

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

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

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

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

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

War Diary.

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Italian
M.V.
CORTELLAZZO
sunk.

At 1427Z today EGRET escorting convoy K.M.F.4 in 43° 58' N., 20° 22' W. (about 500 miles W. of Finisterre) sighted the Italian blockade runner CORTELLAZZO. The ship altered course, but stopped and signalled a false name when QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT chased her, and she then hoisted the white flag. Owing to the state of the weather and lack of escort vessels EGRET ordered her to abandon ship and REDOUBT sank her in 43° 40' N. 20° 14' W. at 1707Z.

GLAISDALE and the escorts of convoy P.W.256 had an engagement with enemy E-boats in the early hours of today off Start Point. A/S trawler JASPER was torpedoed and sunk in 50° 10¼' N., 3° 48½' W., and M.L.184 was damaged and proceeded to Falmouth. A/S trawler CORNELIAN also received some damage. One or two E-boats may have been damaged.

The tankers ANTARKTIS, MAX ALBRECHT and SPEICHEREN were all seen in Ferrol at 1305A today. DOLFIJN was ordered to patrol in the Bay of Biscay and GURNARD was ordered to patrol as close as practicable to Ferrol.

The R.A.F. laid over 1000 mines last month, 500 being laid in one week. The effectiveness of these operations is shown by reports of the drain on the enemy's shipping.

North Atlantic.

QUEEN EMMA was unsuccessfully attacked by a submarine in 37° 13' N., 3° 32' E., at 2030A today.

~~SECRET~~ 2
1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

BRIDGEWATER, searching for survivors of SS. POLYDORUS (torpedoed 27 Nov) has picked up some survivors of CERINTHUS torpedoed on 9 Nov. in 12° 27' N., 27° 45' W.

It is reported that SS. MOUNT HELMOS was torpedoed, shelled and sunk at 0610/24 Nov. in 26° 38' S., 34° 58' E. She did not receive her diversion signal from C. in C. S.A. timed 1007/23 Nov.

Mediterranean.

There were intermittent air raids on Bone from 0100 to 0500 today. One merchant vessel was hit but no serious damage occurred.

MANXMAN
torpedoed.
by U. 375.

MANXMAN reported at 1702A that she had been torpedoed and stopped in 36° 39' N., 0° 15' E. (about 70 miles N.E. of Oran). PATHFINDER took her in tow at 2350 and proceeded towards Oran.

Further magnetic mines were laid at Bizerta and Tunis last night, and Wellingtons attacked Bizerta Docks and Trapani airfield and harbour. Beaufighters from Malta today are reported to have attacked, set on fire and blown up a 1000 ton southbound merchant vessel 3 miles south of Hammamet, though another report states that the vessel was seen at 0200/2, still blazing and exploding.

Operation
"Portcullis"

Convoy M.W.14 (4 ships ALCOA PROSPECTOR, YORBALINDA, SUFFOLK, GLENARTNEY to which a fifth, AGWIMONTE was added) left port Said this afternoon for Malta. ORION and 11 destroyers under Capt. (D) 12 form the escort. WELSHMAN left Alexandria at 0700/3 to overtake the convoy and proceed in company until dark on 3rd then to Malta direct.

2/112
see p. 97

Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS reports that she has sunk a 6,000 ton merchant ship and asks to be recalled from patrol on account of a defect.

War Diary.

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Black Sea.

N.L.O. Black Sea reports that Russian surface forces today sank a 10,000 ton tanker, two merchant vessels of 2000 to 3000 tons and probably sank the Rumanian gunboat, ^{CAPT. TANP.} DUMITRESCU and two R-boats in the western part of the Black Sea.

Australia & New Zealand.

Allied air attacks have compelled the Japanese to abandon direct crossing of the Coral Sea (Rabaul to Papua) and to creep along the coast of New Britain and New Guinea. Even on this route the enemy has suffered considerable losses. Since the action in the Solomon Islands area of 13 to 15 Nov. in which the Japanese losses were so heavy 2 destroyers have been sunk and a light cruiser and 3 destroyers hit by aircraft on the coastal route.

Four enemy destroyers located by air R/C off Cape Orford (S.E. coast of New Britain) this morning steering 250° were unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft today and tonight. One 100 lb. bomb hit was obtained on the bow of a destroyer.

HEEMSKERCK (Eastern Fleet) and ADELAIDE arrived at Fremantle today.

~~SECRET~~ 41.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Task Force 99. Task Force No. 99 hereby assigned for U.S. Navy ships operating under Comnavu. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1744/1 to Comnavu.)

Movements.

P.339 Clyde arrival P.339 escorted LA CAPRICIEUSE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0113A/1.)

JUNON. My 1721/30. Amend para (A) to read JUNON 65° 10' N 3° 25' E to Lerwick on surface, 9 knots. (F.O.S. 0151A/1 to Admty.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Area Iceland: BERWICK, SUFFOLK, 2 destroyers. Area Scapa: DUKE OF YORK, KING GEORGE V, CUMBERLAND, *GLASGOW, LONDON, NORFOLK, SHEFFIELD, 11 destroyers. * See p. 9. Area Rosyth: ANSON. Area Plymouth: ADVENTURE. Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, AURORA, ARGONAUT, CHARYBDIS, DELHI, SCYLLA, SIRIUS, 10 destroyers. Passage to U.K. BERMUDA, ARCHER. (D.O.D. (H.) 1313Z/1 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

W.A. Command. Situation at 2000A/1. Details. (C. in C. W.A. 1358A/1) See Lion Copy.

TUNA *See p. 4C* Your position estimated by R.D.F. 53° 5', 4° 54' at 1545. (Liverpool W/T 1545/1 to WHITE BEAR) If you meet 5 L.C.T. northbound to Holyhead warn them by V/S that they may meet TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR southbound tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 1730A/1 to POPPY, CAMELLIA, CAPE PORTLAND.)

S/M Positions. At 0800A/2. Details. (F.O.S. 1822A/1.) See Lion Copy.

BERMUDA. On parting company with STRATHAIRD proceed through R. 50° 02' N 15° 16' W. S. 54° 59' N 10° 00' W. T. 55° 25' N 08° 28' W. thence through the Minches to Scapa. (D.O.D. (H.) 1829A/1 to BERMUDA.)

MOST SECRET

4A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1358A/1st December.

IN

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Situation at 2000A/1/12/42

Section N.E.

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|----|
| PENELOPE | | Vicinity Oversay | To Scapa | 20 |
| E.N.08 | SAN BALELO SPURS DAMSLAY | Vicinity of Pentland Firth | To Loch Ewe | 9 |
| U.R.52 | ARAB HUGH WALPOLE ANNA LADY MADELEINE NORTHERN WAVE VIZALMA NORTHERN GEM | 58 24 05 48 | 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles thence 59 01 07 05 thence 61 51 15 00 | 8 |
| O.N.S.U.J. 150 | GAVOTTE | 57 27 06 55 | To R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles | 6½ |

Situation at 2000A/1/12/42

Section S.E.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|-----|
| TUNA | WHITE BEAR | Vicinity Smalls | To 180° Wolf Rock 10' | 12 |
| P.312 P.216 | FOXROT | 56 37 07 22 | To Clyde | 10 |
| PENELOPE | | Vicinity Oversay | To Scapa | 20 |
| LANCASTER | | 51 28 08 20 | To Milford | 10 |
| 5 Auxiliary Craft | | Vicinity Milford Haven | To Holyhead | 6 |
| ABERDEEN | | Sails Londonderry 0001A/2 | Northbound to Tyne | 10½ |
| O.N.S.C.150 | Unescorted | Sails Clyde 2300A/1 | 270° Oversay 6 miles | 7½ |
| O.N.S.150 | KIRKELLA | 53 46 04 15 | 270° Oversay 6' thence 55 30 15 02 | 7½ |
| Convoy | unescorted | 52 51 04 54 | Northbound | 8½ |
| R.U.50 | PAYNTER NORTHERN PRIDE | 55 21 06 13 | To Liverpool | 8 |
| | | 4 M/Vs NORTHERN PRIDE | to Clyde. | |
| O.N.S.M.150 | DERBY COUNTY HELLER II | 53 50 04 54 | 270° Oversay 6 miles | 6½ |
| M.K.S.2 | BLACK SWAN 1 Sloop 7 Corvettes | 55 20 09 03 | To 55 26 08 31 thence North Channel. | 9½ |
| O.N.S.U.J. 150 | GAVOTTE | 57 27 06 55 | To R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles | 6½ |

/Section N.W.

MOST SECRET

- 2 -

Situation at 2000A/1/12/42

Section N.W.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|--|----|
| Q.P.15.M. | MUSKETEER ECHO FORESTER IMPULSIVE BERGAMOT BRYONY BRITOMART HAZARD | 61 23 11 51 | To 60 01 10 15 thence 001° Butt of Lewis 7' | 9 |
| H.X.216 C.T.U. 24.1.5 (E) | FIRE Drake SUNFLOWER ALISMA PINK LOOSESTRIFE | 57 17 19 21 | To 56 57 14 48 thence 56 27 08 29 | 9½ |
| S.C.110 C.T.U. 24.1.11 | ST. LAURENT BATTLEFORD CHILLIWACK EYEBRIGHT NAPANEE SHEDIAC KENOGAMI U.S.S. SCHENCK U.S.S. BABBITT | 57 41 29 22 | To 56 28 08 32 | 7 |

Situation at 2000A/1/12/42

Section S.W.

| | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--|-----|
| GRAPH | | Patrolling vicinity | 43 35 18 40 | |
| 1 M/V | 1 Corvette | 41 40 14 32 | To 42 01 14 45 thence 49 02 14 46 | 6¼ |
| M.K.S.2 A | GERANIUM 7 Corvettes HYDERABAD | 42 28 14 46 | To 49 02 14 46 | 7½ |
| M.K.F.3 (E) | WESTON 1 Destroyer 4 Sloops ARCHER 1 Corvette | 54 30 12 21 | To 55 28 08 30 thence North Channel | 13½ |
| 1 M/V | DUNBAR | 43 12 19 33 | To 38 00 16 00 | 11 |
| K.M.F.4 | EGRET 3 Destroyers 1 Sloop 2 Corvettes | 43 22 20 06 | To 39 18 17 40 thence 36 10 13 15 | 12 |
| K.X.7 | KPAKOWIAK BLEASDALE LAUDERDALE MEMBERGAK | 50 52 10 57 | to 50 35 12 58 thence 46 00 14 00 | 7 |

4c

TOP SECRET

Section S.W.6 (contd.)

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|-------------|----------------|----|
| O.N.149 | BROADWAY | 50 38 30 32 | To 50 30 35 00 | 9½ |
| C.T.U. | SHERWOOD | | | |
| 24.1.12 | POLYANTHUS | | | |
| | MORDEN | | | |
| | PICTOU | | | |
| | PRIMROSE | | | |
| | ORILLIA | | | |

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----|
| K.M.S.4 | TAY | 45 05 16 00 | To 38 01 15 59 | 7½ |
| | 8 Corvettes | | | |
| | 4 Minesweepers | | | |

1358A/1

Advance copies 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.M.S.
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- D.N.I.(4)

MFG

MOST SECRET

4^D

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1822A/1st December.

IN

FROM: F.O.(S)

DATE: 1.12.42.

RECD: 1834

P/L BY SECRET T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

202.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/2nd December and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) P 216 and P 512 escorted by FOXTROT arriving Holy Loch from North Channel.

(B) TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR vicinity Hartland Point due vicinity Wolf Rock at 1800/2nd December thence unescorted dived by day through 48 degs. 04' north 06 degs. 01' west and 46 degs. 01' north 03 degs 01' west. *See p. 4.*

(C) SEALION 49 degs. 18' north 09 degs. 35' west dived by day to rendezvous in 180degs. Bishop Rock 15 miles with escort for onward passage to Falmouth.

(D) CLYDE 48 degs. 55' north 13 degs. 22' west dived by day through 49 degs. 10' north 13 degs. 22' W.
49 degs. 50' north 12 degs. 34' west and
49 degs. 50' north 09 degs. 01' west thence to rendezvous in 180degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles. *See p. 8*

(E) DOLFIJN vicinity 44 degs. 45' north 05degs. 30' W.

(F) GRAPH approximate position 45degs. 50' north 16degs. 20' west course 060degs. speed 12 knots routed through 47 degs. 01' north 13degs. 50' west at 2000 2nd December thence to northwards.

(G) JUNON 62 degs. north 01 degs. east probably on surface speed 9 knots for Lerwick.

(H) GURNARD 43 degs. 52' north 09degs. 20' west probably dived by day to Zone K 506.

1822A/1

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

A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Tim.
D.O.D. () (2)
D.O.D. () (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)
MFG D.T.D.(M)

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Engagement with E-boats JASPER sunk. CORNELIAN damaged. M.L. 184 damaged.</p> | <p>Investigate unidentified plot in 146° Start 9 at 0306, keeping clear of GLAISDALE's convoy in 190° Start 4 at 0300. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0315A/1 to TYNEDALE). E-boats in 170° 6 miles from Start Point, moving general direction 290°. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0439/1 to TYNEDALE, GLAISDALE) Proceed with any M.L.s in company to Dartmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0823/1 to CORNELIAN, ELLESMERE).</p> |
|--|--|

At 0250/1st, when convoy P.W.256, comprising 4 ships, one tug and tow, and one barge, with escorts GLAISDALE (S.O.) CORNELIAN, ELLESMERE, JASPER, SASEBO, and M.Ls. 184, 179, and 183 was in 168° Start 4, unidentified plots were reported in 158° Start 10. TYNEDALE left Plymouth at 0330 to investigate.

2. Between 0300 and 0345 further plots indicated presence of 3 or 4 groups of E-boats in positions about 8 miles S.E., 6 miles South, 11 miles S.S.W., and 11 miles W.S.W. of Start Point. Escorts were kept informed.

3. At 0354 GLAISDALE engaged 2 E-boats in 206° Start 11. Between this time and about 0500 escorts, also TYNEDALE working to southward of convoy, engaged several groups of E-boats, enemy finally withdrawing to S.E. at about 0500.

4. Preliminary assessment of result of the engagement shows A/S trawler JASPER was hit forward by a torpedo and subsequently sank in 50° 10½' N., 3° 48½' W. M.L. 184 has proceeded to Falmouth with damaged stern. CORNELIAN has shell damage to superstructure. Convoy proceeded to Dartmouth and Salcombe, believed with only minor damage. One or two E-boats may have been damaged.

5. It is considered that convoy was located by aircraft which carried out search over Lyme Bay between 0100 and 0130, and that the enemy force, which numbered not less than 8 E-boats, passed South of Guernsey both outward and inward.

6. Known casualties JASPER 1 Officer and 6 ratings missing. 4 ratings killed, 13 ratings in hospital with wounds or shock. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1807A/1 to Admty).

Patrols. PENYLAN, M.G.B. 615, M.T.B. 55 (S.O.), and 56, are to proceed to St. Helens Roads and anchor there before dark today.

2. If weather moderates they are to proceed to patrol between 50° 32' N., 0° 40' E., and 50° 25' N., 00° 00' E.

3. Return so as to pass E.A. 5 buoy at 0800/2.

4. Codeword "Advent".

5. CHASSEURS 11 (S.O.) and 5 patrolling south of E.A. 5 if weather allows.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1230A/1).
2 CHASSEURS patrolling near E.A. 5 buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1505A/1).
M.Ls. 293 and 139 patrolling between D and C one buoys until 0330/3 when they move to Rye buoy.
(V.A. Dover, 1625A/1).

~~TOP SECRET~~ 61.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Search for Enemy M/Vs. CORTELLAZZO sunk.
See p. 12 (Intelligence)
 A.M. 0544/30th and subsequent A/C report. This vessel may be encountered. GRAPH has been ordered to 043° 35' N., 018° 40' W. to endeavour to intercept.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1230A/1 to Escorts K.M.F.4, DUNBAR).
 One unknown merchant ship bearing 146° distant 9 miles sighted on course 190° now altered to 156° QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT chasing. My position 043° 58' N., 020° 22' W.
 (EGRET, 1427Z/1 to Admty).
 My 1427. Ship stopped. Says she is Swedish NANKING. Is this correct.
 (EGRET, 1510Z/1 to Admty).
 Ship is armed. Suspect Italian ship CORTELLAZZO.
 Flying white flag.
 (EGRET, 1520Z/1 to Admty).
 DOLFIJN proceeding to establish a patrol on line 070° 250° in the vicinity of 044° 45' 003° 30' W. Further orders forwarded.
 (F.O.S., 1556A/1 to S/Ms).
 My 1459/1st. To avoid K.M.F.4 proceed forthwith through 045° 01' 018° 00' W.
 (F.O.S., 1637A/1 to GRAPH).
 EGRET reported an unknown merchant ship in approx. 043° 58' 002° 22' course 160°. Destroyers are chasing. Keep clear.
 (F.O.S., 1649A/1 to GRAPH).
 N.A. Madrid's 1748/30. If German Tanker MAX ALBRECHT lying at Ferrol sails, instructions in my 0140/9 Oct. apply.
 (M. Branch, 1702A/1 to F.O.S., A.O.C. in C. C.C.)
 Your 1510/1. Ship is not Swedish NANKING. Italian CORTELLAZZO is estimated to be in about this position.
 (D.D.I.C., 1726A/1 to EGRET).
 Bearings of enemy emergency transmission in your vicinity at 1438Z/1 indicate that ship sighted was probably blockade breaker.
 (2) Did enemy ship sight convoy, as she may have reported your position.
 (3) GRAPH was ordered to establish patrol in 43° 35' N., 18° 40' W. and may be in your area.
 (D.O.D. H., 1747Z/1 to EGRET).
 My 1520Z. Vessel was Italian CORTELLAZZO. Owing to weather conditions and lack of escort vessels ordered her to abandon ship and REDOUBT pick up crew and sink her. Ship sunk in 043° 40' N., 020° 14' W. at 1707Z. Your 1747Z/1st, ship sighted convoy. Weather 3868 0757.
 (EGRET, 1802Z/1 to Admty).
 Add to my 1637. M.K.S. 2 P.C.S. at 1600/1st. 042° 01' N. 014° 50' W., 000° 7½ knots.
 (F.O.S., 1808A/1 to GRAPH).
 (1) Report your P.C.S. forthwith
 (2) My 1637 and 1808. From 045° 01', 017° 59' proceed on surface to pass through position P. 047° 01' 013° 50' at 2000/2.
 (3) My 1649. For 002° 22' read 020° 22'.
 (F.O.S., 1834A/1 to GRAPH).

/(1)...

War Diary.

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - con't.

- Search for Enemy M/Vs. CORTELLAZZO sunk. Contd.
- (1) Proceed on surface at best speed through 045° 01', 012° 26' thence direct zone K.505.
 - (2) German Tanker MAX ALBRECHT at Ferrol may sail at any moment, most probably for Bay of Biscay Port.
 - (3) Patrol as close as practicable to Ferrol but do not enter Ferrol Bay.
 - (4) Dive by day when within 20 miles of coast.
 - (5) Condition in my 1849/26th November SMZ 40 applied to MAX ALBRECHT. If unable to attack her, report and chase her.
 - (6) You may expect many U-boats on passage off north west corner of Spain. Take necessary precautions.
(F.O.S., 1841A/1 to GURNARD).
- F.O.S. 1834A/1. My P.C.S. at 2000A/1st 044° 24' N., 018° 53' W., 070° 5 knots. Increasingly heavy weather likely to reduce speed further.
(GRAPH, 1937A/1 to F.O.S.)
My 1556/1st.
1. Bombing restrictions now one to 003° W., S., of 046° N.
 2. DOLFIJN leave patrol after dark 2nd. proceed submerged by day through (x) 046° 01', 003° 59' (y) 047° 59', 006° 50' at 0800/4th to R/V in position (z) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 0800/5 as ordered by Capt. (S) 3.
 3. Bombing restrictions follow.
 4. TUNA estimate position 0800/3rd 047° 40' 005° 20' routed 25 miles clear DOLFIJN, proceeding patrol off Gironde.
(F.O.S., 1938A/1 to S/Ms).
(1) Your 1937/1st.
(2) My 1834 para. 2, delete at 2000/2nd.
(3) From P proceed dive by day through Q. 049° 15', 012° 30' R. 049° 30' 009° 01' S. 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. thence R/V A.M. 6th as ordered by Capt. (S) 3rd Estimate your S.O.A. 4 knots until 0800/3rd then 10 knots or 150 miles per day dive by day.
(F.O.S., 2324A/1 to GRAPH).
A.M. 1255A/30. P.R.U. of Ferrol 1305A/1st shows tanker ANTARKTIS present. Tankers MAX ALBRECHT and SPICHERN also present.
(D.D.I.C., 2335A/1 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)
Cancel para. 4 of my 1841/1st. As German ship may sail at any time, approach coast as close as you dare in visibility prevailing, but do not be sighted.
(F.O.S., 2349A/1 to GURNARD).

Allied Air Activity.

Off Harwich. Fighters attacking hostile A/C in 052° 03' N., 01° 49' E.
(LEWES, 1630A/1).

Enemy Intelligence.

NORD ATLANTIK B.3. report received that Tanker NORD ATLANTIK is ready for sea and may sail at any time.
(D.D.I.C., 2300A/1 to F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

~~SECRET~~ 8

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-boats attacked. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface, course 050° speed unknown.
 (A/C 502 Squadron, Duty O, 0227/1 to 19 Group).
 Am over enemy submarine in 047° 00' N., 07° 30' W.
 (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty O, 0231/1 to 19 group).
 Am over enemy S/M in 046° 50' N., 06° 50' W. Enemy was on surface on course 090° speed 10 knots.
 (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty C 0550/1 to Plymouth).
 Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Result of attack 6 (?).
 (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty C. 0620/1 to 19 Group).
 Attacked contact in 043° 40' N., 014° 36' W. with negative result.
 (GERANIUM, 2202Z/1 to Admty).

U-boats reported. C.A.F.O. 834/41
 (A) ICARUS (B) 2015A/29th Nov. 1942.
 (C) 58° 52' N., 07° 10' W. (D) 17 (E) 2230.
 No. considered attack was probably not on a U-boat.
 (ICARUS, 1101A/1 to C. in C. H.F.)
 It is estimated that an outward U-boat may be near you.
 (D.D.I.C., 1128A/1 to SEALION).
 Am over enemy submarine in 48° 42' N., 012° 00' W.
 (A/C 405 Sqdn. Duty M. 1545/1 to 19 Group).

Technical.

CLYDE *p. 43*
 CLYDE while engaged in pursuit of the enemy blockade runner today reported she was unable to continue on account of shortage of fuel and has had to be recalled. At time of report H.M.S. CLYDE had only steamed 900 miles since leaving Gibraltar. In view of your 1150/25th of Nov. reporting she was fitted for patrol request I may be informed of any circumstances that have apparently so drastically reduced her endurance.
 (F.O.S. 0008/1 to Capt. S.8.)
 Your 0008. CLYDE (?carried) after fuel groups full approx. 100 tons sufficient for about 2300 miles diving by day. Petrol has been carried in forward fuel groups for the last six months and at my direction fuel was not embarked in them for this passage regret this was not stated.
 (Capt. S.8., 1050A/1 to F.O.S.)

Casualties & Defects.

IRONCLAD Molotovsk arrivals ST. KENAN, IRONCLAD.
 (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 0801A/1).

WALWYNS CASTLE. Owing to steam pipe bursting WALWYNS CASTLE will be delayed 48 hours.
 (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1018A/1).

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

Raft with Aircraft reported raft with aircraft and no men
A/C. on board in 057° 05' N. 012° 59' W. at 1230A/30.
This is part of deck-cargo of torpedoed vessel &
other rafts have also been reported. Keep a
good look out and if any rafts are encountered tow them in if
practicable. (C. in C. W.A., 1054Z/1 to C.T.U.24.1.5).

JAMAICA. Request you will reply to H.F. 1401/30.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1100A/1 to N.O.I.C. Barrow.
C. in C. H.F. 1401/30. Vickers state this minimum
amount of work can not be completed by 10th December. They
anticipate that 3 further days would be required at Barrow-in-
Furness and that ships could sail p.m./13th December.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1202A/1 to Admty).

CORFIRTH F.N878. Straggler CORFIRTH arrived Humber engine
defects. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1102A/1 to Admty).

GLASGOW GLASGOW is about 10% fitted for Arctic service in
accordance with Admty. letter D.O.18066/41 dated
2nd Oct. 1941 and nothing has been done as
regards Admty. letter G.O.13849/42 dated 11th Nov. Consider it is
essential for reasons stated in my 1401/30th Nov. that a similar
amount minimum heating be fitted forthwith in GLASGOW as
proposed for JAMAICA. Understand ship can be taken in hand at
John Brown & Co. Clydebank and propose GLASGOW be sailed to arrive
4th Dec. and work should be completed to allow vessel to sail 20
Dec. at the latest. (C. in C. H.F., 1133A/1 to Admty).

BRIDLINGTON I am going to the assistance of BRIDLINGTON who
requires towing.
(BLYTH, 1430/1 to M/S 9).

DEODAR ^{N.T.M.D.} My 1045/1. Sailing delayed 24 hours owing to
A.S. defects. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1500/1).

BEN ROSSAL Your 1020/30. Regret no lifting craft likely
(Sunk 29th to be available for some months.
Nov). (D. of Salvage, 1518A/1 to D. of S. Lyness).

HATCH. GOLIATH sailed 1520/1 Dec. to stand by ^{*}HATCH.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1600/1 to C. in C. Rosyth).

ARGUS ^{See p.11A} Damage to bulk storage petrol tanks and surround-
ing apartments have been surveyed with the
following result. Details. Work will be comple-
ted as in my 1049/24 Nov. Compartment should be
periodically inspected. Re C.A.F.O. 965/42 should D.N.C. desire
to send a representative to view ship, movements will be as
stated in my 1049/24th Nov.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2209/1 to Admty).

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- M.K.F.3. Detached ^{from} M.K.F.3 direct to Milford Haven due to fuel shortage. E.T.A. 0900A/2nd.
 (LANCASTER 0500Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
- Q.P.15 M. Expect A/S escort by Hudson aircraft from 0930 N until 1530 N today.
 (A.C.I.C. 0905A/1 to Escorts Q.P.15 M.)
 The following ships are required to Loch Ewe by daylight 3rd for outward convoy - VIRGINIA DARE (U.S.A.), NATHANIEL GREEN (U.S.A.), PATRICK HENRY (U.S.A.), FREDERICH ENGELS (U.S.S.R) They are to be detached independently if and as necessary.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1138A/1 to Escort Q.P. 15 M.)
 My 0905/1 Sortie cancelled.
 (A.C.I.C. 1140A/1 to Escorts Q.P.15 M.)
- K.M.S.5. Intend sailing from Barry Roads at 2300/2 Dec. DELRIO, NOVELIST, FORT BATTLE RIVER, ROSARIO, STADHAARLEM, CLAN MACBRAYNE, escorted by THALASSA. Also from Swansea joining Scarweather at 0230/3 December EXPOSITOR, T.B. ROBERTSON. All to Clyde. E.T.A. 1400/4. My 1241/28th November refers.
 (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1132A/1.)
 A.M. 2137/30 Nov. para. one. For THOMAS ROBINSON read THOMAS B. ROBERTSON. Para. 7 add RALLUS.
 (D.O.D.(H.) 1410A/1.)
 C. in C. W.A. 1827/30/11. Provided nothing unforeseen arises PETUNIA will complete repairs p.m. 8th December, carry out partial repair trial on 9th December, and be ready for service 10th December.
 (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1905/1.)
- P.W.256. Pass the gate at 1300/1st and proceed to relieve ELLESMERE escorting P.W.256 at 1600 in estimated position 050° 04' 30" N. 004° 10' W. Convoy is to proceed by C Two on relief of ELLESMERE to Plymouth.
See p.5.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1135/1 to RUBY.)
- H.X.216. Following 5 ships returned St. Johns JAMES MACKAY, H.X.216 F. RANCHER, CLAN MURDOCH, SAMUEL ASHE, CITY OF WINDSOR.
 2. Detail one corvette to escort EMPIRE AIRMAN and EMPIRE METAL to arrive at Q.Z.S. 209 by 0600A/4 if possible.
 3. Any other ships capable of arriving at 0900A/4 may be detached independently after crossing 015° 00' W., but EMPIRE AIRMAN and EMPIRE METAL must enter swept channel first.
 4. Fast portion in paragraph 2 named H.X.216.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1144A/1 and 1449A/1 to Escorts H.X. 216.)
- P.Q.19. Part Two final of my 1231A/1 Part one. The following await P.Q. DALDORCH, EMPIRE CLARION, BRIARWOOD, EMPIRE ARCHER, OVER HILL.
 (N.C.S.O. Iceland 1231A/1 to Admty.)

War Diary.1. 12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- Kola Inlet accommodation. Your 2257/30. 40 in comfort, 45 with crowding. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1437A/1 to C. in C. H.F.)
- S.D.34. Intend to sail LEINSTER escorted by CASTLETON and ST. MARYS for Greenock at 1505/2nd, routed as in C. in C. W.A. 1014/30. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1615A/1.)
- M.K.S.2. E.T.A. 007° 00' W. 0700A/2nd, with FOWEY escort. (2) Request destination for AUBRETIA. (BLACK SWAN 1705A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)
- W.S.25. Convoy W.S.25, probably seven personnel ships and one M.T. ship, is due to leave U.K. on 17th December for Middle East and India via Freetown and Cape. Speed of advance about 12½ knots. 2. Ocean escort will be provided by CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA, and CHESHIRE. Through destroyer escort will consist of QUILLIAM and RACEHORSE. (D.O.D. (F.) 1759A/1.)
- O.N.151. C. in C. W.A. 1455A/25th. October. Intend sailing LEAMINGTON as additional escort to O.N.151. As endurance of LEAMINGTON is low she will leave convoy as necessary to refuel at Hvalfjord if she is unable to fuel at sea. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail her to join ~~WESTON~~ local force if she fuels Hvalfjord. (Cdre. Londonderry 1819A/1 to C. in C. W.A.)
- S.C.L.110. S.C.L.110 is to be detached at daylight tomorrow provided DUANE has joined. Otherwise convoy is to be detached immediately DUANE joins. Repeat your 2216/29th Nov. not received. Your 1225/1st Dec. refers. (C. in C. W.A. 1845Z/1 to Escorts S.C.110.)
- A.N.D. ships. HARPAGUS, OCEAN GLORY, STANCLEEVE. Pass to N.C.S.Os and D.E.M.S. S.Os. My 1146/6th June para. 2 and 1702A/13 para.3. Amendment No.2 add HARPAGUS and OCEAN GLORY. Cancel STANCLEEVE. (Admty. 1846A/30.)
- S.D.34. My 1615/1st. Embarkation delayed on account of weather. (A.C.I.C. 1942A/1.)
- K.M.F.5. Ready to leave U.K. on 11th. December. Ships, destinations and Escorts. (A.C.N.S. (H.) 2000A/1) See Lion Copy.
- K.M.S.6. THOMAS HOOKER due Clyde shortly and DUKE OF ATHENS now in Glasgow will load with you and sail in K.M.S.6. (D.S.T. 2249A/1.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2000A/1 December OIT

Addressed C.in C. Western Approaches. 336

F.O.I.C. Greenock.
F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
N.C.S.O. Clyde.
N.C.S.O. Mersey

Repeated

LIFOREY
LIGHTNING
Com. Londonderry
F.O.C.N.A. 206
N.C.X.F. 543
C.in C. Home Fleet 62
R.A.W.Af. 867
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.
R.A.(D) Home Fleet.

Date 1.12.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (TT)

From Admiralty.

Convoy KMF.5 consisting of the following ships carrying military personnel and stores will be ready to leave U.K. on 11th December for destinations stated.

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| (a) From Liverpool - | Destination Oran | EMPERESS OF CANADA DUCHESS OF RICHMOND DUCHESS OF YORK ZOELLA LYKES EXIRIA IRENE DUPONT |
| " | " | Bone |
| " | " | Algers |
| (b) From Clyde | - Destination Bone | CAMERONIA CIRCASSIA DUNNOTAR CASTLE |
| " | " | Algers |
| | | STRATHALLAN ARUNDEL CASTLE |

2. H.M.S. ARGUS will sail from Clyde in company with convoy as far as Gibraltar thence as ordered by N.C.X.F. *Sup. 9.*

3. H.M.S. WBYLAND will sail from Clyde in company with convoy and will part company in position ordered by Admiralty and proceed to Freetown.

/4.

4. Escort will be provided by LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON, TOTLAND and WAVENEY.
5. Speed of slowest ship is 13 knots.
6. Admiralty will promulgate route.
7. C.in C. Western Approaches is requested to provide escorts as in para. 4 and to arrange sailing of both portions of convoy to rendezvous off Oversay.
8. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT to rendezvous with convoy in position referred to in para. 3 and escort WAYLAND to Freetown.

2000A/1

D.O.D. (H)
Approved A.C.N.S. (H)

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)
Nav. Sec.
C.N.A.S.
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (1)
D.T.D. (5)
D.T.B. (1)
D.A./S.W.
D.N.A.D.
D. of S.
Hd. of M. (2)
D. of S.T.
V.D.
I.P. (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Bellairs.

IH.

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

M.T.Bs. I could use M.T.Bs most advantageously if by any means they can be sent.
(N.C.X.F. 1438A/1 to Admty.)

French Shipping.

Ref. 1042/28 from P.S.T.O. and your 2040/28. Following for Graham.

1. Do not understand or accept the contention that CARLIER is a prize. We approve your attitude.
2. As to replacements see instructions in R.3720 of 28th Nov. to Eisenhower from Combined Chiefs of Staff. As any arrangements with Darlan must be made with Americans and not with us, this instruction must be accepted.
3. We rely on you to make every effort to ensure that ocean going ships are not wasted in uneconomical employment and that they are sent to U.K. or U.S.A. as soon as they are fit for the voyage. We are particularly anxious about passenger ships in view of severe losses in "Torch" to troopships.
4. For insurance see our reply sent through General Gale. We further agree that you may offer war risk insurance office cover on same basis for vessels not on charter to W.S.A. or ourselves voyage by voyage provided that you and Kerr are satisfied that the proposed employment is in accordance with views of C.S.A.B. Consult Mack as to description of French provisional administration and terms of signature in any formal document to which you and French are parties.
5. We are repeating this to Salter.
(D. of S.T. 2301A/1 to Cdre. Algiers for M.W.T.R.)

Tanker Convoys for "Torch" Area.

B.A.D. Washington's 0351/1st December. Request remarks.

(D.O.D. (F) 2340A/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

Raiders.

- Intelligence. Blockade runner RAMSES intercepted by H.M. ship at 0800Z/28 in 23° 46' S. 99° 05' E. and scuttled herself. Survivors include Norwegian from AUST probably sunk by Raider 'E' in April and from KATTEGAT probably sunk by Raider 'H' in May both in South Atlantic. RAMSES bound for Europe. Norwegians believe ship intended to R/V German raider on 29th or 30th Nov. If correct probably Raider 'E'.
2. Inward bound vessel photographed off Spanish coast on 24th Nov. has arrived at La Pallice. Photographs show vessel to be almost certainly EMPIRE DAWN (see A.M. 2051A/20th Oct, para 2.)
 3. Blockade breaker*CORTELLAZZO outward bound from Biscay intercepted by H.M. Ships at 1500Z/1 in 43° 50' N. 20° 22' W.
 4. Unidentified vessel sighted off South Georgia at 1315Z/24. No allied ships in area. Description of vessel fits that of PERSEE (ex PIERRE L.D.) last located in Far East and likely to proceed passage to Europe. * 1 p. 6

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders - con'td.

Intelligence (contd.) 5. AEGEUS overdue at Saldanha Bay since 7.11.42 from Trinidad could be victim of U-Boat or Raider 'H' or 'J'.
6. Blockade runners. ERMLAND and PIETRO ORSEOLO could by now have reached Japan. KOTA NOPAN could now have reached longitude of Cape Horn or Cape Agulhas. Other outward blockade runners (see A.M.2007A/17/11 para. 5) probably now in Indian or Pacific Oceans. SPICHERN still at Ferrol. Norwegians from RAMSES believe RHAKOTIS and further blockade runners and tankers likely to leave Far East for Europe in near future or at present on passage.
(D.D.I.C. 2155A/1 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

Rear Adm. Delaye. Your 1321/28 (re: French N.A. wishing to join Admiral Michelier) concur.
(M. Branch (86) 0213A/1 to N.A. Madrid (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoy "Mayfair" A/C. Following from QUEEN EMMA. ^{5.15} 2 shad(?owing) "Mayfair" 37.42 N. 5.12 E. 270° 15, 0400/1. (LAMERTON T.O.R. 0412/1 to Gib. W/T.)

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Sailed from U.K. on 28/11. For details of personnel on board see War Office signal to Govr. Gibraltar.
2. Vessel should return to Clyde.
(D.S.T. 0825A/1 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) P.S.T.O. X.F.)

VERITY, U.G.S.2. NASTURTIUM. E.T.A. in position 180° Europa Point 5 is 0030A/2nd. Oran section of U.G.S.2 and 4 corvettes in company. NASTURTIUM has a defective alternator on R.D.F. type 271 and medical case she wishes to land. Propose sending her on to Gibraltar when off Cape Spartel to overtake convoy as soon as possible.
^{132, 15, 22}
(VERITY 1515A/1 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) PENTSTEMON, NASTURTIUM, Capt. (D) Gibraltar.)

URSULA. ^{22A 24} URSULA is to leave patrol p.m. 4th December and return to Gibraltar, diving by day by reverse of outward route. W.M.P.29 para 6 to URSULA only passing U at 1800/4th, T at 2230/7th S at 0130/9th R at 2130/9th and arriving Gibraltar 1600/10th proceeding on surface at discretion of C.O. on 10th.
(Capt. S.8 1546A/1 to 8 S.F.)

/Safe ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1322A/1 Dec.

IN

From. F.O.C.N.A.

Date. 1.12.42.

Time. 1836.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed. A.I.G. 64,

IMPORTANT.

Situation 1958A 1st.

- (1) G U F 2,30 13 16 59 through 29 35,
21 02 thence routed N (718) 42 33 29 (41?) 08 degs.
16.
- (3) DUNTON, DUNKERY, BIRDLIP, 29 38 24 52
160 degs. 10. *See next page 9 p. 18.*
- (4) BUTSER, 33 02 26 16 160 degs. 9.

1322A/1

Advance copy sent D.C., D.O.D. (H) 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)
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.~~
D.C. (2)
Adm. Blake.
Adm. Ramsey (4)

RN

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1324A/1st December

IN

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 1.12.42.
Time 2106

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed A.I.G.63.

IMMEDIATE

Situation 2002A 1st.

(1) MKS 2 (a), H.M.S. GERANIUM, H.M.S. SPIREA, H.M.S. HONEYSUCKLE, H.M.S. RHODODENDRON, COLTSFOOT, OXLIP, HYDERABAD, LOTUS, 42 35 14 45 00 deg 7½

(2) H.M.S. VIOLET, 1 (one) Merchant ship, 41 35 14 31 through 42 01 14 45 thence 00 deg 6¼

(3) GUF 2., 30 13 16 59 through 29 35 21 02 thence 306 deg 13.

(4) UGS 2 (0), H.M.S. PENTSTEMON, H.M.S. VERITY, WEYBURN, LUNENBURG, NASURTIUM, off Cape Spartel to Gibraltar 9 *See pp 13, 14, 15, 122*

(5) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, patrolling vicinity of 35 56 05 55 thence to R/V One merchant ship off Cadiz at 2000 2nd. **WILLODALE*

(6) H.M.S. DUNBAR, One merchant ship, 43 16 19 49 152 deg 11. *See pp 6*

(7) ~~KMF 4~~ H.M.S. EGRET, 3 Destroyers, 1 sloop, 2 Corvettes, 42 58 19 45 through 137 18 17 40 thence 131 deg 13. *See pp 4 228*

(8) KMS 4, TAY, 8 Corvettes, 4 minesweepers, 44 57 15 58 180 deg 7½

(9) H.M.S. ~~BERMUDA~~, H.M.S. FARNDALE, H.M.S. AVON VALE, 1 Merchant Ship, 38 58 11 53 through 42 01 15 15 17½ thence H.M.S. BERMUDA and Merchant ship independently northward 249, destroyers part company at approx. 04 01 2nd to R/V KMF 4 in 38 45 16 55 at 1600 2nd. *See pp 4 228*

1324A/1.

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)
- Duty Capt (2)
- U.S.N.
- T.A/S.W.
- H of M.
- D.D.I.G. (2)
- I.P. (E)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- D.T.L. (3)
- D.M.S.

maf.

MOST SECRET

13D

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2120A/1st ^{IN} December

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 2.12.42.

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T and T/P
Recd. 0237

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT.

My 1322A / 1st paragraph 7.

Delete all after 2 Corvettes.
Add 043 deg 12' 019 deg 13' 135 deg 12.

Paragraph 9 delete all after K M F 4.
Add in position 040 deg 52' 016 deg 07' at 1000
2nd.

Paragraph 6 amend to read H.M.S. DUNBAR
one Merchant Ship 043 deg 12' 019 deg 13' 136 deg
11.

2120A/1

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

Re Situation 2002/1
? 1324/1 intended.

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)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D.T.D.(3)
D.M.S.

IH.

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.Safe
Conduct.

Following three vessels leave Genoa 3rd Dec. for Gibraltar, Swiss CALANDA and GENEROSO and Swiss chartered Spanish NUESTRA SENORA DEL CARMEN, the last vessel's sailing having been postponed. (D.E.W.D. 1606A/1 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F.)

German
Tanker,
Ferrol.

Large German tanker not fully loaded painted grey with broad white stripe from bows to forecast (? forecastle) entered Ferrol afternoon Nov. 30th, presume from Vigo. Have been informed confidentially that a petition to dry dock an enemy S/M has been made. (Corunna 1715/1st to Admty. (R) Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid and Vigo.)

LADY DENISON
PENDER.

Your 0939Z/29th (0937/29 intended) and my 1600Z/28th not to Admiralty. Intend to take over escort of LADY DENISON PENDER on her reaching about 28° N. 24/11-12.02

See p. 19
(2) Request you inform me time date and position of R/V.
(3) Please inform me if you consider SOUTHERN PRIDE alone insufficient escort until R/V in para (2) above, in which case will endeavour to reinforce her with one escort as quickly as possible. R.A.W.A.F. pass to SOUTHERN PRIDE. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1736Z/1 to R.A.W.A.F. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., SOUTHERN PRIDE, Admty.)

U/B,
Horta,
27 Nov.

Your immediate telegram 2356/27th (Ref. submarine sighted by Clipper, warn trawlers of which 3 were seen entering Horta.) was received 1045 G.M.T. 28th via Portuguese wireless. No further news of submarine. Last trawler left harbour 0040 G.M.T. 30th.

(2) It is suggested that submarines had been sheltering from 3 daylight southerly gales which abated 27th.
(3) Beg to suggest urgent signal of this nature might be passed to Fayal through Admty. or S.O.(I) Gibraltar by British Cable with much less delay and greater accuracy. (R.O. Horta 1745/? (Recd 1011/1) to N.A. Lisbon, (R) Admty., S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

SCHARLACH-
BERGER.

Dec. 1st. German 55 expects to complete loading 2nd. (Consul Bilbao 1802/1 to Admty. (R) M.E.W., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

U.G.S.2.

Casablanca section U.G.S.2 escorted by T.F.37 plus 2 D.M.S. MINRON 7 arrived 1700Z/1 this date. 2 ships U.G.R.2 escorted by two D.M.S. arrived Safi. *See p/p 137/138*
(S.N.O.C.A. 1810Z/1 to N.C.X.F., V.A.C.N.A. Cinclant, Cominch, C.O.W.T.F.)

/LORRAINE ...

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

LORRAINE. French Tanker LORRAINE may arrive with E.T.3 and should be sailed to U.S.A. with G.U.S. 2. (N.C.X.F. 1855A/1 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) M.W.T.R. London, P.S.T.O. X.F.)

*QUEEN EMMA, U/B attack. Was attacked by a submarine in 037° 13' N. 003° 32' E. at 2030A, torpedo passed astern. (QUEEN EMMA, 2130A/1 to S.O.I.S.)

* See p.13.

Oil Stocks, Gibraltar. Am seriously concerned about the small margin of oil fuel stock on which we are now working at Gibraltar.

2. Entire present stock together with that due in FERNCOURT insufficient to fill DINGLEDALE, ABBEYDALE and BULKOIL in compliance with your 1523/30th Nov. (tanker movements).
3. DERWENTDALE is completely empty and in ballast.
4. Even if FERNCOURT and oilers ex K.M.S.4 all arrive safely it would appear our stock here will be unduly low unless some other cargoes of which I have not been informed are already en route. (F.O.C.N.A. 2150A/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

VELOX. You will be required to sail at 2359/1st. Orders follow. (F.O.C.N.A. 2151A/1 to VELOX (R) VERITY.) Intend sailing VELOX at 2359/1st to act as additional escort to Oran Section of convoy U.G. S.2. (F.O.C.N.A. 2301A/1 to VERITY, PENTSTEMON (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., LUNENBURG, WEYBURN, NASTURTIUM, F.O.I.C. Oran.) See p.13^c

NEWFOUNDLAND. N.C.X.F.'s 1844/1st (not received in W.R.) Sailed Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND at 2345/1st for Algiers routed through 82, 52, 89 (?) 35, S. of A. 13 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 2342A/1 to N.C.X.F.)

South Atlantic.

CAPETOWN. Arrival 0636/1st. (N.O.I.C. E. London 0723Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

MOUNT HELMOS Greek ship MOUNT HELMOS torpedoed shelled and sunk (sunk 24 November.) in 26° 38' S. 34° 58' E. at 0610/24 November. S/M not sighted before torpedo attack. All C.Bs dumped over side by master in weighted bag and seen to sink. Entire crew saved. Diversion signal from C. in C. S.A. timed 1007/23rd Nov.*not received. (N.C.S.O. Durban 0806Z/1 to Admty.)

* W.R. Note. Message contained no passing instructions when received in Admiralty.

/CORINTHIAN ...

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

CORINTHIAN. Departure from Pointe Noire 0700Z/1st
CORINTHIAN routed in accordance with your
1143Z/23rd.
See p. 17A
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 0845/1 to R.A.W.A.)

Dakar N.C.X.F. 1736A/30. Although it may be necessary
Negotiations. for first negotiations with Dakar to be conducted
entirely by Americans, consider it most important
that Mission pave the way for essential French
co-operation with me later. If Americans do not press this,
I foresee great difficulties. If negotiations are to take
place at Dakar, could Admiral Glasfurd confer with me first as
Brig. Gen. Smith is doing with G.O.C. in C. and A.O.C.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0853Z/1 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

ST. ZENO, N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1015/29. Trawlers should
NORTHERN DAWN, only take sufficient coal to reach Walvis Bay.
MAGNOLIA, Report requirements on arrival of trawler 7th
COVENTRY CITY. December.
See p. 17A
(R.A.W.A. 0901Z/1 to B.N.L.O., W.A. (R) Admty.
C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

ROTHERHAM, H.M.S. ROTHERHAM arrived Simonstown 2150C/30th
W.S.24. and sailed 0715C/1st to overtake W.S.24.
See p. 17B
(C. in C. S.A. 0927C/1 to Admty., QUEEN OF
BERMUDA, NEPAL, Condre i/c Durban, C. in C. E.F.)

