/26,
1620/26, 0445/27).

"S" Report. Following has been read from X.F. 114. 50.30 N.
45.30 W.
(Halifax W/T T.O.R. 1552 G.M.T./26. Admty etc).

/L.C.I.(L)s.

SECRET

1112A.

MESSAGE

SECRET.

1535Z/26th Nov. IN.

From:- C.C.A.C. Halifax.

Date:- 27/11/42

Recd:- 0115

NAVAL CYPHER (S) by Cable.

Addressed:- G.B.7A.

IMPORTANT.

Section East U.S. Destroyer SIMPSON,
 U.S. Destroyer McCORMICK*SEALPERS, MOJAVE due
 Argentina p.m. 26th. United States C G*NORTH STAR,
 51 10 53 40 012 degrees 9.5 alter to 033 degrees in
 55 00 North. SARNIA escorting United States SAPELO
 vicinity of 46 29 53 35 en route Argentina 10 knots.
~~See p. 1115~~ → H.M.R.T. TENACITY 46 29 53 25 to Trepassey
 Bay. Task Unit 24.18.8 departs St. John's N.F. 1930
 26th to join O.N.147 in 44 54 48 42. SABINE SUN (U.S)
 53 32 48 41 215 degrees 14 altering to 181 degrees
 in 52 05 West. IRISH FIR 43 10 65 48 084 degrees 7.

1535Z/26

*Not
in file

2059Z/26th November.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C.C.A.C. Halifax.

Date. 27.11.42.

NAVAL CYPHER 'S' BY CABLE

Recd. 0230

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

My 1535Z/26th add U S S ALGONQUIN, MOHAWK, departed Argentina
 1800Z/26th en route for St. Johns Newfoundland direct speed 10. Delete
 reference to U S S Delete reference to C.T.U. 24.18.8. Add Q.060
 en route Wabana from Botwood.

2059Z/26

Advance Copy to Ops. O.D. Trade.

V.O.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(H)
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 A.C.N.S.(T)
 N.A.1st S.I.
 D. of P.(3)
 Ops.(3)
 O.D.(5)
 D.N.I.(5)
 O.I.C.(3)

D.A/S.W.
 I.P.(3)
 U.S.N.(3)
 W.D.
 D.T.D.(M)
 Admiral Blake
 D. of S.T.(2)
 D.T.D.(2)

D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.D.(C)
 C.C.R.T.

1113

War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- L.C.I (L)s. F.O.C.W.A's 1703/25. If L.C.I.(L)s and
→WANDERER. LARIAT sail on about 8th Dec in accordance with
para. one of my 1851/25, could WANDERER be
used as additional escort via Bermuda as far as
Azores proceeding thence to Freetown?
2.WANDERER is due to arrive St.Johns about 28th Nov.
(B.A.D. 1631Z/26 to Admty) See Also 1818Z/26.)
- U/B. Coast watcher reports sighting periscope of
S/M 46.52 N. 55.41 W. a.m./26th.
(C.O.A.C. 1701Z/26 to GB7A).
- WANDERER 1.F.O.C.W.A's 1703/25 being passed to you
WALKER. F.O.C.W.A's 1531/20 requested that WANDERER
arrive Freetown by 4th Dec. or New Orleans by
1st January First date was not practicable and
therefore it was intended to fulfil Second date by which time
LEAMINGTON should have arrived.
2.My 1831/23 was sent in view of urgency of WALKER's refit.
3.Admiralty's 1525/22 concurred in WALKER proceeding U.K. for
refit on relief by LEAMINGTON.
4.WALKER arrives St John's N.F. with T.U. 24.18.7 on 4th Dec.
Suggest subject to Admiralty's concurrence WALKER be sailed
independently St.John's N.F. to Londonderry, having been
relieved by ST.ALBANS and that WANDERER be sailed to Freetown
on relief by LEAMINGTON or earlier if available.
5.Admiralty 2130/22 October refers.
(C.O.A.C. 1818Z/26 to Admiralty F.O.N.F. (R) B.A.D. etc).
- French C.O.S.(W) 365 re conference with Boisson and
West Africa. Darlan.
(Air Min. 1820Z/26 to Britman, Washington).
See Lion Copy.
- U/B. U-Boat transmissions on 10510 K/Cs at 1518Z/26th
and 1603Z/26th indicate at least 2 S/Ms in your
vicinity.
(N.S.H.Q. 1850Z/26 to C.T.U.24.1.5. C.T.U.24.1.11
C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. (R) Opnav, Admty, S.B.N.O.W.A)
- U/B. S/M sighted 5 miles West of Barbados at 2300
G.M.T./26th.
(S.O.(I) Kingston(Jam). 1920R/26 to Admty).
- Pernambuco Your 1507/22nd (re port facilities at Pernambuco
facilities. very overcrowded) Navy Department fully. *correct*

/appreciate....

MOST SECRET

1113A

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. 1820Z/26th November. OUT.

To. Brituan Washington. Date. 26.11.42.

CRYPTIC.

From Air Ministry.
IMMEDIATE.

OZ 2028, 26th November, 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 365.

Reference M.R. 476 from Eisenhower to C.O.S. and
No. 539 from Eisenhower to Marshall.

It appears that proposed conference with Boisson and
Darlan on Saturday may take place without any British
representatives present. We should very much like Admiral
Cunningham to attend, but we should not of course insist on
this to the extent of risking the success of the meeting.
For your information Admiralty have informed Cunningham of
the points of particular interest to us.

2. We are intimately concerned with events in French West
Africa because of -

- (a) Its proximity and close economic ties with British
West African possessions, some of which are
enclaves in French Territory.
- (b) Its admirable position as a base for anti-submarine
operations in Eastern Atlantic.
- (c) The assistance which it can offer in connection
with our convoys.

3. In particular we should like to be given use of the
following facilities.

- (a) Air fields for shore-based aircraft and flying
boat bases. There are several of these along the
coast. By using Port Etienne (350 miles north of
Dakar) as an advanced flying boat base, it will be
possible greatly to extend shore-based air cover
to West African convoys.
- (b) Fleet Air Arm base. During 1943 a large number of
auxiliary carriers will come into service and a
proportion of them will be employed with Sierra-
Leone convoys and in Central and South Atlantic on
anti-blockade running duties. Progress on
development of facilities at Freetown has been slow
and use of air-field at Quakam (Dakar) for F.A.A.
aircraft will be a godsend.

(c) Use of the cruiser dock and workshops at Dakar.

(d)

- (d) Advanced base for local escorts from Freetown. It is probable that Freetown will have to remain the convoy assembly port when B.L. and O.S. convoys are resumed on account of the limited area of the protected anchorage at Dakar, but ability to use Dakar for local escorts will extend and improve the cover that ships and convoys approaching and leaving Freetown can be given.
- (e) Watering facilities. For 2½ years we have contended with the barely adequate supplies at Freetown.

4. It is very desirable that G.O.C. West Africa should be free to deal direct with French military authorities in Dahomey, Ivory Coast and French Guinea and it would be convenient for him to deal direct with French Commanders in Senegal.

5. We assume that U.S. representatives will make the best possible bargain for use of the French naval and merchant ships at Dakar.

6. Foreign Office have received MR. 476 and No. 539. This telegram takes no account of political factors such as the effect on de Gaulle of these negotiations.

7. We feel sure that any arrangements made at proposed meetings at Algiers and Dakar will be of an ad hoc nature. In view of our vital interests in this area, we assume that we shall be fully consulted before any binding agreement is made.

1820Z/26.

Received from Air Ministry 0105/27.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
P.A.S. (3)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Ad. Blake
D.N.A.D.
Hd. of Air
D.A.C.D.
D.T.D. (2)
Capt. Wharton.

Air Ministry Circulation

Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
A.M.C.B. (C)
War Registry Admiralty
C.S. Telegrams, War Office
C.C.O.

1114

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Pernambuco appreciate that diversion to Rio de Janeiro facilities. is underdesirable.
Contd. 2. At present bunkers at Tortola in very short supply but it is hoped that arrangement now in progress there will permit full use of this port within next few months.
(B. A.D. 1927Z/26 to Admty (R) N.A.Rio).

M.A. Cs. Your 1026/30/10 (N.T. in W.D.) Navy Dept. formed a committee to examine whole question and have decided not to construct these vessels at present.

Their reasons are:-

(a) The experimental nature of these ships from a flying point of view specially their low freeboard and slow speed.

(b) They have no A/C which could be used. We assured them that Admiralty were quite satisfied that Swordfish were suitable and available.

(c) They reckon that they could not complete the first ship before June 1943..

(d) Although we estimate only 26 British A.V.G's will be available by middle of 1943 they say that the building of Kaiser Class will bring the total to 58 at that time and to 112 by June, 1944.

(e) The whole production question is at present very acute and the services have been told to make drastic cuts. Navy Dept. whilst most anxious to obtain air coverage for convoys are on the other hand both to take on any construction job unless they are satisfied as to its 100% utility.

2.C. in C.U.S.Fleet's letter stated he will be interested in details of construction and operation of M.A.Cs building in U.K. and will have whole question re-examined upon receipt of information as to their success.

3. We have been promised unofficially that Navy Dept. will go ahead with necessary plans for converting half of constructed ships, We shall keep up pressure.

4. In view of para (1) (d) we shall try to make them offer U.S.Kaisers for N.Atlantic convoys.

(B.A.D. 1941Z/26 to Admty).

Transport of Your 1402/18. U.S. Authorities agree to the U.S. following ruling for their personnel travelling Personnel. entirely in British Strategical area. Up to 250 U.S. personnel all told may travel in an unescorted ship, irrespective of how many other

Allied personnel are already embarked under British rules. This does not apply to ships over 20 knots for which special arrangements are made. See my 1519/15 para.F.
(B,A.D. 1943Z/26 as amended 1235Z/27 to Admty).

Dive Bombers.

An informal suggestion has been made to A.N.A. (Air) by Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics that R.N. might like to acquire some S.B.D.3 in order to train pilots in dive bombing. Admiral McCain's view is that as we are obtaining Helldivers in 1943 we should start training some dive bombing instructors, say six, as soon as possible. The Admiral expressed his willingness

/to.....

1115

26.11.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - *cont'd.*

Dive bombers. Contd. to help us in this matter in whatever manner we thought would be most helpful. Request your views.
(B.A.D. 1949/26 to Admiralty) See Also 1951/27.

SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH. N.K. steer immediately for new (P) 49.01, 33.02 then (N).
(Connav, 2005/26 to QUEEN ELIZABETH (R) Admty, C.T.24, etc).

→ Movements. Bermuda arrival. U.S.S. AUGUSTA. Departure BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER in accordance with my 2142/24. (Re escort of LORD KELVIN during cable repairs). U.S.S. EDWARDS, U.S.S. OWL.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2019Q/26 to Admty etc).

BARBERRYS. Received 1822 G.M.T. SSSS. BARBERRYS. 50.00 N. 46.00 W. torpedoed, de VCM.
(Halifax 2031/26 to C. in C.W.A. E.C. Londonderry, Admiralty).

L.S.T. 301 Your 1823/26. (re request sail L.S.T. 301 to U.K. in first convenient convoy (N.T. in W.D.))
Anticipate sailing LST. 301 to U.K. in HX. 218.
(C.O.A.C. 2037Z/26 to B.A.D.).

NEWCASTLE. A.M. 1435/26th Oct. NEWCASTLE will be ready to leave New York p.m./Wednesday 2nd. December, and Norfolk (Vir) p.m./Monday 7th December.
(B.A.M.R. 2058Z/26 to Admiralty).

ELM BAY. H.M.R.T. *TENACITY departed St. Johns 1112Z/27 to assist SS. ELM BAY disabled and sheltering in Trepassey Newfoundland.
(F.O.N.F. 2129Z/26 to Admty for C.C.R.T. (R) N.S.H.Q, C.O.A.C.). * *See p 1112A*

→ BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER. Bermuda departure at 1310/26th. BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, in accordance with my 2142/24th.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2132Z/26 to Admty).

Sub Attack and Sighting Summary. A. POLYDORUS shelled 08.53 N. 28.55 W. 2324Z/25.
B. ZAANDAM Coat of Arms with white sailboat on blue water U.88 type. S/M reported 44.10 N. 36.20 W. about 1510Z/26.
C. Unidentified torpedoed 50 N. 48.W. 1822Z/26 S/M sighted 50.3 N. 45.30 W. 1552Z/26. Coastwatchers sight S/M 47.28 N. 55.28 W. November, and periscope 46.52 N. 55.41 W. 26th November.
D. SOUTHAMPTON and ST. GEORGE torpedoed and shelled 41.N. 72.W. 1220 and 2030Z/25. P.C. 576 attacks sound contact 15.11 N.

1115A.

MOST SECRET

2105Z/26th November.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. OUT.

To. Britman Washington. Date. 26.11.42.

CYPHER.

From. Air Ministry.

IMPORTANT.

OZ 2030. 26th November 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. COS(W) 366.

1. There are two points in connection with the Battle of the Atlantic on which we are seriously concerned and seek your assistance. First, the provision of very long range aircraft for the protection of our convoys in the middle of the Atlantic. And, secondly, the provision of long range aircraft fitted with 10 centimetre A.S.V.

2. The first requirement has arisen as a result of the serious losses which our convoys have recently suffered in the blind spot in the middle of the Atlantic, which is out of reach of shore based aircraft on either side of the Atlantic. Both the Naval and Air Staffs are so seriously concerned at these heavy mid-atlantic losses that a recent meeting of the Anti-U/boat Warfare Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, decided to convert to very long range (operational range 2,300 nautical miles) and concentrate in two squadrons all Liberators in Coastal Command. To do this means withdrawing Liberators at present employed on anti-submarine work in the outer reaches of the Bay of Biscay.

3. The second requirement has arisen as a result of the discovery that German submarines are now fitted with a receiver for listening to our 1 1/2 metre A.S.V. which is now installed in all our aircraft. In consequence there has been an abrupt decrease in sightings of submarines by aircraft in the Bay of Biscay. In September there were 44 submarine sightings, in October 21 and in the first three weeks of November only 10. Sightings by Leigh Light fitted aircraft which are entirely dependent on A.S.V. have practically ceased.

4. The only remedy for this state of affairs is to fit all our aircraft operating in the Bay with centimetre A.S.V. This A.S.V. is not only more efficient but will be much more difficult for the Germans to counter.

5. The main objects in patrolling the Bay are to attack U-boats in transit to and from the American Atlantic Seaboard and to provide protection for the Torch convoys between U.K. and North Africa.

6. We are dealing with the inner zone of the Bay by modifying and diverting to our Wellingtons a form of centimetre A.S.V. (H.2.3) which has been developed as a target location device.

115B

7. For the outer zone we require aircraft of longer range fitted with centimetre A.S.V. Conversion of our Liberators to very long range and their transfer to the mid-Atlantic commitment referred to in paragraph 2 above leaves us with two alternatives. The first is to divert Halifaxes and H.2.S. equipment from Bomber Command. And the second to obtain from the United States more Liberators fitted with centimetre A.S.V. We are extremely reluctant to reduce in any way at this stage of the war the weight of our bomber offensive against Germany and Italy. The Prime Minister has accordingly signalled Hopkins and asked him to put before the President a request for the immediate release of 30 Liberators with centimetre A.S.V. equipment. It is believed however that these aircraft are not immediately available.

8. We understand the position regarding preparation of aircraft equipped with centimetre A.S.V. in United States is as follows:

- (a) Nine Liberators are now en route to TORCH area via United Kingdom.
- (b) Twelve Liberators are fitting out and may be ready for despatch to TORCH area by end of December.
- (c) Twenty-eight British Liberators are fitting out at Fort Worth and ten of these may be available for delivery to U.K. in second half of December.

9. We consider that it is of the utmost importance to accelerate the flow of British and American Liberators fitted with centimetre A.S.V. and we would ask you to urge the Combined Chiefs of Staff to do everything in their power to this end. To the extent that allocation to us of these Liberators can be improved there will be a direct gain to the bombing offensive against Germany.

10. There is also the question of the best disposition of our combined resources in centimetre A.S.V. Liberators. A high proportion of the available supply is at present earmarked for North West Africa and it occurs to us that some of these might more profitably be operated in the Bay of Biscay from bases in the U.K. We would therefore suggest that the total of the A.S.V. Liberators on this side of the Atlantic should be regarded as a pool for disposal between bases in U.K. Gibraltar or North West Africa according to the prevailing U-boat dispositions. Distribution could then be settled by British Chiefs of Staff in consultation with Eisenhower,

2105Z/26. *Reply 2255Z/28.*

Received from Air Ministry 0555/27.

1st Lord	D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.N.A.D.	<u>Air Ministry</u>
1st S.L. (2)	D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.A.C.D.	
D.F.S.L.	D.N.I. (4)	C.C.L.S.	
4th S.L.	D. of P. (2)		Brig. Jacob
C.N.A.S.	Duty Capt.	Ad. Ramsey (4)	Foreign Sec.
V.O.N.S.	D.D.I.C. (2)	D.T.D. (3)	War Reg.,
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of P. (6)	D.T.D. (M)	Admiralty
(T) (2)	Hd. of M. (2)	D.A/S.W.	C.6 Tels.
	I.P. (2)	Ad. Osborne	War Office
	<i>WD</i>	D.S.	

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War Diary.26.11.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub. Attack 72.31 W. 0300Z/5. U.S.S. SURPRISE attacks
and sound contacts 14.10 N. 70.39 W. 0407Z/9
Sighting and 15.28 N. 71.20 W. 2117Z/9.
Summary (Cominch 2201/26 to Admty).
Contd.

U/B C.E.S.F's 1902/26. informs as follows:-
Positions. (Comnav 2209/26 to Admty).

Tankers for N.S.H.Q. 2241/24. Arrangements are being made
oiling at to allocate tankers fitted for oiling over the
sea. stern to O.N. and O.N.S. convoys. These load at
New York and return in corresponding H.X. and
S.C. convoys.

2. Request this information be passed to C.E.S.F.
My 1319/21 refers and is being passed to N.S.H.Q. and B.R.L.O.
New York.
(D.T.D. 2254A/26 to B.A.D.(R) N.S.H.Q. B.R.L.O. New York).

Replacement Your 1615/22nd para. 3. C. in C.U.S. Fleet
of B.5. has issued orders for the release of B.5.
Group. group to be replaced by 3 destroyers recently
detached for North Atlantic plus 2 from "Queen"
Escort. Detailed programme follows.

2. Para. 4. It is intended to continue normal sailing of N.G. -
G.N. convoys. As these convoys will have only 3 or 4 ocean
going escorts it must be anticipated if heavy attacks all
traffic will proceed coastwise with maximum escort.
(B.A.D. 2249Z/26 to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q.)
See also B.A.D. 2003Z/27.

ORILLIA. On arrival complete with fuel and report to
C.T.U. 24.1.12 in BROADWAY anchored 90° 2
miles from Tuns Bank Buoy for orders.
(C.T.G. 24.7 2300/26 to ORILLIA (R) C.T.U. 24.1.12)

GEORGETOWN. Am attacking contact in 040.10 N. 069.49 W.
U/B. (GEORGETOWN 2300Z/26 to C.O.A.C. C.T.F. 24).

Long Range Provision for Atlantic convoy protection.
Aircraft. C.O.S.(W) 366. (Air Min. 2105Z/26 to Britman,
Washington). See Lion Copy.

1117

26.11.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. U.S. Minesweeper WHIPPORWILL returned to Fremantle 24th.
Departure Townsville 25th U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON on patrol.
(N.B. Melbourne 0428Z/26 to Admty etc).

SOLACE. Departure Auckland U.S.S. SOLACE, E.T.A. Espiritu Santo 1900Z/29.
(D.N.I. Wellington 0621Z/26 to Admty).

Situation. Digest Serial No. 308 Nov. 25th.
R/C A/C sighted two destroyers northern end Dampier Strait morning 25th November shadowed to 4.30 S. 148.30 E. at 2210/24 open course 45°. Same A/C sighted 4 destroyers 5.5 S. 149° 40' E at 2359/24 course 70°. 2. Air R/C Buin Shortlands area at 0050/24 from 26500 (?) feet reported total 12 vessels. Photos show 2 destroyers, 2 minelayers, one patrol craft, 4 M/Vs including one tanker also 9 landing barges. 1 bomber reported taking off Buin airfield. Escaped Rabaul natives confirm enemy reinforcements landed Gona Area night 21st Nov. with some artillery and LMUS Our troops making slight advances against strongly defended enemy positions Gona Buna area.
4. Six P.58s attacked Lae Aerodrome morning 25 Nov. probably destroying 1 Zero, dropping bombs on dispersal area and buildings.
5. Four Zeros strafed our positions Dobodura area causing some casualties.
6. One large M/V, one destroyer, arrived Dilli afternoon 25 Nov. 6 Beaufighters strafed Baucau and Vinililee starting fires among native huts and silencing one A/A position 24 Nov. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 0750Z/26 to Admty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimate at 1200Z/26.
(D.D.I.C. 1340A/26, 1355A/26).

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War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Q.P.15.

A further 7 ships have arrived, making 14 in all at Akureyri. The fresh arrivals are SAINT OLAF, NATHANIEL GREENE, HOLLYWOOD, SCHONARIE, ANDRE, MARTI, KOMILES and FREDERIK ENGELS. 26 of the 28 or 30 ships are now accounted for. The minesweeper SHARPSHOOTER reports that she has been extensively damaged in collision at Seidisfiord and is proceeding to Hvalfjord to effect repairs.

Patrol
N.1630 A.

Norwegian manned M.T.Bs 620 and 623 have returned from patrol in Norwegian waters and report attacking at Q10A shipping at anchor in Askevold Bay (approx. $61\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. 5° E. in Granesund, Indreled) and torpedoing two fully laden ships of about 5000 tons each, which were left sinking. The M.T.Bs suffered no casualties. This is the first success of this Norwegian manned flotilla operated by A.C.O.S.

Aircraft report rows of mines stretching N.E. and S.W. as far as the eye can see from a position near the West Hinder Bank. Further R/C is being made.

North Atlantic.

A damaged German tanker is reported at Ferrol.

A Halifax aircraft attacked a U-Boat 10 miles north of Santander today and claims a direct hit. Five hours later a Liberator aircraft, 70 miles east of Bilbao attacked with bombs a U-Boat, probably the same as that previously attacked. Later, a U-Boat was reported entering Hdaye.

1119

27.11.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SS POLYDORUS which reported being gunned by a U-Boat on 24th and 26th November was torpedoed at 0355 today in 9° 1' N. 25° 38' W. after being chased for 24 hours.

One of our aircraft engaged on R/C of Dakar was heavily and accurately fired at by the A/A defences. The Admiralty on 30th November concurred in the proposal of N.C.X.F. that P.R.U of the port should be discontinued.

SS. JEREMIAH WADSWORTH reported being torpedoed at 1645 in 40° 3' S 22° 28' E.

Mediterranean.

Force K. Force K (for composition see 25th November) arrived at Malta at 1510Z today.

Force Q. Force Q (see 25th November) arrived at Bone at 1022Z today.

French Fleet at Toulon Scuttled.

German forces seized Toulon this morning and some of the ships of the French Navy in port scuttled themselves. Some submarines escaped and one is reported to have been blown up by one of the mines laid by German Aircraft at the exit to the port. No P.R.U. or R/C of Toulon was practicable today, on account of the weather, but the Admiralty learnt that there were indications of some movements of the French Fleet at Toulon and Force H proceeded to the neighbourhood of the Balearic Isles, to give air support to the French Fleet if it should leave harbour.

The H.Q. of N.C.X.F. was established at Algiers today, where the North African Shipping Board was also established.

P.221 reports that she hit an escorted laden ^{5,000} ton merchant ship with 2 torpedoes at 0942/16, near Cani Rock. UNA torpedoed a southbound 4000 ton escorted merchant vessel in 37° 34' N. 10° 33' E. (40 miles N.W. of Cape Bon) at 0047A/today and obtained one hit:

/the....

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War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

the vessel appeared to blow up and the explosion caused considerable superficial damage inside UNA.

U/Boat
destroyed.

ANTONIO

SCIESA.

(Lt. Rowbotham
& Lt. J. 6643.)

A wrecked Italian submarine of the "Balilla" Class is reported to be beached at Tobruk in 32° 4' 6" N. 23° 59' 2"E. The submarine was hit by 2 bombs in a raid by U.S. bombers on 7th November and was subsequently completely wrecked internally by demolition.

ERICA and another corvette attacked a contact in 32° 54' N. 22° 41' E. (10 miles north of Derna) this morning and eventually produced a considerable amount of oil and one Dutch electric bulb.

U.S. B.17s despatched to bomb a floating dock Portolago Bay, Leros Island today claim possible hits on two merchant vessels, followed by fire.

Cased petrol carrier SZECHUEN was lost at sea today as the result of internal explosion.

China.

10 B.25s with 23 P.40s bombed Canton harbour today and report having sunk an 8000 ton and a 6000 ton merchant ship and numerous lighters.

America & West Indies.

SS. BLAIRATHOLL in Convoy S.C.110 reported this morning that she was foundering in 51° 25' N. 48° 30' W. Her boats had carried away and she was taking to rafts. This is reported to be the result of a collision. The ship foundered en route to St. Johns..

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27.11.1942.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Amendment
to F.O.S.
1849/26.

F.O.(S) 1622A/27.

HAYDON
and ROCKWOOD.Leaving U.K. mid December are allocated to Med.
Fleet.2. They will be sailed to operate under N.C.X.F
until an opportunity occurs of passing them
through to the Eastern Med. as arranged between
N.C.X.F. and C. in C. Med.
(D.O.D. (F), 2215A/27)Movements.

GURNARD

*See next page*C. in C. W.A. 2352/26. Regret unable to advance
passage of GURNARD. Should be grateful if
arrangements in para. 3 of Signal quoted can be
implemented.
(F.O.S. , 0024A/27 to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.
W.A.)

1. Intend sailing GURNARD escorted by LAUDERDALE at 1200A
28th for 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles E.T.A. 1800A/29th S. of A.
15 knots.
2. Thence LAUDERDALE as ordered by C. in C. W.A.
3. Thence GURNARD proceed dive by day as ordered in F.O.S.
1647/26.
4. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-
operation. Help message on 385 k/cs.
(U.S. S/M Sqdn. 50 1431A/27 to A.I.G. 220, Comnavu).

Movements
of S/MS.

F.O.S. 1816A/27. See Lion Copy.

A.F.D. XIX.

Re escort.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1059A/27).~~BLACKFISH~~Clyde arrival LAUDERDALE with U.S.N. S/M
BLACKFISH, codeword "Obstacle".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1444A/27)..

CILICIA

Admty. 1301A/3rd. Earliest date on which CILICIA
can arrive at Clyde is Dec. 5th. In view of this,
request I may be informed if date of sailing from
Clyde will be adhered to. Admty. 1226A/14th
refers.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1518A/27 to Admty).

Trawlers

My 1757/27th trawlers are not required at
Reykjavik until Dec. 6th. F.O.I.C. Greenock
should therefore sail NORTHERN GEM to Belfast after
calibration. F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to
sail the 4 trawlers to arrive Reykjavik as
indicated.
(C. in C. W.A. , 2042A/27).

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1816A/27 November

From F.O. (S)

Date 27.11.42.

Recd. 1832

P/L BY SECRET T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

462.

Positions of submarines at 0800/28th November and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) P. 55, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE, 55 degs 36' North 006 deg 30' West proceeding to Holy Loch.

(B) TRUANT, 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles due rendezvous with CUTTY SARK at 0800/28th November and proceed escorted to Holyloch.

(C) SEALION, off Vigo.

(D) GRAPH, in Zone 501.

(E) DOLFIJN, in Zone 505.

(F) JUNON, vicinity 69 degs 40' North 16 deg 20' East *see next page - Op. "Upsilon"*

(G) P. 216, approximately position 64 degs 49' North 3 degs 32' East.

(H) P. 312, approximate position 64 degs 37' North 03 degs 01' East

(J) UREDD, approximate position 64 degs 12' North 03 degs 50' East, submarines in paras. G H and J all proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion to Lerwick.

(K) GURNARD, escorted by LAUDERDALE, leaves Gareloch 1200/28th November for vicinity Bishop Rock. Vessel is painted black with no repetition no number. *see previous page*

(L) P. 224, leaves Birkenhead 1330/28th November escorted by YASCAMA expected time of arrival Cumbræes 1000/29th November.

1816A/27

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(H). D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (H).
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).
D.N.I. (4)

1122

War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols

Destroyer Patrols tonight Friday.

(C. in C. Nore, 0952A/27, 1600A/27).

Tonight 27/28 Nov. GLAISDALE, M.T.Bs. 55, 49, 50, M.G.B. 615 proceed to Yarmouth before dark and

remain at immediate notice returning after daylight.

If ordered to patrol they are to do so on 50° 20' N., between 02° 00' W., and Q.Z.X. 776.

→ CHASSEURS 41 (S.O.) and 11 patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy if weather permits. Collective call sign for GLAISDALE M.T.Bs. and M.G.B. 3 V A P.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1131/27 to HORNET D.1., (R) GLAISDALE, S.O. 11th M.T.B. F. S.O. 18th M.G.B. F. X.D.O. (E) X.D.O. (W) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth V.A. Dover F.O.I.C. Portland N.O.I.C. Newhaven, R.A.F. Tangmere, Thorney Island.)

X(1) CHASSEURS 41 and 11 patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy night 27/28 Nov.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1530A/27 to Ships on Portsmouth Port Wave. (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C. Portland, V.A. Dover, 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). Patrols tonight Friday 2 motor gunboats (L) each Z. 14 and

S.11.

(C. in C. Nore, 1555A/27 to S.E.E.C.C.O.)

Dover dispositions for night of 27/28th Nov. M.Ls. 293 and 140 near C one buoy. M.G.Bs. 110, 10 and 7 patrolling between Vergoyer Bank and Bassurelle Shoal E.T.D. Ramsgate 1730, E.T.R. 2359. Route via D buoy each way.

(V.A. Dover, 1728A/27 to Admty. C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Portsmouth, N.O.I.C. Newhaven).

Patrol Cancelled. CAMPBELL and CATTISTOCK proceed Humber. Remainder anchor at Rough.

(C. in C. Nore, 1750A/27).

Patrol
N 1630A.

M.T.B. 620 and 623 returned from patrol N 1630A.

(2) Reports attacked shipping at anchor in Askevol*Bay at 0110A.

(3) 4 torpedoes fired 2 fully laden ships both about 5,000 tons hit and left sinking.

(4) No casualties in either M.T.B. My 1140/25th refers. (A.C.O.S., 1831/27).

*?Askevold about 61½° N., 5° E. in Granesund (Indreled).

Operation
"Upsilon".

My 0234/25th. At your discretion and weather permitting carry out operation ordered between 1700A and 1900A/28th Nov.

2. Exercise extreme caution, you have full discretion to cancel operation if presence of enemy, weather conditions or moonlight etc. renders it unwise. Your primary consideration at all times is safety of your S/M.
3. Shore party will make 3 long flashes on "Torch" at intervals. Your "Cowboat" party should hail with word "Hugo", party ashore will reply "Nautilus".

4. Whether you succeed or not leave area for Lerwick at 0001/29th and report situation when more than 60 miles from coast.

(F.O.S., 2252A/27 to JUNON). *see previous page.*

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27.11.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Am over enemy S/M in LAJB 3020. (indecipherable)
Have attacked enemy with bombs level, estimate
no hits.
(T/59 Sqdn. 1732A/27 to H.Q. 19 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.

WILLING
BOYS.

At 1520 today Friday WILLING BOYS when sweeping
about four miles south of Dover was attacked with
cannon and machine gun fire by two enemy fighter
aircraft. C.O. and one rating wounded and ship
sustained superficial damage. Aircraft are
reported then to have proceeded to attack a
train near Lydd when one of them crashed.
(V.A. Dover, 1808A/27).

Mining.

Mines near
W. Hinder.

Jim Crow A/C R/C reports rows of mines stretching
N.E. and S.W. as far as the eye can seen from
a position in the vicinity of W. Hinder Bank.
Further R/C is being made.
(V.A. Dover, 1319A/27 to C. in C. Nore).

Mining
results
Norway.

(a) Norway NORDLAND 765 tons mined and sunk
Vestfjord Nov. 18.
(b) Norway Ferry PETER WESTSEL mined and sunk
Flokker Fjord early November. B.three.
(N.A. Stockholm 1009/27).

Enemy Intelligence.

2 destroyers

Following received from Plymouth. Enemy
previously reported is accompanied by 2 destroyers
(C.8 L 1115/27 to T.29).
Position of 2 enemy destroyers 43° 35' N., 2°
55' W. course 090° speed 10 knots at 1100.
(A/C C/S C81/J 1430/27 to 19 Group).

SCHARNHORST,
LÜTZOW
GNEISENAU.

(A) SCHARNHORST on Nov. 12th was at Gdynia
about to have one shaft withdrawn and two
propellers changed. B.three.
(B) LÜTZOW Nov. 14th was at Gdynia berthed
opposite GNEISENAU by torpedo sheds. A two.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1641/27).
Comment. (A) SCHARNHORST completed damaged
repairs at Kiel at beginning of August and
proceeded to Gdynia from which port she is known to have carried
out trials at end of September. R/C of Gdynia on 5th Oct.
located SCHARNHORST alongside and GNEISENAU in floating dock
the latter having her bow removed.
A B 2 report stated GNEISENAU was alongside at Gdynia on 19th
Oct. and R/C on 11th Nov. showed SCHARNHORST in floating dock
and GNEISENAU alongside. It seems quite probable therefore that
the above report from N.A. Stockholm may be correct and that
SCHARNHORST is now repairing defects which were discovered
during trials.
/Hendaye...

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27.11.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Hendaye. Following received from 19 group Immediate.
1 armed merchant cruiser 3 merchant vessels 1 (SX)
nearing into harbour night (Hendaye?).
(T/59 Sqdn. 1737/27).

Navigational.

Inshore route, Your 1224/6 re-introduction of route proposed
Humber - in para. 2 is approved subject to examination
Flamborough and fixing of wrecks in approx. positions:
Hd. (a) 53° 44' 45" N., 00° 05' 30" E.
(b) 53° 44' 15" N., 00° 12' 00" E.
(2) Trinity House has been requested to lay the
buoys required in accordance with your para. 3.
(3) It is understood that this route will not
be regarded as a searched channel but will be swept occasionally
and, if mining is suspected, will be immediately closed.
(D.T.D., 1113A/27 to C. in C. Nore, (R) F.O.I.C. Harwich,
N.C.S.O. Thames, C. in C. Rosyth).

Daviken My 1659A/23. Anchorage at Daviken (61° 54' N.,
50° 34' E) reported (Grade B.1) closed between
2200 and 0600.
(D.N.I. 1536A/27 to F.O.S. A.C.O.S.)

Casualties & Defects.

SHARPSHOOTER Have been in collision with (?Corrupt groups) in
See next page. Seidisfjord. Extensive damage above waterline
between frames 97 lower deck 102 on starboard
quarter. 2 depth charges set to safe lost
overboard in 065° 17' 30" N., 013° 46' W. Am
proceeding to Hvalfjord to effect repairs.
(SHARPSHOOTER, 0243A/27).

Dinghy Dinghy position 49° 14' N., 6° 56' W.
(A/C G8LP 0755/27).

* ?LERANA, Russians request you will (?sail) at 1800C today
A. MIKOJAN. and escort (?LERANA) and damaged MIKOJAN to
Iokanka and not to Dvina. As speed is reduced
* ?GLENER to 6 knots Russians suggest Oropesa and S.A.3
intended. ahead but this is left to your discretion.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0838A/27 to S.O. M/S 6).

At 2225C/26th. When icebreakers LENIN and MIKOJAN were
proceeding to Dvina escorted by HARRIER and GLEANER an
explosion occurred close to MIKOJAN's stern in 068° 48' N., 045°
23' E. MIKOJAN suffered damage and is making water which is
under control. (?speed reduced to) 6 knots. Vessels have
made for shallow water to South eastward but will turn at 1800C
today and at the request of the Russians S.O.6th M/S Flotilla
has been ordered to escort them to Iokanka.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0857A/27).

1125

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

IRONCLAD.

Your 1610/26th in view of present northerly gale expected to last some days request you will consider laying IRONCLAD up in White Sea for repairs during winter rather than risk loss by towing in her present condition.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1320A/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Distress signals.

Have seen pyrotechnic distress signals in 49° 22' N., 5° 39' W.
(A/C 502 C 2310/27).

Shipping & Convoys.

Q.P.15

Northrops will be sweeping in your area from 0955 tomorrow Friday.

(A.C.I.C., 0011A/27 to Ships Escorting Q.P.15
(R) C.S.l. C. in C. H.F., Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER is to return independently to Scapa as soon as my^{*}1249/25th has been complied with. ^{* p.1048 9}

(C. in C. H.F., 0026A/27 to Capt. (D) 8. (R) A.C.I.C., ^{use page}
R.A.(D) H.F., MUSKETEER, HALCYON).

My 1946/26 and C. in C. Rosyth's 2338/26. not to all addressees. Air cover to main convoy will be given Northrops aircraft from dawn to dusk.

(A.C.I.C., 0350A/27 to Capt. D.8. (R) C. in C. H.F. HALCYON, Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S., Admty. C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth F.O.(S) Ships escorting Q.P.15).

Have searched area 35 miles wide from 067° 35' N., 013° 30' west to 068° 05' North 011° 40' W. without result.
Am returning with IMPULSIVE, my P.C. and S. 067° 30' N., 011° 05' W., 210° 20 knots.

(FORESTER, 0900A/27 to Capt. D.8. A.C.I.C. SALAMANDER, IMPULSIVE).

Join me in Hvalfjord.

(SUFFOLK, 1010A/27 to OBDURATE (R) A.C.I.C., R.N.O. Seidisfjord, Ice, ONSLAUGHT).

Hvalfjord arrival SUFFOLK at 0955/27.

(A.C.I.C., 1111A/27).

Your 1010/27 not to Capt. (D) 8 OBDURATE has been detailed by Capt. (D) 8 to patrol in position (OO) in accordance with C. in C. H.F., 1249/25.

(A.C.I.C., 1135A/27 to SUFFOLK (R) OBDURATE, Capt. (D) 8).

My 2235/26th? 7 further ships have arrived making 14 in all at Akureyri. Propose these ships be sailed as 2nd Group routed east of Iceland as in C. in C. H.F., 0148/24th to Loch Ewe escorted by remainder of escort as detailed in Capt. (D) 8th D.F. 2250/26th.

(A.C.I.C., 1210A/27 to C. in C. H.F., Capt. (D) 8 (R) C.S.l. HALCYON. Admty).

* My 1234A/27. Repair effected. E.T.A. (corrupt group) 1400A/28.

(SHARPSHOOTER, 1415A/27 to A.C.I.C.) *see previous page*

* 0243A

1126

27.11.1942.
Frdiay.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - 11/25.

Q.P.15. Contd. Q.P.15. Present situation. 12 stragglers possibly 14 have arrived Akureyri. Commodore's section as in my 2250 26th and my 1324 27th. LAFAYETTE at Seidisfjord. Intend FORESTER, BERGAMONT, BRYONY escort SAN AMBROSIO, LAFAYETTE to U.K. p.m. tomorrow Saturday, IMPULSIVE on patrol in position H H. OBDURATE patrolling in position O O. HALCYON, BRITOMART, SALAMANDER, HAZARD making good defects and then proceeding to Scapa probably p.m. tomorrow Saturday. Intend proceeding to Scapa east of minefields at 1000A tomorrow Saturday with ECHO, OAKLEY, MUSKETEER, ORWELL. E.T.A. 1600A/29th
*(Capt. (D) 8., 1529A/27 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C., (R) R.A.(D) H.F., INTREPID, FORESTER, HALCYON). *FAULKNER. 11/25
Situation 2000 tonight Friday. Q.P.15. 63.55 N., 14.55 W. to south east.
(A.C.O.S., 1554/27).
My 2235/26th in addition to the 5 ships named following are now at Akureyri. SAINT OLAF, NATHANIEL GREENE, HOLLYWOOD, SCHOHARIE, ANDRE MARTI, TBILISI, KOMILES, FREDERIK ENGELS, PETROVSKI.
HOLLYWOOD has been ordered to sail independently for Reykjavik at daylight 28th as she needs fresh water urgently which cannot be supplied at Akureyri.
(A.C.I.C., 2053A/27 to Adnty. (?C. in C. H.F.) Capt. (D) 8 (R) C.S.I., HALCYON).
A.C.I.C.'s 1210/27 concur.
(C. in C. H.F., 2119/27 to D.8. A.C.I.C., (R) C.S.I. HALCYON, Adnty).

K.X.7 My 1622/21 ^{1/10-698} for PENYLAN S.O. read BLEASDALE S.O. (C. in C. W.A., 0119A/27).

K.M.S.4 Sailed DUNBAR in accordance with your ^{*}1206/25 and 1058/26 codeword "Protocol". ^{*H.T.M.D.}
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0830A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
K.M.S.4. Further to my 2350/26th the following sailed 1940/26th H.64, K.61, K.63, K.65, K.67 K.68 K.72 C.B. 27494.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1130/27).

S.C.110 ^{WILLIAM J.}
A DUANE to leave O.N.S.J. 148 to join.
(C. in C. W.A., 0921Z/27) See America & West Indies. ^{p.1147.}
Request you will consider sailing SCHENCK and BABBITT forthwith if you have not already done so to join S.C.110 which is threatened by U-boats.
(C. in C. W.A., 0922Z/27 to C.T.G. 24.6 (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Adnty. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G. 24.7 DUANE.)
^{WILLIAM J.}
C. in C. W.A. 0922/27. SCHENCK and BABBITT sailed at 1230Z/27. LEARY not available.
(Iceland, 1325Z/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

HOPEMOUNT Tanker HOPEMOUNT arrived Iokanka 26th Nov. Adnty. pass to M.W.T. S.B.N.O. North Russia pass to N.O.I.C. Murmansk.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0937A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
/P.Q.19...

War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- P.Q.19 Your 1836/21st. Still endeavouring to obtain information.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1415A/27 to Admty).
- K.M.F.4 My 1532A/25th and C. in C. W.A. 2237A/26th
Sailed codeword "Collins 2".
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1516A/27).
Intend sailing SWALE to join K.M.F.4 in position
D. at 0900Z/28th. A.M. 2335A/22nd refers.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1619A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
- D.S.34 D.S.34. Intend sailing LEINSTER escorted by
ST. MARYS passing Clyde Boom 2315A/28th to R/V
CASTLETON in position (P) at 0845A/29th Nov.
thence in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1024A/26
codeword "Product".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1526A/27).
- O.N.S.148 Will transmit on 4400 k/cs commencing 2400Z/27th
in accordance with W.A.S.O. Para. 216. If
unable H/F watch advised and suggest procedure.
P.C. and S. at 1500Z/27th 058° 57' 025° 16' 212°
7 knots. C. Weather conditions 2845 3343.
(C.T.U. 24.6.5, 1530Z/27 to C.T.U. 24.1.16).
- A.T.29 Your 1252A/26. Approved.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1719A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.X. 6 A. A.M. 2207/20 and 1818/22 not to C. in C. S.A.
Convoy KX 6A.
1. A/S T. DRANGEY will provide additional escort
to Gibraltar.
2. It is understood that DRANGEY will complete repairs 4th
Dec. and F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail her to Milford
Haven to arrive 5th Dec.
3. Ultimate destination of DRANGEY is Capetown. A.M. 2542/21
not to all addressees refers.
4. After arrival at Gibraltar F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange
onward sailing to Freetown as convenient.
(D.O.D. (H), 1720A/27).

1128

War Diary.27.11.42
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

STRATHALLAN Ref. FOLKESTONE's 1703/25 not to you. Request
K.M.F.5. you arrange for STRATHALLAN to be sailed to U.K.
as soon as possible and report anticipated date
of arrival.

2. She is required urgently for inclusion in K.M.F.5 sailing
U.K. 11th Dec.

3. Can she maintain this turnround?
(D.S.T. 0100A/27 to P.S.T.O. X.F.)

R.C.N. Ref. App. to TON 6 orders.
Corvettes. 1. Understood that R.C.N. Corvettes, *NASTURTIUM,
WEYBURN and LUNENBURG, will be retained in W.
Mediterranean, being exchanged for a further three
R.C.N. Corvettes in due course.

2. Is it your intention to return 3 corvettes of 36th Escort
Group in their place?

3. If so request C. in C. W.A. may be informed of their names
and anticipated date of return as they are required for duty
with K.M.S.6 if they can be made available.

(D.O.D.(H) 1545A/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.)
Reply:- N.C.X.F. 1021/28. p. 1166.

* In 25th Comm. 9, see E.C.
but not R.C.N.

H.Q. H.Q. of N.C.X.F. have now been moved to Algiers.
My 2007/24 refers.
(N.C.X.F. 2216A/27.)

North Atlantic.

U/B By D/F on 4,412 K/cs at 2227Z/26, U-Boat
estimated to be in approx. 42° 30' N 9° 20' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0007A/27 to S/Ms on patrol S of 51° N.)

RHODODENDRON My 1310A/26. Add new para (7). RHODODENDRON,
VIOLET VIOLET sailing 0700A/27 direct to C. St. Vincent
thence R/V off Tagus II.
M.K.S. 2 (A) (F.O.C.N.A. 0044A/27 to Area X.)
see 24/11-A-1017

MIRROR (Cdre) Algiers 1516Z/26 (N.T. in W.R.) Intend to
sail MIRROR for Algiers at 1000/27 escorted by
ROTHESAY and FELIXSTOWE routed through 22, 70,
56, 44, 39, 7, 100, S of A 10 knots.

(2) Cdre. Algiers is requested to issue necessary instructions
to MIRROR for repairing cable.

(3) Codeword for fighter protection "Kice".

(4) Cdre. Algiers pass to N.C.X.F.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0154A/27 to Cdre. Algiers. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran.
Admty. N.C.X.F. ROTHESAY.)

My 0154/27. MIRROR, ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE sailed 1615.

Escort holds relevant QB, QBB messages and QBA 2 and 3.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1711A/27 to Cdre. Algiers. (R) N.O.I.C. Cran
Admty. N.C.X.F.)

/M.K.F.3...

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27.11.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

M.K.F.3. Sailing telegram.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0834/27.) See Lion Copy. *next page*
Sailed M.K.F.3 comprising ORMONDE, DUCHESS OF
YORK, STRAFFORDSHIRE, BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, ORION, COAMO,
CDR. HUYGENS, ANDES, NEA HELLAS, ORONTES, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA,
RANGITIKI, STRATHALLAN, MARIPOSA, WINDSOR CASTLE 1730/26.
ORONTES F.W. Tanks require cleaning as filled S.W. Ballast.
ORMONDE embarked Algiers 151 Gibraltar 426 passengers.
(D.S.T.O. Gibraltar 1615/27 to D.S.T.)

MARIA VICTORIA My 0911/24 (4 Swiss ships leaving Gibraltar on
approved voyage.) Sailing of MARIA VICTORIA
delayed until 28th.
(Capt. S.8. 0946A/27 to 8 S.F.)

DRAGON Left Ponta Delgada 1045 G.M.T./27th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1010/27 to S.O.(I.)
Gibraltar. (R) Admty.)
Passed by N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. Admty. pass to all
addressees. Ref. F.O.C.W.A. 1119Z/20. S of A 16 knots.
E.T.A. position K 2200Z/30th.
(DRAGON 1955Z/26 to Admty.)

NURIA R 2733 G.T. National colour painted on hull,
Spanish sailing Marseilles Nov. 28th for Barcelona.
Ship is not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1155A/27 to S & A Area G. etc.)

SCHARLACH- GERMAN 55 arrived 27th.
BERGER (Consul Bilbao 1253/27 to Admty.)

ADVENTURE Intend to sail ADVENTURE escorted by VANOC and
VELOX at 1830/27 routed through -
A. 36.01 06.01. B. 36.18 09.38. C. 39.01 15.59
D. 45 (?01) 15.59. S of A 18 knots.
2. Admty. is requested to signal onward route and destination.
3. Destroyers part company at 040° N and return to Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1520A/27 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C.
Plymouth. ADVENTURE. C. in C. W.A. R.A.M.)
My 1520/27. Sailed ADVENTURE, local escort VELOX, VANOC.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1846A/27 to Admty. etc.)
My 1357A/27. add new para (ix) ADVENTURE two destroyers
36.01 05.48 through 36.18 09.38 and 39.01 15.59 thence 001° 18.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1908A/27.)

BALDUR Your 1134/26. German 61 called BALDUR is approx.
5,000 G.T. length about 400 feet. Following are
distinguishing features.
Loading almost completed should be ready for sea
tomorrow 28th.
(Consul Bilbao 1659/27 to Admty.)

/MAX...

MOST SECRET

1129A

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E. 0834/27th Nov. IN

From. V.A.C.N.A. Date. 27.11.42.
Recd. 1520.

NAVAL CYPHER X D BY W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty. Repeated C. in C.
Western Approaches. N.C.X.F.

IMMEDIATE. 620.

Following is repetition of my 2330A/26
Addressed Admiralty 593. Repeated C. in C. Western
Approaches. N.C.X.F. From. V.A.C.N.A.

(1) M.K.F.3 (2) 1700/26th Nov.

(3) Nil. (4) 12½.

(5) (B) 36 00 N. 06 35 W.

(C) 36 25 07 10.

(D) 36 30 10 00.

(E) 39 12 17 01.

(F) 45 25 17 26.

(G) 50 35 16 50.

(H) 54 05 13 37.

(J) 55 28 08 30.

(6) WESTON (3.0), WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON,
POLKESPORE, WAVENEY, LANCASTER, WELLS.

(7) 7 columns 2 3 3 3 3 3 1.

(8) (R) 35 45 North 07 46 West.

(S) 35 42 10 30.

(T) 38 48 17 50.

(U) 45 25 18 34.

(V) 50 55 17 05.

(W) 54 39 14 40.

(X) 55 28 08 30.

(9) Nil.

(10) Cdre. Casey, R.N.R. S.S. STRATHMILLAN.

Vice Cdre. Master of S.S. ANDES. (14) 20 21 Incon. 288

(15) R.M. Codeword H A R P E R. Q.Z.F. 955 minus 951.

Q.Z.S. 388 Y 364 cruising order STAFFORDSHIRE

LEOPOLDVILLE EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA WINDSOR CASTLE

D/F ARCHER (H.M.S) Nil ORMONDE NEA HELLS (D/F)

STRATHMILLAN ORONTES COAMO ORION D/F DUCHESS OF

YORK. CHRISTIAN HUYGENS ANDES MARIPOSA

BERGENSFJORD RANGITIKI (D/F) ends. T.O.O. 2330A/26.

0834/27.

1st Lord. D.T.D. (3)

1st S.L. (2) D.T.D. (M)

V.C.N.S. D.T.D. (C)

A.C.N.S. (H) D.D.I.C. (2)

A.C.N.S. (F) (2) D.C. (2)

A.C.N.S. (T) I.P. (2)

C.N.A.S. D.A/S.W.

A.C.N.A.S. Hd. of M.

N.A. 1st S.L. D. of P (2)

Capt. Pim. D. of P. (Q)

D.O.D. (H) (2) C.C.O. (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2) D.N.A.D.

Advance Copy sent.

Duty Capt.

D.O.D. (H)

D.T.D.

D.S.D. 9(2)

D.S.D.

Ad. Blake. (2) I.P. (2) ~~W.D.~~

Ad. Ramsey. (4) File 2330/26.

VS

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE. 1400Z/27th Nov. IN

From:- F.O.C.N.A.

Date, 27/11/42.

Recd. 2323.

NAVAL CYTHER 3(S) BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed:- Situation report for area "Z"
of N.A. Station.

Situation 1959A 27th.

Trawlers DUNKERAY, BUTSER, approaching
Horta from North West speed 10. Expected
time of arrival*s Dawn 28th, dawn 29th,
respectively.

DUNCTION, INKPEN, BIRDLIP, INDIAN STAR, in
company. *See p. 1131.*

GLENEARN, 018 degs 38' 021 degs 38'
through 021 degs 01' 022 degs 01' thence
344 degs 16. *See p. 1134*

Cable ship~~s~~ LADY DENISON PENDER, and
2 corvettes, 020 degs 16' 019 degs 51' to
operating in position 022 degs 20' 020 degs
01'. *See p. 1134.*

1400Z/27.

Advance Copy. Duty
Capt., D.O.D.(F).,
D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2).
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.C.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).
Ad. Ramsey.(4).
D.of.P.(Q).

SECRET

1129 e

SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN.

1824A/27th November.

From: F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date: 27/11/42.

Recd: 2254.

NAVAL OFFICER (38) BY W/T.

Addressed: Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

Brief situation report for area West of Algiers 2001 A 27th submarines excepted.

- 1) H.M.S. ROMESAY, H.M.S. FELIXSTONE, cable ship MIRROR *See p. 1128*
 - 36 08 04 10 West through
 - 36 08 03 42 West
 - 36 10 03 01 West
 - 36 18 01 02 West and
 - 36 33 00 19 East 10.
- 2) Forge H pass through 37 40 02 30 East at 1700A 27th course 070 16.
- 3) IMPERIALIST off McFilla.
- 4) SAMPHIRE sails 0700 28th direct to Cape Palos 10. *See p. 1137*
- 5) H.M.S. VERITY one merchant ship sails from Algiers 0530A 28th through 30 53 02 54 East and 36 33 00 19 East thence 255 18.

1824A/27.

Advance copy - Ops., O.D., O.I.C.,

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9. (2)
D.A./S.W.
W.D.

D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
D. of P. (Q)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
W/T Board
D.S.D. (2)

1130

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

MAX
ALBRECHT
(German) Corunna reports tanker MAX ALBRECHT at Ferrol shipped (50) live Oxen Nov. 21st. (N.A. Madrid 1727/27 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

German Tanker, Ferrol. Admty. pass to C. in C. Plymouth.* F.O.S. and H.Q.C.C. Damaged German tanker at Ferrol reported in dry dock. Holed in starboard side. About 7 metres long on waterline. Pumping was necessary until she docked. No repairs started (?aboard) 25th. but Spanish Dockyard Officer examined damage that day. Only 1 German Official has apparently visited her so far. Identity unknown. Ship camouflaged painted light grey with black stripes. Name still unknown. Armament 1 low angle gun and 2 A/A right aft 2 A/A forward 2 on bridge. Crew about 100. (N.A. Madrid 1838/27 to Admty. F.O.C.N.A.)*Passing action being taken by W.R.

G.U.F.2. G.U.F.2 depart Casablanca 29th Nov. R/V with Task Force 37 in 33.12 N 10.40 W at noon Z 30th Nov. thence through -
P. 30.50 N 13.01 W. Q. 29.35 N 21.02 W. R. 35.00 N 29.54 W. S. 24.10 N 39.59 W. thence direct to New York S of A 13. Escorts for Oran Section U.G.S.2 initially with G.U.F.2. By hand to C.T.F.38, HERMITAGE, C.T.U. 26.7.1. and C.T.U. 26.7.3. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1852Z/27 to C.T.F.37. F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. (U.S.) C. in C. U.S. Fleet. C & R. Admty. C.T.U. 26.7.2.)

French shipping. From M.W.T.R. Should any French ship leave Algerian ports for U.K. request every possible effort be made in Algeria to load cargo at least sufficient to make vessel seaworthy for ocean passage. No cargo or ballast available at Gibraltar and loading in Spain or Portugal impossible for political reasons. (F.O.C.N.A. 1905A/27 to M.W.T.R. Algiers. (R) D. of S.T. S.T.L.O. Oran.)

CASTILLO AMPUDIA Spanish SS. CASTILLA AMPUDIA says she was attacked inside territorial waters off Cape Ortegal shortly after dark Nov. 20th. by unidentified A/C. 2 near misses and slight damage. No casualties. A/C left when ship turned searchlight on her deck markings to increase illumination. (Madrid 1914/27 to Admty.)

BENSON NICHOLSON Have U.S.S. BENSON fuelled and ready to join Task Force 38, carrying out proposed exchange U.S.S. BENSON and U.S.S. NICHOLSON 0800Z/30th Nov. (S.N.O. Casablanca 2115Z/27 to C.T.37. (R) C.T. 38. Com. 7th U.S. Destroyer Sqdn.)

Can call 28/11 - 29/11 U/B...7

27.11.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B

Submarine sighted by Clipper in position (H)
038° 35' N 028° 18' W 1035 G.M.T. today.
Please warn trawlers of which 3 were seen
entering Horta just before. F.O.I.C. Belfast's
1602/11* refers.

(N.A. Lisbon 2356C/27 to Brit. V.C. Horta. (R)
S.O.I. Gibraltar. Admty.)

* Intend to sail A/S trawlers DUNCTON, INDIAN
STAR, DUNKERY, BUTSER, BREDON, BIRDLIP, INKPEN,
E.T.A. Horta 26th. *See p. 112913.*

1132

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

POLYDORUS
torpedoed.
See next page

From Portishead Radio. Intercepted 0435 G.M.T. from HOPEPEAK. S S S S, POLYDORUS 9.01 N. 25.38 W. torpedoed 0355/27. 0430/27. (Burnham Radio, No T.O.O/27 Recd. 0600/27) (Plymouth C.C.O 0630/27 Recd 0718/27.)

ALCOA.
PATHFINDER.

American ship ALCOA PATHFINDER torpedoed and sunk in 026° 41' S. 033° 08' E. at 2340Z/21st Nov. Submarine not sighted until after ship sank. All C.Bs sank with ship in weighted box on the bridge. (N.C.S.O. Durban 06;8Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

→ P.552.

Departure Pointe Noire 1800Z/26 P.552 E.T.A. as (?reported) in my 2355/24th. (B.N.L.O.W.A. 0805/27 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A. F.O.(S))

MOUNT HELMOS
(torpedoed
24/11.)

Survivor who landed near St. Lucia Bay reports MOUNT HELMOS torpedoed approx. 75 miles south of Lourenco Marques 0930/24th. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0819C/27 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. Admty.)

French West
Africa.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 367. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 365 (1820/26 re conference with Boisson and Darlan) We should of course have liked to stipulate that British naval and air authorities in West Africa should have right to deal direct with French naval and air authorities. We recognise that such an arrangement is not practical politics at the moment, and we cannot therefore press for it. (Air Mins. 1140Z/27 to Britman, Washington.)

Return of
Destroyers
to Eastern
Fleet.

Your 1402/25 (Hush) agree. As a first instalment intend NORMAN and NEPAL to escort W.S.24 to Durban arriving about 3rd Dec. subsequently reverting to Eastern Fleet. (2) On arrival of 1st group of Trawlers propose CATTERICK returns to Eastern Fleet to be followed by NIZAM on completion of refit mid-December. (C. in C. S.A. 1213C/27 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.) * *See next page.*

ENTERPRISE,
→ P.552.

Supp. 1133A 4B

Estimated position of P.552 at 2000Z/27th 008° 30' S. 010° 15' E. routed through 010° 01' S. 011° 01' east speed 9 knots. Estimate you may pass at 2300Z/27th. (C. in C. S.A. 1235C/27 to ENTERPRISE (R) P.552.)

/SKOTAAS ...

1133

27.11.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

SKOTAAS. Your 1516/18th (Sighting of suspicious vessel presumably Tanker SKOTAAS) Master states he did not follow route orders as he considered weather conditions too dangerous. Actual route Nov. 9th 041° 30' S. 002° 00' W. 16th 044° 30' S. 030° 00' W. 21st 047° 30' S. 050° 00' W. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1256Z/27 to S.O.(I) Capetown (R) Admty.)

Convoy (1) Alter course at dusk 27th November for new position (f) 008° 25' N. 023° 30' W. where F.T.T.3. convoy is to be dispersed at dusk 29th November. (ii) After dispersal MARY KINGSLEY and BACTRIA omit first positions on independent routes and ZOAVE amend position (k) to 007° 00' N. 025° 30' W. (iii) Netherlands POLYDORUS torpedoed in (g) 009° 01' N. 025° 38' W. at 0355/27th. *See previous page.* (iv) Search for survivors. Further signal will be made. (v) Pass to MORRIS DANCE and Cdre. (F.O.W.A. 1325Z/27 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Kingston, Comsolantfor, Connav.)

JEREMIAH Following intercepted at 1645 D E D E JEREMIAH WADSWORTH WADSWORTH torpedoed 40.03 S. 22.28 E. torpedoed. (Slangkop W/T 1354Z/27.) Ref. Admty. message A.F. position 040° 03' S. 022° 28' E. (C. in C. S.A. 1424 G.M.T/27 to L.A.M.S. Area 3 B.)

HAWKINS. Your 1621/26 para. 2. Confirmed that HAWKINS can be received at Durban on 4th December. C.S. Durban 1130/27 to C. in C. E.F. only refers. (Cdre. Durban 1414Z/27 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet Kilindini (R) C. in C. S.A., C.S.4 Admty.)

Shipping Ref. Admty. 1612/25th para.(2) (ships to call at Routes. a South African port for onward routeing instructions) Request such ships be routed to Saldanha Bay for Capetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1433C/27 to Admty.)

*NEPAL, Simonstown arrival 27th. FORTUNE. (C. in C. S.A. 1447C/27 to Admty.)

* *See Previous Page.*

W.S.24. Request you will thank U.S. Authorities for the arrangements made at Bahia for handling Convoy W.S.24. 2. N.A. Brazil is requested to convey a similar message to local authorities. (D.O.D.(F) Approved 1st Sea Lord 1454A/27 to B.A.D. N.A. Brazil.)

/BURDOCK ...

MOST SECRET

1133A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE. 1351Z/27th Nov. I:

From:- F.O.C. West Africa. Date. 27/11/42.
Recd. 1958
N. CYPHER M (No. 3) by W/T

Addressed:- Ships in Area "P" of S.A. Station,
South of 8 degs N. Admiralty. C. in C. South
Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Takoradi. R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT.

1 M.L. from Robert Port to Freetown 10.
H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, 1 M.L., escorting, about 06
25 11 25 to Freetown 8. BRIDGEWATER, MORRIS
DANCE, escorting, 06 40 22 286 degs 8. H.M.S.
RUMBA, F.S. COMMANDANT DENTROYAT, 2 M.L.'s,
with S T (44?), 03 05 07 30 076 degs 8
at 1959Z 27th. F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU,
escortng, 01 45 03 30 East 140 10½.
One M.L., escorting, 05 25 04 20 East to
Lagos (Nigeria) 9½. (?ST. ZENO), NORTHERN DAWN,
{ COVENTRY CITY, MAGNOLIA, BARERAKE, escorting,
{ off Takoradi to Pointe Noire 5½. *ENTERPRISE,
09 30 South 11 01 East to Pointe Noire 20.
H.M.S./M.P. 552, 08 10 South 11 20 East
through 10 01 South 11 02 East at 1030Z/28th
thence 188 9. * ~~1132~~ 1133¹³
1351Z/27.

Advance Copy. Ops. O.D.
Trade.

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.(2).
I.P.(2).
W.D.
D.T.D.(M).
D.T.D.(3).
D.T.D.(C).
D.D.O.D.(C)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

1424C/27/Nov.

Date 27, 11, 42.

Naval Cypher M by R/T & T/P

Time 1325.

Addressed A.I.G. 125

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. ALCANTARA 034 degs 30' South 006 degs 00' East to 034 degs 30' South 003 degs 00' East 13 knots.

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA and ROTHERHAM with W.S. 24 034 degs 30' South 000 degs 30' East to Cape 13.3 knots.

THYME 030 degs 00' South 016 degs 30' East to Simonstown 14 knots.

SOUTHERN BARRIER, TERJE, RODREPORT, and STEINBERG, searching vicinity 029 degs South 009 degs East.

H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, 010 degs South 011 degs East to Point Noire 20 knots. *See previous page.*(H.M.S.) P. 552, 008 degs 30' South 010 degs 15' east to Simonstown 9 knots. *See pp 1132 & 1133A*

1424C/27.

Advance copy sent D.C. D.C.D. (F) D.D.I.C.

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (T)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 D.C.D. (H) (2)
 D.C.D. (F) (2)
 Hd. of M. (2)
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 D. of I. (2)
~~M. of I.~~
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (M)
 I.P. (2)
 W.D.
 D.C. (2)

E.M.

1134

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

BURDOCK Relieved by CYCLAMEN in 018° 18' N 019° 44' W
CYCLAMEN at 1100Z/27. CYCLAMEN has only six days fuel
Remain 1/2 LADY remaining. My E.T.A. Bathurst 1000Z/29.
DENISON PENDER Weather report.
(BURDOCK 1501Z/27 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt. D.18. N.O.I.C.
Bathurst.)
My 1047/22. *P. 241* CYCLAMEN relieved BURDOCK in 018° 18' N
019° 44' W at 1100Z/27. CYCLAMEN has 6 days fuel remaining.
(F.O.W.A. 2223Z/27 to ((?N.C.X.F.) (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A.
CYCLAMEN. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

A/S Intend following to sail from Takoradi p.m. 27th.
Trawlers Nov. for Pointe Noire.
etc. Trawlers ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, COVENTRY CITY,
See p. 1133A MAGNOLIA, B.D.V. BARBRAKE, Turkish ship TUZLA,
Tugs EMPIRE PAT and EMPIRE SAM and Crane Lighter
No. 3 in tow.
(2) E.T.A. Pointe Noire a.m. 5th Dec.
(3) Trawler NORTHERN DUKE joins at Pointe Noire and convoy
proceeds Walvis Bay through position
(P) 010° S 010° E and (Q) 020° S 000° E. S of A 5½ knots.
E.T.A. will be signalled.
(4) Anticipate tug will require 180 tons furnace oil at
Walvis Bay.
(5) ST. ZENO carrying auxiliary vessel set of signal books.
Time of shifting from group F T to group S L will be signalled.
(6) Request order for convoy after arrival Walvis Bay be passed.
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 1621Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

EL Your 1812A/23 Nov. (EL GRILLO required Rio de
GRILLO Janeiro.) EL GRILLO has steering gear defects
estimated time for repair 4 days. Ship cannot
arrive Rio de Janeiro by Dec. 13th. Request
confirmation of ships destination.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 1624C/27 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. S.A.)

ARMERIA Your 1345Z/27 states ARMERIA to Bathurst. Present
instructions are to proceed to Freetown. Request
confirmation. My P.C.S. at 1700 016° 45' N
019° 02' W 180° 12.
(ARMERIA 1715Z/27 to R.A.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C.
Bathurst.)

GLENEARN C. in C. S.A.'s 1243C/15 not to Cominch.
See A. 1129B GLENEARN was routed from (e) 009° S 015° W
to (j) 021° N 022° W. S of A 16 knots.
E.T.A. position (j) a.m. 28th Nov.
Regret GLENEARN not included in my 1331Z/26, gives disposition
of forces in W.A.F. waters to Comsolantfor only.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1733Z/27 to Comsolantfor. (R) Cominch. Admty.
ANTELOPE.)

/French...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1752/27th November

IN

From Combined Chiefs of Staff

Addressed Eisenhower.

Ref. No. R.3659 (FAN 24)

Edited Literal Text

Combined Shipping Adjustment Board is anxious to get into service of the United Nations as rapidly as possible the French ships now in French West Africa, of which the number is considerable. The same conditions should apply as are applicable to French ships in North African ports. Can this be negotiated with the French authorities with whom you are now in touch in North Africa on shipping questions, or must separate discussions be opened in West Africa? We understand that you are being assisted in your shipping negotiations by Kerr representative of War Shipping Administration who has been joined by Allen and Graham of the Ministry of War Transport. Together these represent views of Combined Shipping Adjustment Board. If separate discussions must be opened in West Africa can you arrange for suitable representatives in the necessary negotiations? Please report arrangements made. The Allied ships in North and West Africa which are not of course subject to the general negotiations for French ships, even if they are at present flying the French flag, will when recovered be returned to Allied Governments. Pending any arrangements to get all these ships into service we rely on you to take all necessary steps to ensure safety of these ships against sabotage.

(Relayed to Algiers 27 2010Z)

1752/27

Recd. in W.R. at
1120/29

1st Lord	D.C.(2)		
1st S.L.(2)	D.O.D.(F)(2)	(Circulation)	Brig. Jacob
D.F.S.L.	D.O.D.(H)(2)	D.T.D.(M)	Foreign Secretary
4th S.L.	D. of P.(2)	D.T.D.(C)	First Sea Lord
V.C.N.S.	D. of P.(Q)	Capt. Wharton	C.6 Tels War Office
A.S.N.S.(H)	D.N.I.(4)	Ad. Blake (2)	A.M.C.S.(C)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.D.I.C.(2)	Ad. Ramsey(4)	C.C.O.
A.S.N.S.(F)	Hd. of M.	I.L.(2)	Minister of War Trans.
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.T.D.(3)	W.D.	

1135

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.French
shipping,
W. Africa.Conditions for use (Combined Chiefs of Staff
1752/27 to Eisenhower) See Lion Copy.

Movements. Arrival 27th Nov. HOLCOMBE, SOUTHERN GEM,
ST. WISTAN.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1809Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

CARTHAGE Following received from CARTHAGE (begins)
search for C. in C. E.F. (R) BIRMINGHAM. Cdre. R.I.N. from
TILAWA. CARTHAGE. Your 2107/27th. Complied, nothing
found. Thence position 007° 36' N 060° 28' E
220° contacted one capsized lifeboat number 4 A
and Hull Raft rescuing 4 native survivors.
Proceeding Kilindini course and speed 240° 16 knots. E.T.A.
0600Z/1st Dec. T.O.O. 1429Z/27th (Ends).
(C. in C. E.F. 1906Z/27 to Admty. F.O. Ceylon.)

Movements. Arrival 27th Nov. U.S.* Destroyer OSMOND INGRAM
and British Cable Ship CAMBRIA.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1947Z/27 to Admty.)

* *See page 100*

Dakar. P.R.U. Dakar 27th Nov. no change major units.
Heavy A/A fire.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2017Z/27 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

HOLCOMBE. Cancel my 2305/5, not to N.C.X.F. HOLCOMBE
is to join N.C.X.F. as soon as movements in my
2205/27 (to F.O.C.W.A. only.) are completed.
2. She will operate under N.C.X.F. until an opportunity occurs
of passing through to the Eastern Med. as arranged by N.C.X.F.
and C. in C. Med.
(D.O.D. F. Approved A.C.N.S. F. 2155A/27 to F.O.C.W.A. (R)
C. in C. Med. etc.)

Tankers Your 1213/23. Early and safe return of these
for seven tankers to West Indies is of great
W. Indies. importance.
2. Requested that, notwithstanding postponement
of departure of A.F.D. 24, you will make
proposals for them to be escorted to Trinidad as early as
practicable, or, if this is not possible, then to Recife to
connect with northbound convoy understood to be leaving Rio de
Janeiro Dec. 13th.
3. ILEX and HOLCOMBE may remain at your disposal during this
move but are to join N.C.X.F. as soon as practicable thereafter.
4. The whole problem of trans-Atlantic tanker moves is now
under review.
(D.O.D.(F.) Approved A.C.N.S. F. 2205A/27 to F.O.C.W.A. (R)
Cominch etc.)

1136

War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

West
Africa.

J.S.M. 500 replying to C.O.S. (W) 365.
(J.S.M. 2231Z/27 to Chiefs of Staff).
See Lion Copy. America and West Indies.

MILFORD
THYSVILLE

MILFORD escorting THYSVILLE arriving Bathurst
1600Z/30 and will be required to escort
THYSVILLE to Freetown when ready.
(R.A.W.A. 2323Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst. (R)
MILFORD. Admty.)

Lagos.

No. 1848. Your telegram No. 1757.

Lagos floating dock extension.

I agree that method (a) should be adopted.

I shall be glad to receive drawings and any additional material
necessary.

2. Dock will not be put out of commission until A.F.D. 24 is
ready for use at Freetown.

(Governor (Sir B. Bourdillon) Nigeria. No. T.O.O. 27th Nov. to
S of S for Colonies.)

1137

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.SCYLLA
AVON VALE,
BOREAS.

Sailing at 1300A tomorrow Friday to R/V with Force H at 1700A/27th Nov. in position to 037. 40 N. 002.30 E. ^{2-9/15}
Force H course 070.16 knots. Fighter protection arranged up to 40 miles North of Algiers, Codeword "Victual."
(R.A.I.S.0029A/27 to SCYLLA, AVON VALE, BOREAS, Cmdre.Algiers.(R) S.O. Force H)

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. of 3 enemy destroyers and 2 M/Vs
37.35 N. 10.41 E. 260° 10 knots.
(A/C TIU.W. 0043A/27).
Enemy has altered course to 180° approx.
(A/C TIUW 0130A/27).

P.54.

See p. 1138A

My position 040.18, 003.12 E at 0500A/27th.E.T.A. Cape Palos 0600A/29th (weather report)
(P.54 0604A/27 to Capt.(S) 8,(R) N.C.X.F. S/Ms on Patrol).

Your 0604, well done.

- (2) Adjust speed to R/V corvette SAMPHIRE in position 135° Cape Palos 5 miles at 0800A/29th.
(3) Space C.O. will be transferred to you if weather is suitable.
(4) If weather unsuitable you will be escorted to Gib.
(Capt.S.8. 1340A/27 to P.54 (R) 8th S.F.V.A.Gib.)
SAMPHIRE leaves Gib.at 0700A/28 to R/V P.54 in position 135° Cape Palos 5 miles at 0800/A/29th.
(Capt.S.8. 2250A/27 to 8th S.F.(R) F.O.C.N.A.). *See p. 1129C*

*UNA
x TRIBUNE.

* *See p. 1139 1141*
x *See p. 1140 1141*

UNA move 15 miles and TRIBUNE 5 miles 310° at 5 knots submerged.
4 Merchant ships, 7 destroyers in 38.40, 11.30 course 220° speed 14 at 0635A.
(Capt.S.10.0747A/27 to UNA, TRIBUNE).

Cositrep 606.
Part 2.Air.

295049. 0/76960 cipher 27th November.
Night 25/26th November. Wellingtons from Malta bombed Tunis docks, starting large fires at petrol dumps and oil installations.
4.26th November. American B.24s bombed Tripoli harbour, claiming hit on ship followed by fire and smoke. Another B.24. attacked a merchant ship in Khoms Harbour. Vessel turned over on side, operation hampered by bad weather.
5.Fighters carried out shipping patrols off Cyrenaica without incident.
(C. in C.M.E. 0845/27th).

Movements.

See p. 1143

Arrivals 26th Nov. PROTEA, GLOXINIA, *ELHANNA.
Departures 26th Nov. PROTEA, EXMOOR, GLOXINIA, APHIS, Greek Dest. AETOS, REDWOOD, T.L.C.112.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0921B/27th to Admty, C. in C. Med).
* not in list.

/Force...

1138

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Force Q. Arrived Bone.
(C.S.12. 0922A/27 to N.C.X.F. etc).
- P.37. At 1230A/ P.37 will be in approx. 035.40 N.
014° (corrupt group) East proceeding to N.W.
on the surface.
(N.O.I.C.Malta 0947A/27 to Force K.)
See p. 1141
P.37 is proceeding from F. to D. during night 27th/28th
Keep 3 miles North and East of this line. You should keep 3
miles South and West of the line between E. and F.
(Capt.S.10. 1123A/27 to THUNDERBOLT).
Sailed P.37.
(N.O.I.C. Malta. 1200/27).
- Convoy. Convoy "Mayfair" is being shadowed by 2
unknown enemy A/C. Position of convoy XTLP
(37.11 N. longitude undecypherable) 1100 course
090° speed 15 knots.
(QUEEN EMMA 0950A/27 to Gib.W/T).
- S/M Your 1259/26th approved.
Dispositions. (N.C.X.F. 1001A/27 to Capt.S.10).
- Enemy A/C. One unknown enemy A/C course 340°. My position
32.56 N. 22.53 E.
(Escort Unit A.2.1001B/27 to Alexandria).
- U/B attacked. Attacking contact with ERICA in 032.54 N. 022.41
E. 2 attacks. Oil and bubbles so far.
(Corrupt Group 1045B/27 to Alex. C.C.O.(R) A.I.G.
72).
My 1045B(corrupt), 2 more attacks and oil pouring to surface.
Is wreck here?. Position 032.54 N. 022.57 E.
(S.O.Unit A.Z. 1128B/27 to Alex.C.C.O.(R) A.I.G.72, C. in C.
Med.).
Between attacks 1 and 4 target moved 1 mile 125° by land
fix. Now stationary pouring oil. Only wreckage so far 1 Dutch
electric bulb. Remaining in contact unless otherwise ordered.
(S.O.Unit A.2.1212B/27 to Alex.C.C.O.(R) C. in C.Med.
A.I.G.72).
My 1201/27th (N.T. in W.D.). Position was reported as 032.
59 N. 022.32.E.
(N.O.I.C.Alex. 1239/27 to S.O.2nd E.G.(R) HURSLEY,C. in C.
Med).
- Air Visuals forenoon 27th Nov.
R/C. 1.Messina - 5 Cruisers, 2.Taranto - cloud.
3.Naples - 3 Battleships. 4 Palermo - 1
Cruiser in dock, 3 M/S.
(V.A.Malta 1130A/27 to C. in C.Med. etc).
- WELSHMAN. Sailed.
See p. 1142 (V.A.Malta.1203A/27 to Admty etc).

/Mine...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE. 1218A/27th Nov. IN

From:- Capt. (S) 8.

Date. 27/11/42.

Recd. 1950.

N. CYPHER 3(S) By W/T

Addressed:- Ships & Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000A/27.

(1) P. 54, 39 52 North 02 19 East through 39 27 North 01 26 East to 135 Cape Palos 5. 7½ knots. *See p. 1137*

(2) H.M.S. TROOPER, 38 56 North 05 41 East through 38 56 North 06 59 and 37 37 North 08 01 East 10 knots.

(3) P. 219, 38 56 North 04 40 East follow H.M.S. TROOPER 11 knots. *See p. 1141*

(4) H.M.S. STURGEON, 38 29 North 06 46 East course degrees 274 9 knots. *See p. 1142*

(5) H.M.S. THRASHER, 38 12 North 08 10 East course 278 degs 10 knots.

(6) H.M.S. TIGRIS, 38 21 North 01 23 East through 39 00 North 03 06 East thence course 90 11 knots.

(7) H.M.S. URSULA, in Gulf of (?Genoa). *See p. 1140*

(8). All above submarines diving by day 2½ knots surface speed as stated but may be delayed by weather.

(9). P 228, 36 49 North 01 42 West on surface 10 miles from Spanish coast to arrive at Gibraltar 1300 28th 11 knots.

1218A/27.

Advance Copy. Duty Capt.

A.C.N.S. (F) (2).

D.O.D. (F).

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.D.I.C.

Capt. Pin.

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).

F.O.S. by courier.

1139

27.11.1942.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.

Mine Clearance. Preliminary M/S clearance summary for Western Desert Ports. Mersa Matruh, 46 German X star type cut or exploded by CROMER, whole clearance not completed. Ground mines nil. Bardia, negative. Tobruk 2 magnetic by D.W.I.A/C and 1 by LL all probably cucumbers. 1 acoustic of unknown vintage by S. A. Moored mines nil. Derna, negative. Benghazi, 1 magnetic by LL possibly cucumber of last year.
(S.O. Force 1. 1240B/27 to Admty (R) C. in C.Med).

BORINQUEN. N.C.X.F's 1957A/25th regarding BORINQUEN received too late. See position signal 1830/25.
(S. T.O Liason, Oran 1251A/27 to D.S.T.).

P.217. My 1224/24th. (Route for P.217 and P.219) onward route from 38.26 09.50 through
see p. 1141
(1). 38.00, 11.24.
(2). 37.40, 11.09 further orders follow.
(Capt.S.10, 1330A/27 to P.217).

Mines Tunis. Intend laying A/C mines off Tunis tonight 27th/28th.
(V.A.Malta 1355A/27 to N.C.X. F.(R) C. in C.Med).

*UNA (R.of P.) P.46. At 0045A this morning obtained one hit on south westbound convoy in position 037.34, 010. 33. At 1226 missed southbound 3000 ton M/S in position 037.36, 010.43 three destroyers in vicinity. No sign of small craft. Weather bad. ** see p. 1137*
One torpedo remaining. Intend returning direct to position B. Q.B.B. 255 daylight 28th, usual R/C 1302/29th.
(UNA 1401A/27 to Capt.(S) 10 (R) N.C.X.F.).
UNA's 1401/27th acknowledged. While in the sanctuary UNA keep North, P.46 south of a line 230° from end of searched channel.
(Capt.S.(10) 2250A/27 to UNA. P.46).

Toulon. Request immediate P.R.U. and R/C towards Toulon also R/C at daylight tomorrow.
(N.C.X.F. 1422A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) S.O. Force Hx ? Admiralty, V.A.Malta).

Your 1422A. No P.R.U. or R/C practicable today Friday. Weather permitting both will be carried out as early as possible, tomorrow Saturday.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1643A/27 to N.C.X.F.(R) S.O. Force H.V.A.Malta. Force H).

My 1643/27th. Air search intended tomorrow 28th as soon as weather permits.

1. P.R.U. takes off first light.
2. One C. proceed west of Ibiona to cross over patrol centred? on 41.25 N. 05.20 E.
3. One C. through position 39.00, 05.30 to 41.25 05.30 returning north of Majorca and west of Ibiona.
4. Time of despatch will be signalled. Present weather suggests unlikely before dawn.

(F.O.C.N.A. 2227A/27 to N. C.X.F. S.O. Force H.(R)V.A.Malta. Admiralty).

/French...

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War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

French Fleet sinking. Following is a translation of message just handed to me by Admiral Moreau on behalf of Admiral Darlan. It was intercepted by French in P/L (begins):-
"I learn your ship is sinking. I order you to leave her" Philippe Petain.
2. Message addressed Admiral Commanding French High Sea Fleet. It was first made to STRASBOURG who did not answer and then broadcast. Received at 1200 G.M.T. (N.C.X.F. 1435/27 to Admty.)
Some care should be exercised in attacking particularly ships southbound west of 006.00 E. in view of possibility of French Navy coming south from Toulon.
(N.C.X.F. 2212A/27 to S. & A. Area G.)
There are indications of some movements by French Fleet at Toulon consequent upon German seizure of that port. Force H is proceeding vicinity Balearic Is. to give French Fleet air support should latter move out.
(Capt. S. 8. 2220A/27, to 8th S.F. (R) S.O. Force H.).
My 2220.P.C. and S. of Force H at 1700, 037.42 N. 002.42 E. 040.15.
2. Force H. intends to remain South of 038.45 N.
(Capt. S. 8. 2240A/27 to 8th S.F. (R) S.O. Force H.).

Marseilles R/C. Air/INT 522 27th November. Further examination of sortie C/640 - 26th November. Marseilles, shows one tanker departed and three arrived. T510 departed from port. T506 T509 T.508, all arrived from Etang de Berre since 19/11/1942.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 1440A/27 to Admiralty etc).

Force K. Arrivals CLEOPATRA, DIDO, EURYALUS, JERVIS, KELVIN, NUBIAN, JAVELIN.
(V.A. Malta 1510Z/27 to Admiralty, C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F.).

URSULA. W.M.P. 29, Para. Bo. 4. You have freedom of action in both areas.
L p. 1138A (Capt. S. 8. 1558A/27 to URSULA).

P. 311. V.A. Malta's 1215A/10th Oct. para. 6. SAM
x TRIBUNE. (a). 29th November.
x *L p. 1137 1141* (b). P. 48.
(c). No.
(d). Not before 0400A November 30th.
(e). 1135A.

TRIBUNE bound Gulf of Cagliari crosses your route approx in 038.26, 009.42 at 2357/27th.
(Capt. S. 5. 1625A/27, 1201A/28 to P. 311. (R) TRIBUNE).

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War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Orders to S/Ms. *see p. 1138^A* Take up following patrol positions forthwith. TRIBUNE direct to 039.01, 009.22 with 10 mile radius. *see pp 1137 1140*
P.219 through 038.37, 008.00 via Galita to patrol sector 260 to 360 degrees radius 8 miles from Ras Koran 037.20, 009.41 E.T.A. patrol area 1900A/29th. P.37, P.48, P.217, UNA, P.45 operation B.S.5, 040° Canirock Light 4, 120, 7 0 30 or 210 10 in the order addressed. E.T.A. P.37 at V as opportunity occurs 29th. *P.47, W dawn 28th. P.217 X 2200A/28th. UNA, Y. 0200A/28. P.45, Z dawn 28th. **3000 FT. in 1942*
S/M approaching from North East passing through 037.33, 010.40. S/M on patrol line must not pass North West of Line 0 64 from Cape Guardia to longitude 10 30 thence to 035° to Latitude 38 00. (Capt.S.10. 1647/27, to S/Ms on Patrol, (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med, S.O.I.S.C.S.12.)

Force H. Your 1424A, not to Capt.(S) 8 (N.T. in W.D.). My P.C. and S. at 1700A 037.42 N. 002.24 E. 040° 15 knots. Pending further information intend to keep South of 038.45 N. (S.O. Force H. 1701A/27 to N.C.X.F. (R) Capt.S.8)

UTMOST probably lost. Consider important you should know now that UTMOST most probably lost under following circumstances. After successful attack north of Bizerta withdrew eastward and reported at 2247A/23rd that he was returning via B to arrive 1016/24th, at this time his approx. position was 037.40, 011.03. His proposed time of arrival shows no diversion from course made for reporting, also moon favourable for patrol craft from Trapani who have claimed. I emphasize that diversion of 20 miles prudent before reporting and course should be reversed while transmitting. If really necessary to report from restricted waters of Sicilian Channel S/Ms should withdraw North west of A, making signal and arriving day later in consequence. There are no objections to reporting only 30 miles from Malta. (Capt.S.10.1705A/27 to S/Ms on Patrol).

UTMOST overdue. UTMOST 50 hours overdue. Fear following occurred, left patrol eastwards after successful attack north of Bizerta and was in approx. 037. 40, 011.03 at 2200A/23rd, shortly afterwards transmitting his 1231/23rd, which was received at Malta 2247/23rd. Approaching position B down moon was located and sunk by *patrol craft since Rome Radio noon 24th claimed British S/M. **9th. A/2 Yubel GROPPO. (F.O.S.M) 782/2/19 534-11/8/48*
(Capt.S.10. 1714A/27 to C. in C. Med (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

Air R/C. Afternoon visuals 27th November.
1. Taranto, 3 battleships, 4 destroyers.
2. Messina, 5 Cruisers, 1 destroyer, 3 torpedo boats.
3. Naples, 3 battleships, 4 cruisers.
4. Cagliari 2 M/Ss, (4000 to 5000 tons) 4 M/Ss (2000 to 3000 tons) 8 S/Ms.
5. 1230A.4 destroyers 2 M/Ss. (4000 to 5000 tons) off Cani Rock /steering....

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War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. 27th November. Port Said. Arrivals EXMOOR, GLOXINIA, PETARD, PAKENHAM, PROTEA, APHIS **T.C.C.** 112, SEAHAM, M/Ls 1051, 351, 356, Departures. M/L 1046, *WOOLWICH, *PAKENHAM, *PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, *EXMOOR, GLOXINIA, PROTEA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said. 1904/27 to Admty etc). * *see 26/11 - p. 1101.*

Circling Your 2255/25. Object is probably circling torpedo and is required here. Instructions. (D.T.M. 2034A/27 to S.O.(I) Algiers). My 2255A/25th. Torpedo has been unfitted and unprimed. Full report will be forwarded. Torpedo will be boxed and forwarded to U.K. at first opportunity. (F.O.I.S. 2127A/27 to Admiralty).

N.C. X.F. Hdqrs of N.C.X.F. have now been moved to Algiers, H.Q. My 2007/24th refers. 2. Admiralty pass to C. in C.U.S. Fleet and Cinclant. 3. C. in C. Med, V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A. pass to Air and Army Authorities. (N.C.X.F. 2216A/27, to S. and A. in Area G.(R) Admty, etc).

Malta A.I. 133 November 27th.
C.S.R. Day 27th November.
Following action was taken to protect approach of arrival of friendly naval force from the East. 0558. 4 Beaufighters located force 145° Malta 70 miles. At 0832 first Spitfire patrol arrived over force and from then onwards continuous patrols over force were maintained until its safe arrival in Valetta Harbour at 1335 by 10 long range and 25 short range Spitfires. No attack on force was attempted while it was under our fighter protection. 14 Spitfires were airborne to protect departing friendly cruiser proceeding east. 12 Spitfire sorties have been flown to protect unloading of Malta convoy. No attacks were made on our shipping. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raiders which turned back before reaching Malta.
Night 26/27th November.

1 torpedo carrying special Wellington found at 2055 015° Cape Bon 40 miles 2 M/Vs 3000 3 D/Rs course 225° speed 8 knots and attacked with 1 torpedo contact only depth setting 9 feet dropped from 50 feet range 420 yards torpedo appeared to pass astern of M/V. 1 torpedo carrying special Wellington found at 2135 10 miles north of Bizerta. 1 M/V (6/8000 or 6/7000 corrupt) and 2 D/Rs northbound at 10 knots Wellington dropped 1 torpedo contact only depth setting 9 feet from 60 ft. Range 600 yards aimed at bows of M/V. Torpedo ran well but convoy took violent evasive action and no explosion was seen. 1 torpedo carrying special Wellington sighted at 2338 063° Cani Island 30 (miles) two M/Vs and four D/Rs course 270° speed ten knots convoy later altered course to 180° Wellington shadowed convoy dropping 11 flares but was compelled by engine trouble to return to base before attack could be delivered. At 0025 one Beaufort found 070° Cani Island 16 miles one M/V 3/4000 and 2 D/Rs course 260° and attacked with 1 torpedo contact only depth setting 9 ft, dropped from 60 ft range 600 yards but no results were observed. (A.H.Q. Malta 2218/27.).

/Water....

1144

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Water Owing to severe shortage of water request all
Oran. ships routed to Oran area carry maximum quantity
fresh water and be ordered to discharge
utmost possible before leaving. This is a
repetition of my 1620/?25th (N.T. in W.R.).
(S.T.O. (Liaison) Oran 2230/27 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. "Torch").

Enemy Units. Following has been read by Nore W/T P.C. and S.
of 4 units 38.20 N. 11.30 E. course 100° speed
15 knots.
(A/C C/S T3R Duty P.2305A/27 to A.H.Q. Malta).
P.C. and S. of 1 destroyer and 3 M/Vs 38.16 N. 11.15 E. course
100° speed 15 knots.
(A/C C/S T3R Duty P.2345A/27 to A.H.Q. Malta).
Following has been read from Malta - A/C are to attack
immediately. Objective of A/C is 1 destroyer and 3 M/Vs
position 38.16 N. 11.15 E. steering 100°, Speed 15 knots.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2345/27 to A/C C/S T3RP and T.3.R.G.)

TURBULENT. My position dawn 28th. 034.26 020.02, daily
advance 165 miles. E. T.A. Beirut 0615B/2nd runn-
ing on the surface during daylight 1st.
(TURBULENT 2323B/27 to Capt. S.1. (R) C. in C. Med,
RORQUAL).

Toulon R/C P.R.U Benson 2325A/27. See Lion Copy.
26th November,

Force X. 1. A.F.H.Q. now at Algiers. Military at St.
Situation George's Hotel. Naval Staff in BULOLO temporarily
Report. 2. Force Q stands at Bone. Force H has proceeded
No.22. North to provide air cover should French ships
come south.
3. Bone 8 ships of K.M.S.3 berthed p.m./25th Nov. Convoy was
unsuccessfully attacked by T/B A/C.
4. Bougie. Little enemy air activity on 26th Nov. when 3 ships
were discharging.
5. Algiers. Late discharging K.M.F.3. and p.m. arrival on 24th Nov.
of K.M.S. 3 caused congestion in Bay. Heavy northerly swell on
26th November prevented unloading and movement of ships. 3300
troops for forward area sailed p.m. 26th November. A circling
torpedo fell on land during night 24/25th. This has been
successfully stripped and will be despatched to U.K.
6. Oran. Salvage operation and strengthening defence continues.
* 7. P.221 reports she hit laden 5000 ton merchant ship with 2
torpedoes at 0942 16th Nov. near Cani Rock. Ship escorted by
one "Dardo" class destroyer which made feeble counter attack.
(N.C.X.F.2327A/27 to Admiralty). * see p.119

2325A/27th. November

1144A

MESSAGE

IN

From PRU Benson.

Date. 27.11.42.

Recd. 0127.

P/L by T/P.

Addressed. Admiralty. Air Ministry Whitehall, Bomber
Coastal Fighter (Int) Army Co-Operation Commands.
Medmenham, 8th U.S.B.C.

EMERGENCY. NCTWT.

G/979 26 Nov.

PRU Sortie C/640 date 26 November time 1310 hours shows
Torlon at 1245 hrs. since 19 Nov one Bougainville sloop
returned to port otherwise only changes in shipping are
internal movements as follows. One SUFFREN Class Cruiser
from Port Lagoubran to buoy off Grande Jetty at harbour
entrance. One CONTRE-TORPILLEUR to dry dock, one CONTRE
TORPILLEUR from dry-dock, as well as the change of berth of
four CONTRE-TORPILLEURS and destroyers, one T/B, and one
escort vessel. Internal movement amongst S/MS but total
number remains unchanged at nineteen. Ex-battleship L'OCEAN
remains at Mandrier, Port Lagoubran, seaplane base one LOIRE 130
seen afloat Mandrier Seaplane Base one LEO H.357 visible
Marseilles since 19 November two tankers 450/460 ft. and
five M/Vs. 250/350 ft. arrived in port while five M/Vs.
250/350 ft. departed. Some internal movement noted amongst
other shipping present otherwise no change. Stores on quayside
and in dock area generally show little change since 19 Nov.
At least four heavy and sixteen light railway flak wagons
visible still in the various dock sidings and main station
sidings. Scale of photographs probably too small for tank
identification but none thought to be present.
Port Vendres. DJENNE Class liner still present but since
10 Nov. one M/V departed and one M/V 270 ft. arrived.
Hyeres Aerodrome one medium and four small A/C visible
compared with twenty-six Dewoitine 520 on 19 Nov.
Approx. twenty-five lorries and trucks now parked in front

/of , , , , ,

1144 B

of southern hangar Marignane Aerodrome one very large six
engined A/C five medium and about twenty-four small A/C visible
but whole of aerodrome not completely seen. Name of aerodrome
across landing circle not now legible.

Marignane Seaplane Base two possible Do.24 A/C afloat Istres
Aerodrome thirty-seven A/C visible as follows one Farman 222
two large fifteen Do. 217 one medium and eighteen Ju.88

Perpignan Aerodrome nineteen small A/C visible probably French

2325A/27.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- Cps. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.T.D. (4)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- O.I.C. (4)
- D. of P. (3)
- L.A/S.W. (2)
- I.P. (3)
- W.D.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- M. (2)
- U.S.N. (3)
- Admiral Blake.
- Admiral Ramsey (4)
- D.N.A.D.
- D.A.C.D.

1145

27.11.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- MARIPOSA. B. A.D. reports your 1049/20 is not being passed to U.S.S.MARIPOSA as it is not considered relevant in view of ship not leaving New York till end of December. (D.S.O. 0142A/27 to C. in C.E.F.).
- BLINJOE. Your 1648/10th. Following is a repetition of (C.in C?) Netherlands Forces, East Indies, 0159/22nd November. (Begins) Recommending acceptance of your proposal refers 1002/16th.Nov, I telegraphed Netherlands Navy,London, for decision. It is possible that native crew of Dutch subjects cannot be forced to sign on for this purpose (Ends). It is requested that Netherlands Navy, London, may be asked for an early decision. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0812Z/27 to Admiralty (R) F.O.Ceylon, S.O. Patrol Force,North Area B.S.O).
- Flag of V.A.2 E.F. My 1504/17th. Flag of V.A.E.F. rehoisted in RESOLUTION 27th November. (V.A.E.F. 0905/27, to C. in C.S.A.,N.O.I.C. Durban. Admiralty).
- Indian Ocean. shuttle Service. Suggest Indian Ocean shuttle service be extended to Abadan, Aden and Durban, Capetown, and Mombasa in order that ships sailing from Indian East Coast Ports and Australian Ports for any one of the above direct shall be given the benefit of additional personnel. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 0914Z/27 to Admty D.T.D.(R) W.O. R.A.6.C., C. in C.E.F, F.O.I.C. Ceylon etc).
- U.S.Pacific Forces. A.M. 1819/12. Following changes in dispositions of U.S.Forces in the Pacific:-
NORTH CAROLINA, SARATOGA, HONOLULU, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, ALTAMANHA, South Pacific Area.
BOGUE, At San Diego, RALEIGH,Alaska area, TRENTON, PHOENIX, On patrol, NASHVILLE, INDIANAPOLIS, LOUISVILLE, At sea. (D.O.D.(F) 1157A/27 to C. in C.E.F.).
- India Air Report. (D) U.S.A.Air Force report Nov 24 6B(25?)s 4 P.40s with escort 15 P.40s bombed shipping between Canton and Hongkong. 1 6/8000 ton freighter sunk, 1 probably damaged. Unsuccessful attempt interception by 2 enemy fighters 1 P.40 crashed enemy territory. 1 force landed Luichow. Nov.25. 2 P.40s R/C Canton - Hongkong. 1 light cruiser, 1 destroyer, 4 freighters seen Kowloon. 5 P.40s bombed machine gunned Docks 1 steamer, 1 Gunboat - Hankow. Night 25/26th. 9 B.24s bombed oil refinery Bangkok. (A.H.Q.India.1159Z/27).

/Movements....

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War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - *cont'd.*

Movements. Departures 27th November, DAUNTLESS, KANARIS.
(F.O.E.A. 1204Z/27 to Admiralty).

U/B Japanese U-Boats. 1 definite 008.40 N, 076.40
Positions. E. 23rd November.
1 definite 008° N. 061° E. 23rd November.
1 by D/F.S. to S.E.Ceylon 25th November.
German U-Boats. 1 definite 030° S. 037° E. 20th November.
(C. in C.E.F. 1227Z/27 to S. & A.E.I. Stn).

LÉOPARD. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1331Z/27 to Admiralty etc).

TILAWA. C. in C.E.F. 2150/23/November.
Request details of passengers on board TILAWA
and latest declared speed.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(T) 1412A/27 to
P.S.T.O. Bombay (R) C. in C.E.F.).

GLENROY. C. in C.Med.(?23)57B/22nd November. Request
you sail GLENROY as convenient with local A/S
escort routed through:-
P. 010.10 N. 051. 55 E.
Q. 010.50 S. 041. 41 E.
R. 016.42 S. (041°)20' E.
S. 028.45 S. 033. 40 E.
reporting E.T.A. at position South. N.O.I.C. Durban is requested
arrange local escort to Durban meeting ship as far North as
possible. Ocean escort will not be provided.
(C. in C.E.F. 1421Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Aden. N.O.I.C. Durban.(R)
C. in C.Med. C. in C. S.A. Admiralty, GLENROY.).

SATSA. Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. East London 1510Z/27 to Admty etc).

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27.11.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B, O.N.147. By D/F on 10510 k/cs at 1712Z/26, U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 50° 00' N. 43° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 0215A/27 to Escorts O.N.147.)

U/B. Following received from Lands End Radio (begins): Admiral, Plymouth. Intercept 0425 G.M.T. 500 k/cs. San Juan CK II urgent, unread, submarine sighted 13.10 N. 59.40 W. 2300, unread. (Plymouth C.C.O., 0528/27 to Admty.)

Air Report. A.874, (Ops. Nov. 26th all G.M.T.)
(B) A/S sweeps, 16. Enemy sightings, 1 Hudson Z 145 BR attacked enemy U-Boat at 1144 in 47.18 N. 50.26 W. U-Boat sighted from 2 miles in act of diving. A/C dropped 4/250 lb. D/Cs on swirl. No wreckage oil or air bubbles observed after attack. (A.O.C. E.A.C., 1530/27.)

BLAIRATHOLL Intercept 0721 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de VCM (Belle S O S . Isle, Labrador Radio). S O S BLAIRATHOLL foundering, require immediate assistance, now taking to rafts, boats carried away. Position 51.25 N. 48.30 W. at 0518 G.M.T./27. T.O.O. 0821/27. (Ends.) (Lands End Radio, T.O.R. 0830/27.) (C.O.A.C., 1154Z/27 to G.B. 7A.)