PHOEBE. Intend PHOEBE to proceed Freetown via Takoradi
leaving Pointe Noire 1200Z/2 route
A. 004° 45' S. 010° 58' E.
B. 000° 40' S. 006° 00' E.
C. 004° 50' N. 001° 30' W.
D. Takoradi E.T.A. 0730Z/6 Expected sailing
1600Z/6.
E. 004° 35' N. 002° 00' W.
F. 004° 45' N. 004° 00' W.
G. 004° 05' N. 007° 40' W.
H. 004° 25' N. 009° 15' W.
J. 007° 00' N. 012° 25' W.
K. 007° 38' N. 014° 19' W.
L. Freetown E.T.A. 0800Z/10.
Escorted by D'ESTIENNES D'ORVES and COMMANDANT
DROGOU. Air cover from Pointe Noire Takoradi
and Robertfield.
(F.O.C. W. Af. 0947Z/1 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.,
C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi
B.N.L.O. W.A., PHOEBE.)

→ COMMANDANT
DROGOU.

Arrival Pointe Noire 0800Z/1st.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 1005/1 to R.A.W.Af. Admty.,
N.O.I.C. Takoradi G.C., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

 17
1.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

- LLANDAFF CASTLE. LLANDAFF CASTLE torpedoed position approx. 60 E. Oro Point de ZTN T.O.R. 0830Z/1 de ZSQ. (Slangkop W/T No T.O.O/1 Recd 1055/1.)
- LLANDAFF CASTLE reported torpedoed in position 60 miles east of Oro Point at 0850/1/12. Ship had not apparently acted on her diversion. Passengers included Russian Diplomatic party of 14 and 115 others, majority service personnel. Search is being made for survivors but no report yet received. (C. in C. S.A. 1802G/1 to Admty. (R) Com. i/c Durban.)
- NOVA SCOTIA (torpedoed 28 Nov.) Transport NOVA SCOTIA torpedoed at 0900/28 Nov. in 28° 30' S. 33° 00' E. Four officers, three N.C.Os, 127 other ranks U.D.F. and 765 Italian refugees from Massawa believed to have been on board.
2. A number of survivors have been picked up by Portuguese sloop AFONSO DE ALBUQUERQUE, which is proceeding with them to Lourenco Marques. Efforts are however being made by *INCONSTANT to take British survivors over at sea to avoid possibility of internment. ** See p. 17 B*
3. A survivor picked up by INCONSTANT from a raft stated ship sank in five minutes and that he thought only few boats got away. (C. in C. S.A. 1121C/1 to Admty., Com. i/c Durban, (R) C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Med.)
- DAGOMBA (torpedoed 3/11.) 21 Survivors British ship DAGOMBA picked up 14th Nov. by Portuguese Sloop BARTHOLOMEU DIAS taken Luanda now arrived Freetown. Ship sunk by three torpedoes at 1800/3/11 in 2° 26' N. 19° 00' W. U-Boat Italian 750 tons or above two guns, Wolf Head device on C/T. Crew appeared mixed German Italian. Other lifeboat contained 24 survivors believed not picked up. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1206/1 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
- CYCLAMEN, ASTURIAS. After refuelling CYCLAMEN is to be sailed to R/V with ASTURIAS in 004° (? 37' or 39') N. 021° 24' W. at 1600Z/5th December. Approach course 65° S. of A. 14 knots. CYCLAMEN will then act under orders of ASTURIAS. (R.A.W.A. 1231Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, CYCLAMEN (R) ASTURIAS, Capt. (D) 18.)
- E.T.A. 1600Z/3rd Dec. Position cable ship at 0718Z/1st was 022° 54' N. 019° 30' W. line advance 038° 20 miles daily. Weather report. Have defect in main circulator pump. (CYCLAMEN 1755Z/1 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) F.O. W.A., N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca.)
- BELGIAN FISHERMAN. Cancel my 1208Z/24th (originated from S.O.(I) Freetown) BELGIAN FISHERMAN now arrived Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 1625Z/1 to Admty.)

/THOMAS T. TUCKER ...

MOST SECRET

14A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1159Z/1st December IN

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 1.12.42.

Time 1624

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Addressed A.I.G. 150.

IMPORTANT

PORTSDOWN, from Freetown to Monrovia 9.
ORFASY, from Marshall to Freetown 9.
H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, 05 10 11 10 to Freetown 20.
H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, H.M.S. TAMARISK, with CF 8, 04 08 09 28
306 12.5
HOLCOMBE, COMMANDANT DEPROYAT, H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM, Motor
Launch, with TS 26, 03 01 07 02 to 02 59 07 58 thence 300 8.5
at 1959Z 1st.
H.M.S. *GOLDEN WINGS, escorting (? 02) (?58) (?05) (?59)
to 03 02 08 01 thence 300 7. *not included
H.M.S. FANDANGO, BARFOSS, 04 18 03 50 (?182) 4.
H.M.S. KELT, escorting, 04 53 00 20 East to Lagos 10 .
2 Motor Launches, from Takoradi to Lagos 9.
H.M.S. ST. ZENO, H.M.S. NORTHERN DAWN, H.M.S. COVENTRY CITY,
H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE, escorting, 01 38 02 38 East 125 5.5
H.M.S. CORINTHIAN, off Pointe Noire 259 11. 5-11-16
H.M.S. HERTFORDSHIRE, 3 Trawlers, 04 40 21 18 065 deg 8.

1159Z/1.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Fin.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Duty Capt (2)
U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
HQ of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.T.D.(M)
D.M.S.
D.T.D.(3)
D.D.O.D.(C)

17B.

MOST SECRET

1227C/1st December

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 1.12.42

Recd. 1355

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, R.A. West Africa.

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, H.M.S. ALCANTARA, H.M.S. NORMAN, H.M.S. ROCKROSE, ROTHERHAM, NEPAL, with W S 24, 034 degs 26' South 024 degs 45' East to Durban 13.3 knots. * 16

THYME 034 degs 49' South 021 degs 15' East to Simonstown (?12) knots.

H.M.S/M P.552 023 degs 00' South 011 degs 00' East to 023 degs 20' South 012 degs 00' East 9.

H.M.S. FORTUNE searching for survivors 040 degs 00' South 022 degs 30' East.

* INCONSTANT and GENISTA off Durban searching for survivors. * 17

1227C/1

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

- V.C.H.S.
- A.C.H.S. (11)
- A.C.H.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.H.S. (F)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Jim
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.A.E.M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- Hd. of M.
- U.S.N.
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- L. of P. (2)
- F.O. (S) by Courier

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

THOMAS T. TUCKER, grounded. U.S. ship THOMAS T. TUCKER aground in 34° 16' 36" S. 18° 23' E. since 28th November. Vessel probable total loss. All C.Bs have been removed and handed to N.C.S.O. Capetown. Grounding due to dense fog. (S.O.(I). Capetown 1646C/1 to Admty. B.A.D.)

Dakar Negotiations. J.S.M. 1701Z/1 to N.C.X.F. See America and West Indies.

DUNEDIN STAR (beached 30 Nov.) DUNEDIN STAR struck submerged object at 2200C/29th in 018° 12' S. 011° 42' E. Vessel now aground in 018° 13' S. 011° 42' E. with four hold and engine room flooded. (2) 21 passengers and 43 crew have been landed on beach, 42 members of crew still aboard. (3) MANCHESTER DIVISION, one tug from Walvis Bay and S.A.N.F. vessels have been sent to assistance. (S.O.(I). Capetown 1734C/1 to Admty. F.O.C. W.Af, C. in C. E.F., S.O.I. Aden.)
Standing by beached vessel DUNEDIN STAR. (TEMERAIRE 1830Z/1 to St. Helena W/T.)

RESOURCE, FREESIA. Arrived RESOURCE (? FREESIA.) *confirmed by Pink list.* (N.O.I.C. Durban ?1754C/1 to Admty. etc.)

NORWICH CITY. Intend leaving Roberts Port at 0200Z/2 for Monrovia in company ELBRIDGE GERRY who expects unloading there to take at least 3 days. Allowing for passage to Takoradi this will be the limit of my endurance. JOHN PAGE has not yet arrived Roberts Port. (NORWICH CITY 1802Z/1 to F.O.C.W.A.)

CERINTHUS, POLYDORUS, survivors. Have picked up survivors from boat found by Sunderland in 010° 07' N. 023° 46' W. Survivors came from CERINTHUS torpedoed in 012° 27' N. 027° 45' W. 9th Nov. Chief Officer, 4 other officers, and 14 ratings alive and well. He states that another boat with 20 including Captain last sighted 17th Nov. Am proceeding to position at 11½ knots where POLYDORUS sank. Convinced survivors must be to the south-eastwards where I propose searching. Weather report. (BRIDGEWATER 1808Z/1 to R.A.W.A.F.)

DESPATCH. Following is C.T.F. 23 dispatch 1301/1, info. Cominch, T.F.23, Admty., F.O.C.W.Af. "Sail DESPATCH at 1800Z/2 to patrol between St. Pauls Rocks and 00 N. 25 W. during Dec. 4th and 5th. E.T.A. St. Pauls Rocks 0400Z/4, then proceed direct to Freetown to arrive Dec. 8th. S. of A. throughout 17 knots." (Cominch 1916/1 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A.)

/Hook ...

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Hook Marine
Craft
Invention.

Your 1518C/6, 1419C/13 and 1053C/26 Nov. request detailed particulars, including photographs, of the dynamically supported water craft and sea-plane hydrofins demonstrated by Mr. Hook may be forwarded to Admiralty for examination. (Head of M. approved by Controller 2037A/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

Diversion
of shipping.

A.M. 1455/27th November and Connav 2142/27th Nov. (N.T. in W.D.) diversion was only applicable to westbound ships then west of 10° W. (2) Diversions of all other ships should from now onwards be in light of latest U/B intelligence. (D.T.D. 2105A/1 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Connav.)

INKPEN,
INDIAN STAR,
BREDON.

See p. 13^B

(1) Southbound shipping for Cape and Freetown may be sighted about 3rd December. (2) One trawler is to be detached to escort any ship sighted, conforming to route of merchant ships, trawlers proceeding? Freetown as necessary. (F.O.C.W.A. 2255Z/1 to INKPEN, INDIAN STAR, BREDON (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia.)

LADY DENISON PENDER.
screen.

See p. 14.

My 0937/29th. ^{29/11-6.12.02} Unless other arrangements are in train for relief of SOUTHERN PRIDE request two trawlers from *DUNKERY, *DUNCTON, *BIRDLIP, *BUTSER group may be detached to take over screen of ~~██████████~~ LADY DENISON PENDER. (F.O.W.A. 2303Z/1 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A. Admty., S.N.O. Casablanca, SOUTHERN PRIDE.)

**See pp. 15A 213.*

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

→TROOPER, TROOPER route is through (g) 038° 00' 011° 25'.
 *TRIBUNE. (h) 037° 26' 011° 07'. (j) 037° 04' 011° 40'.
 * *imp p 25 726* (k) 036° 24' 011° 49', thence direct to Malta
 sanctuary.
 Passage from (h) to (j) on the surface by night without
 zigzagging. Mines laid there some time ago but recent heavy
 weather should have dispersed them in deep water; keep forward
 bulkhead door shut. Passage from (j) to (k) submerge during
 daylight 1st December, safe from mines being enemy main convoy
 routes. Periscope depth advised for R/C and avoid action.
 R/V sweepers at end of searched channels at 1028A/2nd.
 (Capt. S.10, 0005A/1 to TROOPER, TRIBUNE, Subs on Patrol, (R)
 Capt. 8th Sub.F., F.O.C. 15th C.S., Capt. 1st Sub. Flot., F.O.C.
 12th C.S., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Mined My 1254/29th. Area in which mines were laid
 Area. was within radius 4 miles of position 104° Cani
 Rock 6.6 miles.
 (Capt. S.10, 0017A/1 to S/Ms on Patrol, (R)
 N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, V.A. Malta.)

→TROOPER, When approaching R/V 1035A/2nd, H.M.S. TROOPER
 RORQUAL. keep North, RORQUAL south of a line 230° (? from)
 end of searched channel.
 (Capt. S.10, 0029A/1 to TROOPER, RORQUAL, (R)
 Subs. on Patrol, V.A. Malta.)

Operation Casualties to M/Vs. Admty. 0059A/1.
 "Torch". (See American and West Indies.)

U/Bs. French coast watchers report that 3 submarines
 were sighted this evening beyond Cape Ivi and
 Cape Khamis.
 (S.O. Force H, 0124/1 to 6th D.F., PARTRIDGE,
 PATHFINDER, PUCKERIDGE, S.O. 3rd D.F., SPEEDWELL,
 (R) S.O. Capital Ships Force H.)
 W.R. Note:- T.O.O. as received.

Enemy Position course of 4 M/Vs 4 destroyers WNNK 0055
 Units. (40.00 N., longitude indecipherable) 200° speed
 0(? unknown).
 (A/C W6F Duty '6', 0210/1 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Movements. Arrival 30th Nov. SNAPDRAGON, ERICA, SOUTHERN
 MAID, M.L. 1122. Departure 30th Nov. HURSLEY,
 BELVOIR, PAKENHAM, G.S. SAKTOURIS, G. Destroyer
 * BASILISSA OLGA, REDWOOD, PETARD.
 (S.O.(I.) Alexandria, 0906N/1 to Admty., C. in C.
 Med.)

* alias QUEEN OLGA.

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- S O S. Following read from Malta W/T.
Following received on 11200 k/cs. S O S 1st
Dec. 0230 in position 37° 14' N. 5° 30' E.
Help immediately, please.
(Nore W/T, No T.O.O./1, Recd. 0826 and 0907/1.)
- M.M.S. 4 M.M/S and 7 landing craft arrived. Intend
Landing to sail 2 M.M/S and 7 L.C.Ms for Bone at 1730
Craft. today Tuesday.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 0845A/1 to F.O.I.S.,
(R) Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Bone)
My 0845A/1st sailed. E.T.A. Bone 0100/2nd. M.M/S 68 detained
24 hours owing to defect.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1730A/1 to F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers,
N.O.I.C. Bone.)
- Force Q. Request information of Force Q's intentions,
with view to assessing possibility of air
strike before 2100 tonight 1st.
(V.A. Malta, 0922A/1 to C.S.12, S.O.I.S., (R)
N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med.)
- Mining. Night 30th/1st. 3 magnetic mines laid Bizerta
and 3 Tunis. Position as in my 0941/28th and
my 0942/29th.
(V.A. Malta, 0939A/1 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.,
(R) F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers.)
- Enemy P.R.U. sighted 1 merchant ship (5000 tons)
Units. escorted by 2 destroyers leaving Palermo at 0915.
(V.A. Malta, 1052A/1 to C.S.12, F.O.I.S., (R)
N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med.)
- P.219, Move patrol positions P.219 7 miles, P.37 4 miles
P. 37. both 180° from ordered positions.
(Capt. S.10, 1111A/1 to P.219, P.37, (R) C.S.12,
N.C.X.F., S/Ms on Patrol.)
- Situation Brief Situation report 1959A/1st Western
Report. Mediterranean, 274 excepted.
E.T.3, VENOMOUS, WIVERN, FLEETWOOD, ENCHANTRESS,
BRILLIANT, ROBERTS, and available French escorts
036° 49' N. 001° 55' E. through 39, 035° 52' N. 000° 40' W.,
29, 50, 16 to Gibraltar 7½ knots. *See p. 29.*
2. Force Q. AURORA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS, QUIBERON, QUENTIN, sailing
Bone after dark 1st patrolling to eastward.
3. BROWN RANGER escorted by DEPTFORD, JONQUIL, LORD NUFFIELD,
sails Bone approx. 1800/1st to Oran routed inshore 11 knots.
? TUESDAY will be detached to Algiers.
4. MANXMAN 036° 26' N. 002° 29' W. through 73, 28 to Gibraltar
25. *See p. 25.*

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - ~~un/8.~~

- Situation Report. (Contd.)
5. T.E.(?7)B SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR 036° 47' N. 001° 30' E. through 100 to Algiers 7.
6. Following safe conduct ships. All routed west of Ibiza and 10 miles north of Revellata Point may be encountered (A) Swiss MALOJA sailed Genoa 28th Nov. bound Gibraltar 8. (B) Spanish CABO ORTEGAL sailed Gibraltar 1200/29th bound Mudanya 7. (C) Swiss LUGANO sailed Genoa 27th Nov. bound Gibraltar 8.
7. Swedish (corrupt group) ships AKKA and YARAWONGA 037° 34' N. 003° (?22') E. routed 20 miles south of Spartivento Cape and 5 miles north of Tsai 14.
8. Convoy escorted by FELIXSTOWE, ROTHESAY, MARIGOLD, POLRUAN, BRIXHAM sails Algiers p.m. 1st for Philippeville routed close inshore. Two escorts will be detached Bone. Two H.D? M.L. (? are to) join from Bougie. *See p 29.*
- 9. (Corrupt group) U.G.S.2 (? special route) (? VERITY), PENTSTEMON, WEYBURN, NASTURTIUM, LUNENBURG passes Europa Point during daylight (? 2nd) bound for Oran 6. *See pp 13 7/32*
10. Landing craft may be encountered between Bone and Tabarka during dark hours.
11. Three destroyers escorting 4 transports 037° 19' N. 003° 59' E. through 037° 25' N. 004° 20' E., 037° 11' N. 006° 30' E. thence to Philippeville and Bone 15.
(N.C.X.F., 1124A/1 to S. & A. Area G.)
- Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 4 enemy T.Bs 34.32 N. 11.02 E. (A/C using call sign V3PB, 1146A/1 to Malta.) Ref. V3PB enemy report of 12 or 1000A/1st Dec. the possibility that these destroyers are minelayers should be considered.
(F.O.I.S., 1532A/1 to R.A. 12 C.S.)
Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 3 enemy destroyers are 265°, 20, 37° 35' N. 9° 55' E.
(A/C using call sign V3PE, 1200A/1.)
P.C. and S. of 4 enemy destroyers 37.55 N. 11.12 E., 095°, 20.
(Call sign V3PE, 1218A/1 to Malta.)
- P.42, Enemy A/S activity. Your 1557/30th. The fury of the enemy is because you are in his way. Try 8 miles 340° from ordered position. You will be recalled within 24 hours.
(Capt. S.10, 1150A/1 to P.42, (R) S/Ms on patrol.)
- K.M.S. 4, Escort policy for K.M.S. 4.
M.K.S. 3. (2) Med. escort for Algiers section.
2.26¹⁵ 61st Escort Group complete, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, VILLE DE QUEBEC, and available ships of 13th M/S.F. *(There is no 61st E.G.)*
(3) Escort group 61 to reinforce Atlantic escort if felt situation requires.
→ (4) Local escort for Oran section to be provided by NASTURTIUM, WEYBURN and LUNENBURG sailing from Oran to R/V as necessary?
(5) Deficiencies in escorts to be made up by 13th D.F.

MOST SECRET

22A

1202A/1st December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

LV

From Captain (S) 8.

Date 1.12.42.

Recd.

NAVAL CYpher (S) BY W/T

Addressed Ships & Authorities in Area "G".

IMPORTANT

S/M situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000A 1st December.

- (1) P 222, 36 55 North 01 38 West diving by day $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots on surface by night 11 knots through 135 degs. Cape Palos 8 miles thence 065 degs.
- (2) H.M.S. STURGEON, 36 35 North 03 00 West on surface 5 miles from Spanish coast to arrive Gibraltar 1100 2nd 8 knots.
- (3) H.M.S. THRASHER, 36 30 North 02 32 West on surface 10 miles from Spanish coast to arrive Gibraltar 1100 2nd 10 knots.
- (4) H.M.S. TIGRIS, within 20 miles 38 01 North 07 30 East.
- (5) H.M.S. URSULA, in Gulf of Genoa. ~~3~~ p 13

1202A/1

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(H), D.O.D.(F).

A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim.
D.O.D.(H) (2).
D.O.D.(F) (2).
D.D.O.D.(M).
Duty Captain (2).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D. of Plans (2).
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2).
D.T.D.(M).
F.O.S. by courier
Admiral Blake (2).
Admiral Ramsey (4).

abd

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

K.M.S. 4, (6) Ocean escorts for M.K.S.3 will be TAY, ~~WESSEX~~,
M.K.S. 3. PETUNIA, WOODRUFF, CROCUS, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR,
(Contd.) LYME REGIS, WORTHING. Also (?GENETIAN), JONQUIL
and AZALEA to be sailed for Algiers.

(7) Mediterranean escort for M.K.S.3 Algiers
Section, escort group 36 less PENTSTEMON, plus COREOPSIS,
JONQUIL, ?AZALEA. Oran Section, PENTSTEMON backed up by local
trawlers as far as R/V.
(N.C.X.F., 1210/1 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers.)

P. 35. P.35 sailed p.m. 30th Nov. for patrol from ^{* Sunk 1940!} Kerkenah to Gulf of Hammamet. ^{WEAR 4th Div.}
(Capt. S.10, 1215A/1 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.,
Capt. S.1, (R) R.N.A.S. 61B, C.S.15, C.S.12.)
(Capt. S.10, 1240/1 to S/MS on Patrol.)

Toulon, R/C of Toulon 1130/30. Majority of naval units
Marseilles, present are obscured by smoke. Shipping
R/C. visible is apparently in the same state and
position as on 28th Nov.

R/C of Marseilles 30th Nov. No naval units
present. Approx. merchant ship tonnage 510,200 comprising 7
ships of 500 ft. and over, 15 of 400 to 500 ft., 57 of 300 to
400 ft., 41 of 200 to 300 ft., 8 under 200 ft., 2 tankers of
500 and 390 ft. of approx. total tonnage 16,100.
(D.D.I.C., 1239A/1 to N.C.X.F., etc.)

Air R/C. Visuals forenoon Dec. 1st.
(i) Taranto, 3 battleships, 4 destroyers, 6
submarines, 2 merchant ships 3000 tons and 1
merchant ship 1000 tons outer harbour. 3 Merchant ships 4000
tons and 3 merchant ships 2/3000 tons Middle Harbour.
(ii) Messina?, 5 cruisers, 2 large and 3 small destroyers, 2
merchant ships 3000 tons Outer Harbour. 185° Messina 10 miles
1 10,000 merchant ship 1 seaplane escort, course altered south
to north.
(iii) Naples, 3 battleships, 1 merchant ship 1000 tons entering
Harbour.
(iv) Palermo, 1 merchant ship 5000 tons leaving Harbour. E-Boats
or small destroyers standing by outside.
(v) Trapani, 1 small merchant ship.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1246A/1 to C. in C. Med., etc.)
My 1246/1st. Photograph shows only 4 cruisers in
Messina. One 6-in. has left.
(V.A. Malta, 1520A/1 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

VIENNA. Request information whether M.T.B. Depot Ship
VIENNA is to be allotted Mediterranean.
Understand she carried much needed Vesper spares
and her depot facilities are needed if we are to operate from
Malta and Eastern Mediterranean simultaneously. Four M.T.Bs
are proceeding Malta now to assist against Axis supply routes.

/Final ...

██████████ 24
1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- VIENNA. Final intention is to operate Vespers from Malta
(Contd.) and long range American boats Eastern Mediterranean
and Aegean.
(C. in C. Med., 1251B/1 to Admty., (R) C.C.F.)
see 102
- UNA. Arrival.
(V.A. Malta, 1253A/1 to Admty., etc.)
- Enemy Destroyers, Following read. 4 destroyers P.C.S. are 38° 16'
and M/Vs. N. 12° 20' E., 090°, 25.
(A/C using call sign G5CS No.1, 1415A/1.)
P.C. and S. of 4 enemy destroyers, 5 medium
vessels, 2 aeroplanes 38.50 N. 12.10 E., 170°, 10.
(Med. A/C, 1440A/1.)
P.C. and S. of 3 enemy destroyers and 3 medium sized merchant
vessels 38° 6' N. 12° 45' E., 220°, 10 knots.
(A/C using call sign GJCS, 1500A/1.)
P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer and 2 enemy medium sized
merchant vessels 38° 6' N., 12° 30' E., 240°, 6.
(A/C using call sign GJCS NR 4, 1515A/1.)
- Minelaying. Your 1742/23rd, para. 1 (A) and (B) not desired.
Good opportunity appears to exist to carry out a
lay in Cani Rocks area to intercept traffic,
avoiding MANXMAN's underwater lay. Request your remarks.
(N.C.X.F., 1439A/1 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med., V.A.
Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)
- M.T.Bs. C.C.F.'s 1443B/27th (1441/27th intended). Weather
unsuitable for motor torpedo boats today Tuesday.
(V.10, 1503B/1 to V.A. Malta.)
- Malta OZ.2076, 1st December 1942.
Command. Following from Chiefs of Staff. Your 5231
(1320Z/24 - N.T. in W.D.)
Suggestion much appreciated. We agree that,
in present circumstances, system of command out-lined in Secer
230 of 7th May OZ.167 to Middle East would be more appropriate.
Change should take place with effect from receipt of this
telegram. Eisenhower informed. 2. We note that you will
again request full powers when you consider circumstances require.
(Air Min., T.O.O. 1515Z/1 to Gov. Malta.)
- URSULA. URSULA is to leave patrol p.m. 4th Dec. and return
see pp 13, 22A. to Gibraltar diving by day by reverse of outward
route. Broadcast W M P 29 para. 6 to URSULA
only, pass U at (718)00/4th, T at 2230/7th, S at 0130/9th, R
at 2130/9th, and arrive Gibraltar 1600/10th proceeding on
surface at discretion C.O. on 10th.
(Capt. S.8, 1546A/1 to 8 S.F.)

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.222. P.222 from position 135° Cape Palos 8 miles is to
See p. 22A proceed through 038° 56' N. 002° 59' E. to pass
 038° 50' N. 008° 01' E. at 2100/4th Dec. thence
 as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.
 (Capt. S.8, 1554A/1 to 8 S.F., (R) Capt. S.10.)

Movements, 1st Dec. Port Said arrival PAKENHAM, Greek
 Port Said. Destroyer*BASILISSA, OLGA, BELVOIR, HURSLEY,
See p. 20. PRIMULA, PETARD. Departure ROMEO, M.L. No.1158,
 PRIMULA, PAKENHAM, Greek Destroyer*BASILISSA OLGA,
 HURSLEY, BELVOIR, PETARD.
 (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1611B/1 to Admty., C. in C.
 Med.) **H.M.S. QUEEN OLGA.*

*MANXMAN Have been struck by a torpedo aft my position
 torpedoed. now is 36.39 N. 00.15 E.
(by U. 375) (MANXMAN, 1702A/1.)
 * *See p. 21* Following has been read. Strength of sigs. of
 MANXMAN 4. Am not in W/T communication with MANXMAN.
 (Malta W/T, No T.O.O., recd. 2230/1.)
 My 1702A. Am floating but stopped. Require (? tug
 immediately).
 (MANXMAN, 1722A/1 to Gibraltar C.C.O., (R) "Torch" Naval
 Forces Oran, Admty.)
 My 1722A/1st. Engine room wrecked, expect to remain
 afloat, my position (as 1702A).
 (MANXMAN, 1802A/1 to Gibraltar C.C.O., (R) "Torch" Naval
 Forces Oran, Admty.)
 Proceed forthwith to assist MANXMAN reported torpedoed but
 stopped and afloat at 1700 in 036° 39' N. 000° 15' E.
 (S.O. Force H. 2032A/1 to PATHFINDER, (R) Oran, D.6, N.C.X.F.
 D.3, MANXMAN.)
 Situation. Engine total wreck. Floating with 12-degree
 list starboard. Bulkhead holding well. Some electric power
 available. Ready to tow forward. (? Have) dropped depth
 charges round ship. Sea calm. Require A/S protection and tow
 to Oran. Position 36.39 N. 00.19 E.
 (MANXMAN, 2110A/1 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.,
 N.O.I.C. Oran.)
 MANXMAN 1802A/1. Send emergency destroyers.
 (N.C.X.F., 2228A/1 to F.O. Force H.)
 Am taking MANXMAN in tow now.
 (PATHFINDER, 2350/1 to S.O. Force H.)
 MANXMAN torpedoed position 36° 39' N. 000° 15' E. 1
 minesweeper proceeding full speed to assist. Tugs and mine-
 sweepers to join her at best speed.
 (? 2224A/1 to SPEEDWELL, S.O. 3rd Striking Force.)

TRIBUNE. If fit go to 037° 52', 011° 16' with all despatch.
See pp 20 & 26 Southbound target justifies full salvo and rapid
 reload for future.
 (Capt. S.10, 1723A/1 to TRIBUNE, (R) N.C.X.F.,
 S/Ms on Patrol, C.S.12.)

/Following ...

War Diary.

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - con'ts. -

TRIBUNE. (Contd.) *see pp 20, 25* Following is repetition of my 1723/1. (Begins). Addressed TRIBUNE (R) N.C.X.F., C.S.12, S/Ms on Patrol from Capt. (S) 10. If ?idle go to 37.52 11.16 with all despatch southbound targets justify full salvo and rapid reload for future. (Ends).
(Capt. (S) 10, 1846A/1 to C.S.12.)
Your 1723/1st. Deeply regret not fit.
(TRIBUNE, 1852A/1 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, S/Ms on Patrol.)
Hard luck. Leave patrol at 2359/1st direct for 038° 34' 008° 02' thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. Estimate your present position 038° 16' 010° 45'. Cross 008° E. at 0002/3rd.
(Capt. S.10, 2259A/1 to TRIBUNE, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, C.S.15, C.S.12.)

LEONIAN. My 1045/24th (N.T. in W.R.) Request report when LEONIAN will be ready to proceed to Algiers. She is urgently required.
(N.C.X.F., 1730A/1 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) S.O. Force H, S.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers.)

Assessment of results of attacks on U-Boats. A.M. 1916/9th July 1942, para. 9 read in 6 columns - A B C D E F. 395. 0735/27/7/31, SOUTHERN SEA and KLO 31° 42' N. 32° 21' E. I. Nil.

| | | | | | |
|--------|------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------|
| (A)396 | (B)1234/30/10/42 | (C)PAKENHAM | (D)Nil | (E)Nil | (F)Nil |
| (A)" | (B)" | (C)PETARD | (D)31° 49'N. | (E)(F) ?OU 559 | |
| (A)" | (B)" | (C)DULVERTON | (D)Nil | (E)Nil | (F)Nil |
| (A)" | (B)" | (C)HURWORTH | (D)33° 24'E. | (E)Nil | (F)Nil |
| (A)" | (B)" | (C)HERO | (D)Nil | (E)Nil | (F)Nil |
| (A)" | (B)" | (C)WELLESLEY | (D)Nil | (E)Nil | (F)Nil |

47 A.E.
(C. in C. Med., 1735B/1, 0605B/7.)

Gibraltar Air Report. WX. 1175. A.I.198, 1st December. Opsum for 24 hours, ended midnight 30th Nov. U-Boat sightings and attacks - Q/608 1211 hours, LBCP 5825, U-Boat on course 080°, 12 kts. Submerged 30 secs. before A/C attacked with 4 torpex D/Cs. along track from astern. Patches of oil 50 yards diameter appeared 1 min. after attack. N/233 1124 hours, LBCP 5503, sighted U/B bearing 360°, 7. A/C altered course to attack but U/B dived when A/C was 6 miles away. N/233 1438 hours, LBJB 2714 sighted U/B co. 070°, 6 kts. A/C did not attack for 20 mins. as thought U/B might be French. U/B opened fire and A/C attacked dropping 1 100 lb. A/S bomb which fell 50 ft. starboard. U/B remained on surface. No casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gib., 1740Z/1.)

/Orders ...

~~SECRET~~ 27

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Orders to S/Ms. Own surface force may be in your area tonight. Enemy southbound shipping must be sunk, with knowledge that own force will not attack you prosecute offensive until our force in actual contact with enemy.
(Capt. S.10, 1804A/1 to Submarines on Patrol, (R) N.C.X.F., C.S.12.)

Oran Report. SHIANT, FOULA, M/L 480, at Arzeu for escort duty. Searched Channel swept, negative result.
(N.O.I.C. Oran, 1806/1 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F.)

Air R/C. Visuals p.m. Dec. 1st -
1. Naples, 3 battleships, 5 cruisers.
2. Palermo, 4 destroyers, 1 large merchant ship,
3 merchant ships, 3000 to 4000 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 1827A/1 to C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

Operation "Portcullis", * M.W. 14. * *See next page* Your 1335/1st not to all addressees (N.T. in W.D.) "Portcullis" has already sailed. Estimate you should gain 3000 tons diesel 2000 tons furnace oil from ?merchant ships of "Stoneage" and "Portcullis". See also my 1249/1st.

(2) Now intend tanker YORBALINDA to join M.W.14 at 1700/3rd Dec. in position 032° 39' N. 020° 06' E. Request you will sail. CROOME, TETCOTT to arrive Benghazi daylight 3rd to escort Y and return Malta with M.W.14. N.O.I.C. Benghazi is requested to sail Y accordingly and to arrange fighter protection.

(3) Speed of M.W.14 will be reduced to best speed of Y when she joins. This is not expected to exceed 12 knots.

(4) Ref. M.E.D. 00340/16 dated 23rd? Nov. intend M.E.11 to sail with Y as soon as she has discharged. Details follow.

(5) Request you will arrange fighter protection with A.O.C. Med. (C. in C. Med., 1829B/1 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) F.O.C. 15 C.S., S.O. Force I, H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 201 Naval Co-op. Group, ORION, N.L.O. 8th Army, Advance Air H.Q. Western Desert.)

Maximum speed of AGWIMONTE is 13.5 knots. Estimate shall be 2½ hours late at R/V D plus 1. C. in C. Med. pass to air authorities concerned and naval authorities other than cruisers and destroyers.
(Capt. D.12, 2052B/1 to All concerned "Portcullis".)
C. in C. Med's 1829/1st. Intend sailing CROOME and TETCOTT at 1030 tomorrow 2nd Dec. through position (? 035° 22' N. 014° 05' E. thence direct Benghazi to arrive at 0630/3rd. N.P. (2) Fighter protection codeword "Merit" call sign B. C.U. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 2350A/1 to N.O.I.C. Benghazi, (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force I, ORION.)

/Bougie ...

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bougie. Situation Report. (?A). Nil. B. 2 H.D.M.L. sailed for Bone. C. DERWENT~~CHALL~~ Dec. 1st, OCEAN VALENTINE, FOREST, p.m. 4th.
D. Enemy aircraft over early morning. No damage.
E. Nil. F. Nil. G. G.One as per my 1452/1st.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1840A/1 to F.O.I.S.)

→ Movements. Departure FALK, Greek Destroyer AETOS, WELSHMAN. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, Haifa, 1844/1 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

→ WELSHMAN, (1) WELSHMAN expected Alexandria Boom 0700/2nd
* M.W. 14, from Haifa through 031° 43' N. 030° 19' E. thence
ORION etc. inshore route speed 21 knots.
* See previous page (2) Convoy M.W.14 S.O. Capt. (D) 12 codeword
"Siren" left Port Said 1430/1st Dec. speed 13
knots or better by inshore route and through 031° 47' N. 031°
06' E. 013° 48' N. 029° 47' E.
(3) ORION 6 destroyers leaving Alexandria 0300/2nd to join
"Siren" in position 013° 24' N. 028° 32' E.
(4) See also N.O.I.C. Alexandria's 1121/1st.
(C. in C. Med., 2031B/1 to ORION, Capt. (D) 12, WELSHMAN, (R)
N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

Enemy Position of three enemy destroyers and three
Units. unknown type of craft 37.55 N. 11.35 E. on course
270°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S G1KU, 2045A/1 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Situation Bone. On 29th Nov. two enemy aircraft were shot
Report down by fighters controlled from BERMUDA and
No. 26. three more under control from aerodrome. Anti-
E-Boat patrols by cannon fighters have been
requested at dawn and dusk daily. Air raids at
0400 29th Nov. and afternoon of 30th Nov. no damage reported.
2. Algiers. *ROBERTS sailed for Gibraltar 1st Dec. in convoy
with 6 French ships. 4th Ferry trip of 4 L.C.Is sailed to
Philippeville and Bone 1st Dec. with 3200 troops. * See p. 29
3. Oran. Medium sized dry dock in operation and being tested
by salvaged ship EPERVIER. Damaged French submarine arrived
0927/30.
4. British Consul, Barcelona, reports French submarine interned
at 1330Z/29.
5. Aircraft from Gibraltar carried out promising attack on
U-Boat at 1500/30, position not known.
6. Admty. pass to B.A.D. Washington and A.F.H.Q. London. (Passing
action being taken by W.R.)
(N.C.X.F., 2147A/1 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

/Movements ...

28A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1900Z/1st December

IN

Date 1. 12. 42.

Reed. 2259Z

From Governor, Malta

CYPHER

Addressed Air Ministry (for General Eisenhower)* repeated
Mideast (for Chiefs of Staff) Command Post First
Army.

IMMEDIATE.

IZ2426 HE/5330 1st December 1942

BIGOT ALIBI

Naval. Nil

Army. Nil

Air. Day 1/12. Photos show Palermo aerodrome 22 Cant
Z1007's, seven SM 79s, 13 CA 310 or 311s, 20 JU 52s one JU 86,
one SM 31, one CA 133, 25 monoplanes, nine biplane fighters.
Naples Capodichino aerodrome 64 JU 52s, seven SM 81s at least 36
medium and 26 small aircraft. Trapani aerodrome 17 JU 88, five
HE 111s, two JU 87s, one SM 79, 14 JU 52s, one Eeseburg glider
two FI 156, four DFS 130 gliders, 13 ME 110s, 22 ME 210s.
Shipping. Palermo photos show two Regelo class 078/34 one fitting
out one damaged 12 d/rs nine E boats two F boats 10 M/Vs. At
0818 hours one tanker with two d/rs were leaving two other d/rs
were leaving their berths. Taranto 0745 hours one battleship was
being towed from its pen at time of photography. Naples poor
photographs and only statement possible is that the following
ships appear to have left since 29/11. One C or D class 6-inch
cruiser, five d/rs five M/Os. Messina one 6-inch C or D class
cruiser and one M/V 4/5000 tons have departed since 29/11.
Shipping at sea 1100 hours Baltimore sighted three d/rs 20 miles
North of Bizerta course 265 degrees speed 30 knots. 1118 hours
four d/rs 265 degrees Parettimo 40 miles course 085 degrees speed
20 knots. Beaufighter sighted(0/39 corrupt) hours 330 degrees
Dhuara 20 miles one M/V 1000 tons course 320 degrees speed seven
knots. 1050 hours 180 degrees Kaliba 30 miles one M/V 800 tons
course/

MOST SECRET

28^B

- 2 -

course 250 degrees speed 8 knots. 1353 hours 090 degrees
Merkennah 25 miles one M/V 1500 tons stationary pointing 220 dgs.

2. Enemy Air Activity. Slight enemy activity restricted to
recon patrol.

3. Strikes night 30/11/1/12. Wellingtons attacked Bizerta
docks dropping 16 500, 28 250 lb bombs scoring hits near
railway junction, iron ore wharf and barracks and amongst
workshops near submarine base. At request of Air Officer
Commanding Eastern Command Wellingtons bombed Trapani aerodrome
dropping 32 500 and 56 250 lb bombs starting one large fire.
Wellingtons that did not locate their primary target bombed
Trapani harbour dropping eight 5000, 14 150 lb bombs without
observed results and Gela and Castelvetro aerodromes scoring
hits across runways. Beauforts laid three mines entrance Bizerta
harbour and three entrance Tunis harbour. 0015 hours torpedo-
carrying Wellington attacked four M/Vs and five d/rs 251 degrees
Naples 50 miles but no results were observed. At request Air
Officer Commanding Eastern Air Command two Beaufighters set out
to bomb Pantelleria aerodromes but were prevented from so doing
by low cloud.

Day 1/12. Spitfires bombed Bisceglie aerodrome Sicily
dropping ten 250 lb bombs scoring hits on aerodrome buildings and
amongst dispersal pens. Spitfires bombed Gela aerodrome Sicily
dropping ten 250 lb bombs scoring hits in dispersal areas and
buildings and six 250 lb bombs on Comiso aerodrome Sicily without
observed results. Beaufighters attacked enemy merchant vessel
2000 tons position 180 degrees Kuriat three miles with cannon fire

setting/2

28C

MOST SECRET

- 3 -

setting ship ablaze from stem to stern crew seen to abandon ship.

0111 Nil.

1900Z/1.

2 Passed to WFOUSA for onward transmission

Air Ministry circulation :-
Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord, Admiralty
C.6.Tel., War Office
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

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

Recd. from Air Ministry at
1200/2nd December

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements. Algiers arrivals. ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, LASSO, BORDE, SAYONARA with T.E.7. WISHART, AZALEA with T.E.7(A). *QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, LAMERTON, WILTON, BLEAN, from Bone. *See pp 21325. * See pp 13215.*
Departures to Gibraltar, MANXMAN. To Gibraltar with E.T.3 and French M/Vs, VENOMOUS, WIVERN, FLEETWOOD, ENCHANTRESS, *See p.21* BRILLIANT, ROBERTS, and French Escort Vessels LA BOUDEUSE, *928* ENGAGEANTE, CHASSEUR III, the latter break off to Oran. To Bone with T.E.7, ROTHESAY, FELIXSTOWE, BRIXHAM, MARIGOLD, POLRUAN, H.D.M.L.1121, 1132. *See p.22*
(Cdre. Algiers, 2150A/1 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers and 4 merchant vessels 37.55 N. 11.30 E., 250°, 8 knots and that of 2 destroyers and one merchant vessel 37.45 N. 11.35 E., 225°, 10 knots.
(A/C C/S G1KU, 2210A/1 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

Malta Air Report. MS.5098. Pt.1. Sec. 1.
A.I.141, 1st Dec. 1942, C.S.R.
Night 30th Nov./1st Dec.

No enemy air activity. 2 Beaufighters carried out intruder patrols over Pantellaria and Castel Benito but saw no enemy aircraft.

1st Dec. 1142 hours, 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
1330 hours 6 Me.109s which approached Malta at great height were intercepted by 8 Spitfires north of Island but enemy had height advantage and avoided combat.
14 Spitfires have carried out reconnaissance patrols for shipping north of Malta. 3 Beaufighters have been despatched on offensive sweeps between Pantellaria and East Tunisian Coast but saw no enemy aircraft.
Night 30th Nov./1st Dec.

Wellingtons made 16 sorties to attack Bizerta Docks and Trapani Airfield and Harbour at request of A.O.C. Eastern Air Command. 2 Wellingtons which did not locate Trapani Airfield owing to bad weather attacked Gola and Castel Vetrano Airfield Sicily. 1850-1927 hours 4 Wellingtons attacked Bizerta Docks dropping 16 500 lb. 28 250 lb. G.P. bombs from 7000 ft., scoring hits near railway junction, iron ore wharf, and barracks, and among workshops near submarine base. Inaccurate heavy flak was encountered.

0210 hours 2 Wellingtons attacked Trapani Harbour dropping 8 flares, 8 500 lb. 14 250 lb. G.P. bombs from 6500 ft. which burst in harbour area but bad weather conditions prevented accurate observation of results.

8 sorties were made by Beauforts to lay mines in the entrances to Tunis and Bizerta harbours. 6 1500 lb. magnetic mines were laid from 800 feet 3 in entrance to each harbour. Intense and accurate light flak was encountered from Bizerta and 2 of our aircraft are missing. 4 special Wellingtons 3 carrying torpedoes were despatched to attack the enemy convoy sighted

/leaving ...

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - *un/5.*Malta Air
Report.

leaving Naples at 1430 hours. 3 aircraft made no sightings owing to bad weather and visibility. 1 Wellington found at 0015 hours 215° Naples 50 miles 4 M/Vs 4/7000 tons and 5 D/Rs course 200° speed slow and dropped 1 torpedo contact only depth setting 9 feet from 50 feet range 700 yards aimed at one M/V but no results were observed. *month 1410/2, p. 66, 2.v.*

Day 1st Dec. 2 Beaufighters despatched to attack M/V sighted at 0939 hours position 330° Zuara 20 miles course 320° speed 7 knots. Beaufighters found 180° Hammamet 3 miles 1 M/V 1000 tons course 190° speed 5 knots. Beaufighters attacked M/V with cannon and machine-gun fire setting fire to deck cargo of oil drums. Flames spread all over ship spreading to holds and crew abandoned ship in 3 boats 2 of which sank. Ship subsequently blew up.
(Air H.Q. Malta, 2249Z/1.)

PAPANICOLIS.

Telemotor system defective and becoming worse, request recall from patrol. 6000 ton merchant ship sunk.
(Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS, 2345B/1 to Capt. S.1,
(R) C. in C. Med.)

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B By D/F on 10820 k/cs at 0207Z/1 position of enemy German submarine, was 024° S., 039° E. unreliable fix.
 (C. in C. E.F., 0649Z/1 to S.O.A., E.I. Stn).

Movement summary. No. 26 Dec. 1st.
 (1) BIRMINGHAM left Bombay 30th November due Kilindini 5th December.
 (2) FROBISHER left Kilindini 29th November for exercises thence Durban due 4th December.
 (3) (?HAWKINS) left Kilindini 29th November for exercises thence Diego Suarez due 1st December.
 (4) JANUS escorting GLENROY left Aden 30th November due Kilindini 6th December.
 (C. in C. E.F., 0756Z/1 to E.I. Stn. Admty etc).

Reunion. Inform you that military operations have come to an end, and that they were completely successful. The Governor gave himself up this morning together with the personnel which had followed him. Three civilians killed by Island Troops, two civilians killed during the attack on the battery, two soldiers wounded during riots. LEOPARD has neither killed nor wounded. The defence of the Island is being studied in accordance with my instructions. A list of requirements will be forwarded as soon as established. I am drawing on stores on board to meet the requirements of the port in prime necessities now lacking. (Translation of telegrams 2351Z/30 Nov. and 0800/1 Dec. from LEOPARD to Adm. Free French Naval Forces).

Jibuti Cipher (M.O.5) 1 Dec. Following from C.O.S.
 1. Policy of H.M.G. is to get Jibuti to come over to us as quickly as possible.
 2. From point of view of H.M.G. it is most desirable that you should induce them to rally to the Fighting French. But if this can be done only at the expense of serious fighting, H.M.G. would of course accept their declaring for Darlan.
 (W.O. 1030A/1 to G.O.C. in C. East Africa).

TILAWA Your 1412/27 Nov. A. Army Officer 1. B. Civilian men 347. Civilian women and children 171.
 C. Merchant ship officers, European, 2. Indian seamen 215. D. Ship's crew, officers 16, men 198. Total personnel 950. Latest declared speed 12 knots.
 (P.S.T.O.I., 1041Z/1 to Admty (R) C.in C. E.F.)

CARTHAGE Arrival 1st Dec.
 (F.O.E.A., 1319Z/1 to Admty).

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy
Routeing.

Revised convoy instructions. Revised instructions for routeing and conduct of stragglers.
(C. in C. E.F., 1425C/1 to E.I. Station (R) Admty., A.C.N.B., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Durban, Cdre. Aden) See Lion Copy.

DERWENT

A.M. 1800/28th. Hope to release DERWENT to you about 3rd week in December.
(C. in C. E.F., 1521Z/1 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty).