WILLIAM J. DUANE S.C.110. DUANE is to leave O.N.S.J. 148 forthwith and proceed to join S.C.110, Senior Officer ST. LAURENT. Estimated P.C. and S. 0800A/27th 051° 32' N. 047° 00' W. routed through (T) 55.32 40.47. (U) 59.28 30.35, 3 knots. ST. LAURENT is requested to report convoy's P.C. and S. repeating signal to C.T.G. 24.6, DUANE, U.S. Destroyer SCHENCK and U.S. Destroyer BABBITT. (C. in C. W.A., 0921Z/27 to C.T.U. 24.1.11, DUANE.)

S.C.110. C. in C. W.A., 0922Z/27. See Home Commands. p. 1126

WILLIAM J. DUANE, S.C.110. Your 0922/27th (SCHENCK and BABBITT to join S.C.110). U.S.D. SCHENCK and U.S.D. BABBITT sailed at 1230Z/27th. (U.S.D. LEARY) not available. *See p. 1149*
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1325Z/27 to C. in C. W.A.)
C. in C. W.A. 0921/17th. Convoy has been badly scattered. Expect to collect 30 freighters in position 052° 38' N. 045° 29' W. by 1730Z. Course 043°, speed 6 knots. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1448Z/27 to Connav.)

/Aircraft ...

War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Aircraft C.R. No. 66.
Identifi- Information has been received from C. in C.
cation. Pacific that Naval Forces are frequently
observed and trailed for short periods by
aircraft resembling those as made in United
States and there is a possibility that these planes, especially
Lockheed Hudson and Consolidated Catalina, have been captured
and operated by enemy crews. Identification of such aircraft
by our fighter airplanes is difficult and also dangerous when
these R/C aircraft are operated by the enemy. Therefore there
has been established in the Pacific Area a procedure for
identification as follows:- Own fighter aircraft will fly
abeam of suspected aircraft but out of range of the waist
guns. If these midship guns are trained astern or to the
opposite side in the case of guns which are mounted through
the centre line then our fighters will close in and friendly
aircraft gunners will remove their goggles and also make the
signal Roger by semaphore.
(Alusna, 0941/27 to Admty., (R) Air Ministry.)

B.Y.M.S. My 1150/26th (B.Y.M.S. 15 and 16) sailing further
withheld due to weather.
(C.C.N.F., 1050Z/27 to Admty.)

Movements 1800 G.M.T. 27th Nov.
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed
S/M K.14 24° N. 49° W. 299° 9
A.T. 29 48° N. 35° W. 050° 26½
(D.O.D.(F), 1102Z/27 to Opnav, (R) Commaveu.)

U/Bs, D/F transmissions on 10510 k/cs at 0926Z and
O.N.146. 0937Z indicate U-Boats still in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1124A/27 to Escorts of O.N.146.)

French C.O.S. (W) 367, 1140Z/27.
West See South Atlantic.
Africa.

→A.T. 29, Following for QUEEN ELIZABETH from N.S.H.Q.
U/B. U-Boat by D/F at 1214Z/27th in vicinity of
047° 30' N. 038° 00' W, accuracy within 60 miles,
frequency 10510 k/cs, ENIGMA 35 groups.
(Connav, 1311Z/27 to Admty.)

M.T.Bs. Your 1932/24 my 1612/21 (N.T. in W.R.)
Intend sailing M.T.Bs 334, 336, 337, 342, Nov.
30th for New York, routes as follows:-
Through position (A) 13.55 N. thence to San Juan P.R.
E.T.A. 2000Z/1st Dec. Leave San Juan 1000Z/3rd Dec. for
Guantanamo via Mona passage and south coast Santa Domingo E.T.A.
1900Z/4th Dec. Leave Guantanamo 1800Z/6th Dec. for Miami via

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War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - 20th/27th

M.T.Bs. Old Bahama and Santaren Channels E.T.A. 2100Z/
(Contd.) 7th Dec., thence to New York by inland waterways
as directed by B.A.D. Intermediate ports for
use in emergency, St. Lucia, Ciudad Trujillo,
Nue Itas.

2. M.T.Bs will burn dimmed navigation lights at night. Speed
on passage 18 knots to Bahamas Channel, 26 knots thereafter.

3. NO.B. Trinidad has been requested to arrange fuel as far as
Miami.

4. M.T.Bs will require minimum four days Miami to effect
running maintenance.

(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1552Q/27 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

LEARY. U.S. Destroyer LEARY arrived 1400Z/27th from
Leary
duty with escort unit 24.1.13.
Leary
1126
1127
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1556Z/27 to C.T.24, (R) Connav,
etc.)

H.X.215. All arrived. Uneventful, Average speed 9.87.
(D.T.D., 1628A/27 to Connav, N.S.H.Q.)

U/B S/M Estimate Nov. 27th and U.S. S/M Notice.
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1629/27, 1829/27, 2025/27.)

MEDICINE Attacked doubtful contact in 046° 16' N. 060°
HAT, 11' W.
U/B. (MEDICINE HAT, 1634Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Sydney, (R)
C.T.F.24, etc.)

ST. ALBANS, F.O.C. West Africa's 1703/25 and A.M. 1324/22.
WALKER, ST. ALBANS is required for special operation in
WANDERER, Home Waters and will not now be available as a
WITHERINGTON, relief in Western Local Escort Force.

2. WALKER urgently requires refit in U.K.

3. WANDERER is required in U.K. for special

trials with S.M.D. gear.

4. A.M. 2130/22 Oct. para. 2(A), not to B.A.D. Washington or
C.T.F. 24, is therefore cancelled, and C.O.A.C. Halifax is
requested to sail both WANDERER and WALKER for U.K. on arrival
of LEAMINGTON in Canadian waters about 15th Dec.

5. WITHERINGTON is to remain in W.L.E.F. until relieved by
RICHMOND about end of January. Destination of the former
on relief will be signalled nearer the time.

(D.O.D.(H), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1721A/27 to C.O.A.C., etc.)

U.S. Bermuda arrival and departure 27th Nov. U.S.S.
Movements. ALBEMARLE, U.S.S. MATAGORDA, U.S.S. GOLDSBOROUGH.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1729Z/27 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.,
N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I.) Jamaica.)

/Instructions ...

1150

27.11.1942.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Instructions for Neutral Shipping. Your 2109/23. Does Navy Department intend new approach lanes to apply to Gothenburg traffic ships? 2. If so, have they informed Swedish Govt. observing that these ships now follow different routes agreed between H.M.G. and German Govt. (Hd. of M., 1856A/27 to B.A.D.) Reply: B.A.D., 1355/30.

EYEBRIGHT. (? P.C. and S.) at 1830Z/27th 050° 18' 045° 49' 303° 12 knots. Your 1501?Z/26th both areas searched (incomplete group) (corrupt group) miles within (corrupt group) (2 incomplete groups) proceeding in accordance with your 0850Z/27th (N.T. in W.D.) (EYEBRIGHT, 1901Z/27 to F.O.N.F.)

T.26, Speed. Your 1452/20 (Following ships will not sail in Trinidad 26, 23rd Nov., due to minimum speed of convoy being 9½ knots.) C.B.3060, speeds of ships sailed in T.26 show four ships included below 9½ knots. Please confirm exclusion of four ships listed was due solely to lack of speed. Trinidad C.C.O. pass to B.R.L.O. (B.A.D., 1945/27 to B.R.L.O. Trinidad, (R) Admty.) See also 2141/27. Reply: Trinidad 1047/28.

B.Y.M.S. defects. Ref. F.O.N.F.'s 1111/11, defects in B.Y.M.S. due to fracture of pistons owing to walls in vicinity of gudgeon pins being unduly thin, in one case only 1/32nd inches of metal existed, design thickness is .1515 above centre line of gudgeon pin and .120 below. Arrangements made with U.S.A. Authorities to gauge all pistons now in vessels completing and fitted with G.M. 8-268A type engine. Engine Room personnel fully competent and effected repairs within their capacity under arduous conditions. (B.A.M.R., 1950Z/27 to Admty., (R) F.O.N.F.)

Dive bombers. D.N.A.D. from S.A.T. B.A.D.'s 1949/26, which I did not see before despatch has no reference to Pupils trained under Towers Scheme for S.B. 2.C Squadrons forming in U.S.A. These pupils will receive dive-bombing instruction as part of normal flying training in U.S.A. 2. U.S.N. had already told me that they are prepared to train 12 relatively experienced pilots as dive-bombing instructors, duration of course approx. 1 month. Offer was not informal and was passed to Tidd by letter on 17th Nov., since I considered project might be of value to train instructors for U.K. training. 3. Nucleus of experienced pilots being sent from U.K., for each S.B. 2.C Squadron forming, could be given this short dive-bombing course before Squadron formed. (B.A.D., 1951Z/27 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 2131/1.

/Replacement ...

1151

War Diary.27.11.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Replacement of B.5. Group. My 2249/26.
 (1) My 2106/3 gives programme which would have taken place. Ship in para. 3 now en route New York to Guantanamo and return to New York about 10th Dec. After boiler cleaning if required intend to sail them reinforcing suitable convoys to U.K.
 (2) Ships shown in para. 4 less SNOWBERRY are due to leave New York with N.G. convoy on 28th Nov. and would normally return to New York by 16th Dec. Do you wish their short refit to take place on return to New York or should they be sailed at once for U.K?
 (3) WITCH now at New York badly needs refit which may take 4 to 6 weeks. Should this be taken in hand before or after return to U.K? See WITCH's 1225/28/9 passed to Admiralty under T.O.O. 2001/27 (N.T. in W.D.)
 Request early reply to this paragraph.
 (B.A.D., 2003Z/27 to Admty.)
 Reply: Admty. 1824A/29.

Troopship Sailings. Canadian Army Movement Control has received through British Army Staff Washington tentative programme of sailings of troopships from New York in H.X. Convoys during December and January.
 Request confirmation of these and any projected independent sailings.
 (N.S.H.Q., 2050Z/27 to Admty., (R) D. of S.T., B.A.D.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav serial number 26 and 27. Pan Schooner DANIEL W. GETSO foundered sank 14th Nov. south Gabo San Antonio, Cuba. BLAIRATHOLL reported sinking after collision 27th Nov. 51.25 N. 48.20 W. Other ship not known.
 (Connav, 2057/27 to Connaveu.)

P. 512, GANANOQUE. ^{/N.T. in H.2.} My 1640Z/27th. Amend P.512 position CC read 044° 57' N. GANANOQUE remain with*FLAREAN CABOT through Northumberland Strait to Gut of Canso.
 (C.O.A.C., 2103Z/27 to Admty.) *not item filed.

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. BARBERRYS torpedoed 50° N. 46° W. 1821Z/26.
 Para. B. JOHN CARTER ROSE gold lions head and quarter moon on red shield. LA CORDILLERA black shield with letter V also black cross on conning tower V-88 type. Plane attacks sub after submergence 47.18 N. 50.26 W. 1152Z/26. P.B.Y attacks sub 08.35 N. 58.39 W. 1209Z/27.
 Para. C. Y.M.S. sights conning tower 43.28 N. 70.03 W. 2307Z/12. Fishing trawler CYNTHIA sights sub on surface 43.54 N. 68.25 W. 1430Z/12. Sub sighted 13.10 N. 59.40 W. 2300Z/26. Attacks on SOUTHAMPTON and ST. GEORGE my 2201/26.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2118/27 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

/Trinidad ...

War Diary.

27.11.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Trinidad
Convoys.

Your 2240/25 (re concerned at delays of slow ships at Trinidad awaiting T convoys to the eastward.)
Navy Dept. have no knowledge of fast and slow T convoys. My 1945/27 refers.
(B.A.D., 2141/27 to Admty.)
Reply: D.T.D. 1519A/30.

NEWCASTLE.

When ready about Dec. 2nd route NEWCASTLE to Norfolk for working up. Expect conduct full power trials en route.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2158/27 to C.E.S.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

West
Africa.

J.S.M.500, replying to C.O.S.(W) 365.
(J.S.M. 2231Z/27 to Chiefs of Staff.)
See Lion Copy.

BINTANG.

Overdue at Trinidad BINTANG.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 2236R/27 to Admty., etc.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2231Z/27th November IN

From J.S.M. Washington.

Date 28.11.42.
Rood. 0315.

CIPHER

Addressed Chiefs of Staff London.

*West Africa:**Conference at Dakar.*IMPORTANT

IZ 2381 J.S.M. 500 27th November 1942.

Reference your C.O.S. (W) 365.

At C.C.S. Meeting today we put over our requirements as set out in your telegram. These were well received by U.S. Chiefs of Staff and Combined Staff Planners were directed to submit urgently for approval of C.C.S. draft instructions to U.S. Delegates setting forth facilities which it was desired to obtain, including our points. We will telegraph text in due course.

2. Arnold is instructing General Smith to make contact with G.O.C. and A.O.C. West Africa at Accra before joining the conversations, in order to fix up with them points referred to in your para. 4.

3. We made no request for British representation at Dakar Conferences, but urged strongly that American Representatives should press for our requirements. This U.S. Chiefs of Staff agreed to arrange. Admiral Leahy said that although at first it might be wise not to demand too much of the French, it was clear that in good time we must have full use of whatever facilities may be required for our combined prosecution of the war.

4. Reference your para. 7. Admiral Leahy said that any agreements reached would be referred to C.C.S. for final approval.

5. Admiral Glassford, who was in Java with General Wavell, will probably be sent from here as one of the U.S. Delegates.

2231Z/27.

Received from Air Ministry at 1035/28.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
P.A.S. (S)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
Hd. of Air
D.A.C.D.

D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Capt.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (0)
Hd. of M. (2)
I. P. (2)
W.D.
Adm. Blake
D.N.A.D.
D.T.D. (2)
Capt. Wharton.

Air Ministry Distribution

Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
War Registry, Admiralty
C.6. Tels. War Office.
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

EML.

1153

27.11.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

AQUITANIA.

Arrival.
(S.O.(I.) Wellington 0530Z/27 to Admty.)

Situation.

Digest Serial No.300 Nov. 26th.

R/C Buin Shortlands area afternoon 26th reported 15 vessels including 1 cruiser, 5 destroyers, 4 merchant vessels, 6 - 10,000 tons, 1 small merchant vessel, 4 unidentified vessels. 2 - 6000 ton merchant vessels reported Buna Passage noon same day.

2. No change reported Buna Gona situation where strong enemy resistance from well prepared positions still being encountered. Strong forces of Bostons, Beaufighters, B.25s, Fortresses, and Kittyhawks again heavily bombed and strafed enemy positions during the day.

3. Of 15 Zeros ex Lae operating Buna area morning 26th 11 bombed and strafed Dobodure Cape and Dedele area, other shot down transport plane. Kittyhawks intercepted destroying 6 Zeros.

4. 7 Liberators bombed Lae aerodrome early morning 24th scoring 10 direct hits while 5 Maurauders bombed wreck Salamaua Area, 26.

5. 4 flights of 3 unidentified aircraft bombed town and airfields Darwin area from 28,000 feet night 25/26, slight damage to town, nil damage, nil casualties other areas, nil interception.

6. 3 Medium bombers made 2 runs over Port Moresby area night 26/27 from 16,000 feet dropping bombs vicinity airfields, no casualties or damage. A.A. engaged during second run possibly damaging 2 aircraft.

7. Hudsons escorted by 3 Beaufighters attacked Nova Lusa (Timor) destroying buildings, starting fires, while 4 Hudsons with 3 Beaufighters attacked (Buna?) damaging huts on 25th. Enemy merchant ship and destroyer departed Dilli to N.W. afternoon 26th.

8. Photos Lae Aerodrome 26th Nov. show 5 damaged medium bombers, 6 possible dive bombers, 42 fighters, including 22 damaged.

9. Possible destroyer or submarine reported area approx. 55 miles North Buna night 26th.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0800Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimate at 1200Z/27.
(D.D.I.C. 1336A/27, 1350A/27.)

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Q.P. 15.

In addition to the 14 merchant ships of Convoy Q.P.15 already reported arrived at Akureyri, EMPIRE BAFFIN and WHITE CLOVER arrived there today. It is uncertain whether two others (ARCOS and MEANTICUT) were in time to join the convoy. SS. KUSNETZ LESOV is unaccounted for (this was eventually the only ship unaccounted for, ARCOS arrived at Iceland and MEANTICUT did not sail. IRONCLAD which went ashore in the White Sea was refloated and reached Molotovsk on 1st Dec.)

GURNARD sailed for patrol in the Bay of Biscay today, the first of the 6 U.S. S/MS of U.S. S/M Sqn. 50 to proceed on patrol from the U.K.

South Atlantic.

SS. TJILEBOET reported a submerged submarine 20 ft. from her at a depth of 5 fathoms at 1130 G.M.T. in 5° 34' N. 25° 2' W., making no speed through the water, probably disabled.

It is reported that Dutch SS. VEERHAVEN was torpedoed and sunk on 11th Nov. in 5° S. 31° W.

The transport NOVA SCOTIA was torpedoed and sunk at 0900 today in 28° 30' S. 33° 0' E. She is believed to have had 134 officers and men of the Union Defence Force and 765 Italian refugees on board. A Portuguese sloop has picked up a number of survivors and is taking them to Lourenco Marques and INCONSTANT is trying to take over the British survivors at sea to prevent internment.

1155

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

State of
Toulon.

Toulon was photographed today and all Naval units are still present, with the exception of 9 submarines which were not seen. Details of the condition of the ships is given in an Admiralty message. Two cruisers, one demilitarised old battleship and 6 contre-torpilleurs and destroyers are afloat and apparently undamaged. The STRASBOURG is aground on an even keel, DUNKERQUE remains in dry dock but this is flooded, PROVENCE has her stern very low in the water, and the Aviation Transport COMMANDANT TESTE has a severe list to port. Three cruisers are on fire and a fourth is aground and may also be on fire. One cruiser, the old battleship CONDORCET, and twenty-five contre-torpilleurs and destroyers have been scuttled. Four submarines have been scuttled, two under constructions are submerged in dry dock and the other four have had the dock flooded. Nine S/Ms which were seen afloat on 26th Nov. are not visible, though three of these are possibly submerged. Six are reported to have escaped viz. SIDI FERRUCH, VENUS, DIAMANT, LE GLORIEUX, MARSOUIN, CASABIANCA. With one exception merchant shipping appears undamaged. No fires are seen burning on land and no major damage is apparent. The Milhaud Magazines and the oil storage tanks at Mondrier are intact.

It is reported that French S/M IRIS with 2 officers 1 W.O., and 9 ratings out of her complement of 33 arrived at Barcelona at noon today and was interned next day. The crew refused to leave harbour.

Convoy T.E.5 was attacked by T/B aircraft twice today and petrol carrier SELBO was sunk. H.M.T. JURA destroyed one aircraft.

Night fighters destroyed 4 and damaged one enemy aircraft in the early hours of today north-west of Algiers.

In view of road transport difficulties the Army have asked for the port of Jijelli to be opened for coastwise traffic of approximately 2 ships per month. There is no A/S M/S protection and N.O.I.C. Bougie has asked for instructions.

Bone was bombed continuously from 0001 to 0630A today. ITHURIEL (destroyer) was badly holed and flooded.

/ U/B ...

1156

28.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

U/B sunk.

DESSIE.

See p. 1210 (29/11)

QUIBERON and QUENTIN hunted a U-Boat which was sighted by aircraft at 1405 today and dived in 37° 4' N. 7° 49' E. (about 10 miles north of Bone). The U-Boat surfaced out of control and sank vertically stern first and was subsequently located on the bottom. N.C.X.F. considers the U-Boat was destroyed.

Six magnetic mines were laid in Bizerta harbour last night.

Wellingtons bombed Bizerta docks last night and 33 U.S. B.17s from Tafaraoui successfully bombed the aerodrome and docks today.

The enemy has now run his shock troops into Tunisia by fast ships and his follow up convoys are expected to be slow speed.

P.228 reports that on 16th Nov. she boarded and sank a 300 ton A/S schooner in 43° 30' N. 9° 37' E. and at 1500/21 she hit with her only remaining torpedo an Oriani class destroyer, one of two escorts to 2 merchant vessels entering Naples. At 0130/23 in 39° 4' N, 11° 28' E. she sank by gunfire a 1700 ton merchant ship which had been stopped by air attack.

A heavy explosion followed by fire took place in cased petrol ship KIUNGCHOW in Tobruk Harbour this afternoon: the fire was eventually got under control.

A submarine was suspected inside the I.L. system at Alexandria this morning.

Greek S/M TRITON is 3 days overdue and has been claimed by the enemy. She is considered lost.

sunk 16/11 by A/S V. U.T. 2102 in 38° N. 24° 30' E. 3/4 remaining.
(Italian sources)

East Indies.

In reply to the request of C. in C. E.F. (25th Nov.) for the return of some of his destroyers C. in C. S.A. is returning NORMAN and NEPAL as escort to W.S.24 as far as Durban. CATTERICK will be returned on arrival of the first group of trawlers from U.S.A., and will be followed by NIZAM on completion of refit in mid-December.

/The ...

1157

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

The Admiralty have asked C. in C. E.F. to sail DERWENT to join the Mediterranean Fleet as soon as she can be spared.

RAMSES
scuttled.

German SS. RAMSES, on passage from Kobe to Germany via Batavia was intercepted in 23° 20' S. 99° 13' E. (about 700 miles south of Cocos Island) and scuttled herself and sank at 0800Z in 23° 46' S. 99° 5' E., assisted by gunfire from H.M.A.S. ADELAIDE and D.S. HEEMSKERCK who were escorting Convoy O.W.1. Ten Norwegian survivors of SS. AUST, a dog, and a pig and 78 Germans were taken on board.

F.S. LÉOPARD apparently landed troops at Reunion Island today. There was some opposition.

America and West Indies.

It is approved to resume independent sailings between Curacao and Panama subsequent to Convoy C.Z.6, about 8th December.

SS. EMPIRE GLADE was shelled by a submarine today in 17° 16' N. 48° 44' W.

SS. EMPIRE CROMWELL was torpedoed and sunk at about 0150Z in 9° N. 58° 30' W.

1158

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Kirkwall. Operational control. Now that 8 of Northern **Patrol** trawlers have been transferred to Western Approaches, subject to concurrence of C. in C.H.F. intend to assume operational control of all vessels at Kirkwall and continue this arrangement, should these or other patrol vessels be re-attached later. Operational Staff at Kirkwall will be reduced and one Staff Officer transferred to A.C.O.S. Staff. This is necessary in view of increase of operational responsibilities additional to any involved with M.P. trawlers.
(A. C.O.S. 1247A/28 to Admiralty).

HALDON, STEVENSTONE, EGGESFORD, TALYBONT, OURAGON, LA MELPOMENE, CHASSEURS 5, 13, and 14. A.M. 1857/24. May. HALDON and STEVENSTONE have now been allocated to the Free French, and will not proceed on Foreign Service.
2. EGGESFORD and TALYBONT are now allocated to Foreign Service in their place.
3. French destroyers OURAGON and LA MELPOMENE will be manned by British crews when ready for service and will be employed as Target ships for torpedo aircraft.
4. CHASSEURS numbers 5, 13 and 14 at present British manned will shortly be taken over by the Free French.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1758/A/28).

Movements.

P.339. *See p. 1159 A* My 1816/27. *N.T. in H.D.* Add new para M. P.339 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Campbeltown 0005/29. for position 53.38 N. 05.10 W.
(F.O.(S) 0108A/28 to Admiralty).
Request you will sail P.339 at 2330A/tonight to R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE one mile east of Davarr Island Light at 0005A/29 (Capt.S.3.1752A/28 to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown).

P.216. *See p. 1159 A* Expect me 0831A/29.
(P.216 0659A/28 to S.O.S/M Lerwick).

GURNARD. *See p. 1159 A* My 2352/26 and Comsubron's 1431/27. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail WOLVERINE to relieve LAUDERDALE in 180° St.Govens light vessel 2 miles at 0830A/29. LAUDERDALE is to proceed to Milford Haven on relief.
(C. in C.W.A. 1020Z/28).

C. in C.W.A. 2352/26. WOLVERINE is to pass the gate at 1700/28 and proceed to R/V and relieve LAUDERDALE escorting GURNARD in 180° St.Govens Head Light vessel 2 miles at 0830/29.
2. WOLVERINE is to escort GURNARD to 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles and on completion proceed Londonderry.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1143A/28 to WOLVERINE).
Sailed GURNARD escorted by LAUDERDALE in accordance with Comsubron 50's 1431A/27th.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 1218A/28)..

/North.....

1159

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

North Atlantic dispositions. Area Iceland. BERWICK, SUFFOLK, 8 Destroyers. Area Scapa. KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, LONDON, NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD, 8 Destroyers. Area Rosyth, ANSON.

Area Gibraltar. NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, AURORA, ARGONAUT, BERMUDA, CHARYBDIS, DELHI, SCYLLA, SIRIUS, 10 destroyers.

Passage to U.K. ADVENTURE, ARCHER.
(D.O.D.H. 1025Z/28 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet).

DRAGON. R.A.W.A. 1119/20. Onward route from (K) to (L) 035.35 N. 007. 00 W, thence to Liverpool.
(C. in C.W.A. 1143A/28 to DRAGON).

VICTORIOUS. Intend following programme for VICTORIOUS: 8th to 19th December - working up practices in Clyde with T.B.R. Squadrons. 19th December sail for Scapa for working-up practices with fighter squadrons. 817 and 832 Squadrons will be embarked on 11th December in Clyde and 882 Squadron on 20th December at Scapa.
(R.A.A.H.F. 1144A/28 to C. in C.H.F.).

M/S F.9. A.M. 1238/26. Request that four ships of the Flotilla may be sailed for Dover on the night of 1st/2nd December.
(V.A.Dover 1247A/28 to C. in C.Portsmouth).

CILICIA. Your 1518/27. Sailing date will probably be extended 48 hours to 17th December.
(D.O.D.(F.) 1250A/28 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool)

Trawlers for Iceland. My 2042/27. Trawlers are not now required to leave U.K. before December 7th. F.O.I.C. N. Ireland is requested to boiler clean 3 trawlers at Belfast and have them ready for sea p.m./7th December. N.O.I.C.Greenock, is requested to sail NORTHERN GEM to Liverpool to arrive p.m./30th for boiler cleaning N.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail NORTHERN GEM after boiler cleaning to arrive Belfast December 7th.
(C. in C.W.A. 1523A/28).

ADVENTURE
* VANOC, * VELOX.
** local escort to 40° N. only.*

F.O.C.N.A's 1520/27. Onward route from D. to E. 50.01, 14.25 W. F. 180° Fastnet 10' by Q.Z.L.18 to Milford Haven.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1612A/28 to ADVENTURE.)

S/M Positions. At 0800/29. Details (F.O.S. 1627A/28).
See Lion Copy.

WINCHELSEA. Detach WINCHELSEA at 0800A/29 to Londonderry at 15 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 1928A/28 to SALADIN).

/M/S F.6....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

~~1827A/28th November~~

IN

FROM: F.O.S.

DATE: 28.11.42
RECD: 1645

P/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

170.

Position of submarines at 0800 29th
November and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) TRUANT escorted by CUTTY SARK 53 degs.
01' North 5 degs. 20' West proceeding to Clyde.
Speed of advance 12 knots. E.T.A. 2100 29th Nov.

(B) SEALION off Vigo.

(C) GRAPH in Zone 501.

(D) DOLFIJN in Zone 505.

(E) P.216 arrives Lerwick from North East
0830 ~~30th~~ November. *P-1158*

(F) P.312 and UREDD arrive Lerwick from North
East A.M. 29th November.

(G) GURNARD escorted by LAUDERDALE proceeding
to R/V with WOLVERINE in position 180 degs. St.
Goven's Head Light Vessel 2 miles at 0830 29th
November. Thence escorted by WOLVERINE to position
180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles. Vessel is painted
black with no repeat no numbers. *See p.1158*

(H) P.224 escorted by VASCAMA arrives Cumbrac
from South 1030 29th November.

(J) P.339 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE proceeding
from Clyde to position 53 degs. 38' North 05 degs. 10'
West for trials submerged E.T.A. 1100 29th November.
At about 1700 return to Clyde speed 12 knots. *See p.1158*

/(K) ...

*amended by**1844/29**a.v.*

1159B

2.

(K) CLYDE position at 2000 29th November 42
degs. 59' North 13 degs. 22' West from South thence
dived by day towards 49 degs. 10' North 13 degs.
22' West. This vessel is painted dark blue.

(L) JUNON near 69 degs 22' North 11 degs.
55' East proceeding probably on surface towards
89 degs. Out Skerries 5 miles. *see p. 1167C*
see opposite

1627A/28 and 0926A/29

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D.

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.T.D. (M)
D.D.O.D. (M)
Duty Capt. (2)
D.B.I.C. (2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
I.P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.N.L. (4)

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War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

M/S F.6.

Russian request you will escort ice breakers as far as Ponoï or as far as fuel permits. On completion return to Iokanka, refuel from HOPEMOUNT.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel 2210A/28 to M/S 6).

See next page.

Operations.Operation
V.P.

Carry out operation V.P.

(i) Patrol Z.

(ii) 619 and 625.

(iii) 0800A/29th arriving in patrol area 0100A/30.

(iv) One.

(v) Yes at Station Cmdre. Sumburgh's discretion.

(vi) Yes at Station Cdr. Wick's discretion.

(vii) 0800A/30 60 miles West of Z.

(A.C.O.S. 0955/28 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, R.A.F. Sumburgh Wick).

My 0955/28. Postpone 24 hours.

(A.C.O.S. 1919/28 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

TUNA
Patrol.

Intend sailing TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR from vicinity of Garroch Head at 2200A/30th by usual route to 180° Wolf Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 1800A/2nd, speed 10 knots.

2. Thence TUNA southward.

(Capt. S. J. 1015A/28 to A.I.G. 220).

Patrols.

1. Intend M.G.Bs. 52(S.O) and 57 to patrol tonight on latitude 50.20 N. between 1.45 W. and 2.20 W.

2. Leave Weymouth at 1800/28 by Q.Z.S. 381 and patrol-line at dawn.

3. Object. Anti-E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device."

→ (F.O.I.C. Portland 1105/28).

ALBRIGHTON is to proceed to Yarmouth before dark tonight November 28/29th with M.T.B. 243 (S.O) 85, 95, M.G.B. 611, and if ordered to carry out patrol is to do so on line between:-

50.20 N, 00.35 W. and 50.20 N. 00.00 W. and Codeword "Advent."

Coastal craft are to return to pass E.A. 3. buoy at 0745, and

ALBRIGHTON to return in time to proceed in accordance with

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1243A/28.

CHASSEURS 15 (S.O) and 11 patrolling south of E.A. 5.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1440A/28 to HORNET).

Cancel my 1105A/28. Boats standing by in harbour at short notice.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1755A/28).

My 1440A. Proceed on patrol.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1825A/28).

JUNON
patrol.

Leave patrol at 0001A/29th for Lerwick routed through:- (a) 069.22, 011.55 E. (b) 089. Out Skerries 5 miles.

See p 1159B

/(2).....

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War Diary.

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

JUNON
patrol.
Contd.

(2) Proceed diving by day when within 60 miles of coast thence on surface at your discretion.
(3) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange total bombing restrictions, as follows.
(Capt.S.9. 1145A/28 to JUNON).

Mining.

Channel
Sweep.

My 0758A/28. IJUNIN sailed at 0815 sweeping along Q.Z.S. 383 and 386 to N.1 Float, thence proceeding to Portsmouth, E.T.A. Needles 1430. (F.O.i.C.Portland 0939/28).

Reported
2 British
Mines.

Your 1725A/27.
VERNON Officer reports that search along foreshore in vicinity of Mablethorpe and Chapel St Leonards has failed to reveal mines. A/C assisted in search at L.W.Friday and Today. Mines now unlikely to be uncovered until low water at next spring tides on 8th, 9th, 10th December. (F.O.Humber 2203A/28 to D.T.M.).

Casualties & Defects.

IRONCLAD.

Your 1320A/27. I think this must be dependent on Colonel Petrov's report vide my 1011A/28. With ice rapidly forming in Gulf of Archangel both Dalgleish and I consider it a hazardous operation to bring a ship unable to steer into these waters apart from undesirability of immobilising her for long period. Further more no docking facilities available in winter months. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1021A/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

HOPEMOUNT.

HOPEMOUNT reports shortage of stores and provisions. Russians have promised to provide immediate requirements at Iokanka. Would it be possible to supplement this from Kola as it will be necessary for her to remain at Iokanka until HARRIER and GLEANER have completed operation of escorting Archangel M/Ss to Kola. HOPEMOUNT reports considerable bow damage, also damage to propellor and shaft. Maximum speed in good weather 5 knots. D/F gear out of action. Propose after she has completed fuelling minesweepers she should proceed to Kola for repairs. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1034A/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia). *See previous page.*

PROSPEROUS.

Main suction casting on oil fuel range fractured badly. Am endeavouring to make Methil under own steam. (PROSPEROUS 1100A/28 to C. in C.Rosyth).

LEAMINGTON.

C.A.F.O.199/41. LEAMINGTON reports suspected sabotage to steering engine. Repairs in hand by Base Staff expected to complete p.m.30th. Board of Inquiry is being held. (N.O.I.C.Londonderry 1320A/28 to Admty).

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.F.V.1.

Your 1826A/6/11. M.F.V. 1 sustained damage to forefoot and side planking on arrival Leith yesterday. Intend effecting temporary repairs and sailing vessel 1200 tomorrow Sunday to Greenock via Forth and Clyde Canal. (N.O.I.C.Leith 1420/28 to Admiralty).

CLARE.

See Shipping.

1163

28.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- K.M.F. 4. Sailed convoy and escort as in A.M. 1357/20 amended by A.M. 1334/22, A.M. 1242/26, 1307/26, and 2204/26. Routed as in A.M. 2335/22.
Commodore of Convoy and "A" section in DURBAN CASTLE. Vice-Commodore of Convoy and Commodore "N" section Master of MALOJA. Rear Commodore of Convoy Capt. SAMUEL CHASE. Rear Commodore of Convoy and Commodore "G" section Master of MONARCH OF BERMUDA. Codeword "Collins". CLARE and SWALE join at position (D).
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0026A/28.)
K.M.F.4. Following sailed 0020/28th. Pendant Numbers.
H.M.S. HELVIG.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0100/28.)
AUBURN 0715A/28. Sailed CLARE to R/V K.M.F. 4. Oversight.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0853A/28.)
Sailed SWALE for K.M.F. 4.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0930A/28.)
My 1140A/28. CLARE returning to Londonderry with evaporator defects and lack of water. In view of size of convoy another escort is most desirable.
(EGRET, 1724A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
- CONQUEROR, My 1120/26. Cancel paragraphs 2 to 6 inclusive. F.S. 72. When SLEIPNER joins F.S. 72, return to Methil to await orders and carry out Duty 'A'.
See p. 1165.
(ASHANTIAN.) (C. in C. Rosyth, 0711A/28 to CONQUEROR.)
- D.S. 34. *from port 2.4*
Sailed CASTLETON. Admiralty's 2008/12 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1516/24 refer.
(TRELAWNEY, 0916/28 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)
D.S.34. Estimate you may meet in North Channel inward convoys M.K.S.1 and S.C.B.109. Details. Dimmed navigation lights are to be burned by all ships concerned, subject Blue warning.
(C. in C. W.A., 1734A/28 to ST. MARYS.)
My 1526/27. Sailed. Codeword "Product". E.T.A. 1800A/1st.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2346A/28 to A.C.I.C.)
- H.X. 216 Suggest that consideration be given to ordering (DUANE) DUANE to reinforce escort of H.X.216 consequent WILLIAM J. DUANE, on SCHENCK and BABBITT sailing for S.C.110 and *See p. 1186* the number of tankers and comparatively slender escort of H.X. 216.
(C. in C. W.A., 0939Z/28 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)
DUANE has been directed to reinforce escort H.X.216 and will probably join during morning 29th.
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1707Z/28 to C.T.U. 24.1.5.)
DUANE reports complying with my 1629/28 (? 1752/28 intended).
(C.T.G. 24.6, 2007/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
- P.Q.19. A.M. 1603/26 is cancelled.
Request you will arrange for four arctic-fitted trawlers to be boiler cleaned and ready to leave U.K. by 7th December for escort of P.Q. convoy.
(D.O.D.H., 1052A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

1164

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Q.P. 15. → Leave patrol at 1600A today and proceed Hvalfjord.
(Capt. D.8, 1053A/28 to OBDURATE.)
Intend to proceed in FAULKNOR to Scapa at 1200A today.
E.T.A. 1600A/29.
2. HALCYON and SALAMANDER will proceed Scapa p.m. tomorrow on completion of defects.
(Capt. D.8, 1055A/28 to A.C.O.S.)
Q.P.15 (First Portion). Request following amended destinations be passed to Escort and ships named.
CHARLES R. McCORMICK and COPELAND to Clyde.
EXFORD to Holyhead for Barry Dock.
(D.T.D., 1542A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)
Hvalfjord arrival SHARPSHOOTER.
(A.C.I.C., 1619A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 2053/27. Add EMPIRE BAFFIN and WHITE CLOVER arrived 28th.
(A.C.I.C., 1628A/28.)
Estimated position at 2202 tonight Saturday.
Q.P.15, INTREPID, ICARUS, LEDBURY, MIDDLETON, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA 061° 20' N. 011° 50' W. to S.E. FURY 062° 25' N. 018° 00' W. to N.W. WILLIAMSBURG escorting 1 merchant ship 065° 00' N. 024° 35' W. to South.
1 merchant ship 066° 30' N. 021° 00' W. to West.
1 merchant ship 066° 30' 021° 15' to West.
→ FAULKNOR 064° 30' 008° 32' to S.E.
MUSKETEER, ECHO, FORESTER, ORWELL, OAKLEY approaching Akureyri from East.
→ OBDURATE 066° 45' 020° 05' to West.
SAMUEL D. INGHAM escorting 1 tanker, 1 merchant ship, 064° 40' 013° 30' to S.W.
(A.C.I.C., 1650A/28 to A.I.G. 54.)
Q.P.15 (First portion).
Final destinations. For Tyne - EMPIRE MORN, EMPIRE SNOW.
For London - DAN-Y-BRYN, TEMPLE ARCH.
For U.S.A. - WILLIAM MOULTRIE, ESEK HOPKINS, BELMORCANAL.
(D.T.D., 1728A/28.)
E.T.A. 1000N/29.
→ (OBDURATE, 2121A/28 to A.C.I.C.)
Codeword for Akureyri position of Q.P. 15 "Bollard".
(A.C.I.C., 2328A/28 to MUSKETEER.)

A.T. 29. Position (Q) at 2330Z/28, position (O) at 1100Z/29.
(QUEEN ELIZABETH, 1144Z/28 to Admty.)

M.K.S. 2. N.K. Alter course after dark to pass through new "P" 46° 45' N. 14° 30' W., then direct to "O" and "K".
(D.O.D.(H.), 1240A/28 to Escorts M.K.S. 2.)

K.M.S. 5, THALASSA. On satisfactory completion of trials intend sailing THALASSA to Clyde for onward routing to Tobermory as escort to Bristol Channel portion K.M.S.5, probably leaving Barry Roads p.m. 2nd December.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1241A/28.)

/M.K.S. 1(Y)...

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28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

M.K.S. 1(Y). Final destinations. STANHILL to Barry Dock.
 OCEAN VOLGA to Swansea, CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH
 to Newport.
 (D.T.D., 1242A/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)
 M.K.S. 1(Y). Detail STARWORT to escort Liverpool portion
 of convoy, returning Londonderry on completion. On crossing
 007° W. escort detailed for U.K., signal E.T.A. at position
 F and Bar Light Vessel.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1248A/28 to SPEY.)
 Inform Commodore and ship named OCEAN LIBERTY is to
 proceed to Belfast not Glasgow.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1559A/28 to Escorts M.K.S. 1(Y).)
 Final destination OCEAN LIBERTY to Barry Dock.
 (D.T.D., 1727A/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

PRAGUE, Intend sailing PRAGUE and AMSTERDAM from
 AMSTERDAM. Cromarty 2301/1st Dec. 16 knots, routed Q.Z.S.
 150, 352 to 35 buoy, thence 5 miles east Fair
 Isle, E.T.A. Lerwick 1031/2. Request escort
 and fighter protection.
 Owing to military requirements for trains request vessels be
 sailed from Lerwick so as to arrive Invergordon not later than
 1201/3rd.
 (N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1245A/28 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

P.S. 29, P.S. and S.P. 29 cancelled.
 S.P. 29. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1551A/28.)

W.S. 25. QUILLIAM, RACEHORSE, HAYDON and ROCKWOOD will be
 required to leave U.K. as escorts for convoy
 W.S.25 on 17th December.
 2. Request you will arrange for working-up programmes to be
 completed and ships sailed, QUILLIAM and RACEHORSE to Clyde,
 and HAYDON and ROCKWOOD to Liverpool, to complete boiler
 cleaning and make good any minor defects by the dates
 mentioned above.
 (D.O.D.(H), 1704A/28 to R.A.D.H.F.)

K.X. 7. B R (A) 1030A/30th November. (B) - (C) Noon
 G.M.T./1st December 051° 20' N. 009° 03' W.
 Noon G.M.T./2nd 050° 35' N. 012° 58' W. E.T.A.
 a.m. 10th.
 (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1759A/28 to Admty.)

ASHANTIAN, My 1100/27 and 1832/27.
 (F.N. 678) Leave Harwich at 0900 tomorrow and join F.N. 678
 in Barrow Deep thence act as special escort to
 ASHANTIAN until F.S. 473 is met when escort duties
 are to be transferred to CONQUEROR, and WIDGEON is to return to
 Harwich as additional escort to F.S. 473.
 (C. in C. Nore, 1804A/28 to WIDGEON.) * See p. 1163

M.K.F. 3. P.C.S. at 2000Z/28 2031° 46' N. 017° 04' W.,
 355°, 12½ knots.
 See p. 1167c (WESTON, 2001Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

R.C.N.
Corvettes.

Your 1545A/27th. ^{p. 1128} R.C.N. corvettes are being retained in place of 62nd Escort Group corvettes of which 3 return to U.K. in M.K.S. 2 A. 36th Escort Group and R.C.N. corvettes have been rearmed and are therefore more suitable in Mediterranean. Para. 3. COLTSFOOT, GERANIUM, SPIREA.
(N.C.X.F., 1021A/28 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)

French
Shipping.

P.S.T.O. X.F., 1042A/28 to M.W.T. London.
See Lion Copy.

Dispositions.

Situation, 2001A/28. (N.C.X.F., 1357A/28 to A.I.G. 262) See Lion Copy.

Fleet
Aircraft
Reserves.

Your 1812A/24 crossed with A.M. 1314A/25 which gave particulars regarding reserve aircraft being despatched to Gibraltar in the near future.
2. The need for providing the carriers with reserve aircraft and spares has been kept in mind and all possible steps will be taken to

keep the carrier squadrons backed.

3. We are, however, faced with a difficult position, particularly with regard to the supply of Albacores, for the following reasons:-

- (i) The continued lag in production of the Barracuda, which is not yet cleared for operational use, has seriously delayed our programme for the re-arming of Albacore Squadrons. Albacore production has now ceased in order to make way for Firefly production. As a result of these two factors our Albacore reserve, which would have been ample had Barracuda production kept to its original dates, is now seriously reduced.
- (ii) A number of Albacores to back FORMIDABLE's squadrons had to be provided in East Africa and are not readily available.
- (iii) Albacore casualties in "Torch" were higher than had been anticipated.

4. The position with regard to fighters is rather better than that of the T.B.Rs. but has also been adversely affected by the delay on production of new types both in U.K. and U.S.A. Moreover operations in the near future will almost certainly demand the provision and backing of more fighter squadrons than we have had to support in the past.

5. Steps are being taken to increase maintenance personnel at Gibraltar. Damaged aircraft together with those requiring major inspections should, however, be shipped home for the present, in the carrier allocated for ferrying duties.

(D.N.A.D. Approved by D.F.S.L. 1341A/28 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A. F.O. Force H., FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS).

1166A.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1042A/28th November.

From: P.S.T.O. X.F.

Date. 28.11.42.
Time. 2135.

Naval Cypher XD by W/T.

French Shipping disposal

Addressed: M.O.W.T. London, repeated V.A. Gibraltar for
M. of W.T. Gibraltar.

Following for Jenkins from Graham. Have SJER KEN/ on arrival here 27th please see all cables sent by Army Headquarters Algiers to ABFCR and also reply from W.D. Washington number 3583. Eisenhower appears to have recognised Darlan as disponent owner of all French vessels in French North African ports including Casablanca but excluding Dakar. Meantime roughly the provisional agreement stipulates

- (1) All passenger vessels which are fit for sea are to proceed to Gibraltar for further instructions. French are asking that these ships go to Dakar to carry French troops to North Africa but Eisenhower has stipulated these vessels remain at Gibraltar subject to further views of Allied C's in C.
- (2) The maintenance of essential economic traffic between French West Africa and French Africa.
- (3) North African coastwise traffic.

Numbers 2 and 3 are covered by a clause which reads all ships under above shall be classified only in consultation with Commanding General Allied Forces. Other ships outside this category are being negotiated on TIEE/ Charter on the terms of the original Chartering engagement but for a round voyage to U.K. or U.S.A. and return to North or West Africa. These vessels will be chartered ship by ship by the Commanding General U.S. Army with a clause which stipulates that this temporary Charter does not prejudice any long term arrangement made between French Authorities and Combined Shipping Adjustment Board which should be made as soon as possible. The first ships offered under this temporary Charter are P.L.M. 21., AGEN, LORRAINE, WYOMING, DE LA SALLE, SCHIAFFINO, CARLIER, all expected ready for sea in about one week. It has been pointed out that CARLIER is a Belgian vessel and that H.M.G. cannot guarantee that she will not be seized on arrival in U.K. or U.S.A. but French are adamant she is a prize.

The outcome has been left vague in order to shorten discussions. You will appreciate that under this short term policy there appears little or no chance of use of any French vessels in the pool for some time but with C's in C. in their present mood that these ships must be got to sea on any repeat any terms I presume we must take it and like it hoping for better results from the long term arrangements. British members of N.A.S.B.O. whilst holding the same views as I do are inclined to agree. Several details remain vague such as to whom freight is to be paid and who will sign Charters but on the latter we are firmly of the opinion that this must be signed by The Commanding General U.S. Forces in order that the Charters can be established later as merely an expedient.

/ As received.

The/....

-2-

The question of replacement has been avoided by the following clause

"The Allied Governments shall grant on the basis of the equality of treatment for equality of service to United States at the end of hostilities to the French Merchant Fleet upon the request of the French Government the facilities necessary for the purpose of restoring said fleet".

My own comments are that the French have won but I very much doubt in the political atmosphere here if better could be done and C's in C. in no mood to discuss annoying details.

Norwegian BOSPHOROUS will be ready to sail for U.K. after dry docking she is fruit carrier and if there is time I will try to load her with oranges. Please contact NORTASHIP? to cover her marine and war insurance.

1042A/28

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C., D.T.D.

1st Lord.	
1st S.L.(2)	D. of P.(2)
D.F.S.L.	D.D.I.C.(3)
4th S.L.	D.T.D.(3)
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D.(M)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.T.D.(C)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D. of S.T.(2)
A.C.N.S.(T)	D.E.W.D.(3)
A.C.N.S.(W)	D. of P.(Q)
Secy.	Adml. Blake.(2)
Naval Secy.	Adml. Ramsey (4)
N.A. 1st S.L.	I.P.(2)
P.A.S.(S)	W.D.
P.A.S.(O)	
D.N.I.(4)	
D.O.D.(H)(2)	
D.O.D.(F)(2)	
D.C.(3)	
HMB Hd. of M.(20)	

11668^c

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1357A/23/November.

From N.C.X.F.

Date 29.11.42.

NAVAL CYPHER 3 (S)
by W/T & T/P

Time 0245.

Addressed A.I.G.262

IMPORTANT

T E 5 037 degs 13' North 006 degs 40' East through
037 degs 10' North 006 degs 50' East where Philippeville
Section part company thence to Bone 7.

T E 7 036 degs 01' North 004 degs 50' West routed
through 72 13 93 34 39 100, 7 knots.

Force H in vicinity Balearic Isles patrolling
south of 033 degs 45' North

Brief situation report 2001A 20th. Western
Mediterranean, B/M's excepted. Following safe conduct
ships bound Gibraltar routed west of Ibiza/indemi position
Gibraltar: Spanish MARIA VICTORIA 037 degs 05' North
001 degs 03' West 3.

(??Swiss) COTO(?N)A Swiss ALBULA 039 degs 51'
North 001 degs 46' East 3.

Swiss LUGANO 041 degs 14' North 005 degs 51' East 37.

1357A/23

Advance copy sent 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.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.(2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(C)

D.D.O.D.(M)

D.E.W.D.(3)

D.N.I.(4)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

Ad. Blake

D. of P. (2)

D. of P.(Q)

C.C.O. (2)

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Toulon
R/C.

My 2227A/27 para. (2) and (3) Catalinas unable proceed owing to weather. P.R.U. may be able proceed later.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0931A/28 to N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H. (R) V.A. Malta, Admty).
My 0931/28th. P.R.U. cancelled. All flying from Gibraltar cancelled today on account of weather.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1508A/28 to N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H (R) Admty. V.A. Malta).

SPEY,
ROTHER.

Your 2342A/25 (Latest date SPEY and ROTHER should arrive Gibraltar) 10 December.
(N.C.X.F., 1023A/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 30th Escort Group).

BENSON.

Cancel my 2115Z/27. *p. 1120*
(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1105Z/28 to C.T.F. 37 (R) C.T.F. 38 Cmdr. 7th U.S. D.S.)

S/M P.54

*See next page
p. 1176A*

If transfer of spare C.O. takes place proceed to dive by day 5 miles from Spanish coast to arrive Gibraltar 1200A/1st December.
Pass Cape de Gata at 0600/30 and do not cross 004° 35' W. before 0700A/1 December. Proceed on surface at discretion on 1st.
(2) If transfer does not take place return to Gibraltar on the surface escorted by SAMPHIRE through 180° Cape de Gata 10 and 180° Cape Calaburras 10.
(3) SAMPHIRE holds table O.
(4) Bombing restrictions arranged accordingly.
(S.8., 1230A/28 to P.54 (R) 8 S/M Flot. SAMPHIRE V.A. Gibraltar)

BLYSKAWICA.

p. 701 / N.T.M.D. / N.T.M.D.
O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA 1317A/16, 1317Z/19, 1633A/25, and your 1319A/(?18). Repairs have now been completed and reliefs are urgently required as ship is partially immobilised without them.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1232A/28 to Admty. (R) BLYSKAWICA, Polish Naval H.Q.)