Instructions
to Shipping.

Pass to N.C.S.O.
(1) Cancel Message 955 C. All sailings for Lourenco Marques are to be suspended for the present.
(2) Ships bound for Durban should approach from vicinity of 033° S., 036° E.
(3) Ships bound for Capetown should approach from the vicinity of 039° S., 028° E.
(C. in C. E.F., 2124Z/1 to E.I. Stn. Admty etc).

SECRET

32A

SECRET. MESSAGE. 1425C/1st December. IN.

From. C. in C. E.F. Date. 3.12.42.
Recd. 0015.

NAVAL CODE) "E.F OUT" BY CABLE.

Addressed. East Indies Station. (24C).
Repeated Admiralty. A.C.N.B. Melbourne. C. in C. S.A.,
C. in C. Durban. Cdre. Aden.

Revised convoy instructions.

1. Reference C.B. 04024 (41) article 83: standard route is now superseded by stragglers route, and secret positions are obsolete. The following are revised instructions for routing and conduct of stragglers.

(A) Routing.

1. Stragglers route should open out to between 40 and 60 miles from convoy route as soon as navigational dangers allow and should be on one side or the other, but should not cross convoy route used.
2. Positions on the stragglers route are to be lettered and should not be more than 480 miles apart, the last position being the same as the last position on convoy route.
3. Stragglers route should finish with any necessary inshore routes and searched channels to an onwards routing port.
4. The stragglers route is to be given to the Master of each ship in the sealed envelopes marked "Not to be opened until ship proceeds to sea"
5. The lettered positions on stragglers routes are used by Cdre. for making daily rendezvous and by ships for reporting their noon positions to Cdre. or on any other occasion of reporting position at sea.

(B) Conduct of Stragglers.

1. Course steered to reach stragglers route should be at an angle of not less than 030 degs from the course of convoy.
2. Unless otherwise ordered by W/T stragglers should endeavour to rejoin convoy as indicated by Cdre's rendezvous for the 2 days following. If it is evident that neither of the rendezvous can be made they should at once proceed to the stragglers route.

Cont. When

When diverting authority has reason to believe convoy is shadowed he will direct stragglers by B.A.M.S. message to proceed immediately to stragglers route. If original stragglers route is unsuitable a new one will be included in message.

(2) The foregoing instructions embody amendment number 3 to C.B. 04024 (?54) and subsequently additions in Admiralty Message 13 (?52) of 14th September, 1942 (to certain F.O. only). Until printed corrections to C.B.'S are received the following temporary amendments are to be made and a reference to this signal inserted.

C.B. 04024 (41) article 83 paragraph B, C, E and F are in abeyance and paragraph H is to be amended to read, begins:

All instructions are to be enclosed in one envelope marked "Secret" in red and "Not to be opened until ship has put to sea". The number of separate enclosures is to be stated on the envelope.

(3) The following amended definitions are now established by terms of British United States Routeing Agreements.

(A) A convoy is two or more naval auxiliary vessels or merchant ships or both assembled and organized for an operation or for passage together. Protective ships or aircraft are known as convoy escorts.

(B) Independent shipping means shipping sailed singly and routed singly to its destination. An independent merchant ship may have escort but this will not alter its status for routeing and reporting purposes. Temporary amendment with a reference to this signal is to be made to C.B. 04024 (41) article 6.

(4) The following convoy short titles and their opposites are in use on East Indies Station.

A B Aden to Bombay,
 T J Aden to Colombo,
 A K Aden to Kilindini,
 A P Aden to Persian Gulf,
 B M Bombay to Ceylon,
 B P Bombay to Persian Gulf,
 C J Calcutta to Colombo (coastal),
 C M Cape to Matara East,
 J M India to East Africa or Madagascar,

SECRET

32 ^C ~~A~~

- 3 -

K M East Africa to Madagascar,
K R East Africa or Madagascar to Ceylon,
M D Madagascar to East Africa,
O W Overseas from Australia west bound,
S U Middle East to Australia,
S W Middle East to Cape and U.K. May contain Indian
section e.g. C.M. 31 B.

14250/1.

Advance Copy sent.
Ops. O.D. Trade.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (3)
O..D (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
M. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
H.W.R. (2)
D.S.D. (2)
U.S.N. (3)
D. of P. (3)
Ad. Blake.
I.P. (3)
W.D.

vs21.

y
s.

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Operation "Torch" Your 2111/18 November, information now received from N.C.X.F.

Casualties. Categories (a) In serviceable conditions (b) Damaged (c) Sunk, (d) Salvageable. Message begins:- Following is a summary of information received to date. All ships are French.

Bone (a) GALLIUM 1775, MARAKESH, 6178.
(b).COLOMBIE 13390.

Philippeville (a) PLM 21 5417.

Bougie (a) SIDI BRAHIM 2349, (b) JANINE 2357 (c) FLORIDA 9330, KOUTOUBIA 8790, both capsized ALEINI 8403 burnt.

Algiers (a) VILLE D'ORAN 10172, MARIGOT 4048, CHAMPOLLIAN 12545, ATHOS II, 15275, PROSPER SCHIAFFINO 1634, CHARLES SCHIAFFINO 3664, VILLE TENNES, 390, JOSEPHINE LE BORGNE 1309 CHATEAU LATOUR 1913, MASCOT 1224, LE ZERANNA 459, EL BIAR 4678 N.D.AGRIQUE 216, DJEBEL AURES 2835 GOVERNOR GENERAL LEPINE 3700, CAP PINEDE 1319, LES ISSERS 726, JEANNE SCHIAFFINO 1032, VILLE DE BOUGIE 1132, VILLE DJIDJELLI 1132, FINISTERRE 1158, SCHIAFFINO FRERES 3314, PAUL DE ROUZIER, 3547, AUGUSTINE LE BORGNE 1128, PROCIERA 1156, DUNKERQUE 2477.

Mostaganem (a) RICHEBOURGE 1042, (a) ERIDAN 9928, JAMAIQUE 10123, MONTAIGNE 2770, CEVENNES 2508, (b) CHATEAU PAVIE 2047, LORRAINE 8776, FORAIT 500, SIDI BEL ABBES 439, (c) MENHIR BRAZE 2733, BOUDJELL, 152?, GOVERNEUR GENERAL LAFERRIERRE 345?, Tenes (a) CAP FALCON 1778.

Benisaf (a) AGEN 4185.

Nemours (a) MERA EL KEBIR 2109, (b) CARTHAGE 2302.

Lyautey (d) SAINTE ELISE (unknown) BOUENIKA (b) LORRAIN 3217, DAHOMEY 5851 STRASBOURGEOIS 2923, (all beached).

Fedala.9A CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE 4945, LOITOU.

Casablanca (a) LIEUTENANT DE LA TOUR 5700, LE TRAIT 1158, VENDOME 4191, FORT DOUAMONT 5265, SCHIAFFINO 3256, WYOMING 8061, DE LA SALLE 8400 (b) ISLE DE NOIRMOUTIER 5230. FAUZO 3889, (c) ISLE D'OUESSANT 5139, PORTHOS, 12692, LIPARI 9954, SAVOIE (unknown).

Mazagan (a) MANCEEN, 2895.

Agadir (a) BLETHIA (unknown)

2. Oran CAPITAINE SAINT MARTIN, SPAHI 940, MITIDJA 3351, all sunk near entrance to inner harbour. Work to move them is proceeding T.O.O. 1003A/23.1.42.(Ends)
(D.T.D. 0059A/1, 1605Z/1, to Connav)

R.16.

U.S.S/M Notice.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 0146/2).

Tanker Convoys Your 1815/29th. Resulting from preliminary for "Torch" discussion in Navy Dept. it appears there is Area. no possibility of sufficient escorts being available to run slow tanker convoy to MOMP as you suggest.

2.As alternative Navy Dept. are studying possibility of furnishing (?about) 12 fast tankers to form a service between D.W.I. and Casablanca direct.

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Tanker Convoys for "Torch" Area. Contd.

3. This would involve British providing escorts and slow tankers for shuttle service from Casablanca to Gibraltar and ports inside Mediterranean.

4. First 6 fast tankers might be available early January and would replace U.G.F. commitment. Second 6 possibly available end of January would replace K.M. slow and part of U.G.S. commitment.

6. Immediate saving could be effected by increasing number of tankers in U.G.S. convoy in place of those in K.M. slow convoy which appear to be most uneconomical. Is this feasible? (B.A.D. 0351Z/1 to Admiralty, (R) N.C.X.F., R.A.W.A.).

Attacks on U/Bs.

Following is Cominch's 1935/30th addressed to Admiralty for action referring to your 1059/22/7 and to B.A.D. for information.

On 1st Nov submerging S/M was attacked S.W. of Iceland with four depth charges by U.S. Naval A/C. Air bubbles and oil were obtained continuously for 45 mins.

On 2nd November near Solomons Islands a S/M was seen submerging at a range of 2000 yards by U.S.S. MCCALLA which dropped 11 depth charges on periscope. Afterwards three explosions were heard and there was a strong smell of oil. During the week ending 2400Z/29. 34 attacks were reported. (Comnav 0826/1 to Admiralty).

LARIAT. My 1622/29th, H.M. Rescue tug LARIAT sailed from Barbados 1200Q/30th E.T.A. Norfolk Dec. 6th (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0922C/1 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admiralty, B.A.D. Washington, N.O.B. Trinidad).

Movements Summary.

| Ship. | Position. | Course. | Speed. |
|----------|---------------|---------|--------|
| S/M K.14 | 31° N. 62° W. | 300° | 9. |
| GLENEARN | 42° N. 30° W. | 008° | 16. |
| ARMERIA) | | | |
| Tanker) | 09° N. 30° W. | 270° | 8. |
| Convoy) | | | |

(D.O.D. (F) 0955Z/1 to Opnav (R) Comnav).

U/B. A/C sighted periscope in position 044.45 N. 058.40 W. at 1110/1 December. (C.O.A.C. 1232Z/1 to G.B.7A. (R) C.T. F.24, Comnav etc).

H.X. 217. At 0830Z/1st? U.S. ship PERTH heard sighting report from enemy S/M H/F D/F bearings 258°. At 1105Z/1st A/C (?plotted) with approx. same bearings close to convoy. No (?contacts) have been made by escort (corrupt group). (?SASKATOON) remaining in position until 0?800Z/1st. Position of H.X. 217 at 11?05Z/1st 044.49 N. (?058°) 34' W. (?steering with) (corrupt group) course (?076°)

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

H.X.217. 8 knots altered to 072° at 1800Z/1st. 3
Contd. stragglers MDDZ, ERRSWICK PARK, ESCR, from
S.C.111 have joined this convoy. Request
permission to detach them with LADY RODNEY
to St. Johns N.F. They are delaying convoy.
Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.18.4. 1440Z/1 to C.O.A. C., KELVAN, A.I.G. (?302).)

U/B. S/M periscope sighted in position 045.38,
30. N. 060.15.W. at 1200Z/1 report graded
(?B) 4.
(C.O.A.C. 1440Z/1 to C.B.(?7) A, C.T.F.24, (R)
Connav etc).

U/ B 1st December S/M Est. and U.S.S/M Notice.
Positions. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1529Z/1st, 1530/1st.
1601A/1st, 1602/1st 1603/1st, 1943/1st.)

H/F
position
reports
from M/Vs.

1. After an exhaustive discussion with B.A.D. Cominch still considers it safer technically and better psychologically to eliminate H/F position reports from all independent M/Ss at sea regardless of speed (ref. your 0004A/17 para.5.). However if the Admiralty still insists that these reports be made and in order than U.S. and British M/Ss may not operate under different rules the following proposal will be accepted by Cominch. All M/Ss shall maintain a continuous dead reckoning plot from the port of departure to the port of arrival based on the speeds given by the master and shown in the route message. Whenever a ship is more than 100 miles ahead or astern of this dead reckoning position the master shall report at night his correct position. Using this corrected position as a new origin he shall then continue dead reckoning and if he again gets 100 miles out prior to arrival he shall again report his position. If approaching New York or the United Kingdom and an approach report is required the out of position report need not be made. If the ship has suffered a breakdown which will cause definite reduction in speed this fact will be reported and for subsequent dead reckoning the master and the plotting authorities shall use the speed given in this report.

2. These position reports shall be encoded in the form indicated in C.A.M.S.I. 52/42 and shall have the 2 time radio call sign of the ship encoded as the first word after the code indicator. The reports shall contain in the preamble the P/L passing instructions "Pass to Admiralty" or "Pass to Navy Dept. Cominch C. and R" depending on whether British or U.S. coastal stations are contact.

3. A 4 lettered general radio call sign followed by an arbitrary numeral if necessary to avoid confusion shall be established to be used by M/Ss in lieu of their war time call signs for the purpose of delivering these positions reports to shore stations. Radio operators are not to exceed a period of 2 mins on any one frequency in calling shore stations and not more than one attempt to effect communication shall be made on any one of 3 frequencies employed. If contact cannot be established with shore stations during one of the 3 calling periods of 2 mins each transmission is to be delayed until the following night. (Cominch C. & R. 1535/1 to Admiralty).

/FURMAHAL...

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

FURMAHAL. Have you any news of FURMAHAL due Charleston 19th Nov. from Capetown? (D.T.D. 1557A/1 to N.S.H.Q.).

SHERWOOD defect. (? O.N.149) SHERWOOD detached to (?St.Johns N.F.) at 18 knots evaporator seriously defective unable to water from convoy. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.12 1615Z/1 to C. in C.W.A.).

Dakar, negotiations. Private for Admiral Cunningham from F.M.Dill. Dakar arrangements have been before Combined C.O.S. and although negotiations there must be done by American officers these officers have our requirements as already signalled to you by Admty and are accepting responsibility for doing all they can to obtain them. 2. Admiral Glassford who is coming to Dakar was in here yesterday and had long talk with Patterson. Arnold has already telegraphed Smith (Air Commander in West Africa) to contact L.O.C. and A.O.C. West Africa at Accra before going to Dakar. 3. It is understood that any agreements made will be subject to approval of Combined C.O.S. Let me know if you have any anxieties. (J.S.M. 1701Z/1 to N.C. X.F.).

CLAN MACFADYEN. Overdue Trinidad British CLAN MACFADYEN. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1701R/1 to Admty etc).

Convoy Escort Groups. My 2305/30th. Para. 3 is not recommended since B.5. group was released with object of forming a reinforcing group as soon as possible. (B.A.D. 1715Z/1 to Admiralty (R) C. in C.W.A.).

Refits in Canadian ports. Reference N.S.H.Q's 1340/17 Oct. 1941. *N.S.H.Q.*

| | A. | B. | C. | D. |
|-------------|----|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| SHAWINIGAN | | Liverpool | Dec. 1st | Jan. 12th '43 |
| | | | (ex docking) | |
| MIDLAND. | | " | " | " |
| BUXTON. | | Halifax. | Nov. 30th. | Dec. 8th. |
| RESTIGOUCHE | | " | " | Dec. 5th. |
| RIMOUSKI. | | " | " | Dec. 5th. |
| ARROWHEAD. | | " | " | Dec. 6th. |
| LINCOLN. | | " | Dec. 1st. | Dec. 3rd. |

My 1430/26, defects. KENTVILLE completed.
My 1700/28, defects OAKVILLE completed.
(CO.A.C. 1800Z/1st, to N.S.H.Q.(R) Admty,
N.M.C.J.S. Washington for Capt. D. Newfoundland,
Capt.(D) Halifax).

LOBOS S/M Report. Kingston Radio reports British LOBOS in 019° 47' N. 079° 15' W. at 2140 G.M.T. 1st. sighted S/M. Presumably U.S.S/M CUTTLEFISH. (S.O.(I) Kingston 1804R/1 to Admty etc).

MOST SECRET

36A

MOST ~~SECRET~~ MESSAGE ~~1701Z/1~~ IN December

From C.A.O.C.

Date 1.12.42.

Recd. 2130

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T and T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Section North West H.M. S/M P 553 on surface escorted by CALIFF and BROCKVILLE departs south end Gut of Canso about 2000Z 1st en route for Halifax passing through

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------|-----|-------|---------|-----|------|
| A | 045 deg | 52' | North | 060 deg | 43' | West |
| B | 045 deg | 10' | North | 060 deg | 38' | West |
| C | 044 deg | 57' | North | 060 deg | 56' | West |
| D | 044 deg | 28' | North | 062 deg | 27' | West |
| E | 044 deg | 28' | North | 065 deg | 22' | West |

expected time of arrival Halifax 1500Z

2nd.

H.M.S/M P.512 on the surface escorted by MILLTOWN departs Pictou 1200 Z 2nd en route Canso passing 2 miles off Cape George speed 10 knots

Tug L T PORTER vicinity 045 deg 52' 062 deg 00' en route Sydney
Tug BUTTERCUP and towing 046 deg 15' 063 deg 50' 046 deg 46' 064 deg 47' en route Dingwall.

GANANOQUE, RED DEER, 049 deg 13' 066 deg 10' en route La Plata
BURGEO, DRUMMONDVILLE, departs Sydney 1000 Z 2nd

S B 38 ELK (074 deg ?) 07' North 059 deg 51' West 014 deg 7.5 knots.

1701Z/1

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

A.C.N.S.(H)
 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)

D.T.D.(M)
 F.O.S. by courier.
 C.C.R.T.
 D.T.D.(3)
 D.T.D.(C).

IH.

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Boom
Defence
Depots.

Your N.1888/42 of 7th November not to A.C.N.B.
In view of U.S. plans already in hand for defence
of advanced or recaptured bases, it is not
desired that proposals in para.(2) of my 1657/16
July should be pursued further.
(M.Branch. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1823A/1 to
B. A.D.(R) A.C.N.B.).

L.C.1(L)'s
seaworthiness.

My 1702/30. At 0300Z/27 November in position 33.
52 N. 065.34 W. with wind West 6 or 7 and steep
sea LCI(L)s and B.A.Ts hove to and rode to sea
anchors. LCI(L) 7 lost touch during night and when
weather moderated was ordered by R/T to R/V in 31.18 N. 055.58 W.
at 1600Z/28 and to return to Bermuda if Flotilla was not sighted
by 1800Z/28.

2. Only minor defects developed in LCI(L) 7. Canvas of sea
anchor was found to be disintegrated from ring when hauled in
after 6 hours.
3. Seasickness affected entire crew. Engine room staff and a few
seamen carried on duties but communication and remainder of
seamen ratings were inexperienced and practically useless in bad
weather.

4. Following proposals are made:-

- (a) Revolution telegraph necessary as telephone from bridge is
inaudible in engine room.
 - (b) One ship of escort should have D/F or RDF to locate stragglers.
 - (c) Blue stern lights with dimming switch required.
 - (b) Officers in U.S.A. awaiting ships might have navigation
instruction.
 - (e) LCI (L)s on passage from U.S. to Bermuda might carry
officers detailed for next batch to gain seagoing experience.
5. When running before a sea LCI (L)s are liable to plane
some distance during which rudders are ineffective.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1842Q/1 to Admty (R) B.A.D. F.O.C.N.A.).

U/B.

U/B estimated in your vicinity has made a
sighting report of convoy and important unit
1817Z/1st. 105 K/Cs.
(A/C U.S.Fleet 1847/1 to C.T. F.38, Admty).

U/B.

A/C sighted S/M 044.25 N. 054.51 W at 1946Z/1st,
A/C call sign 6 K T L.
(C.O.A.C. 2017Z/1 to G B 7 A).

S/M attack and Para.A. EMPIRE CROMWELL torpedoed sunk 09° N. 58.
sighting 30.W. 0150Z/28.
Summary. Para.C. PC 494 attacks contact 13.20 N. 70.18.W.
0539Z/9 November. PC565 attacks contact 13.36 N.

63 W. 1652Z/14. YP.415 sights S/M course 118.20.20 N. 74.21 W.
0530Z/30.

SS.MORMACSWAN sights S/M 01.30 N. 34.16 W. 1010Z/30. Army
observation post sight S/M course South .0.20 N. 60.47 W.
2222Z/30. Periscope sighted 45.38 N. 60.15 W. 1200Z/1 December.
Para.D. Plane sights periscope 44.45 N. 58.40 W. 1110Z/1. K-7
and surface craft attack moving oil slick 39.48 N. 72.45 W.
1759Z/1.

(Cominch 2117/1 to Admty for O.I.C.(R) N.S.H.Q.).

/Dive.....

37A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

MOST SECRET

T.O.D. 2120/1st December

Date 1/12/42

To Washington.

Cypher

From Foreign Office.

Dakar mission.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 7516. 1st December 1942.

Admiral Cunningham has reported to the Admiralty that the directive sent to General Eisenhower by the United States Chiefs of Staff for negotiations about West Africa makes no mention of British requirements and contains no suggestion of British representations on the mission which is to go to Dakar for discussions with the French.

2. Our understanding was (see J.S.M. 500 of 27th November) that the instructions to the United States delegates would set forth the facilities which it was desired to obtain including our points.

3. We have not hitherto requested actual British representation in the discussions, but Admiral Cunningham thinks unilateral action by United States authorities is undesirable and will try to get the principle of British participation on the mission agreed by the American and French delegates. We strongly share this view.

4. Please inform United States Government urgently that we attach great importance to British participation in the discussions which we understand are to take place at Dakar and that we count upon them to arrange it. We have immense interests in West Africa and the naval part we are playing entitles us to full consideration.

T.O.D. 2120/1.

Circulation -

C.I.G.S.

C.A.S.

D.O.

C.O.

No. 10

Admiralty

W.C.O.

Received from Foreign Office p.m./3.

1st Lord

1st S.L.

D.F.S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (T)

P.A.S. (S)

D.O.D. (F)

D.O.D. (H)

D.N.I.

D. of P.

Head of M.

Ad. Blake

Ad. Ramsey

D.C.

I.P.

W.D.

D. of P. (Q)

D. of L.D.

D.D.I.C.

GMM

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Dive Bombers. S.A.T. from D.N.A.D. Your 1951Z/27 para. 2. Offer most acceptable. Further information will be given when experienced pilots can be made available. Para. 3. Concur in giving this course as suggested. A copy of syllabus for dive bombing would be much appreciated. The present intended policy is to use S.B.2C primarily for dive bombing and secondarily for torpedo dropping.
(D.N.A.D., 2131A/1 to B.A.D.)

Tankers for "Torch" Area. Suggestions. To be referred to as Tortank Convoys.
(Brit. M/S Mission, Washington, 2337Z/1, to M.W.T.)
See Lion Copy.

ATTACKER. When ready about Dec. 4th Cdr. West Sea Front sail ATTACKER to Balboa independently. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A. Action addressee furnish protection as practicable. Cdre. Panama Sea Front route onward to Norfolk (Virginia) in trade convoy or independently if satisfactory to other sea Frontier Cdr. concerned. U.S.N.O.B. Norfolk pass to B.N.L.O.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2005/1 to Cdr. West Sea Front., Cdr. Panama Sea Front., B.N.L.O. Norfolk (Virginia), (R) Cdr. Gulf Sea Front., Cdr. Caribbean Sea Front., Cdr. Eastern Sea Front., N.S.H.Q., Admty., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), C. in C. Pacific Fleet (U.S.), Com. 11, Com. 12, Com. South East Pac. For.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Sydney 30th U.S. Cruiser PORTLAND, U.S. (D) MEADE, U.S. NAVAJO.
(A.C.N.B., 0127Z/1 to Admty., etc.)

Arrival Wellington U.S. Ship MIZAR 2118Z/1st.

Arrival U.S. destroyer CUMMINGS 2320Z/1st.

(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2330Z/1 to Admty.)

Situation. Digest Serial No. 313 Nov. 30th.
Report indicates shipping Buin Faisi area early morning 30th included 4 merchant vessels, 2 tankers, 1 submarine, 1 sloop, several gunboats and small craft but no destroyers as observed previous day.

MOST SECRET

38A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2337Z/1st December

IN

From British Merchant Shipping Mission Washington. Date 2.12.42.

Recd. 0717

Naval Cyphor XD PLUG by Cable.

Addressed M. of W.T. London.

Trans No. 33 ref 0351/1 from B.A.D. to Admiralty.

In discussion of possible improvements in use of tankers for TORCH area the suggestion of running two or three express tanker units consisting of six Maritime Commission type tankers with perhaps three destroyers was proposed by W.S.A. as an alternative to the present arrangement.

2. Until given proper name we will refer to these as Tortank convoys.

3. W.S.A. advise they could assemble the tankers for one Tortank Unit immediately and anticipate that they could assemble the tankers for a second Tortank early in January from new buildings but because plans for U.G.F.3 and U.G.S.3 are so far advanced it would seem preferable to allow tankers to proceed in these two convoys and work towards commencement of Tortank operation to replace tankers in U.G.F.4 and U.G.S.4 and thereafter.

4. Although this plan if practicable would undoubtedly save considerable tanker tonnage we appreciate that to discharge and turnround a Tortank unit would be complicated and would necessitate the allocation of slow tankers to shuttle services from Casablanca and Gibraltar.

5. We will be grateful for your guidance as to development of this suggestion.

6. Can we and B.A.D. assist in the elimination of tankers from the KMS convoys.

7. Ref 2305/30th November from B.A.D. to Admiralty in the event B5 Group can be used for direct Caribbean/U.K. Convoy would you employ it for Gibraltar and Ponta Delgada shipments instead of their going onward in U.G.S.4 if Tortank was not yet sufficiently operative itself to eliminate tankers from U.G. Convoys.

/8.

38B

MOST SECRET

8. We would like to make the general observation that anything you can do to promote this convoy scheme from the Caribbean will of course be a substantial contribution to our general oil problems, quite apart from the intrinsic merits of the scheme as a shipping operation and in this connection grateful you pass copy this message to Geoffrey Lloyd.

2337Z/1

Advance copy Ops., O.D., Trade.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.I.
3rd 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.
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
D.O.D. (H)(2)
D.N.T. (4)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of S.T. for action
Duty Capt. (2)
D.A/S.F.
Hd. of A.
Ac. Blake (2)
Ac. Ramsey (4)
D. of S.
I.F. (2)
W.D.
B.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.O.D. (F)(2)

War Diary.1.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - con 15.

Situation. (2) 1 destroyer arrived Buna passage night
(Contd.) 29th/30th.
(3) American forward troops have reached Buna village while Australians have pressed their attack supported by artillery and mortar fire to within 100 yards of Gona village. Our forces also advancing along Sanananda track.
(4) Strong forces Marauders, B.25, Aircobras and Kittyhawks again attacked enemy positions Buna - Gona area during day starting numerous fires 16 Kittyhawks acting as top cover intercepted 12 Zeros at 10000 feet over Dobodura area shooting down 7 Zeros for the loss of 2. Other Kittyhawks engaged dive bombing enemy positions probably destroyed another Zero.
(5) 7 enemy dive bombers and 1 Zero attacked Dobodura during afternoon destroying 1 grounded aircraft 2 dive bombers and 1 Zero believed shot down (? 2 groups missing).
(6) 5 enemy bombers attempting attack 2 small allied corvettes in Timor Sea morning 30th intercepted by 2 Beaufighters hit scored on 3 bombers who jettisoned bombs. 3 Beaufighters intercepted 3 medium bombers 4 Zeros in same area during afternoon 1 Zero 1 bomber damaged. Enemy aircraft attacked corvettes during evening no damage reported, 1 Beaufighter lost.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0745Z/1 to Admty., etc.)

AQUITANIA. AQUITANIA convoy to sail Wellington p.m. 11th December E.T.A. Fremantle 19th Dec. F.O. Ceylon pass to C. in C. E.F.
(N.Z.N.B., 1456M/1 to Admty., etc.)

Boom Admty. 1823A/1.
Defence See America and West Indies.
Depots.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions. Slight increase in sightings in Western Mediterranean. Uncertain at present whether these were U-Boats from Italian ports or from Atlantic. No recent evidence from Western Approaches to Gibraltar and Casablanca but possibly up to 6 may still be east of 11° 59' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1405A/1, 1411A/1.)

1.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN - con. 15.

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22/7.

Bay area. Nov. 27th. Halifax aircraft 10 miles north of Santander attacked a U-Boat with depth charges and claimed 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. U-Boat later reported entering Hendaye.

2. Eastern Mediterranean.

(a) 7th Nov. During American bombing raid on Tobruk Balilla class U-Boat hit by 2 bombs and subsequently completely wrecked internally by demolition. Wreck beached.

(b) 27th Nov. Two corvettes 10 miles north of Derna carried out prolonged Asdic hunt and produced considerable amount of oil and 1 Dutch electric bulb.

3. Western Mediterranean. Nov. 28th. Aircraft 10 miles North of Bone sighted U-Boat which dived. Two destroyers attacked.

U-Boat surfaced out of control and sank vertically, stern first, and was subsequently located on the bottom.

(D.A/S.W., 1022A/1 to Cominch, B.A.D., Comnavu, N.S.H.Q.)

2.12.1942.
Wednesday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

A large naval unit, almost certainly TIRPITZ, was seen by P.R.U. at 1400 in Lofjord.

South Atlantic.

U.S. EXCELLO is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat at 0700Z/13 November in 32° S. 30° E.

PHOEBE, who has been repairing torpedo damage at Point Noire sailed for Freetown via Takoradi today.

Mediterranean.

An aircraft from Gibraltar attacked with depth charges a U-Boat on the surface at 1145A/today in 37.49 N. 2.14 E. (60 miles N.N.E. of Algiers) and reports two probable hits. (page 59) (page 90)
(~~ESSIE~~ sunk 28/11 by QUENTIN & QUIBERON - Sun 28/11 - p. 1156 124/11 0.12.42)

MANXMAN (torpedoed yesterday) arrived at Mers-el-Kebir this morning in tow of PATHFINDER.

Notes -
2.12.1942
ESSIE
undamaged
attacked, but
not sunk

Force Q. destroyers enemy convoy. QUENTIN Sunk.

Force Q. (AURORA, ARGONAUT, SIRIUS and 2 destroyers) sailed from Bone yesterday to intercept some small convoys for Tunisia which were reported by aircraft. At 0057A today Force Q attacked a convoy in 37.39 N. 10.50 E. (about 40 miles North of Cape Bon). The enemy scattered and made smoke. C.S.12 considered his force sank* four Merchant Ships (of which at least two appeared to be troopships) and 3 destroyers. There were no damage or casualties in Force Q. At 0634A the force was attacked by torpedo aircraft and JU 88 in 37.32 N. 8.32 E. and QUENTIN was torpedoed and sunk. At 1257A N.C.X.F. asked S.O. Force H to sail two 4.7" destroyers to Algiers to reinforce Force Q (ESKIMO and TARTAR were sent); he is to keep not less than 10 destroyers in company with Force H, calling on Gibraltar Escort Force if absolutely essential.

* Merchant ships sunk. 2nd Dec 1942.
were.
Italian. ASPROMONTE ^{GRI} 976
.. AVENTINO 3,794
.. PUCCINI 2,422
German K. T. I. 600

From
Commander
Tiltenton
15.10.49.

~~SECRET~~ 42

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. reported at 1300-1327 near Marittimo a 7000 ton tanker with 2 destroyers circling, and 4 destroyers and 2 E-Boats near Marittimo, whilst 45 miles and 30 miles respectively W by S of Marittimo there were a stationary destroyer and 3 destroyers (one down by the stern), 2 small merchant ships and a large oil patch. S/MS P.45, 43, 48, 37 and 219 were sent to search for damaged vessels.

Aircraft and D.14 destroy a convoy.

Aircraft from Malta about 2000A today attacked with torpedoes an enemy convoy in 34° 45' N. 11° 45' E. (East of Kerkenah) steering 250° and sank two merchant vessels and left a third sinking; the escort scattered. JERVIS (Capt. D.14), JAVELIN, ~~NUBIAN~~ JANUS and KELVIN sailed from Malta this afternoon, ^{See p. 46.} to intercept the convoy. At 0048A/3 Capt. D 14, who arrived on the scene about 3½ hours after the aircraft attack reported that he had sunk a small enemy ^{*}T.B.D. employed in rescuing survivors from a vessel set on fire by aircraft, which also sank in 34° 31' N. 11° 39' E.

* LUPO. (B.R. 1900.)

At 1826A, P.35 set on fire and holed on the waterline by gunfire the 1097 ton Northbound SS. SACRO CUORE in 35° 28' N. 11° 21' E and selected for capture 10 German Air Force and Army personnel.

H.S. L1201 and South African minesweeper BOKSBURG were damaged by near misses in air attack on Alexandria p.m. today.

America & West Indies.

SS. CITY OF BATH is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk in 9° 50' N. 59° 25' W. at 0110Z today.

SS. SOLON II was torpedoed and sunk at 2330 G.M.T today in position reported to be 7° 45' N. 56° 30' W. "very inaccurate."

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Available operational S/Ms in Home Waters.

- (1) It is understood that the four submarines of the Home Flotillas at present stationed at Gibraltar may shortly be returning to U.K.
- (2) As far as F.O.(S) is concerned from a manning and training point of view, the above submarines can remain provided they reach U.K. not later than mid-March.
- (3) It is estimated that until that date the maximum number of submarines available for operations in Home Waters will be 3 T Class, 3 S Class, GRAPH, 6 U.S. S/Ms, UREDD, SOKOL, O.14, O.15, and JUNON. New construction submarines working up for Mediterranean Flotillas will also be available intermittently.
(F.O.S., 1102A/2 to Admty).

Kirkwall. Operational Control.

A.C.O.S. 1247/28. Concur.
(C. in C. H.F., 1145A/2 to Admty).

Movements.

CLYDE

See p 43 e

F.O.(S) 1059/26. From 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles proceed through (x) 180° Lizard Head 20 miles (y) 180° Start Point 20 miles to R/V with escort in 50° 33.8 N., 001° 50.6 W.

(vide Q.Z.H.930) at 0830/5th.

(Capt. S.5., 1005A/2 to Clyde).

Estimate CLYDE P.C.S. at 1200A/2nd. 049° 03' N., 013° 25' W. S.O.A. 2½ knots.

(C. in C. W.A., 1159A/2 to Escorts K.X.7).

GUNNEL.

Intend sailing GUNNEL escorted by CAPE PORTLAND for Roseneath at 0900/3rd. E.T.A. 0800/7.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1020A/2).

→ JUNON

See p 43 e

Intend to sail JUNON escorted by LEICESTER CITY 1202A/3rd for Dundee routed.

(a) 091° Sumberg Head 5 miles (b) 089° Fair Isle 6 miles (c) 058° 44' N., 002° 32' W. thence by searched channel. E.T.A. 1500A/4th.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1211A/2) See also S.O. S/M Lerwick 2041A/3.

W.A. Command

Situation at 1955A/2. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1358A/2) See Lion Copy.

O.10

Your 351/2 of 26th Nov. Owing to shortage of A/S training S/M, O.10 should be sailed for Rothesay as soon as possible after 1st January, 1943.

(F.O.S., 1543A/2 to Capt. S.6).

43A

MOST SECRET

1358A/2nd December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

Date 2.12.42.

Recd. 2020.

P/L

Addressed Admiralty.

Situation at 1955A/2nd December, 1942.

Section N.E.

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Q.P.15(M) | MUSKETEER | 58 55 07 01 | 001 st Batt of Lewis | 9 |
| | FORESTER | | 7 miles thence | |
| | IMPULSIVE | | Loch Ewe | |
| | BERGAMOT | | | |
| | BRYONY | | | |
| | BRITOMART | | | |
| | HAZARD | | | |

5 M/V'S unescorted continue through Minches.

Section S.E.

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| CYGNET | | 53 59 04 55 | To Tobermory. | 11 |
| WALLFLOWER | | 53 50 04 51 | To Londonderry | 12 |
| H.M.77 | MAID MARION | 53 00 05 04 | Southbound | 8 |
| | SOUTHERN BREEZE | | | |
| Convoy | BERN | 52 45 04 54 | Northbound | 9 |
| B.B.40 | KINGSTON BERYL | Sails Belfast | To Bristol Channel | 8 |
| | LEEDS UNITED | 0600A/3 | | |
| | NORTHERN GIFT | | | |
| | NORTHERN FOAM | | | |
| O.N.M.151 | ROSEMARY | 52 06 05 23 | To Belfast | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | 1 Trawler | | | |
| O.N.S.150 | ANEMONE | 55 39 07 30 To | 55 30 15 02 | 7 |
| | ASPHODEL | | | |
| | ABELLA | | | |
| | CLOVER | | | |
| M.K.F.3 | ARCHER | 53 42 04 49 | To Moelfre Bay | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1 M/V | SOUTHERN SPRAY | Sails Barry | To North Channel | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| | | Roads 2000A/2 | | |
| Convoy | THALASSA | Sails Barry | To Clyde | 8 |
| | | Roads 2300A/2 | | |
| M.K.S.2 | POWEY | 54 30 05 17 | To Liverpool | 7 |
| BALSAM | | Off Mull of | To Tobermory | 8 |
| | | Kintyre | | |

Section N.W.

| | | | | |
|---------|--------------|----------------|-------------|---|
| S.C.110 | ST. LAURENT | 57 13 21 53 To | 56 28 08 32 | 8 |
| C.T.U. | BATTLE FORD | | | |
| 24.1.11 | CHILLIWACK | | | |
| | EYEBRIGHT | | | |
| | NAPANEE | | | |
| | SHEDIAC | | | |
| | KENOGAMI | | | |
| H.K.52 | ARAB | 59 43 10 44 To | 61 21 14 59 | 8 |
| | HUGH WALPOLE | | | |
| | ANGLE | | | |
| | THIRLMERE | | | |

R.U.51/.....

43B

Section N.W. (continued)

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---|
| R.U.51 | MAZURKA | 61 24 18 26 To | 61 08 17 51 thence | 7 |
| | PIROUETTE | | 59 35 12 00 | |
| | BLACKFLY | | | |
| | EBORWYKE | | | |
| S.C.L.110 | U.S.S. DUANE | 58 44 24 21 | To Reykjavik | 8 |
| C.T.U. | U.S.S. SCHENCK | | | |
| 24.6.3 | U.S.S. BARBITT | | | |

U.S.S. LEARY relieves U.S.S. DUANE at about 2200A/3

Section S.W.

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----|
| BERMUDA | | 45 05 15 18 To | 50 02 15 16 | 18 |
| GRAPH | | 45 30 17 00 | 55 ⁰ | 4 |
| O.N.149 | BROADWAY | 50 16 35 39 To | 43 45 50 46 | 9½ |
| C.T.U. | POLYANTHUS | | | |
| 24.1.12 | MORDEN | | | |
| | PICTOU | | | |
| | PRIMROSE | | | |
| | ORILLIA | | | |
| K.X.7 | KRAKOWIAK | 49 05 13 15 To | 46 00 14 00 | 7 |
| | BLEASDALE | | | |
| | LAUDERDALE | | | |
| | MELBREAK | | | |
| M.K.S.2 A | GERANIUM | 46 09 14 46 To | 49 02 14 46 | 7½ |
| | 6 Corvettes | | | |
| | HYDERABAD | | | |
| 1 M/V | VIOLET | 44 06 14 46 To | 49 02 14 46 | 6½ |
| K.M.S.4 | TAY | 41 57 15 57 To | 42 30 18 00 thence | 7 |
| | 8 Corvettes | | 35 45 10 00 | |
| | 4 Minesweepers | | | |
| K.M.F.4 | EGRET | | | |
| | 5 Destroyers | 39 58 14 57 To | 36 00 10 00 | 12 |
| | 1 Sloop | | | |
| | 2 Corvettes | | | |
| 1 M/V | DUNBAR | 40 05 15 23 To | 35 45 10 00 | 11 |
| H.X.216 | FIREDRAKE | 56 48 12 58 To | 56 27 08 29 | 9½ |
| C.T.U. | SUNFLOWER | | | |
| 24.1.5 | ALISMA | | | |
| | PINK | | | |
| 2 M/V'S | LOOSESTRIFE | 56 41 11 20 To | 56 27 08 29 thence | 10½ |
| | | | 55 35 07 00 | |

1358A/2

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.T.D.(3). | |
| A.C.N.S.(H). | D.T.D.(M). | |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2). | I.P.(2). | |
| A.C.N.S.(T). | W.D. | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Duty Captain (2). | |
| Captain Pim. | Admiral Blake | |
| D.O.D.(H)(2). | D.N.I.(4). | |
| D.O.D.(F)(2). | D.M.S. | |
| Head of M(10). | U.S.N.(3). | |
| D.D.I.C.(2). | Admiral Ramsey (4). | |
| D. of P.(2). | Mr. Cross (M. Books). | D.A/S.W. |

c
43A

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET.

1737A/2nd December,
MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 2.12.42.

From. F.O.(3).

Recd. 1802.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. Admiralty.

211.

Positions of submarines at 0800A 3rd December and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) JUNON due Lerwick at 0700 3rd December from North-eastward. ~~Thence escorted by LEICESTER CITY leaves at 1800 3rd December. U.T.A. Dundee 1500 4th December.~~ See p.43

(B) SEALION due R/V with WHITE BEAR in 180 degs. Bishop Rock 5 miles at 0800 3rd December for passage to Falmouth.

(C) GUNNEL escorted by CAPE PORTLAND leaves Falmouth 0900 3rd December due Rosneath 0800 7th December speed 5 knots. See p.43

(D) OLYDE 49 degs. 48' North 10 degs. 55' West dived by day through 49 degs. 50' North 09 degs. 01' West 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles and 180 degs. Lizard Head 20 miles. See p.43

(E) GRAPH approximate position 45 degs. 40' North 16 degs. 35' West dived by day through 47 degs. 01' North 13 degs. 50' West and 49 degs. 15' North 12 degs. 31' West. See p.43

(F) GURNARD in zone K.505.

(G) DOLFIJN 46 degs. 28' North 04 degs. 40' West dived by day through 47 degs. 59' North 06 degs. 50' West at 0800 4th December thence to 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles.

(H) TUNA 47 degs. 40' North 05 degs. 20' West dived by day through 46 degs. 01' North 03 degs. 01' West for patrol in Biscay South zone.

1737A/2, and 1819A/3.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. 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)
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)
U.S.N.(3)

 44

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

M.F.V.2013
M.F.V.2017

See p. 54

My 1545/29. These vessels left Scilly Isles for Gibraltar at 1430/1. Speed about 5 or 6 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1601A/2 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) F.O.S.)

S/M
Positions.

At 0800A/3. Details.
(F.O.S., 1737A/2) See Lion Copy. *Previous page.*

NORFOLK,
CUMBERLAND.

C.S.I's 0958/2. Intend to pass Hoxa Gate with CUMBERLAND in company at 1500/3rd through 061° 20' N., 025° 29' W., to Hvalfjord. S.O.A. 17 knots.
(NORFOLK, 1824A/2).

Operations.

Patrols.

1. Intend M.L. 303 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 523 to patrol tonight on a line between 50° 20' N., 2° 10' W., and 50° 13' N., 2° 50' W.
2. Leave Portland at 1800 by Q.Z.S. 382 and patrol-line at dawn 3rd.

3. Object: Anti E-boat Patrol and cover to convoys.
Codeword "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1130A/2).

Cancel my 1315/2. ALBRIGHTON with M.T.B. 243 (S.O.) 95, 86, M.G.B.611. Proceed St. Helens forthwith and if weather suitable to patrol between 50° 32' N., 00° 40' E. 50° 20' N., 00° 05' W. either with whole force or with M.G.B.611 leaving M.T.Bs. in Harbour.

2. Pass E A 3 Buoy outward 1800 and inward 0800. Codeword "Advent".

3. C.W.138 (S.O. Escort CATTISTOCK) passes Beachy Head 0415 and E.A.5 Buoy 0950. Keep to south eastward of it as far as patrol-line permits.

4. Chasseurs 15 (S.O.) and 5 on usual patrol south of E.A.5 Buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1623A/2).

M.Ls. 108, 101, 210, 213 and 128 supported by M.G.Bs. 329 and 331 carrying out operation N.L. 77. E.T.D.175 (sic).
E.T.R. 0115/3.

(V.A. Dover, 1639A/2).

My 1130A/2. Patrol cancelled. M.L.303 and R.M.L.523 remaining in harbour at short notice.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1651/2).

Operation
"Cabaret".

Admiralty Letter M/P O. 17505/42 of 13. Nov. 42 para. 2. The date of this operation is now uncertain. At least 7 days notice will be given.
(D.O.D. (H), 1252A/2 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)

~~SECRET~~ 452.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Exercise My 1549A/1st. X.C.F. Blue Force is not to cross
C.F. latitude 063° N., before 1200A/(?) (zero hour).
(2) Blue Force is to sail p.m. December 3rd,
S.O. informing me of his time of departure.
(3) Red Force is to sail from Hvalfiord as
ordered by SUFFOLK.
(4) Attention is called to H.F. War Communication Order 53
para. 2 which should also apply to shore based aircraft.
(C.S.1 0958A/2 to SUFFOLK, BERWICK, NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND).
BERWICK and one destroyer proceed on patrol "White" in
accordance with H W O 60, para. 12 (2) and (3).
(C. in C. H.F., 1733A/2 to SUFFOLK).
Your 1733/2. BERWICK and FURY sailed.
(A.C.I.C., 2352A/2 to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

Biscay Request heavy daylight bombing attacks on Bay of
Ports. Biscay ports may be continued and that some
attention may be paid to Lorient aerodrome from
which K.G.6 operates, as Ju.88 fighters are
causing a lot of inconvenience to anti U-boat
operations in Bay of Biscay.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1331A/2 to Admty).
16 Group Swordfish aircraft will carry out anti E-boat
patrol between positions:-
(a) 165 Anvil Point 20 (b) 210° Portland Bill 22 (c) 200°
Start Point 27 (d) 180° Eddystone 23. From 1830 today till
dawn 3rd to cover passage of convoys.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1645A/2).

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C attacked. Am being attacked by 3 enemy aircraft (class 2)
49° 13' N., 07° 45' W.
(A/C F of 59 Sqdn. 1540/2 to 19 Group).

Mining.

ADVENTURE 1. Request you will allocate a short title and
issue orders for ADVENTURE to carry out the opera-
tions referred to in Admty. Letter M/O.D.2144/42
dated 27th Nov. 1942.
2. Three ships of fourth M.S.F. should be made available to
carry out a skimming sweep at a depth of 40 feet below chart
datum.
3. Request you will sail these ships for Milford Haven as
convenient.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 1155A/2 to C. in C. Plymouth).

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

ANTARKTIS, P.R.U. Ferrol p.m./1st December shows ANTARKTIS
MAX ALBRECHT, MAX ALBRECHT and SPICHERN present.
SPICHERN, (2) SPICHERN probably unseaworthy.
NORD ATLANTIC. (3) S.M.Z.40 and my 1904/26th Nov. add MAX
ALBRECHT to list.
(4) NORD ATLANTIC probably ready for sea.
(F.O.S., 1048A/2 to S/Ms

HANS RICKMERS 30th November Russian Shore batteries sank in
sunk. approach to 1 Petsamo one 8,000 ton ship and one
One 8,000 ton of 5,200. One of these was the HANS RICKMERS
M/V sunk. of Hamburg.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1305A/2 to Admty).
N.I.D. Comment.
1. In August 1942, guns were reported mounted
on Ribachi Peninsula to cover Titovka Bay (in Motovski Gulf)
and dominating Petsamo Fjord. C.B.1753, Plan 17A dated April
1942.
2. At present Russians hold entire Ribachi Peninsula and
Sredni Peninsula and, in addition to the guns mentioned in
para. 1 above, it is possible that the guns have also been
mounted on the west coast of Sredni Peninsula. N.I.D.16.