BREDON,
INKPEN,
INDIAN STAR.

See p. 1169A

/ N.T.M.D.
My 1230/27. BREDON, INKPEN and INDIAN STAR left 1000 G.M.T. in accordance with F.O.C.N.A's*1858/27 but prior to receipt R.A. West Africa*2217/27. DUNCTON, DUNKERY and BIRDLIP arrived and bunkering BUTSER standing by.
(R.O. Fayal, 1315C/28 to F.O.N.A., (R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).
** N.T.M.D.*

MOST SECRET

1167A

M E S S A G E 1320A/28th Nov.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 28.11.42.
Time 1930

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed A.I.G. 262.

~~IMPORTANT.~~

~~16~~ Situation report for area West of Algiers 2002A/28th. S/MS excepted.

(1) ~~H.M.S. ROTHESAY~~ ~~H.M.S. FELIXSTOWE~~ Cable Ship MIRROR 036° degs. 41' North 000° degs. 49' East through 36° 46' North 01° 18' East and 36° 56' North 02° 04' East and 36° 53' North (02?) 54' East to Algiers 10.

(2) SAMPHIRE 36° 27' North (02?) 42' West through 36° 31' North 02° 09' West to rendezvous with H.M.S. P.54 in 135° degs. Cape Palos 5 at 0800/29th thence return to Gibraltar through 36° 31' North 02° 09' West 10.

(3) T.E.7 ~~H.M.S. ROCHESTER~~ ~~H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH~~ ~~H.M.S. LEITH~~ ~~H.M.S. ERNE~~ 35° 59' North 04° 47' East W through 35° 42' North 03° 01' West and 35° 38' North 02° 14' W East thence 077° degs. 7. *see pp 1167 & 1176A*

see p. 1168, & 1179
as amended 0205A/29 next page
(F.O.C.N.A. 1320A/28 to A.I.G. 32)

Advance copies sent Duty Capt.

D.O.D. (F)
D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D. (E) (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.B.
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
Ad. Blake (2)
D.M.S.
D.S.D.

MOST SECRET

1164B

North Atlantic

29.11.1942

Sunday

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE IN
0205A/29 November

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 29.11.42.

Recd. 0348

NAVAL CYpher 3(S) BY W/T and T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 262.

IMMEDIATE.

My 1320 ⁺ 28th paragraph (S) all
longitudes should be west repeat west.

0205A/29.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F)
D.T.D.

*Situation report for Area West of
Algiers.

V.C.N.S.
 V.C.N.S.(H)
 V.C.N.S.(T)
 V.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.I.
 Hd. of H.
 D.S.I.G.(2).
 I.S.(2).
 W.D.
 D.T.D.(M)
 D.T.D.(3)
 D.T.D.(C)
 D. of P.(2)
 D. of P.(2)
 Ad. Ramsey (4)
 Ad. Blake (2).
 D.M.S.
 D.S.D.

IH.

MOST SECRET~~MOST SECRET.~~

MESSAGE

1326A/28th November.
IN.

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 28.11.42.
Time 1935

NAVAL CIPHER S BY W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT

- (1) ~~H.M.S. CLYDE, 040° degs. 09' 011° degs. 20' diving~~
by day 2½ surfacing at night 12½ 332° degs. *See p 115913*
- (2) UGS 2 6 destroyers 031° degs. 27' 012° degs. 54'
through 031° degs. 30' 012° degs. 28' thence 043° degs. 9.
- (3) MKS 2A, ~~H.M.S. GERANIUM, H.M.S. SPIREA, H.M.S.~~
~~HONEYSUCKLE, COLTSFOOT, OXLIP, HYDERABAD, LOTUS, 036° degs.~~
01' 009° degs. 11' through 036° degs. 01' 010° degs. 01'
thence 301° degs. 7.
- (4) Swedish Relief ships AKKA, YARRIWONGA, 036° degs.
01' 015° degs. 21' 090° degs. 12.

Situation 1958A/28th.

- (5) MKF 3 ~~H.M.S. *WESTON, H.M.S. WELLINGTON, H.M.S.~~
~~FOLKESTONE, ARCHER, WELLS, LANCASTER, GORLESTONE,~~
~~WAVENEY, TOTLAND, 040° degs. 15' 017° degs. 06' 357° degs.~~
13½.
** See p. 1165*

- (6) ~~H.M.S. RHODODENDRON H.M.S. VIOLET 2 merchant~~
ships 037° degs. 43' 010° degs. 10' through 036° degs. 42'
011° degs. 09' at 0900A/29th to R/V with MKS 2 A.

- (7) ~~H.M.S. ADVENTURE 2 destroyers 038 degs. 12'~~
014 degs. 05' through 039 degs. 01' 015 degs. 59' thence
000 degs. 18. Destroyers part company in position
040 degs. 01' 015 degs. 59' and return to Gibraltar.

- (8) GUF 2 sail from Casablanca 29th to ~~RYMGOZVONG~~
6 destroyers in 033° degs. 12' 010° degs. 40' at 1300A/30th.

- (9) ~~H.M.S. RHYL H.M.S. SPEEDWELL H.M.S. HUSSAR 2~~
merchant ships approximately 034° degs. 05' 007° degs. 16'
direct to Gibraltar 8.

(10)/.....

1167^D.

2.

(10) ~~TF 2, H.M.S. PENTSTEMON, WEYBURN, LUNENBURG,~~
NASTURTIUM, 035' ~~degs. 29' 006' degs. 37' to rendezvous~~
GUF 2 a.m. 29th thence escort to rendezvous UGS. 2.

See p. 1168 & 1169

(11) →

(7.0.C.N.A.

1326A/28 and 0426A/29

*To Land A's
N.A. Station Area*

~~Advance copies sent~~ Duty Capt.

D.O.D. (H)

D.T.D.

*Typed
copy in
X - X
of 0426A/29*

- 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.
- C.N.A.S.
- A.C.N.A.S.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (E) (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)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D.M.S.
- C.C.C. (2)
- Ad. Flake (2)
- D.N.A.D.
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)

MOST SECRET

1164^E

MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

04261/29th November

From F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 29/11/42

Recd. - 0640

Naval Cypher S by Cable

Addressed Ships & Authorities North Atlantic Station
Area X.

IMMEDIATE

~~My 1326/28th /.~~ ~~Delete paragraph (7).~~ ~~Add new~~
~~paragraph (11).~~ ~~H.M.S. VELOX H.M.S. *VANOC (E) 37°37'~~
12°07' at 2359/28th to Gibraltar 19. (12) ~~H.M.S.~~
ADVENTURE (E) 38°32'14.55' at 0001/29th through 39°01'15"
59' thence 360° degs. 17½. * See p. 1169

04261/29.

≠ Situation at 1958/28.

Advance copies Duty Captain
D.O.D. (H)
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.
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
Captain Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C. (2)
U.S.N.
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)

D.D.O.D. (H)
D.M.S.
C.C.C. (2)
Admiral Blake
D.N.A.D.
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (0)
D.E.V.D. (3)
Admiral Ramsey (4)

GMM

SECRET

1167 ^F~~E~~

MESSAGE IN
1328A/28th November.

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date. 28.11.42.

Time. 1756

NAVAL CYPHER 5 BY W/T.

Addressed A.I.G. 64.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2002A 28th.

(1) CLEARN 024degs 49' 023degs 15' through
030degs 01' 025degs 01' thence 529degs 16.

1328A/28.

See next page.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.F.S. (F)
N.A. 1st. S.L.
Capt. Pim Admiralty Hse.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D9. (2)
D.A./S.W.

W.D.
D. of P. (Q)
D.N.E. (CO)
C.C.O. (2)
Admiral Ramsey (4)
Admiral Blake (2)
U.S.N. (3)

SECRET

11676

MESSAGE 1332A/28th November IN

FROM: F.O.C.M.A.

DATE: 28.11.42.

RECD: 1757

NAVAL CY HER S BY W/T.

Addressed: A.I.G. 65.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report Area Z Situation 2004A/28th.

- (1) GLENEARN 024 degs 49' 023 degs 15' through 030 degs 01' 025 degs 01' thence 329 degs 16. *See previous page*
- (2) Cable Ship LADY D. PENDER 2 Corvettes operating in the vicinity of 022 degs 20' 020 degs 01'.

1332A/28.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)

A.C.N.S.(H)

N.A.1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.

Ops. (3)

C.D.(5)

C.I.C.(3)

I.P.(3)

D.S.D.9. (2)

D.A./S.W.

W.D.

C.C.O.(2)

D.N.E. (CO)

D. of P. (2)

D.S.D. (2)

Admiral Blake (2)

Admiral Ramsey (4)

U.S.N. (3)

LAG.

1168

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Rear Admiral F.O.C.N.A., please pass to N.C.X.F. R.A.
 Delaye. Delaye, French N.A., has come over and wishes
 to join Admiral Michelier. Presume I can send
 him to Gibraltar.
 (N.A. Madrid, 1321/28 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
 Concur (M. Branch, 0213A/1).

My 1321/28 to Admty. Adm. Delaye would be grateful if
 you could obtain for him instructions from Adm. Michelier as
 soon as possible.

(N.A. Madrid, 1338/28 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty).

MAURO CROCE Extract from cable. Departure MAURO CROCE 27th.
 (Italian). 2100 Genoa.
 (Barcelona, 1332/28th to Fairmiss).

BORINGEN N.C.X.F. 1447/27 (N.T. in W.R.) Intend sailing
 G.U.F.2. BORINGEN escorted by PENTSTEMON (?S.O. of convoy)
 NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN, LUNENBURG to join G.U.F.2
 routed through
 (L) 35° 50' N., 06° 01' W. (M) 35° 40' N., 06°
 30' W. (N) 34° 06' N., 07° 34' W. thence as ordered by S.N.O.
 Casablanca.
 (2) S.N.O. Casablanca is requested to signal necessary
 instructions to PENTSTEMON to R/V and escort Gibraltar portion
 U.G.S.2.
 (3) Corvettes will keep constant watch on Gibraltar broadcast.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1402A/28 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) N.C.X.F.,
 Admty. PENTSTEMON). *Sailed - see next page. Also p. 1167D*

BOREAS, Arrival BOREAS, AVON VALE.
 AVON VALE. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1438A/28).

Convoy My 1045/28 to BARNEGAT and my 1158Z/28 to RHYL
 F.T.3. convoy F.T.3 code name "Tarbat".
 (2) T C A O number 40 para. 15 (c) refers.
 (3) R/T frequency 2410 k/cs.
 ((Originator not coded. Message received on
 Gibraltar Broadcast) 1520Z/28 to RHYL, F.O.C.N.A.,
 BARNEGAT, S.N.O. Casablanca).

Convoy Sailed ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, LEITH, ERNE,
 T.E.7. (escorting?) convoy T.E.7 Q.B.A. 2 and 3.
 (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1534A/28 to Admty. F.O.
 Oran Cmdre. Algiers (R) NC.X.F., S.O.I.S.)
 T.E.7 sailed 1600/28 S. of A. 7 knots E.T.A.
 Algiers 0400/1 December codeword "School" W/T call sign T.G.
 BORDE, SAYONARA, CROMARTY FIRTH, LASSO, (C/V) SS. PENSHURST,
 BARON RUTHVEN, DUX, CARA.
 Escorts ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 1850A/28 amended 1143A/29 to Cmdre. Algiers, (R)
 N.C.X.F., Admty).

/Convoy T.F.2...

War Diary.

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy T.F.2. Sailed PENTSTEMON, WEYBURN, NASTURTIUM H.M.C.S. LUNENBURG escorting convoy T.F. 2 to join convoy G.U.F.2., Q.K.A.77. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1640A/28 to Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca, escort G.U.F.2., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, N.C.X.F.)
See p. 1167 & previous page
Arrival IMPERIALIST with INESMORE from Melilla. (F.O.C.N.A., 1644A/28 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.)

CABO ORTEGAL (Spanish). CABO ORTEGAL sails 1200/29 for Genoa routed West Iviza, 10 miles N. of Cape Cabaleria (Minorca), 10 miles N. of Revellata Point (Corsica) thence Genoa. Speed 7 knots 3660 gross tonnage National colours fore and aft Switzerland in white between Swiss column painted on side.
(2) Ship is not to be interfered with on this voyage.
(3) N.O.I.C. Malta pass to A.O.C.
(4) Cdre. Algiers pass to E.A.C.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1715A/28 to S. and A.s Area G. N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. S.1 Capt. (S) 8 (R) N.C.X.F. Admty).

CAUDEBEC Your 2200/27. Should this read para. 5. (V.A.C.N.A., 1943A/28 to Admty) Reply: 1643A/29.

P.R.U. Toulon. Intend P.R.U. Toulon take off first light and look at Barcelona on return. (F.O.C.N.A., 2235A/28 to N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H. (R) Admty).

VANOC. VELOX. *See p. 1167 E.* Your 1559A/27 para. 5 (N.T. in W.R.) (A) 037° 37' N., 012° 07' W. 108° 19 knots at 2359/28. (B) 2100/29. Request berths. (C) 038° 32' N., 014° 55' W., 298° 17½ knots at 0001/29 4858 2701. (VANOC, 2311A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

PORT FREMANTLE HOPEPEAK collision. Have collided with steamer PORT FREMANTLE at 2046 G.M.T./27 in 135° 190° from position E. HOPEPEAK sustained following damage stem bar severed and bow plating opened up to collision bulkhead almost entire length of stem. Collision bulkhead buckled apparently tight.

Number one doubtl bottom tank making water. Intend proceeding at daylight. Will endeavour to make Freetown or Pernambuco please instruct which port best facilities. PORT FREMANTLE proceeding on voyage. Please advise my owners. (HOPEPEAK, 0050G.M.T./28 to Admty, C. in C. W.A.)/HOPEPEAK...

SECRET

1169A

M E S S A G E I N

1920A/28th Nov

From: F.O.C.N.A.

Date: 29.11.42

Time: 0509

NAVAL CYPHER 3 BY W/T

Addressed: Ships and Authorities North Atlantic
Station Area Y

IMPORTANT.

My 1328A/28th. ⁺ Add new paragraphs
(2) EREDON, INKPEN, (Group omitted) (? INDIAN) STAR
057 degs 06' 028 degs 02' 160 degs 10

(3) DUNCTION, DUNKERY, BRULLIP, BUTER leave Horta p.m.
28th 160 degs 10.

S. P. 1167

1920A/28

Advance Copy Ops, O.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt Pim
Ops (3)
O.D. (5)
C.I.C. (3)
I.F. (5)
D.S.D.9. (2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

+ Situation 2002A/23th

D of P (Q)
D.N.E. (C.O.)
C.C.O. (2)
Adml Ramsay (4)
Adml Blake (2)
U.S.N. (3)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel

deb.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2129A/28 IN
November

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 29.11.42.

Recd. 0040

NAVAL CODE I(1) BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities North Atlantic Area X.

IMPORTANT.

T C A O 11 29th November T
 (A) M K S 2 A RIB. ND 1(one) H 1(one) C from dawn
 to dusk.

(B) Following search carried out 035 deg
 to 037 deg North up to 014 deg West 5 H 0900 to 1800
 037 deg to 044 deg North, 010 deg to 015 deg West
 5 C 0800 29th to 0200 30th.

2129A/28.
 Advance Copy 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.(3)
 D.T.D.(C)
 D.of.P.(2)
 D.of.P.(Q)
 C.C.O.(2).
 D.N.A.D.
 D.A.C.D.
 Ad. Blake.(2)
 Ad. Ramsey (4)

IH.

War Diary.

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Lon 13:-

PORT
FREMANTLE,
HOPEPEAK.
collision.
Lon 13:-

HOPEPEAK reports collision with PORT FREMANTLE at 2046 G.M.T. 27/ Nov. in 1° 30' N., 24° 50' W. 2. HOPEPEAK has been instructed to proceed to position X 5° S., 30° W. thence to Y Pernambuco for orders as nearest port with necessary docking facilities. (D.T.D., 1500Z/28 to Connav, F.O.W.A., S.O.(I) Jamaica).

NARINGA

Your 1222/27. As Military authorities South Africa state NARINGA would be delayed by two weeks in south Africa awaiting mails, your proposal is agreed. (2) C. in C. E.F. is requested to arrange for NARINGA to be diverted to Kisimayu accordingly. (D. of S.T., 0449/28 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini, C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. India).

Troop
Transport,
R.A.F.
personnel
for India..

Your 1505/24. It is now intended that EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND should turn round at Durban and return to U.K. where she is very urgently required. 2. 1800 of the R.A.F. personnel for India now waiting in the transit camp at Durban should be embarked in STIRLING CASTLE and ATHLONE CASTLE in the accommodation which will be vacated at Durban. 3. Further signal follows regarding your 1107/26 to P.S.T.O. M.E. only and on your on-carriage proposals generally. (D. of S.T., 0450A/28 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) P.S.T.O. M.E., C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. India, D.S.T.O. Durban, F.O.R.S.C.A., D.S.T.O. Mombasa, C. in C. S.A.)

NIEUW HOLLAND

NIEUW HOLLAND sailed 24 Nov. E.T.A. Freetown 6th Dec. (.S.T.O. Capetown 0612/28).

ASTURIAS

Arrival 27th Nov. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 0957Z/28 to Admty etc).

POLYDORUS

*See next page -
Longitude 13.3
etc)*

SSSS received from Dutch Ship POLYDORUS torpedoed in 9° 01' N., 25° 38' W., at 0355/27 Nov. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1012Z/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

ATHENE

See p. 1171A

Your 0844/25 para. 3. ATHENE completes 19 Dec. at Port Elizabeth and will then sail for Durban where she will be docked on arrival. Date ready for sea dependent on examination in dock. (C. in C. S.A., 1102C/28 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C.S. Durban, Cdre. I/C Durban 185. Admty).

1171

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

SS. TJILEBOET. Following has been read: SSSS De PKIJ position U/B 5.37 N., 24.56 W. Submarine sighted at 1130 GM/28 (Freetown W/T, T.O.R., 1148/28).
Following from TJILEBOET. Ref. my 1130 submerged S/M depth 5 fathoms distance 20 feet making no speed through water corrected position (7005°) 34' N., 025° 02' W. we fired 2 shots S/M not surfacing probably disabled course (P K I J) TJILEBOET 208° direction new position W. (Burnham Radio, 1440/28 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool (R) Admty).
Intercept 2103/ G.M.T. De Simonstown W/T. (Unread) should reach you daylight Sunday keep boats together in vicinity of torpedoing 1446 G.M.T./2 (unread)
(North Foreland Radio, 2203/28 to Adm. Chatham, F.O.I.C. Dover).

Convoy (1) N.O.I.C. Bathurst is to refuel^{*}ARMERIA with
F.T.T.3 despatch and sail to R/V with BRIDGEWATER and
Escorts. MORRIS DANCE escorting convoy F.T.T.3 p.m.

See p. 1171B
30/ Nov. Estimated position 009° 02' N., 025° 38' W., at 1300Z/30. Course 286° Speed 8 knots.

(2) After ARMERIA joins, convoy F.T.T.3 is to alter course towards new position (H) 009° 00' N., 038° 00' W. orders for dispersing follow.

(3) After ARMERIA joins, BRIDGEWATER to search for^{*}POLYDORUS survivors towards the Cape Verde Is. Orders follow for BRIDGEWATER.

** See pp 1172 & 1172 * See previous page*
(F.O.C.W.A., 1201Z/28 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, BRIDGEWATER (R) ARMERIA, Admty. Comsolantfor, S.O.(I) Kingston, Connav).

ENTERPRISE Arrival Pointe Noire 1000Z/28.
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 1245/28 to F.O.C.W.A.)

CECILE Sailed CECILE MAPLESON coastwise to Port
MAPLESON. Elizabeth for fuel thence to Capetown as
See next page ordered by N.L.O. Port Elizabeth in accordance with
Admty. 1836/4th.

2. S. of A. 6 knots. E.T.A. Port Elizabeth
A.M. 1st Dec.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1251Z/28 to Admty etc).

CHITRAL Your 0851/(Z?)/28. */H.T. in H.D.* My P.C. and S. at 0200Z/
See next page 29 029° 44' S., 033° 13' E. 263° 15 knots weather
(CHITRAL 1300Z/28 to N.O.I.C. Durban (R) INCONSTANT).

Amendment to Your 2127Z/26. Position is 40° N.
instructions (D.T.D. 1336A/28 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)
to Masters
of A.N.D.
Ships.

/ILEX...

MOST SECRET

1171A

11500/20th November.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 29.11.42.

From. C.in C. South Atlantic.

Recd. 0257

Naval Cypher C By W/T.

Addressed. C.in C. Eastern Fleet. F.O.C. W.Africa.
Deputy C.in C. Eastern Fleet. F.O.C.N.A.
Flag Liaison Officer, Delhi. S.B.N.O. W.Atlantic.

Weekly state South Atlantic Station 20th November
(?Area) Q.

With W.S. 24 H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, H.M.S. ALCANTARA,
ROTHERHAM, Off Cape Point to join W.S. 24 H.M.S. NORMAN, Off
Cape Point to (?040 logs.) South 022 degs. 30' East H.M.S.
FORTUNE, To Durban H.M.S. CHITRAL E.T.A. 29th, with D.N. 3
H.M.S. INCONSTANT, H.M.S. EXPRESS, CATTERICK, Mozambique
Channel to Durban H.M.S. RESOURCE, H.M.S. GENISTA, H.M.S.
NIGELLA, H.M.S. FRESIA E.T.A. 1st December, Pointe Noire
to Simonstown H.M. P.552 E.T.A. 6th December, Off Saldanha
Bay to Simonstown H.M.S. THYME, Simonstown H.M.S. NIZAM,
H.M.S. FOXHOUND, H.M.S. NEPAL, H.M.S. ROCKROSE, submarines
O. 19 and O. 21, Capetown EMILE BAUDOT, SPINDRIFT, COMMANDANT-
DUBOC, MEAD, Saldanha Bay FERMOOR, BARGROSS, Port Elizabeth
KHETI, STORMWRACK, H.M.S. ATHENE, East London COLOMBIA, SARKA,
GATSA, R.F.A. OLWEN, Durban H.M.S. BELLWORT, *CECILE MAPLESON,
H.M.S. BEREBUS, H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY, (?H.M.S. ENGADINE),
H.M.S. DURBAN, H.M.S. CAPETOWN, H.M.S. ALBATROSS, H.M.S.
JASMINE, SONDRAL, Fort Beaufort M.L's 380, 381, 382.

11500/20.

* See previous page.

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)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt.Pin
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.(S)
D.D.O.D.(M)
D. of P.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
P.N.L.O.
D. of S.
D.M.S.
D.D.O.D.(C)

MOST SECRET

1141B

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1215Z/23 November,

From R.A.W. Africa.

Date 20.11.42.

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T

Time 1710,

Addressed A.I.G.150

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. HYDRANGIA as ordered escorting about 07 15
(13?) 25 to Freetown S.

H.M.S. RUMBA, F.S. COMMANDANT DIEFOYAT, 2 M.L.'s,
escorting S T 44 (03?) 50 04 15 to Takoradi 0½.

H.M.S. ST ZENO, H.M.S. NORTHERN DAWN, H.M.S. COVENTRY
CITY, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKIE, escorting 05 37 00 10 East
125 5½ at 1957Z 23th.

F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escorting 01 (20?) South
06 20 East 140 10½.

French S/M Chaser from port Gentil to Matadi 9.

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER H.M.S. MORRIS DANCE escorting
07 37 20 24 266 S,

* F.T.T. 3 - Sup. p. 1171

1215Z/23

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. Trade.

V.O.N.S.

A.O.N.S. (T)

A.O.N.S. (H)

A.O.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)

D.D.O.D. (C)

D.B.D.

D. of P. (3)

M.

SECRET

1171c.

MESSAGE. 1217Z/28th November. IN.

From : F.O.C. W. Af.

Date. 28.11.42.

Time. 1703.

Naval Cypher 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. BURDOCK about 14 16 18 30 to Bathurst 8.

2. 1172 H.M.S. MILFORD off Freetown to Bathurst 10 at 2000Z 28th.
PORTSDOWN, 2 M.L.s., patrolling between Freetown and
08 42 15 00. *2. 1173*

3 M.L.s. off Bathurst patrolling to West.

YES/TOR, H.M.S. VIVIANA, escorting off Bathurst to
Freetown 9.

ARMERIA off Bathurst 243⁰ 13. *2. 1171 2 1172*

1217Z/28.

V.C.N.S.		Advance copy Ops., O.D., Trade.
A.C.N.S. (F)	O.D.8.	D.A./S.W. D.M.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)	O.I.C.	W.D. D.M.S. Cit.
N.A. 1st S.L.	M.(2)	D.T.D. (M) D.S.V.P. (2)
Capt. Pin.	D.P.S.	I.F. (3) D.D.C.D. (C) (2)
Ops. (3)	Mails.	D.T.D. (4)
O.D. (5)	Movts.	D.T.D. (C)

MLC.

SECRET

TIME

SECRET

MESSAGE

1327Z/28th Nov. IN

From : F.O.C. West Africa.

Date: 29.11.42.

Recd. 0224.

Naval Cypher (M) BY W/T.

Addressed : Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic 963,
F.O.C. North Atlantic 524 S.B.N.O.
West Atlantic B.A.D. Washington.
CONSOLANT (? For).

265. Weekly statement 28th November.

Bathurst Area.

H.M.S. CYCLOPS

(H.M.S. ST. WISTAN) *at Takoradi.*

H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE

H.M.S. BURDOCK

Freetown.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS

H.M.S. AMARANTHUS

H.M.S. EDINBURGH CASTLE

H.M.S. P.614

TAMARISK

PHILOCTETES

KYBER

Freetown vicinity

H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA

H.M.S. MILFORD

Takoradi

H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM

HOLCOMBE

Takoradi area

F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT

Pointe Noire

H.M.S. PHOEBE

H.M.S. ENTERPRISE

CORINTHIAN

COMMANDANT

DESTIENNE

DORVES

Point Noire area

F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU

H.M.S.P. 552, detached H.M.S. VINDICTIVE.

H.M.S. WIVERN

H.M.S. VELOX *see pp 1167 E & 1169.*

H.M.S. BOREAS *at Lib. see p. 1168.*

H.M.S. VIMY *see p. 1167 at Portsmouth. P. B. List*
H.M.S. BRILLIANT/.....

1171 F

Point Noire Area (Contd)

- H.M.S. BRILLIANT *in Atlantic area.*
- H.M.S. VANSITTART *at Linnisport (Pink Line 1)*
- H.M.S. ANTELOPE *at GIB.*
- H.M.S. PETUNIA *reporting at Clyde.*
- H.M.S. WOODRUFF *at Clyde.*
- H.M.S. CROCUS *" "*
- H.M.S. SNOWDROP *Refitting at Tyne*
- H.M.S. ROCKROSE *at Simonstown*
- H.M.S. VIOLET *en route to S. of GIB.*
- H.M.S. AUBRETTIA *" "*
- COWSLIP *at Londonderry.*
- PRESIDENT HOUDUCE *at Clyde*
- BELLWORT. *at Durban*
- F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. *reporting Tyne*

13272/28.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt.Pim. Admiralty House,
- Ops (3)
- O.D. (5)
- O.D. 8.
- O.I.C.
- M.(2)
- D.P.S.
- Mails
- Movts.
- D.A./S.W.
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- I.P. (3)
- D. of P (2)
- D. of P (Q)
- D.M.S.
- D.H.S. Citadel
- D.N.I. (4)
- B.N.L.O.(FF) (2)
- P.N.L.O.

CE

1172

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

ILEX This is Comsolantfor 2336Z/26 Corrected. Comsolantfor (R) R.A.W.A. from U.S.15th Observer Bahia. (Begins) ILEX making minor repairs. Estimated time of sailing 0900Z/27th E.T.A. Freetown 1600Z/1st Dec. Pass to C. in C. S.A. and Admty. (Comsolantfor, 1422Z/28 to R.A.W.A.)

NORMAN W.S.24 *2-11-42* Simonstown departure 1100C/28 NORMAN for escort of W.S.24. (C. in C. S.A., 1436C/28 to Admty. Cdre. Durban, ROTHERHAM)

DESPATCH Arrived p.m. 27 Nov. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1451Z/28 to F.O.C.W.A.)

MILFORD *2-11-42* Departure 28th Nov. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1523Z/28 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

ARMERIA *2-11-42* Arrival 1500Z/28. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst? 1555Z/28 to F.O.C.W.A.). ARMERIA sailed 1830Z/28. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1835Z/28 to R.A.W.A.)

P.R.U. Dakar. In view of present situation and of F.O.W.A.'s 2017/27th Nov. consider P.R.U. could now be discontinued. (N.C.X.F., 1630A/28 to Admty (R) F.O.W.A. etc).

SAMCBRAZ Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMCBRAZ 7,000 tons sailed 24 Nov. from Lisbon to Ponta Delgada on passage to Curacao. She has a naval crew and wears the Portuguese Naval pendant. Speed 12 knots - radius 12,000 miles. (D.N.I., 1657A/28 to C. in C. S.A. etc).

French and West Africa. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S(W) 368. Ref. J.S.M.500. Contents of J.S.M. 500 noted with satisfaction. 2. Our only comment is on your para. 3 Scuttling of French Fleet may have altered situation, and we feel that a clear statement from the start of the full facilities we require in West Africa might now be the best method of approach. 3. In view, however, of helpful attitude of U.S. C.O.S. to our requirements, we do not wish to press this point if Adm. Leahy prefers to stick to the line he proposes to take. (Air Min. T.O.O. 1700 1700Z/28 to Britman Washington).

/R/C...

1173

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

R/C Dakar

P.R.U. Dakar 28 Nov. No change major units.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1841Z/28th.)

PORTSDOWN.

See p. 1171c

/N.T.A.W.D.
Ref. your 1305Z/27 para. 4 met. E.T.A. 0700/29
Motor Launches in company. Approach course 101°
(PORTSDOWN. 1900Z/28 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Transport
of Service
Personnel.

Your 1143/6 not to C. in C. S.A.
U.S. Authorities agree to the following ruling
for their personnel travelling entirely in
British strategical area. Up to 250 U.S.
personnel all told may travel in an unescorted
ship, irrespective of how many other Allied
personnel are already embarked under British
rules. This does not apply to ships over 20
knots for which special arrangements are made
B.A.D. Washington 1519/15 Aug. refers.
(D.O.D. (F) 1913A/28 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R)
C. in C. S.A.)

LYRAS

Cancel my 2309Z/24. Greek ship LYRAS arrived
Montevideo 28th.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1935Z/28 to Admty).

1174

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Orders to S/Ms. Your 2152/27 for latest S/M dispositions, my 1647/27th. Ref. para 3 of my 1259/26. N.C.X.F. has agreed from 1700A/27 until 0700A/28 S/Ms shall not identify themselves, but dive and avoid and that surface force shall not attack a S/M or contact unless it has first taken offensive action. N.C.X.F. is being asked to approve this until further orders. (Capt. S.10. 0029A/28 to C.S.12.)
See next page

P.219. While in your patrol area you are not to pass east of line 360° from R.A.S. Koran for 6 miles thence 028°. (Capt. S.10 0136A/28 to P.219 (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8. S/Ms on patrol.)
See p. 1176A

Enemy Units. Following has been read from Alexandria, P.C.S. 3 merchant vessels one destroyer 38.12 N 11.45 E., 100° 15 knots. (A.H.Q. Malta 0115A/28 to A/C Call sign T3R Duty P) Position at 0215 of 2 destroyers 2 merchant vessels - 38.14 N 14.35 E course 70° speed 12. (A/C U6GJ 0218A/28 to Air H.Q. Malta.) P.C.S. of 3 merchant vessels 1 destroyer 38.15 N 12.25 E. 100° 10 knots. (Med. A/C T3R Duty P 0330/28 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

U/B Suspected S/M inside I.L system Alexandria. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 0757/28 to WOOLWICH. D.12. (R) R.A.D. Med. C. in C. Med.)

Convoy "Novel" Convoy "Novel" is not to approach until further orders. (Alex. W/T 0853B/28 to WOOLWICH. D.12. (R) R.A.D. Med.)
See p. 1180
Convoy "Novel" to enter. WOOLWICH first passing boom 1630. No further indications of submarine. Search proceeding. M/S sweep of channel and your approach route being repeated now. (R.A. Alex. 1208B/28 to Capt. D.12. WOOLWICH. (R) R.A.D. Med. C. in C. Med. Cdre. (D))

S/M dispositions. Your 1001/27. Request restrictions on attack on submarines proposed in para 3 of my 1259/26 may apply until further orders. (Capt. S.10 0842A/28 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.S.12. S/Ms on patrol. C. in C. Med. Capt. S.8. S.O.I.S)

Movements. Arrivals 27th Nov. DELPHINIUM, HURSLEY, BELVOIR, PALADIN, Greek (D) AETOS, SOUTHERN SEA, PINDOS, M.T.B.309. Departures 27th Nov. BRIGAND, ST. ISSEY. (S.O.I.) Alexandria 0908B/28 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

/Orders...

1175

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Orders to S/Ms. Following is a repetition of my 1647/27. (Capt. S.10 0915A/28 to C.S.12.)
See previous page.

Bizerta Minelaying. My 1355A/27 to C. in C. Med. and N.C.X.F. only. 6 magnetic mines laid night 27/28 inside outer breakwater at Bizerta. (V.A. Malta 0941A/28 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers.)

15th. C.S. No incident on passage from Alexandria to Malta other than unexpected encounters with own coastwise traffic which could lead to mishap. (F.O. 15 C.S. 1008A/28 to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta.)

Bi-weekly Opsum No.77. Night 24/25 Nov. 8 Liberators despatched to bomb shipping and harbour installations Tripoli. Owing to low cloud 6 Liberators only located objectives. Bombs burst south of Spanish Mole, damage obscured by cloud and smoke screen. 25 Nov. 22 P.40s patrols over minesweepers at Benghazi. 4 twin engined aircraft which approached harbour driven off. 1 P.40 missing not due enemy action. 8 Kittyhawks patrols over shipping off Apollonia, ten P.40s patrols Apollonia and Martube area without incident. 32 Hurricanes 1 Beaufighter patrols over shipping off Delta and Western Desert coast. 1 Baltimore of Marauder shipping R/C 3 Walrus, 1 Baltimore, 2 Sunderlands 3? Hudsons A/S patrols. The Marauder bombed a westbound schooner 800 tons. No hits. 1 Hurricane missing believed shot down by A.A. fire. Second Hurricane damaged. 26 Nov. 46 Hurricanes 14 Kittyhawks 3 Beaufighters 19 P.40s sorties on protective patrols over shipping over area from Delta coast to Benghazi without incident. 3 formations totalling 26 B.24s despatched to attack shipping and harbour installations at Tripoli. Owing to bad weather en route only 2 B.24s reached objective, these claim 1 hit on vessel in harbour followed by fire and dark smoke, another bomb on Spanish Mole. 1 B.24 bombed a merchant vessel in Khoms harbour turning ship over on its side. 4 Walrus A/S patrols and convoy escorts. Night 26/27 Nov. 7 Hurricanes sorties on patrol Tobruk area without incident. 27 Nov. 7 B.17s despatched to attack floating dry dock in Porto Lago Bay, Leros Island, possible hits claimed on 2 merchant vessels at jetty followed by fire, other bombs along shore in vicinity. 27 Hurricanes 4 Beaufighters 2 P.40s protection of shipping over area from Delta coast to Benghazi without incident. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1028Z/28, 1037Z/28, 0051Z/29.)

Turkish Ferries. Following from Adm. Kelly. (Begins) P.S.T.O. (Middle East) has shown me D of S.T's telegram 1517A/19 Nov. about Turkish Ferries. 2. It is quite useless to suggest Turks should charter to us any of the ferries already delivered as their services are urgently required in the country for Military needs. All I can offer is that DARIC should be retained as agreed until end of year and I can no doubt arrange for TUZIA to be retained for a similar period on arrival in Middle East. (Ends). (R.N. G.H.Q. M.E. 1145B/28 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

/Air R/C...

1176

28.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air (1) Naples, Messina, Taranto, no change.
R/C. (2) Cagliari 6 merchant ships, 7 submarines
on the surface.
(3) Bizerta 6 merchant ships.
(4) Tunis, 2 small merchant ships.
(5) Palermo, 2 merchant ships, 2 destroyers leaving harbour.
(6) Brindisi, 7 merchant ships.
(V.A. Malta 1155A/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Force "Q" Force Q is to leave harbour after dark and carry
out sweep between 038° 05' 038° 30' and as far
east as possible. Force is to return to harbour
before 1st light: ships are not to proceed to the south or
(?east) of the line joining 037° 20' N 009° 30' E 038° 00' N
010° 40' E. Acknowledge.
(S.O.I.S. 1237/28 to S.O. Force Q.)
Cancel my 1237/28. Return to Algiers leaving Bone after
dark tonight Saturday 28th.
(F.O.I.S. 1642A/28 to S.O. Force Q.)

UNA P.43 sailed 1300/28 usual route through Sicilian
→P.43 channel thence to patrol in position Y in my
1647/27. Approaching Malta UNA keep south and
west line E to F, P.43 is keeping north and east
of this line.
(Capt. S.10. 1707A/28 to UNA (R) S/Ms on patrol.
V.A. Malta. N.C.X.F. C.S.15. Capt. S.8. C.S.12.)

CELENO My ?1008/18, CELENO sailing 28th for Constanza.
N.L.O. Black Sea informed.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1301C/28 to S.O.(I) Med. (R)
S.I. Beirut, D.N.I.)

→S/Ms Arrival THUNDERBOLT departures P.43, TRAVELLER.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1312A/28 to Admty. etc.)

SELBO Merchant ship SELBO sunk by torpedo bombers,
sunk survivors picked up by LORD NUFFIELD.
See p. 1181 (JONQUIL 1350/28 to Algiers W/T. Bougie W/T.)
LORD NUFFIELD has seven survivors, five being
severely burnt. Suggest she go into Philippeville and one of
Philippeville escorts remain with convoy.
JURA destroyed one aircraft in second attack.
(JONQUIL 1425/28 to Algiers (R) Philippeville. Bougie.)
My 1425, position 066° C R (corrupt group) 34 miles,
no ship damaged in second attack, aircraft appeared to be Fiat
BR.20s. Request fighter escort until dark.
(JONQUIL 1440A/28 to Algiers (R) Bougie.)

U/B. S/M sighted by aircraft in position 37.04 N
7.49 E. Destroyers hunting.
See p. 1210 (R.A. 12th C.S. 1405A/28 to N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S.
N.O.I.C. Bone.)

/Use of...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 1331A/28th Nov.
IN.

From Capt. (S) 8.

Date 29.11.42.
Time 0025

NAVAL CYPHER S. BY W/T & T/F

Addressed A.I.G. 262.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean
at 2000A/28th.

- (1) H.M.S. URSULA in Gulf of Genoa.
- (2) H.M. Sub. P. 219 038 degs. 44' North 007 degs.
35' East through 038 degs. 37' North 008 degs. 01' East
thence 146 degs. 11 knots. *p. 1174*
- (3) H.M.S. TIGRIS 039 degs. 00' North 004 degs.
30' East through 039 degs. 00' North 006 degs. 30' East
to patrol within 20 miles 038 degs. 01' North 007 degs.
30' East 11 knots.
- (4) H.M.S. STURGEON 38 degs. 38' North 3 degs. 56'
East through 38 degs. 42' North 3 degs. 1' East thence
246 degs. 9 knots.
- (5) H.M.S. THRASHER 38 degs. 32' North 5 degs. 15'
East through 38 degs. 50' North 3 degs. 1' East thence
244 degs. .5 knots.
- (6) All above S/MS dived by day 2½ knots surface
speeds as stated.
- (7) P.54 38 degs. 32' North 000 degs. 26' East R/V
SAMLHIRE in 135 degs. Cape Palos 5 miles at 0800/29th
then proceed either dived by day to Gibraltar 5 miles
from Spanish coast or on the surface 13 miles from
Spanish coast 8 knots. *p/p 1167 1167A*
1331A/28

Advance copies sent D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C

V.C.N.S.
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)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)

D. A/S W.
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D. of P. (Q)

1177

War Diary.

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Use of
Jijelli.

In view of road transport difficulties, Army request opening of port of Jijelli for coastwise traffic, approx. 2 ships per month not exceeding 300 feet length (?18) feet draught. In view of absence of A/S M/S protection at Jijelli can this port be used?
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1424A/28 to F.O.I.S. (R) Cdre. Algiers.)

UTMOST
lost.

*Probably sunk
by 2000 - (p. 114)*

Regret to report UTMOST now three days overdue and must be considered lost. UTMOST left patrol after successful attack north of Bizerta and was in approx. 037° 40' N 011° 03' E at 2200A/23, afterwards reporting her position and intentions by signal T.O.O. 1231/23 received at Malta 2247/23. Rome Radio claims British S/M noon 24th, possibly UTMOST, was located and sunk by patrol craft when proceeding down moon towards diving position for dawn 24th, S.W. of Marittimo.

2. No reason to suppose books compromised. S.10 is requested to report casualties direct.

(C. in C. Med. 1450B/28 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.S. V.A. Malta. S.10. S.1.) *See p. 1160 (Sit. R. p.)*

P.228
R of P

P.228 reports:-

- (1) At 0944/16 Nov. unsuccessfully attacked inward bound 500 ton U-Boat painted white in 43.47 N 09.42 E.
- (2) At 1600/16 in 43.30 N 09.37 E boarded and sank 300 ton A/S schooner.
(W.R. Note: Portion here is the concern of D.N.I. who will arrange further circulation and comment as necessary.)
- (3) At 2200/20 unsuccessfully attacked Italian U-Boat entering Naples.
- (4) At 1500/21 at 800 yards attacked Oriani Class Destroyer one of 2 escorts to 2 medium size merchant vessels also entering Naples. Only remaining torpedo fired which hit. Result not observed.
- (5) At 0130/23 in 39.04 N 11.28 E sank by gunfire 1700 ton merchant vessel which had been stopped by R.A.F. This ship was one of a convoy of two merchant vessels and one armed merchant cruiser which had been shadowed by P.228 since 2045/22.
(S.8. 1528A/28 to N.C.X.F.)

Enemy A/S
Schooners.

A/S schooners may be encountered about 9 miles apart on line 110° from Cape Mele to Gorgona Island and one half way Gorgona and Caprata. These schooners are fitted with hydrophones, 20 depth charges, but apparently no Asdics, also aircraft sound locators, and they are in R/T touch with Genoa, Spezia, Livorno, or Porto Ferranto.

(Capt. S.8. 1540A/28 to URSULA. (R) Capt. S.10.)

1178

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P.222 (1) Intend sailing P.222 for patrol p.m. 30th Nov.
(2) P.222 will pass position 038° 40' N 008° 01' E at 2100A/4 Dec. thence as ordered by you. (Capt. S.8. 1610A/28 to Capt. S.10. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A.)
- Fighter protection. Request night fighter protection from midnight over cruiser force proceeding from Bone to Algiers tonight Saturday.
Dusk position sailing from Bone. Dawn position entering (corrupt group) Approx. midnight position 037° 25' N (7002°) (030°) (as received 730' intended) East.
(F.O.I.S. 1715A/28 to R.A.F. Maison Blanche. A.O.C. F.A.C. (R) Cdre. Algiers. F.O.C. 12th C.S.)
- Situation. Situation Report 2000A/28 East Algiers.
Force Q 037° 15' N 007° 00' E westbound 23 knots.
T.E.5. 037° 10' N 006° 34' E eastbound 7 knots.
ROBERTS and convoy 037° 00' N 005° 00' E westbound 8 knots passing well off shore.
(F.O.I.S. 1717A/28 to S.O. 12th C.S. ROBERTS. JONQUIL.)
- Enemy Intelligence. From usual source:
(a) Neutral journalist just arrived from Roumania Bulgaria (believed pro-Axis) reports renewed rumours in both countries of possibility Russian-German peace. Comment: presumably being spread by Axis.
(b) Remarkable outburst of criticism Hitler among German Colony here and efforts by many individual Germans to dissociate themselves from Nazi Party. A.1.
(S.O.(I.) Istanbul 1735C/28 to D.N.I.)
- P.42 TRIBUNE *See p. 1181* Move to establish patrol line by 2359/29th. P.42 7 miles. TRIBUNE 12 miles 350° from Cape St. Vito. TRIBUNE routed through 038° 42' 011° 20' and when well clear make brief report Anderson fuel and torpedo remaining.
(Capt. S.10 1737A/28 to TRIBUNE. P.42. (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8. S/Ms on patrol. C.S.12. C.S.15.)
- P.44 Leave patrol after dark tonight 28th Nov. via Kerkenah. Usual R/V at 1135 Nov. 30th.
(Capt. S.10. 1741A/28 to P.44. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1. C.S.15. S/Ms on patrol.)
- Air R/C. (1) Afternoon 28th Nov. visual Naples - no change.
(2) Forenoon, photograph Palermo - 1 cruiser in dock, 4 destroyers, 3 torpedo boats, 2 merchant ships 2000 tons.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1806A/28 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. etc.)

1179

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Help Messages. Some help messages have been received without positions. Position is always to be included vide S 2/1942 para 180. (N.C.X.F. 1812A/28 to S and A Area G.)

FOULA HUNDA FOULA left for Arzeu, HUNDA arrived from Arzeu. Searched channel and anchorage swept. Negative results. (F.O.I.C. Oran 1817A/28 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

IRIS (French S/M.) French sub. IRIS 600 tons with 2 officers, 1 Warrant Officer and 9 ratings out of complement of 33 arrived here noon today. I understand they came here hoping to be interned rather than handed to Germany or scuttle or fight. My French colleague who informed me of above added that as a Frenchman he was ashamed of them but that their attitude is typical of what was the French Fleet in Toulon. (Con. Gen. Barcelona 1906/28 to S.O.I. Gib. (R) Admty. N.A. Madrid.)

C.W.S. PROGRESS T.E.7. My 1005/25 (N.T. in W.R.) not to ROCHESTER. Request you will sail C.W.S. PROGRESS to R/V with convoy T.E.7 in 036° 09' N 000° 16' W at 1000A/30. *In pp 1167A, 1168,* ROCHESTER is requested? to detach one escort vessel to meet (?PROGRESS) at (?end) of searched channel at 0600A/30 and escort to R/V. (N.C.X.F. 1908A/28 to F.O. in C. Oran. (R) ROCHESTER. Cdre. Algiers. F.O.C.N.A.)

ARTEMIS WARD Sailed 1850 Algiers for orders with 7 officers 96 ratings R.N. for transshipment. (S.T.O. Bougie 1910A/28 to Admty. for D.S.T.)

Priority of enemy targets. The enemy having run his shock troops into Tunisia by fast ships, following up convoys are likely to be slow speed. Targets priority in the order: Large tankers, troopships, supply ships. (Capt. S.10. 1930A/28 to S/Ms on patrol.)

Enemy Unit. V V 1. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 31° 10' N 29° 31' E - vessel unknown. (A/C "V" of No. 230 Sqdn. (M.E. Command) 1943B/28 to 201 Group.)

Movements. Algiers arrivals QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ZETLAND, BICESTER, LAMERTON, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN. (Cdre. Algiers 1950A/28 to Admty.)

/Situation...

1180

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Levant. Cased petrol ship SZECHUEN sunk 1630/27
Report Nov. 2 miles north of No.5 outer channel buoy
No.298. Port Said. Internal explosion but cause uncertain.
2. Alexandria. Com. (D) in WOOLWICH has arrived
from Port Said. *See p.1174*

3. Submarines. UTMOST overdue and must be considered lost
(My 1450/28 Nov. refers). *See p.1177*

4. Safe conduct. Swedish relief ships CAMELIA and FORMOSA
have arrived Piraeus and EROS at Kalamata, all with wheat.

5. Italian repatriation Liners GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO arrived
Massawa 26th Nov.
(C. in C. Med. 1952B/28 to Admt.)

TROOPER V.A. Malta's 1215A/10 Oct. (re routeing of S/Ms
approaching Malta from west and north.) para 6,
S A M (A) 30th Nov. (B) Nil. (C) No.
(D) Not before 0400A Dec. 1st. (E) 1041A.
(Capt. S.10. 2005A/28 to TROOPER. (R) V.A. Malta.
S/Ms on patrol.)

S/M If battery power insufficient to dive from B to
routes. D,I consider the Eastern part of route between
C and D the safest for surface passage. Absence
of mines proved while patrolling from Trapani.
Wireless silence should be maintained in area bound by Cape
Guardia, Cape Bon, St. Marco, Marittimo, except for reports of
particular urgency.
(Capt. S.10 2010A/28 to S/Ms on patrol.)

French It has been agreed that the following vessels
shipping. shall sail to Dakar via Gibraltar in order to
clear berths at Algiers and Oran. ATHOS II,
CHAMPOLLION, COLOMBIE, JAMAIQUE, CEVENNES,
edible passenger ships, RHEA, EDIBLE, oil tanker(s). These vessels
are not on charter but proceeding under convoy. Terms of
Marine and War Risk. Their further employment to be decided
when ready. Dakar have also agreed that this cover will be
extended to vessels on coasting voyages as agreed by C. in C.
on same terms, therefore add CHATEAU LATOUR, Algiers to Oran.
(M.W.T.R. Algiers 2040A/28 to M.W.T.)

Malta MS.4991. (Part 1). AI. 137 28 Nov. C.S.R. Part 1.
Air (Nothing of interest). (A.H.Q. Malta 2040Z/28.)
Report. (Part 2. Sec. 2.) Night 27/28 Nov. 1 special
Wellington on shipping R/C Cavoli to Marittimo
found at 2131 hours 292° Marittimo 70 miles 3 M/Vs
and 1 D/R course 100° speed 15 knots. Wellington shadowed convoy
until 2024 hours when position was 040° Marittimo 28 miles course
100° speed 15 knots. 1 Beaufort despatched to attack this convoy
found at 0253 hours 3 M/Vs and 1 D/R 265° Marittimo 37 miles and
dropped 1 torpedo contact only, depth setting 9 feet from 80 feet,
range 400 yards, aimed at an M/V but no results were observed
owing to sea mist.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2107/28.)

/(Part 2 Sec.3)...

1181

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.

Malta (Part 2 Sec. 3)
 Air 2 other Beauforts and 1 special Wellington
 Report. carrying torpedoes found no shipping owing to
 Contd. heavy rainstorms and bad visibility. 6 Beaufort
 sorties were made 1816-2258 hours and 0055-0525
 hours to lay mines in Bizerta Harbour. 6 1500 lb.
 magnetic mines were laid in entrance to the harbour from 600 feet.
 At 0307 hours Beauforts sighted 4 M/Vs. 5/10,000 tons in Lac de
 Porto Farina. In spite of bad weather conditions Wellingtons
 made 17 sorties to attack the docks at Bizerta. In first attack
 2128-2250 hours 18? Wellingtons dropped 56 500 lb. and 92 250 lb.
 GP bombs from 5000 feet through breaks in cloud scoring hits in
 the area of the iron-ore wharf and starting a large fire followed
 by an explosion. All bombs were aimed at the dockside area but
 owing to 9/10 to 10/10 cloud at 2000 feet results were difficult
 to observe. Accurate flak from 5 heavy guns was encountered and
 8 searchlights were exposed. In second attack from 0227-0305
 hours 4 Wellingtons dropped 24 500 lb. GP and 31 250 lb. GP bombs
 from 6000 feet. All bombs scored hits in docks area, burst being
 observed near fuel stores and a fire started near fuelling
 jetties. Wellingtons dived to 1000 feet and shot up searchlight
 positions. A little flak was experienced some of which appeared
 to be silenced during the attack.
 (A.H.Q. Malta 2145Z/28.)

* P.42 You were probably sighted today. P.42 at 1310A,
 P.48 P.48 at 1535A.
 * See p. 1178 (Capt. S.10. 2100A/28 to P.42. P.48.)

TRIBUNE Nothing report except slight possibility of
 See p. 1178 destroyer patrolling vicinity Canirock. All
 torpedoes (2 corrupt groups)
 (TRIBUNE 2103A/28 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F.
 Capt. S.8.)

Situation (1) Bone. Continuous bombing 0001 to 0630A
 Report 28 Nov. ITHURIEL badly holed and after part
 No. 230. flooded.
 (2) Convoy T.E.5 attacked by T/B aircraft mid-day
 28 Nov. Petrol Carrier SELBO sunk, survivors in

LORD NUFFIELD. See p. 1176
 (3) Algiers. Four enemy aircraft destroyed and one damaged by
 night fighters early a.m. 28 Nov. north west of Algiers.
 (4) Force H to return to Oran if nothing sighted in daylight
 29 Nov. Force Q leaves Bone p.m. today for Algiers to replenish
 ammunition for further operations.
 (N.C.X.F. 2205A/28 to Admty.)

Situation 1. Sitrep 20, Nov. 27th. Bone: 8 ships K.M.S.3.
 Algiers. berthed 25 Nov. Convoy unsuccessfully attacked
 by torpedo bomber aircraft. Force Q (3 cruisers
 3 destroyers) standing by Bougie: little enemy
 air activity 26 Nov. when 3 ships were discharging.
 Algiers: Naval staff operating in BULOLO. Late discharge
 K.M.F.3 and 1½ days early arrival K.M.S.3 24th Nov. resulted
 congestion in Bay. Heavy swell 26th Nov. prevented unloading and
 movement of ships. 3300 troops sailed eastward 26th Nov.

/Circling...

1182

28.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-*contd.*Situation,
Algiers.
Contd.

Circling torpedo fell on land night 24/25th; successfully stripped. Force H (2 cruisers, 2 carriers, 2 battleships and 10 destroyers) proceeded north to provide air cover should French Naval ships move south Oran: salvage operations and strengthening port defences continues.
(Algiers 2300Z/28 to Abfor.)

Toulon
R/C.

Result of P.R.U. of Toulon at 1300 Nov. 28th. All Naval units apart from submarines are still present, but now in the following conditions. Those afloat and apparently intact comprise, two Galissonniere Class cruisers, old battleship L'OCEAN, two Tigre Class, one Aigle or Guepard Class Contre Torpilleurs, one Le Hardi and Simoun Class destroyers, two patrol vessels probably Arras Class, one Le Hardi Class destroyer. Battlecruiser STRASBOURG is aground on even keel. DUNKERQUE remains in dry dock but this is now flooded. COMMANDANT TESTE has severe list to port and Battleship PROVENCE has stern very low in water. The following are very heavily on fire. Two Suffren and one Galissonniere Class cruisers. Cruiser ALGERIE is aground and may also be on fire. The following have been scuttled and lie either with their decks awash or on their sides: one Suffren Class cruiser and old battleship CONDORCET, both of which have settled slightly aft. One Mogador and eleven Aigle or Guépard-Class, one Tigre-Class, one Volta-Class and one Fantasque-Class Contre-Torpilleurs, seven Le Hardi-Class and three Simoun-Class destroyers, one Pomone T/B and two Elan Escort Vessels, Netlayer GLADIATEUR and Supply Ship GOLO. Four of the thirteen submarines have been scuttled, remainder not seen; 3 of the 9 missing are possibly submerged. Of the six in dry dock two S/MS under construction are submerged and other four have had dock flooded. Merchant shipping including five tankers all appear undamaged with the exception of one M/V 270 ft. which is partly sunk. No fires are seen burning on land and no major destruction apparent. Milhaud Magazines and Oil Storage Tanks at Mondrier are intact.
(D.D.I.C. 2330A/28, 1752A/29, 1325A/30 to F.O.C.N.A. N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H. V.A. Malta. C. in C. Med. B.A.D. Comnavu.)

RORQUAL

Capt. S.1's 2302/25th. Your onward route through -
(i) 034° 28' 014° 44'. (ii) 035° 23' 014° 06'
thence R/V with sweeper at end of searched channel
at 1034 2nd Dec.
(Capt. S.10. 2335A/28 to RORQUAL. (R) C. in C.
Med. Capt. S.1. C.S.15.)

1183

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RAMSES German ship RAMSES en route from Kobe to Germany via Batavia sunk in 023° 46' S. 099° 05' E. at 0800Z/28th by self scuttling assisted by gunfire ADELAIDE and HEEMSKERCK. Have on board 78 German prisoners and 10 Norwegian survivors of AUST and KATTEGAT also one pig and one dog. Intend returning to Fremantle on turning over convoy to GAMBIA at maximum speed, E.T.A. 1900I/2nd Dec. Master AUST reports 2 further supply ships and 2 tankers expected to leave Kobe shortly, possibly by similar route. One ship RHAKOTIS probably now at Batavia. No casualties on either side, no damage. Cdre. W. Australia pass to C.T.F. 51. (ADELAIDE 1115Z/28 to A.C.N.B. (R) Cdre. W.A.)
W.D. Note.- RAMSES 7983 tons. ADELAIDE and HEEMSKERCK escorting Convoy O.W.1

My 1115/28th. Norwegian officers have reasons to believe RAMSES was to R/V with German raider either Sunday 29th or Monday 30th Nov. When first sighted RAMSES was in 023° 20' S. 099° 13' E. course 197° speed 11 knots. Before scuttling (? she) made following W/T signal on 600 metres. Y Y Y 023° 09' S. 099° 25' P U L.

(ADELAIDE 1225Z/28 to A.C.N.B.)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 28th Nov. 1200Z MARYBOROUGH. Departure 1145Z, Dutch S/M D.S.O.23. (S.O.(I.) Colombo 1215Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

Air Report. Part 2 of A.H.Q. India Int. 155 Nov. 28. C. U.S.A.A.F. report. Nov. 27 10 B.25s with 23 P.40s bombed ships Canton Harbour. Claims are 1 8,000 ton M.V., 1 6,000 ton M.V. numerous lighters all sunk. (A.H.Q. India 1301Z/28 to Admty.)

Jibuti. From C. in C. Reports from 12 (a) Div. show that situation in Jibuti appears to be approaching a crisis. 20 Europeans have deserted to us in last ten days. It is reported that senior French Officers are pressing Truffert to join Darlan and that all ranks have been told that they can leave C.F.S. if they wish. Request guidance should overtures be made to us by French authorities. (G.O.C. in C. E.A. 1520C/28 to W.O.)

Movements. Following is a repetition of my 1146/27 (received undecypherable) (begins) Departure 0815Z GERALDTOWN, TRAVANCORE with B.P.60½. 0900Z SONAVATI with B.M.32. Arrival 0630Z BIRMINGHAM T.O.O. 1146Z/27th (ends). Admty. 1327A/28th (not circulated, concerns War Registry) to Bombay only refers. (S.O.(I.) Bombay 1544Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

/CATTERICK ...

1184

War Diary.

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - contd.

CATTERICK,
DERWENT.

C. in C. S.A. 1213/27 November not to C. in C. Med. para.2.
Now you are getting CATTERICK back request you will sail DERWENT to join Mediterranean Fleet as soon as she can be spared.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1800A/28 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Occupation
of Reunion.

Operation proceeding. Northern portion of Island under control comprising towns of St. Denis, St. Benoit and the part of Point Des Galets where coast battery has been put out of action. Governor has fled to mountains with 400 soldiers and officers. So that operations may be finished quickly and successfully request help of British Troops and air R/C. Further request supply of 50 automatic rifles and ammunition.
(F.S. LEOPARD 2106Z/28 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet (R) N.O.I.C. Mauritius, Admty.)

SECRET

1184^A

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.)

SECRET

MESSAGE 0055A/28th NovemberOUT

Date: 28.11.42.

To: B.A.D. Washington.
Repeated: D.N.I. Ottawa.

NAVAL CYPHER (X). RECIRCULATION.

From: Admiralty D.N.I.

Your 1409/26. Information on the following points is requested.

- 1) Was ship escorted any time by U-boat.
- 2) To what port in Japan was she proceeding and was she due for Indo-China or Malay subsequently.
- 5) Is route used via Cape Horn or Cape of Good Hope.
- 6) Was ship due to encounter any other ship on route, e.g. supply ships, tankers, raiders.
- 7) Arrangements for entering Japanese waters.
- 8) Are tankers to be engaged in trade to Far East.
- 9) What cargoes carried on last and on previous west bound voyage.
- 10) What cargo to be loaded in Far East.
- 11) What cargoes have other blockade-runners carried between France and Far East.

0055A/28.

for D.N.I.(484)

* German prisoners ex - ANNELIESE
ESSEBERGER.

Note: This signal is circulated at the request of N.I.D.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 have been omitted at the request of D.N.I. as they do not concern the departments to which this signal is circulated.

1st Lord.

1st S.L.(2)

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(U,T)

A.C.N.S.(W)

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim,

Ops.(3)

O.D.(5)

D.T.D.(4)

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C)

D. of P.(3)

D.A/S.W.(2)

I.P.(3)

W.D.

D.P.D.

D.S.D.(2)

M.(2)

U.S.N.(3)

D.E.W.D.(3)

1185

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.VEGREVILLE
U/B.

4 underwater explosions heard in 045° 32' N.
059° 12' W. at 0045M/28th. Star shell fired.
No other sign of submarine.
(VEGREVILLE 0105Z/28th to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q.
F.O.N.F.)
(C.O.A.C. 0400Z/28 to ST. CLAIR, BRANDON, FAME,
(R) C.T.F. 24 etc.)

TORTUGAS
(torpedoed
18/11)

*See # 1187
1188*

Motor vessel TORTUGAS, Norwegian, torpedoed 18th
November 1930 (?G.M.T) 014° 00' N. 054° 00' W.
Master's and Wireless Office books went down with
ship in their boxes. Depth over 2000 fathoms.
Submarine did not surface till after ship sank.
No special baggage on board. Information
obtained from Third Officer.
(B.R.O. Georgetown 0954/28 to Admty.)

Exclusions
from Convoy
T.26.

Your 1945/27th. Confirm exclusion entirely
due lack of speed. All ships which sailed with
declared speed of 9½ knots or over.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 1047Q/28 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

K.14.

Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 28th Nov.
K.14 26° N. 52° W., 299°, 9.
(D.O.D.(F) 1049Z/28 to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)

ENGLEMAN.

Arrival 27th Nov. U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN.
(Aruba 1202QR/28 to Admty.)

SCHENCK
BABBITT.

1200Z/28th Position, 58° H N, 34° 40' W. course
226° 22. Weather report. U.S.S. BABBITT
(?in company.)
(U.S. Destroyer SCHENCK 1330Z/28 to C. in C. W.A.
C.T.G. 24.6.)

BUXTON.

BUXTON has urgent electrical and other defects
too extensive to be undertaken either at St. Johns
or Argentia and which render ship unfit for
further service. Request ship may be taken in hand at U.S.
refitting port. Ship is now at Argentia and is being sailed to
Halifax in anticipation of approval.
(F.O.N.F. 1429Z/28 to N.S.H.Q. B.A.M.R. (R) Admty., C.T.F.24 etc.)

TOWER GRANGE.
Sunk 13/11.

My 1624/23rd. British TOWER GRANGE sunk 0630
G.M.T. November 13th in 006° 20' N. 049° 10' W.
Master and 29 landed Trinidad 27th. Chief Officer
and 10 adrift. (Casualties)
(S.O(I) Kingston 1458R/28 to Admty. etc.)

/VEERHAVEN ...

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

VEERHAVEN
(sunk 11
November)

Curacao report Argentine JUVENAL landed Nov. 26th 19 survivors ex Dutch VEERHAVEN. These report ship torpedoed 005° S. 031° W. 11th Nov. (S.O.I. Kingston, Jam. 1506R/28 to Admty., B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Montevideo.)

U/B
Positions.

28th November S/M estimate and U.S. S/M notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1515/28, 1516/28, 1545/28, 1547/28, 1549/28.)

REGENT.

Admiralty pass to S.N.O.C.A. (Passing action is being taken by W.R.) Sail REGENT when ready to Gibraltar via Bermuda through Points

(C) 35.40 69.45
(D) 32.27 64.32

Onward route

(E) 33.30 56.50
(F) 34.15 47.30
(G) 34.10 34.20
(H) 33.01 23.50
(J) 37.10 21.05

(K) 36.40 11.40 to destination, advise sailing time and S. of A.

(Connav 1526/28 to Cdnt 4th U.S. Naval Dist Philadelphia (R) C.E.S.F., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty. etc.)

WILLIAM J.
DUANE,
H.X.216.

See p. 1163

Am taking no action on C. in C. W.A. 0939Z/28th (suggesting DUANE reinforce escort of H.X.216.) (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1541/28 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) Admty. N.O.B. Iceland, C.T.24, C. in C. W.A.)

It is presumed your 0939/28 was intended to be addressed to C.T.F. 24 for action.

(B.A.D. 1727Z/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty.)

Your 0925Z/28th (?0939Z intended) was referred by Connav to this command for action. DUANE has necessary information regarding H.X.216 and has been directed to augment escort Unit 24.1.5. (?Convoy) S.C.L.110 includes 2 transports. Request that Dick section be not detached until 3 escorts are present. Can arrangements be made to detach DUANE about December 1st to permit joining U.S. destroyer SCHENCK and U.S. Destroyer BANNITT before pack breaks off?

(? C.T.G. 24.6 1752/28 to C. in C. W.A. (R) U.S.S. SCHENCK, U.S.S. DUANE.)

Movements.

Departure U.S. ships LEGARE, CUYAHOGA, S.C.506, S.C.532, ~~escort~~ T.G.2, U.S. ship ARIEL. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad (P. of S.) 1612Q/28 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

/TORTUGAS ...

MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

1615Z/28th November

1186A

Date 29/11/42

0044

From C.C.A.C. Halifax.

Naval Cypher S by C. & W.

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Section South West

SC 111, Task Unit 24.18.7, 043 degs. (?19') 064 degs. 01' 064 degs. 7.5.

Task Unit 24.18.4, vicinity 043 degs. 18' 064 degs. 05' en route Halifax.

(HX) (?139), Task Unit 24.18.3, 040 degs. 12' 068 degs. 27' 053 degs. 9.5.

HF 17, MAHONE, FORT WILLIAM, 043 degs. 00' 066 degs. 18' en route St. John N.B.

QS 45, ARROWHEAD, MULGRAVE, MANTOULIN, 00290, 00293, U.S.S. SPEED, SEER, ~~SUSTAIN~~, MIZPAH, BULWHEEL, 044 degs. 27' 062 degs. 29' on route for Halifax. * not identified

M.M.S. 107, 102, 103, 105, and 106, 043 degs. 38' 064 degs. 22' 223 degs. 9.5 alter to 270 degs. in 042 degs. 47' North to 341 degs. in 066 degs. 10' West and to 275 degs. in 043 degs. 49' North.

MEADOWSWEET, vicinity 043 degs. 00' 063 degs. 30' en route Halifax 12.5.

H.M. Sub. P.512, on the surface escorted by KAMLOOPS 045 degs. 22' 060 degs. 43' 161 degs. 10 alter to 226 degs. in 045 degs. 10'? North to 247 degs. in 044 degs. 57' North and to 270 degs. in 062 degs. 27' West. Expected time of arrival Halifax 1300Z/29.

IRISH FIRE, 043 degs. 37' 060 degs. 44' 084 degs. 7 alter to 072 degs. in 059 degs. (?58') West.

IRISH BEECH 043 degs. 14' 064 degs. 20' 111 degs. 8 alter to 092 degs. in 063 degs. 30'.

1615Z/28.

A.C.N.S. (H)	D.T.D. (C)	
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.D.O.D. (M)	Advance copies D.C.,
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.C. (2)	D.O.D. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.D.I.C. (2)	Trade
Captain Tim	D. of Plans (2)	
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.A./S.W.	D.M.S.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	Head of M.	D.E.W.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)	W.D.	
D.T.D. (3)	I.T. (2)	

GMM

1187

War Diary.28.11.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

TORTUGAS
(sunk 18
November)
*See p. 11854
next page*

Norwegian TORTUGAS sunk 1930 G.M.T. 18th Nov. in 014° 00' N. 054° 00' W. Third Officer and 17 rescued by (U.S) HERMAN F. WHITON and landed Georgetown. Captain and chief engineer prisoners. Two boats with remaining crew adrift. (S.O.(I.) Jamaica 1646R/28 to N.S.H.Q.)

Shipping
Routes to
Cape.

Your 1751/27 (N.T. in W.D.) Routes of shipping between Punta Arenas and the Cape will be amended accordingly.
(2) Propose also that traffic between River Plate and Capetown should conform.
(D.T.D. 1730Z/28 to Connav)
Concur. (Connav 1549/30.)

TENACITY,
ELM BAY.

My 2129/26/11. H.M.R.T. TENACITY returned St. Johns 1448/28 with SS ELM BAY in tow.
(F.O.N.F. 1812Z/28 to Admty., for C.C.R.T. (R)
N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C.)

Cargo-
Carrying
Submarines.

Have been approached unofficially concerning cargo-carrying submarines by influential and prominent official in War Production Board who is also President of Government controlled corporation of Cargoes Incorporated, an agency for furthering any new ideas in shipbuilding. A sketch design, prepared by Mr. Simon Lake to carry about 5000 tons deadweight has been found unpracticable on investigation and party concerned informed accordingly. He also stated that he could probably arrange production of cargo-carrying submarines of any type to Admiralty requirements. As however this would be certain to conflict with shipbuilding here and as U.S. Navy are now converting three V class submarines for cargo-carrying, no purpose in proceeding further with the matter is seen. The three vessels are now nearly converted and will be capable of carrying about 300 tons dry cargo and fuel in proportion.
(B.A.D. 1827Z/28 to Admty.)

Movements.

Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. FORREST, QUICK.
Departures U.S.S. AUGUSTA, FORREST, QUICK.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1902Q/28 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.,
B.A.D., S.O.(I.) Jamaica.)

Curacao-
Panama
Shipping.

Independent sailings between Curacao and Panama approved subsequent to C.Z.6 about 8th Dec.
(B.A.D. 1945Z/28 to Admty.)

/Sub.attack ...

1188

28.11.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Sub.attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. ROXBY sunk 49.33 N. 30.32 W. 7 Nov.
TOWER GRANGE torpedoed sunk 06.20 N. 49.10 W.
0630Z/18.
TORTUGAS torpedoed sunk 13.24 N. 55 W. 2015Z/18
believed to be Italian. Captain and Engineer
prisoners. *See pp 1185 1187*
EMPIRE GLADE shelled 17.16 N. 48.44 W. 0900Z/28.
Para.C. P.B.Y. Radar contact 39.18 N. 73.06 W.
1815Z/27.
(Cominch 2020/28 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

S.C.111.

My 1615Z/28th (N.T. in W.D.) amend position of
S.C.111 to read scattered vicinity 43.12 64.14
047° 6, altering to 064° in 64.01 W. Delete
all references to M.M.S.s, add ROXBOROUGH, Portuguese Shoal Buoy
092° 14 altering to 071° in 61.00 W. U.S.S.C 705, 704, 43, 58,
54,12 to Sambro Light Vessel thence coastwise to Scateri Island.
(C.O.A.C. 2101Z/28 to G.B.7 A.)
Escorting REGINOLITE, PERMIAN from S.C.111, E.T.A. 1100Z/29th
Boiler hours.
(BARRIE 2204Z/28 to C.O.A.C.)

Long
Range
Aircraft.

J.S.M.503 Your C.O.S.(W) 366 (2105/26) We are
taking up question of accelerating preparation
of centimeter A.S.V. aircraft and will report
progress.

2. Unless you find it essential to retain any of
the nine Liberators now en route to Torch area in U.K. we
consider suggestion made in your para. ten should not be raised
at this juncture as it is likely to prejudice success of our
efforts on remainder of your signal.
(J.S.M. 2255Z/28 to Chiefs of Staff.)

JAN
Procedure.

Reply to C.O.S. (W) 362 re acceptance of JAN
procedure.
(J.S.M. 504, 2315Z/28 to C.O.S.)
See Lion Copy.

U/B.

S/M sighted 2130 G.M.T. 016° 43' N. 061° 56' W.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 2330R/28 to Admty. etc.)

ord

I.S.

S. F. (2)

(W)

(F)

(4)

P. (2)

Capt.

C. (2)

of M.

(2)

Unparaphrased Version of a Secret Cypher
Telegram not One Time Table.

IZ 2393
T.O.O. 2315Z/28
T.O.R. 0629Z/29

SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM.

Bellairs

D.

From:- J.S.M. Washington

To:- Chiefs of Staff, London

J.S.M. 504 28th November, 1942.

Your C.O.S. (W) 362.

U.S. Chiefs of Staff at yesterday's meeting were most appreciative of your acceptance of JAN procedure. Admiral King said afterwards that he would instruct his people on C.C.B. to meet us in every way possible in regard to details of procedure letters, etc.

2. C.C.B. have been instructed to proceed with production of Combined procedure in accordance with conditions laid down by you without further reference to C.C.S. Procedure to be drawn up in concise manual form and confined strictly to essentials.

3. Your condition (C) was expanded to cover all areas in following terms.

BEGINS. Date of introduction of JAN procedure in any area of strategic responsibility to be decided by Joint C.O.S. concerned in order to ensure co-ordination between all forces involved. For communications between areas of strategic responsibility combine procedure shall be made effective on earliest practicable date. ENDS.

T.O.O. 2315Z/28

(Circulation)

Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
War Reg. Admiralty
C.6 Tels, War Office

A.M.C.S.
C.C.O.
Capt. Layman, W/T Board

1189

28.11.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest serial No. 310 Nov. 27. Two 7,000 ton Merchant Vessels reported Buka passage evening 27.
2. R/C Aircraft reports sighting three large submarines off South East coast New Britain morning 27th two were on N.E. course.
3. Four Destroyers reported 15 miles East Cape Orford (New Britain) at 1000/26/Z course 190°.
4. Allies continue pressure against strongly defended enemy positions Gona Buna Area resulting in slight advances on Sanananda and Buna Cape Endaiadere fronts. Enemy counter attacks repulsed. Strong forces of Marauders and Bostons again carried out incessant attacks against enemy positions in support of ground operations.
5. Six Zeros and one Bomber attacked, destroyed bridge across Samboga River evening 26th. One Marauder operating Buna Area evening 27th encountered seven Zeros three of which attacked without effect. Six Zeros, Five Dive Bombers landed Lae morning same day.
6. Attacks against Lae Aerodrome 27th hampered by bad weather but B.25s dropped bombs over target area without observing results.
7. Ten enemy aircraft bombed and strafed advanced divisional H.Q. and main dressing station afternoon 27th causing some casualties.
8. Twelve Bombers attacked Darwin Area early morning 27th without effect. Probably six zeros over later in morning at 2900 feet Kittyhawks failed to intercept.
9. Three Hudsons bombed buildings Nova Lusa while three others bombed village at Beco early morning 27th without observing results.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0730Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

ADELAIDE,
AQUITANIA.

Cancel my 0909/8th Oct. ADELAIDE will now relieve Soupac escort for AQUITANIA about 143° E. and escort to Fremantle.
(A.C.N.B. 1059Z/28 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty., Commander S.W. Pacific Force.)

RAMSES
(German)

Scuttled.
(ADELAIDE; 1115Z/28, 1225Z/28)
See East Indies. p. 1183.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions at 1200Z/28.
(D.D.I.C. 1438A/28, 1449A/28.)

War Diary.

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 1345 today aircraft sighted a merchant vessel resembling Italian M.V. CORTELLAZZO escorted by 4 vessels, probably torpedo boats, in 44° 45' N. 4° 50' W., steering west. Air attack was unsuccessful.

S/M TRUANT arrived at Greenock this evening from Freetown.

Seven Naval Swordfish laid mines this evening in the River Seine at Rouen.

South Atlantic.

Greek SS ARGO reported that she was torpedoed by a submarine in 34° 53' S. 17° 54' E. about 2016 G.M.T. today. The ship sank.

The Blue Star liner DUNEDIN STAR (12,891 tons) struck a submerged object about 2200 G.M.T. today in 18° 12' S. 11° 42' E. and beached herself west of Cape Frio, S.W. Africa, in 18° 13' S. 11° 42' E.. She was abandoned on 2nd Dec.

Mediterranean.

It is reported that the French S/M LE GLORIEUX left Valencia this morning for Oran. She requests British protection en route. Her periscope is damaged.

C.S.12 transferred his flag to AURORA today and BERMUDA sailed from Algiers for Gibraltar (she left Gibraltar 30 Nov., escorting STRATHAIRD, for the U.K.)

There was an air raid on Bone at 0400 today, but no damage was caused.

/Shipping ...

1191

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Shipping and harbour installations at Tripoli, Tunis and Bizerta were bombed last night.

Eight magnetic mines were laid last night off La Goulette, Tunis.

Western
Desert.

Bardia was closed down as a naval port today. The sweeping of the approaches to Benghazi has been completed and a swept channel established.

America and West Indies.

A possible enemy minelaying submarine was sighted today at 1745 off Cape Henry (near Norfolk, Va.)

Dutch M.V. BINTANG which left Saldanha Bay on 30 Oct. for Trinidad and U.K. was due at Trinidad on 22 Nov. but has not arrived.

SS TORTUGAS is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk on 18 Nov. in 13° 24' N. 55° 0' W. and TOWER GRANGE at 0630 G.M.T. the same day in 6° 20' N. 49° 10' W. SS ROXBY is reported to have sunk from cause unknown on 7 Nov. in 49° 35' N. 30° 32' W., in Convoy O.N.142.

Australia.

New Guinea.

Strong forces of Fortresses today attacked 4 enemy destroyers sighted heading for Vitiaz Strait. Two destroyers were hit, one of which was last seen stopped and listing badly. Later 3 destroyers only were seen and of these one was apparently damaged and making only 10 knots and did not take evasive action.

1192

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Corvettes My 1307/29. VIOLET, AUBRETTIA, GERANIUM, SPIREA,
for COLTSFOOT are allocated to Liverpool.
Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A., 1313A/29.)

Movements.

P.216, My 0659A/28. Arrival delayed 24 hours. Owing
P.312. to fuel shortage cannot arrive p.m. 29th. My
See pp. 1193 & position at 0030/29, 061° 50' N. 003° 06' E.
Intend diving by day.

(P.216, 0329A/29 to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

Arrived P.312.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 0911A/29.)

Intend to sail P.312 and P.216, escorted by SCALBY WYKE
at 1300A/30 to R/V in 075° Glas Eilean light 4 miles at 1230A/
1st with escort detailed by C. in C. W.A. for onward passage to
Holy Loch. Routed as follows.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1031/29, 1424A/29, 1212A/30.)

SCALBY WYKE escorting P.312 and P.216 from position (F)
58.38 N. 05.36 W. will arrive in position 075° Glas Eilean light
4 miles at 1230A/1st.

(2) GAVOTTE is to relieve SCALBY WYKE in latter position and
escort submarine to Clyde.

(C. in C. W.A., 1627A/29 to SALADIN, N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

(C. in C. W.A., 1305A/30 to FOXTROT.)

My 1627/29. For GAVOTTE read FOXTROT.

(C. in C. W.A., 1917A/29 to SALADIN)

UREDD. Intend to sail UREDD escorted by PRESTON NORTH
See pp 1193 & 1194. END 0903A/30 for Dundee routed A. 088° Sumburgh
Head 5 miles. B. 089° Fair Isle 6 miles.

C. 058° 44' N. 002° 32' E., thence by searched channels. E.T.A.
1233A/1st.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1022A/29.)

Arrival UREDD.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2145A/29.)

ST. KENAN. Your 1755C/28. *HT. in H.D.* If still in company with IRONCLAD
proceed to Molotovsk and bunker from EMPIRE
GALLIARD.

(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1035C/29 to ST. KENAN.)

PENELOPE. My 1548A/28. *HT. in H.D.* Intend to sail as in my 1243A/28,
plus 24 hours with following amendments. Para. 1,
for route D read route 4 and add 2 hours full
power trial will be carried out in Irish Sea and speed there-
after adjusted according to para. 2.

ALBRIGHTON will take over escort W.P.256 on meeting in the
vicinity of Eddystone. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to
instruct TYNEDALE to take over escort PENELOPE till dark.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1119A/29 to A.C.O.S.)

1193

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

GUNNEL. Consubron 30 1427/27. Request you will sail
CAPE PORTLAND to Falmouth November 30th to escort
GUNNEL to Roseneath.
(C. in C. W.A., 1246A/29 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

W.A. Situation at 1958A/29. Details.
Command. (C. in C. W.A., 1355A/29.)
See Lion Copy.

S/M At 0800/30. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S., 1558A/29 and 1844A/29.)
See Lion Copy.

M.F.V.2013, Admty. 2154/20. M.F.Vs 2013 and 2017 sailed
M.F.V.2017. from Helford 1000/29 for Scilly Isles there to
top up fuel and await favourable weather to
proceed Gibraltar. Routed through (A) 180°
Bishop Rock 5. (B) 049° 10' N. 012° 15' W. (C) 043° 00' N.
012° 15' W. (D) 036° 31' N. 009° 35' W. thence Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1545A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)

DRAGON. Position 052° 01' N. 019° 24' W.
(DRAGON, 1645Z/29 to Admty.)

→ SEALION. My 1558/29. Amend para. (A) to read SEALION in
43° 48' N. 011° 35' W. dived by day through 45°
01' N. 13° 22' W., thence towards 49° 10' N.
13° 22' W. S.O.A. 125 miles per day.
(F.O.S., 1912A/29 to Admty.)

Capt. D.1. Arrived Iokanka 2245C/28.
(Capt. D.1, 2046A/28 to M/S.6.)

TRUANT. Arrived TRUANT escorted by CUTTY SARK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2148A/29.)

Operations.

→ SEALION Your 1735/26. Have now sufficient fuel and
patrol. margin for 650 miles. No enemy ships seen.
See next page (SEALION, 0456A/29 to F.O.S.)
29.11.42 Your 0456/29. Estimate your position 1800/29
043° 00' N. 010° 30' W. Presume you have sufficient fuel for
passage of approx. 1200 miles to Holy Loch plus margin of 650
miles.

MOST SECRET

1355A/29th November

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

DATE: 29.11.42

RECD: 2120

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

P/L

Addressed Admiralty.

Situation at 1958A/29/11

Section N.E.

WINCHELSEA	57 35 09 41	To Londonderry	15
PHILANTE	57 53 06 10	To Humber	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
QP.15	INTREPID	To Minches	9
	ICARUS		
	LEDBURY		
	SHARPSHOOTER		
	2 CORVETTES		
	ULSTER QUEEN		
EN.67	VAIETA	To Loch Ewe	8
	COLTILLION		
	BUTE		

Section S.E.

TRUANT	CUTTY SARK	Arriving Holyloch 2100A/29	
WOLVERINE		50 07 06 00	To Londonderry 15
AFD IN TOW	LEEDS UNITED	54 13 05 02	To Oban 7
3 TUGS	SOUTHERN SPRAY		
4 AUXILIARY CRAFT	HUGH WALPOLE	56 06 07 12	To Stornoway 8
SCIMITAR		54 31 19 00	To Liverpool 15
ANCHUSA		55 22 06 20	To Liverpool 12
IB.39	PC.74	Sails Belfast	To Bristol Chamel 8
	SEITER	0600A/30	
CONVOY	MAID MARION	52 59 04 52	Northbound 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
MKSI(Y)	MOLDE	54 13 05 11	To Liverpool 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
SCB.109			
2 AUXILIARY VESSELS		Sails Clyde 2030A/29	To Liverpool 12

Section N.W.

RU.50	SALADIN	59 23 10 50	001 ^o Dutt of Lewis 6 miles	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	ST. ELSTAN			
	CAPE PALLISER			
	NORTHERN PRIDE			
	FOX TROT			
	PAYNTER			
DS.34	CASTLETON	57 12 10 53	To 58 30 14 30	15
	ST. MARYS		thence	
			60 50 20 30	
HX.216	FIREDRAKE	58 05 31 05	To 56 57 14 48	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
C.T.U.	SUNFLOWER			
24.1.5	ALISMA			
	PINK			
	LOOSESTRIFE			
	DUANE			

Section S.W./.....

1193^B

Section S.W.

DRAGON		51 20 20 56	To 54 00 18 00	16
ADVENTURE		44 32 15 59	To 45 01 15 59	18
			thence	
			50 01 14 25	
ONS.148	HESPERUS	56 20 34 10	To 53 02 40 42	7
C.T.U.	VANESSA			
24.1.16	GENTIAN			
	HEATHER			
	MIGNONETTE			
	SWEETBRIAR			
	U.S.S. STUBBS			
	U.S.S. MACLEISH			
ON.149	BROADWAY	54 43 20 50	To 54 35 25 01	9
C.T.U.	SHERWOOD			
24.1.12	POLYANTHUS			
	MORDEN			
	PICTOU			
	PRIMROSE			
	ORILLIA			
KMS.4	TAY	51 04 16 33	To 50 01 18 02	7½
	8 CORVETTES		thence	
	4 MINESWEEPING		42 04 18 01	
MKS.2	BLACK SWAN	48 44 13 30	To 55 05 10 02	9
	1 SLOOP			
	7 CORVETTES			
MKF.3 (E)	WESTON	44 30 17 21	To 45 25 17 26	12½
	2 DESTROYERS		thence	
	4 SLOOPS		54 05 13 37	
	ARCHER			
	1 CORVETTE			
KMF.4	EGRET	52 41 16 45	To 51 30 18 28	12½
	3 DESTROYERS		thence	
	3 SLOOPS		50 00 19 35	
	1 CORVETTE			
SC.110	ST. LAURENT	56 25 38 35	To 59 28 30 35	6
C.T.U.	BATTLEFORD			
24.1.11	CHILLIWACK			
	EYEBRIGHT			
	NAPANEE			
	SHEDIAC			
	KENOGAMI			
	U.S.S. SCHENCK			
	U.S.S. BARRY			

1355A/29

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.O.D.(F) (2). | Head of M. | |
| A.C.N.S.(T). | D.O.D.(H) (2). | D.D.I.C.(2). | D.D.O.D.(M). |
| A.C.N.S.(H). | D.T.D.(M). | I.P.(2). | D. of P.(2). |
| A.C.N.S.(F) (2). | Duty Captain (2). | W.D. | D.M.S. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | U.S.N. | D.T.D.(3). | D.N.I.(4). |
| Captain Pm. | D.A/S.W. | D.T.D.(C). | Ad. Ramsey (4). |

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1558A/29 November IN
 Date: 29.11.42
 From: F.O.(S) Recd: 1610

P/L by T/P

Addressed: Admiralty.

176. Position of submarines at 0800/30th November and movements for the following 24 hours.

- A. SEALION off Finisterre. *see p. 1193 & 1194*
- B. GRAPH in Zone K.501.
- C. DOLFIJN in zone K.505.
- D. CLYDE 45 degs. 25' north 13 degs. 22' west dived by day
 49 degs. 10' north 13 degs. 22' west 180 miles per day
- E. GURNARD 49 degs. 10' north 11 degs. 01' west dived by
 day through 49 degs. 10' n. 12 degs. 26' west towards
 45 degs. 01' N. 12 degs. 26' west. 200 miles per day.
- see p. 1191* F. P.312 and P.216 escorted by SCALBY WYKE leave Lerwick
 0900A/30 November north or Orkneys towards *R/V* in position
 075 degs. Glas Island Light 4 miles at 1100A/1st December
- G. JUNON estimated position 66 degs. 31' N. 07 degs. 38' east
 on surface towards Lerwick 10 knots.
- H. UREDD escorted by PRESTON NORTH MND leaves Lerwick 0900A/30
 November for Dundee speed of advance $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots. *see p. 1192 & 1194*
 1558A/29

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.

- A.C.N.S. (H)
- 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)
- U.S.N. (3)
- Admiral Blake (2)
- D.N.I. (4)

/MC

1193^B

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

1844A/29th November
MESSAGE IN

DATE: 29.11.42
RECD: 1853

FROM: F.O.(S)

R/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.
IMPORTANT.

178.

My 1627/28th November paragraph (J) amend last sentence to read: At about 1600 proceed to Holyhead.

2. My 1558/29th November add paragraph (J) P.339 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Holyhead for exercise with aircraft in vicinity 53 degs. 38' North 05 degs. 10' West proceeding to Clyde on completion at about 1700. Speed 12 knots.

1844A/29

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.,
D.O.L.(H), D.D.I.C.

- A.C.N.S.(H)
- 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)
- L.A/S.W.
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.
- I.F.(2)

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

SEALION 2. Leave patrol forthwith and proceed diving by
patrol. day to pass 045° 01' N. 013° 22' W. at 0600/1st.
(Contd.) Thence through positions L. 049° 10' N. 013° 22'
W. M. 049° 50' N. 012° 34' W. N. 049° 50' N.
009° 01' W. to R/V 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles at
0600/6th. Thence as ordered by Capt. S.3.

4. Report if unable to R/V within 2 hours of ordered time.
(F.O.S., 1804A/29 to SEALION.)

Your 1804/29. My position 043° 55', 010° (730'). Am
proceeding direct to 049° 50', 010° 30', thence Bishop Rock.
Have now fuel for 700 miles only.

(SEALION, 2142A/29 to F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.) *See pp 1143 + 1193c*

Operation. Intend to sail TUNA in accordance with F.O.(S)
(TUNA). 2244A/27th. *N.T.M.H.D.*

(Capt. S.3, 1031A/29 to F.O.S.)

N.T.M.H.D. My 1558/29. Add new para. (K). TUNA escorted
by WHITE BEAR leaves Garroch Head 2200/30 by usual route towards
180° Wolf Rock 10 miles, speed 12 knots.

(F.O.S., 2203A/29 to Admty.) *See 28/11 - p 1160*

Patrols. → 1. Intend M.L.303 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 523 to patrol
tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W.
and 2° 20' W.

2. Leave Portland at 1800 by Q.Z.S. 382 and patrol line at
dawn/30.

3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol.

Codeword "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1200A/29.)

1. GLAISDALE, 3 M.T.Bs, 1 M.G.B. patrolling 15 miles south
of Beachy Head passing E.A3 Buoy 1830/29, expected time of R/V
0745/30.

→ 2. 1 M.L. and 1 R.M.L. patrolling 15 miles south of Anvil Point
leaving Portland 1800/29, returning dawn/30.

3. 2 CHASSEURS patrolling south of E.A5 Buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1505A/29.)

Operation Cancel my 0955/28 and my 1919/28. Present series
V.P. of operations completed.

(A.C.O.S., 1832/29 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick, R.A.F.
Sumburgh, Wick.)

* UREDD SWM 14 para. 2 UREDD reports.
Patrol (1) 22nd November at 1730A in estimated 71° 02' N.
Report. 18° 56' E. sighted conning tower of large S/M in
very rough sea for about 1½ mins, bearing 150°,
** See pp 1192 + 1193c* 800 yards. Definitely resembled Russian 'K'-class
submarine. Intermittent high explosive heard for five minutes,
drawing rapidly northwards. At 1800A obtained good fix by
stars, the first since a.m. 19th. Position obtained was 072°
08' N. 022° 48' E. This set of 96 miles to N.E. since previous
fix most unexpected as northerly gale was experienced between
sightings.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2329A/29 to F.O.S.)

1195

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Enemy Vessels attacked. Position of 10 small merchant vessels 47° 47' N. 04° 38' W., course 150°, speed 8 knots. Am engaging enemy. (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty 'A', 0100/29 to 19 Group.) P.C.S. of 4 unidentified vessels 47° 27' N. 04° 10' W., course 050°, 15 knots. (A/C 'K' of 502 Sqdn., 0250/29 to 15 Group.) Position of 4 unidentified enemy vessels 47° 27' N. 04° 10' W., course 50°, speed 15 knots. Natives appear to be hostile. (A/C C/S K5BK, 0250/29 to 19 Group.) My 0250 corrected - one large vessel, 7 (or 3) small vessels, course 040°, speed 15 knots. Heavy flak. One S.E. ? A/C in company. (A/C 'K' of 502 Sqdn., 0330/29 to 19 Group.) P.C.S. of 3 small vessels 47° 32' N. 04° 33' W., 330°, 8 knots. (A/C 'C' of 502 Sqdn., 0350/29 to 19 Group.) Following has been read by Liverpool. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Estimate no hits. (A/C F1T Duty 'K' 1105/29 to 15 Group.) Attack enemy 3 destroyers, 1 cruiser, 1 transport in 44.43 N. 03.09 W., 270°, 15 knots, at 1325. (H.Q. 19 Group, 1445/29 to A/C 3VC Duty 'O', 3VC Duty 'M', 7ZT Duty 'H', 7ZT Duty 'M', 7ZT Duty 'C', 7ZT Duty 'J'.) At 1345/29 aircraft sighted 1 merchant vessel resembling Italian SS. CORTELLAZZO escorted by probably 4 torpedo boats in 44° 45' N. 04° 50' W., course 270°. (D.D.I.C., 2345A/29.)

Bomber Command operations. On night 28th/29th November 191 A/C bombed Turin. (H.Q.B.C., 1525A/29.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy.. Following has been read by Plymouth. Enemy 3 destroyers, 1 cruiser, 1 troop in 44° 43' N. 03° 09' W. at 1345, course 270°, speed 15 knots. (A/C 405 Sqdn., Duty 'H', 1415/29 to 19 Group.)

Bred sund on 11th November. SWM 14 para. 2. P.312 report. 1. 11th November. One large trawler patrolling entrance to Bred sund and continuous air patrol by D.(O) 18s. (F.O.S., 2201A/29 to Admty.)

1196

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boat
reported.D/Fs at 1247Z and 1657Z indicate a U-Boat anywhere within 75 miles of 54° 40' N. 22° 30' W. and 53° 40' N. 27° 00' W. respectively.
(D.D.I.C., 2156A/29 to Escorts O.N.149.)U-Boat
destroyed.*U.817. See
21/11 - p. 891.*Their Lordships congratulate VICTORIOUS and her aircraft on the destruction of a German U-Boat on 21st November 1942.
(1st S.L., 2351A/29 to VICTORIOUS.)Casualties and Defects.

CLARE.

*See p. 1198*Arrived CLARE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0055A/29.)BEN ROSSAL
sunk.Boom Trawler BEN ROSSAL sunk at mooring.
My 1140/29 refers. *N.T. & H.D.*
(B.D.O. Scapa, 1142/29.)

HOPEMOUNT.

Your 1034/28. Provisions and stores are being collected. Already arranged for ship(s) to proceed Kola Inlet after Iokanka.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1242A/29 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

SUSSEX.

N.T. & H.D.
Your 1732/28 October. Request you will report date SUSSEX will be ready to sail from Tyne.
(C. in C. H.F., 1346A/29 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

IRONCLAD.

*See p. 1192.*IRONCLAD refloated and being towed to Molotovsk speed four knots, by Soviet tug number 60.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2215A/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.216
(DUANE)

Your 1752/28. ^{WILLIAM J.} DUANE will be ordered to comply.
(C. in C. W.A. 0002Z/29 to C.T.G. 24.6.)

Q.P.15.

→ WHITE CLOVER sailed from Akureyri for Seidisfjord at 2220N/28. She sailed independently in advance of convoy in order to fuel and rejoin.
(A.C.I.C. 0140A/29 to MUSKETEER.)

→ Captain (D) 8's 1055A/28. Intend to proceed with SALAMANDER at 1100 today. E.T.A. Scapa 1600A/1st.

(HALCYON 0730A/29 to R.A.D. H.F.)

Hvalfjord arrival 0925 FURY.

(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1009/29.)

Anchored 020° Papey Light 8 miles to effect repairs to steering gear.

(SHARPSHOOTER 1234A/27 to A.C.I.C.)

Hvalfjord arrival OBDURATE.

(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1314A/29.)

My 2235/26 and 2053/27. (corrupt group) O.S arrived a.m.29th.

(A.C.I.C. 1612A/29.)

→ Intend sailing with HAZARD at 0800A/30 to R/V convoy at position Q Q and sweep to position R R.

(BRITOMART 1650A/29 to A.C.I.C.)

→ Estimated position 2154 tonight. HALCYON, SALAMANDER 065° 20' N. 010° 43' W. to S.E. One unescorted merchant ship 064° 40' 024° 10', to S.E. One unescorted merchant ship 063° 50', 016° 15' to N.E. → Q.P.15 2nd portion, MUSKETEER, ECHO, FORESTER, OAKLEY, ORWELL, 066° 31', 017° 19', to eastward.

(A.C.I.C. 1654A/29 to Ships.)

Scapa arrival 1407 Capt. (D) 8th D.F. in FAULKNER.

(A.C.O.S. 1745A/29 to A.C.I.C.)

My 1910/27. CAMELLIA is to escort CHARLES R. McCORMICK and COPELAND for Clyde. EXFORD for Holyhead.

(C. in C. W.A. 2246A/29 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Convoy Q.P.15 (cpt group) Sailed Akureyri at 1330/29 and passes Seidisfjord at 1200/30 routed as in C. in C. H.F. 0148/24.

→ 2. Escort after Seidisfjord, MUSKETEER S.O., ECHO, FORESTER, IMPULSIVE, BERGAMOT, BRYONY, BRITOMART, HAZARD.

3. Commodore Master OCEAN FAITH, Vice Cdr. of convoy Master EMPIRE BAFFIN.

4. For Loch Ewe EMPIRE BAFFIN, OCEAN FAITH, TRISTRAM, PATRICK HENRY, TBILTI, SAHALE, PETROVSKY, FREDERICK ENGELS, SAINT OLAF, ANDRE MARIT, KOMILES, NATHANIAL GREENE, VIRGINIA DARE.

→ Following join from Seidisfjord, WHITE CLOVER, LAFAYETTE, and SAN AMBROSIO. SAN AMBROSIO for Scapa.

5. Convoy Codeword "Bollard".

6. *ARCOS and SCHOHARIE sailing for Reykjavik a.m. 30th.

(A.C.I.C. 2350/29 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

* See p. 1199

D.S.34.

D.S.34 sailed 2315/28.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 0600A/29.)

1198

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- Murmansk. Your 1836/21. Spirit from one tanker can be received definitely, with satisfactory arrangements for discharge in about eight days. Confirmation for second cargo still awaited.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0932A/29 to Admty.)
- K.M.F.4. Your 1724/28. It is regretted that no relief escort is available.
(C. in C. W.A. 1045A/29 to EGRET.)
K.M.F.4 consists of 26 ships and there are only 7 escorts, as CLARE has returned with defects. *See p. 1196*
2. We are unable to reinforce this escort from U.K.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1235A/29 to N.C.X.F.)
- S.C.110. S.C.110. Report situation with special reference to
BARBERRYS (i) Information of BARBERRYS and name of Acting
and EMPIRE SPEY Commodore.
damaged. (ii) Names of stragglers.
BLAIRATHOLL (iii) R/V for noon 30th November required to be
sunk. broadcast by B.A.M.S. to stragglers.
JOHN BAKKE (C. in C. W.A. 1054Z/29 to Escort S.C. 110)
slightly C. in C. W.A. 1054/29. BARBERRYS damaged by gale
damaged. during night 25th, proceeding to St. Johns N.F.
Her distress signal received at 18(?)Z 26th.
Acting Cdre. is Vice Cdre. of Convoy, Master of
EMPIRE SPEY. EMPIRE SPEY in collision with unknown ship.
Damage to EMPIRE SPEY considerable. Will she be diverted to
Clyde (?so as to) dispose of unit towards home waters (group
missed) fulfil (group missed).
BLAIRATHOLL in collision with JOHN BAKKE who is slightly damaged.
BLAIRATHOLL foundered en route St. Johns. 33 ships now in
convoy including NORFJORD from H.X.216. GEZINA sent back to
St. Johns with boiler trouble 24th November. 3 ships unaccounted
for not yet identified owing to fog. BABBITT and SCHENCK have
joined. P.C.S. 2100Z/29, 056° 45' ? N. 038° 21' W., 065° 7.5.
R/V 1400Z/30. 252° 220 miles from (D). R/V 1st December 328°
50 miles from (D). No indication of shadowing.
(C.T.U. 24.1.11. 2216Z/29.)
- K.X.7. My 1622/21 and 0119/27. A/S escort should
read KRAKOWIAK (S.O), BLEASDALE, LAUDERDALE,
MELBREAK.
(C. in C. W.A. 1059A/29 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- M.K.F.3. N.P. and N.U. Amend route from F direct to H
omitting G.
2. Stragglers route to conform.
(D.O.D.(H) 1316A/29 to Escorts M.K.F.3.)
- MEANTICUT. Your 1609/19. Have you any further news of
MEANTICUT.
(D.T.D. 1635A/29 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

/TJALDUR ...

1199

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

TJALDUR.