LEIPZIG. (a) Light cruiser possibly LEIPZIG with three
Gdynia. ANTON SCHMIDT destroyers could have passed
through Sound northbound on November 9th.
Graded B.3.
(b) My 1041/27. No light cruisers were reported
at Gdynia November 14th. Graded A2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1831/2 to Admty).

TIRPITZ P.R.U. 1400/2 Dec. Photographs show no shipping
in Foetten Fjord. Large naval unit almost
certainly TIRPITZ in Lofjord.
(D.D.I.C., 2216A/2).

German 55. Bilbao confirm that German 55 will be ready for
sea tonight 2nd.
(D.D.I.C., 2311A/2 to C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.,
F.O.S.)

U-boats.

U-boats D/F bearings at 0554Z indicate U-boat in area
reported. within 75 miles of 43° N., 16° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1020A/2).
It is estimated that 4 U-boats may be patrolling
between 45° 01' N., and 47° 02' N., 16° 30' W.
and 20° 04' W., of which two were D/Fd yesterday with 100 miles
of 46° 03' N., 20° 01' W., and 44° 59' N., and 19° 58' W.
respectively.
(D.D.I.C., 1132A/2 to GRAPH).

/By...

~~██████~~ 47

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

U-boats reported. Contd. By D/F at 1711Z/2, U-boat probably outward bound estimated to be anywhere within 50 miles of 62° 00' N., on the Greenwich meridian. (D.D.I.C., 1856A/2).
A.M. 1856A/2. Further bearings give position anywhere within 50 miles of 62° 40' N., on the Greenwich meridian. (D.D.I.C., 1934A/2).
D/F at 1909Z indicates U-boat in about 63° N. 0° 30' E. 1° 30' E. If this unit is different from that referred to in A.M. 1856A/2 and 1934A/2, it is probably homeward-bound. (D.D.I.C., 2241A/2).

Casualties & Defects.

CITY OF EDINBURGH. Approx. bearing and distance from T, 355° 221. Hove to seriously damaged heavy weather. Forward gunmounting washed away taking off ventilator underneath at deck. Hold below full of water. Endeavouring repair. (CITY OF EDINBURGH 0115/2 to C. in C. W.A.)
Following from CITY OF EDINBURGH. My 0115. Additional damage forward hatch 2 derricks buckled, starboard winch broken. Proceeding towards (?destination) reduced speed until weather moderates corrected position bearing and distance from T.337° 293 miles (Burnham Radio, 1700 G.M.T./2 to C. in C. W.A.)

JAMAICA. N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1202/1. Agree to date of completion of JAMAICA being deferred by three days. Ship is required to sail p.m./13th Dec. and under no circumstances can a further extension of time be considered. (C.in C. H.F., 1127A/2 to Admty).

GLASGOW. ^{/H. in H.D.} Your 1133/1st. It will be convenient if GLASGOW proceeds up harbour leaving Tail of the Bank at approx. 0900/5. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1435/2 to C. in C. H.F.)

ATHERSTONE, EGLINTON. Departure Tugs SUPERMAN and KENIA to assist. ATHERSTONE and EGLINTON. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1650A/2).

SAMSONIA Has developed defects and will be unable to sail with convoy K.X.6 A. (D.O.D. (H.), 1942A/2). *p. 49*

UNBEATEN Your 1104/15 Nov. and submission 2684/S.M.04330 dated 21st Nov. UNBEATEN formally paid off on 11th Nov. (Head of M., 2001A/2 to F.O.S.)

 48

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

Raft with
A/C.

Your 1054Z/1st. ^{N.T.H.D.} PINK has raft with A/C in tow.
Proceeding Londonderry.

*(FIREDRAKE, 2319A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

* See next page - (H.X. 216)

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.L. 110

LEARY has been directed to relieve ^{WILLIAM J.} DUANE in escort unit 24.6.3 and then DUANE is to proceed Reykjavik to land medical case. When DUANE leaves convoy S.C.L. 110 about 2100/2 SCHENK will become S.O. of escort.
(C.T.G. 24.6., 0436Z/2).

T.A. 29

My 0111A/30 para. 5. Amend codeward to read "Conifer".
(Admty. 0710A/2).

Q.P. 16

Please inform expected date of readiness according present programme of each merchant vessel for inclusion in next homeward convoy.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0858A/2 to Dalgleish).

Your 0858A/2nd. Owing to shortage of available cargo and possible change in present ice conditions cannot vouch for any reliable date of readiness yet.

(2) Is there any necessity for haste after arrival Kola?
(Dalgleish 1722A/2 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

DANMARK

DANMARK and Tugs now in Aberdeen Bay. Consider the two small tugs with tow are not sufficient for passage further north and intend sending tow on with GOLIATH in addition when weather suitable.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1206/2).

K.M.S. 5

Admty. 2119/30.

1. A/S escort LONDONDERRY S.O., HASTINGS, LANDGUARD, LULWORTH, BIDEFORD, REGINA,

K.M.F.S. KITCHENER, LOUISBURG, PRESOTT, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA, WOODSTOCK (WESTON) PETUNIA, and CAMROSE, to arrive Clyde p.m./9th Dec.

2. N.O.I.C. Liverpool to sail KITCHENER, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA and N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, to sail HASTINGS to arrive Londonderry December 6th. N.O.I.C. Belfast to sail REGINA and WOODSTOCK to arrive Londonderry December 6th.

3. PETUNIA now at Clyde.

(C. in C. W.A., 1225A/2).

^{N.T.H.D.} My 1132/1st. Sailed "Protocol."

(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 2310A/2 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Q.P. 15 M.

Ships for West Coast ports South of Loch Ewe are to be detached to proceed independently off Loch Ewe.

(C. in C. W.A., 1333A/2 to Escorts Q.P. 15 M).

/STRATHAIRD...

49

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- STRATHAIRD My P.C.S. at 1600, 040° 34' N., 015° 08' W.
160° 20.
*(AVON VALE, 1415A/2 to EGRET (R) FARNDALE).
* See p. 53
- M.K.S.2 Arrived Clyde portion M.K.S.2 and Clyde portion
M.K.F.3. M.K.F.3.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1804A/2).
- K.X.6 A. Route Bay Q.Z.L. 18 through position
(Q) 180° Fastnet 10 miles (R) 50° 36' N., 12°
57' W. (S) 46° N., 14° W. (T) 40° N., 13° W.
(U) 36° 31' N., 09° 30' W. thence to Gibraltar.
2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered V to Z with instructions to open out and keep 30 miles to starboard of route if straggling. Ships which straggle before reaching R should, if returning, conform to M.A.R.I. Section 1 para. 5 (f)
3. Fighter protection Codeword "Hickory".
(D.O.D. (H.), 1930A/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
A.M. 1919/29 Nov. and 0107/30 Nov. are cancelled.
Tug SAMSONIA has developed defects and will be unable to sail with convoy. See p. 47
2. A.M. 2207/20 Nov. paras. 4 and 5. These two trawlers may be held at Gibraltar in readiness to escort ARIGUANI to U.K. when a suitable tug can be made available to tow her. This will not be before end December.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1942A/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
A.M. 2207/20 Nov. amended by A.M. 1818/22 Nov.
- Ferry steamer EMPIRE CHUB and tug EMPIRE FRED are expected to be ready at Milford Haven by 6th Dec. and should be included in this convoy.
2. Destinations are Suez via Cape and Capetown respectively.
3. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange onward sailing. It is most desirable that EMPIRE TITAN, EMPIRE NED, and EMPIRE FRED should reach their final destinations with as little delay as possible.
(D.O.D. (H.), 1944A/2 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
- M.K.S.3 M.K.S.3. The following ten M/Vs arrived. Names (D.S.T.O. Greenock 2230/2).
- W.S.25 Convoy W.S.25 delayed 48 hours.
2. Following is proposed embarkation programme. Details.
(D.S.T., 2300A/2).
- H.X.216 SALAMIS, AXEL, JOHNSON, KALDFONN detached in accordance with your 1144/1st at 1600A/2nd in 56.42° 13.11W.
*(FIREDRAKE, 2319A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)
* See previous page

/Ships...

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Ships for
Bristol
Channel in
Ocean
Convoys.

In view of the absence of enemy A/C attacks in the Irish Sea and St. George's Channel during 1942 and the necessity for speeding up tanker movements, it is for consideration whether the present practice of sending the Bristol Channel portion of homeward ocean convoys into Belfast should be discontinued.

2. Your views are requested on this proposal taking into consideration - (A) Trawler escort to R/V with the convoy off Belfast.
(B) Commodore from B.B. Convoy pool to embark in escort from Belfast.
(C) Routeing instructions to be sent out in escort from Belfast.
(D) Arrangements for navigational lights and Fighter protection to be as for B.B. convoys.
(E) Desirability convoy arriving in Bristol Channel at any hour of day or night.
(D.T.D., 2342A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.156

It is proposed to sail O.N.S.156 from Liverpool on 24th December instead of on Christmas day. Request your concurrence.
(D.T.D. 2351A/2 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.2.12.1942.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

K.M.S.4. "Following Admiralty cargoes sailed destination Gibraltar in SAN AMADO, COWRIE, Collier. ANTONIO, EMPIRE GAZELLE, HAMPTON LODGE. (Admiralty 1521A/2).

Forecast of
Convoys and
escorts.

1. MKS.3.X will leave Algiers 5th December (?local) escort ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, STORK, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, AZALEA, Arriving Gibraltar 8th December local escort ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, STORK, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, AZALEA. Arriving Gibraltar 8th December. Sailing 10th December, Ocean escort, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, LYME REGIS, WORTHING, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, TAY, WEAR. Total for U.K. about 38 ships.

2. M.K.S.3 Y will leave Algiers 9th December. Local escort DEPTFORD, MARIGOLD, VETCH, CONVULVULUS, PENTSTEMON. Passes Gibraltar 12th Dec. Ocean escort LAUDERDALE, STORK, AZALEA, SURREY, MELBREAK. Total for U.K. about 25 ships.

3. K.M.S.4 passes Gibraltar p.m./7th December with local escort VENOMOUS, WIVERN, VELOX, ENCHANTRESS, FLEETWOOD, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, VILLE DE QUEBEC.

4. K.M.F.4 and M.K.F.4 with present ocean escort reinforced with East of 012° W. as arranged by F.O.C.N.A, M.K.F.4. will probably leave Algiers 8th December. (N.C.X.F. 1415A/2). * *p. 53.*

Escorts for
Trans
Atlantic
tanker
convoys.

Your 1855/29th. It is estimated this requires the whole time service of one escort group which will put some pressure on my resources. Trial will decide practicability of meeting demand. Request date first convoy is expected to leave West Indies and arrive Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F. 1531A/2 to Admiralty, V.A. Gibraltar).

Tanker
Movements.

My 1523/30th. Amend as follows.
1. DINGLEDALE to Oran to load and return Algiers.
2. For "BROWN RANGER" read "As convenient."
3. For 4 read 3.
5. After "Oran" read "Or Algiers."

Add CLAUSINA to discharge as much 100 octane as possible at Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F. 1544A/2).

Flying over
French West
Africa.

Your 2345/30. Boisson has asked that A/C might cease flying over French West Africa on R/C. I have informed him that these, flights have been ordered to cease. Suggest steps be taken to ensure that no A/C fly over French West African territory until proper arrangements have been concluded. Boissan stated that De Gaullist aircraft based in British territory frequently flew over his territory. (N.C.X.F. 1647A/2 to Admty).
Reply F.O.C.W.A. 1413/6.

/Dakar....

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force "X" - Contd.

Dakar negotiations. F.O.C.N.A. 1251/29. Dakar negotiations are developing favourably and Draft Agreement includes definite reference to British repetition British as well as to American requirements. This is a big step forward. I am pressing to have British included in Mission as I do not think that there will be any real objection.
(N.C.X.F. 1708A/2 to Admiralty (R) F.O.C.N.A., B.A.D. Washington)

Shipping information for U.S. Navy Dept. Navy Dept. has requested to be kept supplied with all possible information of U.S. Managed Shipping employed in Eastern North Atlantic and U.K. They particularly request advance information of release of U.S. flagships to U.S. side of Atlantic.
2. Admiralty is arranging to supply information regarding outward bound convoys. Request you will arrange for similar information to be passed direct to Connav for all homeward bound convoys and ships transferred from M.K. to G.U. Convoys. (D.T.D. 2331A/2 to N.C.X.F.).

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- U.G.S.2. → My 2301/1 sailed VELOX as additional escort to Oran section U.G.S.2. (F.O.C.N.A. 0004A/2 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)
- VELOX
See p. 51 VELOX has been sent to investigate contact 076° Europa Point 32 miles. If negative result she will join you. (F.O.C.N.A. 0104/2 to VERITY.)
- BERMUDA Ref. 2347/30 from F.O.C.N.A. para 3. BERMUDA will pass through (reference) position Q at 1100Z/2 she requests destination and route be signalled. * FARNDALE 0700Z/2 to Admty.)
- U/B sightings and attacks. Operational summary for 24 hours ended midnight 1st Dec. U/B sightings and attacks by Gibraltar A/C Hudson L/233 1045 hours. XTJT 4929 CO 250/5 KTS dived before attack could be made Hudson L/233 1130 hours. XTCP 2444 NHO 260/6 KTS C/T seen when A/C was 5 miles away Wellington 8662T in transit from U.K. 1109 hours. CZTQ 2710 CO 340 sighted Wellington J 179 2207 hours. XTPV 4350 CO 350/5 KTS. attacked with D.Cs and gins. nearest D.C. estimated 20ft. from port bow no oil or bubbles observed Wellington M 179 on air test 1240 hours. LBDWA0240 CO 090/3 KTS. periscope only seen U/B sightings and attacks by North African based A/C. Hudson C/500 AG 1300 hours. XTJT 0055 CO and speed not given attacked. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar 0831Z/2.)
- * AVON VALE AVON VALE not in company. Assume she has failed to keep station during night. My P.C.S. 039° 46' N 014° 40' W 258° 14½. (FARNDAL 0900A/2 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) EGRET.)
- FARNDALE * *See p. 49, 54^A* AVON VALE in company. Convoy not met. P.C.S. 040° 12' 015° 12' 135° 14½. Intend proceeding Gibraltar along convoy route at present speed. Weather report 5470 8862 at 1730. (FARNDAL 1930A/2 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) EGRET.)
- NORD ATLANTIC Reported that German tanker NORD ATLANTIC 9897 gross tonnage at Vigo has made preparation to sail. (F.O.C.N.A. 1015A/2 to S & A N.A.) Informing GURNARD. (F.O.S. 1307A/2.)
- U/B attacked. Have attacked U-Boat in 37° 49' N 2° 14' E with depth charges result of attack 2 probable hits VIS 30 L. (A/C 8 HD.L. 1140A/2, 1145/2.) ~~See also page 90.~~ ~~DESSIE~~
- German 61 Dec. 1st. German 61*left Nov. 29th. (H.M.C. Bilbao 1225/2.) * Undecypherable in W.R. /SCHARLACHBERGER...

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.SCHARLACH-
BERGER.

Will be ready for sea tonight 2nd.
(H.M.C. Bilbao 1230/2 to Admty. (R) M.E.W. B.N.A.
Madrid. S.O.I. Gibraltar.)
Informing addressees.
(D.D.I.C. 1735A/2 to C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.S.
H.Q.C.C. N.A. Madrid.)

ASHANTI
QUALITY

Intend sailing ASHANTI and QUALITY for Oran at
1800/2 routed through 78.70 32.2 E.T.A. Oran 0800
3rd.
(2) Both ships will be carrying passengers,
mails and stores for Oran and Mers-El-Kebir.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1232A/2 to N.O.I.C. Oran. S.O. Force
H. N.C.X.F.)
Sailed at 2025.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2056A/2.)

STURGEON
THRASHER

Arrived.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1253A/2.)

CITY OF
EDINBURGH

Report situation regarding CITY OF EDINBURGH on
next occasion of breaking W/T silence.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1307A/2 to EGRET.)
CITY OF EDINBURGH's 0115/2 being passed to you.
Request you will take what action you consider
practicable.
(D.O.D. (H.) 1455A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

WEEHAWKEN
SALEM
KEOKUK
MATTOLE

U.S. Navy Minelayers WEEHAWKEN, SALEM, KEOKUK
and oiler MATTOLE have arrived Casablanca with
orders from C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet report
C. in C. Allied Forces for temporary duties.
Intend to discharge fuel and diesel oil for
MATTOLE and return her with G.U.S.2. N.C.X.F.
pass to C. in C. A.F.)
(S.N.O. Casablanca 1423Z/2 to C. in C. A.F.)

M.F.V.2013
M.F.V.2017*See p. 44.*

My 1545/29 Nov. these vessels left Scilly Isles
for Gibraltar at 1430/1 Dec. Speed about 5 or 6
knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1601A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U/B

Your 1045A/2. At time mentioned an Italian U-Boat,
bearings of which were sent you in my 0258/2,
transmitted from a position which Empire cross
bearings place S.E. of St. Helena.
(D.D.I.C. 1625A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

U.S.
ALMAACK*See p. 74*

Your 2002/30. ^{p. 1233.} (A) Yes. (B) About end of Dec.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1731A/2 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

54A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1334A/2nd Dec.

IN

Date 2.12.42

Recd. 2131

From F.O.C.N.A.

Naval Cypher (S) by W/T

Addressed Situation Report for Area X of North Atlantic Station, i.e., that area bounded by the longitudes of 20 degs W. and 5 degs W., and the latitudes of 43 degs N. and 27 degs N.

IMPORTANT

Situation 1958A/2.

1. K MF 4, H.M.S. EGRET, H.M.S. *AVON VALE*, FARNDALE, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT, TANAT'SIDE, EXE, SWALE, BANFF
039 degs 59' 014 degs 59' 135 degs 12 *next page*
X emp. 54c ** see p. 53.*
2. K M S 4, TAY, 7 corvettes, 4 trawlers, 041 degs 57' 015 degs 59' 180 degs 7½. *p. 51. & p. 54G.*
3. H.M.S. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, one merchant ship, (WILLODALL) (corrupt) proceeding coastwise to Gibraltar 8.
4. H.M.S. DUNBAR, one merchant ship, 040 degs 03' 015 degs 13' 136 degs 11.
5. H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER, 036 degs 01' 005 degs 48' to rendezvous one merchant ship off Huelva 0800A/3rd and escort direct to Cape St Vincent thence coastwise to Lisbon 8.

1334A/2

Advance copy to Duty Capt. 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.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C.(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
I.P.(2)
Hd. of M.
W.D.
D.T.D.(M)
U.S.N.
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(C)

D.M.S.
Ad.Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1850A/2nd Dec. IN.

From: F.O.C.N.A.,

Date 2.12.42.

Recd: 2130.

Naval Code L.1. by W/T.

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

IMMEDIATE

previous page 7 p. 54 D

My 1334A 2nd. Amend paragraph one to read;

(e) 042° 34' 015° 45', 135° 12.

1850A/2.

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.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. (1)
 D.T.D. (2)
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.M.S.
 Ad. Blake. (2)
 Ad. Ramsey (4)

SECRET

54C

SECRET

URGENT

1904A/2 Dec.

From: F.O.C. North Atlantic.

IN
Date: 2. Dec. 1942.

RECD: 2110.

NAVAL CODE (L.1) by W/T.

Addressed: Ships and Authorities North Atlantic Area X.

IMMEDIATE.

p. 54A
My 1334 A. second. Add new paragraph:
(6) TANATSIDE 040 degs. 43' 015 degs. 08' to Gibraltar 13½.

1904A/2.

Most Secret Distribution.

Advance Copy sent Ops., O.D., Trade.

V.C.N.S.

D.T.D. (4).

U.S.N. (3).

A.C.N.S. (H).

D.T.D. (M).

Ad. Blake. (2).

A.C.N.S. (F) (2).

D.T.D. (C).

Ad. Ramsey (4).

A.C.N.S. (T).

D.A/S.W.

N.A. 1st S.L.

M. (2).

DEC.

Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.

O.I.C. (3).

O.D. (5).

I.P. (3).

Ops. (3).

W.D.

MOST SECRET

547

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2050A/2nd December IN

From F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 2.12.42.
Recd. 2310.

NAVAL CODE L.1, SECRET BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities North Atlantic Station
Area X.

IMMEDIATE

My 1850/2nd. Amend position to read

E 040 degs. 34' 015 degs. 45'. *In pp 54 A & B.*

2050A/2.

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.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C.(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
I.P.(2)
Head of M.
W.D.
U.S.N.
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(C)
D.M.S.
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4).
Capt. Pim.

EML.

SECRET

54E

SECRET

MESSAGE

1336A/2 Dec.

IN

From: F.O.C.North Atlantic.

DATE: 2. Dec. 1942.

RECD: 1723.

NAVAL CYPHER 3 'S' by W/T.

Addressed: Situation Report for Area 'Y' of North Atlantic Station i.e. that area bounded by the Longitudes of 20 degs. West and 30 degs. West and the latitudes of 43 degs. North and 27 degs. North.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 1956A. 2nd.

- (i) BUTSER 029 degs. 40' 02' degs. 53' 160 degs. *9. See next page*
- (ii) U.S. convoy (Landing craft) 034 degs. 55' 029 degs. 59' 085 degs. 10.
- (iii) G.U.F. 2 030 degs. 29' 022 degs. 29' 306 degs. 13.

1336A/2.

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).
D.T.D.(M).
D.D.I.C.(2).
Duty Capt.(2).
I.P.(2).
D.T.D.(C).
D.T.D.(3).
D.A/S.W.
U.S.N.(3).
Ad.Ramsey (4).
Ad.Blake.(2).
C.C.O.(2).
D. of P.(2).
M.(2).
W.D.

SECRET

54F

1338A/2nd December

SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 2nd Dec. 1942
Recd. 2015

From: F.O.C. North Atlantic

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed: Situation Report for Area "Z" of North Atlantic Stations.

IMPORTANT

Situation at 2004A 2nd.

1. BREDON, INKPEN, INDIAN STAR, 21 58 21 48 through 20 01 21 01 thence 169 degs. 10. *See p. 58*
2. Cable ship one trawler in the vicinity 23 35 18 59 037 degs. one.
3. DUNTON, DUNKERY, BIRDLIP, 25 53 23 19 160 degs. 10.
4. BUTSER 29 40 24 53 160 degs. 9. *See previous page*
5. TAIGET/E Italian repatriation tanker 20 23 41 58 072 degs. 9½.

1338A/2

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)
N.A.1st S.I.
Capt. Pim (Adm. Hse.)
Ops. (3)
C.D. (5)
C.I.C. (5)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9(2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

D.S.D. (2)
D.N.I. (5)
D.E.W.D. (3)
A.L.O.
N.I.D. 10(2)

IRM.

MOST SECRET

54G

1514A/2nd December.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 2.12.42.

From. F.O.C.N.A.

Recd. 2025.

Naval Cypher S By W/T.

Addressed. Ships and Authorities North Atlantic Station,
Area X.

IMMEDIATE.

^{p. 54A}
My 1284 2nd paragraph 2 amend onward route to read
through 041 degs. 30' 015 degs. 59' thence 141 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '.

1514A/2.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. 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)
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.(H)
D.T.D.(S)
D.T.D.(C)
D.H.S.
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

AJA.

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

TRIBUNE

See pp 60 & 62

My 0136. Onward route for TRIBUNE dived by day through 135 Cape Palos 10 miles at 2130/5, 180 Cape de Gata 10 miles at 0800/6, 180 Cape (?Cal) aburras 10 miles not before 0700/7 to arrive Gibraltar 1100/7 proceed on surface at discretion on 7th.

(Capt. S.8. 1758A/2 to 8th S/M.F.)

BEAKER

not identified.

BEAKER not met. At 1730 vessels in Hornillo flashed "Tomorrow". My position 116° San Juan Castle 4 miles weather report 5771 4121. (IMPERIALIST 1900A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Shipping.

List of ships expected to sail shortly from Gibraltar.

(D.T.D. 2043A/2.)

South Atlantic.MILFORD
THYSVILLE

0800Z/2 MILFORD escorting SS. THYSVILLE routed as instructions given her at Freetown. E.T.A. Freetown 0800Z/4. Details of service personnel passengers.

(N.O.I.C. Bathurst. 0901Z/2, 0930Z/2.)

SS.
TOUAREG

Expect to sail CHASSEUR 43 escorting SS. TOUAREG to Pointe Noire 1500Z/2.

(N.C.S.O. Duala 0953/2.)

Attack on
U/B by
ST. LOMAN
and NORTHERN
CHIEF
12th Nov.

N.O.I.C. Trinidad's 1052Q/13 Nov. Analysis of attacks at 1409/12 Nov. in 011° 06' N 056° 55' W. Contact was promising but no conclusive evidence that U-Boat was present. Initial contact accompanied by H.E. obtained at 300 yards by ST. LOMAN 4,000 yards ahead of convoy T.25 which made emergency turn. Five attacks by ST. LOMAN and three by NORTHERN CHIEF were delivered in 67 minutes after which contact faded with whistle effect and air bubbles. Faded recorded trace showed firm contact held to close range in all attacks. Alldepth charges were set to 250 feet or 500 feet and were probably too deep. Attempt to (?collect) oil sample unsuccessful. No wreckage seen.

(F.O.I.C. West Africa 1013Z/2.)

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.LADY
DENISON
PENDER,
escort.

Your 1736Z/1. At present rate LADY DENISON PENDER will not reach position 027° 34' N 015° 30' W before a.m. 20th Dec. SOUTHERN PRIDE not considered adequate escort. If trawler asked for in my 2303Z/1 relieves SOUTHERN PRIDE their endurance sufficient until 6th Dec. at latest. Request you will arrange reliefs accordingly. (F.O.C. W.A. 1137Z/2 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) N.C.X.F. V.A. Gibraltar. Admty. SOUTHERN PRIDE.)

CORINTHIAN

imp. 56 73

(1) (?CORINTHIAN) left Pointe Noire for Rio de Janeiro 1st Dec. routed through positions G. 010° S 015° W. E.T.A. position G 0430Z/7 Dec. E.T.A. Rio de Janeiro 14th Dec. S of A 11.5 knots.
(2) Re. wireless watch.
(R.A.W.A. 1227Z/2 to Admty. (R) CORINTHIAN. (?F.O.I.S.) N.O.I.C. Ascension, C. in C. S.A. Comsolant. C. in C. U.S. Fleet. B.N.L.O. Barbados.)

Movements.

Departure 28th Nov. British cable ship CAMBRIA.
Arrival 1st Dec. U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT.
Departure 1st U.S. Cruiser OMAHA. U.S. Destroyer JOUETT.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1353Z/2.)

ARGO

Greek ship ARGO sunk by U-Boat at 2025Z/29 Nov. in (?034°) 53' S 017° 54' E. Two torpedoes fired first of which missed. Ship sank in two minutes 12 members of crew and all 6 passengers missing presumed drowned.
(2) Vessel's speed was 13 knots and did not zigzag until first torpedo was seen to miss at 2000/29 Nov.
(3) Names? of survivors follow in my 1517C/2 (not to S.O.I. Montevideo).
(S.O.I.) Capetown 1516C/ 2.)

EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND.

Your 1431/30 Nov. It is now intended that EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND should proceed from Durban to New York to embark U.S. personnel to capacity for U.K.

2. As personnel from Cape reduce numbers which can be added at New York, only R.A.F. air crews and any other personnel of high importance should be embarked at Durban. Full use on unescorted basis should be made of other ships returning from South Africa to U.K. in December, viz. ALMANZORA, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, EMPRESS OF RUSSIA and one more to be nominated later.
3. If necessary, however, for numbers in EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND to exceed unescorted limits, Admty. agree as a special case. Connav is requested to confirm that U.S. Authorities have no objection.
4. Request D.S.T.O. Durban report numbers to be embarked.
5. For P.S.T.O. Capetown's information no repetition no cargo should be loaded on EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND in South Africa. She will load in New York.
6. B.M.W.T. New York is requested to arrange for EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND to be drydocked for bottom cleaning in New York.
7. Agreed.
(M.W.T. 1519A/2 to C. in C. S.A. P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

/Routeing...

MOST SECRET

56A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1300C/2nd Dec. IN.

From: C. in C.S.A.,

Date 2.12.42.

Recd: 1604

N. Cypher (3) M by W/T.

. Addressed: Ships in Area Q of S.A. Stn., Admiralty
Cdre i/c Durban N.L.O Port Elizabeth
N.L.O. East London F.O.C. W.Af.,

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, ALCANTARA, NORMAN,
ROTHERHAM, NEPAL, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, with W.S. 24, 033° 05' south, 028°
30' east to Durban 9.5 knots

P. 552, 026° 20' south 011° 40' east to 028° 20'
south 012° 00' east and 031° 00' south 015° 00' east
9 knots.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, off Agulhas to Simonstown
12 knots. H.M.S. FORTUNE, approximately 038° south
022° east to Simonstown

SOUTHERN BARRIER, ROODEPORT, STELLENBERG,
and STEENBERG searching for survivors in vicinity of
035° South 018° East.

* INCONSTANT, * CATTERICK, GENISTA, H.M.S. EXPRESS,
H.M.S. NIGELLA, Durban area searching for survivors.

* see p. 57

1300C/2.

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

1st S. U. (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)
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 Capt (2)
Ad. Blake.
D.D.O.D. (M)
F.O. (S) by courier.
D.M.S.

MOST SECRET

56B

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1439Z/2nd December IN

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 2.12.42.
Recd. 1748.

NAVAL CYPHER '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

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, 08 25 13 45 244 14 at 2000Z 2nd. *See p.58*
ST. LOMAN, SPHENE, STELLA POLARIS, KHYBER, two motor launches,
with S.T.45, 08 08 13 52 to 07 38 14 30 thence 135 9.
H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, with C F 8, 07 08 13 27 to Freetown
through 07 38 14 10 12.5.
TAMARISK, 06 50 13 09 to join T S 26.
HOLCOMBE, COMMANDANT DESTROYAT, SOUTHERN GEM, with T.S. 26,
04 08 09 58 300 8.5.
(?NORWICH CITY), escorting 04 18 08 54 to 03 30 08 01
thence 089 degs. 9.
H.M.S. FANDANGO, BARFOSS, 04 02 05 26 261 4.
ST. WISTAN, escorting about 03 25 08 40 300 7.
CAPE WARWICK, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, LE TIGER,
05 58 18 40 to Freetown 8.
ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, COVENTRY CITY, MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE,
escortng, 00 38 04 30 East 125 5.5.
KELT, escortng, 04 46 01 27 to Lagos 8.5.
CORINTHIAN, 00 00 South 05 00 East 258 11.5. *See p.56*

1439Z/2.

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)

D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.O.(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
I.P.(2)
Head of M. D.T.D.(3)
U.S.N. D.M.S.
W.D.
D.T.D.(M)

EML.

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Routeing of shipping. A.M. 2105/1 para 2. Request I may be informed whether revision of routeing is desired for both north and westbound ships proceeding through F.O.C. W.A.'s area from South Atlantic.

(2) It is for consideration that traffic be divided into two streams 'fast' and 'slow'. Fast stream to proceed via West coast of Africa. Slow stream to proceed via coast of Brazil.
(C. in C. S.A. 1550C/2 to Admty. F.O.C. W.A.)
Reply: Admty. 1254/5. [P. 24]

Your 2149/1. Routeing of southbound traffic. Ref. your para 2. request all diversion signals may be repeated to me. Your para 3. Suggestion to route east of Madagascar was not intended to apply to traffic from East Africa ports. Proposal would help to reduce number of ships proceeding through Mozambique Channel during present U-Boat activity in southern part of these waters. Possibility exists that U-Boats may search to eastward when coastal traffic ceases.

Your para 5. Diversion of traffic to seaward is intended to apply to all ships irrespective of speed.
(C. in C. S.A. 1552C/2 to C. in C. E.F.)

LLANDAFF CASTLE My 1802/1. LLANDAFF CASTLE was torpedoed 1947/30 in 027° 20' S 033° 40' E. 157 survivors picked up from six boats by *CATTERICK and *INCONSTANT including 10 women 8 children and all Russian diplomats. Search continues for Captain's boat probably (corrupt group). Ship previously reported carrying 180 crew and 130 passengers. Total 310. * See p. 56A
(C. in C. S.A. 1636C/2.)

ENTERPRISE. A.M. 1608/9 (1606/9 intended) Intend to sail ENTERPRISE for U.K. at 1800Z/3. Route (a) 010° 00' N 018° 32' W. (b) 015° 00' N 020° 28' W. (c) 024° 00' N 020° 28' W thence to Ponta Delgada for fuel. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0900Z/8. From Ponta Delgada ENTERPRISE proceed to position (d) 50° 00' N 22° 00' W thence as ordered by C. in C. W.A.
S of A to Ponta Delgada 19 knots E.T.A. position (d) will be signalled from Ponta Delgada.
ENTERPRISE shift to N.A. W/T organisation at 2000Z/5 and to Home Station W/T organisation at 0800Z/9.
(F.O. West Africa 1721Z/2 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. N.O.I.C. Greenock. N.O.I.C. Glasgow. (?N.O.I.C. Larne) N.C.X.F.)

U.S. EXCELLO Your 1727/1 to N.C.S.O. Capetown. U.S. EXCELLO torpedoed and sunk by U.B. at 0700Z/13 Nov. in 32° S 30° E. Entire crew accounted for with exception of First Assistant Engineer reported in C. in C. S.A.'s 1136/22 Nov. and one U.S. Naval rating killed. 2. U-Boat painted greenish grey about 250 feet one gun forward and one smaller gun aft of short squat conning tower device. Captain conversed through an interpreter and asked for name of ship, nature of cargo.
(S.O.I.) Capetown 1756C/2 to Admty.)

/Escort...

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Escort of
L.C.I(L)s.

Your 0230/2nd. Suggest DESTINY (BAT 9) now available at Bermuda could be used to escort second batch of L.C.I (L).
Your 1033/26 Nov. refers. Admty. pass to C.C.O. (S.B.N.O. W.A. 1812Q/2 to Admty.)

BREDON

Your 2255Z/1 understood my position at 1800Z/2 023° 40' N 022° 40' W speed 10 knots INKPEN and INDIAN STAR in company.
(BREDON 1832Z/2 to F.O.C. W.A.) *See p. 54 F*

ASTURIAS

See p. 56 B

Departure 2nd Dec. on patrol.
(S.O.I.) Freetown 1833Z/2.)

PHOEBE

Departure from Pointe Noire 1700Z/2 PHOEBE escorted by ^{COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, M.L. 272, 244, E.T.A. Takoradi 1230Z/6.
(B.N.L.O. W.A. 1835/2.)

My 1835/2. PHOEBE has only starboard anchor and 7 shackles clinging. A/S set of ^{COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES is out of action. Additional escort will therefore be required Takoradi to Freetown.

(B.N.L.O. W.A. 1845/2 to R.A.W.A. N.O.I.C. Freetown. S.L. N.O.I.C. Lagos. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

ENTERPRISE

See previous page.

Arrival 2nd Dec.
(S.O.I.) Freetown? 1937Z/2.)

DESPATCH

Sailed for Freetown 1800 G.M.T./2.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1951Z/2.)

BARWIND

Your 1841Z/14 Nov. and A.M. 0105A/17 BARWIND allocated Freetown but subject to diversion at short notice to meet other commitments. On arrival of BARWIND British ratings in BARDELL are to be replaced by Native personnel and repatriated.
(D.B.D. 2054A/2 to F.O.C. W.A.)

59

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

* MANXMAN, (torpedoed on 1/12) Tug RESTIVE and trawlers FOULA and SHIANT have also been sent.
* *See p. 62. (1/12/42)* (S.O. Force H. 0004A/2 to D.6, PATHFINDER, (R) N.C.X.F.)
(? Groups missed) MANXMAN in tow PATHFINDER proceeding Mers-el-Kebir estimated speed advance 5 knots. ESKIMO in company in 036° 35' N. 000° 15' E.
(Capt. (D) 6 0015A/2 to N.C.X.F.)
Proceeding with MANXMAN E.T.A. 0630. Tug cannot arrive until 1130 suggest I tow MANXMAN, PATHFINDER acting as A.S. screen, tugs to continue with HUSSAR to Algiers.
(SPEEDWELL 0032A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) MANXMAN.)
* *See p. 63. (1/12/42)* My 0039 MANXMAN torpedoed in 36° 39' N. 00° 15' E. now in tow of PATHFINDER. Capt.(D) 6 in ESKIMO and SPEEDWELL, FOULA and SHIANT probably in the vicinity. Tug RESTIVE en route.
(CHARYBDIS 0041A/2 to PUCKERIDGE.)
PATHFINDER has me in tow. My P.C. and S. are LBCP 39.23, 225° 5 knots. Proceeding to Oran. ESKIMO in company. If Adequate escort has joined by day and weather remains good shall consider going direct to Gibraltar.
(MANXMAN 0045A/2 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force "H", Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Oban.)
Report P.C. and S. to MANXMAN in Fleet Code.
(N.C.X.F. 0152A/2 to PATHFINDER, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR (R) MANXMAN.)
My position is 36° 40' N. 000° E. course 260°, speed 14 knots at 0400.
(SPEEDWELL 0405A/2.)
My position with tugs at 0400 - A/2 - 036° 48' N. 001° 32' E. course (?235°) speed 9 knots.
(HUSSAR 0435A/2 to Gibraltar W/T, MANXMAN, (R) N.C.X.F. SPEEDWELL.)
My position 30° (corrupt group) E K 7 course 265° speed 20 knots.
(PUCKERIDGE 0525A/2 to Capt. D.6 (R) F.O. Force H., PATHFINDER.)
My P.C. and S. 036° 29' N. 000° 23' W. 215° 6 knots. PATHFINDER towing. ESKIMO (?PUCKERIDGE) and RESTIVE in company. E.T.A. Oran 1030A. Maximum draught 28 feet.
(MANXMAN 0800A/2 to S.O. Force H., S.O. Force J., N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., Admty., N.O.I.C. Oran.)
Your 0045/2nd. Proceed to Oran.
(N.C.X.F. 0845A/2 to MANXMAN (R) S.O. Force H., Oran C.C.O.)
SPEEDWELL join MANXMAN. HUSSAR and tugs proceed to (?Algiers.)
(N.C.X.F. 0847A/2 to SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR (R) Oran, S.O. Force H. Algiers.)
Request your P.C. and S. my P.C. and S. 036° 19' N. 000° 12' E. 235° 13 knots.
(SPEEDWELL 0900A/2 to MANXMAN.)
MANXMAN arrived Mers-el-Kebir.
(S.O. Force H. 1159A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)
E.T.A. 2115A/2nd.
(HUSSAR 1600A/2.)
Torpedoed but reached Oran. No prospects now of her rejoining you.
(S.O. Force H. 2216A/2 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Convoy ...

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Convoy Unidentified medium vessel bearing 070° distant
destroyed 3 miles course 220° my position 37° 41' N.
by Force Q. 10° 51' E.
(See Page 41.) (S.O. Force Q. 0033A/2 to Malta.)
Am engaging convoy and destroyers. Very
scattered my position is 37° 39' N. 10° 51' E.
(S.O. Force Q. 0046A/2.)
About 3 Merchant ships and 2 escort vessels sunk.
(S.O. Force Q. 0114A/2.)
Convoy engaged in 037° 39' N. 010° 50' E. at 0037A/2nd.
Enemy scattered and made smoke. 6 ships sunk or left burning
wrecks, probably 4 merchant ships and 2 destroyers. No damage
or casualties in Force "Q". E.T.A. Bone 0810A.
(R.A. 12 C.S. 0435A/2 to F.O.I.S.)
My 0435A/2nd. Now consider four merchant ships and three
destroyers were sunk. At least two of merchant ships appeared
to be troopships. E-Boats also were seen in the vicinity of
convoy and fired torpedoes but no E-Boats were sunk. Force Q
was attacked by torpedo bombers and Junker 88s between 0630A
and 0700A/2nd. QUENTIN was hit by torpedo, my 1400A/2nd will
refer.
(C.S.12 1241A/2.) *See next page.*
Request immediate brief report of your action including
items suitable for press communiques.
(N.C.X.F. 1253A/2 to 12th C.S.)
My 1253/2. Request no announcement be made until I have
indicated concurrence of General Eisenhower in accordance with
agreement reached in London.
(N.C.X.F. 1622A/2 to Admty.)

Convoy My 0048B/2. If by 0900/2nd AGWIMONTE is pre-
M.W.14. venting a speed of advance of 13 knots being
maintained send her back to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med. 0052B/2 to ORION (R) Capt. (D) 12,
2nd Group, R.A. Alex.)

Operation My 1451/1. Result of Air strike 1 hit claimed
"Blister on tanker at 2145.
First". (V.A. Malta 0105A/2nd to N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med.
C.S.12, F.O.I.S.)

PAPANICOLIS. Your 2345/1st acknowledged. Return via
Scarpanto Channel and 034° 27' 031° 21' (R) 034°
27' 031° 21' at 1800/3rd, thence direct arriving
Beirut 0615B/5th. Report when safe to do so if
unable to comply.
(Capt. (S) 1 0120B/2 to Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS (R)
C. in C. Med. C.S.15, R.A.(D) Med. C.C.F.)
Your 2345/1. Well done. Your 0905/2 acknowledged.
Presume you referred to my 0120/2 which was broadcast from Malta
at 0327/2.
(Capt. (S) 1 1134/2 to PAPANICOLIS.)

TRIBUNE. Capt.(S) 10's 2259 1st proceed to pass 039° 01'
in 1455, 62c 006° 59' E. at 0500/3rd thence 039° 01' 003° 16'
E. at 0800/4th, further orders follow.

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con 15.

TRIBUNE (contd.) (2) TIGRIS is on patrol within 20 miles of 038° 01' 007° 30' E. *See p. 62c*
(Capt. (S) 8 0136A/2 to TRIBUNE (R) N.C.X.F.
Capt. (S) 10, 8th S.F.)

2 enemy destroyers. Position of 2 enemy destroyers 38° N. 12° E. on course 260° speed 10 knots.
(A/C GIKU 0252A/2.)

QUENTIN Am being attacked by Caproni aircraft in position
Sunk. 050° G A R 50 miles course 230° speed 27 knots.
See p. 69 (S.O. Force Q. 0634/2 to Algiers.)

QUIBERON torpedoed by torpedo A/C in 037° 32', 008° 32' E.
(S.O. Force Q. 0640A/2 to F.O.I.S.)
Have rescued survivors from QUENTIN. Being heavily bombed.
Request immediate fighter protection.
(S.O. Force Q. 0710A/2 to Gibraltar.)

Proceed to assistance of QUIBERON torpedoed position 037° 32' N. 008° 32' E. at 0640A last course was 230°.

(F.O.I.S. 0720A/2 to LAMERTON, ZETLAND (R) Force Q.,
N.O.I.C. Bone.)

For QUIBERON read QUENTIN. ** See next page - 9 p. 62A*

(S.O. Force Q. 0732A/2 to S.O.I.S. Gibraltar (R) C.S.12.)

My 0720A. Return to your convoy.

(S.O.I.S. 0850A/2 to LAMERTON, ZETLAND (R) Force Q.,
Bone C.C.O. QUEEN EMMA.)

F.O.I.S. 0702/2. QUENTIN probably sunk. QUIBERON has
rescued survivors.

(S.O. Force Q. 0858A/2 to ZETLAND, LAMERTON.)

Your 0702A* for QUIBERON read QUENTIN. QUIBERON has 90%
survivors including C.O. Both ships attacked while embarking
640 survivors to QUENTIN probably sunk. N.O.I.C. Bone is request-
ed to send aircraft to investigate. * 0720/2 intended.

(C.S.12 0903A/2 to F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bone (R) ZETLAND,
LAMERTON.)

QUENTIN was hit by torpedo from torpedo bombing aircraft at
early dawn this morning off 048° Cape de Garde 50. Torpedo hit
and flooded engine rooms, boiler room blew tubes overboard and
ship was sinking. QUIBERON went alongside and took off crew.
As she was being heavily bombed she proceeded to rejoin as
quickly as possible. QUENTIN had not then sunk but was again
bombed and smoke was subsequently seen coming from ship. Steps
are being taken to ascertain ship did eventually sink. Confiden-
tial books were disposed of. Survivors, Commanding Officer and
7 officers, 173 ratings. Casualties 7 killed or missing presumed
killed, 10 missing, 5 wounded.

(C.S.12 1440A/2.)

4. A/C report no sign of QUENTIN. 2 (?rafts) floating with
some men in position GOLIATH is endeavouring to rescue.

(C.S.12 1641A/2.)

P.219.

See p. 63 Position 037° 39' 010° 51' was scene of surface
engagement last night. Close and investigate for
stopped or damaged enemy vessels.
(Capt. (S) 10 0829A/2 to P.219 (R) Subs.on patrol.)

/ZETLAND ...

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.

- ZETLAND. Am being shadowed by one unknown type enemy
In previous page. A/C (? Un344 GAR 26) course 120° speed 25 knots.
(ZETLAND 0900/2.)
- Movements. Arrival 1st Dec. SAKTOURIS GS. Departure 1st
Dec. SOUTHERN ISLE, BURRA, DULVERTON, ALDENHAM,
EXMOOR, PALADIN, PINDOS, M.T.B 61, Landing Craft
M.79, 83.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 0928B/2 to Admty., C. in C.
H.F.)
- Cruiser leaving Messina. P.R.U. 0800A/2nd, reports one cruiser leaving
Messina, steering South 10 to 15 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 0934A/2 to C. in C. Med. Cdr.
X.F., F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers, ORION F.O. (12)
C.S. MARJORAM.)
- VINDICTIVE. Your 0935/1st. VINDICTIVE is to remain at
Mers-el-Kebir for the present as fleet repair
ship at disposal of F.O. "H". Her resources
should be fully employed for repair of "MANXMAN".
(N.C.X.F. 0937A/2 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) F.O. "H".)
** See p. 59*
- AH KWANG. My 1045/25 (CONFEDERATE sailed to assist tanker
OVULA) For OVULA read AH KWANG. AH KWANG has
been refloated and arrived Suez.
(Supt. Salvage 0945B/2.)
- Minelaying. Your 1439/1st. Presume should read paragraphs
1 (a) and (c) not desired. Propose *RORQUAL
shall lay three groups on bearing 300 and between
1.5 and 2.5 miles from Cani Rock Light.
(Capt. (S) 10 1055A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C.
Med. V.A. Malta, Capt.(S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)
** See p. 66.*
- RHEA. My 1632A/30th (N.T) Delete RHEA Dutch.
Vessel in question is RHEA French 7813 tons.
(N.C.X.F. 1056A/2 to Admty.)
- Force Q. Sail Force Q. and personnel ship for Algiers
(See p. 41) p.m. today Wednesday.
(2) If adequate fighter protection is available
personnel ship should be sailed at 1630A force Q following at
1730A and steering (?east) until after dark. Use your
discretion as to remaining in company of personnel ship to take
advantage of screening destroyers.
(3) In absence of adequate fighter protection sailing should
take place after dark.
(4) Report times of sailing and intention.
(F.O.I.S. 1119A/2 to F.O.C. 12th C.S., (R) N. Cdr. X.F.
Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, QUEEN EMMA.)
Intend sailing for Algiers just before dark. Request
maximum fighter protection at dusk.
(C.S. 12 1224A/2 to F.O.I.S.S., N.C.X.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Bone.)

/My 1134/30th. ...

MOST SECRET

62A

~~1102(71100)A/2~~ and December.
MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
Date. 3.12.42.
From. N.C.X.F. Recd. 0035.
Naval Code L.1 (Secret) By W/T.

Addressed. Ships and authorities in Area G.

IMMEDIATE.

Brief situation report 2002A/2 (5 corrupt groups)

1. E.T.3, H.M.S. VENOMOUS, H.M.S. WIVERN, H.M.S. FLEETWOOD, H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S. ROBERTS, 035 degs. 49' North 001 degs. 33' West through 29 50 16 to Gibraltar 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *Sup p. 51*
2. Following safe conduct ships routed West of Ibiza and 10 miles North of Revellata Point may be encountered: -
(A) Swiss MALOJA, sailed Genoa 28th November bound Gibraltar 8 (corrupt group) (B) Spanish CABO ORTEGAL sailed Gibraltar 1200/29 November bound Genoa 7.
3. Safe conduct of Portuguese PAZE MANEL approximately 039 degs. 45' North 001 degs. 10' East routed Cape to Cape to San Sebastian thence to Marseilles 8.
4. Swedish relief ships AKKA and YARRAWONGA 038 degs. 31' North 009 degs. 09' East routed 5 miles North of Ustica thence Vulcano Island thence through Straits of Messina 14.
5. H.M.S. LAMERTON, H.M.S. ZEPHLYND, escorting three transports, H.M.S. AURORA, H.M.S. ARGONAUT, H.M.S. SIRIUS, H.M.S. QUIBERON, in company 037 degs. 13' North 007 degs. 01' East through 91 36 61 51 thence Algiers 15. *Sup p. 60 & 61*
6. H.M.S. BLENN, escorting one transport, 037 degs. 14' North 006 degs. 26' East through 61 51 to Algiers 15.
7. T.E. 7., H.M.S. ROHEBAY, H.M.S. FELIXSTOWE, H.M.S. MARIGOLD, H.M.S. POLRUAN, H.M.S. BRIXHAM, 003 degs. 07' North 006 degs. 20' East to Bone 7.
8. U.G.S. 2 (0) H.M.S. VERITY, H.M.S. PENTSTEMON, H.M.C.S. WEYBURN, H.M.S. NASTURTIUM, H.M.C.S. LUNENBURG, H.M.S. VELOX 035 degs. 55' North 004 degs. 29' West through 66 50 29 109 thence Oran 6.
9. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 036 degs. 38' North 000 degs. 08' West through 89 100 to Algiers 13. *continued next page*
10. Two tugs escorted by H.M.S. HUSSAR 036 degs. 36' North 001 degs. 10' East to Algiers. *Sup p. 59*

1102(71100)A/2.

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Duty Capt.(2)

U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(C)

D.M.S.
D.E.W.D.(3)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
D. of P.(Q)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

MOST SECRET

62B

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1621A/2 December

IN

From. Naval Cdr. K.F.

Date. 3.12.42.

Time. 0500.

NAVAL CODE (L 1) BY W/T

Addressed. Ships & Authorities Area G.

IMPORTANT.

+
My 11.00 2nd paragraph 9 amend to read
035 degs. 51' North 001 degs. 33' West 9 knots.

Previous page

1621A/2

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

+ Situation report 2002/2

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. (H)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
D.M.S.
D.T.W.D. (3)
D.M.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Adm. Blake (2)
Adm. Ramsay (4)

FN

62c

MOST SECRET

1230A/2nd December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From N.C.X.F.

Date 2.12.42.

Recd. 1624.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities in Area "G".

IMPORTANT

S/M situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000A 2nd December.

- (1) H.M.S. P.222, 38 21 North 01 31 East through 38 56 North 02 59 East thence 091 degs.
- (2) H.M.S. TRIBUNE, 38 28 North 03 57 East through 38 34 North 08 02 East and 39 01 06 59 thence 270 degs. *See pp 55-160*
- (3) Both above S/ms diving by day $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots on the surface by night 11 knots.
- (4) H.M.S. URSULA, in Gulf of Genoa.
- (5) H.M.S. TIGRIS, within 20 miles 38 01 North 07 30 East.

1230A/2

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim.
D.O.D.(H) (2).
D.O.D.(F) (2).
D.T.D.(M).
D.D.O.D.(M).
Duty Captain (2).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D. of Plans (2).
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2).
F.O.(S) by carrier.

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Lon/S.

Force Q. My 1134/30th. Request you will sail two 4.7 inch
(contd.) destroyers for Algiers to join Force Q.
(ii) Retain destroyers ex U.G.S. two until
Force H destroyers from Gibraltar (?join) you.
Then sail them for Gibraltar.
(iii) Your aim should be to keep not less than 10 destroyers
in company with Force H. Gibraltar escort force may be called
upon if absolutely necessary but they can ill be spared.
(N.C.X.F. 1237A/2 to S.O. Force H. (R) C.S.12, F.O.C.N.A.,
S.O.I.S., Cmdre. F. Cmdre. Algiers.)
N.C.X.F. 1237A/2. Intend to sail ESKIMO and TARTAR for
Algiers at 0700A/3 routed through position 17.39? and 100 E.T.A.
Algiers 1700A/3.
(S.O. Force H. 1835A/2 to N.C.X.F., Comdre. Algiers (R)
F.O.C.N.A., S.O.I.S., F.O. 12th C.S., Capt. D.3., Capt.
(D) 6, Cmdre. F. N.O.I.C. Oran.)

10th
S.M.F.Request you will signal summary of present
disposition of submarines in Torch area east of
008° E.(N.C.X.F. 1131A/2 to 10th Sub. Flot. (R) C. in
C. Med., V.A. Malta, 8th Sub. Flot.)C Your 1131. Disposition 2359/2nd (A) S/MS in vicinity of
following positions reference Ganirock Light.

P.45 113° 29'

P.43 111° 22'

P.48 090° 26'

P.37 075° 18'

P.219 062° 39' searching for damaged vessel. *See p. 61*(B) P.42 position 038° 28' 011° 37' returning to Malta route
as in my 1555/2nd. *See p. 67*(Capt. (S) 10 2137A/2 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med.,
V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8.)N.T. My 1655/1st M.T.B.260 only will be sailing. To relieve
M.T.B. 313, M.T.B.265 delayed 48 hours.

(C.C.F. 1201B/2 to R.A.10.)

Enemy
reports.P.C. and S. of 1 merchant vessel 2 destroyers
38° 40' N. 16° 58' E. 180° speed 8 knots.

(A/C GJCS 1210A/2.)

P.C. and S. of one merchant vessel 34° 57' N. 11° 37' E.
350° 10 knots.

(A/C GJC 1215A/2.)

Following has been read by Alexandria W/T. Position of
one merchant vessel (medium) two destroyers, one small craft
37° 57' N. 12° 6' E. stationary. Enemy previously
reported is a 7000 ton tanker.

(A/C C/S GJCY 1300/2.)

P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers and 2 E-Boats 37° 56' N. 11°
58' E. 080° 12 knots.

(A/C C/S GJCY 1310/2.)

P.C. and S. of 2 small craft, one transport barge, one
destroyer 38° 3' N. 11° 56' E. 240° 8 knots.

(A/C FCV7 1312A/2.)

/Position ...

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - ~~cont'd~~.

Enemy reports (contd.) Position course and speed of 3 Destroyers, two small merchant ships oil patch XOZR 4005 (indecipherable) circling. (A/C FGVY 1327A/2.)

3 small merchant ships 250° 6 knots 310° 34.30 N. 11.58 E. 1420. (A/C BWS K 1430B/2.)

P.C. and S. of 1 medium sized vessel, one small merchant vessel 44.50 N. (11 40?) E. 180° 10 knots 3 medium sized vessels 3 small craft 35.18 N. 11.20 E. 170° (10?) knots, one medium vessel 35.09 N. 11.09 E. 045° 10 knots. (A/C BWS S 1515B/2.)

P.R.U. report (A) at 1300 7000 tons Tanker with 2 destroyers circling 140 Marittimo 1/2 mile (B) at 1310 4 destroyers, 2 E-Boats 062° Marittimo 6 course 80° 12 knots (C) at 1325 one Destroyer stationary position 252 Marittimo 45 (D) at 1327 3 Destroyers (one down by stern) 2 small Merchant ships and large oil patch position 252 Marittimo 30. (V.A. Malta 1551A/2 to N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S., C. in C. Med., C.S.12, S/Ms on Patrol, (R) Admty.)

Aircraft report at 1400A/2 two merchant ships 5000 tons, one 6-inch Cruiser, one destroyer, one sloop in 035° 21' 011° 32' course 180° speed 10 knots. (Capt. (S) 10 1603/2 to P.35 (R) C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 1. Malta 1612A/2 to C. in C. Med. D.14 (R) Admty. 201 Naval Co-op Group, N.C.X.F.)

At 1315A/2nd aircraft reported 1 destroyer, 2 coasters, 1 large sailing vessel 315° Marittimo 6 miles to 240° 7 knots. (Capt. (S) 10 1713A/2 to Submarines on Patrol, (R) N.C.X.F., C.S.12.)

Position course and speed of 5 unknown type enemy ships 34.45 N. 11.45 E. 260° 10 knots. (A/C BTMR 1900/2.)

Enemy has altered course to approx. 200. (A/C BTMR 1943A/2.)

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy merchant vessels is IDD 34.40 N. 11.30 E. 260 12. (A/C BTMR 3 2155A/2.)

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy merchant vessels is 34° 27' N. 11° 7' E. 180 12. (A/C BTMR 4 2305A/2.)

Following has been read from BTMR+ Enemy has altered course to 135° approx. (Alexandria 2335A/2.)

DEPTFORD. Proceed with BROWN RANGER to Algiers. (F.O.I.S. 1237A/2.)

Force H. Request you will investigate with F.O. in Charge Oran whether it is absolutely necessary for Force H to leave ~~Mers-el-Kebir~~ to make room for K.M.F.4 and other convoy arrivals. Observing that it is intended to sail slow convoy from here on 5th which will take all empty Westbound ships from Oran on 6th.

65

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.

Force H. (contd.)

2. Are there any (?serious) objections to Force H remaining based on Mers-el-Kebir where it is strategically well situated.

3. Ample fuel stocks should now be arriving at expense of Gibraltar's stocks it being intended that Force H should normally fuel at Oran.

4. If it is necessary to leave Mers-el-Kebir you had better leave a.m. 4th and (?make) a cast of Eastward as diversion for Malta convoy which should arrive Malta 5th from East Africa then return to Gibraltar or Mers-el-Kebir.

5. Report your intention.
(N.C.X.F. 1239A/2 to S.O. Force H (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
Reply: 1027A/4.

Forenoon visuals
Dec. 2nd. V.A. Malta 1300A/2.

CROOME, TETCOTT. Departure.
(V.A. Malta 1303A/2.)
Join DELPHINIUM with convoy "Major" at 0700B/3rd Dec. in 032° 19' 019° 42' course 218° speed 7 knots.
(S.O. Force I 1711B/2 to CROOME, TETCOTT (R) DELPHINIUM, GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN SEA, ORION, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Benghazi, Fighter H.Q. Benghazi Sector.)

Tank landing craft will meet YORBA LINDA at 0 to embark personnel and disembark stores. Sails from 0 not later than 1200 to R/V with "Heavy" in 032° 51' N. 020° 25' E. or further Eastwards if possible. "Heavy" two hours late. Request fighter escort during daylight hours.

(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1750B/2.)

Your 1750B/2nd. Fuel stocks remaining at 0800/3rd will be only 50%. Consider H.M.S. CROOME and H.M.S. TETCOTT should refuel from YORBA LINDA.

(CROOME 2358A/2 to N.O.I.C. Benghazi (R) C.in. C. Med., ORION, S.O. Force K, V.A. Malta, TETCOTT.)

P.35. My 1215A/1st. P.35 movement today 2nd Dec. from Kerkenah No.4 buoy to Mahedia thence to operate off Kuriat and in Gulf of Hammamet. Request necessary restrictions on 201 Group. (Capt. (S) 10 1315A/2 to C. in C. Med., (R) P.35, V.A. Malta, Capt.(S) 1st S.F.)

Have (?gunned) and set on fire small*merchant ship at 1826A/2nd position 035° 27' 011° 22' captured 10 German Air Force personnel. Returning to base north of Lampedusa usual exercises 1004A/4th.
(P.35 2150A/2.)

*SALRO CORE - see p.42

/TROOPER ...

~~SECRET~~ 66

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

TROOPER, Arrived.
*RORQUAL. (V.A. Malta 1337A/2.)

* See p. 62.

M.K.S.3 (X) Cmdre. Algiers is requested to sail convoy
See p. 51. M.K.S.3 (X) at 1200A/5th (routed) to Gibraltar
S. of A. 7½ knots.

3. Algiers section consists of ships from Bone, Philippeville, Bougie and Algiers, escort ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, STORK, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, AZALEA.

6. Convoy wireless call.

7. Codeword "Cockatoo".

(N.C.X.F. 1350A/2.)

WELSHMAN, Leave Alexandria passing boom 1700/2nd and
*M.W.14. proceed to overtake convoy M.W.14 at 0700/3rd.

* See next page Proceed in company M.W.14 until darkness 3rd
thence direct to Malta to arrive 1st light 4th
or as ordered by V.A. Malta. Should weather be unsuitable for
high speed during the night 3rd/4th remaining with M.W.14.

2. Should ORION become a casualty you should. if situation and
weather after dark 3rd allow, hand over the conduct of the convoy
to next S.O. and proceed to Malta as directed above.

3. M.W.14 reported 2½ hours late at 0630/2nd. R.A. Alexandria
is requested to provide shipping summary.

5. Fighter protection codeword "Anger".

6. WELSHMAN acknowledge.

(C. in C. Med. 1356B/2 to WELSHMAN (R) A.I.G. 72, ORION, Capt.

(D) 12th, N.O.I.C. Malta, C.C.F., C.S.15.)

HURWORTH E.T.A. Alexandria from West 0045/3. WELSHMAN,
One M.T.B., sailed West at 1700, 25 knots.

(R.A. Alexandria 2022B/2.)

JERVIS, Departures.
JAVELIN, (V.A. Malta 1405A/2.)
NUBIAN, At 1400 your object was 25 miles ahead of estimated
KELVIN. position. Escort may include a 6-inch Cruiser.
Aircraft from Malta hope to attack at 1930.
(V.A. Malta 1659A/2 to D.14.)

Vessel My AI.141 1 Dec. P. and C. on first sighting
attacked by should read 1050 hours 180° Keliba 30 miles.
Beaufighters (A.H.Q. Malta 1410Z/2.)
afternoon
Dec. 1st.

P.35. Own surface force operating to southward of you
See previous page night 2nd/3rd December, ordered not to attack
submarines after dark unless they take offensive
3/p. 67 action.
(Capt. S.L.O. 1457A/2 to P.35 (R) C.S.15,
V.A. Malta.)

~~SECRET~~ 64

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

P.42.

See p. 63

Leave patrol after dark tonight 2nd December, through 038° 28' 011° 37' to arrive in 038° 00' 011° 25' by 1900A/3rd thence following route and instructions given to TROOPER in my 0005/1st, diving from J to K daylight 4th Dec. Instructions for arrival at Malta will be signalled.

(Capt. (S) 10 1555A/2 to P.42 (R) N.C.X.F. C.S.12, C.S.15, V.A. Malta.)

Situation Report No. 300. S/Ms.

TRITON overdue and considered lost (see my 2028/30 Nov. to Admty. only). PAPANICOLIS reports 6000 tons Merchant Vessel sunk in Aegean. P.46 caused gun hits on tug off Sirte and reports much road activity westbound. P.44 entered Burat harbour 1845/21st Nov. fired 24 rounds, scoring hits on schooners, pier, and a small steamer.

Western Desert. Situation Report 299.

(2) Para. (1) KIUNGCHOW still burning but under control at 2230/30 Nov. At Benghazi slight enemy air activity 30th Nov. no damage. Quayside repairs making good progress. No A/T defences in position but sufficient Italian material available.

Operation "Portcullis"

(3) Convoy *M.W.14 (4 ships) left Port Said 1430/1 Dec. No incidents except speed of AGWIMONTE reduced to 13½ knots.

(C. in C. Med. 1654B/2.) * *See previous page*

U/B attacked.

Hudson sighted surfaced U 7 B position XTJT0055. U-boat still visible when 4 D/Cs exploded U-boat dived and no further results seen. (E.A.C. Algiers 1728/2.)

Operation "Portcullis"

Appendix IV. TRAVELLER off Toronto, *P.35 near Kerkenah. Remainder do not concern you. (C. in C. Med. 1732B/2 to ORION, Capt. (D) 12, WELSHMAN.) / Taranto intended. * *See pp 65-66*

Afternoon visuals Dec. 2nd.

V.A. Malta 1804/2. My 1805A/2nd. (?1804/2 intended) Photographs did not develop. (N.O.I.C. Malta 2125/2.)

P.51.

Please sail P.51 as convenient routed through Q.B.B. 255 in my 0005/1st to TROOPER who reports favourably on this route. (Capt. (S) 10 1853A/2 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1.)

Air attack on enemy convoy.

Have attacked enemy convoy with torpedoes. Result of attack hits observed fires. P.C. and S. of enemy 34° 45' N. 11° 45' E. 250° 10 knots. (A/C 9 SWV 2001A/2.)

/Have ...

MOST SECRET

64A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1830B/2nd December.

IN

FROM: Midcast

DATE: 2.12.42.

RECD: 2005Z

CYPHER

ADDRESSED: Air Ministry.

IMMEDIATE

IZ 2437 CC/146 2nd December 1942. Your COS (ME) 331.+

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief.

Military commitment insignificant. Agree the sooner this pipeline reopened the better.

1830B/2

Recd: from Air Min 1025/3rd Dec.

+ 1827/30 re oil supply in Mediterranean

Circulation:

Brigadier Jacob.

Foreign Sec.

C.N.S.

C.6. Telegrams War Office.

A.M.C.S. (C)

C.C.O.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (C)

D.F.S.L.

Contr.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (W)

Sec.

N.A. 1st S.L.

P.A.S. (S)

A.S. (C)

D. of P. (2)

D. of P. (Q)

D.C. (2)

Hd. of M. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

MFG M.A.S.

SECRET

64B

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

SECRET ^{IN} Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad ~~1910Z/2nd Dec.~~ have escaped from this rule.

From: Malta.

Date: 2.12.42.
Recd. .

Addressed! FREEDOM, Algiers,

Interior Addresses: Forwarded for; General Eisenhower,
Repeated Mideast
Repeated Command Port First Army.
Cite: HE/5423 dated 2nd December.

BIGOT ALIBI.

Malta Intelligence Summary from 2000A/1 to 2000A/2.

Naval. Four destroyers of force K sailed to attack shipping reported to the westward. One submarine commanded by Lieut. J.D. Martin torpedoed a 4,000 ton escorted M/V approaching Bizerta on 27th November. Vessel blew up causing considerable superficial damage inside the submarine.

Air. 1: Reconnaissance 2nd December. Photos Messina since 1st December. 4F (group missing) departed 0700 hours 2nd December. One six inch cruiser leaving harbour course South. Visuals only. Naples, three battleships, four cruisers of which one probably doing trials, several destroyers. Tatanto, three battleships still present. No significant change seen. Sightings at sea. 0625 hours 360 degrees Ischis Island half mile, two M/Vs, 4/5000 tons, course 270 degrees, speed 7 knots, 0631 hours, 180 degrees Naples two miles one M/V 2000 tons three MTBs one flag ship course 200 degrees speed 3/4 knots. 1300 hours 070 degrees Ras Kaboudi 20 miles two M/V 5000 tons one six inch cruiser, one destroyer, one sloop, course 180 degrees speed 10 knots. 090 degrees Ras Kaboudia 15 miles one M/V 2000 tons course 360 degrees.

2. No enemy air activity.

3. Strikes. Night 1/2 December. Albacores found 2050 hours 260 degrees Marettimo 20 miles one tanker 7000 tons with destroyer escort and made torpedo attack on tanker setting it on fire. 1200 hours 2nd December Baltimore found tanker motionless with two destroyers. Beaufighters on intruder patrol made two attacks with cannon and 2-250 pound bombs on Gabes/Tunis train between

/Sfax

67c

SECRET

- 2 -

Sfax and Tunis scoring cannon hits on Engine and halting train. Bombers dropped 2-250 pound bombs on railway junction at Ouadenine(?) and 2-250 pound bombs on railway junction 25 miles east of Tunis.

Army. Nil
Navy. Nil.

1910Z/2.

Received from A.F.H.Q. 1050/4.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Naval Sec.
A.C.N.A.S.
D.N.A.D.
Capt. Pim
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (4)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (O)
O.I.C. (4)
D. of P. (3)
D.A/S.W. (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
M. (2)
D.A.C.D.
D. of P. (Q)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

A.F.H.Q. Distribution

Copies to:

1. CS.
2. CAO
3. Sec G/S.

DW.

War Diary.2.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Con. Fr.Air attack
on enemy
convoy
(contd.)Have attacked enemy convoy with torpedoes.
Hits observed.
(A/C BWYA 2025/2.)
Two merchant vessels sunk, one merchant vessel
sinking escort scattered.
(A/C BTMR 2035A/2.)UNA
patrol
report.UNA reports observed standing patrol of three
trawlers and one Schooner between Cape Bon and
Marittimo at 20 mile intervals. 23rd to 27th
spent in Gulf of Tunis nothing sighted or
considered to have entered. At 0047A/27 in
position 37° 34' 10° 33' fired three torpedoes submerged
moonlight at southbound 4,000 ton escorted merchant vessel
one hit from 1200 yards enemy appeared to blow up causing general
superficial damage in submarine. At 1226/27 in 37° 36' 10° 43'
fired four torpedoes at 3500 ton southbound transport with three
destroyers in vicinity but not escorting range 1500 yards.
Torpedoes appeared to run correctly but possibly missed due to
very rough sea enemy continued undamaged.
On night 27/28 when 23 miles from Marittimo UNA detected and
hunted persistently for five hours by E-Boat despite rough sea
UNA withdrew to westward made passage QBB 255 daylight 29th
communicated with P.311 at 2213 in position 35 miles south of
Empedocle E-boat fired two torpedoes tracks observed by C.O.
who by use of helm avoided by 12 feet.
(S.10 2007A/2.)Malta
C.S.R.Night 1/2 Dec. Ship attacked by Malta based
Beaufighters afternoon 1st December in Gulf
Hamamet seen by another Squadron to be still
blazing and exploding at 0200/2.2nd. Dec. Owing to heavy rain and much low cloud Spitfires and
Beaufighters made no offensive sorties a total of 14 Spitfire
sorties have been flown on reconnaissance patrols north of
Malta but no sightings were made.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2035/2.)Night Dec. 1/2nd. 5 Wellingtons were despatched to attack
Bizerta Docks. Owing to extremely bad weather conditions and
severe electrical storm 3 aircraft were unable to locate the
target and brought their bombs back to base. At 1940 1
Wellington dropped 5 500 7 250 lb. G.P. bombs from 6000 feet
scoring hits near the Iron Ore Wharf and on the Western Shore
of Sedra Bay.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2117/2.)(Air attack
on Convoy)The adverse weather conditions prevented accurate
observation of results accurate heavy flak was
encountered, 1 Wellington is missing but believed
to have landed at Bone. 11 Albacores, 8
carrying torpedoes and 4 special Wellingtons, 2 carrying
torpedoes were despatched to locate and attack enemy southbound
convoy off Marittimo.

/1920 hours ...

~~SECRET~~ 69

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

(Air attack on convoy) (contd.)
1920 hours 1 Wellington found 265° Marittimo 25 miles 3 D/Rs and 6 unidentified vessels. Wellington shadowed and illuminated convoy with flares for surface forces from Bone.
2050 hours 2 Albacores found 266° Marittimo 20 miles 1 Tanker 7000 tons possible M/V with screen of at least 2 D/Rs. 1 Albacore dropped flares while second Albacore attacked Tanker with 1 torpedo contact only depth setting 9 feet from 40 feet range 450 yards scoring hit amidships producing flames and sparks to height of 65 (or 60?) feet. Flames later spread to after part of ship. 1 special Wellington observed Albacore strike and confirms success. Remaining aircraft did not locate convoy though scattered shipping was seen in area. Wellingtons observed ships on fire at following times and positions 2258 hours (?260)° Marsala 10 miles, 2335 hours 270° Marittimo 35 miles 0104 hours 360° Cape Bon 35 miles 1200/2 Baltimore sighted 140° Marittimo half a mile Tanker attacked by Albacores night 1st/2nd Dec. stationary transit Hurricane sighted 1330 hours 070° Ras Kaboudia 20 miles 1 six inch C/R, 1 D/R, 1 sloop and 2 M/Vs 5000 tons course 180° speed 10 knots and 090° Ras Kaboudia 15 miles, 1 M/V 2000 tons, course 360°.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2132/2.)

HIGHLAND
MONARCH,
EMPIRE
TROOPER,
EMPIRE
WOODLARK.
Your 2146/25 Nov. propose embarking HIGHLAND MONARCH to capacity in addition to 500 German P.O.W. and EMPIRE TROOPER, EMPIRE WOODLARK to capacity.
2. HIGHLAND MONARCH ready to sail 4 Dec. daylight.
3. F.O.R.S.C.A. requested arrange escort.
4. Request immediate concurrence.
5. Agreed.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 2041/2.)

Survivors. R.A.F. sighting report 2 rafts with 6 men but ship disappeared. My trawler picked up 6 men. Further report follows.
(N.O.I.C. Bone 2245/2 to F.O.C. 12th C.S., (R) F.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.)

Situation Report No.272. (1) Aircraft from Malta laid three magnetic mines at Bizerta and three at Tunis during night 30/1. (2) Force Q. engaged enemy convoy which scattered and made smoke in 37.39 N. 10.50 E. at 0037A/2. Burning wrecks were left probably from Merchant vessels and two destroyers no casualties or damage to Force Q. While off Galita Island at 0640A/2 *QUENTIN hit by aircraft torpedo and believed sunk. *QUIBERON has 90% survivors including C.O. * See p. 61.
Bone. Intermittent air raids 0100 to 0500/1. One merchant vessel hit but no serious damage. QUEEN EMMA and L.S.Is were unsuccessfully attacked by bombers and T.B. aircraft.
(4) Algiers. Aircraft sighted S/M twelve miles North of Cape Caxine at 1307/1. S/M dived and may have been French.
(5) MANXMAN torpedoed by U-boat in 36.39 N. 00.15 E. at 1702/1. Engine room wrecked. PATHFINDER has ship in tow and proceeding to Oran. See p. 59

~~TOP SECRET~~ 70

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.


War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Con/8.

Situation
Report
No. 272
(contd.)

(6) Sitrep 26 Item 3. French S/M is LE GLORIEUX.
(7) Naval A.A. gunfire in forward areas accounted
for four confirmed and two probable aircraft
shot down during week ending 29/11.
(N.C.X.F. 2303A/2.)

 412.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies

OPHIR. Your 1220/25. Enemy Powers have all been notified that Hospital Carrier, OPHIR will be used but Italian Government so far refuse to recognise her. She should therefore not be allowed to sail in waters where there is any likelihood of her encountering Italian S/Ms.
(D. of S.T. 0052A/2 to F.O.Ceylon (R) P.S.T.O. India).

SONAVATI. Intend sail SONAVATI from Colombo A.M./5th December carrying periodical relief stores and three months provisions for garrison and civilian population at Cocos. E.T.A. A.M./11th December duration of visit 24 hours.
(F.O.Ceylon 0549Z/2).

See next page

HAWKINS. My 0721/30th para.2. HAWKINS is now being sailed to Durban for docking.
(C. in C.E. F. 0642Z/2. to Admty).

SECRET

MIA

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

SECRET MESSAGE 1021Z/2 (O.N.B.) are excepted from this rule.

From F.O.C. Ceylon

Date 4th Dec. 1941
Recd. 0253

NAVAL CYPHER (A3) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Com. R.E.N.
S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

380. Ceylon movements summary number 27 of second
December.

Reference movement summary number 26.

- (1) H.M.S. FAJMOOUTH and D.S. WILLEM VAN DERZAAN escorting P.B. 14 due Bombay 3/12, H.M.S. FAJMOOUTH escorting B.P. 62 leaves Bombay 6/12.
- (2) H.M.S.* SOMAVATI escorting SANTHIA arrived Colombo 1/12. *see previous page
- (3) H.M.S. LAUNCESTON arrived Karachi 1/12.
- (4) H.M.S. MARGUERITE, with MATIAMA 2, left Addu Atoll 29/11 due Diego Garcia 1/12, Addu 10/12
- (5) H.M.A.S. LISMORE, and BENGAL, escorting M.B. 17 1/2, arrived Bombay 28th November. H.M.A.S. LISMORE, and H.M.I.S. MADRAS, escorting B.P. 61, leaves Bombay 3rd December.
- (6) H.M.I.S. MADRAS, and H.M.I.S. JUMNA, arrived Bombay 29th November.
- (7) H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ, and H.M.I.S. JUMNA, left Bombay 30th November due Addu Atoll 4th December..

Summary No. 27.

- (1) H.M.S. ASTER, escorting B.A. 34 to 067° East, leaving Bombay 3rd December, returning to Bombay.
- (2) H.M.S. SCOUT, escorting SANTHIA, and SINGU, leaves Colombo 4th December for Addu.
- (3) H.M.A.S. BATHURST, escorting P.A. 14, due to leave Bandar Abbas 9th December.
- (4) BARBOUR, at Trincomalee, leaving for Colombo shortly.
- (5) H.M.S. LAOMEDON, arrived Calcutta 25th November from Trincomalee.
- (6) PUNJAB, escorting A.B. 4, leaving Aden 3rd December. Ends.

1021Z/2

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade

N.A. 1st S.L.
 Capt. Pim, Admy. Hse.
 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.N.L.O. (2)
 D.T.D. (L)
 D.T.D. (C)
 D. of L.D. (2)
 D.M.S.
 D.M.S. Citadel
 N.L.O. Australia Hse.

[REDACTED] 42

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Information Navy Dept. is anxious to be kept supplied with
U.S. managed all possible information of U.S. managed shipping
Shipping. employed in Eastern North Atlantic and U.K.
(2) Much of this information is available through
usual channels but is presumably not complete.

For example Part II of K.M. Sailing Telegram has not so far
been available nor apparently advance information of release
of U.S. flagships to this side of the Atlantic.

(3) Request you will remark observing that we have been asked
to apply for the above subsequent to a similar request made to
Comnav.

(B.A.D., 0007Z/2 to Admt.)

Your 0007/2 all information as to independent ships, with
exception of U.K. coastal movements is already supplied.
2. Arrangements are being made to extract from K.M. Sailing
Telegrams and pass to Connav all information as to U.S. managed
ships.

3. N.C.X.F. has been requested to supply direct to Connav
similar information as regards M.K. convoys.

(D.T.D., 2350A/2 to B.A.D.)

Shipping. Your 2151/30 following is a repetition of Cominch
(C. and R.) 2040/19. "Your 1830/18 concur
except para. two prefer 14½ knot speed apply to
Caribbean".

(B.A.D., 0011Z/2 to Admt.)

S.C. 111, S.C.111 collision in convoy at 2139Z/1 in 044°
KING GRUFFYD 31', 057° 31'. (a) KING GRUFFYD (42) proceeding
collision. Sydney (C.B.) at 8 knots not taking water but
will in heavy weather. Request escort may meet. Other ships
not yet located.

(C.T.U. 24.18.7, 0015Z/2 to C.O.A.C., A.O.C. E. Atlantic
Coast, N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., (R) N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Admt.,
C.T.24, C.E.S.F., Capt. D. Halifax, Connav.)

Commander W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4 1440/1 (not received). Request
you will reply and if possible arrange transfer of stragglers
to S.C. 111.

(C.O.A.C., 0122Z/2 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.T.F.24, Connav,
Admt., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7,
Commander W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4.)

Detach U.S. Destroyer SIMPSON at latest time which will
permit her to arrive U.S. Naval Operating Base Argentia daylight
hours Dec. 7th. Afterwards she is not available to you as
escort S.C.111. Retain U.S. Destroyer BADGER as part of your
unit for (? entire) round trip. Change my operation order 60 -
42 accordingly.

(C.T.24, 1501/2 to C.T.U. 24.1.3, (R) SIMPSON, etc.)

U.S. S/M SAWFISH departed Narragansett Bay 1700Z/2 for
Notice. New London via Block Island Sound swept channel.
Arrives New London lower harbour 2100Z/2.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0110/2 to Admt.)
Movement P.512. My 1601/1 delayed 24 hours.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0540/2 to Admt.)

~~SECRET~~ 3

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- S.C.110. Following ships put back to St. Johns or Halifax KEWAYDIN (U.S.S.), KOFRESI (U.S.), VAV (Nor.), VEZINA (Nor.) (C. in C. W.A., 0135A/2 to Escorts S.C.110 for Cdre., (R) Admty.)
- U/B Operations 1st Dec. Times G.M.T.
sightings. U-Boat sighted at 1118 position 44.45 N. 58.40 W. no attack convoy escort directed to position. S.C.111 2 sorties 11 20 to 1940 U-Boat sighted 1946 position 44.23 N. 54.51 W. no attack. (A.O.C. E.A.C., 0253/2.)
- S/M Estimates (Comnav, 0802/2, Cominch 1551/2. 1552/2, and notices. 1648/2, 1649/2, 1650/2.)
- K.14 (from Arrival Bermuda K.14.
S.A. for (S.B.N.O.W.A., 0829Q/2 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.,
refit.) N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, REGENT,
F.O.W.A.F.)
- Movements. Arrival 1st, U.S. escort vessel Y.P.340.
(R.N.O. Nassau, 1001/2 to Admty., S.O.(I) Kingston.)
- Departure 1st, U.S. Auxiliary vessels SAMANA, MIAMI, 2nd, and
ARU EXUMA 1st.
(R.N.O. Nassau, 1008/2 to Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
- O.N.149. Report your P.C. and S. and whether my 0950Z/1
B.N.213 was received.
(C. in C. W.A., 1012A/2 to S.E.C.O.N., (R) Connav,
C.T.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.,
C.T.G. 24.7.)
- EMPIRE Trinidad reports torpedoed sunk 0158Z/28 in 09.00
CROMWELL. N. 58.30 W. 25 survivors; 24 missing presumed
dead.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1126R/2.)
- H.X.217, H.X.217. EGLANTINE, ROSE, VERVAIN from mid-Ocean
escort. T.U.24.1.4 (? join) convoy H.X.217 Halifax
048° 08' N. 051° 22' W. at 1200Z/3.
See p. 74
(C.T.24., 1221Z/2 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) Mid-
Ocean Escort T.U.24.1.4, Western Local Escort T.U.
24.18.4, C.T.G. 24.7, F.O.N.F., Admty., N.S.H.Q.,
C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C.)

/ALMAACK ...

MOST SECRET

43A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0201Z/2nd December.

IN

FROM: C.O.A.C.

DATE: 2.12.42.

RECD: 0438

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T AND T/P

ADDRESSED: G B 7 A and A G

IMPORTANT.

My 1701 1st. Section North West delete reference to
H.M.S/M P.512, MILLTOWN, departing Pictou, N.S. 1200 and
sailing delayed.

0201Z/2

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.

Advance copies Ops., O.D.,
O.I.C.

* North West Situation report.

I.P.(2)
D.T.D.(M)
F.O.S. by courier
C.C.R.T.
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(C)

.MFG

SECRET

73^B

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.)

M E S S A G E 0146Z/5th December.
IN

From N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

Date 13.12.42.
Recd. 0540.

NAVAL CYPHER M BY CABLE.

Addressed Admiralty, Washington NMCJS, F.O.N.F., (?B.A.D. Washington).

Following is a recyphered version of C.O.A.C.'s (714)15Z 2nd begins N.S.H.Q. repeated F.O.N.F. from C.O.A.C. (?in) conversation with Lt. De Vaisseau Maucotel F.N.F.L. on his arrival in Halifax, I mentioned that I believed the transfer of 3 Fairmiles to F.N.F.L. probably hung on whether they could be replaced in R.C.N. from those buildings in Canada for R.N. Yesterday 1st December Maucotel informed me that he was authorized to say that the fighting French are willing to man 3 Fairmiles even if they cannot be allocated to St. Pierre base. Naturally, if Fairmiles are being used on South Coast of Newfoundland they would hope to operate in that vicinity and be based at home but they are anxious to aid the war effort they have the personnel available and are willing to serve anywhere N.S.H.Q. Ottawa or the Admiralty see fit. Maucotel left for (corrupt) by T C A via. St. Johns N.F. P.M. 1st December. 1415Z 2nd Ends.

0146Z/5.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
P.N.L.O.
D. of P. (3)
M. (2)
Admiral Blake
W.D.
D.D.O.D. (C) (2)
D.S.V.P. (2)
D.A/S.W.
C.C.C.S.
U.S.N. (3)

MG

 M4

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ALMAACK damage. Details of damage. Time to effect temporary hull repairs in dock about three weeks. Vessel is not fit for a long tow in present condition. (Radio Washington, 1315/2 to Admty.)
See p. 54.

U/B attacks by A/C assessment. Following signal to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is passed to you for information. (Begins). Request information whether attacks on U-Boats by aircraft of R.C.A.F. are being assessed in accordance with my 1916/9th July. 2124/8

November. (Ends). No reply has been received. (D.A/S.W., 1348A/2 to B.A.D.)

Tanker allocation to St. John's N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax and F.O.N.F. report that with increased number of destroyers based at St. Johns N.F. it will not always be possible to ensure either TEAKWOOD or BRITISH HONOUR will be available at St. Johns N.F. with 6000 tons fuel required by Admiralty 1001/3rd June 1941. This is due partly to increased rate of consumption but also to delay in turn-around of tankers from Halifax to St. Johns N.F. in winter months.
(2) It is operationally uneconomical to use the fuel facilities at Argentia for destroyers of the Western support force owing to addition steaming time required.
(3) It is therefore strongly recommended that either EMPIRE SALVAGE or another tanker be permanently allocated to St. Johns N.F. in addition to TEAKWOOD and BRITISH HONOUR.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1442Z/2 to Admty.)

Position of Convoy Escort. Reply to his 1945Z/30. (Technical). (C. in C. W.A., 1502Z/2 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

H.X. 217, escort. MONTGOMERY, WITHERINGTON are to detach at about 2300Z/2 at best speed to St. Johns N.F. to refuel reporting E.T.A. 2 hours before arrival. On completion of fuelling you will sail to join H.X. 217.
See p. 73.
(F.O.N.F., 1530Z/2 to C.T.U. 24.12.1, (R) C.T.U. 24.18.4, Admty., C.T.U. 24.1.4, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C., Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.N.146. O.N.146. Your 2300/1 cancel my 1616/30. W.L.E.S. Task Unit 24.18.8 now sailing as follows QUESNEL 2300/2 joining position 43° 02' N. (?61° ?64°) 35' W. at 1200/3 and BRANTFORD (S.O.), DUNDAS, TRURO at 0800/3 joins at H.O.M.P. at 2000/3. 2. When QUESNEL joins detach ships for Canadian ports to Halifax escorted by one destroyer. 3. (? Belfast) ships will join from Halifax.
(C.O.A.C., 1544/2 to C.T. 24.18.1.)

/SS. SAMUEL ...

~~██████████~~ 75

War Diary.

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

SS. SAMUEL
JOHNSTON.

Went aground Soldado Rock, Serpents Mouth, Trinidad, 22nd Nov. Towed off by H.M.R.T. CONFIDENT, proceeded to Port of Spain under own power.
(BENBOW, 1610Q/2.)

Report by
BRANDON.

045° 46' N. (? 060° 00') W. tow parted while making for Louisburg at 1740Z. Wind (corrupt group) 08. Unable to re(?gain) ends expect them to drift ashore at Fourchu Bay. Will await further orders at Louisburg.
(BRANDON, 1725Z/2 to C.O.A.C., (R) C.C.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7.)

SHERWOOD.

Proceeding to St. Johns N.F. 7th, en route Key West, Asdic broken down. E.T.A. 1100/4th. Course 255° 13 knots position 49.44 39.47 weather report 3471 1573.
(SHERWOOD, 1801Z/2.)

U.S. salvage
ships at
Massawa.

In case you may not have seen it following is text of tel. 977 of 1st Dec. from Eisenhower to Marshal repeated Middle East. Begins. Captain Ellsberg reported Algiers today. I desire that U.S. salvage ships at Massawa be despatched immediately to Oran via Capetown. Also request that Andrews be instructed to send to Oran by air Ellsberg's salvage party of eight with equipment now at Massawa. Ellsberg selected this party before he departed. Advise E.T.A. of ships and of party. Ends.
(J.S.M. Washington, 1931Z/2 to War Cabinet.)

GEZINA.

My 1950/25th ship did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1932Z/2.)

U/B.

Sub sighted lat. 20.00 N. long. 70.00 W. at 1830 G.M.T./2.
(Curacao, 1935/2.)

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary.

B. ELMDALE U.88 type. REUBEN TIPTON three torpedo hits.
C. P.C.563 attacks sound contact 12.40 N. 62.40 W. 1830Z/19th Nov. Plane sights submarine 44.23 N. 54.51 W. 1946Z/1. Sub. contact 13.08 N. 68.25 W. 0855Z/2.

D. Airlines planes sights submarine 20° N. 70° W. 1830Z/2 course 150.
(Cominch, 2110/2.)

MOST SECRET

45A

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

2325Z/2nd December

From J.S.M. Washington.

Date 3/12/42
Recd. 0423Z

Cypher

Addressed War Cabinet Offices London.

IMMEDIATE

IZ.2443. J.S.M.511 2nd December 1942.

Personal from F.M. Dill. Reference F.O.7516 to Washington.

As far as we can ascertain the only instructions sent by U.S. Chiefs of Staff to Eisenhower regarding Dakar negotiations are contained in their R.3519 of 24th November, which covers only one or two points.

2. As reported in J.S.M.500, directive for U.S. negotiations is now being drafted here. We hope to ensure -

(1) That all our requirements as communicated in C.O.S.(W)365, and further instructions from Air Ministry to Rafdel, are covered,

(2) That they are not specifically set down as British requirements, but that everything obtained should be for the "Allies".

3. By this means we hope that we shall share in whatever the Americans get. If British requirements are shown separately, there will be a tendency to pin us down rigidly to those, and to exclude us from any extension of facilities which may later accrue.

4. Marshall told me yesterday that he had heard from Eisenhower of Cunningham's anxieties. I therefore telegraphed Cunningham privately giving him gist of J.S.M.500. Marshall has now sent me copy of following private message which he has sent to Eisenhower.
Begins.

Reference your 935 of December 1st regarding Cunningham and Dakar, I have just read your message to Dill, who is sending a message to Cunningham to reassure him. I told Dill that we felt Cunningham had given such an outstanding demonstration of unselfish co-operation that I would be most seriously concerned if he had any doubts in

/this

2.

this Dakar matter. Dill thinks he can reassure him. The whole matter was taken up by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, this is, with the British Mission, and our action was O.K'd by them. They had submitted various British naval matters which were involved, and these are all being taken care of in a directive to the Mission to go to Dakar. There is no objection to your showing this message to Cunningham if you so desire. Ends.

5. We feel that it would be very difficult now, particularly in view of above message to Eisenhower, to go back to U.S. Chiefs of Staff and ask for British representation in negotiations without implying lack of trust. Nevertheless, an opportunity might occur later for pressing for British advisors if not for full representation. In any case we shall suggest that Admiral Glassford should see whoever you wish at Accra on his way through to Dakar. This seems all the more important as we have just heard that General Smith has reached North Africa without seeing G.O.C. or A.O.C. West Africa.

6. In this not very satisfactory situation, fact that agreements are to be approved by Combined Chiefs of Staff provides some safeguard.

2325Z/2.

Circulation -

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Brigadier Jacob | C.6 Tols. War Office |
| Foreign Secretary | C.A.S. |
| First Sea Lord | C.C.O. |

Received from W.C.O. p.m./3.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1st Lord | D. of P. |
| 1st S.L. | Head of M. |
| D.F.S.L. | Admiral Blake |
| V.C.N.S. | Admiral Ramsey |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | D.C. |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | I.P. |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | W.D. |
| P.A.S.(S) | D. of P.(Q) |
| D.O.D.(F) | D. of L.D. |
| D.O.D.(H) | D.D.I.C. |
| D.N.I. | |

MOST SECRET

758

MOST SECRET.

M E S S A G E

2329Z/2nd December.

IN.

From J.S.M. Washington.

Date 3.12.42.

Time 0320Z

CYPHER.

Addressed War Cabinet Offices London.

IMMEDIATE.

IZ.2412. JSM.512 2nd December 1942.

Following just received from Americans, who ask your views. BEGINS

To: ACWAR

From: Freedom Algiers.

No. 1025 December 2nd 1942. This message is from Eisenhower to General Marshall for his eyes only.

When full agreement has been reached between French conferees and myself as to the terms of the Dakar agreement now under preparation, and these terms have been approved by the C.C.S., I intend here to release the following statement -


"The Allied Commander in Chief, North Africa, announced today that the Governor General of French West Africa, Monsieur Boisson, has agreed to co-operate with the United Nations in the prosecution of the war against the Axis. The Governor General of French West Africa has proclaimed his purpose of achieving full co-operation with the High Commissioner of French North Africa, Admiral Barlan, by placing himself definitely under the orders of the latter. Important points in the co-operative effort to be undertaken by French West Africa are the use of airfields for transiting of Allied planes and the use of ports and port facilities by Allied Navies. Allied shipping held in French West Africa is to be released at once, as will also any internees of the United Nations. Details involving future employment of French naval units and shipping are to be developed at later conferences in Dakar."

Request radio reply as soon as practicable, as I am hopeful the agreement can be reached in a couple days.

ENDS

2. Please let us have your comments most urgently. War Department recommend approval, but agreement of

State/.....

 46

2.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. 1st Dec. arrivals, Townsville ARUNTA, STUART, Port Moresby, ~~KATOOMBA~~. Departures, Adelaide, SPRINGDALE for Melbourne, ~~(Brisbane)~~, AUSTRALIA on patrol. ~~(Port Darwin)~~, KAPUNDA on escort duty. Sydney (N.S.W.) WHYALLA for Townsville, Townsville, SWAN, for Milne Bay, WARREGO and ~~(COLAC)~~ for Port Moresby.
(A.C.N.B., 0701Z/2 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., C.O.I.S. E.F.)

**Confirmed by Movements of H.M. Ships.*

Dock. Ref. S. of S's cable Great Britain dated 17th Feb. 1942 to Prime Minister. Is it now your intention to provide 2750 ton dock for (? Bunbury)?*
(A.C.N.B., 1706Z/2 to Admty.)
* Group comd. Possible alternative Queenscliff.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions. Noticeable increase of effort in Western Mediterranean by about ten U-Boats west of 05° 00' E. West of Gibraltar at 1200Z/2.
(D.D.I.C., 1357A/2, 1426A/2.)

War Diary.