N.T. 24.3.
N.O.I.C. Invergordon's 1245/28. CHIDDINGFOLD
will provide escort. Reference last sentence.
On this occasion moon is in last quarter and
vessels will be sailed as desired. Request
military Authorities may be informed this cannot
be arranged when moon is full.
(A.C.O.S. 1747A/29 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

A.T.29.

(QUEEN
ELIZABETH.)

Convoy A.T.29 arrived Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1756A/29.)

ARCOS.

See p. 1197

Your 1347/18. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 2347A/29 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

1200

War Diary.29.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.Escorts for
Transatlantic
tanker
convoys.My 1815A/29 para.6.(See America & West Indies)
It is requested that you will look into the
possibility of providing destroyers and
corvettes to meet this requirement.
(D.O.D.(F)*1835A/29 to N.C.X.F.(R) F.O.C.W.A.)
*Approved A.C.N.S.(F).North Atlantic.SAMPHIRE
* P.54.
(Spare C.O).
* ~~3~~ p. 1206BTransferred C.O. to P.54.
My E.T.A. 0900A/30.
(SAMPHIRE 0820A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.Capt.(S) 8
Capt.(D) Gibraltar).Convoy
T.E.7.My 1534/28th. Also sailed Cdre.F. in SAYONARA.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1016A/29 to Admty etc).
T.E.7 A consisting SAN ADOLFO sailed
1600/29 S.O.A. 11 knots, E.T. A. Algiers daylight
1st December. Codeword "School". Escort WISHART, AZALEA Q.B.A.4
and relevant Q.B.Messages Q.B.(?B)messages held.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1827A/28 to Cdre.Algiers (R) N.C.X.F. Admiralty
F.O.Oran).
My 1827A/29th, amend codeword to read "School 1".
(F.O.C.N.A. 2356A/29).German
Tanker,
Ferrol.Admiralty please pass to C. in C.Plymouth,
H.Q.C.C. F.O.S.(passing action being taken by
W.R.) My 1838/27th. Tanker is not yet in dry
Dock. Pumps working constantly.
(N.A.Madrid 1159/29 to Admiralty.(R) F.O.C.N.A)

STRATHAIRD.

Propose sail STRATHAIRD escorted by FARNDALE
and AVON VALE for Clyde routed through
P.35.50 N. 06.01 W.
Q.37.00 N. 17.01 W.
R.40.01 N. 20.01 W.
S.51.01 N. 20.01 W.
T.55.00 N. 11.01 W, thence Clyde, S. of A.18½

knots.

2.Destroyers will part company in position (R) and return to
Gibraltar. STRATHAIRD will then proceed independently.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246A/29 to Admiralty N.C. X.F.(R) C. in C.W.A.).
See:- N.C.X.F. 1102A/30, Admiralty 1152A/30.
(?Arrived)VERITY escorting SS. STRATHAIRD.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1830A/29 to Admiralty, Cdre.Algiers).

M.K.S.2.A.

MKS2A NK and NP Alter course forthwith to pass
through new position S.42.01 N. 14.45 W. new T.

1201

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - con 15.

M.K.S.2.A. 49.02 N. 14.46 W. new U, 55.00 N. 10.05 W, then
Contd. to R.
2. Stragglers route to conform lettered J,K,L, to
H.
(D.O.D.(H) 1305A/29, to GERANIUM, Escorts of
M.K.S.2.A. (R) F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.W.A.).

Movements. Arrivals TASAJERA, BACHAQUERO escorted by
RHYL, HUSSAR, SPEEDWELL.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1315A/29 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.
S.N.O. Casablanca). *See p. 1202 re 2nd return*

Trawlers My 1315/28. Trawlers completed and sailed
Fayal. 1100 G.M.T./29th BUTSER bunkering expected
sailing midnight. *See next page.*
(R.O. Fayal 1330/29 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) Admty,
N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

Nacala Your 1603/27 (N.T. in W.D.). Following
defences. defences are recommended for Nacala.
(a) Controlled minefield or indicator loops
across the entrance from Sakamule Point. Both
systems would be effective in 33 fathoms.
(b) A/S A/B boom with gate from Okera Point due East to opposite
shore.
(c) A/T baffles to Southward of A/S boom, staggered to allow
ships to pass between but to prevent S/MS firing torpedoes
through the A/S boom.
2. It is considered that the harbour is most suitable from
defence point of view both against S/MS and A/C.
3. In view of your para. 2, it is not possible to assign any
priority to supply of equipment from British sources.
(Head of M. 1500A/29 to N.A.Lisbon).

P.222. P.222 leave Gibraltar 1600A/30th and proceeds
See p. 1206 B 8 miles from Spanish coast to 135° Cape Palos
8 miles thence through 038.50, 003.01 E. to
038.40, 008.01 E. 155 miles a day.
(Capt.S.8. 1542A/29 to 8th S.F.(R) Capt.S.10).

CAUDEBEC. Your 1943/28. Concur in proposals in last
paragraph of your 1642/25 received here as para.
4.
(M.Branch 1643A/29 to V.A.C.N.A.).

ST NECTAN Sailed ST NECTAN escorting RUDBY to Melilla. To
RUDBY. patrol until RUDBY returns.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1730A/29 to Admiralty N.C.X.F.).

VANOC Arrival.
VELOX. (F.O.C.N.A. 1942A/29 to Admiralty N.C.X.F.).

/TASAJERA.....

1202

War Diary.29.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.TASAJERA,
BACHAQUERO.N.C.X.F. 2154/29. (N.T. in W.D.) TASAJERA and
BACHAQUERO are to return to Gibraltar forthwith
escorted by RHYL.

Algiers.

3. RHYL acknowledge forthwith.

(F.O.C.N.A. 2302A/29 to RHYL, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, (R) Admty, N.C.X.F.)

*See p 1201 re
previous entries*South Atlantic.

ENTERPRISE.

Pointe Noire departure 1800Z/28th.
(C. in C.S.A. 0815/29, to F.O.W.A. (R) Admiralty).Cable
Operations.Your 1600Z/28th, not to all addresses.
LADY DENISON PENDER and escorts start operations
on cabling in 022.20 N. 020.00 W. p.m./28th Nov.
and are working towards Las Palmas as estimated

S. of A. of one knot.

Intend CYCLAMEN to part company p.m. on 30th Nov to proceed
Bathurst to fuel.

SOUTHERN PRIDE can remain until relieved.

(F.O.C.W.A. 0957Z/29 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) N.C. X.F.

F.O.C.N.A. Admiralty, CYCLAMEN, SOUTHERN PRIDE, N.O.I.C.
Bathurst).Part company at prudent limit of endurance to return
Bathurst. Report E.T.A. when well clear.(F.O.C.W.A. 1515Z/29 to CYCLAMEN (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst,
Cambia).Movements
Takoradi.

Sailed 0915Z/29th November.

ST ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, MAGNOLIA, COVENTRY CITY,
escorting B.D.V. BARBRAKE, SS. TUZLA and Tug
EMPIRE SAM, Tug EMPIRE PAT towing crane lighterto Point Noire, E.T.A. 1200Z/7th December. Route as per N.C.S.O.
Freetown's 1031Z/18th, not to all addressees.

Requirements at Point Noire.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi. 1015Z/29, to B.N.L.O.W.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A. C. in
C. S.A. Admty).

BURDOCK.

Arrival 1030/29th.

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1036Z/29 to R.A.W.A.F. (R)
Admty).French
West Africa.

085848.

Following is forwarded for information regarding
military situation. I realise you can not
give me firm military guidance until political
situation is clearer. I have no reliable indication of any
desire on the part of French Commanders in West Africa to make

/Contact....

1203

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd

French contact with me or my area commanders. I have
West Africa. instructed my military commander in each colony
Contd. that present policy is that we should not initiate
contacts. Although French West Africa is
considered to have rallied to the United Nations,
intercepted Military orders issued on 24th instructed that
protection of certain frontiers against British and De Gaullist
troops was to be maintained. Have ceased firing on Vichy A/C
unless they commit a hostile act. On other hand R. A.F. R/C over
Dakar 27th November was met by heavy and accurate A.A. fire. Dakar
Cable Office has informed Eastern Cable Company, Lagos of intention
to reopen signal communication Contonou-Lagos forthwith. You
will appreciate position is anomalous and confused.
(G.O.C. in C. West Africa 1050ZA/29 to W.O).

Explosion. MORMACSWAN HR Govt Navy Nr. 1 from K Y D Z CK
24/25. Observed heavy explosion approximate
position 3.52 N. 26.04 W. at 2340 G.M.T. Nov 28th
(Burnham Radio 1125/29 to Admty).

Dakar A.O.C.W. Africa has been informed by Rafdel
Conversations. Washington that Brig C.R. Smith U.S. Air Transport
Command, is proceeding to West Africa with
instructions to get into touch with A.O.C. and G.O.
C. before taking part in conversations with French at Dakar, in
order that arrangements may be made for direct contact between
French and British authorities when things settle down.
2. Request I may be informed of Brig. Smith's instructions,
functions and responsibilities and in particular whether he will
be in a position to discuss naval matters. If this is the case
it is most important he should also consult with me.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1251Z/29 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.N.C.X.F.).

CLAN Your are required to proceed to St. Helena to
COLQUHOUN. embark 63 Lascar survivors for passage to an
Indian port. Owners agree. Route through new
positions. DD. 005.S. 023.W. EE.15.30 S. 15.00 W.
FF. St. Helena. GG. 023.S. 014E. thence close inshore to Saldanha
Bay for onward instructions. Your stay at St. Helena should be
shortest possible duration.
(D.T.D. 1350Z/29 to B.A.M.S. Areas 3A and 2B. CLAN COLQUHOUN.)

U.S. Dispositions of Solantfor.
Dispositions. 1. Destroyers MOFFETT, *BELKNAP, WINSLOW,
*GREENE escorting Trinidad-Recife Convoy. E.T.A.
Recife 4th December. * *sample tender*
2. Cruiser MEMPHIS on patrol in Caribbean until 11th December.
3. Cruisers OMAHA, MARBLEHEAD and Destroyer JOUETT arrive Recife
30th November.
4. Cruisers MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI and Dest. DAVIS leave Recife
29th November for Blockade Runner patrol. Details later.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1705Z/29 to Admty, (R) F.O.C.N.A.) C. in C.S.A.).

/ARGO...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

1223C/29 November

IN

From C. in C. S.A.

DATE: 29.11.42
RECD: 1227

Naval Cypher (3)Mby W/T

Addressed Ships in Area Q, Admiralty Cmdre I/C Durban,
N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London, R.A.W.A.F.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report E H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, H.M.S. ALCANTARA,
H.M.S. NORMAN, ROTHERHAM, with W S 24, 034 degs 30' south 013 degs
15' east to Cape 13.3 knots. H.M.S. FORTUNE, searching for
survivors 040 degs 00' south 022 degs 30' East.

Submarine P 552, 016 degs. 10' south 010 degs. 10' east
routed through 017 degs. 01' 010 degs. 00' and
028 degs. 20' 012 degs. 00'
speed 9 knots.

CECILE MAPLESON, 032 degs. 20' south 029 degs. 00' east
to Port Elizabeth 6 knots.

1223C/29

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.E.D.

- 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)
- D.C. (2)
- Ad. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Admiral Blake
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- F.O.S. by Courier

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ARGO.
 torpedoed.

Following has been read:- SSSS ARGO torpedoed
 34.53 S. 17.54 E. T.O.R. 2016 G.M.T./29 De
 ZSC.
 (Slangkop W/T T.O.R. 2136/29).
 Greek 1995 tons, Buenos Aires to Table Bay.
 (D.O.R. 1199).

DUNEDIN
 STAR.
 distress.

Following from Port Rush Radio 187° 3rd Class
 was bearing of DUNEDIN STAR distress.
 (Port Patrick Radio 2321 G.M.T. /29 to
 Navycharge Greenock (R) Admty).

Following received:- Addressed Admiral
 Lyness from Wick Radio. Received at 2236 G.M.T. on 375 K/Cs.
 De Sheigra Radio - from ZSV at 2230 S.O.S. DUNEDIN STAR 18.13.
 S.11.55 E. struck submerged object making water fast. Trying
 to beach 2200 C/29.
 (A.C.O.S. 2340/29, to Admty (For information).
 Following has been read:-
 S.O.S. DUNEDIN STAR 18.13 S. 11.55 E. now beached.
 (Simonstown W/T No.T.O.O./29)
 British 12891 tons Liverpool to Saldanha Bay and Aden.
 Position W. of Cape Frio S.W.Africa
 (D.O.R. 1199).

1205

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Movements

Arrival 28th Nov. PAKENHAM, WOOLWICH, EXMOOR, Greek Destroyer QUEEN OLGA, GLOXINIA, REDWOOD, *SAMIKA, PROTEA, PETARD, M.L. 1046 L.C.P. 103. Departure 28th Nov. ROMEO, Greek Destroyer AETOS, M.T.Bs. 266, 268. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0913B/29 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

* not in file.

POZARICA Sabotage.

Attempted (?sabotage) to diesel dynamo by introduction of sand into (?lubricating oil) supply. Perpetrator probably in engine room department who are T.124 X. (?No) serious damage to dynamo. (POZARICA, 0918A/29 to S.O.I.S., (R) Admty. (for D.N.I.)) W.D. Note. Auxiliary A/A ship, Guardship at Algiers.

Minelaying Tunis.

8 Magnetic Mines laid night 28/29th just outside entrance La Goulette Tunis. (V.A. Malta, 0942/29 to C.in C. Med. Fleet, N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Inshore Sqdn. Cdre. Algiers).

PAPANICOLIS

My 1735/21st not to S/Ms on patrol G.S. PAPANICOLIS is now operating in Aegean. (Capt. S.I., 1020B/29 to C. in C. Med (R) Cdre. (D) C.S. 15 C.C.F. Capt; (S) 10 TRIBUNE? S/Ms on patrol).

Minelaying

Intend to lay aircraft mines tonight 29/30 off Palermo and if possible off Tripoli nights 30th/1st or 1st/2nd. (V.A. Malta, 1045A/29 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

(Military)
(Agwar, 1101Z/29 to Usfor London).

AURORA,
BERMUDA,
Flag C.S.12.

Request you will transfer your flag to AURORA. (2) Request you will sail BERMUDA as early as convenient independently at high speed for Gibraltar. (3) (?All) surplus to requirements for passage Gibraltar should be discharged before BERMUDA leaves Algiers, subject to her not being unduly delayed thereby (N.C.X.F., 1101A/29 to C.S.12 (R) BERMUDA, AURORA F.O.C.N.A., F.O.I.S. Cmdre. Algiers).

1206

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.

P.219

Sup. 1207

Cancel your patrol area in my 1647A/27th set course for 038° 20' N., 010° 40' E. Orders follow.

(Capt. S.10., 1101A/29 to P.219 (R) N.C.X.F., C.S.12, S/MS on patrol 1107A/29 to C.S.12).

P.51

Intend sailing P.51 p.m./1st Dec. for Malta, passing 038° 40' 008° 01' E. at 0230A/7th Dec. thence as ordered by you. S.O.A.120 miles a day.

2. P.51 carries all necessary signals and documents for passage to Malta and is unfit to patrol owing to large amount of stores carried.

(Capt. S.8., 1154A/29 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) Admt. N.C.X.F., Force X, V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar. C. in C. Med).

French
S/M.

French Submarine from Toulon expected to R/V Chasseur (3) (As received) 0730A in position X. 360° Matifou 50.

2. Submarine will approach X on course 180° diving deep by day on surface with escort to Algiers, when R/V made.

4. Cdre. Algiers inform R.A.F. authorities. (N.C.X.F. 1158A/29 to S. and A. Area G).

U.G.S.2

Detach BENJAMIN RUSH and BENJAMIN HAWKINS from U.G.S.2 prior to darkness 30th Nov. Proceed to Safi, F.O. Inshore Squadron (?designating) 2 destroyers minesweeper escort. Arrange to arrive Safi after daylight 1st Dec.

(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1245Z/29 to C.T.U.37, (R) N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Safi, C.T.U.26.7.1. C.T.U. 26.7.2., C.T.U. 26.7.3).

Black Sea.

(1) Naval (a) My 1147 Nov. 22nd (Oct.22 intended)* Destroyer KING FERDINAND was hit but not sunk and after refit is now in service.

(b) Russian S/M attacked 6,000 ton M/V and barge off Sulina on Nov. 27th: both believed sunk.

(c) Unknown number of German submarines now operating in Black Sea. Further searches for submarines off this (?coast, omitted) unsuccessful.

(2) Russian (?torpedo A/C) claim one hit on M/V in Feodosia. Weather still very stable for flying.

(3) Novorossisk. After changing hands several times, an important height four k/m south of Holmskaya this time occupied by Russians.

(4) Tuapse. In spite of strong resistance Russians have advanced short distance through enemy minefield and barbed wire defences.

(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1253C/29 to Admt. C. in C. Med., etc).

*Oct. 22nd confirmed. (0955C/4 Dec).

1 p. 693

MOST SECRET

1145A/29th November.
 MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
 Date. 29.11.42.
 From. Naval Cdr. X.F.
 Recd. 2330.
 Naval Code L.1 (Secret) By W/T.

Addressed. Ships and authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

1. T.E.7 H.M.S. ROCHESTER, H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH, H.M.S. LEITH, H.M.S. ERNE, 035 degs. 49' North 001 degs. 24' West routed 93, 34, 39, 100, thence Algiers - 7. One merchant ship joined convoy in position 036 degs. 09' North 000 degs. 16' West at 1000A 30th.

2. Force H in the vicinity of Balearic Islands patrolling south of 033 degs. (216' or 45') north.

Brief situation report 1959A 29th Western Mediterranean. Submarines excepted.

3. Safe conduct ships all routed west of Ibiza and 10 miles north of Revellata Point. Approximate positions

(A) Spanish MARIA VICTORIA, 036 degs. 03' North 004 degs. 59' West to Gibraltar 3.

(B) Swiss MALOJA, and Swiss ARBULA, 037 degs. 17' North 000 degs. 46' West to Gibraltar 3.

(C) Swiss LUGANO, 039 degs. 54' North 002 degs. 07' East to Gibraltar 3.

(D) Spanish CABO ORTEGAL, 036 degs. 19' North 004 degs. 02' West 10 Genoa 7.

4. H.M.S. MANXMAN 037 degs. 28' North 008 degs. 58' East to vicinity Cani Rock returning coastwise to Algiers 30.

5. H.M.S. DEPTFORD, H.M.S. MARIGOLD 4 merchant ships 036 degs. 31' North 000 degs. 56' East 37 100 thence Algiers 3. *See p. 1207 & 1208*

1145A/29.

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)

N.A.1st B.L.

• Capt. Pim

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

Duty Capt.(2)

U.S.H.

D.A/S.W.

Hd. of H.

D.D.I.C.(2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

D.T.D.(M)

D.E.W.D.(3)

Ad. Blako (2)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

MOST SECRET

1143A/29th November.
 MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
 Date. 29.11.42.
 From. Capt.(S) 3th Sub. Flotilla. Recd. 1600.

Naval Cypher 3 (3) By W/T.

Addressed. Ships and authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000A/29th.

1. H.M.S. STURGEON 038 degs. 05' North 001 degs. 07' East to 135 Cape Palos 5 miles thence 5 miles off Spanish Coast to Gibraltar 9 knots.
2. H.M.S. THRASHER 058 degs. 43' North 002 degs. 25' East to 135 Cape Palos 10 miles thence 10 miles off Spanish Coast.
3. P. 54, 37 14 North 01 12 West proceeding to Gibraltar 5 miles from Spanish Coast 7½ knots. *See p. 1200*
4. H.M.S. TIGRIS on patrol within 20 miles of 30 01 North 07 30 East.
5. H.M.S. URSULA in Gulf Genoa.
6. All above submarines dived by day 2½ knots. Surface speed as stated.
7. P. 222 leave Gibraltar 1600 30th on surface 11 knots 8 miles from Spanish Coast to eastward. *See p. 1201*

1143A/29.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

A.G.N.S.(H)
 A.G.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)
 Ad. Blake (2)
 Ad. Ramsey (4)
 F.O.S. By courier.

1207

War Diary.

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

* MANXMAN, S/MS
dispositions. MANXMAN approaching from westward is laying mines tonight and following sector is dangerous due to them, from 070° to 170° from Cani Rocks radius 7 miles. Assume following dispositions forthwith:
* *See p. 1206A, 1209* TRIBUNE through 38.00 11.30 crossing TROOPER's line of advance to 37.42, 11.10 by dawn 30th.
P.219 through 38.00, 11.20 to 37.42 10.57 by 2000/30th. *See p. 1206*
P.217, to 37.35 10.47. P.37 to 37.30, 10.30.
P. 48, to 37.21 10.40. S/MS are not to be attacked. You are to patrol within area of given positions in bad weather fixed by soundings but plan of island may be used for landfall. R/C should give few hours warning of southbound convoys, when sighting reported endeavour to be in accurate position.
(Capt. S.10., 1254A/29 1306A/29 to MANXMAN S/MS on patrol (R) V.A. Malta, N.C.X.F. C.S.12, C.S.15 Capt. (S) 8).

Toulon, demolitions. Admiralty pass to N.C.X.F. (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
My 1321/28th Nov. last para. According to French N.A. (corrupt) was that ships at Toulon including tugs were blown up by detonating what cordite was in magazine. Dockyard largely destroyed. All pumping stations and dock gates blown up. DUNKERQUE blown up in dry dock. Many Commanding Officers dead. He warned French Admiralty on Nov. 23rd (Italians had talked here that Germans would enter Toulon but (?Admiralty) would not believe him. At last moment Germans mined entrance but in any case no one had steam up.
(N.A. Madrid, 1309/29 to Admty (R) V.A. Malta etc).

RANPURA. Arrival.
(Cdre. Aden, 1334Z/29 to Admty etc).

Force H. Force H, SCYLLA and CHARYBDIS, E.T.A. 0800A/30 Nov. Gate 0915A.
2. Request anchor berth N.E. and S.W. of French Battleship BRETAGNE wreck as before. In addition 1 cruiser berth 198° Mers el Kebir light 5.8 cables, Carrier berth along 162° Mers el Kebir light 4.6 cables, berths alongside Mole extension not required.
3. Request RESTIVE and 4 French tugs also 2 dumb lighters for alongside berth.
4. ESKIMO will pass Gate 0800A.
5. Oiler ABBEYDALE and one other oiler are required in Mers el Kebir as soon as force H has berthed. Acknowledge.
(S.O. Force H., 1348A/29 to F.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Mers el Kebir).
Your 1942A/28th. Intend to return Mers el Kebir E.T.A. 0915A/30th Nov.
(S.O. Force H., 1453A/29 to N.C.X.F. (R)F.O.C.N.A., F.O.I.S) My 2240/27th. Force H E.T.A. Mers el Kebir 0915/30th.
(Capt. S.8., 1646A/29 to 8 S.F.)

1208

War Diary.29.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- IRIS interned. My 1906/28th 24 hours time limit for French submarine IRIS expired 1330 hour today and submarine now interned.
2. More accurate information now available showing crew consisted 2 Officers out of normal complement of 4, 1 P.O. out of 10, plus 33 ratings.
3. All effort induce them to leave proved fruitless.
(Consul General Barcelona, 1403/29 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty. (for D.N.I.) and B.N.A. Madrid).
- C.M.35 A. Convoy C.M.35 A arrived less SONTAY proceeded Kilindini.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 1410Z/29 to Admty).
- Landing Craft. Intend sailing L.C.P.(L) 545, 572, A, 577, 763, 798. L.C.A.23, 453, 212 at 1730 A today Sunday E.T.A. Philippeville 1000A/30th E.T.A. Bone 1800/30th passing approx. 1 mile off Salamanca Points.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1425A/29 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) F.O. Inshore Squadron, Cmdre. Algiers, N.L.O. Jijelli).
- Enemy Units. Following has been read Addressed: Hal Far D/F (Malta Command). One small vessel (merchant vessel not exceeding 2,000 tons). One small craft Position XTZR 2050. 37.20 N., 11.50 E. Course 340°. Speed 5 knots.
(Alexandria, W/T, 1605A/29).
- ^{LE}GLORIEUX French submarine, ^{LE}GLORIEUX left Valencia 1100/29th will sail on surface within territorial waters as far as Cape Palos, thence direct to Oran. Periscope damaged to an angle of 42°. Speed 16 knots. She requests British protection.
(Valencia, T.H.I., 1615/29 to Admty).
- P.46 Arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 1622A/29 to Admty, C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1).
- State of Ships at Toulon. Amendment to his 2330/28.
(D.D.I.C., 1752A/29).
- Air R/C. (1) Afternoon 28th Nov. visual Naples - no change.
(2) Forenoon photographic, Palermo - 1 cruiser in dock, 4 destroyers, 3 torpedo boats, 2 merchant ships 2000 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 1806A/29 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. etc).

/Air...

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E 1755A/29th November.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From N.C.X.F.

Date 29.11.42.

Time 1130

NAVAL CODE L.1. by T/P.

Addressed Ships and authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

Add to my 1145A/29th paragraph 6. Four transports escorted by H.M.S.*LAMERTON, H.M.S.*ELEAN, H.M.S.*WILTON, leave with all despatch 1800/29th passing 037 degs. 10' North 003 degs. 20' East, 037 degs. 25' North 004 degs. 20' East, 037 degs. 11' North 006 degs. 30' East to Bone 15 knots..

1755A/29

* See next page.
(Instruments - 2/1/42)

Advance copies 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)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Duty Capt. (2)
U.S.N.
D. A/S W.
Hd. of M.
P.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
L.T.D. (M)
D.E.W.D. (3)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D.N.I. (4)

1209

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air R/C.
Contd.

Visuals afternoon 29th Nov.

- (1) Messina, in harbour 5 cruisers, 3 destroyers.
- (2) Palermo, cloudy.
- (3) Trapani 2 destroyers, 4 merchant ships (4,000 - 5,000 tons).
- (V.A. Malta, 1838A/29 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. etc).

My 1250/29th (N.T. in W.D.) Between para. 1 and 2 read as follows.

- 1. Messina 5 (group missing). 3 merchant ships 1 destroyer 090° Cape Peloro heading South 1 merchant ship moving out. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1952A/29 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.etc).

Bougie.

Situation report. (A) Nil (B) 9 L.C.S. left for Philippeville and Bone 1730. (C) DERWENTHALL p.m./30th. FOREST p.m./4th Dec. OCEAN VALENTINE p.m./4th Dec. (D) Slight, no damage. (F) Jijelli communications suffered through inexperience of operators there and serious delay occurred. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1853A/29 to F.O.I.S.)

Movements,
Algiers.

See next page
Algiers arrivals ROBERTS, WIVERN, VENOMOUS, BERMUDA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, QUIBERON, QUENTIN, ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE, escorting MIRROR. Departures to Eastward *MANXMAN. To Bone, QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, *BLEAN, *WILTON, *LAMERTON M.M.S. 68, 70. To Bougie M.M.S. 92, 171. To Philippeville M.M.S. 85, 114. (Cdre. Algiers, 1922A/29 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S.) ** See previous page. X See pp 1206^A 1207*

Oran,
minesweeping.

My 1815A/28 (1817A/28th intended) Searched channel Mek. Position X for 000° 39' 54" West read 000° 38' 54" W. Position Y for 035° 48' 27" N., read 035° 43' 27" N. (N.O.I.C. Oran, 1941A/9 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., Cdre. Algiers, F.O. "H"/F O O (?F.O. "Q") N.O.I.C. Mek, B.N.L.O.)

Situation
Report
No. 299.

Western Desert. Bardia closed down as Naval Port 29th Nov. Heavy explosion took place in hold of cased petrol ship KIUNGCHOW in Tobruk Harbour 1430/28th Nov. After part ablaze engine room flooded in endeavour to save forepart.

Cause unknown.

- 2. Reference situation report 298, first para. Loss of SZECHUEN due to petrol gas explosion. Sabotage not suspected, casualties two missing, ten injured.

/Amend...

1210

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - con'ts. -

Situation report No. 299. Contd. Amend position to read 025° Port Said High Light 13 miles.
3. Benghazi. Sweeping of approaches completed and swept charges established. Enemy air activity on Port slight, no damage. First two supply ships arrived 26th Nov. Discharge of cargo into Italian Lighters satisfactory. Mobile Lighters now on passage from Tobruk. (C. in C. Med., 1953B/29 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. etc)

Force Q. Your 1625A/29 (N.T. in W.D.) Force Q being delayed 24 hours in accordance with Q.T.7241. (N.C.X.F., 2058A/29 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med).

Situation Report No. 24. *Station DESSIE sunk in this attack (Italian documents).* (1) At 1405 28th Nov. aircraft sighted U-boat which dived in 37.04 N., 07.49 E. QUIBERON and QUENTIN carried out hunt. U-boat surfaced out of control and sunk vertically stern first. Subsequently located on bottom. U-boat considered destroyed.
(2) Algiers. *ROBERTS arrived 29th Nov. for survey of damage. North African shipping board established 27th Nov. Four L.S.I. Sailed 29th Nov. to Bone with troops. (N.C.X.F., 2115A/29 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D. A.F.H.Q., Norfolk House, London). * *see previous page.*

P.712 Your 1506/25. Greek C. in C. has agreed to take P.712 now and to undertake work of reconditioning. (C. in C. Med., 2131B/29 to Admty (R) Capt. (S) 1 F.O.(S)).

Malta Air Report. AI. 138 29th Nov. C.S.R. Malta. 29th November. 2 Beaufighters made cannon attack on northbound enemy coaster 1200 tons in position 090° Sousse 20 miles (mak'ing) strikes all over ship and causing funnel to fall off.

November 28th. 5 Spitfires photo R/C. 3 Baltimore R/C photos of Tunis Docks show following damage as result of raid by Malta Based Wellingtons Night 25/26 Nov. Considerable damage to shell (?) fuel storage depot at La Goulette, two buildings and coal dump destroyed and a number of other buildings and oil tank damaged by blast. Sfax no shipping channel still blocked. Messina no change since November 27th. Shipping at sea 1500 hrs. Spitfire sighted 090° Cape Spartivento 1 mile two D/Rs one tanker 4/5000 one M.V. 8 knots 0900 250°. Pantelleria one (?mile) one M/V 3/4000 one D/R course northerly speed 8 knots.

/Night...

1211

29.11.1942.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - 12/15.

Malta Air
Report
Contd.

Night 28/29. One special Wellington on shipping R/C patrolled area Cavoli to Marittimo but made no important sightings.

3 torpedo carrying Albacores despatched in bad weather to locate and attack enemy convoy sighted by Spitfire 1500 hrs. made no sightings.

Two special Wellingtons despatched to attack same convoy. One Wellington found 0159 hrs. ?° Cape Oulande 5 miles, 1 D/R 3 large M/Vs course 070° speed 12 knots. Wellington dropped torpedo contact only depth setting 9 feet from 80 feet range 800 yards aimed at M/V but torpedo appeared to pass astern of target. Second Wellington did not locate target owing to heavy rain storms and low cloud. Eight Beaufort sorties were made from 2045 to 0325 hrs. to lay mines off Tunis Harbour. Eight 1500 lb. magnetic mines were laid from height of 500 to 800 feet at Harbour Entrance. 2 Wellingtons bombed Tunis Decks as diversion during minelaying operation dropping 12 x 2500 lb. 16 x 250 lb. bombs which burst across harbour entrance and near fuel dumps. Wellingtons made 18 sorties to attack Bizerta docks. In first attack 1845 to 2007 hours, 11 Wellingtons dropped 1 x 4000 lb. 10 x 500 lb. and 71 x 250 lb. bombs starting fires in area of iron ore wharf (group missing) dockside buildings. In second attack from 0050 to 0210 hours 7 Wellingtons dropped 1 4,000 (or 400) lb 24 x 500 lb. and 42 x 250 lb. bombs which burst near fuel tanks, railway station and in marshalling yards. Large fire started in docks area. Large fire started in docks area was visible 50 miles away. Inaccurate heavy flak was encountered and 6 to 8 searchlights were exposed during both attacks.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 2151/29).

E.A.C. Air
Report.

Part 2 of Opsum report No. 18 (My T.O.O. 1955/29)
3. Enemy activity. Bone. Heavy enemy attack during night 27 Nov. 1 destroyer hit, no other shipping casualties. Aerodrome undamaged.

Second attack morning 29 Nov. on Aerodrome (?IY)

7 Ju.88. 1 E/A destroyed. Two unserviceable Hurricanes destroyed on ground. Little other damage.
(E.A.C., 2240/29).

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE No. T.O.O. 29th November
 From Algiers. Date 29.11.42.
 Recd. 2200Z

Addressed USFOR
 Ref. No. 817 29th Nov., ~~1942.~~

*Brit. Rep.,
 Africa.*

For: CCS.
 From C. in C.

~~1. This is Part 1 of a message in 4 Parts.~~

2. 35 B-17's took off from Tafaraoui early on 28th to bomb Bizerta airdrome and docks. Early reports indicate that mission was successful. 34 planes dropped bombs on or near the target. Moderately heavy and fairly accurate Flak encountered. 10 enemy aircraft claimed destroyed, 2 probably, and seven damaged. 2 of our planes were shot down by enemy aircraft in vicinity of target area after bombing. No fighter support because of mud.

3. 17 Bisley's attacked Bizerta airdrome last night without loss. Reported successful.

4. Airdrome at Bone heavily attacked during 28th. Losses suffered by both sides; details not yet known.

5. 36 B-17's scheduled to attack Bizerta again this morning but attack cancelled because of mud at Tafaraoui. Same attack will take place early tomorrow.

PART ONE ENDS.

PART TWO BEGINS Part 2.

1. 44 C-47 planes took off from Maison Blanche about 1100Z today carrying British parachutists scheduled to drop at airdrome near Pont Du Mahs 35 miles southwest of Tunis. Results unknown.

2. Eisenhower and Clark still at the front. Eisenhower telephoned from Anderson's Command Post near Souk Ahras last night. We have also had two radio messages from Eisenhower today. One called

/for.....

12 11 B

-2-

for immediate bombing of north quay at Bizerta. That objective will be bombed early tomorrow, weather permitting.

3. Eisenhower party expected to return by noon Monday.

PART TWO ENDS.

PART THREE BEGINS.

1. Communications in this area continue to be unsatisfactory in spite of heroic efforts by all British and American Signal Personnel to solve this problem. We had the Algiers to Gibraltar cable working well on 25th but during storm on night 25th-26th, the "Thomas C. Stone" dragged anchor and cut the cable again. Cable ship returned here today to repair break. Storm also cut telephone cable between Oran and Algiers. It is not repaired yet, though a crew of twenty has been on that job continuously.

2. Information from Anderson is meagre. Thirty-Sixth Infantry Brigade was scheduled to reach point about 10 miles northwest of Mateur early today. Eleventh Brigade moving from Tebourba toward Mateur. Our tank losses have been relatively light. Remainder of United States Combat Command B reached Souk Ahras by road late yesterday.

PART THREE ENDS.

FOURTH PART BEGINS:

1. Colonel Raff reported by phone from Feriana this afternoon no enemy forces between Kairoaun and Tebessa. He stated that airdrome at Gafsa will be ready for our use in two days.

2. Governor Boisson arrived Algiers this afternoon. In a preliminary conference with Darlan and Murphy Boisson indicated that he will co-operate fully with us bdlgs (?) prepared to enter into an agreement which will give us the facilities in French West Africa desired. The general tenor of the conversation was that French West Africa will be in the war with us en bloc.

3. With exception of light bombing attack early 28th, Algiers area has been free from bombing since night 23rd-24th. Damage to city is light, but it has resulted in some evacuation, especially among poorer classes living near docks.

/4.....

EW

MOST SECRET

-3-

4. Office and living accommodations in Algiers extremely scarce. City is overcrowded because of refugee problem. Requisitioning procedure is very organized, and the French are co-operating fully. However, progress is very slow because of difficulty in finding space for people who must move.

5. Late information just received that all C-47 planes returned safely. No enemy aircraft encountered. Parachute drop successful.

END OF MESSAGE.

Circulation.

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Sec.
1st S.L.
C.G. Tels. War Office.
A.M.C.S. (C).
C.C.O.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2).
4th S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
A.C.N.S. (T).
A.C.N.S. (W).
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
A.C.N.A.S.
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
Hd. of M.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2).
Duty Capt (2).
D.N.I. (4).
U.S.N. (5).
D.D.I.C. (2).
D. of P. (2).
D. of P. (Q).
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2).
W.D.
D.P.D.
S.D.
Ad. Blake.
Capt Wharton

1212

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

COLOMBIA. As the reason for sending COLOMBIA to East London mentioned in your 1103C/16th August and 1321Z/17th August exists no more, as far as I can see, after departure of D.S.O.21 from East London and the presence of COLOMBIA at Colombo for the 3 Netherlands submarines is very desirable I request to consider the sending of COLOMBIA to Colombo after exchanging torpedoes of D.S.O.21 at East London. (C. in C. Netherland Forces in the East 0455/29 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty., Capt.(S)4, F.O. Ceylon, H.N.M.S. COLOMBIA.)
Reply: 1131/30.

LÉOPARD, My 2106Z/28. Situation improving. Request
Reunion. you wait for further signal before sending reinforcements.
(F.S. LÉOPARD 0821Z/29 to C. in C. E.F.,
N.O.I.C. Mauritius, Admty.)

Request few aircraft fly over Hell Bourg in centre of Island tomorrow 30th. It would greatly assist operation also if any H.M. Ships in vicinity could disclose their presence near the Island.

(F.S. LÉOPARD 1930Z/29 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet (R)
N.O.I.C. Mauritius, Admty.)

TRUSTY, During patrol 6th to 24th November TRUSTY attacked
R. of P. 2 northbound merchant ships North West of (corrupt group) on 17th. 3 torpedoes at leading ship of 5000 tons missed. In 2nd attack (?further) 2 torpedoes missed leading ship. 3 also fired at second ship, obtaining one hit. Vessel (?which) was motor ship 9,000 tons last seen very low in water making towards Lankawi Island in company with submarine chaser.
(C. in C. E.F. 0914Z/29 to Admty. (R) Capt.(S) 4, F.O. Ceylon, S.O.(S) Colombo.)

F.O.E.A. Flag of F.O.E.A. is being struck at 0800/30 Nov. on discharge of R.A. Stuart to Military Hospital at Nairobi with epidermophytosis of hands and feet, probable duration of sickness three weeks. Capt. Manwaring, Chief Staff Officer will carry out duties of F.O.E.A. until return of R.A. Stuart.
(C. in C. E.F. 1011Z/29 to Admty.)

Jibuti. Report of French secessions.
(G.O.C. in C. E.A., 1030Z/29 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

MARIPOSA. Cancel my 1149/20th Nov. (1049/20 intended re route for U.S.S. MARIPOSA while on East Indies Station) as voyage is postponed until end of December.
(C. in C. E.F. 1214Z/29 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

1212 #

MOST SECRET

EAST AFRICA

1030Z/29th November

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

Date 29.11.42.

Recd. 1355.

CYPHER

Addressed War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE

085809. 87574 cipher 29 Nov. MOST SECRET.

One. Your 83019 (M.O.11) of 28 Nov. ack.

Two. 12 A. Div. report that approx. 600 French and 1200 Malagache and Senegalese moved into Zeila 28 Nov. Number comprises approx. 60 per cent white personnel and 25 per cent African personnel of total Djibouti garrison. Figures include Senegalese Bn. almost complete and majority arty personnel. Truffert reported to be holding out but when informant left Djibouti news of Toulon had not arrived.

Three. Am letting situation develop naturally and am not taking any special steps. This accords with French advice.

Four. Request policy for future of Senegalese and Malagache troops. Most undesirable keep them any length of time in reserved areas or Somaliland with nothing to do. Suggest if shipping available send Malgache to Madagascar. They should be given leave and then demobilised or incorporated into any units that le Gentilhomme may wish to raise. As regards Senegalese am trying to find out their attitude towards their future.

Five. Your last para. Rodd now in Eritrea running evacuation so propose use Pitcairn.

1030Z/29

Received from The War Office 1710/29.

War Office circulation:-

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L. (2).
- 4th S.L.
- C.N.A.S.
- 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 Captain (2).
- Head of M.
- D.N.I.(4).
- I.P.(2).
- D.P.D.
- W.D.
- Admiral Blake

- S. of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S.,
- D.M.O., D.D.M.O.(O), M.O.1.5.11.,
- D.M.I., D.D.M.I.(I), M.I.3.17.,
- P.U.S., P.U.S.(F), D.F.(a), F.5,
- Foreign Secretary,
- Foreign Office (Mr. Strong)
- " " (Mr. Stirling)
- " " (Mr. Mackereth).
- Major Morton, 10 Downing Street.
- C.N.S., Head of War Reg.(Army),
- C.A.S., A.M.C.S., Brig. Jacob
- (Cabinet Offices).

- Captain Wharton.
- A.C.N.A.S.
- D.N.A.D.
- D.A.C.D.

1213

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- P.512
KAMLOOPS Both ships indicate your position to all addressees of this signal. P.512 is to designate R/V in vicinity of Cape George. P.512 is not to enter George Bay until contact has been made with KAMLOOPS. When known indicate E.T.A. Mulgrave. Ships are to remain at Mulgrave until further orders are received.
(C.O.A.C. 0052Z/29 to P.512. KAMLOOPS. (R) C.X.O. Mulgrave. N.O.I.C. Sydney. C.B. N.S.H.Q. S.N.O. Pictou N.S.)
Cancel my 0115/29th (N.T. in W.D.) Amend my 1615/28th Section S.W. KAMLOOPS P.512 separate North of Gut of Canso, will not proceed through Gut of Canso until further notification is given.
(C.O.A.C. 0258A/29 to Admty. 1110/29 to GB7A.)
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1024/29 amending U.S. S/M Notice 1547/28.)
- Q.S.45. My 1615/28 Section S.W. Q.S.45 ARROWHEAD etc. anchored Guysborough will proceed when weather moderates. * QUINTE east of Canso en route Sydney C.B.
(C.O.A.C. 0355Z/29 to Admty.) * *see p. 1214.*
- U/B
Positions. C.E.S.F's 1936/28. S/M estimate 0800Q/28.
(Comnaveu 0802/29 to Admty.)
- K.14 Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 29th Nov.
S/M K.14 $27\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N $55\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W 299° 9.
(D.O.D. (F.) 1020Z/29 to Opnav. (R) Comnaveu.)
- G.A.T.24. Arrival U.S. Destroyer BLAKELEY U.S. Ship SAUCY
U.S. Ships P.C.489, 574, 576 escorting G.A.T.24.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1042Q/29 to S.B.N.O. W.A.)
- SCHENCK
see p. 1198
(S.C. 110) 1200Z/29 position 55.47 N 39.58 W S of A 16,
course 225° . Weather report.
(U.S.S. SCHENCK 1300Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.
C.T. 24.6.)
- WASTWATER,
LORD KELVIN,
MEADOWSWEET,
BUTTERMERE. Following received from WASTWATER (Begins)
Am at R/V. No sign of LORD KELVIN or MEADOWSWEET.
Unable to contact BUTTERMERE. North West 202
and heavy sea. Request instructions. T.O.O.
2010/28th. (Ends).
MEADOWSWEET indicate your position. BUTTERMERE
and WASTWATER are to R/V with MEADOWSWEET soon
as possible.
(C.O.A.C. 1323Z/29 to MEADOWSWEET. (R) S.B.N.O.
W.A. BUTTERMERE. WASTWATER. N.S.H.Q.)

/KOFRESI...

1214

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

KOFRESI, collision. Arrivals St. Johns N.F. ex S.C.(?110) KOFRESI (U.S) straggler, also in collision with unknown ship while proceeding to St. Johns, no casualties structural damage only. Extent of (?damage) to unknown vessel believed to be slight. KEWAYDIN (U.S.S) tug. Stragglings. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1402Z/29 to Admty.)

Motor Minesweepers. My 1901/26th ^{N.T. N.Y.D.} (re sailing of M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106 and 107 to New York.) Sailing delayed 24 hours due to weather. (C.O.A.C. 1406Z/29 to N.M.C.J.S. Washington. (R) Admty. etc.)

U/B Positions. S/M estimate Nov. 29th and U.S. Submarine notice. (Cominch 1512/29, 1513/29, 1530/29, 1531/29, 1532/29.)

APALOIDE *See p. 1216* Trinidad reports arrival of Master and 245 survivors Brazilian APALOIDE torpedoed and sunk ?2220 G.M.T. 22nd in 013° 11' N 054° 39' W, 4 or 5 killed, remainder of crew still adrift. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1541R/29 to Admty. etc.)

C.T.37 Assume your 1105/28 and 1852/27 (From S.N.O. Casablanca) requests information what vessels of Task Force 37 will escort U.G.S.2 to Casablanca and which ones are to escort G.U.F.2 to New York. Cinclant has ordered SALAMONIE remain with me to fuel destroyer on westward (?voyage). C.T.37 (?in) TAYLOR, 2100 tons. (C.T. 37 1611Z/29 to Admty. pass to Com. Sea Frontier W.T.F.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav's 2101/28 informs as follows: Connav serial 28. BARBERRYS torpedoed 26 Nov. 50 N 46 W S.C.110. BINTANG overdue Trinidad since 22 Nov. EMPIRE GLADE shelled by sub. today 17.16 N 48.44 W. TORTUGAS torpedoed sunk 18 Nov. 13.24 N 55.00 W. ROXBY reported sunk cause unknown 7 Nov. 49.35 N 30.32 W, convoy O.N.142. TOWER GRANGE torpedoed sunk 18 Nov. 06.20 N 49.10 W. S.O.(I) Jamaica and N.S.H.Q. have. (Connaveu 1618/29 to Admty.)

LARIAT My 1502/20 Nov. LARIAT delayed Barbados 72 hours. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 1622Q/29 to S.B.N.O. W.A.)

BUXTON Your 1429/28. BUXTON will be taken in Boston area on 12th Dec. Regret not possible to take ship earlier. Job number S.267. (B.A.M.R. 1624Z/29 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. C.T.24 etc.) P.C.S. 2030Z/29. 046° 38' N 055° 06' W 245° 7. Weather. (BUXTON 2040Z/29 to C.O.A.C. (R) C.T.24. F.O.N.F.)

/ W/T...

1215

War Diary.29.11.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.W/T Call
Signs.

Your 2235/30 Oct. (further use of War W/T Call Signs). Concur. Necessary instructions will be promulgated.
(D.T.D. 1652A/29 to B.A.D.)

Convoy
Signals.

Your 0227/23. Connav has agreed to pass all G.S. Convoy signals to Admty. in future.
(N.S.H.Q. 1704Z/29 to Admty.)

Tanker
Convoys
for
"Torch"
Area.

Following position regarding oil supply situation is forwarded for your information so that you can press for full American participation in the suggested trans-Atlantic tanker convoys.

2. Present arrangements for supplying petroleum products for British and American services in "Torch" area are approx:-

In each U.G. fast convoy 80,000 tons every 25 days.

In each U.G. slow convoy 70,000 tons every 25 days.

In each K.M. slow convoy 30,000 tons every 14 days.

Any surplus over service requirements will go to build up British stocks or to meet French service and civil needs, but no allowance was made for these requirements in the original estimate.

3. Roughly, therefore, over 200,000 tons of oil per month are being sent to the area, by round-about routes which involve uneconomical use of tanker tonnage, at a time when the sufficiency of tankers for the war effort generally is seriously in doubt.

4. A remedy for this would appear to be the running of tanker convoys direct from West Indies to "Torch" area. A reasonable estimate of requirements indicates a 10-knot convoy about every 14 days.

5. The crux of the problem is escorts.

6. Investigations are being made on this side into possibility of finding destroyers and corvettes to meet incoming convoys and to escort returning convoys as far west as possible. This might be between 30° W and 35° W.

7. It has been suggested to Comnav that the American Authorities should investigate the possibility of providing escorts from West Indies to M.O.M.P.

8. Alternative of fast tankers escorted only a part of the way is being considered, but as it is most undesirable that such valuable ships should pass into the Mediterranean it is not favoured.

9. Meantime every opportunity of direct escorted moves is being taken.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1815A/29 to B.A.D. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.A.)

1210

29.11.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.

Convoy Escort Groups. Your 2003/27. Urgent consideration is being given to employment of escorts mentioned in paras. 1 and 2 for convoy of tankers direct from Trinidad to U.K.

2. First preference is for one large convoy escorted by HAVELOCK and WARWICK groups combined, sailing Trinidad about 12th Dec. This will depend on :-

(A) W.S.A. making available a number of U.S. flag tankers for special inclusion in this convoy. This request has been made by M.O.W.T. to B.M.S.M. in Bilge No. 2381.

(B) HAVELOCK group being permitted to sail from Guantanamo direct for Trinidad without first returning New York.

3. Second preference is for two convoys each of 7 or 8 tankers. The first sailing Trinidad about 12th Dec. escorted by WARWICK group the second sailing Trinidad later escorted by HAVELOCK group. This will depend on :-

(A) Necessity for HAVELOCK group to return to New York thence proceeding Trinidad.

(B) Consequent E.T.A. Trinidad of HAVELOCK group.

4. If convoy can be routed via Azores then destroyers could fuel there if necessary.

5. Request your early remarks.

(D.O.D.(F) 1824A/29 to B.A.D.) Reply: B.A.D. 2305Z/30.

U.S.S.3. Refer to this as C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1836/29th
U.G.F.3. to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) Comnavu. C.T.34.
S.N.O. Afloat Casablanca. N.C.X.F. C. in C.
Allied Forces, C.E.S.F. B.A.D. Port Director
New York. C.T.29 and Admty. from C. in C. U.S. Fleet (Begins)
My 2134/17 (circulated under T.O.O. 2129/17.) Change sailing
dates as follows - U.S.S.3 sailing Dec. 11th and U.G.F.3 sailing
Dec. 12th. both from New York (Ends). B.A.D. informed. Admty.
pass to S.N.O. Afloat Casablanca and C. in C. A.F. (Passing
action being taken by W.R.) C.E.S.F. deliver to Port Director.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1836/29 to Admty.)

QUINTE Following has been read. Addressed Sydney C.B.
aground. Have run aground. Require immediate assistance.
(QUINTE 1850P/29.)
See p. 1213 (?355°) Ciboux Island Shoal, require immediate
assistance.
(QUINTE 1937P/29 to Sydney C.B.)