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The corvette VIOLET, on passage from Gibraltar to U.K., reported at 0930Z being attacked by two U-Boats in 45° 8' N. 14° 44' W. There were no further developments.

Convoy P.W.257 was attacked by E-Boats at 0630 today five miles south of Start Point. The Hunt-class destroyer PENYLAN and M.V. GATINAIS (383 tons) were sunk.

BERWICK and FURY are on patrol "White".

In view of the importance attaching to anti U-Boat measures in the Atlantic at the present the Admiralty have requested the Air Ministry to continue the heavy daylight bombing attacks on Bay of Biscay ports by the 8th Air Force, U.S.A. A.F. and that attention may be paid to Lorient Airfield since Ju.88 fighters are causing serious interference with anti U-Boat operations in the Bay of Biscay. Bad weather over the targets, however, curtailed the number and weight of the attacks.

During small scale air raids on Murmansk yesterday and last night SS. EMPIRE SCOTT was hit by incendiaries, but no damage is reported.

South Atlantic.

C.G. Lourenco Marques reports survivors landed from MOUNT PARNES, lost by enemy action.

Mediterranean.

Force K (CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, DIDO, JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN, NUBIAN) left Malta at 2036A today, to act as cover for M.W.14 tonight and reinforce the close escort to Malta tomorrow morning.

/It ...

 48

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

It is reported that Albacores from Malta successfully attacked an escorted southbound convoy of 2 merchant vessels off Kerkenah Islands last night, and obtained 4 torpedo hits and left the ships burning.

Aircraft attacked Bizerta docks and Tunis docks last night.

Enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk harbour last night; little damage was caused.

A Hudson on A/S sweep attacked a surfaced U-Boat in 37° 15' N. 4° 45' (or 15') E. (N.N.E. of Philippeville) with 4 depth charges, 2 of which straddled the U-Boat. About an hour later, an oil patch 1/2 mile in diameter was seen and also a small yellow raft.

America and West Indies.

Acceleration of shipping.

The Admiralty today proposed to the U.S. Navy Department that some modifications should be made to the Atlantic convoy system, in order to accelerate the movements of shipping, especially tankers. They consider that the U-Boat situation in the western Atlantic is such as to justify some modification of the present convoy procedure; we are allowing the enemy to impose his will upon us if, as the result of heavy scale attacks in an earlier period, we continue to deal with our shipping as if those conditions were still operative. The operations in North Africa are thought in some degree to have caused a revision of U-Boat strategy. The U.S. Navy Department concurred (5th Dec.) The immediate action to be taken is to detach fast ships from H.X. convoys and tankers from O.N convoys to proceed independently when waters are reached where the U-Boat menace is considerably lessened. (page 184)

Coastal Shipping.

In order to avoid holding coastwise shipping in port to await escort Comeastseafon has ordered that until further notice they may be sailed independently except between Cape Lookout and Chesapeake. This does not apply to aviation spirit tankers.

~~SECRET~~ 49

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

The sailing of Convoy S.C.112 has been delayed 24 hours by extremely bad weather. Convoy B.S.40 did not sail owing to the weather.

SS. EMPIRE DABCHICK (a straggler from Convoy O.N.146) reported being torpedoed at 0855 G.M.T. in 43° 0' N. 58° 17' W.

~~SECRET~~ 80

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

2nd M.G.B Flotilla. The 2nd M.G.B. Flotilla is temporarily re-allocated to Dartmouth.
V.A. Dover is requested to sail all available boats as soon as possible.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 1652A/3).

Overseas Assault Force. Admiralty's 1149/2. C.O. Landing ships and Craft will be detailed by C.C.O. as required for Overseas Assault Force under Rear-Admiral Baillie-Groham. Until this is done, such ships and craft will remain under S.O.A.S.C. as at present.

(2) Rear-Admiral Baillie-Groham will direct training policy and disposition of personnel concerned, most of whom are ex "Torch", as from date of this signal, but these personnel will remain under their present administrative authorities until further orders.
(C.C.O. 1840A/3).

Task Group 99-1. Subron 50 hereby designated Task Group 99.1 Task Force Number 99 assigned for U.S. Navy ships operating under Commander U.S. Naval Forces in Europe by Cominch 1744/1.
(Comnaveu 1926/2 to Comsubron 50, F.O.S. Admty),

Movements.

JUNON. Arrived F. S. JUNON.
(S/O S/M Lerwick 0805A/3).
See pp. 8113, 84, 185 My 1211/2 amend to read as follows:-
Time of sailing 1600A/4th. E.T.A. 0800A/6th.
S.O.A. 7 knots.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick 2041A/3 to A.C.O.S.).

P.615. P.615 will be ready to sail, ^{ten} Freetown p.m./9th December.
(Capt.S.3. 0945A/3 to F.O.S.).

BELFAST. My 1749/25. and A.M. 2155/26. BELFAST delayed, anticipate sailing her 10th. December.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1024A/3).
N.T.M.H.D.

P.555. Intend to sail P.555 escorted by LADY SHAHRAZAD at 1500A/4th from Rothesay to Oban, E.T.A. 0600A/5 via Sound of Islay and Mull. Speed of Advance, 10 knots. N.O.I.C. Oban is requested to sail her for Tobermory to arrive by 1200A/5th.
See p. 81A
(Capt.S.7. 1058 /3).

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- GRAPH. Estimated position of GRAPH at 2000A/3rd.
46.04, 15.50 to 47.01, 13.50, diving by day.
See next page. Speed on the surface 10 knots which may be reduced by weather to 5 knots.
(C. in C.W.A. 1122A/3 to VIOLET)
- BERMUDA. BERMUDA left STRATHAIRD who is making good 18 knots at 1300/2 in 042.34 N. 015.18 W.
2. BERMUDA will pass through 52.10, 13.10 at 1200/3. S.O.A. 25 knots, reduced to 17 through Minches.
3. E.T.A. 1515/4.
(BERMUDA 1201A/3 to C. in C.W.A.).
- North Atlantic A.M. 1515/1. Area, Scapa For 11 read 9 destroyers dispositions. Add HOWE.
Area Liverpool, Add ARCHER, Passage to U.K. *See p. 87*
Delete ARCHER.
(D.O.D.(H) 1333A/3 to C. in C.U.S. Fleet).
- LOWESTOFT. C. in C. W.A. 1438/2. ^{N.T.A.V.D.} From (T) proceed through (A) 50.00 N. 12.30 W. (B) 180° Bishop Rock 5 (C) 180° The Lizard 3½, and by Q.Z.S. 347 to Falmouth.
2. Adjust speed to arrive Falmouth 0900/5th.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1357A/3 to LOWESTOFT).
- SUSSEX. Your 1346A/29. Approximate date p.m./5th Jan.
(N.O.I.C. Newcastle 1630/3 to C. in C.H.F.).
- VIMY. VIMY is urgently required for service. Request information when she will be ready to sail.
(C. in C.W.A. 1633A/3 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
- S/M Positions. At, 0800A/4. Details. (F.O.S. 1747A/3) and 2157A/3) See Lion Copy.
- HALCYON. Proceed passing Switha 1300/4th to Milford Haven for refit routed through Minches and North Channel.
(R.A.D. 1834A/3 to HALCYON).

MOST SECRET

81B

MOST SECRET MESSAGE. 2157A/3rd Dec. IN

From:- F.O.S.

Date. 3/12/42.

Recd. 2201

P/L BY T/P

Addressed:- Admiralty.

217.

My 1747/3rd December. /

Add paragraph (H) F S JUNON escorted
by LEICESTER CITY leaves Lerwick 1600/4th
December routed through 091 degs Sunburgh
Head 5 miles 089 degs Fair Isle 6 miles and
58 degs 44 mins North 02 degs 32 mins West
thence by Searched Channels to Dundee Speed
of advance 7 knots.

See pp 80, 84 & 85

2157A/3.

Advance Copy. Duty Capt.
D.O.D.(H).

/ Submarine movements.

A.C.N.S.(H)
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.I/S.W.
Hd.of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2).
D.T.D.(M).
U.S.N.(3).
D.N.I.(4).

War Diary.

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols. Tonight GLAISDALE with M.T.B.55 (S.O), 49, M.G.B. 608 is to proceed to St.Helens before dark and if weather permits proceed to patrol between 50° 27' N. 0° 05' W. and 50° 32' N. 0.35 E. passing E.A.3. Buoy 1730 outward and 0800 inward. Codeword "Advent."
2. If weather is unsuitable for M.T.Bs, proceed with M.G.B.608. GLAISDALE is not to proceed alone.
3. Convoy C.E. 136 (S.O Escort *CATTISTOCK) passes E.A.5 at 1620, C 3 1830 D, 0120. Keep to southward of it as far as patrol line allows and then near eastward end of patrol.
4. If ordered to intercept enemy on his coastal route cross Q.Z.X.771 by passage one. * See p 84
5. CHASSEURS 15 (S.O) and 14 patrolling South of E.A.5 Buoy. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1306A/3 to D.I. HORNET).
CHASSEURS 15 and 14 patrolling South of E.A.5 Buoy.
→ GLAISDALE, M.T.Bs 55, 49, M.G.B. 608 patrolling to Southward of Beady Head, passing E.A.3 Buoy at 1730/3 and 0800/4. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1531A/3).

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Patrols by U.S. S/Ms. | 1. Following forecast patrol By (Comsubron 50.) is proposed:- | | |
| | S/M. | Date of Sailing Clyde. | Date of Arrival Clyde. |
| | BARB. | 16th December. | 15th January. |
| | HERRING. | do. | 4th February. |
| | BLACKFISH. | 20th December. | 24th January. |
| | SHAD. | do. | 8th February. |
| | GURNARD. | 28th November. | 24th December. |
| | GURNARD. | 9th January. | 28th February. |
| | BARB. | 30th January. | 21st March. |
| | HERRING. | 26th February. | 27th March. |
| | BLACKFISH. | 10th February. | do. |
| | SHAD. | 6th March. | 5th April. |

(2) Programme for GUNNEL will be proposed when time to make good defects is known. (Comsubron 2044A/3 to F.O.S.).

Exercises.

Exercise X.C.F. BERWICK, SUFFOLK, NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, FURY. My 1733/2nd. BERWICK is to leave "White" patrol to R/V with SUFFOLK as ordered by SUFFOLK to carry out strategical exercise X.C.F in accordance with C.S. 1 0958/2nd.
2. On leaving patrol order destroyers in company to return to Hvalfjord. (C. in C.H.F. 0044A/3 to BERWICK SUFFOLK).
C. in C.H.F. 0044A/3 para.2.
X.C.F. destroyers may now be used as red merchant ships independently routed through the area between the minefields and the ice. (C.S.1. 1157A/3 to SUFFOLK).
Scapa departures NORFOLK and CUMBERLAND. (A.C.O.S. 1517/3 to A.C.I.C.).
Situation at 2000 tonight.
NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND 058. 45 N. 005.47 W. to Hvalfjord. (A.C.O.S. 1548/3 to Air Ministry, H.Q.C.C. Capt.S.9).

/C. in C.H.F...

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises - Contd.

Exercise C. in C.H.F's 0044A/3. Intend pass through
X.C.F. 063.57 N, 025.27 W. at 0900N/5th. Course 180°
BERWICK, 17 knots. Join me at that time with FURY in
SUFFOLK, company.
NORFOLK, 2. If conditions prevent contact being made ships
CUMBERLAND, are to proceed to arrive following positions at
FURY. 1100N/5, SUFFOLK 063.25 N. 025.50 W. BERWICK
Contd. 063.25 N. 025.05 W.
3. From these positions both ships steer M.L.A.
000° 17 knots and reverse the course at the end of every two
hours.
4. Communications. Procedure "Squeak" will be brought into force
without delay. SUFFOLK A/C will be radiating.
(SUFFOLK 1609N/3 to BERWICK).

Trials in
Firth of
Forth.
MALAYA.

A requirement has arisen for a battleship to
carry out trials over the Acoustic Measuring
Range in the Firth of Forth. These trials will
take 1½ hours on each of two days and it is sugges-
ted that MALAYA should be employed at the
conclusion of her refit and before proceeding to
Scapa.
2. Request your concurrence.
(D.O.D.(H) 2235A/3 to C. in C.H.F.).

Allied Air Activity.

Bombing of
Biscay
Ports.

In view of the importance attaching to anti U/B
measures in the Atlantic at the present, the
Admiralty have requested.

(a) That the heavy daylight bombing attacks on
Bay of Biscay ports by the 8th Air Force be
continued.

(b) That attention be paid to Lorient Airfield from which K.G.6
operates, since JU.88 fighters are causing serious interference,
with anti U/B operations in the Bay of Biscay.

The Air Min. agree and request Fighter and Bomber Command to
co-operate as necessary with such resources as are available in
assisting the 8th Air Force in the task.

(Air Min. 1639A/3 to H.Q. 8th Air Force, U.S.A.A.F. H.Q.B.C.,
H.Q.F.C. (R) H.Q.C.C.).

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk
bombed.

During small scale raids on Murmansk yesterday
and last night high explosive and incendiary
bombs were dropped on town and near EMPIRE
ELGAR and EMPIRE SCOTT. Latter was hit by

some incendiaries. No damage to ships and no British casualties
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1303A/3 to Admty).

Humber Area. Between 2014 and 2050 today five hostile A/C
approached from the east, spread between
Flamborough and Spurn. Three of these returned without
crossing the coast. The remaining two turned south passing
over Q.Z.S. 247 between H8 and Chequer Shoal at 5/6000 ft.

/then...

84
3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Humber
Area.
Contd.

then crossed the coast in the vicinity of North Coates penetrating 5 to 10 miles before returning. No incidents reported. Only evidence of possible minelaying being report from MONIMIA of two heavy objects dropped vicinity 62C buoy at 2012. M/S precautions are being taken.
(F.O.Humber 2217/3 to C. in C.Nore).

Mining.

Off Needles.

My 1730/2. At 1244/2 one Magnetic Mine exploded by Sweeper in 185° Needles Light 1 mile. Details.
(C.in C.Portsmouth 1106A/3).

South
Foreland.

Enemy A/C Mine reported dropped in 177° South Foreland Lighthouse 1.2 miles.
(V.A.Dover 1126A/3) See Shipping.

Following received from *CATTISTOCK* *See p. 82*
N7A40D. Your 1023/3. Unidentified A/C was heard approaching on starboard bow from Folkestone direction. A/C crossed van of convoy at about 3,000 ft. shortly after parachute with large cylindrical object attached was observed falling. Splash occurred about 300 yards on my starboard bow. Estimate position of splash 177° South Foreland 1.2 miles. Convoy carried out emergency turn together to port.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 1212A/3 to V.A.Dover).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats.

E-Boat bears 045° approx from G by D/F.
(Nore C.O. 0127/3 to S.E.E.C.C.D.).

Unidentified plots between Stokes Point and Prawle Point.

(C. in C. Plymouth 0437A/3 to Escorts of P.W. 257).

Bay of Biscay.

P.C. and S. of 1 M/V of 3000 tons unidentified 043.47 N, 006.30 W, 120°, 8 knots.
(A/C K of 502 Sqdn.0415/3 to 19th Group).

Tennhelm
Fiord on
23rd Nov.

See p. 80
JUNON reports further to her 0730/19 and 1802/30. 23rd November 1050A enemy ships sighted in Tennhelm Fiord, course 030° coming from Melovaer. JUNON in 66.53.5 N. 13.23.5 E. unable to manoeuvre to attack due to restricted water.

Went deeper and enemy passed overhead.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick 1103A/3 to F.O.S.).

Off Corunna
ANGELITO.

P.C. and S. 043.19 N. 009.14 W, 230, degs.6 knots. ANGELITO Spanish 2000.
(A/C D08V 1430/3 to 19th Group).

SCHARLACH-
BERGER.

German SCHARLACHBERGER reported Outer Harbour Bilbao, probably sailing tonight.
(D.D.I.C.2145A/3 to C. in C. Plymouth F.O.S. H.Q.C.C.F.O.C.N.A.).

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Following bearings probably of U/B, obtained at 0415Z.
Cupar 009/C. Flowerdown 006/Q.
(D.D.I.C. 0625A/3 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
On day 1st December a Halifax A/C of 4th Group sighted a U-Boat in the act of diving; and another Halifax sighted what was believed to be the swirl of another U/B. No details given.
(H.Q.B.C. 1530A/3).

Ships attacked. Am attacked by 2 U/Bs in 045.08 N, 014.44 W.
VIOLET. (VIOLET 0930Z/3 to Admty).
My 0930Z/3rd. No further developments.
(VIOLET 1319Z/3 to Admty).

U/Boat attacked. On day 1st December a Whitley of 10 O.T.U. sighted a partially surfaced U/B which crash dived as the A/C dived to attack along its track. 6 D.Cs were released from 50 ft. 15 seconds after U/B submerged and fell directly ahead of the swirl on the track of the U/Boat. Small dark patches were observed in the swirl, but these gradually disappeared. No oil or bubbles.
(H.Q.B.C. 1530A/3).

Casualties & Defects.

M.L.560. You may meet Motor Launch No.560 overdue Dartmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0211A/3 to Escorts P.W.257.)

Distress Signal. Have seen pyrotechnic distress signals in 49.50 N. 6.32 W.
(A/C Y6YU 0505/3 to 19th Group)
(C. in C. Plymouth 0625A/3 to WHITE BEAR).
Your 0625. Have searched area. Calcium flare still burning. No trace of wreckage or survivors. Am proceeding with S/M in company. E.T.A.boom 1530.
(WHITE BEAR 0911A/3 to C. in C.Plymouth).

JUNON. My 1211/2. Sailing delayed due to defects.
See pp 80, 81, 84
(S.O S/M Lerwick 0944A/3 to A.C.O.S.).

CITY OF EDINBURGH. Your 0832A/3. EXE detached 1015Z/3 position 38.34 N. 13.2 W. Request she be informed of course and speed of CITY OF EDINBURGH. She has been told to persuade CITY OF EDINBURGH to steer V for Vinegar. EXE fuel-stock remaining 53% at 0800Z/3rd.
p.90 - N. Atlantic
(EGRET 1022Z/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Raft with A/C. P.C. and S. 56.50, 12.31, (corrupt group). Steel raft 60 by 30 feet with Lockheed Lightning fighter on top. Tow has parted 3 times due to inadequacy of securing arrangements on raft. Am towing at maximum safe speed of 4.5 knots.
(PINK 1114Z/3 to C. in C.W.A.).

/R.N.Air I.A...

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.- Contd.

R.N.Air I.A. C. in C.Nore 1450/30. Arrived. Request berth alongside. Urgent repairs to bilge and fire mains.
(R.N.Air I.A. 1300/3 to C. in C.Portsmouth).

DUKE OF YORK. It is understood that DUKE OF YORK can be taken in hand at Rosyth for refit and alteration and addition on 15th December.
2. Intend to sail ship to arrive Rosyth p.m./8th December for De-ammunitioning.
3. Ship will defuel before leaving Scapa.
(C. in C.H.F.1918A/3 to C. in C.Rosyth).

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.150. Sailed BEVERLEY to overtake O.N.S. 150.
** See Convoy Return!*
WINCHELSEA delayed by defects.
(Cdre.Londonderry 0056A/3).

O.N.S.150. My P.C.S. 055.31, 011.12. 268°, E.T.A. 017° W. 0900/4.
(CLOVER 0800Z/3).

K.X.6. A.M. 1818A/22nd November. Sailed NORTHERN GIFT, B.B. 40. NORTHERN FOAM as additional escort with BB.40
E.T.A. Milford Haven 1030A/4th.
(N.O.I.C.Belfast 0830A/3).

F. S.475. My 1842/2nd. Leave anchorage as necessary to overtake F. S.475 before dark. F. S. is due East Dudgeon Buoy about 1600. On overtaking remain in company as additional escort until daylight/4th thence proceed independently to Sheerness.
(C. in C.Nore 0954A/3 to DIANELLA).

T.A.29. T.A.29. Intend sail passing Clyde Boom 0400Z/4th (QUEEN ELIZABETH). to pass through position (J) at 0900Z/4th, thence in accordance with A.M. 0111A/30th November. Anticipated S.O.A.from (J) 25 knots. "Chop"1300Z/5 E.T.A. Halifax 0300Z/9th. Codeword "Conifer."
(N.O.I.C.Greenock 1016A/3).

O.N.S.156. Your 2351/2nd. Concur.
(C. in C.W.A. 1017A/3 to Admty).

F.S.476. Admiralty's 1941/30/11 and C. in C.W.A. 1521/30/11
EMPIRE MORN. C.A.M.Ship EMPIRE MORN sails from Methil to Tyne, in F.S.476.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1118A/3).

/Traffic....

87

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- Traffic routes off Dover. Owing to enemy A/C mine reported dropped in 177° South Foreland Lighthouse 1.2 miles request traffic off Dover may be temporarily diverted as follows: Details. (V.A. Dover 1126A/3).
- LEINSTER. Sailed my 1615/1st at 1120/3rd. E.T.A.Greenock 2000/5th. (A.C.I.C. 1145A/3).
- K.M.S.5. Intend to sail CLAN MCBEAN and HASTINGS in Steward Group leaving Barry Roads 0330/4th. E.T.A. Clyde 2000/5. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1305A/3).
A.M. 2137/30 November Para.1. Add Tankers ANNA KNUDSEN and VARDEFJELL to ships destined for Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(H.) 1746A/3 to C. in C.W.A.).
- ASHANTIAN. C. in C.Rosyth 1204/25.
(1) One trawler escorting R.U.51 is to meet E.N.68 off Loch Ewe Buoy a.m./6th as arranged by N.O.I.C. Aultbea and is to escort SS .ASHANTIAN to Clyde. Cancel my 1247/30th (C. in C.W.A. 1445A/3 to MAZURKA).
- M.K.S.2.
M.K.F.3. Arrivals BLACK SWAN, FOWEY, CARNATION, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, STONECROP, CAMPION, AUBRETIA, and Liverpool section M.K.S. 2. *ARCHER and Liverpool section M.K.F.3. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1534A/3).
** See p. 81.*
- Convoy P.W.257. At 0630 this morning convoy P.W.257 consisting PENYLAND Sunk. 7 ships escorted by PENYLAND S.O., PEARL, GATINAIS LA NANTAISE, ENSAY, minesweeping Trawler *whales* (French 389 tons). VARD0, MANDAL, M.Ls. 491, 159, 157, was attacked by E-Boats in 190° Start Point 5 miles. Sunk. PENYLAN and Merchant Ship GATINAIS were sunk by torpedo.
- Approx. number survivors 5 Officers including Captain and 112 ratings from PENYLAN, 3 from GATINAIS. (C. in C. Plymouth 1543/3 to Admiralty).
- R.U.52. Ships, cargoes, and destinations. E.T.D. 8th December. (N.C.S.O. Iceland 1551A/3 to Admty).
- Q.P.15. A.M. 1840A/30 and 2140A/30. Cancel reference SCHOHARIE. This vessel did not sail from Iceland. (D.T.D. 1555A/3 to C. in C.W.A.).
- M/Vs at Molotovsk. Your 1003/3rd. Surely this should not be dictated by Russians. One crane ship at Murmansk is essential and a second most.

/desirable...

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

M/Vs at Molotovsk Contd. desirable to ensure rapid turn round. Bombing may put one ship out of action and EMPIRE ELGAR narrowly was missed yesterday. Consider only justification for keeping EMPIRE BARD at Molotovsk is her safety, provided she is immediately available to proceed here. This (?is) doubtful and escort would not always be available. Suggest any necessary repairs be done at Murmansk.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1616A/3 to DALGLEISH)

O.N.151. D.Liverpool 1358/2.
When ready VANSITTART is to proceed to Londonderry at best speed to fuel and overtake convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 1636A/3 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool).

A.T.30. Convoy A. T.30 is due Clyde 13/12.
(QUEEN MARY). 2.Total of approx. 10,700 personnel will disembark 14th December.
3. Convoy A.T.30 will be required to sail again as convoy W.S.25.W. on 21st December. Approximately 10,700 personnel will embark at the Tail of the Bank on 20th Dec. and 21st Dec.
(D.S.T. 1843A/3).

S.D.34. S.D.34 sailed 0930/3rd, embarked 788 Personnel, loaded 20 tons G.10 commerce and baggage, 3½ tons U.S.stores, 134 bags Fleet mail, 59 bags Army mail.
(S.S.T.O. Iceland 2215A/3).

STRATHAIRD. STRATHAIRD is due Tail of the Bank 5th December.
2. Personnel understood to be on board are as follows. Details. Total 679.
(D.S.T. 2240A/3).

M.K.S.2.A. P.C. and S. of M.K.S.2A at 1901A/3. 048.40 N. 014.58 W, 026°, 7½ knots.
(SPIREA 2359A/3).

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

Tankers. BADWASH 0351Z/1st. Paras. 2 and 3 appear a very satisfactory solution, as does para. 5. (N.C.X.F., 1138A/3 to Admty., B.A.D., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Ammunition (Details). (1) to be made ready for immediate passage to Algiers by cruisers. My 1118 refers. (2) to be sent to Algiers by freight at first opportunity. (N.C.X.F., 1120A/3 to (? V.A. Gibraltar, (R) C.S.12, AURORA, SIRIUS, ARGONAUT, S.O. Force H, Cdre. Algiers.)

THOMAS Details of damage. Believed can lighten STONE. sufficient to pull off. Authority is desired to make repairs with facilities available Algiers for tow to Oran. Materials be shipped from States. C.T.G. 31.8 concurs. Otherwise recommend that STONE be used as Station Ship at Oran until practicable to tow to suitable repair yard. (THOMAS STONE, 2130/3 to Cominch.)

Situation (1) Bone. Force Q comprised of AURORA (C.S.12) Report ARGONAUT, ESKIMO and TARTAR due 4th Dec. No. 28. (2) Casablanca. U.G.S.2 being berthed p.m. 1st Dec. condition reported extremely crowded. (Air) Sitrep 27 item 2. Latest information is that 4 merchant ships were destroyed 2 of which appeared to be transports. 3 escorting destroyers sunk. My 2240A/3rd (sic) Air R/C p.m./2nd reports (as V.A. Malta 1551A/2.) (N.C.X.F., 2240A/3 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta, etc.)

Reporting Naval forces and convoy escort (?groups) fitted U/Bs. with H/F D/F may (?obtain) sufficiently reliable fix of enemy U-Boat to justify breaking W/T silence. When in Western Med. or within 200 miles to westward of Gibraltar W/T silence may be broken for this purpose at discretion of S.O. concerned using signal provided in Fleet Signal Book section 13. (2) Such signals are to be treated as enemy reports and are to be addressed Gibraltar W/T station who is responsible for re-broadcasting them. Naval shore authorities are responsible for passing them to appropriate air H.Q. (3) When a force or escort group has A/S air escort the signal should normally be sent to the A/C in the form of "Attack enemy submarine which was in position - at -" in visual signal R/T or W/T. (4) W/T silence is not normally to be broken on external line for single D/F bearing or doubtful fixes. (5) This signal is to be inserted in T.S.G.O. as number 26A. (N.C.X.F., 2318/3 to all British S. and A. in "Torch", V.A. Malta, (R) Admty., A.H.Q. Gibraltar, A.H.Q. E.A.C.)

~~SECRET~~ 90

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

→ FARNDALE,
AVON VALE.

See p. 91

FARNDALE's 1920/2 (1930/2 intended). At 1000Z/2 P.C. and S. of convoy was 042° 00' N., 017° 08' W. 135° 12 knots. Endeavour to meet. (F.O.C.N.A., 0115/3 to FARNDALE, AVON VALE, (R) EGRET).

IMPERIALIST

Your 1900A/2nd. ^{p. 55} Remain in vicinity outside territorial waters until ship sails. (F.O.C.N.A., 0117A/3 to IMPERIALIST).

CITY OF EDINBURGH. *(N.M.F.W.)*

See p. 85.

When AVON VALE and FARNDALE join convoy detach 1 escort to CITY OF EDINBURGH to escort to Gibraltar.
2. CITY OF EDINBURGH was in 042° (correct group) N. 020° 14' W. at 2336A/2nd. (F.O.C.N.A., 0832A/3 to EGRET (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., AVON VALE, FARNDALE).

→ Your 0832A/3rd. AVON VALE, FARNDALE met. EXE detached 1015Z/3rd position 038° 34' N., 013° 02' W. request she be informed C. and S. CITY OF EDINBURGH. She has been told to assume CITY OF EDINBURGH is steering for V. EXE fuel stocks remaining 53% at 0800Z. (EGRET, 1022Z/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 1635/3rd and 0832/3 addressed EGRET. Position of CITY OF EDINBURGH at 1700Z/2nd was 042° 47' N., 020° 29' W., course 130 speed reduced due to weather. (F.O.C.N.A., 2013A/3 to EXE).

Gibraltar
A/S air
report.

33.42 hrs. U-boat sightings and attacks Gibraltar A/C Wellington 0/179 0214 XTNV 0730? or 0720? CO 270/12 Hts? U-boat dived before attack could be made Hudson X/233 1400 lb. CP 3600 CO 360/12 U-boat dived before attack could be made Beau-fighter 255 Sqdn. In transit to Maison Blanche

Station

36000

(1-4)

at 1200 LBXP 2725 CO 240 N. African based A/C L/500 attacked U-boat in XTJT 4914 CO 000/14, no details. No E/A sightings or combats, no casualties.
2. No enemy activity over rock, no operational fighter sorties. Summary for Nov.
5. Operational hours 6308 petrol used 940,000 galls. Number U-boat sightings 112 including 67 attacks 4 U-boats destroyed 4 U-boats most probably destroyed 25 damaged (subject to further assessment). (A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0920Z/3).

L.C.I.(L)
and B.A.Ts.

Due to apparent U-boat concentration north of 35° N., alter course forthwith for new F 34° N., 23° W., New G. 34° N., 15° W. thence to Gibraltar. (D.O.D. (H) 0925Z/3 to L.C.I.(L) 6, B.A.T.6 and 10, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET

90A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

0916A/3 Dec.

IN

From. F.O.C.N.A.

Date. 3.12.42.

Time. 1020.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T.

Addressed. Ships & Authorities North Atlantic
Station, Area X.

IMMEDIATE.

+
My 1334A 2nd. Amend paragraph 2 to read
(e) 042 degs. 34' 016 degs. 15' through 041 degs. 30'
015 degs. 59' thence 141 degs. 74'.

0916A/3

+ Situation 1958/3

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

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

RN

~~SECRET~~ 91

War Diary.

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

LE CAPITAINZ
PAUL LEMERLE. Michelier has indicated intention sail LE CAPITAINZ PAUL LEMERLE to Dakar about December 4th X has he been so authorized should greatly appreciate clarification policy with respect all French Merchant ships this area.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1045Z/3 to N.C.X.F.)

Admiral
Delaye. Has been appointed French N.L.O. Gibraltar.
(N.A. Madrid, 1158/3).

ARCTIC RANGER Returned to harbour.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1202A/3 to ARCTIC RANGER).

KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE. Return to harbour.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1203A/3 to KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE).

P.2551.
See pp 91, 13, 101
P.51 leaves Gibraltar 1530/4th 5 miles from Spanish coast to Cape de Gata thence through 135° Palos 5 miles at 1400/6th 038° 50' 003° 01' east at 0300/8th 038° 40' 008° 01' E., at 0230/10 to Malta.
(Capt. (S) 8. 1540A/3 to 8th S.M.F.)

CALANDA My 1606/1st. Sailing postponed 7th Dec.
(D.E.W.D., 1545A/3).

K.M.F.4
see next page.
Sailed RHYL, CLACTON, BUDE at 1600/3rd to R/V K.M.F.4 in 036° N., 009° W., at 0800/4th and act as additional escort.
(2) QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT are to part company on passing 006° W., and proceed to Gibraltar to refuel and discharge prisoners subsequently rejoining.
(3) RHYL, CLACTON, BUDE, *FARNDAL and *AVON VALE are to part company at daylight 5th and return to Gibraltar. **see p. 90.*
(F.O.C.N.A., 1801A/3 to Admty. S.E.C. K.M.F.4 (R) N.C.X.F.)

CAUDEBEC
(French)
1471 G.T. At present in Gibraltar will be sailed Casablanca first opportunity.
(2) Ship has navicerted cargo from Lisbon of timber and 30 tons fuel oil in drums being replacement of amount supplied to Portuguese ships at Casablanca.
(3) Ship was sent in during "Torch". Officers and crew except De Gaullist seamen who are being removed here, wish to join French Forces in North Africa so that ship may operate in these waters, their families being in Casablanca.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1900A/3 to S.N.O.C.A.)

MOST SECRET

91A

1340A/3 December.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

From N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Date 3.12.42.

Received 1830.

Naval Cypher 3 (S) by W/T

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT Situation at 2000A 3rd.

(1) K.M.F. 4, H.M.S. ECRET, H.M.S. FARNDALE,
H.M.S. AVON VALE, QUICKMATCH, RED OUBT, *~~SEACOURSE~~ XEXE, *not identified
SWALE, 037 degs 30' 011 degs 42' through 036 degs 01'
010 degs 01' thence through Gibraltar Straits 12. *x see p. 90*

(2) K.M.S. 4, TAY, 7 corvettes, 4 trawlers, 040 degs 04'
014 degs 28' 141 degs 74. *see previous page.*

(3) H.M.S. DUNBAR, 1 merchant ship, 036 degs 52'
011 degs 22' through 035 degs 45' 010 degs 01' to
Gibraltar 11.

(4) TANATSIDE, (?102 degs) 12' 009 degs 54'
to Gibraltar 13½.

(5) Portuguese Sloop PEDRO NUNES, left Funchal
2nd December for St. Vincent (Cape Verde Is).

(6) ARCTIC RANGER, 036 degs 10' 006 degs 08'
to Gibraltar 10. *See previous page.*

(7) H.M.S. RHYL, H.M.S. BUDE, CLACTON, leave Gibraltar
1600A 3rd to R/V K.M.F. 4 in position 050 degs 01' 007 degs
57' at 1200A 4th. *See previous page.*
1340A/3.

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
A.C.N.S.(T).
N.A. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2).
D.O.D.(H) (2).
D.O.D.(F) (2).
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (2).
U.S.N. (3).
W.D.
Duty Capt. (2).
D.D.I.C. (2).

Ad. Blake.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
D.T.D. (3).
D.T.D.(M).
D.T.D.(C).
Ad. Ramsey (4). Hd. of M.

BIW

MOST SECRET

91B

1428A/3 December.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From Capt (S) 8.

Date 3. 12. 42.

Received 1738.

Naval Cypher S by W/T and T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 262.

IMPORTANT

771540A - 3-11-41-7101
Add to my 1550. (6) H.M.S. P. 51, leave
Gibraltar at 1530 4th on surface until dawn 5th then
diving by day 5 miles from Spanish coast to 135 degs
Cape Palos 5. 8 knots on surface 2½ knots diving.

1428A/3.

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

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

MOST SECRET

91c

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1640A/3rd December

IN

Date 3. 12. 42.
Recd. 1817

From N.O.I.C. Gibraltar

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report Area X.

My 1340A 3rd. Paragraph (3) for 036 degrees 52' 011 degrees
22' substitute 038 degrees 35' 013 degrees 26'

1640A/3

Advance copy Ops. O.D.

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

92

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

NOSSA Funchal tel. 1201 of 2nd Dec. Ship must not
 SENHORA DOS be diverted. Letters may be removed at sea.
 ANJOS. (D.E.W.D., 1957A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.)
(Portuguese).

Casablanca Plane reported at 1630/3rd. Spanish vessel
Report. 4,000 tons, name T. NICHOLA, Black stack amidship.
 Canvas over hanging fantail. Position 34.05 N.
 07.35 W., lying to. On approach of plane
 underway course 060° speed 8.
 (S.N.O. Casablanca Area. 2045Z/3 to V.A. Gib).

SCHARLACH- German 55 * now in outer harbour most probably
BERGER. sailing tonight.
 (N.A. Madrid, No T.O.O.) *As coded.

Congestion Your 1413A/2. After arrival of K.M.S.4 there will
at be at least 75 merchant ships here. If M.K.S.
Gibraltar. 3 X overlaps this assembly it will be quite
 impracticable to find suitable berth for them
 all in Gibraltar Bay.
 (2) Local Spanish Authorities have already
 complained unofficially of our recent extensive use of their
 anchorage.
 (3) Request French ships may be sailed Dakar or elsewhere as
 early as possible.
 (F.O.C.N.A., 2322/3 to N.C.X.F.)

South Atlantic.

* ARMERIA BACTRIA and MARY KINGSLEY detached as
 S.T.45 instructed. *MORRIS DANCE is proceeding direct
 to Trinidad escorting *ZOUAVE. I have on board
* See p.106 27 survivors from Panama ship *SCAPA FLOW,
 rescued Tuesday 1st in 009° 05' N., 028° 59' W.
 after being (corrupt group) 17 days in life boat.
 Remainder of crew lost when ship was torpedoed. Report in
 accordance with A.F.O. 2901/41 will be sent later, weather report
 2856 1624.
 (ARMERIA, 0100Z/3 to R.A.W.Af). * See next page.

ST. LOMAN Torpedo track sighted 0020 G.M.T. third in
 007° 50' N., 014° 18' W. no ships hit.
 (ST. LOMAN, 0105Z/3).

~~SECRET~~ 93

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- U/B A.M. 0404A. Further bearings indicate U-boat anywhere within 150 miles of 17° N., 27° W. (D.D.I.C., 0907A/3 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.W.Af).
- CLEANTHIS Greek. Sunk by gunfire from Japanese Submarine 0930/30 Nov. G.M.T. in position 024° 29' S., 035° 44' E. Twelve including Master missing. (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 0910B/3 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Commodore Durban).
- LLANDAFF CASTLE. torpedoed and sunk at 1635/30 Nov. in 027° 20' S., 033° 40' E. by German U-boat. All confidential books were thrown overboard in weighted bag by Master in 1500 fathoms and were seen to sink. List of survivors follows. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0956Z/3).
- MOUNT PARNES. MOUNT PARNES lost by enemy action. (22?) survivors landed here 15 hospital cases none serious. Please instruct action. (C.G. Lourenco Marques, 1030/3 to M.W.T.)
- EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. D. of S.T.'s 1519 /2nd para. 3. C. in C. S.A. approves limits to be exceeded in case of air crews and 250 R.A.F. personnel will therefore be sent to Durban from Capetown by train to embark so ship can be sailed direct for New York not calling at Capetown. No other personnel for U.K. should embark unless absolutely necessary. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1104C/3 to Deputy S.T.O. Durban (R) Cmdre. I/C Durban D. of S.T. Connav, S.T.O. Capetown, B.A.D. Washington).
- A.F.message. Ref. A.M. A.F. 013° 30' S. (C. in C. S.A., 1151 G.M.T./3 to B.A.M.S. area 3A).
- MORRIS DANCE. See previous page. MORRIS DANCE escorting ZOUAVE arrival Trinidad p.m./10 routed direct from 009° N., 105° W. at 1900/2nd. Request arrangements be made for MORRIS DANCE to have boiler cleaned. Anticipate MORRIS DANCE will be required to join escort of eastbound convoy leaving Trinidad late December. (F.O.I.C. W. Af. 1212Z/3 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).
- SCAPA FLOW Panamanian. See previous page. Sunk by U-boat on 14th Nov. position not yet known. 27 survivors picked up on 1st December. Remainder of crew lost when ship sunk. (S.O.(M) Freetown, 1240Z/3).

/ENTERPRISE...

93A

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

SECRET

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

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 10.12.42

Recd. 1203.

NAVAL SHORE CODE N.1 by cable.

Addressed Admiralty repeated B.N.A. Madrid, N.C.X.F.

IMPORTANT

766.

Underwater examination of S.S. WILLOWDALE exposes infernal machine clamped to port bilge keel

2. Ship arrived noon today Thursday from Seville and Cadiz. She was starboard hand side to jetty at former port 7 days and starboard hand side alongside at latter for 24 hours.

(3) Infernal machine appears similar to that found on S.S. IMBER.

(4) Further details after examination.

2240A/13

- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F)
- A.C.N.S.(T)
- D.N.I.(5) for action
- D.of S.T.(2)
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- M.(2)
- Press Division
- N.I.D.10 (2)
- W.D.

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ENTERPRISE

Intend ENTERPRISE to call at Ponta Delgada for fuel at 0900Z/8. Request Portugal authorities be notified. Requirements 1350 tons oil fuel, 90 tons fresh water. (F.O.C.W.A., 1245Z/3 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada). Departure 3rd (?H.M.S. ENTERPRISE). (S.O.(I) Freetown, 2032Z/3).

EGERO

Your 1908/1. ^{11.11.42} Expect to sail a.m./5th Dec. (reasons for delay). Assistance has been given. (C. in C. S.A., 1253C/3 to Admty etc). Amended 0906C/5.

DURBAN

Sailed DURBAN routed through (B) 026° 00' S., 037° 30' E. (C) 021° 52' S., 040° 00' E. (D) 015° 32' S., 043° 00' E. (E) 008° 08' S., 042° 27' E. thence Kilindini. (2) S. of A. 17½ knots E.T.A. 1000Z/8th. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1317Z/3 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. E. Africa and Zanzibar, S.N.O. Afloat Kilindini.)

Indian Ocean Shuttle Service.

Ref. F.O.C.R.I.N. signal 0914Z/27 Nov. existing organisation Mombasa, Durban, Capetown fully competent to deal with Indian Ocean Shuttle Service personnel if sent direct from Indian coast and Australian ports. Please instruct. If approved have notifications of embarkations

and disembarkations of Shuttle Service personnel to be sent to you (R) O.C. Eastern Shuttle Service or merely to O.C. Eastern Shuttle Service?

(Maritime Capetown 1450/3 to Admty for D. of T.D. (R) Troopers R.A.6 (C) F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. E.F., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, A.C.N.B. etc).

U/B estimate.

I cannot quite agree with recent Admiralty Submarine disposition as careful analysis of positions of sinking and D/F bearing indicates at least 2 submarines are working in Durban - Lourenco Marques area. This is confirmed by

sighting by DORINGTON COURT's report to C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 1510/26th Nov.

(2) Attacks in this area started early in November and still continue. It seems probable therefore that S/Ms are being supplied from somewhere in the Indian Ocean and this is confirmed to some extent by apparent periodical moves of S/M to the eastward and return. Most calm area South East of Madagascar clear from shipping.

(3) Request you will consider a carrier R/C of the area as I feel destruction of source of supply may be the best means of removing these Subs. which are taking such heavy toll of our shipping.

(4) My 1124/17th Nov. refers to a somewhat similar proposal in the Atlantic. (C. in C. S.A., 1511C/3 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. V.A., E.F.) Reply: C. in C. E.F., 0814Z/4.

JEREMIAH...

MOST SECRET

94A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
1205C/3 December

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 3.12.42.

Recd. 1212

NAVAL CYPHER M BY W/T and T/P

Addressed A. I. G. 125.

IMPORTANT.

H. M. S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, H. M. S. ALCANTARA,
H. M. S. NORMAN, ROTHERHAM, NEPAL, with V S 24,
031 deg 00' South 030 deg 40' East to Durban 9.5
knots.

P 552,022 deg 55' South 011 deg 00' East to 028 deg
20' South 012 deg 00' East 9 knots.

SOUTHERN BARRIER, ROODEPOORT, STELLENBERG,
STEENBERG, searching for survivors in vicinity
of 035 deg South 018 deg East.

H. M. S. EXPRESS, INCONTANT, with D N 4,030 deg 10'
South 032 deg 20' East to 030 deg 54' South
038 deg 44' East 7 knots.

H. M. S. NIGELIA, GENISTA, with L M D 3,026 deg 30'
South 033 deg 45' East to Durban.

1205C/3

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F).
D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
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.O. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (3)
D.M.S.
IH MFG D. of P. (2)

~~SECRET~~ 95

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

JEREMIAH
WADSWORTH.

Picked up 19 survivors JEREMIAH WADSWORTH
torpedoed by submarine 27 (Nov) 270 miles S., Cape
Agulhas am proceeding my destination.
(SS. JOHN LYKES, 1831/3).

NOVA SCOTIA

Ministry pass to Cardiff and to Casualty Section,
Admty. Sealot 37 Part 1. SS. NOVA SCOTIA lost
by enemy action south east Lourenco Marques 9
a.m./28th Nov.
(Con. Gen Lourenco Marques, 1913/3 to M.W.T. (R)
S.O.(I) Capetown).

U.S. ~~sleep~~
HUMBOLDT.

explosion heard.
Departure 2nd Dec.
(R.O. Recife, 2016Z/3).

96


War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Destruction of convoy. Have sunk small enemy T/B employed rescuing survivors from vessel set on fire by aircraft which has also sunk in 34° 31' N 11° 39' E. My E.T.A. Boom (corrupt group) 0900.
(Capt. D.14 0048A/3 to V.A. Malta. (R) C.S.15. C. in C. Med. 201 N.C. Group).
My 2359/28 (special circulation) Nov. para 3. F.A.A. attacked about 2000/2 and claim 3 certain and possibly 1 other hit on tankers and merchant ships.
(2) R/C A/C on ?(2nd) reported 2 ships definitely sunk, 1 left blazing as (?result).
(3) F.A.A. pilots believe cruisers among escort.
(4) On completion of F.A.A. attack R/C A/C reported seeing gunfire probably destroyers of Force K who due to attack on completion of air attack.
(5) 1 Albacore missing.
(V.A. Malta 0422A/3 to C. in C. Med.)
My 0422/3 para 2. Destroyer Force K saw merchant ship sink at about 2345 which is 3 and a half hours after R/C A/C reported seeing 2 ships on fire and sink. Presume sank 1 torpedo boat. Consider 2 and possibly a third ship and 1 torpedo boat sunk.
(V.A. Malta 1425/3.)

BARTOLO, Arrival 3rd, BARTOLO, Savona, in ballast.
CRETE, CRETE, Marseilles, in ballast.
(Valencia 0100/3.)

S/Ms On completion of attacks S/Ms are to withdraw either north east to the Tyrrhenian Sea or via TROOPER's route in my 0005/1 to the south east of Pantellaria. A redisposition signal will be made tonight 3rd.
See p/p 1013
(Capt. (S) 10, 0438A/3 to S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C. Med C.S.12 N.C.X.F. C.S.15).
Assume following dispositions forthwith
P.219, 037° 28' 011° 00' P.37 037° 24' 010° (?42')
P.45, 037° 13' 010° 25'. P.48, H.M. S/M P.43, remain in present ordered positions.
P.C.S. of enemy at 0205A 037° 50' 011° 38' 235° 8. convoy of 4 merchant ships and 5 destroyers.
(Capt. (S) 10, 0451A/3 to S/Ms on patrol (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., C.S.15 C.S.12).
Following is a repetition of my 0845/3rd addressed submarines on patrol repeated N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8, C.S.12, C.S.15 V.A. Malta from Capt. (S) 10. My 0451/3rd. Move with utmost despatch from ordered position as follows
P.37, 10 miles 305° P.48, 5 miles 305° P.43, 5 miles 340° Ends.
(Capt. (S) 10 0901A/3 to C.S.12 0945A/5 to S/Ms on patrol (R) V.A. Malta, N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8 C.S.12 C.S.15).

/CROOME...

 94

War Diary.

3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.CROOME
TETCOTT

My 1750B/2. Codeword until with "Heavy" is "Cannon".
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 0728B/3 to CROOME, TETCOTT (R) C. in C. Med. ORION. Force K. N.L.O. 8th Army. N.L.O. Fighter H.Q. Derna. N.L.O. Fighter H.Q. Benghazi.)

D.14.

Arrival JERVIS, JAVELIN, NUBIAN, KELVIN.
(V.A. Malta 0910A/3.)

Approved
ships.

Swiss CALANDA 8½ knots Swiss GENEROSO 8 knots and Spanish NUESTRA SENORA DEL CARMEN leave Genoa 3rd Dec. for Gibraltar by approved route. Not to be molested if on this route.
(Capt. S.8. 0913A/3 to 8th S/M.F.)

WELSHMAN

Departure 2nd Dec. ORION. WELSHMAN, ANTWERP, M.T.B.260.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 0918B/3.)

Visuals
Dec. 3rd.

(N.O.I.C. Malta 0946A/3, 1024A/3.)

Operation
"Portcullis"
Convoy
M.W.14.

Convoy "Heavy" is being shadowed by one enemy A/C. Position of convoy is 33° 5' N 22° 6' E.
(ORION 0955/3.)
Force K leave Malta 1800/3.
2. Intention to cover M.W.14 against surface attack during night 3rd 4th. On absence of any definite intelligence of Italian surface units Force K will pass through 035° 00' 016° 00' at 0200A and 034° 05' 017° 10' at 0600A then to R/V with M.W.14 at 0700A in 033° 45' 017° 10' and proceed as part of convoy close escort.
3. ORION report through A/S aircraft or direct? if expedient if estimated 0700A R/V is more than 10 miles different.
(F.O. 15th C.S. 1016A/3 to ~~ORION~~ *WELSHMAN. (R) Force K. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Malta. Capt. S.10th S.F. Capt. D. 12th D.F.)
My 1016A/3. When Force K joins convoy cruiser dispositions Nov. 4th as for "Stoneage" will be ordered Force K ships join starboard side of screen.
(F.O.C. 15th C.S. 1059A/3 to ORION. (R) Force K. Capt. D. 12th D.F.)
My 1016/3 para 2. Amend Force K position at 0200A to 035° 10' 016° 25'.
(F.O. 15th C.S. 1445A/3.)
Local arrangements for entering Malta and berthing.
(V.A. Malta 1540A/3.)
Departures CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, DIDO, JERVIS, JAVELIN, KELVIN, NUBIAN.
(V.A. Malta 2036A/3.)

~~SECRET~~ 98War Diary.

3.12.1942.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.ATHOS II
CHAMPOLLION
COLOMBIE
JAMAIQUE

ATHOS II, CHAMPOLLION, COLOMBIE, JAMAIQUE have sailed under French orders for Gibraltar under a stipulation from the French that they should then proceed to Dakar to dry dock and repair and return to North Africa with French troops.

Eisenhower has not yet decided to allow these troops to come here owing to feeding problem and congestion but may feel constrained to agree that vessels go to Dakar for political reasons. He has agreed that they shall not be treated in any different manner at Gibraltar than in a North African port. It is conceivable that this may result in these vessels performing a quite unnecessary voyage to Dakar and a waste of shipping. Please consult Abfor whom C. in C. may consult. Please pass this to Harriman from Kerr who concurs in this telegram.

(M.W.T.R. Algiers 1031A/3.)

Brief
situation
reportWestern Med.
2000A/3

S/Ms excepted.

1. E.T.3. VENOMOUS, WIVERN, FLEETWOOD, ENCHANTRESS, BRILLIANT, ROBERTS approaching Gibraltar from eastward.

2. Following safe conduct ships routed west of Ibiza and 10 miles north of Revellata may be encountered:

(A) Swiss MALOJA sailed Genoa 28th bound Gibraltar 8.

(B) Spanish CABO ORTEGAL sailed Gibraltar 1200/29 bound Genoa 7.

(C) Swiss CALRA, Swiss GENEROSO and Swiss Chartered Spanish NEUSTRA SENORA DEL CARMEN sailed Genoa 3rd Dec. for Gibraltar.

3. Following safe conduct ships routed Cape to Cape between Gibraltar and Cape San Sebastian may be encountered:

(A) Portuguese AMBRI sailed Gibraltar 1500/2 to Marseilles 9.

(B) Portuguese TAGUS sailed Gibraltar 1500/2 to Marseilles 9½.

(C) Swedish VEGA sailed Marseilles 2nd Dec. to Gibraltar 8.

4. Convoys westwards for Algiers at 1800/3 7 knots routed 91, 99 and 10 miles north of Benguela. Escorts FELIXSTOWE, MARIGOLD, ROTHESAY, POLRUAN, BRIXHAM.

5. Convoy, CADMUS, ALARM, LORD HOTHAM leaves Algiers p.m. 3rd. routed close to coast bound Bougie and Bone 7.

(N.C.X.F. 1036A/3.)

A/C
sightings.

Following sighted by A/C today 3rd Dec. 0800A
4 merchant ships 4000 tons, 4 destroyers, 3 E-Boats
60° Cape Bon 35 miles course 270° 10 knots.

0810A 1 merchant ship 1000 tons towed by small
ship 350° Cape Bon 20 miles.

0815A one merchant ship 500 tons 350° Cape Bon 15' course 270° 5
knots. 0830A one sailing vessel 400 tons 360° Cape Bon 10' 270°
4 knots.

(Capt. S.10. 1041A/3 to S/Ms on patrol. (R) N.C.X.F. C.S.12.
C.S.15. V.A. Malta. Capt. S.8.)

M/V in
tow.

My 1041A/3. C and S of merchant ship in tow
270° 4 knots.

(Capt. S.10. 1115A/3 to S/Ms on patrol. (R)
N.C.X.F. (?F.O.C. 12th C.S.) C.S.15. Capt. S.8.
V.A. Malta.)

/Ammunition...

SECRET

98A

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.)

M E S S A G E

IN

1042C/3rd December

From: S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Date: 4.12.42

Recd: 0300

NAVAL CYPHER O.T.P. BY CABLE RECIRCULATION
WITH COMMENT.

Addressed: Admiralty D.N.I.

From Turkish source recently from Italy.

(a) Reports shortage of material for shipping repairs, also of tin cotton copper oils and Benzine.

(b) Believe some (corrupt group) stores are smuggled in via Spain Portugal: instanced Manila rope.

(c) Coal bunkers adequate for ships running as war transports but short for ordinary commercial activities.

(d) Big effort being made in building submarines, but can give no figures. Ship building limited to size under 5,000 tons.

(e) Liners REX and CONTI SAVOIA lying neglected.

(f) Naval Yards in particular Monfalcone have anti-aircraft defences and fighter aircraft aerodromes near by but no repetition no balloon barrage. Source believes that industries not directly working for war purposes are quite unprotected.

(g) Reports feeling in Italy most unfriendly to Germans.

All above B two repetition B two.

1042C/3.

Advance Copy, D.N.I.

N.I.D. Comment.....

98B

-2-

N.I.D. Comment.

Para. (d) - Whilst it is believed that, in naval construction, the Italians are concentrating on submarines and light craft, it is not believed that many submarines are being turned out. Lack of material is probably the reason.

Para. (e) - Correct.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.(2)
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S.(F)
 N.A. to 1st S.L.
 Ops.(4)
 O.D.(5)
 D.N.I.(3)
 D.T.D.(4)
 O.I.C.(3)
 D.of P.(3)
 Cdr. Holbrook
 D.A/S.W.
 D.P.D.(2)
 D.S.D.
 M.(2) for W.O.
 A.M.
 F.O.
 Brig.Jacob
 W.C.O.

D.T.S.D.
 Hydrog.(2)
 D.N.A.D.
 D.T.M.
 D.N.C.
 D.E.W.D.(3)
 D.S.D.9 (2)
 W.D.
 F.O.S. By Courier.

MB

~~SECRET~~
MOST SECRET

980

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1111/3rd December

IN

From Capt. (S) 10.

Date 3.12.42.

Time 1219

Naval Cypher A. (1) by W/F

Addressed N.O.X.F. repeated C. in C. Mediterranean
N.O.1/c Malta Capt. (S) 8.

IMMEDIATE

My 2137A 2nd. (A) Add H.N.S/M P. 217 066° 34'

1111/3.

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

A.O.N.S.(F)(2)

N.A. 1st S.I.

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 P (2)

D.A/S.W.

Id of M.

W.S.

I.P.(2)

D.T.D.(M)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

F.O.S. by Courier.

* Disposition 2351, 2.

maf.

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Ammunition Request you will sail SCYLLA or CHARYBDIS to
for Algiers. embark 6 inch and 5.25 inch shells and transport
it to Algiers as quickly as possible. My 1120/3
refers.

(N.C.X.F. 1118A/3 to F.O. H. (R) V.A. Gib. C.S.12. Cdre.
Algiers.)

Sailed SCYLLA, VELOX, VERITY routed through positions 86
and 72. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0630A/4. Gate 0730A.

(S.O. Force H 2030A/3.)

Survivors My 2245A/2 following (6 names) embarked for
from 2 passage in M.K.S.3 escorts. Hawes reports all
rafts. personnel left on board were (corrupt group).
Ship sunk.

(N.O.I.C. Bone 1135A/3 to C.S.12.)

SZECHUEN Regret loss of cased petrol carrier SZECHUEN at
KIUNGCHOW sea on 27th Nov. and KIUNGCHOW severe damage from
fire at Tobruk on 28th Nov. Result of enquiry
shows definitely that cause in case of SZECHUEN

was internal explosion. Fire started in KIUNGCHOW during
discharge operations results of enquiry not yet received.
2. In case of SZECHUEN lack of supervision to detect leakers
when loading may have been contributory cause. Stringent
measures being taken to make sure loading all cased petrol ships
is efficiently supervised in future.

3. Every step is being taken to find if there was sabotage in
either case. Full investigation being held with regard to
suitability and fitting of ship. Further report will follow
by signal.

4. Request owner of SZECHUEN be informed of loss.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1215B/3.)

Berthing Your 1239A/2. From 5th to 10th Dec. incl. it will
of Force H. be necessary to berth in Mers El Kebir 3 tankers
ex U.G.S.2 and 6 personnel ships of K.M.F.4 in
addition to other ships already here and not
ready to leave. Force H must keep away during this period to
make room. Arrival K.M.S.4 will not affect Force H's use of
Mers El Kebir as all cargo ships will be berthed and unloaded
at Oran.

2. Intend therefore to sail on 4th Dec. and unless credence is
attached to report in my 1009/3 to N.C.X.F. only, to cast to
eastward turning west so as to arrive Gibraltar daylight 6th Dec.
remaining there until 10th and returning to Mers El Kebir on 11th.

3. Opportunity will be taken of period at Gibraltar to commence
boiler cleaning of destroyers, make minor defects and complete
with provisions and stores all ships.

4. Reply to para 2 of your 1239/2 will be made separately.
(S.O. Force H 1236A/3 to N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C. Oran. V.A. Gibraltar.)

/Operation...

MOST SECRET

99A.

M E S S A G E

1150A/3rd December.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From Capt. (S) 8.

Date 3.12.42.
Time 1533

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T & T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 262.

IMPORTANT.

S/M situation in Western Mediterranean at
2000A/3rd

- (1) H.M. S/M P.222 38 53 North 04 22 East course 91°.
- (2) H.M.S. TRIBUNE 39 degs. 01 North 05 52 East thro'
39 01 North 03 16 East thence 243 degs.
- (3) Both S/ms dived by day 2½ knots on surface by
night 11 knots.
- (4) H.M.S. URSULA in Gulf of Genoa leaves 1800/4th
thro' 43 45 North 08 13 East thence 230 degs. 8
knots.
- (5) H.M.S. TIGRIS on patrol within 20 miles of 38 01
North 07 30 East.

1150A/3

Advance copies sent Duty Capt.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.I.C.

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.

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation M.H.2. D Day 7th Dec. time zone minus 2.
 M.H.2. V.A. Malta is requested to sail convoy M.E.11
 Convoy including YORBA LINDA escorted by 3 Fleets, 4 Hunts
 M.E.11. so as to reach limit of Malta single engine
 fighter protection at dusk D Day. Through positions
 (CC) 032° 27' N 019° 39' E. (DD) 033° 06' N
 021° 08' E. (EE) 033° 06' N 022° 34' E. (FF) 032° 50' N 023°
 15' E. (GG) 032° 25' N 023° 40' E. thence direct to Alexandria
 searched channels.
 (Deleted by 2110B/6.)
 (3) *ORION, 4 Hunts, are to reinforce escort of M.E.11 from dark
 D plus 1 and will then be required to wait in the vicinity of
 Benghazi and meet quadrangle A following morning. * *P.47*
 (4) They are to escort M.E.11 to Port Said by inshore route
 and return Alexandria after fuelling.
 (5) N.O.I.C. Malta is requested to report anticipated S of A
 M.E.11 and named authorities are requested to arrange necessary
 fighter and anti-sub. protection, R/C and as necessary to cover
 operation.
 (C. in C. Med. 1247B/3, 2110B/6 to V.A. Malta. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.
 F.O.C.R.S.F. Capt. S.1st S.F. Group 211. Capt. S.10th S.F.
 ORION. DULVERTON. (R) Capt. D. 14th D.F. F.O.C. 15th C.S.
 A.O.C. Med. C.C.F. R.N.H.Q. M.E.)

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 37° 15' N 4° 15' E.
 When first sighted was on surface on course 080°.
 Speed 10 knots.
 (A/C C/S 8IDJ 1255A/3.)

WELSHMAN On arrival berth as in your 1300/2.
P.97
 (2) P.35 will be approaching the Sub. sanctuary
 from the westward a.m. 4th. On the surface during
 dark hours. Diving by daylight. Her E.T.A. end of searched
 channel 1031A/4.
 (N.O.I.C. Malta 1303A/3 to WELSHMAN.)
 WELSHMAN approaching swept channel from south eastward a.m.
 4th Dec. informed of your movements. 4 British M.T.B arriving
 Malta from south east 0701A/4 ordered not to attack submarines.
 (Capt. S.10 1305A/3 to P.35. (R) C. in C. Med. WELSHMAN.
 N.O.I.C. Malta. V.10.)

Black Sea. 1. Naval.
 (A) Enemy subs. again (?active) off this coast:
 attacks on subs. sighted off Cape Batum on Nov.
 29th and Nov. 30th believed unsuccessful.
 (B) (Group missing) consider the 2 German subs. operating in
 Black Sea to be of 250 tons.
 (C) Presence of 4 medium size Italian subs. also reported:
 these sailed from Bourges Nicolaev on Nov. 30th.
 (D) N.S.O. (I) Istanbul's 1717 Sept. 13th and my 1017 Oct. 17th.
 These subs now reported to have two external torpedo tubes and
 crew of 5.
 2. Russians report: 18 coastal defence guns of 150 mm. have been
 sent from Odessa area to Greece.
 3. Novorossisk. Position unchanged. Russian patrol and
 artillery activity.
 4. Tuapse. Position unchanged, enemy attacks at several points
 have been held.
 (N.L.O. Black Sea 1411C/3.)

/Enemy...

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy reports. One small vessel one destroyer in 34° 14' N 11° 40' E course 360° speed 6 knots visibility 15 navigation miles.
(A/C C/S CLZF 1415/3.)

2 medium vessels in 34° 14' N 11° 30' E. Course 180° speed 6 knots. Visibility 8 navigational miles.
(A/C CL2F 1421/3.)

One large vessel 2 destroyers in 33° 10' N 12° 14' E course 115° speed 7 knots.
(A/C C/S CLZF 1510/3.)

Messina Forenoon photographs confirm 2, 8 inch and 3, 6 inch Cruisers in Messina.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1419A/3 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. C.S.12. F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers. ORION. F.O.C.N.A. Admty. S.O. Force H.)

P.51 *See pp 91, 91B* Your 1853/2. Intend sailing P.51 p.m. 4th for Malta passing 038° 40' 008° 01' E at 0230 10th thence as ordered by you, S of A 120 miles a day.
2. P.51 has your 0005/1.
(Capt. S.8. 1432A/3 to Capt. S.10. S.O. Force H. C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. V.A. Malta.)

Orders to S/Ms. *See pp 96, 91B* My 0438/3. Any S/M who withdraws through Q B B 255 is to make the passage beyond K on surface tonight and report before dawn 4th Dec. Re-disposition signal will be made subsequently to these reporting.
(Capt. S.10 1551A/3 to S/Ms on patrol. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O. 15 C.S. F.O. 12 C.S. C. in C. Med. Capt. S.8.)
Whilst withdrawing tonight any large northbound ship encountered should be attacked.
(Capt. S.10 1609A/3 to Subs. on patrol. (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med.)

RORQUAL Intend to sail RORQUAL for patrol. PORPOISE for PORPOISE U.K. p.m. 4th also PARTHIAN direct for Beyrout PARTHIAN p.m. 5th. Request instructions for RORQUAL? minelaying.
(Capt. S.10 1601A/3 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1. Capt. S.8. N.O.I.C. Malta. F.O. 15 C.S. F.O. 12 C.S.)

German tug. A. Small harbour tug German flag from Bourgas anchored Istanbul in transit.
B. Believed bound ? Piraeus. Sailing time not yet known.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1621C/3.) Name TISZA, see 1745C/4.

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

VIENNA C. in C. Med's 1251/1. ^{p.24} VIENNA has been temporarily
M.L. allocated as M.L. Depot ship for N.C.X.F.
bases. 2. When suitable shore bases for M.Ls. have been
established in the Western Med., M.L. spare gear
will be landed at these bases and VIENNA should
be available as M.T.B. Depot ship.
7. N.C.X.F. is requested to report approx. date by which he may
be able to release VIENNA from M.L. Depot ship duties and C. in C.
Med. is requested to report if he requires M.T.B. torpedoes sent
out from U.K.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1630A/3.)

French Request you report prospect of getting French
Float Armcoere Naval Float planes based at Arzeu to
planes operate as local anti S/M air patrol within 50
at Arzeu. miles of Oran. If French Admiral agrees supply
of depth charges could be made from British
sources and S.O. Force H could arrange technical
assistance from carriers if required. V.A.
Gibraltar pass to A.O.C. Gibraltar.
(N.C.X.F. 1652A/3 to F.O.I.C. Oran. V.A. Gibraltar.
A.O.C. Gibraltar. S.O. Force H. FORMIDABLE.
A.O.C. E.A.C.)

6 E.Bs. Afternoon visuals Dec. 3rd. No change major
naval units. 6 E-Boats observed off Roposto
steering 200° at 25 knots at 1550.
(V.A. Malta 1736A/3.)

CARRIER Your 2301/1 and 1209/2.
French maintain that CARRIER is under French flag
and in their possession and they are not yet
prepared to hand her over to Belgians. They do not claim her as
a prize in view of our attitude she has been excluded from
provisional arrangement and remains at Casablanca.
(M.W.T.R. Algiers 1736A/3.)

QUIBERON My 1810/3. ^{H.T. 1243} Request you will sail one 4.7
destroyer for Algiers forthwith to take QUIBERON's
place.
2. QUIBERON has (corrupt group) A (?seriously damaged) due to
near miss and requires examination and boiler cleaning complying
with my 1134/30 para 3.
(N.C.X.F. 1819A/3 to S.O. Force H. (R) C.S.12. S.O.I.S. F.O.C.N.A.
Commander F.)

Malta Night 2/3. 1 Beaufighter found at 0920 hours
C.S.R. 020° Zuara 20 miles 1 D/R course 300° speed 5
3rd Dec. knots Beaufighter attacked D/R with cannon and
machine guns scoring hits on bridge and super-
structure.

(A.H.Q. Malta No T.O.O. /3.)

2nd Dec. (?1227) 350° Marittimo 49 miles 1 large D/R in
difficulties stationary 2 D/Rs and 2 small trawlers standing by,
oil patch nearby.

/Night 2/3...

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.Malta
C.S.R.
3 Dec.
Contd.

Night 2/3. 3 special Albacores 1 special Wellington and 8 torpedo carrying Albacores were despatched to attack enemy southbound convoy sighted at 1300 by transit Hurricane 070° Ras Kaboudiq 20 miles see my A 1145 2 Dec. Part 2. At 1800 Wellington found 082° Melita 36 miles 2

M/V 5000 1 cruiser 1 D/R 1 sloop course 260° speed 10 knots. Wellington shadowed and reported convoy and later dropped flares for Albacore strike at 1915. Albacore dropped further flares and attacked with 5 torpedoes contact only depth setting 9 feet dropped from 60 ft. range 800 yards 4 torpedo hits were scored and both M/Vs were left burning furiously Wellington observing strike saw 2 ships sink and also saw another fire possibly a third burning ship 3 Albacores which found ships already burning and no other suitable target so brought torpedoes back.

A.A. opposition was encountered and 1 Albacore is missing. Wellingtons made 13 sorties to attack Bizerta docks owing to much low cloud 3 Wellingtons which did not locate Bizerta attacked Tunis Docks in first attack on Bizerta Docks 1840-2030 (or 1840-2010?) 8 Wellingtons dropped 15 flares 92 500 56 250 lb GP bombs from 6000 ft scoring hits among dockyard workshops and buildings near the railway station and fuel storage tanks. In second attack 0150 - 0205 2 Wellingtons dropped 8 500 14 250 lb GP bombs from 7500 feet scoring hits near fuel tanks and railway. 3 Wellingtons attacked Tunis Docks from 0150 - 0355 dropping 12 500 and 21 250 lb GP bombs from 7000 ft scoring hits in the dock area causing many blue flashes 1 stick of bombs fell across railway line north of La Goulette producing small green explosions. Part 2 Section 4. Between 8th Nov. and 2nd Dec. following air effort has been made by Malta based aircraft in endeavour to assist operations of first Army in Tunisia.

24 attacks on shipping 4 ships sunk 11 damaged 175 sorties in 34 bombing attacks on ports and aerodromes in Tunisia 42 sorties in 7 low level attacks on Tunisian aerodromes by long range fighters which destroyed 21 aircraft and damaged 24 continual offensive sweeps during daylight hours by long range fighters which destroyed 43 aircraft and damaged 19 including many troop carriers many attacks on trains motor transport and personnel on aerodromes in Tunisia in addition indirect assistance has been given by 64 medium bomber sorties against ports and aerodromes in Sicily and Sardinia 79 Spitfire Bomber sorties against aerodromes in Sicily and 38 sorties to lay mines in Tunisian and Sardinian Harbours.

(Malta 2254Z/3.)

Orders
to S/Ms.In anticipation of nil reply, my 1551/3 Submarines
are to proceed as follows -P.217 and P.219 with despatch on surface by day at
C.O.'s discretion to patrol within 8 miles of P.217
040° 47' 013° 48' P.219 040° 35' 014° 08'.P.37, P.43, P.48 with despatch submerge by day to form patrol
line in order name, operation B.S., 3 350 St. Vito four 350 five
80 30. P.45 return to established patrol approx. 040° from Plane
Island Light in position selected by you for interception of
Bizerta traffic. *P.222 will (?reinforce) Naples area shortly.
(Capt. S.10. 2359A/3 to Subs on patrol. (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med.
Capt. S.1. Capt. S.8. C.S.12. C.S.15.) * *see p. 99A*



3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.A. 34. Sailing telegram. Escorts, MAURITIUS till relieved by A/S escort from Aden in approx. 055° E. ASTER to 067° E. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0244Z/3 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., etc.)

Diego Suarez. Unidentified A/C reported as heard but not seen at 1256/2. Unmistakable swing reported on indicator of mine loop number 4 at 1529/2 by reliable (corrupt group), and loop perturbing badly. Number 4 group of mines was (? detonated). Explosion very satisfactory. If enemy S/M was crossing loop considered to have been destroyed. Extensive surface and A/S search of area by local trawlers failed to provide any evidence of destruction. Sailed HAWKINS at 1600C/2 and NIEUW AMSTERDAM at 0500C/3 without incident. Report follows. Request arrangements may be made to relay mines group M.4. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0851Z/3.)

CLEANTHIS. CLEANTHIS lost by enemy action. (? 22) survivors landed here, 15 hospital cases. None serious. Please instruct action. (Consul General Lourenco Marques, 1030/3 to M.W.T., pass to West Africa Station, Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Capetown.)

Zigzagging. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Reference to 25C para. 3 the following amendments are to be made. Cancel 15C, 961C para. 6 delete all words after zigzag. (C. in C. E.F., 1231Z/3 to E.I. Station.)

WAYLAND. WAYLAND will leave U.K. on 11th Dec. for Freetown, Capetown and Eastern Fleet. 2. She will be escorted by QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT. (D.O.D.(F), 1720A/3.) *See 1/12 - p. 113.*

F.S. LÉOPARD. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1731Z/3.)

Indian Ocean Shuttle Service. Your 0914/27 Nov. Extension of shuttle service not justified, since risk of attack is no greater than on other ocean routes. There is also an acute shortage of personnel. 2. Unless future developments render its continuance desirable, existing shuttle service will ultimately be abolished as soon as ships trading in your area become manned with permanent D.E.M.S. personnel in accordance with D.E.M.S. G.I. No. 58 (recently despatched). (A.C.N.S.(T), 2155A/3 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

1358

104^A

MOST SECRET

GROUP SECRET MESSAGE. 1100Z/3rd Dec. OUT

From:- Air Ministry.

Date. 3/12/42.

CYPHER.

Addressed:- G.O.C. in C., East Africa.

Jibouti

IMMEDIATE

OZ. 2095.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (E.A.) 18.

Reference War Office 83393 of 1st December.

Darlan's proclamation assuming rights and responsibilities of French Government in French Empire in respect of which we were not consulted, and are in no way committed, makes it more than ever desirable that Jibouti should be brought over to do Gaulle. We hope therefore that you will do everything in your power to secure this. You should let us know before there is any question of accepting any arrangement which gives Darlan authority over the territory.

1100Z/3.

Rec'd in War Reg at 1940/3.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2).
- 4th S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.C.D. (H) (2).
- D.O.S. (F) (2).
- D.D.I.C. (2).
- D.O.P. (2).
- D.J. (2).
- H.C. at H.
- D.A.I. (4).
- I.P. (2).

- Circulation:-
- Brig. Jacob.
 - Foreign Secretary.
 - 1st Sea Lord.
 - C.6. Tels., W.O.,
 - A.M.C.S. (C).
 - C.C.O.

- C. Blake.
- Capt. Marton.

MOST SECRET

105

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

"T" Convoys. Your 1519/30. Convoys T.11, T.17, T.23 and T.26 escort provided by C.T.F. 23 final destination Rio. Ships for dispersal join these convoys if speed qualifies.

2. Convoys T.22, T.24 and T.25 were escorted by British Trawlers and limited.

3. In all convoys where escort is provided by N.O.O. Trinidad the qualifying speed is 8 knots. At present there is an acute shortage of escort for normal "T" convoys. Consequent delays to shipping have been fully discussed and improvement anticipated.

(B.A.D. 0127Z/3 to Admty.)

MONTGOMERY. Your 1530/2 E.T.A. 0600Z/3. *WITHERINGTON in company.
(MONTGOMERY 0330Z/3 to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns, N.F.)

* See p.109

ATTACKER, repairs. ATTACKER estimate completion repairs Dec. 7. Full power trial 8th probable departure date 9th to 10th. (Ends.)
(Radio Washington 0340Z/3 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

Tankers. Your 0700/3. Following is repetition of my 0125/3 (Begins) All tankers in Gulf of Mexico with exception of those loaded with aviation spirit now sailing independently on direct routes. They disperse from "NK" off Key West and join "KN" from Key West.
2. Consequent saving in Gulf voyage enables NK and KN to sail three days earlier than present schedule. KN 212 therefore sails Dec. 8th 0125/3 (Ends.)
(B.A.D. 0727Z/3 to Admty.)

S/M estimates Commaveu 0805/3, 2227/3, Cominch 1552/3.
& notices.

CLAN MACFADYEN torpedoes and sunk Nov. 26th 100 miles S.E. Trinidad.
(Commaveu 0808/3 to Admty.)
Trinidad reports arrival six survivors British CLAN MACFADYEN torpedoes sank immediately at 1115 G.M.T. 26th (amended time 2315 G.M.T. see 1046R/4) in 009° 00' N. 060° 50' W. (amended position 09° 00' N. 59° 50' W. see 1103R/6) other 86 crew unaccounted for.
(S.O.I.) Jamaica 1141R/3 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

EMPIRE DABCHICK "S" report. Received 0855 G.M.T. SSSS de GNSN EMPIRE DABCHICK 43° 00' N. 58° 17' W. torpedoes De V C S.
(Halifax N.S. 0924Z/3 to C. in C. W.A. Londonderry for C.T. 24.7.)

See p.109

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - cont.

Movements. Arrival Bermuda REGENT.
(C. i/c Bermuda 1022Z/3 to Admty.)
Movements summary at 1800 G.M.T. 3rd Dec.

| Ship | Position. | Course. | Speed. |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|--------|
| See p. 92 ARMERIA | 09° N. 28½° W. | 090° | 11 |
| DESPATCH | 03° S. 31° W. | 026° | 17 |

(D.O.D. (F) 1030Z/3 to Opanav (R) Commaveu.)
Arrival 2nd Dec. U.S.A. Transport EAGLEMAN.
(B.R.O. Aruba 1155QR/3 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Dispositions. Following is Cominch's 2140/02: Changes my 1449/25 (circulated under T.O.O. 2031/25)
RICHMOND, at Callao. SOUTH DAKOTA, en route U.S. INDIANA, and COLUMBIA, in South Pacific. INDIANAPOLIS, and NASHVILLE, at Pearl Harbour. ARKANSAS, to sea from Casablanca. TEXAS, ALABAMA, SANGAMON, CHENANGO, AUGUSTA, WICHITA, BROOKLYN, and SAVANNAH, in Norfolk. MONTPELIER, at Philadelphia. OMAHA, and CONCORD, at sea. MILWAUKEE, and CINCINNATI, on patrol. MARBLEHEAD, Recife. MASSACHUSETTS, TUSCALOOSA, at Boston. MEMPHIS, at San Juan.
(Commaveu 1040/3 to Admty.)

M.T.Bs. My 0822/30. M.T.Bs departed San Juan for Guantanamo 1000Z/3.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1122Q/3 to S.B.N.O. W. At. (R) Admty., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Kingston.)

W.B.16. My 1847/2. YILDUM has arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 1303Z/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty., Connav (R) C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.24, N.C.S.O. Montreal, N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F.)

S.C.112. S.C.112 delayed 24 hours by extremely bad weather. A.C.I.C. pass to N.O.I.C. Iceland. *
(Cdre. Easfron 1417/3. N.C.S.O. New York 1515Z/3.)

(1) Due to delay of S.C.112 it will now be necessary for CALDWELL to proceed St. Johns N.F. direct to insure complying with your 0249/2nd. *W. B. 16.*

(2) No additional escorts can be spared to reinforce Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.5 Western Local South.

(3) Western Local North, Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.3 will consist of one destroyer, 2 corvettes and one (?tanker).

(4) 30 ships at Halifax to join S.C.112 which already consists of approx. 50 ships.

(5) Request information as to maximum number of ships from Halifax which should join S.C.112 and whether Western Local Escorts North and South can be reinforced.

(C.O.A.C. 1513Z/3 to C.T.24 (R) Connav, N.S.H.Q. etc.)

* Re numbers see 1535/4.

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies → contd.

- O.N. 146. *See next page* O.N. 146 your 1140/3rd. ^{N.T.A. 13} My 1029/3rd. ^{N.T.A. 13} Intend sailing DUNDAS 1600Z/3rd and BRANTFORD at 1900Z/3rd to intercept convoy joining Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.8 and provide additional escort until further notice. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1529Z/3 to Comm. Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.1 (R) Admty., Connav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.T. 24, F.O.N.F. Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier, Comm. 3rd, U.S. Naval District New York, QUESNEL, DUNDAS, BRANTFORD, Com. Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.8.)
- T.A. 29. Your 0111/30 Nov. not to all addressees A.O.C. E.A.C. will be requested to provide air escort for T.A. 29. No surface escort available. (C.O.A.C. 1546Z/3 to Admty.)
- NURMAHAL. Your 1557/1st Dec. Connav reports NURMAHAL overdue Charleston since Nov. 19th. No further information. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1609Z/3 to Admty.)
- M.A.Cs My 1941/26/11. Has been passed to N.S.H.Q. for information. (B.A.D. 1615Z/3.)
- Tanker ^{p. 1253}
Convoys. My 2305/30 Cominch has agreed to following dates
Escort groups. proposed by Com. E.S.F. LAVENDER now under overhaul
December 10th. WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, COLUMBINE
December 21. HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL,
SAXIFRAGE December 15th. WITCH without refit
for 16 months. Minimum 4 weeks required for
essential refit work which will be undertaken at
once.
(B.A.D. 1617Z/3.)
- ARMATHIA, Proceeding St. Johns N.F. with damaged deck.
S.C. 111. If no duplication in low visibility escorts now
have 15 ships. Weather moderate.
(C.T.U. 24.18.7.1619Z/3.)
- A.M.C. 41. Arrival 3rd Dec. U.S. Minesweeper A.M.C. 41.
(H.M. Barbados 1624/3.)
- W.B. 16, My 1847/2nd (Pan) ARCLIGHT in tow.
ARCLIGHT. (N.C.S.O. Sydney 1647Z/3.)
- B.S. 40. My 2031/2nd. B.S. 40 did not sail owing to weather.
(R.O. Cornerbrook 1740Z/3.)

MOST SECRET

107A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE. 1640Z/3rd Dec. IN

From:- C.O.A.C. Halifax.

1640Z/3rd Dec.
1961. 1940.

N.CYNER (3) S by W/T

Addressed:- Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Section South West.

O.N. No: 147. Western Local Escort Task Units
24.18.6 039 degs 50' 068 degs 57' 270 degs 9.

O.N. No. 143: Western Local Escort Task Units
24.18.8 scattered 043 degs 00' North.

Mid. Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.16 060 degs
01' West and 060 degs 30' West course 270 degs.

DUNDAS 043 degs 38' 063 degs 07' 162 degs 12
alter to 09 degs in 043 degs 02' North. *See previous page*

BRANTFORD departs Halifax 1900Z/3rd to join
O.N. No. 146. *See previous page.*

U.S.S. ESC. NABA 042 degs 58' 065 degs 16' (?247 degs)
10.5 altering to 269 degs in 065 degs 40'
West.

U.S. Dest. MCCORMICK escorting U.S.S.R.
Submarine L.15 on surface 042 degs 17' 063
degs 29' 021 degs 8.5. *See next page*

STANDARD COASTER on route Halifax from Port
Newburgh.

QUESNEL vicinity 043 degs 02' 061 degs 00'
to join O.N.146.

H.M.S. P.512 on surface escorted by KAMLOOPS
South End of Gut of S. Ileso through

- L. (?045 degs) 22' North 060° 43' West.
- M. 045° 10' North 060° 38' West.
- N. (?044°) 57' North 060° 56' West.
- O. 044° 28' North 062° 27' West.
- P. 044° 28' North 065° 22' West.

Expected time of arrival Halifax 1300Z 4th
Speed of advance 10 knots.

1640Z/3.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.C.N.S. (T)
N. 1st S.L.
D. of P. (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
I.P. (2):

Duty Capt. (2). Advance Copy. Duty Capt.,
Hd. of M. D.O.D. (F).
D.D.I.C. (2). D.O.D. (H).
D.T.D. (3).
D.T.D. (M).
D.T.D. (C).
U.S.N. (3).
F.O.S. by courier.

MOST SECRET

101B

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 2103Z/3rd Dec. IN.
From: C.O.A.C. Halifax. Date 3.12.42.
Recd: 2350.

Naval Cypher 3 (S) by W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty

IMPORTANT.

Previous page
My 1640Z 3rd amend reference U.S. Destroyer
McCORMICK, U.S.S.R. S/m L 15. not met. U.S. Destroyer
McCORMICK searching from Sambro light vessel to
041° 15' North 065° 01' West.

2103Z/3.

Advance Copy sent Ops. O.D.
O.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.
D of P (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D. / S.W.
I.P. (2)
W.D. (2)
D.C. (2)
HC of M.
P.D.I.C. (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
U.S.N. (3)
F.O.S. by courier.

C/

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Convoy
A.T.30.Request you will sail SS QUEEN MARY to arrive
Clyde 13th Dec.

2. In order that maximum air protection may be arranged she should be routed to pass through 36° 20' N. 09° W. at daylight on 13th December.
3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide destroyer escort if available.
4. Fighter protection codeword "Donkey".
(D.O.D. (H) 1747A/3 to Connav.)

U/B threat
in North
Atlantic
in 1943.

Your 1941Z/26 Nov. Our anxieties regarding the U-Boat threat in the North Atlantic to be anticipated in the first half of 1943 are continually increasing. The most pressing requirement is the provision of air cover over Convoys outside the range of shore-based aircraft.

Recent experience east of Newfoundland has shown how real this requirement is.

2. To provide carrier-borne protection for H.X., S.C., and O.N. Convoys requires in our view 12 A.V.Gs continually in operation. The total requirement for these Convoys is therefore 16 A.V.Gs. We also anticipate having to run special oil tanker convoys direct from Trinidad to Gibraltar in the near future. This is likely to become a permanent requirement and would require 3 A.V.Gs continually available making 4 in all to allow for refits, etc.
3. Allowing 4 months from the completion date for passage to U.K. fitting out and working up, we estimate that we will not have more than 9 A.V.Gs in service by the end of April 1943 and 14 by the end of June. These figures make no allowance for casualties in the meantime nor for the requirements of further offensive operations or P.Q. convoys. The deficiency therefore stands at 11 by the end of April 1943 and 6 by the end of June 1943 for Atlantic Convoys alone.
4. It was to meet this requirement quickly and to fill the gap until the A.V.Gs had arrived in sufficient numbers that M.A.C. ships were proposed. We hoped we could have had 30 M.A.C. ships from U.S. production in service by the middle of 1943. The aircraft and Fleet Air Arm personnel could have been scraped together for this emergency.
5. We are taking steps to accelerate the production of the 12 M.A.C. ships under construction in U.K. but the best we can hope for is to have 3 operational by the end of April and a further 3 by the end of June.
6. The urgency of the situation is so great that we have decided to pay off temporarily the necessary number of A.M.Cs now acting as anti-raider escorts to find the crews to man extra A.V.Gs for North Atlantic Convoys if these could be made available in the first half of 1943. Although we could not find the full complement of aircraft, and F.A.A. personnel for the total number required, we could provide them with the outfits which would otherwise have been used in the 30 M.A.C. ships. Moreover, the rate of wastage would be considerably less in the A.V.Gs.
7. In view of your para.4 we now ask most earnestly to be given delivery of an extra 12 Kaiser-type A.V.Gs in the first half of 1943 at the expense of those assigned to us later.

~~SECRET~~ 109

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

U/B threat
in North
Atlantic
in 1943.
(Contd.)

8. We have always calculated on the assistance of 8 U.S. manned A.V.Gs on the North Atlantic trade routes. If even a proportion of these were forthcoming early in 1943 our present anxiety would be further relieved. What are the prospects of such American assistance?

9. For your information, it has been calculated that one A.V.G. will save 7 merchant ships in one year. (V.C.N.S., 1843A/4 to B.A.D. Washington.)

Cable
repair.

1. LORD KELVIN has arrived from Cable grounds having been unable to make cable repairs due to weather. Master consider conditions are likely to be unsuitable until April.

2. Should further attempt be made to effect repairs now.
3. If not S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic is requested to signal destination of BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER. (C.O.A.C., 1848Z/3 to Admty.)

WITHERINGTON.

My P.C. and S. at 1900Z/3rd 046° 31' 051° 20' 170°, 7 knots. Owing to heavy steep sea am unable to alter course until the weather moderates. (WITHERINGTON, 1940Z/3.) *See p. 105*

I.P.
GOULANDRIS,
EMPIRE
DABCHICK.

** See p. 105.*

IOANNIS P. GOULANDRIS sunk in collision with INTREPIDO 2nd Dec. 40.15 73.45 W. EMPIRE DABCHICK torpedoed in convoy on Friday 43.00 N. 58.17 W. today (sic). (Connav, 2054/3) (Note: EMPIRE DABCHICK reported she was torpedoed at 0855 G.M.T./3 = Thursday.)

SEAWOLF.

Ref. my 1912/6th Nov. It is anticipated SEAWOLF will be ready to leave Philadelphia on 8th Dec. and New London about 24th Dec. having completed work up practice. (B.A.M.R. Washington, 2136Z/3 to Admty.)

Submarine
attack and
sighting
summary.

A. EMPIRE DABCHICK torpedoed 43° N. 58.17 W. 0855Z/3.
C. Surface craft attack conning tower and sound contact area 12.20 N. 72° W. 1945-2237Z/12 Nov. S.C.503 attacks sound contact 12.04 N. 61.50 W. 1758Z/23 Nov. Submarine reported 10.47 N. 61.45 W. 1645Z/3. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2151/3.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Shipping
Diversions.

A daily summary of diversions of Merchant shipping ordered by Connav is now forwarded N.S.H.Q. A similar summary of diversions of Westbound shipping ordered by British Authorities will be necessary before N.S.H.Q. takes over Jamaica area plot.
(N.S.H.Q. 2204Z/3 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Convoy
information.

Your 2350/2 para. two. Navy Dept. has now extended their request to include all ships in K.M. and M.K. convoys irrespective of flag in order that they may be aware of the composition of these convoys.

(2) They have further requested that U.K. Coastal movements of U.S. controlled ships may also be communicated. It is suggested that this information should be supplied in summary form.
(B.A.D. Washington 2257Z/3 to Admty.)

Coastwise
shipping.

In order to avoid holding coastwise shipping in port to await escort Comeastseafon has ordered that until further notice they may be sailed independently by Macri Convoy routes except between Lookout and Chesapeake foregoing not applicable to aviation gas tankers.
(B.A.D. Washington 2259Z/3 to Admty.)

Acceleration
of shipping.

It is considered that the U-boat situation in the Western Atlantic is such as to justify some modification of present convoy procedure in order to accelerate the movements of shipping, especially tankers.

2. We are allowing the enemy to impose his will upon us if, as the result of heavy-scale attacks in an earlier period, we continue to deal with our shipping as if those conditions were still operative. "Torch" we feel, has in some degree caused a revision of U-boat strategy.

3. It is requested therefore that you will put the following proposals to the Navy Dept. with the suggestion that they should only apply to British-Managed Shipping if the U.S. Authorities are unwilling to agree to their application to United Nations Shipping.

4. (a) Detach tankers for Gulf of Mexico in O.N. convoys if situation permits in vicinity of 60° W.
(b) Detach tankers similarly for D.W. Indies if situation permits to proceed independently to Guantanamo for onward convoy. Both suggestions to be entirely dependent upon the circumstances existing at the time convoy approaches 60° W. and to be the subject of a specific signal for each convoy, no general instructions being issued.

5. It is considered that the degree of U-boat concentration in any particular area is one that is of fundamental importance in determining the risk acceptable in order to obtain a more flexible handling of shipping and that as the degree of concentration increases or diminishes so it is desirable for convoy policy to be adjusted accordingly.

War Diary.

3.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - cont'd.

Acceleration
of shipping.

6. We are preparing to take similar steps this end when H.X. convoys have passed 15° W. in order that the faster ships may push on ahead of the convoy in waters where the degree of risk is now considerably lessened.
(Admty. 2305A/3 to B.A.D.)
Reply: B.A.D. 2027Z/5.

Delay
reports.

Arrangements have been made for B.R.L.O. New York to originate a delay report for British Managed shipping for each N.K. and N.G. Convoy.
2. Signal will be addressed to Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. repeated B.A.D. in following form.
(A) Name of ship.
(B) Destination.
(C) Ex Convoy.
(D) Reason not sailing.
(E) Expected sailing.
(F) Remarks.
3. Ships delayed at New York before proceeding coastwise to load will also be reported in C. form.
(B.A.D. Washington 2315Z/3.)

POTENTILLA.

P.C.S. at 2200Z/3rd 047° 49' N. 051° 34' W.
023° 6 knots. JAMES MACKAY not in company.
Not met. Weather report 09 14 61 46.
(POTENTILLA 2317Z/3.)

War Diary.3.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (2) 4 Destroyers located by air R/C off Cape
Serial Orford (S.E. Coast New Britain) morning first
No. 314, course 250°, unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft
Dec. 1st. during day and night. 1 100 pound bomb hit
scored on bow 1 destroyer. 4 vessels sighted
off Buna at 1600Z/1 and later heading north from
area. Strong forces enemy fighters mostly zeros engaged
covering movement during day intercepted our attacking Fortresses
B.240 and B.25s. 21 fighters shot down several others damaged.
(4) 2 enemy cruisers returned 9° 45' S. 100 25° 12' E. at
0935Z/1 course 100°.
(5) 1 tanker, 1 destroyer arrived Dilli afternoon 29th Nov. and
1 small merchant vessel arrived morning 30th.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0025Z/3.)

Digest 4 enemy destroyers reported my serial No.314
Serial para. 2 shadowed and last reported 5° 45' S. 153°
No. 315, E. at 0410Z/2 course 60°. Single destroyer
Dec. 2nd. sighted by same aircraft 5° 40' S. 52° 25' E.
at 0430Z/2 course 240°.
(2) 9 destroyers, 1 sloop, 2 tankers and 5 other
merchant vessels reported Buin Shortlands Area morning second.
(3) Little change reported Buna - Gona area where Allied
pressure continues on all fronts. 12 Aircobras and 6 Bostons
strafed enemy positions morning 2nd while 6 Beaufighters strafed
and sank 2 enemy barges each filled with 20 unarmed Japanese
2 miles north-west of Gona wreck and destroyed 2 other empty
barges drifting 5 miles north Gona. Hudsons also attacked
Buna area night 1/2.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 1312Z/3.)

Movements. U.S. Transport ANHUI departed Port Moresby 2nd
Dec. due Townsville 5th. Hospital Ship MANUNDA
departed Brisbane 2nd due Port Moresby 6th.
(A.C.N.B., 1405Z/3.)
Departure Wellington 0505Z/3rd. U.S. Destroyer CUMMINGS
escorting SS. PRESIDENT MONROE to Noumea E.T.A. 1700Z/6th, route
direct 15 knots.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2129Z/3.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1411A/3, 1423A/3.)

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.

For security reasons, Merchant Ships except when in convoy, are in future to use their war W/T call-sign when transmitting all types of distress messages, amplifying messages or cancellation messages. The name of the ship at present included in plain language in distress messages is to be omitted.

Home Commands.

M.G.Bs 85, 91 and 86 whilst on patrol about 40 miles N.E. of Lowestoft at 0230A today engaged 3 E-boats, all of which were hit. M.G.B.85 had one slight casualty and the M.G.Bs had only slight damage.

Force X.

N.C.X.F. intends to issue in Torch area revised orders as regards French warships, merchant ships and aircraft. All are now to be regarded as friendly unless they commit hostile acts, except:

(a) Ships which are evidently emerging from or making for Axis controlled French ports or Axis ports. Such ships are to be directed to ports under our control, force bring employed if necessary.

(b) French warships or merchant ships encountered north of 40° W.
(Revised orders as above were issued on 12th December).

Mediterranean.Naples
bombed.