Sub. (A) APALOIDE torpedoed presumed sunk 13.11 N
attack 54.39 W 2220Z/22. *See p. 1214.*
and (B) VEERHAVEN 2 subs. participating. When used
sighting in a plain language B.A.M.S. message "Submarine
summary. contact" will mean that "The contact is either
sound or radio, but no actual sighting has taken
place". "Submarine attacked" will mean that
"An attack on a submarine has taken place".
(C) Shore watcher sights half submerged sub. 13.31 N 60.52 W
2041Z/28. Sub. sighted on surface course south 16.43 N 61.56 W
2130Z/28. Navy plane sights periscope 36.38 N 74.44 W 1745Z/29.
(D) Fisherman sights sub. 18.33 N 64.18 W 0900Z/28.
(Cominch 2044/29 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B C.E.S.F's 1940/29 informs as follows: (1200Z/30
Positions. Nov. submarine estimate.)
(Comnavu 2258/29 to Admty.)

1217

29.11.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departures: Brisbane 28th Nov. U.S. S/M TROUT for Fremantle. Fremantle 28th Nov. U.S. Seaplane Tender HURON for (?Campbeltown). (N.B. Wellington 0131Z/29 to N.C.S.Os Auckland etc.)

Departure Noumea U.S.S. CUMMINGS Wellington 0100Z/2nd Dec. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0401Z/29 to Admty.)

Arrival Noumea 28th November, U.S.S. WOODWORTH escorting MORMACPORT, BRASTAGI and AMERICAN LEGION. Auckland 29th November TALAMANCA.

(D.N.I. Wellington 1151M/29 to Admty.)

Situation. Digest serial number 311 November 28.
Total 18 vessels reported Buin Shortlands area afternoon 28th including sloop, 12 destroyers, 3 merchant vessels and 2 tankers. 1 tanker, 1 merchant ship, 1 destroyer departed west earlier in day.
2. No change reported Buna Gona front where our patrols active penetrating enemy positions. 7 Marauders attacked targets this area 28th starting fires.
3. R/C aircraft reported 3 separate groups enemy submarines between Finschafen and Muna morning 28th heading south. Sightings made from 1800, 2500 and 6000 feet respectively. 2 of the groups reported to have dived on sighting aircraft. Subsequent air searches reported nil sightings.
4. Three Catalinas attacked Kavieng aerodrome night 27/28 dropping bombs on runway blast bays. 2 large vessels possibly merchant ships sighted off Kavieng.
5. Seven Bostons and 4 Beaufighters bombed and strafed enemy aircraft Lae Aerodrome evening 28th, several Zeros and dive bombers destroyed but exact numbers difficult assess in view number known previously damaged.
6. 20 Zeros reported arriving Lae after the above attack.
7. Eight Zeros operating over Buna Area evening same day.
8. Three Hudsons bombed Maobisse damaged buildings while 4 Beaufighters strafed native huts at villages vicinity Baucu.
9. One or two unidentified R/C aircraft over Darwin Area morning 28th.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0520Z/29 to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Information at 1200Z/29.
(D.D.I.C. 1437A/29, 1438A/29.)

1218

War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.M/V
CORTELLAZZO.

SEALION reported an unknown ship at 0541 steering west in 44° 52' N 10° 32' W. Presumably this was CORTELLAZZO (see 29 Nov.) CLYDE and GRAPH proceeded on the surface to intercept the enemy and a Liberator aircraft was diverted from patrol to locate and shadow her. CLYDE had, however, to abandon the chase before 0008/1 Dec. on account of shortage of fuel. The ship was unsuccessfully attacked by Coastal Command aircraft at various time today.

ANTARKTIS

The German tanker ANTARKTIS is reported to have sailed from Vigo at 0430 today. DOLFIJN was sent to the north of the Gironde, and aircraft were employed to intercept. ANTARKTIS was seen in Ferrol at 1305A/1 Dec.

Operation
"Upsilon"

JUNON has completed this operation on the coast of Norway and is returning to Lerwick. Her report is in S.O. S/Ms Lerwick 1103A/3 Dec.

TUNA sailed from Greenock this evening to carry out an operation (see D.O.S. 2244/27 - Special File).

M/S Trawlers FINESSE and WILLIAM MANNEL were attacked by a F.W.190 in Lyme Bay at 1247 today; the former vessel shot down the aircraft.

It is reported that the Russian shore batteries today sank the German SS. HANS RICKMERS and another ship of 8000 tons, in the approaches to Petsamo.

South Atlantic.

(1941) C. in C. S.A. reports that the Union Castle Liner LLANDAFF CASTLE (10799 tons) was torpedoed by a German*U-Boat at ~~0030Z~~ in 27° 20' S 33° 40' E and sunk. The ship had apparently not acted on her diversion signal. She is reported to have carried 180 crew and 130 passengers, the latter including a considerable number of Service personnel. CATTERICK and INCONSTANT picked up 157 survivors.

*U.177. (2.R.1337)

/Greek...

1219

War Diary.

30.11.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Greek SS. CLEANTHIS was sunk by gunfire from a Japanese S/M at 0930 G.M.T. today in 24° 29' S 35° 44' E.

Mediterranean.

French
S/Ms.

MARSOUIN and CASABIANCA, two of the submarines which escaped from Toulon, arrived at Algiers today. LE GLORIEUX arrived at Oran at 0927, damaged.

Force Q.

Force Q is proceeding to Bone in readiness for an offensive sweep in the Bizerta area on the night 1/2 December.

Aircraft bombed and hit a small merchant vessel 2 miles from Pantellaria this afternoon. P.219 estimates 2 hits on ships bound for Cagliari last night.

Wellingtons bombed the docks at Bizerta last night.

There was an air raid on Bone this afternoon, but no damage was caused.

MANXMAN laid mines unobserved last night off Cani Rocks and returned to Algiers today. Aircraft from Malta laid 6 mines last night in the entrance to Palermo.

A tentative proposal has been received from the U.S. Navy Dept. to establish a Mediterranean Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Details are given in N.C.X.F. 1930A/30.

East Indies.

Reunion Island surrendered at 0445Z today.

Six U.S. Liberators bombed Rangoon last night. At Port Blair it is believed that Liberators sank a naval auxiliary last night.

1220

War Diary.

30.11.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

SS. TREVALGAN was sunk by torpedoes in 9° 40' N
59° 15' W at 2306Z today.

1221

30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.2nd A/S
Group.

1. Request you will detail four trawlers ex Northern Patrol to form 2nd A/S group.
2. If possible this group should be ready to sail December 6th to act as a trawler support group in mid-ocean.
(C. in C. W.A. 1453A/30 to F.O.I.C., N.I.)

Flag of
C.S.1.

Intend to transfer my flag to KENT at 0930/4th.
(R.A. 1st C.S. 1801A/30 to Admty.)

Movements.

P.339.

Sailed in accordance with S.3's 1615A/29.
(N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0846A/30.)
My 1357A/27. P.339 and LA CAPRICIEUSE proceeding Holyhead, E.T.A. 1630A/29. Trials will be continued in position 463 at 1100A/30. LA CAPRICIEUSE and P.339 sailing from Holyhead at 0830A/30.
(Capt. S.3 1615A/29.)

UREDD.
PRELTON
NORTH END.

My 1022/29. ^{p. 1122.} Sailed.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0908A/30.) *See next page.*

PENELOPE.

PENELOPE sailed Needles 0830/30th westbound by Spithead route speed 23 knots.
(2) On meeting convoy W.P.256 TYNEDALE is to place herself under orders of PENELOPE and escort her till dark and then be detached to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1017A/30.)

P.312,
P.216.

Sailed P.312 and P.216 escorted by SCALBY WYKE. E.T.A. at R/V 1230A/1st. 12 knots.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 1329A/30.)
Situation report at 2000. My 1315A/30. Amended position and speed P.312, P.216, vicinity Cape Wrath 0400A/1st, 10.
(C. in C. W.A. 1709A/30.) *See next page.*

SPEY,
ROTHER,
SENNEN.

My 2342/25. SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN will be required to sail in company to Gibraltar a.m. December 6th.
(C. in C. W.A. 1452A/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

S/M
Positions.

At 0800A/1st. Details.
(F.O.S. 1721A/30 and 0003/1.)
See Lion Copy.

DRAGON.

Your 1411A/30. Estimated P.C.S. 053° 40' N. 004° 52' W., 131°, 13 knots at daylight.
No V.H.F. or R.T. fitted.
(DRAGON 1820/30 to C. in C. W.A.)

/DIOMEDE ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1721A/30th November. IN

From F.O.S.

Date 30.11.42.

Time 1740

P/L BY T/P

To: Admiralty.

186.

Positions of submarines at 0800A
1st December and movements for following 24 hoursA. JUNON 63 degs. 05 mins. North 02 degs. 50 mins.
East probably on surface for Lerwick. *See p. 1224*B. P 216 and P 312 escorted by SCALBY WYKE 58 degs.
10 mins. North 05 degs. 52 mins. West due rendezvous
in position 075 degs. Glas Island light 4 miles at
1230 1st December for escort to Holy Loch. *See previous page*C. UREDD escorted by PRESTON NORTH END vicinity
Tod Head due Dundee 1230 1st December. *See previous page*D. TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR 54 degs. 01 mins.
North 05 degs. 12 mins. West due vicinity Wolf Rock
1800 2nd December *See p. 1222*E. GUENARD 46 degs. 50 mins. North 12 degs. 26 mins.
West dived by day through 45 degs. 01 mins. North
12 degs. 25 mins. West to patrol vicinity 44 degs.
50 mins. North 10 degs. 01 mins. West.F. SEALION 47 degs. 38 mins. North 30 mins West dived
by day through 49 degs. 10 mins. North 10 degs.
30 mins. West thence to 180 degs. Bishop Fock
15 miles *See p. 1222*G. DOLFIJN in Zone K 505 - *See next page & p. 1222*H. *CLYDE and GRAPH operating in area bounded by 42 degs.
North and 44 degs. North, 12 degs. West and 17 degs.
West. ** See next page & p. 1222 etc.*My 1844 29th November add expected time of arrival
Clyde 2359 30th November.

1721A/30.

Advance copies Duty Captain, D.O.D.(H).

A.C.N.S.(H)	Duty Captain (2)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.D.I.C.(2)
N.A. 1st S.I.	D. of Plans (2)
Captain Pin	D.A./S.W.
D.O.D.(H)(2)	Head of M.
D.O.D.(F)(2)	W.D.
D.T.D.(M)	I.P.(2)
P.D.O.D.(M)	D.N.I.(4)
	U.S.N.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN.

From ... F.O.S.

0003/1 Dec.

Date .. 1.12.42.

P/L BY T/P.

Recd... 0013

Addressed .. Admiralty.

IMMEDIATE

195. My 1721/30th November.

Amend as follows

(G) DCLFIJN very approximately 44 degs. 20 mins North
6 degs. West probably on surface.

(H) Cancel CLYDE add new paragraph

(J) CLYDE 46 degs 01 mins North 13 degs 22 mins. West
diving by day course 360 degs 180 miles in 24 hours.

0003/1

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.
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) ()
 D.D.O.D. (M)
 B.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.N.I. (4)
 U.S.N.

1222

30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

- DIOMEDE. When ready for sea request you will sail DIOMEDE for Scapa to work up.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1845A/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- TUNA. Sailed TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR in accordance with S.3's 1015A/28. Codeword "Crescent".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 2218A/30.)
See p/p 1221
- A.F.D.19. Arrived in tow of EMPIRE LARCH, EMPIRE BASCOBEL, and ABEILLE 4, escorted by LEEDS UNITED.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 2235A/30 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

Operations.

- SEALION My 1912/29. Amend to read (A) SEALION in Patrol. 45° 15' N. 10° 30' W. dived by day towards 49° 10' N. 10° 30' W. Speed 125 miles per day.
(F.O.S. 0231A/30 to Admty.)
- Biscay Area. P.C.S. of unknown medium vessel, 5000, 44° 30' N. Search for 09° 18' W., 230°, 10 knots.
ANTARKTIS (A/C L8AE 0400A/30 to 19 Group.)
& CORTELLAZZO Unknown ship P.C.S. 044° 52', 010° 32', 270°, by CLYDE, unknown. 82 R.P.M. probably diesel. Red Very GRAPH, lights only seen.
DOLFIJN (SEALION 0541A/30 to F.O.S.)
and A/C. Your 0520. P.C.S. of one unidentified M/V One Enemy 43° 58' N. 09° 59' W., 270°, speed 15 knots.
ship bombed. Have you anything to communicate.
See p. 1230 (A/C 0654/30 to 19 Group.)
Your 0423/30. Total arranged. If nothing sighted by 1400 double on your tracks to K.501.
(F.O.S. 0713A/30 to GRAPH.)
Have regained contact with merchant vessel first reported.
Enemy has been attacked.
(A/C L8AC 0725/30 to 19 Group.)
My 0725. Have attacked enemy M/V with bombs level.
Result of attack unobserved.
(A/C of 10 R.A.A.F. Sqdn. 0923/30 to 19 Group.)
My 0923. Enemy course and speed are 270°, 12 knots.
Position at 0850 was 44° 25' N. 11° 10' W.
(A/C L8AC 0950/30 to 19 Group.)
Have gained 3 near misses on vessel now bearing 230° 15 miles (or course 230°, speed 15 knots.)
(A/C Z of 10th R.A.F. Sqdn. 0800/30 to 19 Group.)
Estimated P.C.S. at 0850, 044° 40' N. 011° 10' W, 260°, 13 knots. CLYDE and GRAPH proceeding forthwith on surface to intercept.
(F.O.S. 1034A/30 to S/Ms.)
ANTARKTIS left Vigo 0300/30. DOLFIJN patrol vicinity Cape Ortegal.
(F.O.S. 1241A/30 to S/Ms.)

/My 1241/30 ...

1223

War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 20/11/42

Biscay Area. My 1241/30 November. Estimate ANTARKTIS will Search for pass Vallarno between 1100 and 1200 today. ANTARKTIS Endeavour intercept as far to westward as & CORTELLAZZO practicable. At all costs avoid being seen. by CLYDE, (F.O.S. 1334A/30 to S/Ms.) GRAPH, 1. Liberator aircraft diverted from patrol DOLFIJN B.P.16 to locate and shadow CORTELLAZZO. and A/C. 2. Second Liberator proceeding to 043° 45', One enemy 007° 40', thence coastwise westwards to locate ship bombed ANTARKTIS. (contd.) (F.O.S. 1404A/30 to S/Ms.) Am carrying out shadowing of merchant vessel in 44° 12' N. 013° 38' W. Course 270°, speed 10 knots at 1415. (A/C 9 MLC 1450/30 to 19 Group.) (corrupt group) position CORTELLAZZO 044° 26' N. 013° 38' W, course 260° to 270°, 13 knots, at 1415/30. (C. in C. Plymouth 1531A/30 to F.O.S.) My 1334 refers to DOLFIJN only. (F.O.S. 1547A/30 to S/Ms.) Aircraft reported approx. P.C.S. of ORIENT (sic) at 1415, 044° 36' 013° 38' 260° 13 knots. (F.O.S. 1606A/30 to S/Ms.) Have attacked enemy ships at bomb level. Estimate no hits. Position of enemy at 1540 was 44° 46' N. 12° 37' W. (A/C OUX T.O.R. 1614/30 to 19 Group.) My 1531/30. Best position at 1540/30 044° 38' N. 013° 32' W. (C. in C. Plymouth 1635A/30 to F.O.S.) Your 1606/30. My P.C.S. 044° 38', 014° 10', 210°, 13. Estimate enemy passing 20 miles ahead. Am searching to westward till dark then will return to original route. Estimate fuel remaining on arrival at Bishop Rock on 4th December 12 hours steaming. (CLYDE 1725A/30 to F.O.S.) (1) Estimate enemy furthest on longitude at dawn first December will be 018° 45' W. (2) If not in contact with enemy and fuel permits proceed with dispatch towards positions as follows and establish patrol - CLYDE 044° 01', 018° 40'. GRAPH 043° 35', 018° 40'. (3) Total bombing restrictions extended. (F.O.S. 1832A/30 to CLYDE, GRAPH.) Estimate daylight position of ANTARKTIC will be 044° 45' N. 004° 00' W. Request you will instruct DOLFIJN to proceed on surface at full speed towards mouth of Gironde until daylight and remain in that position. Whitley A/C will be patrolling from 006° W. eastward to French coast from 0200 till daylight. (C. in C. Plymouth 1855A/30 to F.O.S.) Estimate ANTARKTIS can cross 005° 30' E. at 0730/1st, allowing 8½ knots. If not in contact with ship proceed best speed to eastward keeping close outside territorial waters. Endeavour to remain on the surface until 0830 but essential to remain unseen. Enemy air activity likely along route. (F.O.S. 1952A/30 to DOLFIJN.)

/Your 1725/30 ...

1224

War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - cont'd.

Biscay Area.
Search for
ANTARKTIS
& CORTELLAZZO
by CLYDE,
GRAPH,
DOLFIJN
and A/C.
One enemy
ship bombed
(contd.)

Your 1725/30.
(1) My 1832/30. Cancel instructions to CLYDE.
(2) CLYDE proceed dived by day by route in my 1059/26, passing through $046^{\circ} 01' N.$ $013^{\circ} 22' W.$ at 0800/1st.
(3) Bombing restrictions follow.
(F.O.S. 2026A/30 to CLYDE.)
My 1952/30. After 30' for East read West.
DOLFIJN informed.
(F.O.S. 2254A/30 to Admty.)
My 1952. Amend as follows. Second paragraph proceed at best speed along line 070° from $043^{\circ} 51', 007^{\circ} 53'$. Cancel third paragraph. Continue on the surface as long as practicable.
(F.O.S. 2341A/30 to DOLFIJN.)

Patrols. → Tonight PENYLAN is to proceed with M.G.B. 613 (S.O) M.T.B. 95, 85, 86 to patrol between $50^{\circ} 25' N.$ $01^{\circ} 35' W.$ and $50^{\circ} 15' N.$ $02^{\circ} 05' W.$ passing Needles 1745 and 0800.

Anchor Yarmouth if weather unsuitable. Codeword "Advent".
(2) Convoy P.W. 256 (S.O escort GLAISDALE) leaves Needles 1345/30.

→ (3) Portland patrol M.G.B.52 (S.O) and 57 between $50^{\circ} 22' N.$ $02^{\circ} 20' W.$ and $50^{\circ} 13' N.$ $02^{\circ} 50' W.$

(4) CHASSEURS 41 (S.O) and 5 patrolling South of E A 5 buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1031A/30 to D.1, HORNET.)
Destroyer duty tonight. Patrols not required.
(C. in C Nore 1054A/30.)

→ 1. Intend M.G.Bs 52 (S.O) and 57 to patrol tonight on a line between $50^{\circ} 22' N.$ $2^{\circ} 20' W.$ and $50^{\circ} 13' N.$ $2^{\circ} 50' W.$
2. Leave Weymouth at 1830/30 by Q Z S 382 and patrol line at dawn.

3. Object. Anti-E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1245A/30.)

CHASSEURS 313 and 11 patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy.

→ PENYLAN, M.G.B. 613, M.T.Bs 95, 85, 86 patrolling to southward of Anvil Point, passing Needles 1745/30 and 0800/1. M.G.Bs 52 and 57 patrolling to southward of Portland Bill.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1545A/30.)

Operation
"Upsilon".

1. Remainder of stores landed in position ordered in your 0234/25 on North side most Northerly stream behind large stone about 15 metres inland. At 2030 left position without seeing shore party.
2. 23rd November entered Tennholm Fiord sighted 2 merchant ships of 800 tons and floating dock escorted by 3 trawlers and a motor boat northbound. Owing to lack of space unable to attack.
3. Information transmitted 29th unsuccessful.
4. My position $066^{\circ} 59' N.$ $007^{\circ} 47' E.$ maximum speed 9 knots.
5. MERITBUNKER.

*(JUNON 1802A/30 to F.O.S.) * *see p. 122A*

Your 1802/30. Many congratulations on completing this vital operation.
(F.O.S. 2257A/30 to JUNON.)

1225

30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.FINESSE
& WILLIAM
MANNELL
attacked.

Following received from N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.
begins. Attack on H.M.T. FINESSE and WILLIAM
MANNELL. A. Nov. 30th. B. 1247. C. 080
Barry Head 15 miles. D. N.W. E. Low dive.
F. One F.W.190.
Plane shot down by light armament of FINESSE.
Pilot killed. T.O.O. 1822/30 ends.
(C. in C. Plymouth 2113/30 to Admty.)

Mining.

Iceland.

On 27th Nov. ORWELL reported a suspected line of
moored mines within .5 miles of position 065°
25' 51" N. 013° 30' 42" W. detected by mine-
detection unit. This vicinity was swept by HAZARD and EARRAID
on 28th Nov. and on 29th Nov. A 75% search of area enclosed by
positions bearings and distances from Glettinganes Light
(A) 109° 4.5 miles.
(B) 146° 8.5 miles.
(C) 169° 7.5 miles.
(D) 161° 1.5 miles was carried ^{out} by BRITOMART and HAZARD. Area
reported by ORWELL was swept twice. All results negative.
(A.C.I.C. 1145A/30 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.Bay of
Biscay.
Possibly M.22
on 29th
November.

P.C.S. of 4 unknown medium vessels 44° 37' N.
02° 38' W, 070°, 15.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty C. 0336/30 to 19 Group.)
My 0336 possibly destroyers.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty C 0410A/30 to 19 Group.)
Coastal Command photos at November 29/1345 hrs.
Bay of Biscay show M/V possibly M.22 with escort
of two Elbing Destroyers and two other vessels at reported
position of 44° 45' N. 04° 50' W. on course 270°. M.22 last
seen Royan 27/11/42.
(H.Q.C.C. 1740/30 to Admty.)

?

(0318 02) in 048° 20' N. 07° 30' W.
(A/C F5QT 1000/30 to 19 Group.)

U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.

By D/F at 0336Z/30, U-Boat possibly inward bound,
estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 43°
00' N. 14° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0531A/30 to S/Ms.)
D/F at 0654Z/30 indicates U-boat anywhere within 100
miles of 48° 00' N. 17° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0830A/30 to Escorts K.M.S. 4 and M.K.F.3.)
D/F bearings at 1743Z/30 indicate U-boat within 60 miles
of 47° N. 20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2130A/30 to Escorts K.M.F.4.)

1226

30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

Sabotage in IRONCLAD. Your 1717A/25. The 4 seamen were placed under arrest by order of Commander Frankel U.S.A. Navy and at the request of Master of SS IRONCLAD. Reasons for arrest were (A) Consistent failure to turn to aboard IRONCLAD vessel to which they were lawfully attached. (B) Insolence to ship's officer (C) Assault of Master of IRONCLAD and inflicting bodily injury. (D) Endangering sailing of vessel from Port of Archangel by above act of sabotage. Above details forwarded with C.O. (H.M.?) ship in which seamen embarked. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0856A/30 to Admty.)

BEN ROSSAL (sunk 29th November.) BEN ROSSAL is sunk in 6-1/2 fathoms in Ore Bay and is dangerous to navigation. Lifting craft will be required. Request that two lifting craft may be sent to Scapa. (C.S.V.O. Lyness 1020/30 to D.S.V. Admty.)

Cable broken at Seidisfiord. (OPHIR) A.M. 1359/28. ^{N.T. in H.D.} These arrangements have been made. Ship sails for Seydisfiord tomorrow. (A.C.I.C. 1258A/29 to Admty.)

JAMAICA. My 2240/21. ^{p. 897} Understand fitting of JAMAICA for ^{Anti} (minelaying?) service will be progressed but in no sense completed by 10th December. It is essential if ship is to retain fighting efficiency and not be hazarded by accumulation of ice on upper decks that work on armament heating be completed and provision made for freeing ship and cable gear from ice by use of steam hose. Request confirmation that this minimum amount of work will be completed by this date. (C. in C. H.F. 1401A/30 to Admty.)

ST. ELSTAN. Boiler tube burst. Proceeding Stornoway. E.T.A. 2300A/30. (ST. ELSTAN 2030A/30.)

Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.F.3. Convoy M.K.F. 3 is due U.K. 2/12 comprising ORMONDE, CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS, ORONTES, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, STAFFORDSHIRE, ORION, DUCHESS OF YORK and RANGITIKI for Liverpool, STRATHALLAN and ANDES for Tail of the Bank, and BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, WINDSOR CASTLE and NEA HELLAS for Glasgow. As far as is known no personnel are on board the above ships except 577 on ORMONDE of which details are not available. (D.S.T. 0005A/30.)

/K.X.6 A. ...

1227

War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

K.X.6 A. A.M. 2207/20 amended by A.M. 1818/22.
ARIGUANI. 1. Para 1 add tug SAMSONIA.
SAMSONIA. 2. SAMSONIA is required to tow ARIGUANI from Gibraltar to U.K.
3. Escort may be provided by trawlers referred to in paras. 4 and 5.
4. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange sailing as requisite.
(D.O.D. (H.) 0107A/30 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.C.N.A.)

T.A.29. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to leave Clyde 3rd December as T.A.29. She is to proceed independently direct to Halifax, N.S. Route as follows. From position J 270° Oversay Light 6 miles at 0900Z/4. Through K 56° 00' N. 11° 10' W. L 55° 50' N. 24° 55' W. M 44° 01' N. 33° 15' W. N 42° 00' N. 38° 10' W. O 42° 30' N. 47° 30' W. P 42° 45' N. 59° 59' W. Fighter protection codeword "Harper".
(D.O.D. (H.) 0111A/30.)

M/Vs at Molotovsk. Following localized programme for clearing merchant ships from Molotovsk; Group One. EMPIRE GALLIARD, HUGH WILLIAMSON and CAMP FIRE a.m. 6th December. Group Two. EMPIRE BARD, JOHN WALKER and RICHARD H. ALVEY a.m. 10th December. S.O. 6th M.F. is requested to sail three trawlers from Iokanka to R/V with Group one and ST. KENAN at 1200C/6 in 064° 55' N. 039° 31' E. Merchant ships are being ordered to steer 000° from above position to pass Zimmegorski 6 miles. In order to meet ships in daylight minesweepers should R/V at 1100C/7th off Cape Orlovterski. Propose that trawlers should drop off at Iokanka on account of their slow speed. Request that Goskyovko may be asked to provide destroyers or 2 10-knot patrol vessels as local escort to minesweepers from Styatoinos to Kola. S.O. 6th M/S Flotilla is requested to manipulate such boiler cleaning of minesweepers and trawlers as necessary to fit this programme.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1027A/30 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, M/S 6.)

O.N.151, VANSITTART is to sail with B.1 escorting O.N.151
S.C.114. and S.C.114.
(C. in C. W.A. 1132A/30.)

K.X.7. K.X.7 sailed. Codeword "Taunton". Routed in accordance with A.M. 1328A/22nd November. 11 Merchant ships and cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY. Commodore in SS DUBLIN. Escorts*(?KRAKOWIAK) (S.O) BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, LAUDERDALE. Speed 7 knots. E.T.A. 10 December.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1201A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)
* See 21/11-12898.

Names of M/Vs. N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1208A/30 to Admty.

/C.W. and C.E. ...

1228

30.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- C.W. and Re arrangement for trial of sailing times.
C.E. Convoys. Details.
(C. in C. Nore 1240A/30.)
- E.N.68. Your 1204/25. Concur.
ASHANTIAN, (C. in C. W.A. 1247A/30 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
CONQUEROR.
- Murmansk. My 0932/29. Second cargo can be received at
Oil-fuel Murmansk taking additional 7 or 8 days to
facilities. discharge as only one discharging jetty.
Cargoes will be discharged partly into rail
waggons, and partly into specially prepared
local tanks.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1550A/30 to Admty.)
- Q.P.15. Scapa arrivals 1553, ICARUS, MIDDLETON, and
INTREPID.
(A.C.O.S. 1621/30 to A.C.I.C.)
- W.S.25 W. W.S.25 W. comprising QUEEN MARY carrying troops
for Middle East will leave U.K. via Freetown
and Capetown according to the following
approximate programmes. Leave U.K. 21st December. Due
Freetown 29th December. Due Capetown 6th January. Due Suez
22nd January. 2. She will proceed unescorted, but available
air and surface A/S forces should be provided at ports of call.
(D.O.D.(F.) 1822A/30.)
- K.M.S.5. PETUNIA is required to sail with K.M.S.5 on
December 10th. Request confirmation that she
will be ready.
(C. in C. W.A. 1827A/30 to N.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
Following ships will be ready to leave Clyde on 10th
December. Names, destinations and Escorts.
(D.O.D.(H.) 2137A/30) See Lion Copy.
- U.R.53. N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1118/29 indicates no Naval
Collier is sailing in U.R.52. Coal situation
in Iceland is critical vide my 1918/1st
November and my 1203/29. Essential that 5
Naval Colliers sail in U.R. 53.
(A.C.I.C. 2150A/30 to Admty.)
- Kola Inlet Request information concerning number of
accommodation. Merchant ships, destroyers, and smaller escort
vessels which can be accommodated in Kola
Inlet at any one time together with two cruisers.
(C. in C. H.F. 2257A/30 to S.B.N.O. North
Russia.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. M E S S A G E 2137A/30 November.
OUT.

To: C. in C. W.A. 293.
F.O.I.C. Greenock.
N.C.S.O. Clyde.
Repeated F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
N.C.S.O. Mersey.
F.O.I.C. Cardiff.
F.O.C.N.A. 168.
N.C.X.F. 513.
Commodore Londonderry.
C. in C. H.F. 42.
R.A.W.Af. 847.
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.

DATE. 30.11.42.

NAVAL CYPHER A.C.O. BY T/P
NAVAL CYPHER XD BY W/T.

From. Admiralty.

The following ships will be ready to leave
Clyde as convoy K.M.S. 5 on 10th December to
destinations indicated.

Algiers.	S.S. DIRECTOR LAGOSIAN EMPIRE HUNTER FORT CONFIDENCE PACIFIC SHIPPER CLAN MACBEAN SAINT BERNARD HARBURY EMPIRE AIRMAN	OCEAN GALLANT STAD MAASSLUIS FORT DOUGLAS OCEAN COURIER TITERSUM EMPIRE STANDARD MASTRAH KINGSBOROUGH
Bougie	EMPIRE MALLORY EMPIRE SUNBEAM	CLAN MACINNES
Philipville	PORT SAINT JOHN FORT BATTLE RIVER	NORELG
Bone	EMPIRE LANCER HARPALYCE CONTRACTOR ASHANTIAN NOVELIST FORT LA CORNE	MELAMPUS VILLE DE STRASBOURG MIDDLESEX TRADER CLAN MAC BRAYNE STAD HAARLEM EMPIRE METAL
Oran	U.S. MICHIGAN EXCHESTER FRANCIS PARKMAN THOMAS ROBINSON HASTINGS BLENHEIM S.S. TOPDALSFJORD	U.S. WALT WHITMAN EXILONA DELRIO EXPOSITOR ROSARIO S.S. WEARPOOL KAFRISTAN
Gibraltar	BELGIAN FREIGHTER BARON KINNAIRD CELESTIE SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN	P.L.M. 14 INGERFIRE SALTWICK
Freetown	RALLUS	

Freetown & ... ELAINE

MOST SECRET

...hurst /

1228 B

MOST SECRET

- Bathurst and Takoradi BELNOR
- 2. Speed of slowest ship 8 knots.
- 4. Admiralty will promulgate route.
- 5. Conference will be held a.m. 10th December.
- 6. Escort will be provided by H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, HASTINGS, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, BIDEFORD, REGINA, KITCHENER, CAMROSE, LOUISBURG, PRESTCOTT, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA, WOODSTOCK, CALGARY and PETUNIA.
- 7. S.S. EMPIRE ELAINE, BELNOR and H.M.S. PETUNIA will part company with convoy as convenient to proceed to Freetown.
- 8. PETUNIA is to be detached for fuel at Ponta Delgada rejoining party as requisite.
- 9. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail H.M.S. WOODRUFF and CROCUS to R/V with convoy as early en route as allowed by endurance to provide escort to Freetown for ships mentioned in para. 7 A.M. 1647/22 not to all addressees refers.
- 10. Destination of escorts less PETUNIA is Gibraltar and they will return as escort of M.K.S.4.
- 11. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange conference and to sail ships as requisite.
- 12. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange sailing of escorts.
- 13. S.S. KAFRISTAN is a CAM Ship. If required to operate as such east of Gibraltar F.O.C.N.A. is requested to issue the necessary instructions.

2137A/30.

D.O.D.(H)

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- C.N.A.S.
- 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.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- Hd. of M. (10)
- 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 Captain. (2)
- Admiral Blake. (2)
- Admiral Ransom. (2)
- C.C.A.S.

MOST SECRET

1229

War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

Tankers.

Following tanker movements are intended.

- DINGLEDALE completes discharge at Algiers thence to Gibraltar, loaded with furnace oil and 100 octane ex CLAUSINA and return to Algiers.
2. ABBEYDALE discharging 100 octane to shore at Oran and furnace oil to BROWN RANGER thence to refill and return to Oran.
3. BRITISH CHIVALRY and CARDIUM to fill from American oilers ex U.G.A. 2 at Oran. All 4 American oilers discharge to fleet or shore at Oran as soon as possible then to Gibraltar for passage to U.S.A.
4. SAN ADOLFO remains as fleet attendant Algiers filling at (? Gibraltar) as necessary.
- 5. BROWN RANGER to be fleet attendant at Bone filling at (? Gibraltar) as necessary.
6. BULKOIL to be kept full ready for freighting eastwards at 48 hours notice.
7. DERWENTDALE as station oiler Gibraltar.
8. Oilers ex K.M.S.4 discharging Gibraltar.
(N.C.X.F., 1523A/30 to S.O. Force H, S.O.I.S., F.O.C.N.A., etc.)

Shipping.

Admty. 1912A/28. Algiers, BOSPHOROUS (Norwegian) RHEA (Dutch) both undamaged. ARZEN PARAME (Danish) MEYNIA (Danish) both undamaged.

Casablanca PENGREEF (British) undamaged, ELSE (Danish) sunk.
Port Lyautey BATAVIA (Norwegian) HILDE (Danish) BELGIEN (Danish) TOURSIKA (British) ESEPORT (Dutch) NYHORN (Norwegian), all sunk.
(N.C.X.F., 1632A/30 to Admty.)

Dakar

F.O.C. West Africa's 1251/29. There appears to be an unsatisfactory situation developing in regard to the Dakar negotiations. U.S. Chiefs of Staff have organised a Naval, Military and Air Mission which is to proceed direct to Dakar. Brigadier-General Smith is one of this Mission. U.S. Chiefs of Staff have sent the directive for this Mission direct to Eisenhower and proposed that negotiations should be carried out direct at Dakar. I have strongly pressed that negotiations at least on main policy questions should be carried out here since the Government here is the covering authority and in any case likely to be far more amenable.

(2) I would point out that the U.S. Chiefs of Staff directive has no mention of the British whatsoever or of our requirements nor is there any suggestion of any British representation on the Mission. Rear Adm. Glasfurd U.S.N. is deputed as Senior Naval Member. Consider this matter should be taken up urgently with Combined Chiefs of Staff as unilateral action of this sort is undesirable. Meanwhile I have notified Eisenhower in accordance with Admty. 1242/27. I will try to get the principle of British participation agreed by the American and French delegates.
(N.C.X.F., 1736A/30 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary.

30.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ANTARKTIS. Reported German tanker ANTARKTIS sailed from
Vigo.
See p. 1222
et seq. 2/30/42
(F.O.C.N.A., 0300/30 to S. & A. N.A., (R) Admty.,
S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)
ANTARKTIS sailed early this morning 30th.
(R.O. Vigo, 0915/30 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty., for
D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid.)
My 0915. Time of sailing of ANTARKTIS today is reported
to have been 0430.
(R.O. Vigo, 1045/20 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty. for
D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid.)
Report graded B.2 states German tanker ANTARKTIS left
Vigo 0400A/30.
(D.D.I.C., 1255A/30 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Plymouth,
F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)
See also 1748/30.

Enemy M/V. My 2345A/29 (see Home Commands). Position of
See p. 1222
et seq.
enemy M/V probably CORTELLAZZO at 0400/30 was
44° 30' N. 09° 18' W. course 230°.
(D.D.I.C., 0544A/30 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.
Plymouth, F.O.S., S. and A. Area B. X. Y., (R)
H.Q.C.C.)

MALOJA My 1005/24th. MALOJA reported to have left
(Swiss) Genoa 28th Nov.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1013A/30 to A.I.G. 262 etc.)

Movements. Arrival RHYL, BACHAQUERO, TASAJERA.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1050A/30 to Admty., N.C.X.F., (R)
Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

STRATHAIRD Your 1246A/29. Approved but FARNDALE and H.M.S.
escort, AVON VALE should not be used if it can be avoided.
BERMUDA. (2) Sail BERMUDA in company with destroyers and
STRATHAIRD. When destroyers part company BERMUDA
is to proceed independently to U.K. as directed
by Admiralty.
(N.C.X.F., 1102A/30 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.,
C. in C. W.A., C.S.12.)

Destroyers Destroyers of 3rd, 6th Destroyer Flotillas and
Force H, 59th Division now at Gibraltar should be sailed
Force Q. when ready to join Force H.
2. S.O. Force H is requested to arrange boiler
cleaning of destroyers of Force H as convenient.
3. 2 4.7-inch destroyers will shortly be required to relieve
*QUIBERON, *QUENTIN in Force Q to enable them to boiler clean.
(N.C.X.F., 1134A/30 to S.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A., (R) Cdre. F.,
S.O.I.S., 12th C.S., 3rd D.F., FARNDALE, 6th D.F.)

* *See p. 1244*

/Your ...

1231

30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - *cont'd.*

- Destroyers Your 1246/29. Concur.
Force H, 2. Route should be amended as follows: P. 37.00
Force Q. N. 09.45 W. Q. 42.01 N. 15.15 W. R. 50.02 N.
15.16 W. S. 54.59 N. 10.00 W. T. 55.25 N.
08.28 W.
3. STRATHAIRD is to proceed independently at best speed from position Q.
4. Final destination will be signalled.
(D.O.D.(H), 1152A/30 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)
Intend sailing STRATHAIRD escorted by FARNDALE and AVON VALE at 1900/30 routed in accordance with my 1246/29.
2. Destroyers part company in 39° N. approx. and proceed to R/V and act as additional escort to K.M.F. 4.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1232A/30 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F.)
My 1232/30, N.C.X.F. 1102/30. Sailed STRATHAIRD escorted by BERMUDA, AVON VALE, FARNDALE at 2130/30th routed in accordance with Admty. 1152/30. *See p. 1232 B*
2. Destroyers part company as necessary to R/V with K.M.F.4 in 038° 45' N. 016° 55' W. at 1600/2nd.
3. Admty. is requested to signal onward route and destination for BERMUDA.
4. BERMUDA holds Admty. Q.Z.H.964, Q.Z.L.52, Q.Z.S.388, Q.Z.F.878, Q.Z.Y.366.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2347A/30 to Admty., (R) F.O. 12 C.S., C. in C. W.A., Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.4, C. in C. H.F., BERMUDA, N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H.)

- French M/Vs. Three French merchant ships arriving Gibraltar in E.T.3 on 4th Dec. are required to proceed convoy to Dakar. 2. Ships should be bunkered only with sufficient fuel to reach destination.
3. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail convoy accordingly with escort to vicinity of Casablanca. S.N.O. Casablanca is requested to arrange onward escort until relieved. R.A.W.A. is requested to relieve American escort as far North as possible. (N.C.X.F., 1156A/30 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) F.O.C.W.A., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

- A/C "School". One enemy aircraft bearing 60° 26 miles, shadowing "School" in position 266° 26 miles from Tenez.
(C/S VSV, 1225A/30 to Gibraltar.)

- French S/Ms in Spain. As French N.A. is leaving in a few days, request guidance on what if anything I should do in connection with (A) interned French submarine IRIS and crew at Barcelona. *See p. 1242.*
(B) interned crew French submarine LE TONNANT at Cadiz. Latter feared she would never reach Africa and they did not want her interned in case she fell into German hands. Former refused to leave and are probably N.B.G.
What remains of French Embassy here is disintegrating.
(N.A. Madrid, 1300/30 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

/Safe ...

1232

30.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- Safe Conduct Ships. Swedish ships AKKA and YARRAWONGA leave Gibraltar 1300/30th for Piraeus 14 knots through 000° Cape Spartivento Sardinia 20 miles 000° Ustica 5 miles thence Vulcano Island and Messina. Hull white single funnel white blue top. Swedish colours bow and stern red cross amidships. Not to be molested if in this route.
(Capt. S.8, 1327A/30 to S/Ms on Patrol.)
- G.U.F.2. Admiralty pass to S.N.O. Casablanca for action. Request composition G.U.F.2. Composition of all future convoys from your area should be reported to Connav.
(Connav, 1428/30 to S.N.O. Casablanca.)
- SAMC BRAZ. Admty. 1657/28. Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMC BRAZ, 7000 tons, left Ponta Delgada 2300/28 for Curacao speed 12 knots.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1652A/30 to Admty.)
- Damaged German Tanker at Ferrol. Please pass to H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.(S). My 1159/29th. Tanker believed waiting dry dock at present docking Spanish Cruiser CANARIAS. Date dock vacant uncertain. B.2. (N.A. Madrid, 1730/30 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.N.A., Atlantic.) Passing action being taken by W.R.
- Portuguese Rescue Service. Request you will inform Portuguese Major General de Amada that Admiralty have noted with appreciation the many recent occasions on which Portuguese Naval vessels have so willingly put to sea to rescue shipwrecked British seamen.
(Hd. of M. Approved A.C.N.S.(T), 1739A/30 to N.A. Lisbon.)
- *ANTARKTIS, MAX ALBRECHT. Admiralty please pass to A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command, C. in C. Plymouth, and F.O.C.(S) from B.N.A. Madrid. R.O. Vigo's 0915/30. Ministry of Marine states ANTARKTIS on Nov. 28th asked permission to leave Vigo next morning. As she was not interned permission was granted. They believe others will follow suit probably beginning with MAX ALBRECHT at Ferrol which may leave any time.
(N.A. Madrid, 1748/30 to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Lisbon.)
- * See p. 1222 at
24 p. 1230*

/ALMAACK ...

MOST SECRET

1344A/30 November.

MOST SECRET
From F.O.C.N.A.

MESSAGE

IN

Date 30.11.42.

Received 1651.

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed A.I.G. 64.

IMPORTANT

- (1) GLENEARN, 036 degs 19' 029 degs 30' through
37 01 30 01 and 41 01 30 01 thence 003 degs 16. *p. 1249*
- (2) BREDON, INKPEN, INDIAN STAR, 029 degs 30' 024 degs
48' 160 degs 10.
- (3) DUNTON, DUNKERY, BIRDLIP, 033 degs 18' 026 degs
22' 160 degs 9.
- (4) BUTSER, 036 degs 17' 027 degs 40' 160 degs 9.

1344A/30.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (F) and D.T.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).
~~T.B. (2).~~
~~W.D.~~
D.T.D. (M).
D.M.S.
C.C.O.
D. of P. (Q).
D.N.E. (C.O.).

MOST SECRET

1910A/30 November.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From F.O.C.N.A.,

Date 1.12.42.

Received 0020.

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities Area X.

My 1343A 30th. Cancel para. 7. (NT)
Add new para. 8.

H.M.S. BERMUDA., H.M.S. FARNDALE,

H.M.S. AVONVALE, one* merchant ship, sailed Gibraltar

2115A 30th through 35 50 06 01 36 01 06 01 and 37 01

09 45 thence 320 degs 17½. ~~S~~ P.1231 *STRATHAIRD.

1910A/30.

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. (3).

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).
 D. of P.(2).
 Ad. Blake (2).
 Ad. Ramsey (4).

W

1233

30.11.1942.

Monday./ War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.ALMAACK
repairs.

Following received from Vice-Opnav addressed Comnavu repeated C.T.F.38, C.T.G. 26.7. Admty. N.C.X.F. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. (Begins) 1600/24. It is requested arrangements be made with British for temporary repairs at Gibraltar. N.C.X.F. 1119Z/20 estimates 3 weeks in dock to accomplish. Advise prospective date ready for towing to U.K. Admty. pass to N.C.X.F. and C.S.F. W.T.F. for information. T.O.O. 1116Z/25 (Ends) Request (a) it may be confirmed that temporary repairs to SS. ALMAACK will be undertaken at Gibraltar.
 (b) That estimated date of completion be given.
 2. N.C.X.F. pass relevant signals to C.S.F. W.T.F.
 (D.O.D. (F) 2002A/30 to F.O.C.N.A. N.C.X.F. (R) A.S. Gibraltar.)

→ WILLOWDALE
infernal
machine
attached.

Underwater examination of WILLOWDALE exposes infernal machine clamped to port Bilge keel.
 2. Ship arrived noon today Thursday from Seville and Cadiz. She was starboard hand to (?) jetty at former port 7 days and starboard hand alongside at latter for 24 hours.
 3. Infernal machine appears similar to that found on IMBER.
 4. Further details after examination.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 2240A/30 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Madrid. N.C.X.F.)

K.M.F.4.

Admty. 1235/29th. Request you will arrange reinforcement of escort of K.M.F.4 to join as early as possible.
 (N.C.X.F. 2040A/30 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) EGRET. Admty.)

→ WILLOWDALE

Intermed.
 My 1523/29th Para (2). WILLOWDALE sails from Cadiz p.m. on 2nd.
 (2) On completion of escort of MACBRAE proceeding to assume T Patrol.
 (3) Leave T Patrol as necessary to R/V with WILLOWDALE 304° San Sebastian Light 4 miles at 2000A/2nd.
 (4) If WILLOWDALE is not met by 2200A/2nd report by "Immediate" signal.
 (F.O.C.N.A. 2356A/30 to KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE.)

War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN STAR, distress. Following has been read:- S O S from DUNEDIN STAR 18.12 S., 11.42 E. Struck submerged object, making water fast, trying to beach 2200 G.M.T. (Simonstown W/T, T.O.R. 0110C/30). Please report your position immediately.

DUNEDIN STAR is aground in position 15 miles south and 38 miles east of position V. Render assistance to passengers and crew if you are in the vicinity.

(C. in C. S.A., 0724 G.M.T./30 to MANCHESTER DIVISION)

Request you will proceed immediately to assistance of passengers and crew of DUNEDIN STAR beached in 018°13' S. 011°55' E.

(C. in C. S.A., 0822 G.M.T./30 to TEMERAIRE).

Following for LANGLEECRAG. If you are in the vicinity request you will render assistance passengers and crew of British ship DUNEDIN STAR grounded in position 69 miles south and 47 miles East of new position Y Y.

(C. in C. S.A., 0833 G.M.T./30 to Admty).

T.S. 26
SOUTHERN GEM.

*See p. 1237
(Non-munitions)*

H.T. 24.3.
T.S. 26 My 1802Z/29th SOUTHERN GEM returned with engine defect. Repairs effected, sailed. Overtaking about 1300/30th (?probably). (N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 0306Z/30 to HOLCOMBE, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, SOUTHERN GEM (R) Admty. F.O.C., W.A., R.N.O. Lagos).

CECILE
MAPLESON.

See p. 1235B

Arrival 0725 G.M.T./30th.
(N.O.I.C. E. London, 0728Z/30 to Admty etc).

START
POINT
(torpedoed
10/11).

See next page

(1) 43 survivors ex British merchant ship START POINT arrived here p.m./28th Nov. on board British merchant ship ESKDALEGATE which picked them up 22nd in approx. 00° 50' N., 030° 15' W.
2. START POINT bound from Barry to Freetown with coal torpedoed 10th Nov. 013° 35' N., 027° 27' W. Struck by 1 torpedo port side without warning 1305. G.M.T. in clear weather. Ship abandoned 1325 G.M.T. 2 lifeboats being got away. Ship listing to port and going down slowly by head struck by 2nd torpedo in almost same place as first 1330 G.M.T. and sank within 2 minutes. Explosion second torpedo described as "Terrifying" and much more powerful than first. Captain refused to leave and went down with ship.
3. Submarine identified as Italian then surfaced and approached Chief Officers boat. Chief Officer and Chief Engineer taken on board submarine as prisoners. Another submarine flying German flag surfaced and drew abeam Italian.
My 1130Z/30th follows.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1050Z/30 to Admty).

INDOCHINOIS

Sailed INDOCHINOIS 1100Z/30 to R/V with W.S. 24 at position B. Books held (20) (21) One ship 102. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1103Z/30 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.)

/START...

1235

30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- START POINT (sunk 10/11). *See previous page* (1) 43 Survivors ex British Merchant ship START POINT arrived here p.m./28th Nov. on board British Merchant ship ESKDALEGATE which picked them up 22nd in approx. position $00^{\circ} 50' N.$, $030^{\circ} 15' W.$
- (2) START POINT bound from Barry to Freetown with coal torpedoed 10th November position $013^{\circ} 35' N.$, $027^{\circ} 27' W.$ Struck by 1 torpedo Port side without warning 1305 G.M.T. in clear weather. Ship abandoned 1325 G.M.T. 2 Lifeboats being got away. Ship listing to Port and going down slowly by head struck by 2nd Torpedo in almost same place as first 1330 G.M.T. and sank within 2 minutes. Explosion second torpedo described as "terrifying" and much more powerful than first. Captain refused to leave and went down with ship.
- (3) Submarine identified as Italian then surfaced and approached Chief Officers boat. Chief Officer and Chief Engineer taken on board submarine as prisoners. Another submarine flying German Flag surfaced and drew abeam Italian.
- (4) Both submarines appeared to be of 750 ton class. By condition of hull and paint work Italian was judged to have been on station for some time and German to be newly on station. Italian painted black with C/T of unusual construction; on side of C/T a badge comprising a circle enclosing figure of an animal (possibly Bull). 3 or 4 inch gun on after deck light A/A weapon possibly 20 m.m. on fore deck 2 machine guns on after part of C/T. Doubly insulated V aerial from bows to C/T and jumping wire aft which appeared to be insulated. One member of Italian crew said they had sunk a tanker on previous day. German had similar type C/T with no markings visible; carried no heavy weapons but 2 apparently 20 m.m. guns on fore and after decks respectively. Both crews young. Both submarines last seen heading East on the surface in company (Sketches following with B.R. L.Os. report)
- (5) On 15th Nov., in clear weather what might have been gunfire at no great distance was heard by survivors in approx. $010^{\circ} 55' N.$, $029^{\circ} 030' W.$
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1130Z/30 to Admty).

MORMACSWAN
"S" Report.

Following received. SSSS (MORMACSWAN) to Cominch (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Sighted S/M 1.30 N., 34.16 W., at 1010 G.M.T./30. 1200 G.M.T./30.
(Freetown W/T, T.O.R. 1225/30).

Shipping
Routes.

Your 1723/29 (N.T. in W.D.) Route of Cape ships as by Admiralty B.A.M.S. 1851/29 is preferred without calling Bathurst unless situation changes. Call at Bathurst by West African ships is at your discretion. Ships may not be in possession of fairway buoyage as amended by F.N.M.1743/42 and 1510/42
(D.T.D., 1225A/30 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) F.O.C.N.A., M.O.I.C. Bathurst).

/BARFOSS...

SECRET

1235^A

SECRET MESSAGE 1341Z/30th November IN

From F.O.C. W.Af. Date 30.11.42
Rec'd. 1724

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Addressed Ships in Area P of S.A. Station N. of 8 degs.
N., Admiralty repeated C. in C. S.A.
N.O.I.C. Bathurst

IMPORTANT

2 Motor Launches, 1458 20/30 to Bathurst 10.
BURDOCK, from Bathurst to Freetown 9½ at 2001Z 30th.
ARMERIA, H.M.S. MORRIS DANCE, escorting 09 01 26 35
270 8½
H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, about 09 02 25 38 searching for
survivors to North. *See p 1238.*

1341Z/30

Advance Copy Ops., O.D.
Trade

A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
Ops.(3)
O.D.8
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel
O.I.C.
M.(2)
Mails
O.D.(5)
D.P.S.
I.P.(3)

Movts.
W.D. ✓
D.T.D.(M)
D.D.O.D.(C)(2)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(C)
D.of L.D.(2)
Cdr. Holbrook

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN.
1515C/30 Nov.

From ... C. in C. S.A.

Date ..30.11.42.

Naval Cypher M by W/T and T/P.

Recd ..1650.

Addressed ... A.I.G. 125.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, H.M.S. ALCANTARA,
 H.M.S. NORMAN, H.M.S. ROCKROSE, *NEPAL, THYME with
 W.S. 24 off Danger Point to Durban. * *see p. 1237*
 13.3 knots. H.M.S. FORTUNE, searching for
 survivors 040 degs 00' South 022 degs 30' East.
 P. 552, C19 degs 30' South 010 degs 30' East to
 028 degs 20' South 012 degs. 00' East speed 9 knots
 OCTILE MAPLESON 034 degs 00' South 026 degs 50' East
 to Port Elizabeth 6 knots. *see p. 1234*
 H.M.S. CAPETOWN, ~~INCONSTANT~~, from Durban to East London.
see next page.

1515C/30.

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. 1 S.L.
 Capt. Pim.
 D.C.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. of P. (2).
 D.T.D. (3).
 D.M.S.
 Cdr. Holbrook.
 D.S.D.
 W/T Board.

PD.

War Diary.

30.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

BARFOSS, 0930Z/30 B.D.V. BARFOSS escorted by FANDANGO
FANDANGO. through (H) 10 miles off Cape Three Points
See next page (movements) (K) 003° 41' N., 007° 46' W. (L) 005° 32' 010°
20' S. of A. 4 knots. E.T.A. Marshall 1800Z/8th.
FANDANGO 15 days coal.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1407Z/30 to F.O.C.W. Africa,
Admty. Consul General Monrovia.)

CAPETOWN Sailed CAPETOWN to East London coastwise. S. of
See previous page. A. 19 knots. E.T.A. 0800C 1st Dec.
(b) Shift W/T organization at 0100C 1st Dec. to
group S.L.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1412Z/30 to Admty etc).

Personnel in D. of S.Ts. 0450/28 not to F.O.C. W.A.F. in
unescorted view large numbers of personnel for U.K. now
ships. accumulating in Union especially R.A.F. air
crews and few opportunities of homeward passage
in near future, permission is requested to
exceed personnel categories for unescorted ships
in case of EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND similarly to PASTEUR, MAURETANIA
etc. Ship could fuel to capacity at Capetown and make homeward
voyage direct at 21 knots. No suitable escort is available.
(C, in C. S.A., 1431C/20 to Admty (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O.
Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, F.O. W.A.F.)

Staff My 2205/22nd. In view of difficulties in
Transfer obtaining Air Passages for staff proceeding to
to Rio. Recife, Pernambuco my arrangements for
transferring to Rio de Janeiro will not now be
completed until 20th Dec.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1455Z/30 to Admty).

Suspicious (1) A.M. 2018A/26th Nov. (2017/26 intended)
Ship S. not to N.O.I.C. Ascension. My estimate is
Georgia. that PERSEE may pass to northward between St.
Pauls Rocks and Freetown on or after 4th Dec.
(2) Propose ASTURIAS and corvette escort to
patrol between positions.
(a) 005° 00' N., 020° 40' W., and (b) 003° 10' N.
024° 40' W. commencing on 4th Dec.
(3) Request you will signal any disposition you make and that
you will sail DESPATCH to conform to limit of endurance on
passage to Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1641Z/30 to Comsolantfor (R) N.O.I.C. Ascension,
Admty. F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

/Prospective...

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- Prospective Movements, A/S trawlers etc.
- (1) NORWICH CITY escorting BRITISH COAST arrives Takoradi about 5th Dec.
- (2) NORTHERN CHIEF arrives Takoradi from Wales coast about 7th Dec.
- (3) ST. LOMAN, STELLA POLARIS, ARRAN, SPHENE, KHYBER, M.L. 265, and M.L. 296, escorting S.T. 45 arrive Takoradi 1200Z/7th Dec.
- (4) ST. LOMAN, STELLA POLARIS, NORWICH CITY, NORTHERN CHIEF, SPHENE, KHYBER, are to sail escorting convoy to Capetown via Pointe Noire. Convoy to include tanker JENNY for Kebe, BRITISH UNITY, BANFF PARK, H.M. Tugs BOLD, INTEGRITY, and EMPIRE WARLOCK for Capetown.
- (5) Shipping for Cape now in Gulf Guinea Port should be included in convoy if possible.
- (F.O.C.W.A.F., 1655Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty. B.N.L.O. W. Af. ST.LOMAN).

NEPAL
W.S. 24
See p. 1235B

Simonstown Departure 1310Z/30 NEPAL for W.S. 24.

(2) Escort of W.S. 24 shift to W/T organization for area J at 2100Z/2 Dec.

(C. in C. S.A., 1723C/30 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., V.A. 2 E.F. N.O.I.C. Durban).

Movements

Departures 30th Nov. 0347Z SOUTHERN GEM to join T.S. 26. *0930Z FANDANGO and BARFOSS for Marshall. 1800Z M.Ls. 1006 and 1041 Lagos (Nig). (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, G.C., 1830Z/30 to Admty etc).

** See previous page.*

Air R/C
Dakar
discontinued.

Following from Chiefs of Staff. Ref. your O/57139 cipher 29th Nov. to War Office. In view of incident reported in your telegram you should cease flying routine R/C over Dakar forthwith.

2. We are informing General Eisenhower of this decision, asking him at the same time to apply to us if he considers any special air R/C necessary in the future. See my immediately following telegram.

(Air Min. T.O.O. 1835Z/30 to G.O.C. in C. West Africa).

Following is repetition of text of telegram despatched to General Eisenhower under Number 188, dated 1855Z/30. (Begins). G.O.C. in C. West Africa has informed us that R.A.F. R/C plane over Dakar was met by heavy and accurate A.A. fire on 27th Nov. 2. We have therefore instructed him to cease routine R/C over Dakar forthwith.

3. If you still require G.O.C. in C. to make any special R/C of Dakar, please let us know. (Ends).

(Air Min. T.O.O. 1917Z/30 to G.O.C. in C. West Africa).

N.C.X.Fs. 1630/28th Nov. Concur P.R.U. Dakar should be discontinued.

(D.O.D. (F) 2345A/30 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A.)

/U/B...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B

CAPE WARWICK and LE TIGER attacked possible submarine contact in 003° 04' N., 024° 38' W. at 1900Z/30th no apparent result, contact now lost (LE TIGER, 2000Z/30).

BRIDGEWATER
convoy.

See p. 1235A

Left convoy at 1830Z in 009° 13' N. 026° 29' W. course 268° speed 8 knots. ARMERIA Endurance with convoy dusk 4th. MORRIS DANCE dusk 5th. Your 1837Z/30th acknowledged. My S. of A. 10 knots. Would suggest with steady N.E. wind and probable currents setting S.E. that sweep should also be made to the southward of position of the sinking. Fuel Endurance will allow date of arrival Freetown 9th Dec. Weather. (BRIDGEWATER, 2251Z/30 to R.A.W.A.F.)

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- TASSIA, suspicious. Greek Barque TASSIA 250 tons under Greek flag believed to be S/M decoy ship with German crew operating in Aegean.
(Capt.S.1. 0033B/30 to G.S.PAPANICOLIS (R) C. in C.Med).
- French S/M. Have despatched GOTH, S.O., ELBURY, FILEY BAY, towards position 37.00 N. 00.10 W. where they should contact damaged French S/M about 0800A/30 to escort her to Oran.
(F.O.I.C.Oran 0045A/30? to N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H, Force H.(R) BERMUDA).
- Convoy "Mayfair" A/C. Following has been read:- "Mayfair" being shadowed by 1 enemy A/C*097° 15 knots.
(QUEEN EMMA, 0515/30)
* 37.14 N, 6.05 E.
- UNA. Hunting in position B and D diving now in position 036.40 N. 013.12 E.
(UNA 0530A/30 to Capt.S.10).
Well done, expect you at R/V at 1028A/1st December. 4
→ British M.T.Bs arriving Malta 0800A/1st will be warned of your approach.
(Capt.S.10. 0821A/30 to UNA).
- U/B. One enemy S/M in 32.17 N. 34.46 E.
(Local C/S MAT 0820/30 to Local C/S WLI)
- Mines Palermo. 6 Magnetic mines laid night 29th/30th in entrance to Palermo.
(V.A.Malta, 0835A/30, to C. in C.Med, N.C.X.F.(R) F.O.I.S., Cdre.Algiers).
- Movements. Arrivals 29th Nov. ANTWERP, WELSHMAN, WHITEHAVEN, , CROMARTY, BOSTON, Departures 29th November. SOUTHERN SEA, L.C.Ms.54, 57, 83.
M.L.No.358, GLOXINIA, DELPHINIUM, WELSHMAN, Greek Dest.SPETSAI.
(S.O.(I) Alex. 0926B/30 to Admty, C. in C.Med).
- M.T.Bs. M.T.Boats 266, 268, 315 (?316) leave Ras al Hilil 1300B/30th for Malta passing through position 3 miles N.W. Tolmeita for departure (?escort) thence as in N.O.I.C. Malta's 1716A/29th (N.T. in W.R) Keep constant watch on Admiral's wave shifting to read M.D. routine.
(V.10.0938B/30 to N.O.I.C.Malta (R) A.I.G.72, R.N.G.Hq.M.E.Hq. R.A.F. M.E. F.O. 15th C.S.).
- P.51. My 1154/29th. In view of Capt.(S) 10 1856/29th, not to all addressees, intend holding P.51.

/for....

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30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd

P.51. for the time being.
Contd. (Capt.S.8. 0940A/30 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admiralty.
F.O.(S) V.A.Malta, C. in C.Med, Capt.(S) 10,
V.A.Gibraltar).

Enemy P.C. and S. of one small vessel 37.30 N.12.00 E.
Unit. 180° 8 knots.
(A/C C/S U5 L/D 1109A/30 to Hal Far).

Landing 1600/29th from Cdre. Algiers (N.T. in W.D.)
Craft. Intend to sail L.C.P.(L) 545, 572, 574, 577,
See p. 1208 763, 798, L.C.A. 233, 453, 212, in company with
M.M.S. 65, 70, 85, 114, at 1730A Monday E.T.A.
(Philippeville?) 1000A/1st. E.T.A. Bone 1900A/1st passing
(?approx) (?1 mile) Salient Point S. of A. 8 knots. Motor
minesweepers wireless watch 1579 K/CS and single operating
periods on Gib.broadcast. Code word "Spangles". Request
fighter protection until dusk and at dawn.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1155A/30 to F.O. I.S. (R) N.O.I.C. Philippeville,
N.O.I.C. Bone, Cdre. Algiers).

S/Ms. S/Ms are not to pass through QBB 255 until
further orders are signalled.
(Capt.S.10. 1213A/30 to S/Ms on patrol(R)
N.C.X.F., Capt.(S) 8, V.A.Malta).

French About 8 French S/Ms escaped from Toulon may
S/Ms. arrive North African Ports in near future.
If identity is satisfactorily established these
S/Ms should not be treated as hostile. A.O.C.
Eastern Command pass to R. A.F. Authorities.
(N.C.X.F. 1317A/30 to S. and A. in Area G.(R) A.O.C. Eastern
Air Command).

M.N.B.D.O. Your CZ/2013 of 25th Nov. para 2. Note M.N.B.
D.O. 2 is being prepared for despatch in WS
26. If it is decided to do this we will
require additional allotment of shipping as most undesirable to
alter current priorities given in my SD/70660 of 11th Nov.(not
passed to W.R.).
(C. in C.M.E. No.T.O.O. Recd.1320 to W.O.).

State of Ships Amendments to A.T.1752/29 and 2330/28.
at Toulon. (incorporated)
(D.D.I.C.1325A/30 to F.O.C.N.A, N.C.X.F. etc).

/Air R/C....

MOST SECRET

1144A/30 November.

MOST SECRET**M E S S A G E****I N**

From: Capt. (S) 8th Sub. Flotilla Date: 30.11.42.

Recd. 2001

NAVAL CYPHER 3(S) by T/P

Addressed: Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANTSubmarine situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000Z/
30th.

- (1) H.M.S. URSULA, in Gulf of Genoa.
- (2) H.M.S. TIGRIS, within 20 miles 38 01 07 30 East.
- (3) H.M. Sub. P.54,36 36 North 03 03 West on the surface to arrive Gibraltar 1200/1st 8 knots routed 5 miles from Spanish Coast.
- (4) H.M.S. STURGEON, 37 20 North 01 22 West proceeding 5 miles from Spanish Coast to arrive Gibraltar 1100/2nd December 7 knots.
- (5) H.M.S. THRASHER, 37 36 North 001 18 West proceeding 10 miles from Spanish Coast to arrive Gibraltar 1100 2nd December 10 knots.
- (6) H.M. Sub. P.222, 36 22 North 04 35 West 8 miles from Spanish Coast to proceed direct Cape Palos 8 thence 65 11 knots.
- (7) H.M.S. STURGEON H.M.S. THRASHER H.M. Sub. P.222 all diving by day 2½ knots.

1144A/30

Advance copy sent D.C., D.C.D.(T)
D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim

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.A./S.W.

Hd. of M.

D.

I.P.(2)

D.T.D.(M)

F.O.S. by courier

Ad. Ramsay (4)

D. of P.(Q)

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Air R/C. Visuals fore noon 30th Nov.
 1. Cagliari - 6 S/MS, 4 M/Ss, numerous small craft.
 2. Bizerta - 4 M/Ss, numerous small craft.
 3. Tunis - 2 small M/Ss.
 4. Sousse - empty, 2 block vessels in entrance.
 5. Messina - 5 cruisers, 1 destroyer, 1 M/S.
 6. Naples - 3 Battleships, 4 Cruisers, various destroyers and M/Ss.
 7. Palermo - 1 cruiser, 3 destroyers, 2 M/ss.
 (V.A. Malta 1351A/30 to C. in C. Med, N.C.X.F. etc).

FORMIDABLE FORMIDABLE has defective main steam pipe joint defect. in centre unit which requires remaking at early date. I have approved of this work being carried out to be completed by 0800/3rd December.

Cleaning of 2 boilers each over 750 hours on berthing (corrupt group) being undertaken concurrently to be completed 2359/3rd December. Owing to defective gearing on starboard unit, power of which has by Admiralty decision been reduced half maximum loaded torque FORMIDABLE's full speed is thus restricted 22 knots pending completion joint and boiler cleaning.

(S.O. Force H. 1355A/30 to N.C.X.F.(R) FORMIDABLE).

BACHI. Sagunto departure 28th p.m. BACHI, Barcelona, Iron Ore for Italy. Am informed all BACHI ships are now at Barcelona awaiting orders except MANUCHU in dry dock Valencia. (Valencia T.H.I. 1400/30 to Admiralty)(W.R.Note:- Passed C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.S.)

→P.311. P.311 entering harbour, regret panic. (Capt.S.10.1415A/30 to C. in C.Med. N.C. X.F.(R) Capt.(S) 1. Capt.(S) 8.).
See p. 1244

S/MS. →Arrival P.311, P.44, departure P.35. (V.A. Malta 1436A/30, to Admty, F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med, Capt (S) 1st, Capt.(S) 8th.)

P.42. Intensive and accurate anti-submarine activity enemy A/S activity. in this area indicates either signals compromised or most efficient enemy R/DF and/or A.S.V. organization along coast. Have withdrawn 4 torpedoes left. (P.42. 1557A/30 to Capt.(S) 10, (R) N.C.X.F.) Reply: Capt.S.10. 1150A/1.

Algiers From Eisenhower. 2. Naval. Intelligence. French fleet. P.R.U. Toulon 1300/28 shows following ships damaged or sunk:- PROVENCE, STRASBOURG, DUNKERQUE: 3 8" cruisers, 1 6" cruiser, all damaged; 13 large destroyers and 10 other destroyers sunk. 13 S/MS on longer visible. (Question sunk). There is no

/news....

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War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Algers news of fate of French units in Tunisia.
 Intelligence. → French S/M IRIS reported at Barcelona November
 Contd. 28th. Italian fleet. No change of importance.
 U/Bs. Effort in West Med. has decreased
 considerably. Today there are probably not
 more than 4 West of 6° E. On 28th Nov. 1 of our destroyers
 sunk a U/B off Bone. Stop Press, French S/M arrived Nov. 29th
 from Toulon.
 (Algiers 1610Z/30 to Abfor).

FURIOUS Ref. FURIOUS 1357/28th one JU.88 shot down
 enemy A/C by fighter combined with Fleet A/A fire at
 destroyed. 1029/28th in a position to 038° 18' 30" N. 002°
 32' East.
 (?RINGWAY 1621A/30 to N.C.X.F.).

IRIS. French S/M IRIS now at Barcelona required to
see p. 1231 depart for Oran at end of servicing hours which
 should be about daylight 1st December. Request
 safe passage, and such escort as can be arranged. Exact time
 of her departure will be signalled later.
 (F.O.C.Oran 1625/30 to N.C.X.F. (R) Force H.)

IRIS Every encouragement should be given to French
 (French S/M IRIS to sail for Gibraltar or Oran. She
 S/M). should be informed that several French S/Ms
 have already arrived at Oran and Algiers.
 Please report prospects.
 (N.C. X.F. 1704A/30 to Consul General Barcelona
 (R) Admiralty F.O.C.N.A.).

French S/Ms from Toulon. → French report following S/Ms escaped from Toulon
 SIDI FERRUCH, VENUS, DIAMANT, GLORIEUX, MARSOUIN,
 *CASABIANCA, Last two have arrived Algiers and
 *GLORIEUX at Oran. IRIS is at Barcelona.
 (N.C.X.F. 1705A/30 to Admiralty). * *see p. 1244*

H.D.M.Ls. H.D.M.Ls 1121 and 1132 are to be sailed for
 Bone with the convoy leaving Algiers (corrupt
 groups) Tuesday 1st Dec.
 Cdre. Algiers is to arrange a R/V for H.D.M.Ls 1221 and 1225 from
 Bougie for onward passage with this convoy and N.O.I.C. Bougie
 is to sail them accordingly.
 (F.O.I.S. 1721A/30 to Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie (R) N.O.I.C.
 Bone).

Naples R/C. Afternoon R/C, Naples covered, 3 battleships, 4
 cruisers.
 (V.A. Malta 1759A/30 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. etc)

/Bougie....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Bougie Situation Report. (a) 6 motor minesweepers arrived 2 for Bougie, 2 for onward passage to Philippeville and Bone. (b) Sailed 4 motor minesweepers as above also 9 landing craft for Bone. (c) DERWENT HALL a.m./1st December. OCEAN VALENTINE, and FOREST p.m./4th December. (d) Slight (?M.L.C) damage. (e) Nil. (f) A/T and A/B boom now in operation across main harbour entrance normally closing at night. Boom Defence Officer has improvised with existing materials and limited local resources. (N.O.I.C.Bougie 1825A/30, to F.O.I.S.).

Iraq Pipe line. Following from Chiefs-of-Staff No.C.O.S.(M.E.) 351. 1.In view new situation in Med most desirable to increase oil supply potential that area. This entails re-opening Iraq-Tripoli (S) pipe line. 2.Petroleum Division estimate this can be done within three or four months with some military assistance in personnel and transport. 3.Proposal will involve some military commitment for protection of pipe line and pumping stations. 4.We approve proposal in principle, but request your comments urgently before giving formal decision. (Air Min. 1827Z/30 to C. in C.M.E.).

North Africa Airfields. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. COS(W) 373. We consider that rapid organization of chain of airfields in North Africa and particularly in Tunisia of paramount importance on which successful re-opening of Med. to Military traffic and launching of future Med operations will largely depend. 2.We suggest that Combined Chiefs of Staff should call for report from General Eisenhower on his programme and timetable for North African airfield development and as to any assistance he requires from U.S.A. or U.K. by special personnel or material. (Air Min 1900Z/30 to Britman, Washington).

U.S.Med Amphibious Force. Personal for 1st S.L. Following received (begins Eisenhower from Marshall. A tentative proposal has been received from the Navy Dept. to establish a Med Amphibious Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. This force would comprise naval elements necessary to operate and maintain amphibious units consisting of transports cargo vessel, landing ships and landing craft that may be assigned for U.S.Amphibious operations in Med. Area. C. in C. U.S.Fleet would be responsible for the organisation, equipment, maintenance and operating of the naval elements of this force. The purpose of the proposed organisation is to provide the Theatre Commander the facilities for the movement of such Amphibious Trained Army Units as may be necessary for further operations in the Med.area. The initial organization would be set up on or about December 1st 1942. *It would eventually of the necessary headquarters, such vessels,* landing ships

/and....

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

U.S. Med and landing craft as may be assigned by the U.S.
Amphibious Navy to the North African area.
Force. Your recommendations are desired to be used as
Contd. the basis for War Dept. action in the event a
formal proposal of the project is made by the
Navy Dept. T.O.O. 0724/30 (Ends)

2. I am taking this up with Gen. Eisenhower tomorrow Tuesday.
(N.C.X.F. 1930A/30 to Admiralty).
* - * as decyphered.

TROOPER. Steer 162° at 12 knots. Further orders follow
at midnight.
(Capt. S.10. 1945A/30 to TROOPER (R) S/Ms on
Patrol, N.C.X.F.).

Movements Algiers arrival (MANXMAN?) from Eastwards,
Algiers. DEPTFORD, MARIGOLD, from Oran, two French S/Ms
MARSOUIN, CASABIANCA. Departure Sunday, to
Gibraltar BERMUDA, Monday to Bone. DEPTFORD.
Eastwards, AURORA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, *QUIBERON,
*QUENTIN. *
(Cdre. Algiers. 2017A/30 to Admiralty (R) N.C.X.F.
F.O.I.S.)

TRITON. Regret to report Greek S/M TRITON must be
considered lost as she is now 5 days overdue and
has been claimed by name by Axis. My 1400/30
concerning possible compromise of Books refers. S.(1) is
requested to report British Casualties direct.
(C. in C. Med 2028B/30 to Admty, (R) S.I, F.O.S.)

Malta Air A.I 140 30th Nov. C.S.R. Night 29/30th. November.
Report. No enemy air activity. 2 Beaufighters carried
out intruder patrols over Pantellaria to
intercept enemy transit aircraft but saw no
enemy A/C airborne. 1 Beaufighter shot up and extinguished
a searchlight on Pantellaria.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2045/30).

S/M Reports. 1. P.212 2nd part of patrol no sightings.
2. P.46 (?reports) no sightings off Burator
Sirte except small westbound tug few guns hits
causing only superficial damage. 9 laden M.L.Cs and much
road traffic westbound.
3. P.311 satisfactory passage, some activity and depth charges
near 2 Brindisi ineffective.
4. P.44 reported at 0737A/21st in position 020° Burat light
buoy one mile firing 4 torpedoes at "Santa Rosa" Class U/B
with gun removed steering 265° range 2000 T.A. 100 missed. At
1340A/21 ? U/B, left harbour P.44 waiting 3000 yards 060° from
buoy enemy's navigational alteration on clearing took him over
P.44. At 1745A, P.44 entered harbour on surface firing 12
rounds at schooner some hits and 12 rounds at pier head and
small steamer, some seen to hit.

1245

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.S/M
Reports.
Contd.

5. Off Cape Misurata by moonlight at 0544A/23rd engaged with guns from astern what was thought to be 3 tugs with lighter in tow but proved to be Flak barge escorted by one E/B. Heavy counter fire followed by depth charges. At 0150A/26th in 032.24, 012. 33 having attacked 4000 tons M/S course 300°? speed 13 put deeper by escort and fired later on 175 track both torpedoes missed. Submerged attack by moonlight. (Capt.S.10. 2101A/30 to C. in C.Med.N.C.X.F.(R) Capt.S.1, Capt. S.8. V.A.Malta).

Malta Air
Report.

Night 29/30th Nov. 1 special Wellington on shipping R/C patrolled from Marittimo to Cavoli but made no sightings. Wellingtons made 5 sorties to attack Bizerta Docks. In first attack 1840 hours to 1922 hours 4 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 8000 feet scoring hits near fuel tanks and buildings in dock area. 4000 lb bomb burst on North Quay 500 yards from harbour entrance. In second attack from 0100 to 0155 hrs 1 Wellington dropped bombs from 9000 feet scoring hits near fuelling jetty fuel tanks and goods station. Adverse weather conditions made observation of further results impossible. Flak from 6 heavy batteries was encountered and 6 searchlights were exposed. 6 successful Beaufort Sorties were made from 1945 to 0055 hours to lay mines off Palermo Harbour. 4 flares were dropped and 6 1500 lb. magnetic mines were laid from 500 feet at entrance to Harbour. Intense light and heavy A/A from Harbour and North of Town was encountered. Several searchlights from Trapani and Marittimo were exposed. 30th November. 2 Beaufighters 1 carrying bombs despatched to attack southbound enemy M/V 1200 tons sighted by Baltimore on shipping R/C at 1005 hours. Found M/V 1341 hours 315° Pantellaria 2 miles approaching Pantellaria Harbour. Beaufighter dropped 2 250 lb GP bombs 3 seconds delay from mast height scoring direct hits followed by terrific explosion on M/V. Vessel last seen belching large columns of black and white smoke. Intense Flak was encountered from Pantellaria defences and 2 ME.109s attempted to intercept Beaufighters but both A/C returned safely. 1 Beaufighter slightly damaged by striking funnel of M/V with starboard propellor. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2126/30, 2130/30, 2135/30).

Force X.
Situation
Report 25.

1. Force Q. proceeding Bone in readiness for offensive sweep in Bizerta area night 1/2nd Dec.
2. Algiers. *MANXMAN arrived 1400/30th Nov. having successfully laid mine-fields believed unobserved off Cani Rocks. No incidents (except) brush with E/Bs in Galita Channel. French S/Ms MARSOUIN and CASABIANCA arrived 30th Nov. *See pp 1244 91246
3. 13th M/S.F. transferred to command of S.O.I.S.
4. N.A. Madrid reports French S/M LE GLORIEUX left Valencia 29th Nov for Oran. Consulate Barcelona who reported presence of French S/M IRIS has been instructed to encourage her to sail for Gib. or Oran. See pp 1242
5. A/C from Malta laid 8 magnetic mines night of 28/29 outside La Goulette Tunis and 6 night of 29/30 in entrance to Palermo. (N.C.X.F. 2215A/30 to Admty).

/HERO....

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30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- HERO. Admiralty 1910/25. (Send HERO to U.K. via Malta if fit, otherwise, via Cape). HERO is being sent via Cape.
(C. in C.Med. 2220B/30 to V.A.M.(R) Admty).
- Algiers Air Report. MS 5068.
Part 2. My 2040/30 (No Part 1).
Report for period 28th Nov now received.
Hudson A/S escorted dawn to 1417 hours convoy (T.E.5 or T.E.2 corrupt) At 1215 hours 6 JU.88s seen to attack. Convoy at position 36.58 N. 5.25 E. Hudsons sent on a help convoy codeword at 1316 hours saw explosion of M/V which sank 1430. No fighter escort before attack at 1335. 1 Ju 88 shadowing convoy 1420 hrs. 1 Spitfire escorting convoy. Report for period 29th Nov. 2 sweeps by 4 Hudsons over various areas 0825 hours to 1600 hours. U/B attacked in position ? 38.15 N. 3.23 E. at 1155 hours estimated 2 hits. 1 Swordfish escorted Monitor ROBERTS to Algiers.
End of Part 2 Part 3 follows.
(E.A.C.Algiers 2230A/30).
- Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 3 M/Vs 4 destroyers, 40.05 N.14.05 E. 200° 12 knots. Have obtained ASV contact in position 40.15 N. 13.55 E. probably surface vessel, 8.
(A/C W6F Duty P. 2300A/30 to A.H.Q.Malta).
- TRIBUNE. Am sick, temperature symptoms indicate gastric influenza possible dysentery. Withdrew at 2001A/30th 40 miles 330° for 24 hours to adopt sweating treatment.
(TRIBUNE 2302A/30 to Capt.(S) 10 (R) Capt(S) 8,)
- * MANXMAN E/Boats. MANXMAN encountered an E.Boat at 2014/29th in position 095° Galita Lighthouse 14 miles. There may well be a standing patrol in Magor Area.
(Inshore Squadron 2321A/30 to 12 C.S.(R) N.C.X.F.).
- * See previous page.

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

2225/30th November

From: PRU Benson.

Date 30.11.42.

Recd. 2345

P/L BY T/P

Addressed: Admiralty, Air Ministry, Whitehall, Bomber Coastal Fighter Int. Army Co-operation Commands, Medmenham, 8th USAC.

EMERGENCY. NCWT.

30/Nov. G/983 PRU sortie C/649 dated 30/Nov. time 1130 hours shows:-
 Toulon at 1115 hours all port and dockyards north and east of and including Port Lagoubran jetties obscured by thick smoke. Only source of smoke that is definitely discernible is Suffren class cruiser at Port Lagoubran jetties which was seen on fire on 28/11. Where visible shipping appears unchanged since that date Marseilles since 28/11 three M/Vs 415 ft 320 ft and 260 ft. arrived while one M/V 330 ft. departed. Other shipping shows usual internal movement and tanker T508 left dry dock and now alongside in President Wilson Basin. Five troops of Flat wagons at railway sidings. Some increase in total rolling stock at yards. Etang de Berre since 19/11 two tankers one M/V 350/400 ft. and two small M/Vs departed while one M/V 460 ft. arrived otherwise no change in shipping present. La Cictat no naval units present in port. Merchant shipping present comprises one M/V 340 ft. in dry dock and three vessels 220/230 ft. fitting out. Hull of line 610 ft. on building slips but work not proceeding on her. Istres aerodrome 25 A/C visible of which 24 JU.88 and one HE.111. Le Patis aerodrome 10 small A/C visible. Marnonville aerodrome one JU.52 and 39 small A/C visible of which at least 17 probably FW.190. Berre seaplane base 2 Breguet Bizerte two Loire 70 and 17 Latécoere 298 present. Hyeres aerodrome no A/C visible. Bourges aerodrome 11 A/C visible located as follows - 7 JU.88 in Eastern dispersal areas, 3 JU.88 and 1 HE.111 on Eastern perimeter of landing field.

2225/30

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1st Lord | Ops. (3) | D. T. D. (C) | |
| 1st S.L. (2) | O.D. (5) | D. of P. (3) | I.P. (3) |
| V.C.N.S. | O.I.C. (3) | D.A/S.W. | W.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | D.H.A.D. | Press | D.E.W.D. (3) |
| A.C.F.S. (T) | D.H.C.D. | Ad. Ramsey (4) | |
| C.N.S. | C.C.L.S. | Ad. Blake (2) | |
| A.C.N.A.S. | D.N.I. (5) | M. (2) | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.T.D. (4) | Capt. Marton | |
| Capt. Pin. | D.T.D. (R) | D. of P. (Q) | |

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War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Reunion operations. F.S. LÉOPARD 1930/29 Nov.
Take no action pending further instructions.
Have you sufficient destroyers to screen a force including ILLUSTRIOUS without withdrawing destroyers from the Cape?

(Duty Capt. for D.O.D. (F.) Approved 1st. S.L. 0037A/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Mauritius.)

Your 0037/30 received via BIRMINGHAM. Only 3 effective destroyers available at Kilindini. These would be sufficient screen for ILLUSTRIOUS who with HAWKINS is the only force which can be made immediately available.

*2) Have already diverted HAWKINS to Diego Suarez arriving Dec. 1st. to be available to transport troops from there to Reunion if required.

(C. in C. E.F. 0721Z/30 to Admty.)

The Island surrendered at 0445Z/30. Cancel my 1930Z/29.

(F.S. LÉOPARD 0625Z/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Mauritius. Admty.)

WEST
POINT.

See p. 1248B

Following is a repetition of my 0928/29th (previously received incomplete)

Arrival U.S.S. WEST POINT. (Ends).

(S.O.(I.) Bombay 0621Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

BENGAL
(Raider
action
11 Nov.)

Your request for check and repeat.

Following is a repetition of my 0554Z/27th (Begins) Admty. from F.O.C.R.I.N.

Release of BENGAL story as an Admty. communique without simultaneous issue here as proposed in your 1715/18 has placed Indian Information Authorities in a most embarrassing position.

T.O.O. 0554Z/27th. (Ends).

(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0725Z/30 to Admty.)

GLENROY
JANUS

Your 1421Z/27. JANUS is in company with GLENROY both bound for Durban. JANUS requires fuel at Kilindini. In anticipation of your concurrence am sailing JANUS and GLENROY in company to provide anti-submarine escort, both calling at Kilindini en route for Durban. E.T.A. Aden 1400Z/30.

(Cdre. Aden 0901Z/30 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Durban. Admty.)

Overdue
ships.

EMPIRE GUIDON due Aden 14th Nov. and PYRACYNOLDS due Karachi 20th Nov. both from Durban have not arrived.

(S.O.(I.) Colombo 1128Z/30 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival 30th Nov. SPRINGTIDE. Departure 30th Nov. HAWKINS, FROBISHER.

(?C.O.I.S. Kilindini 1129Z/30 to Admty.)

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War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

COLOMBIA

Your 0455/29th. Reasons for proposing return of COLOMBIA to Colombo are fully appreciated. It is not however possible to make an immediate decision as this dependant on other questions of policy now under consideration.
(C. in C. E.F. 1131Z/30 to B.S.O. (R) F.O. Ceylon. COLOMBIA. Admty.)

TAKLIWA

E. African Command have 1200 personnel to move from Madagascar to Mombasa. Propose TAKLIWA make one quick trip this purpose before embarking A.A.P.C. for Suez then proceed India for docking. Agreed.
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini 1141Z/30 to P.S.T.O. Egypt. D of S.T. (?) C. in C. E.F. P.S.T.O. India).

Movements

Departure 0647Z BIRMINGHAM. 1130Z SUTLEJ. JUMNA. (S.O.I.) Bombay 1314Z/30 to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.)
Arrival 0530Z/30 CARADOC.
(N.O.I.C. Bahrein 1420Z/30 to D.C. in C. E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Hormuz. S.N.O. Persian Gulf. etc.)

Water
Carrier,
Persian
Gulf.

S.N.O. P.G. urgently requires a water carrier of maximum 1500 tons capacity for ferrying service between Basra and Kher Kuwai. Request you will consider the possibility of taking up a suitable ship for this purpose.
(C. in C. E.F. 1729Z/30 to P.S.T.O. India (R) S.N.O. Persian Gulf. F.O. Ceylon. Admty.)

MOST SECRET

INDIA, TROOP SHIPS

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1019Z/30th November IN

FROM: P.S.T.O. India DATE: 1.12.42
RECD: 0110-

Naval Cypher A.3 by W/T

ADDRESSED: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Repeated
D. of S.T., F.O.Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N.,
N.C.S.O. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Hormuz.

IMPORTANT

Cancel my 0558 20th November and amendment. Following is a revised and up to date programme of troop shipping.

(A) B.P.60½ from Karachi 2 personnel ships ERINFURA, NEURALIA sailed 30th November.

(B) B.A.34 from Bombay one personnel ship NEVASA sailing 3rd December.

(C) B.P.61 from Bombay 3 personnel ships ROHNA, LANCASHIRE and DILWARA sailing 3rd December.

(D) B.P.62 from Bombay 2 personnel ships KOSCIUSZKO, EL MADINA sailing 6th December.

(E) Karachi to Bidi BUNDER VARSOVA with 300 Polish families and 400 troops for Bombay sail 6th December.

(F) B.A.35 from Bombay 2 personnel ships EGRA DUNERA about 10th December.

(G) B.P.63 from Bombay one personnel ship RAJULA sails 14th December from Karachi one personnel ship CAP ST.JACQUES sails 16th December.

/(H) Karachi ...

1248^B

~~TOP SECRET~~

2.

(H) Karachi to Mombasa CITY OF PARIS
DEVONSHIRE with Polish families sail 8th
December.

(I) Bombay to San Francisco via Pacific
WEST POINT empty sails 4th December.

see p. 1247 →

F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to ARMINIA.

1019Z/30

Advance copy Duty Capt.,
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)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- D. of S.T. (2)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- I.P. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- W.D.
- Admiral Blake (2)
- Hd. of M. (13)

LAM

30.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

QUEEN MARY. C. in C. U.S. Fleet has quoted proposed sailing date of QUEEN MARY from New York as 4th Dec.
2. To avoid (a) serious overlapping of disembarkation of QUEEN MARY in A.T.30 and her embarkation in W.S.25 W. with other movements in the Clyde and (b) holding W.S.25 W. at Suez it is most important that she should not arrive Clyde until 13/12.
3. Request she be sailed from New York accordingly.
4. Agreed. Please pass to B.A.S. Washington for D.D. Mov. (P). (D.S.T. 0012A/30 to B.A.D.)
Your 0012/30. Arrangements made.
(B.A.D., 2349Z/30 to D.S.T.)

→ K.14 E.T.A. Swept Channel 1200Z/2nd Dec.
(K.14 0045Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Bermuda (R) B.A.D. Cominch).

QUINTE Afloat proceeding inward at slow speed 1 mile
(grounded East of Ciboux Light.
29/11). (QUINTE, 0055Z/30 to Cape Breton C.C.O.)

S.C.111 Your 2132Z/29th and 0230Z/30 (N.T. in W.R.)
S.C.111 departing to R/V for position J at 1100Z
30th. S. of A. 7 knots. At present only six ships
in touch with Cdre.
(GEORGETOWN, 0448Z/30 to C.O.A.C.)

BARBERRYS C. in C. W.A. 1054/29th*BARBERRYS damaged by
gale during night Nov. 25th proceeded to St.
Johns' N.F. Inward distress signal received at
1818? Z (Message incompletely received.
(C.T.U. 24.1.6 ?/30th to C. in C. W.A. (R)
Connav etc. Recd. 0606/30).
*(Information concerning BARBERRYS situation and
names of stragglers).

M.T.Bs. Sailed M.T.Bs. 334, 336, 337, 342 in accordance
with my 1552/27th Nov. S.O. M.T.B. 337.
(2) Listening watch by 2 boats simultaneously on
500 k/cs S.O. only can transmit. Call signals
and S.Ps.
(F.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0822Q/30 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

R.15 U.S. S/M Notice. Modify my 1513/29th. ~~N.P.M.W.D.~~
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0911/30).

Movements 1800 G.M.T./30 Nov.
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed
S/M K.14 29½° N. 59° W. 299° 9
GLENEARN 36° N. 29° W. 330° 16
(D.O.D. (F) 0959Z/30 to Opnav (R) Comnavu).

/ENGELMAN...

1250

War Diary.30.11.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

ENGELMAN Departure 29th Nov. U.S.A. Transport ENGELMAN to sea.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1108QR/30 to Admty).

U/B Guantanamo W/T reports submarine sighted 020° 28' N., 078° 21' W. 0530 G.C.T. 30th.
(Kingston Jamaica, 1131R/30 to Admty).

B.Y.M.S. Sailing B.Y.M.S.15 and 16 further delay due to weather.
(F.O.N.F., 1252Z/30 to Admty).

H.X. 216 P.C. and S. 057° 51' N., 027° 48' W.
(B) 094° 9½ knots. 12 ships still figure unaccounted for. R/V Dec. 1st 009° (X) 43, Dec. 2nd 008° (U) 50. U.S.S. DUANEAIM (DUANE)
Weather report. ^{WILLIAMS}
(U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS, 1301Z/30 to C. in C. W.A.
(R) C.T.G. 24.6. etc).

Instructions for Neutral shipping. Your 1856/27. Navy Dept. is examining possibility of midifying approach lanes so that Gothenberg traffic can comply without alteration of routes. Meantime this traffic may be treated as an exception.
2. Understand Swedish Legation here has been kept fully informed.
3. Whole question is pending a decision on transfer of control ports (my 2049/25 refers) subject to which it may be necessary to negotiate revision of existing Gothenburg traffic routes.
(B.A.D., 1355Z/30 to Admty).

Tankers, Trinidad. Would weekly or bi-weekly report of actual stocks Admiralty fuel (tanker message) help to avoid diversions of tankers at sea? Daily record of both companies kept in this office.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 1428Q/30 to Admty).

BURWELL, EYEBRIGHT. F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1541/10 Oct. (Completion date BURWELL 27th Nov. subject delivery brass plate for bridge) Request information whether BURWELL will be available to sail with T.U.24.1.11 escorting O.N.154 on 18th Dec. Otherwise propose to sail EYEBRIGHT from here to augment.
Grateful for early reply.
(F.O.N.F., 1508Z/30 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1508/30th. BURWELL will be available for O.N.S.154.
(C. in C. W.A., 2036Z/30 to F.O.N.F. (R)
Admty. N.O.I.C. Liverpool, C.T.G.24.7., BURWELL).

/Trinidad...

1251

30.11.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Trinidad
Convoys. Your 2141/27. Analysis of speeds since 18th
Sept. derived from Trinidad sailing Telegrams
as follows:-
T.11 and 15 10 knots. T.17 and 26 9½ knots.
T.21 9 knots. T.19 20, 22 8½ knots.
T.13 14, 16, 18, 23 8 knots. Speeds of T 12,
24, 25 not known.
(D.T.D., 1519A/30 to B.A.D.)

Shipping
Routes to
Cape. Your 1730Z/28 concur.
(Connav 1549/30 to Admty).

U/B
Positions. S/M estimate Nov. 30th and U.S. submarine notices.
(C.in C. U.S. Fleet 1615/30).

L.C.I.(L) 7 My 2012X/25th Nov. (2012/24 intended) L.C.I.(L) 7
has returned to Bermuda after losing contact
with remainder in bad weather and having
developed some defects. L.C.I.(L) 6 informed.
Further report will be signalled.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1702Z/30 to Admty).

Ships
Presumed
Lost. Your 1429/26. ALDINGTON COURT torpedoed and
sunk 31st Oct. NEWTON PINE overdue missing
and presumed lost by Enemy Action. My 1644/22.
AEGEUS - Greek, now presumed lost by Enemy Action.
(D.T.D., 1705A/30 to N.S.H.Q.)

CHURCHILL (?Commandant 6th U.S. N.D. Charleston) pass for
action Port Director Charleston S.C. Sail
CHURCHILL when ready to St. Johns N.F. via
D. 32.40 70.01, E. 39.30 61.36 F. 46.07 52.35.
thence destination. Advise all addressees
sailing time and S. of A.
(Connav, 1740/30 to Port Director Charleston
S.C.(R) C.E.S.F. etc).

T.A.G. 25 Arrival U.S. ship DONACONA. Departures U.S.
Destroyer BIDDLE, U.S. Ship TURQUOISE, U.S. ships
P.C. 545, P.C. 566, P.C. 568, escorting T.A.G. 25.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1822Q/30 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)

ATTACKER My 2142/11. Ship is now expected to be ready to
sail from San Francisco p.m. Friday 4th Dec.
(B.A.R.M. 1826Z/30 to Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet
(R) S.B.N.O. W.A., N.S.H.Q. ATTACKER).

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30.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ATTACKER
Contd. (1) On sailing from San Francisco keep following W/T watch.
(A) San Francisco Fox broadcast shifting to Balboa Fox broadcast until arrival entering South East Pacific Area. (B) Rugby G M routine (all)
(C) 500 k/cs.
(2) On sailing from Balboa keep W/W in accordance with A.F.O. "S" series one/42.
(3) Report by signal before sailing anticipated time of entering South East Pacific Area, and shift W/W at that time.
(B.A.D., 2235Z/30 to ATTACK(ER?) (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, Com. West Sea Fron. Com Panama Sea Fron).

Position of Convoy Escort. Ref. W.T.C.I.s Part 3401 l. Both C.O.A.C. and F.O.N.F. are strongly of the opinion that if only one escort is available for escorting a small convoy the position zigzagging ahead affords better A/S and R.D.F. protection than that laid down in NE 1.
2. N.S.H.Q. concurs with this view. A recent cast in point was the torpedoing of the Newfoundland ferry CARIBOU which was escorted by one "Bangor" minesweeper.
3. Request your early remarks.
(N.S.H.Q., 1945Z/30 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

R.16 U.S. S/M Notice. All times Z unless otherwise indicated. Advancing 110 miles first 12 hours R. 16 leaving St. Thomas 2100/1st proceeding course 187° until 10 miles W. of South West Cape Light St. Croix. Thereafter course 154°. On surface only in darkness.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2053/30 to Admty).

U/B Positions. Following is C.E.S.F's 1650/30. giving 1200Z December 1 submarine estimate.
(Comnav, 2101/30 to Admty).

APALOIDE Connav serial 29 and 30. Brazilian APALOIDE torpedoed sunk 22nd Nov. 13.11 N. 54.39 W.
(Connav, 2112/30 to Comnav).

Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. SS. MARPESSA stopped by sub. First, area 36.33 N., 63.55 W., 1400Z/8 June. U.45 type. Man painted port side conning tower tearing apart lobster. second, 36.33 N., 49.40 W. 0700Z/12 June. U.45 type skull cross bones on conning tower gun barrel and breech mechanism depressed to null. Sighting 1615Z/12 Oct. my 122125 Nov. changed to 10 Oct. Para. B. Sub. sighted 13.15 N. 61 W. 1810Z/30. Para. C. Plane sights sub. 05.15 N., 51.25 W., 1455Z/27. Surface craft sights sub 01.30 N., 34.16 W., 1010Z/30. Para. D. U.S.S. WAINWRIGHT attacks sound contact 36.12 N. 41.20 W., 0243Z/16.
(Cominch, 2116/30 to Admty for O.I.C.)

/U/B...

1253

War Diary.

30.11.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B O.N.149 D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 1300Z/30 and 1340Z/30 indicate U-boat within 100 miles of 53° 30' N., 27° W. (D.D.I.C., 2125A/30 to Escorts ON.149).

A.T.30 My 1932/19. Change sailing date of A.T.30 to Dec. 8th. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2150/30 to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty etc).

Convoy Escort Groups. Your 1824/29th. W.S.A. and M.S.M. agree neither large nor small tanker convoys could be assembled by 12th Dec. (2) Neither HAVELOCK nor WARWICK group could be spared before 11th and 17th Dec. respectively by which date they should return to New York from present commitments. Cominch will signal exact date of release after consulting C.E.S.F. (3) It might be possible to assemble 2 convoys 7 or 8 tankers each in Dutch West Indies towards end of Dec. to proceed U.K. via Azores breaking off ships for Gibraltar if required. Admty. pass to C. in C. W.A. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) (B.A.D. 2305Z/30 to Admty) See also 1715/1.

Australia & New Zealand.

BAGLEY 29th Nov. arrival Townsville U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY. (A.C.N.B., 0548Z/30 to Admty etc).

Situation. Digest Serial No. 312 Nov. 29th. One destroyer 2 merchant vessels arrived Buka Passage from South morning 29th and departed westerly course during afternoon leaving 2 merchant vessels previously reported. (2) Convoy 2 large vessels 3 smaller vessels reported 50 miles N.W. Buka Passage 0250/29 heading North East. (3) Little change Buna Gona area with Allied troops maintaining pressure. Some advance made in Gona area. (4) 4 destroyers sighted between Talasea and Cape Gloucester morning 29th heading Vitiaz Strait shadowed and attacked during day by strong forces of Fortresses. Several direct hits scored on one destroyer vicinity Talokiwa Island last seen listing badly and motionless another destroyer also hit and moving slowly. Force last reported during late afternoon heading N.E. 3 destroyers later observed 4° 50' S., 149° 55' E.

/at...

1254

30.11.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - contd.

Situation
Contd.

at 1530/29Z course 75° only 2 destroyers took evasive action third apparently damaged making only 10 knots.

(5) 3 Zeros intercepted Fortresses carrying out above attack during afternoon one Zero possibly

destroyed.

(6) Forces Beaufighters Bostons B.25s attacked Lae aerodrome early morning 29th. Many bombs in target area which was also heavily strafed but results unobserved due poor visibility.

(7) 12 Kittyhawks 6 Fortresses 3 Bostons attacked Gona area same morning in sundry ground operations, destroying buildings ammunition dump and starting fires.

(8) Unknown enemy aircraft dropped bombs Port Moresby area night 29/30 without effect.

(9) Four Zeros over Darwin at 26000 feet (five groups missing) shot down by A.A. fire.

(10) At least 18 Zeros operating from Lae Aerodrome 29th. Several other unserviceable Fighters and Bombers observed on drome during day.

(11) Several unidentified aircraft dropped bombs Milne Bay area early morning 29th without causing damage.

(12) ADELAIDE and Neth. Cruiser HEEMSKERCK intercepted German supply ship RAMSES en route German from Kobe via Batavia in Eastern Indian Ocean 28th. German ship scuttled by crew after hits by Allied gunfire. 10 Norwegians and 78 Germans captured. Allied vessels suffered no casualties.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 1300Z/30 to Admtty etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C., 1357A/30 1403A/30).