U.S.B.24s bombed shipping and harbour installations at Naples this afternoon. Hits are claimed on ships, including a battleship. Photographs taken later show a 6-inch cruiser of the Muzio Attendolo class sunk in the harbour and severe damage to warehouses.

/Attacks ...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - contd.Attacks
on U/Bs.

CADMUS in 37° 12' N. 6° 13' E. (35 miles N. of Tenez) made two promising attacks on a U-boat today: N.C.X.F. considers the U-boat was probably sunk. *Not confirmed by Com. Howbathen re com. 6843.*
 At 0520 a Wellington attacked a U-boat in 36° 32' N. 1° 30' W. course 240° speed 6 knots, which was fully surfaced at the time of attack: 2 of the depth charges exploded about 30/8 from the starboard side abaft the conning tower producing increasing quantities of oil. An aircraft attacked a fully surfaced enemy submarine shortly before midnight today in 36° 25' N. 0° 55' W. and reported at 0050/5 that the U-boat was still on the surface and was damaged.

Force Q.
U/B
believed
destroyed.

Force Q sailed from Algiers at 0830 today, to carry out a sweep on the line Cagliari - Bizerta during the dark hours, returning to Bone by daylight 5 Dec. ESKIMO at 2330 attacked a U-boat in 37° 55' N. 8° 10' E. and C.S.12 considers it was probably destroyed. *Not confirmed by Com. Howbathen re com. 6843*

Force H.

Force H. sailed from Mers-el-Kebir today and proceeded eastward, subsequently arriving at Gibraltar at daylight 6th, owing to congestion in Gibraltar, however, the large ships had to wait to enter and the force was not reported arrived until 2150A/6.

18 B.17s escorted by 18 P.38a attacked Bizerta harbour at 1043 today and hit with bombs 2 of the 6 or 8 ships reported in port: 2 or 3 groups of U-boats were also seen. 7 L.26s escorted by P.38a attacked Bizerta harbour at 1057 and report hits on ships, railway station, oil tanks and warehouses, and that there were 15 to 20 ships in Bizerta Lake, including an aircraft carrier, a heavy cruiser and several U-boats. On 7 Dec. E.A.C. reported "R/C of Bizerta shows no sign of any aircraft carriers reported".

Wellingtons last night bombed Sicilian aerodromes to cover the approach of Convoy M.W.14. Albacores torpedoed two 3000 ton merchant ships steering 130° in 350° Zuara 44 miles (north west of Tripoli); one was blown to pieces and the second left burning fiercely with a heavy list.

War Diary.

4.12.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

The port of Bone was heavily bombed before dawn today, but no shipping was damaged and there were no naval casualties. Benghazi was bombed today, but no naval damage was caused and 2 of the enemy aircraft were shot down.

America and West Indies.

M.O.W.T. are very concerned at the continuous delays to eastbound shipping at Trinidad, but especially to ships under $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots. It would appear that there has been no opportunity to sail ships of under $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots for 49 days and ships of under $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots for 27 days.

The Admiralty today sent to Washington a message urging that further small aircraft carriers should be made available to meet the U-boat threat in the North Atlantic which is anticipated in the first half of 1943.

4.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- CARLISLE. *117.2.4.3.* My 1801/3. Sailed. *? Scapa.* E.T.A. 0830/6. S. of A. 17 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1019A/4.) *See 2/11 p 37.*
- North Atlantic dispositions. A.M. 1333/3.
Passage to U.K. - Delete BERMUDA.
Area Scapa - Add BERMUDA. Delete CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK.
Area Iceland - Add CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK.
(D.O.D(H), 1030Z/4 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)
- W.A. Command. Situation at 1957A/4. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1358A/4, and 1810A/4.)
See Lion Copy.
- P.555. *See p. 116c* My 1058/3. Sailed.
(Capt. S.7, 1515A/4.)
P.555 escorted by LADY SHAHRAZAD sailed Rothesay 1500/4th for Oban.
(C. in C. W.A., 1808A/4 to QUEEN ELIZABETH.)
- JUNON. *See p. 116c* My 1211/2 as amended by my 2041/3. Sailed.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 1614A/4 to A.C.O.S.)
- ANSON. E.T.A. 0035/6th. Request Hoxa Gate for ANSON and 3 destroyers at 0120.
(ANSON, 1639A/4 to A.C.O.S.)
Leave harbour as directed by Captain of Dockyard and K.H.M. Rosyth tomorrow and proceed by searched channel to Scapa passing Beamer at 1215.
2. Take OPPORTUNE, ORIBI, and OBEDIENT under your orders when met at Eyebroughy Buoy at 1445/5.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1915/4 to ANSON.)
- DOLFIJN. *See p. 116c* Intend sailing 2 M.S.Ts at 0430/5 to R/V DOLFIJN at 0800/5 in 180° Lizard 10 miles, escorting same to Falmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1644A/4.)
- GUNNEL. *See p. 116c* GUNNEL escorted by CAPE PORTLAND northbound in Irish Sea tonight.
(C. in C. W.A., 1656A/4 to ROSEMARY, CARLISLE, BERN.)
- S/M^c Positions. At 0800/5. Details.
(F.O.S., 1729A/4.)
See Lion Copy. *p. 116c*

MOST SECRET

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

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Situation at 1957A/4/12.

Section N.E.

| | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------|--|-------|
| HALCYON | | 58 46 05 26 | To Milford Haven | 12 |
| QUILLIAM | | | Vicinity Stornoway To Greenock | 18 |
| RU.51 | MAZURKA PIROUETTE BLACKFLY EBORWIK | 58 55 08 00 | 357° Butt of Lewis 6 miles thence through Minches. | 7 1/2 |
| ONUJ.151 | PAUL RYKENS | 57 17 07 00 | R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles | 8 |

Situation at 1957A/4/12

Section S.E.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|-------|
| U.S.S/M GUNNEL | CAPE PORTLAND | 51 32 05 10 | To Roseneath | 5 |
| 1 Corvette and Tow | | 56 08 09 23 | To Londonderry | 2 1/2 |
| CILICIA | | | Vicinity Ailsa Craig To Clyde | 16 |
| CAPEHISLE | | 51 00 04 40 | To Scapa | 18 |
| GLASGOW | | 57 00 07 10 | To Greenock | 19 |
| P.555 | LADY SHAHRAZAD | 55 10 05 20 | To Oban | 10 |
| FIDELITY | | 54 04 05 14 | To Liverpool | 9 |
| HASTINGS | | | Vicinity Bardsey Island To Londonderry | 13 |
| S.C.110 C.T.U. 24.1.11. | ST. LAURENT BATTLEFORD CHILLIWACK EYEBRIGHT NAPANEE SHEDIAC KENOGAMI | 56 37 10 15 | To 56 28 08 32 thence North Channel | 8 |
| Convoy | Unescorted | 52 16 05 16 | Northbound | 9 |
| HM 78 | BERN | 52 50 05 05 | Southbound | 8 |
| BB.41 | ROSEMARY DERBY COUNTY QUADRILLE AQUAMARINE | 52 59 05 03 | Southbound | 8 |
| ON.151 | BODO | Sails Belfast 2300A/4 | 270° Oversay 6' thence 56 06 15 05 | 9 1/2 |
| ONC. 151 | Unescorted | Sails Clyde 1915A/4 | 270° Oversay 6' | 9 |
| ONUJ.151 | PAUL RYKENS | 57 17 07 00 | R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles. | 8 |

Situation at 1957A/C/12Section N.W.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|---|----|
| NORFOLK CUMBERLAND | 62 17 18 00 | To Northwest | 18 | |
| SD.34 | CASTLETON ST. MARY'S | 58 57 12 52 | To 58 30 11 45 thence Clyde via North Channel | 15 |
| UR.52 | ARAB HUGH WALPOLE ANGLE THINKMERE | 62 32 19 41 | To 63 00 21 30 thence Reykjavik | 7 |

Situation at 1957A/4/12Section S.W.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------|
| GLENEARN BEVERLEY | 56 01 12 13 54 35 15 40 | To 55 35 08 00 To O.N.150 | 16 16 | |
| GRAPH | 48 48 12 46 | To 49 15 12 30 thence 49 30 09 01 | 10 | |
| WINCHELSEA | 55 00 12 00 | To ON.150 | 16 | |
| KX.7 (E) | KRAKOWIAK BLEASDALE LAUDERDALE MELBREAK | 43 37 13 37 | To 40 00 13 00 | 7 |
| 1 M/V | VIOLET | 48 40 14 46 | To 49 02 14 46 thence 55 00 10 05 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| MKS 2A (E) | GERANIUM 7 Corvettes | 51 35 12 53 | To 55 00 10 05 | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| O.N.S.150 C.T.U. 24.1.18 | BEVERLEY WINCHELSEA ANEMONE ABELIA ASPHODEL CLOVER | 54 38 19 06 | To 53 32 23 58 thence 48 55 30 28 | 8 |

1358A/4 and 1810A/4

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
L.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.
D.M.S.

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Hd. of M. | D. of P.(2) |
| D.D.I.C.(2) | D. D.O.D.(M) |
| I.P.(2) | D.N.I.(5) |
| W.D. | C.C.O.(2) |
| D.T.D.(3) | D. of P.(Q) |
| D.T.D.(M) | Ad. Blake. |
| D.T.D.(C) | Ad. Ramsey (4) |

MOST SECRET

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

~~MOST SECRET~~

M E S S A G E

IN

From F.O.S.

1729A /4/December.

Date 4.12.42.

P/L by T/P

Time 1815.

Addressed Admiralty

222. Positions of submarines at 0800A /5th December and movements for following 24 hours.

A. JUNON escorted by LEICESTER CITY vicinity Noss Head bound Dundee 7 knots *See p. 116*

B. P.555 escorted by LADY SHAHRAZAD leaves Oban to arrive Tobermory 1200/5th December. *See p. 116*

C. H.43 escorted by LORD AUSTIN leaves Tobermory 1200 5th December through Sounds of Mull and Islay due Rothesay 1000 6th December.

D. GUNNEL escorted by CAPE PORTLAND 52 degs 22 mins North 05 degs 38 mins West speed 5 knots expected time of arrival Rosencath 0800 7th December. *See p. 116*

E. GLYDE due Rendezvous in 50 degs 33 mins North 01 degs 50.6 mins West at 0830 5th December from southwestward for escort to Portsmouth

F. DOLFIJN due rendezvous in 180 degs Lizard Head 10 miles at 0800 5th December with escort for passage to Falmouth

G. TUNA in Biscay south zone. *See p. 116*

H. GURNARD in zone K 505.

J. GRAPH 49 degs 28 mins North 09 degs 50 mins West dived by day due 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles a.m. 6th December.

1729A/4.

Advance copy sent D.C. D.O.D.(H)

A.C.N.S.(H)

N.A.1st S.L.

Capt Pim

D.O.D.(H) (2)

D.D.O.D.(M)

D.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D.O.D.(F) (2)

D. of Plans (2)

D.A/S.W.

Hd. of M.

W.D.

I.P.(2)

D.T.D.(M)

Doc (1)

E.o.m.

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.IMPULSIVE,
ICARUS.

Propose following movements of destroyers (A) IMPULSIVE to relieve *FURY sailing from Scapa 7th understand. (B) ICARUS to relieve *OBDURATE sailing from Scapa 13th December. (R.A.D.H.F., 2211A/4 to C. in C. H.F.) *at Hvalfjörður

CIRCE,
FLY.

Request you will sail CIRCE on completion of work up and FLY on completion of turning and speed trials required by VERNON, to operate temporarily at Scapa under the orders of C. in C. H.F. (D.M.S., 2238A/4 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

LLANDUDNO.

Captain D. Greenock's 1000/10/11 para. 2. Request LLANDUDNO be sailed when ready to rejoin S.O. 15th M.S.F. in Iceland (C). (D.M.S., 2239A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

Operations.Engagement
with E-Boats.
3 E-Boats
reported
hit by
gunfire.

Group of E-Boats 56A, moving South. (Nore C.O., 0215A/4 to S.E.E.C.C.D.) Am engaging E-Boats in position (spare group 19) 3 O 50 Lowestoft 40. (M.G.B.85, 0230A/4 to N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.) My 0230. Have lost touch with enemy indicated. Return 058 Lowestoft 44. E-Boat probably damaged. One small casualty.

(M.G.B.85, 0300A/4 to N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)

Following is preliminary report of C/F activity night 3rd - 4th December.

At 0204/4 M.G.Bs 85 (S.O.) with M.G.Bs 91 and 86 in approx. 52° 58' N. 02° 40' E. obtained hydrophone contact to westward. Hydrophone effect grew louder and unit proceeded at 0216 to intercept.

At 0219 two E-Boats were sighted steering E.N.E. at 15 knots. M.G.Bs engaged, opening fire at 150 yards closing to 50 yards. M.G.B.85 then sighted a third E-Boat and altered course to engage at very close range. This E-Boat was repeatedly hit and silenced, but 85 lost contact at 0223 due to engine defect. M.G.Bs 91 and 86 continued to engage first E-Boat target which disengaged under cover of smoke, contact being lost at about 0223. All M.G.Bs observed many hits on first two E-Boats, but were badly blinded by tracer. One slight casualty in M.G.B. 85 and only slight damage to M.G.Bs. Visibility reported as very low during the action.

(C. in C. Nore, 1604A/4 to Admty.)

E-Boat activity last night in Smiths Knoll Area was first suspected by WALPOLE on No. 4 patrol at 0013/4 bearing 040° from Gorleston. At 0137 CAMPBELL on No. 5 patrol reported E-Boats in vicinity of 54G Buoy. Owing to failure of type 271 and low visibility she was unable to locate these E-Boats which were probably within 4 or 5 thousand yards. It is probable that these Boats were looking for the convoy and not minelaying.

/Bearings ...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - con. Tr.

Engagement with E-Boats. 3 E-Boats reported hit by gunfire. (Contd.)

Bearings from Winterton, Trimmingham and Gorleston indicated the presence of other E-Boats to the northward of Q.Z.S.311 and shortly after 0200 one group of three boats was intercepted by M.G.B. 85 on patrol with M.G.Bs 91 and 86 in approx. 52° 55' N. 02° 36' E. An engagement took place as reported in my 1604/4. All E-Boats were hit but touch was lost in thick weather. Other groups of coastal forces in the vicinity were unable to make contact and no aircraft were available owing to ground fog.
(C. in C. Nore, 1608A/4 to Admty.)

Force J. (Operation "Round-Up")

OZ 2110, 4th December 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.(W) 380. The report on the Dieppe Raid is now being printed and will be forwarded for the information of the Joint Staff Mission, Washington. The Chiefs of Staff Committee wish particularly to draw attention to what is considered by them to be one of the outstanding lessons of the operation and which will be found in the report.

"For any amphibious campaign involving assaults on strongly defended coasts held by a determined enemy it is essential that the landing ships and craft required for the assaults shall be organised well in advance into naval assault-forces. These must have a coherence and degree of permanence comparable to that of any first-line fighting formations. The need for discipline, morale, tactical integration and flexibility, and professional competence, is not disputed in the case of troops, war vessels, and air formations. Precisely the same applies to assault-ships and craft".

2. The Dieppe Raid has shown that, against severe opposition, mere large numbers of craft mean little unless they are organised into a proper fighting force well in advance of the operation and that the spearhead of this force should have had actual fighting experience of the nature of that to be undertaken.

3. In order to achieve this, the Admiralty have now agreed that the Naval Force used in the Dieppe Raid should be re-constituted as a permanent force (Force J) consisting initially of:-
1 River gunboat, 7 L.S.I. carrying L.C.A. and L.C.S.(M), 48 L.C.T., 6 L.C.F.(L), 72 L.C.P., 4 M.L., 4 70' M.G.B., 4 M.G.B., 1 M.T.B., and to have the following added as soon as available:-
6 L.S.T. (2), 12 L.C.I.(L), 24 L.C.I.(S),

4. Though the Americans have had extensive amphibious experience in the Pacific area, their equipment and training have not yet been related to their employment in an ultimate "Round-Up" with its problems of tide, weather, and beaches of the English Channel. It is, therefore, suggested that the American Chiefs of Staff be invited, at an appropriate moment, to form an American counterpart for Force J in European waters. This force might be initiated by sending some American-manned landing craft of each type to join up with Force J itself.

5. In this way the American force can train under the actual conditions which will obtain in "Round-Up" and can test the suitability of their craft and equipment for these conditions. This force will become a nucleus for an American counterpart of the British Force and, if desired, can gain experience from actual raids. Further, such an arrangement should insure a high degree of co-operation between the naval assault-forces of the two countries on the day of "Round-Up".
(Air Ministry, 1310Z/4 to Britman, Washington.) /Patrols ...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Patrols. Movements affecting patrol tonight.
 P.W.258 (S.O. escort ALBRIGHTON) leaves Needles 1700. W.P.258 (S.O. escort BROCKLESBY) arrives Durlstone Buoy 0800. CLYDE passes 180° Start Point 20 about 2000 and arrives Durlstone Buoy 0830. *See p. 116*
 2. M.G.B. 616 (S.O.), M.T.Bs 85, 86, 243 are to proceed to Yarmouth before dark and, if weather permits, to patrol between 240° St. Catherines 10' and 240° St. Catherines 40', passing Needles 1800 and 0830, keeping to southward of convoys during their passage. Codeword "Pugdog".
 5. ~~CHASSIS~~ 41 (S.O.) and 14 South of E.A5 buoy on patrol. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1317A/4 and 1559/4 to D.1, HORNET.)
 M.Ls 142 and 140 patrolling between D and C one buoys. (V.A. Dover, 1652A/4.)

Exercises.

Trials in Your 2235/3. Concur.
 Firth of (C. in C. H.F., 1242A/4 to Admty.)
 Forth.
 (MALAYA)

Exercise Estimated position at 2204 tonight.
 C.F. BERWICK, FURY patrol "White". NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND 060° 28' N. 019° 37' W. to N.W. (A.C.I.C., 1620A/4.)
 Your 1451A. Concur. My 1609N/3, para. 4, request reference 4205 k/cs may be deleted.
 2. Positions at 1100N/5 will be OBDURATE 064° 05' N. 026° 10' W. course 180°, 15 knots. FURY 064° 05' N. 025° 50' W. course 155°, speed 15 knots.
 3. Your 1451A is being passed to OBDURATE with orders to comply instructions as for FURY.
 (SUFFOLK, 1926A/4 to A.C.I.C., (R) BERWICK, FURY, OBDURATE.)

Hedgehog Intend sailing CHESTERFIELD from Lough Foyle
 Bomb Trials. at 0800A/5 for rough weather Hedgehog bomb trials
 CHESTERFIELD. to northward and westward of Irish Coast.
 CHESTERFIELD will report her P.C.S. as necessary.
 (Cdre. Londonderry, 1627A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

Mining.

Rosyth. A.M. Q.Z.S. 175 and 152 searched to a width of 1½ cables each side centre line. A.M. Q.Z.S. 317 and Inch Keith Gate channel searched to a width of 1¼ cables. Above are the latest searched approach channels to Rosyth.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 1508A/4.)

War Diary.

4.12.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy S/M in 060° 17' N. 05° 48' W.
attacked. Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to
submerge.
(A/C 'T' of 692 Sqdn., 1034/4 to 18 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C of 692 Sqdn., 1034/4 to 18 Group.)
Enemy U-Boat position 060° (?17') N. 05° 48' W., course 220°,
10 knots.
(A/C B9XT, 1149/4.)
Am engaging submarine 043° 01', 013° 39', 6 miles astern of
convoy (K.X.7). Submarine sighted on surface 125°, course
and speed 260°, 10 at 2226.
*(KRAKOWIAK, 2320A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

* *Imp p. 128A*

U/B Their Lordships consider that the attack by
assessments. Hudson aircraft N. of 269 Squadron on 5th Oct.
1942, sank a U-Boat. *U. 582. (Com. Nowbotham + com. 6843)*
*(W.D. Note. Presumed 58.38 N. ?long. (about 23 W))
2. They also consider that the attack by Liberator aircraft H
of 120 Squadron on 12th October probably achieved the destruction
of a U-Boat. *U. 597. (Com. Nowbotham + com. 6843)*
W.D. Note: 757.29 N. 27.49 W. *Assumed pos. 56° 50' N. 28° 5' W.*
3. They request that Their congratulations may be conveyed to
those concerned with these successes.
(1st S.L., 2041A/4 to A.M., (R) H.Q.C.C.) * *Assumed pos. 56° 41' N. 22° 56' W.*

Navigational.

Clyde. Traffic on river Clyde east of Port Glasgow is
restricted to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1215A/4 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

Raft with My 1114Z/3. Tow has parted for 4th time. Now
A/C. towing at 2.5 knots. Position 56° 38', 10° 39'
course 116°. Suggest tug may be despatched
forthwith.
(PINK, 0041Z/4 to C. in C. W.A.)
PINK's 0041Z/4. Request you will sail NORTHERN SKY as
soon as possible to relieve PINK and tow barge to Belfast.
Trawler should embark any additional towing gear that may be
available.
(C. in C. W.A., 1220A/4 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)
Have handed over tow at 2300 to BATTLEFORD in 69°
298° Inishtrahull. Am proceeding Londonderry.
(PINK, 2321/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

AMBEROSE Necessary to delay sailing of AMBEROSE PARE⁷ owing
PARE. to adjustments found necessary to 12-pounder gun
mounting.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1016A/4.)

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

ROSEDEANE. Salvage ROSEDEANE grounded near Hawthorne Point south of Seaham Harbour at 4.40 a.m. this morning. Floated unassisted 9.50 a.m. and proceeded Seaham Harbour.
(Smith, West Hartlepool, 1135/4 to Admty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Consequent on a fire in the early hours of 3rd December damage has occurred to wiring and instruments after end of bridge. Possible effect on completion is being investigated.
(W.P.S. N.E. Area, 1205/4 to Admty.)
(Under constr. - Fin at Newcastle - on Tyne.)

AEGINA. Sailed Rescue Tug CHERBOURGEOIS III to assist Merchant Vessel AEGINA broken down in 50° 22' N. 05° 46' W.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1251A/4.)

MANCHESTER EXPORTER. Intercepted at 2037 from MANCHESTER EXPORTER. In collision in Bangor Bay, starboard side stove in.
(Port Patrick Radio, 2139/4.)
Received at 2040 from MANCHESTER EXPORTER. Require tugs to stand by.
(Port Patrick Radio, 2140/4.)

K.B. 82. Received at 2109 G.M.T. de K.B.82 Naval Control Belfast. K.B.82 was in collision with unknown ship. Probably no damage to self. Anchored near Tate. Impossible to proceed. Send Pilot.
(Port Patrick Radio, 2209/4.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.25, MATAROA. Continuous speed of MATAROA has been reported as 13.7 knots. Reduction below 14 knots is most serious as this speed is required for ships included in convoy W.S.25.
2. Request report of reason for reduction and whether speed can be restored to 14 knots before vessel sails in W.S.25.
(D.S.T., 0113A/4 to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.)

O.N.S. 150. Sailed WINCHELSEA to overtake O.N.S. 150.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 0845A/4.)

Harbour Launch No.1723. Admty. letter D.019490/42 of 1st October. Request harbour launch No.1723 may be sent in convoy J.W. 51 (51A) (sic). 2. Crew will be provided by Russians and British crew should not be sent.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1032A/4 to Admty.)

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.X. 6A. Your 0830A/3. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1037A/4 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- Admiralty's 1720A/27. Sailed DRANGEY. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1600A/5.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 1743A/4.)
- O.N.C. 151. My 0921/1. Amend (1) time of sailing to 1915A/4.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1100A/4.)
- O.N. 151. Intend to sail VANSITTART 1500A/4 for Lough Foyle to fuel and overtake O.N. 151 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1636A/3. E.T.A. 0400A/5. S.O.A. Q.Z.S.215 20 knots, then 14 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1104A/4 to Cdre.Londonderry)
- K.M.F. 5. Admty. 2000/1st.
(1) S.O. ARGUS.
(2) A/S escort from Clyde Capt. (D) 19 in LAFOREY, S.O., LIGHTNING, WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, WAVENEY.
(3) Request escort may arrive Greenock by p.m. 10th.
(C. in C. W.A., 1254A/4.)
- CADDO. Have you any news of CADDO (U.S.) due Reykjavik 2nd Dec. from Key West.
(D.T.D., 1628A/4 to S.O.(I.) Iceland.)
- S.C.L.110. S.C.L.110 arrived 1600Z/4.
(C.T.G. 24.6, 1734/4 to C.T.F.24.)
- T.A. 29. My 1016/3. Sailed. Add 13 hours to all times.
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH)
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758A/4.)
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1825/4.)
- S.C. 110 LORNASTON. Your 1155Z/4. 'O' portion is to proceed independently from (X).
Unless LORNASTON can carry out repair herself she is to proceed to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1833A/4 to ST. LAURENT.)
- K.M.S. 5. Arrived Cardiff portion K.M.S.5 escorted by THALASSA.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1846A/4.)

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

H.X. 217. FORT GIBRALTAR N.D. after bombs and nets carried away heavy weather damage.
MARWARRI steering defect and heavy weather damage.
FORT NORMAN deck cargo to be restowed. Heavy weather damage.
PAUL H. HARFLAT (U.S.) straggler.
EMPIRE GOLD steering defect.
TEUCER straggler minor deck damage.
NASSA straggler minor deck damage.
All ships ex H.X. 217.
(? Origin, 1949Z/4 to Admty.)

K.X. 7. P.C.S. 044° 12' N. 013° 34' W., 174°, 9.
(MELBREAK, 2000A/4 to Admty.) *p. 1289*

LADY OF MANN. It is desired to sail SS. LADY OF MANN with 850 military personnel from Belfast to Liverpool on night 8th/9th.
2. Request you will make arrangements and provide escort accordingly.
(D.O.D.(H.), 2005A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.F. 4, CLARE. My 1452/30th. *p. 1221*.
(1) CLARE is to proceed Gibraltar with SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN.
(2) Request CLARE may return with 44th group escorting M.K.F. 4.
(C. in C. W.A., 2215A/4 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry, N.C.X.F.)

M.K.S. 2A. Detach RHODODENDRON, HYDERABAD, HONEYSUCKLE, OXLIP at dawn/5 to Greenock at best speed.
(C. in C. W.A., 2220A/4 to GERANIUM.)

P.S. 5, S.P. 5. P.S.5 and S.P.5 are cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2358A/4.)

124

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

H.D.M.Ls. 1. H.D.M.Ls are being shipped in K.M.S.6 as follows:-
 (a) To Oran, 4 in EMPIRE CONFIDENCE. 1 in HAVILDAR. 2 in MACHARDA.
 (b) To Algiers, 2 in EMPIRE DARWIN. 1 in ALPHARD.
 2. In addition, 2 can be shipped in WELSH TRADER to Bone and 1 in LEVERNBANK to Bougie, but this will entail these ships calling at Algiers or Oran to off-load craft.
 3. Your decision as to whether the craft referred to in para 2 should be shipped as proposed is requested by 6th Dec.
 4. Hoped to ship the remaining 3 craft in K.M.S.7.
 (D.N.C.X.F. 0100A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. D of S.T.)

K.M.S.4. Route from position (G) through 37 72 109 (35.52 N ~~see p. 128 & 128A~~ 00.40 W) 34 100 thence Algiers. Adjust speed of advance to pass Europa Point at 0100A/8th. If necessary to waste time do so to eastward of 009° W.
 2. Local escort will join p.m. 7th Dec. as arranged by F.O.C.N.A. When they join *TAY, *WEAR, WOODRUFF, *CROCUS and S.O. Minesweeping F.15th are to be detached with Gibraltar Section T. * ~~see p. 131.~~
 3. Local escort consists of VENOMOUS (S.O.) WIVERN, VELOX, FLEETWOOD, (?) BADDECK, ALBERNI, (?) BUDE, PORT ARTHUR, VILLE DE QUEBEC. Destination of escort Algiers. * ~~see next page (M.K.S.3X)~~
 4. Oran ammunition carrier will be detached in position 109 at 0900A/9 local escort being provided by F.O. in charge Oran.
 5. Arrangements for ships proceeding to ports east of Algiers will be signalled later.
 6. Fighter protection priority 2 codeword "Horatius".
 7. F.O.I.C. Oran pass to C G 12th A F.
 (N.C.X.F. 0901A/4 to TAY. Escort K.M.S.4. F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. S.8. F.O.I.S. Commodore F. Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oran. Eastern Area. Eastern Command C G 12th A F. A.O.C. Gibraltar.)
 Your 0901A/4.

(1) 24 hours will be wasted east of 9 west. K.M.S.4 will pass 036° 00' N 007° 12' W at 1200A/7. Route from position (?) G will be signalled later to F.O.C.N.A.

(2) By 0100A/8 estimate "Flower" corvettes will have 20% fuel remaining.

(3) When local escort joins, propose detach 5 corvettes in Algiers escort to Gibraltar at best speed to fuel and to (corrupt group) remaining escort with convoy until they rejoin. Propose detach Gibraltar section off Europa Point escorted by 3 minesweepers.

(S.O. 30th Escort Group. 2333A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

K.M.F.4 A.M. 2000/1 para 8. Amend my 1413/2 para 4 to escorts. read K.M.(?F).4 ocean escort (?reinforced) by ~~see next page~~ F.O.C.N.A. Add new para 5 M.K.F.4. Local escort ~~9 pp 125A & 133~~ as for ocean escort of K.M.F.4. On passing Gibraltar *QUICKMATCH and *REDOUBT are to be relieved by *ERNE and ENCHANTRESS who will escort convoy to 043° north and return to Gibraltar. C. in C. W.A. is requested to reinforce escorts when ERNE and ENCHANTRESS leave. * ~~see p. 126~~ * ~~see next page~~
 (2) Para 3 delete ENCHANTRESS.
 (N.C.X.F. 1101A/4 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. (R) S.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Oran. Cdre. Algiers.) See also Algiers 1649A/4 (Mediterranean) 1101A/4 amended see 1920A/7.

/CALPE...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X - Contd.

CALPE

My 1134/30. (re 3rd and 6th Destroyer Flotilla at Gibraltar) Why has CALPE not yet joined Force H? When CALPE joins S.O. Force H is requested to send Fleet Destroyers to Algiers for Force Q. (N.C.X.F. 1215A/4 to F.O. Gibraltar Force (R) S.O. Force H. S.O.I.S. C.S.12. Cdre. F.)

M.K.S.3X.

See p. 135
My 1350A/2 (no trace in W.R. repetition being obtained) Convoy M.K.S.3X will now be routed (?so that) Oran section will join off Oran 1000A/7, to pass Gibraltar 1600A/8 direct to U.K. Details following. F.O.C. Gibraltar Force report names of ships for inclusion. (N.C.X.F. 1522/4 to F.O.C. Gibraltar Force. F.O.I.C. Oran. (R) Cdre. Algiers. Admty.) Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.3X at 1600A/5 routed through 38.18 N 01.26 E. 38.18 N 0.48 E. 37.57 N 0.22 E. thence through 109 93 50 78 57 lettered A to H B, stragglers route as convoy route.
(2) Ocean route 36.10 N 10.00 W. 38.28 N 15.00 W. 40.28 N 17.02 W. 43.45 N 17.50 W. 51.10 N 17.11 W. 54.30 N 13.45 W. 55.26 N 08.31 W lettered P to V to G for stragglers.
(3) Algiers section escorted by ROCHESTER, LEITH, ^XERNE, SCARBOROUGH, ^XSTORK, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, AZALEA. ** see previous page*
ix p. 127 (4) Oran section R/V in position 109 at 1000A/7.
(5) Gibraltar section and ocean escort *TAY, *WEAR, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, LYME REGIS, WORTHING, joining in position 57 at 1600A/8.
(6) COREOPSIS and JONQUIL form part of ocean escort.
(7) On relief by ocean escort local escort proceeding to Gibraltar. ** see previous page. (K.M.F.4)*
(8) First two letters of convoy W/T call sign QV.
(9) Codeword "Cockatoo".
(10) Fighter protection priority 2 in Algiers sector. (N.C.X.F. 1630A/4 to Cdre. Algiers. F.O.I.C. Oban. V.A. Gibraltar. (R) Capt. S.8. A.O.C. E.A.C. Cdre. F. A.O.C. Gibraltar.)

S/Ms from Home.

F.O.S. 1102/2 (re 4 submarines of Home Flotillas at present stationed at Gibraltar.) Intend to employ these submarines for further patrol in Mediterranean. (N.C.X.F. 1523/4 to Admty. (R) F.O.S. C. in C. H.F. F.O.C.N.A. Capt. S.8.)

K.M.F.4

see previous page
7 pp 126 1137 page
Your 1801/3. Additional escorts are to continue to Algiers where minesweepers will be retained in accordance with my 1052/28. *FARNDALE and *AVON VALE will be returned to Force H. If they have insufficient fuel to reach Algiers they should proceed to Oran. (N.C.X.F. 1531A/4, 2226A/4 to V.A. Gibraltar. (R) Escorts of K.M.F.4.) ** see p. 128*

/SCYLLA...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X - Contd.

*SCYLLA
ammunition
for Algiers.
**See next page*

Your 1118A/3 addressed S.O. Force H.
Am embarking following (details)
Your 1120/3, mines have been obtained.
Request you will confirm that charges not required.
(SCYLLA 1622A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.
S.O. Force H. C.S.12.)

Salvage
Officer.

Capt. Ellsberg U.S.N. has arrived Algiers.
Americans propose that he should be designated as
Chief Salvage Officer, "Torch" Area, by C. in C.
Allied Forces and attached to my Staff. Duties
would be (A) Direct salvage and repair operations incidental
thereto in area exclusive of those at Gibraltar.
(B) Organise and supervise salvage facilities other than those
at Gibraltar.
(C) Distribution of salvage equipment to meet priorities
established by N.C.X.F.
(D) Recommend priorities to N.C.X.F.
(E) Plan for salvage in ports of advanced areas now held by
enemy.

2. The services of this very experienced and successful Salvage
Officer will be invaluable and I should be glad of very early
Admty. concurrence in the arrangements proposed above.
(N.C.X.F. 1730A/4 to Admty.)

LADY
DENISON
PENDER

Your 1517Z/21 (providing of A/S escort for LADY
DENISON PENDER) Prospective early return U.S.
Atlantic Fleet 5 Des. and 3 A.M. temporarily
assigned this Command will leave 8 173 foot
escort vessels each mounting one 3 inch gun for
local patrol and escort plus 8 110 foot sub.-chasers suitable only
for inshore patrol. It is my understanding escort from this
Command is to be provided for about two weeks French Moroccan
area only.
(S.N.O.C.A. 2045Z/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Policy
towards
French
ships.

Consider revised orders should now be issued as
regards French warships, merchant ships and
aircraft. Intendissuing following in "Torch" area.
2. All French warships, merchant ships and
aircraft should now be regarded as friendly unless
they commit hostile acts except:

(A) Ships which are evidently emerging from or making for Axis
controlled French Ports or Axis Ports. Such ships are to be
directed to Ports under our control, force being employed if
necessary.
(B) French warships or merchant ships encountered north of
Latitude 40° north.
(N.C.X.F. 2105A/4 to Admty.)

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

E.T.3. E.T.3. E.T.A. 0715A/4th. *ROBERTS, WIVERN, BRILLIANT, FLEETWOOD, ENCHANTREES and French Escort BOUDEUSE in company. Request Gate at 0950A. Your 1453A/3 received, acknowledged. (VENOMOUS 0035A/4 to F.O.C.N. A.). **See next page*

Movements. Arrivals *SCYLLA, VELOX, VERITY. **See previous page.*
(F.O.C.N.A. 0806A/4 to Admty etc).
Arrival p.m./3rd H.M.T. ARCTIC RANGER.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1042/4 to Admty).
Departure P. 51, 1530. *See p. 134A*
(F.O.C.N.A. 1407A/4 to S.O.P. IMPERIALIST).

* B.A. Ts S.B.N.O. W.A. 2152Z/23rd Nov. O.N. 1838Q/1
L.C. Is. NJAU 1830/1. Request you will confirm route
* *See next page* and present estimation P.C. and S.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1011A/4 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty).
Confirmed (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1142Q/4) See A. & W.I.

EXE, CITY CITY OF EDINBURGH not met. Am searching on line
OF 040.degs and 220.10. on either side of position
EDINBURGH. 038.26 N. 013.32 W. Request any further
See p. 128A information.
(EXE 1115Z/4 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty).
To facilitate escort R/V report your
P, C. and S.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1537A/4, to CITY OF EDINBURGH
(R) Admiralty).
Your 1115Z/4th. Continue search to north westward. CITY
OF EDINBURGH has been ordered to report P.C. and S. Air
co-operation arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1555A/4 to EXE (R) Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

WILLOWDALE. My 2240/3. (2240/30 intended underwater examin-
ation of SS. WILLOWDALE), ship was port side
to jetty at Seville.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1142A/4 to Admty (R) N.C.X. F., B.N.A.
Madrid).

STORK. My 1350A/2nd (~~N.T. in W.B.~~ *p. 66*). STORK is to part
See p. 125 company and (? enter harbour) on reaching Gib.
F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange examination
of temporary repairs and sail STORK with M.K.S.3 (Y) if fitted
for passage to U.K.
(N.C.X.F. 1243A/4, to STORK, (R) ROCHESTER. F.O.C.N.A. Cdre.
Algiers, Cdre.F.).

BALSAM K.M.S.6. K.M.S.6. Admiralty 1252/24th. Nov. (re exchange
N.T. in W.D. of BALSAM with Corvette of N.A. Command). Intend
sailing BALSAM with K.M.S.6. to join your Flag.
(C. in C.W.A. 1256A/4 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty etc)

/B.A. TS....

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

B.A.T.s Situation 1956A/4th. 1 BAT 6 B.A.T. 10 estimated
See previous page 32.01, 27.03, through 34.01, (?23).01 thence
90 12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1324A/4 to A.I.G.64).

NORD There are indications that tanker NORD
ATLANTIC. ATLANTIC is preparing for sailing.
(R.O.Vigo 1700/4 to S.O.(I) Gib.(R) Admty,
for (D.N.I.) B.N.A. Madrid)

Mine. My 2240/30th. Nov. Mine similar to that
described in M.T.D. 1.94 with following
differences (A) 2 clamps instead of 3 (B) 1
clock instead of 3 (C) One explosive compartment (32 pounds
weight) instead of 2 overall length 44 inches.
2. Clock mechanism flooded and inoperative tail vane
mechanism connected.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1802/4 to Admty (R) B.N.A.Madrid, N.C.X.F.).

STURGEON Your 1743 (N. T. in W. R.) not to Capt.(S) 10.
P.54, 1.S/Ms will sail for patrol as follows P.228,
P.228. 8th, P.54, 9th, STURGEON, 12th.
2.P.54 has new C.O. and should not be employed
where A/S activity is intense.
3. STURGEON arrived 2nd after 22 days' patrol and has engine
defect.
(Capt.S.8, 1930A/4, to N.C.X.F.(R) F.O.C.N.A., Capt.(S) 10).

*ROBERTS, ROBERTS 2237/18/11.(re damage to upper deck)
damage. Temporary repairs at Gib. for passage to refitt-
See previous page ing port will complete about 15th December.
(C.S.Gibraltar 1930A/4 to Admty).

REDOUBT, E.T.A. 2100A/4th, QUICKMATCH in company.
QUICKMATCH. (REDOUBT 1951A/4, to F.O.C.N.A.(R) QUICKMATCH,
See p.124. EGRET).

K.M.S.4. Request you will sail A.S.I.Ship IMBER or
See p.124 VANELLUS and V. S.I.S. BAALTONIA to
join convoy K.M.S.4. Destination both ships
Algiers.
(N.C.X.F. 2112A/4, to V.A.Gibraltar, (R)
Escort of K.M.S.4. for Cdre.).

GRYFEVALE. V.A.C.N. A. 2000A/4, See 0250A/7.

FARNDALE FARNDALE and AVON VALE have insufficient fuel to
AVON VALE. reach (?Oran). Intend returning to Gibraltar
See p.125. E.T.A. 1000A/5th.
(FARNDALE 2232A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.(R) N.Cdre.X.F.
EGRET. AVON VALE).

MOST SECRET

128A

M E S S A G E

1326A/4th December.

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 F.O.C.N.A.

Date 4.12.42.

Time 2056

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

Situation 2002A/4.

(1) KMF 4, H.M.S. EGRET, H.M.S. FARNDALE, H.M.S. AVONVALE, H.M.S. RHYL, H.M.S. EBBE, *REDOUBT, *QUICKMATCH, BANFF, SWALE, CLACTON, 35 59 05 53 through Straits of Gibraltar 12. *See pp 124 & 125* * *See previous page*

(2) KMS 4, TAY, 7 Corvettes, 4 Trawlers, 37 54 12 12 to arrive in position 35 45 10 01 at 2000A/5th thence Gibraltar 7. *See pp 124 & 128*

(3) H.M.S. DUNBAR, one merchant ship, 35 47 09 26 to Gibraltar 11.

(4) EXE, one merchant ship, estimated 37 17 11 57 through 36 01 09 59 to Gibraltar 10. *See p. 127.*

(5) KX 7, *KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, *MELBREAK, H.M.S. LAUDERDALE, 43 34 13 35 173 7. * *See p. 120* * *See p. 123*

(6) U.S. Convoy, (land craft), 34 01 19 19 through 34 01 15 01 thence Dabai 10.

(7) ARCTIC RANGER, off Tarifa to R/V one merchant ship off Horn and escort direct to St. Vincent.

1326A/4

Advance copies sent Duty Capt.
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)
Duty Capt. (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. (M)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of P. (2)
D.M.S.
Ad. Blake. (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

MOST SECRET

1283

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

1820/4th December

From F.O.C. North Atlantic.

Date 4/12/42
Recd. 2015

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed A.I.G.65.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2004/4th.

1. GUF 2, 35 00 32 53 292 13.
2. BUTSER, 22 54 22 09 through 20 01 21 01 thence 169 9.
3. Italian Repatriation Tanker TAIGETE, 22 36 34 38 through 23 29 31 48 thence 73 9.
4. Cable Ship, one Trawler, 24 14 18 27 37 1.
5. Hospital Ship ATLANTIC, 17 04 19 56 004 degs. 13.

1820/4.

Advance copies Duty Captain
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.
Captain Pim
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
Duty Captain (2)
N.S.N.(3)
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D. of P.(2)
D.S.D.
Admiral Blake (2)
Admiral Ramsey (4)

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.IMPERIALIST
NORTH DEVON.Arrival 1950 IMPERIALIST with SS. NORTH DEVON
from Hornill.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2243A/4 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.,
F.O.C.Oran).

U/B.

Am over enemy S/M in 36.25 N. 0.55 W. first
reported on surface on course 150°, speed 6
knots.
(A/C C/S TR1R, 2346/4 to Gibraltar).South Atlantic.Dakar
negotiations.

Admiralty 0045A/4. See America & West Indies.

PROBISHER.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C.Durban 0344Z/4 to Admty etc).

W.S.24.

Arrived QUEEN OF BERMUDA, ROTHERHAM, NEPAL,
NORMAN escorting W.S.24.
(N.O.I.C.Durban 0518Z/4 to Admty etc).*PHOEBE,
M.Ls.* ~~See~~ p. 131BM.Ls.272, 244 lost touch during the night and
are no longer in company.
(PHOEBE, 0650Z/4 to B.N.L.O.W.A. etc)Routeing
of shipping
through
F.O.C.W.Af's
Area.C. in C.S.A's 1550/2/12. I am inclined to the
view that routeing of ships through this area
should be kept as flexible as possible and that
predetermined lanes of shipping should be
avoided until such time as air and surface
cover is sufficient to warrant use of coastal
route on either side of Atlantic. U-Boats policy is to
search for these lanes and when one is found it is usually
too late effectively to divert shipping which is somewhat
concentrated. I think it is best to accept raider menace
and spread shipping as widely as possible over the area,
relying on dispersion and individual diversion according to the
information available. Losses would not be prevented, but to
achieve great success U-Boats would have to approach terminal
points where they could be counter-attacked. When sufficient
and long-range aircraft and some hunting forces become
available I believe the coastal routes should be adopted.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1059Z/4, to C. in C.S.A. Admty).

/Personnel....

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Personnel ALMANZORA and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNVELT^E will be ready to leave Capetown for U.K. 15th Dec. Ships will be escorted to Freetown by ALCANTARA. Personnel can be embarked on escorted basis provided onward escort to U.K. is available.

*ALCANTARA.
* See p.131^A

Request your remarks. D. of S.T.'s 1519/2 refers.

2. ALCANTARA on arrival Freetown will be available to augment anti-blockade runner patrol in your area.
(C. in C.S.A. 1103C/4, to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty, D. of S.T.).
Your 1103C/4. *ASTURIAS will be available as ocean escort to U.K. but has no R.D.F. In view of S/M position and impossibility of providing A/S escort it does not appear advisable to embark escorted numbers unless absolutely necessary (F.O.C.W.Af. 1757Z/4 to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty, D.S. T.).
Reply. Admty 2241A/5. * See p.131^B

West Africa In view of conversations with Admiral Glasford, policy. U.S.N. should be grateful early indication of Admiralty policy as regards command and direction of Naval Operations in West Africa. My 1833/26 November refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1225Z/4 to Admty (R) N.C.X. F.).
Reply: Admty 0202A/7.

Aerodromes. My 1833/26 November (re decision reached by West Africa War Council concerning matters arising out of operations in North Africa). Please see A.H.Q.W. A's A.169 T.O.O.1740Z/1 Dec. to Air Min. (Opsum for 24 hrs) If fighter Squadrons are diverted it seems likely Hastings Aerodrome would be available to Navy and would fulfil all naval air requirements in Freetown area. Komenda when second runway completed could accommodate G.R.Squadron as well as naval requirements A.H.C.W.A. concurs.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1245Z/4 to Admty).

CLEANTHIS, B.L.C.C. CLEANTHIS reports having been circled? suspicious ship. by merchantman type vessel of 20 knots from 2100 to 2315/23rd November. Vessel disappeared to North West.
(C.S.A.Lourenco Marques 1450B/4 to S.O.(I) Capetown, S.O.(I) Kilindini, Admty).

MILFORD. Arrival 4th December.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1511Z/4 to Admty, N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

NORTHERN Admiralty Message 1318A/4th to F.O.C. West DUKE. Africa. NORTHERN DUKE intended as escort to convoy leaving Pointe Noire about 8th December is available at Pointe Noire if required.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1631Z/4 to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty, B.N.L.O.W.A.).

/Lourenco...

4.12.1942.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Lourenco Marques. Prolonged closure of Lourenco Marques would cause serious difficulties in maintaining coal supplies to Middle East and other areas which we are anxious to avoid. Request you will do everything possible to ensure coal traffic being maintained at recent levels.
(Admiralty 1713A/4 to C. in C.S.A.(R) C.S.A.Lourenco Marques C. in C. E.F.).
Reply:- C. in C.S.A. 1221/5).
- Transfer of S.O(I), Your 2205/22 and 1455/30 November. DESPATCH not available. M. of W.T. is communicating with Mr.Shortlands. Request you make necessary arrangements direct with latter.
(D.O.D.(F) 1714A/4 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).
- COPINSAY. Departure 4th December 1800Z H.M.T. COPINSAY.
(N.O.I.C.Takoradi 1806Z/4 to Admty etc).
- BREDON, INKPEN, INDIAN STAR. Your 1601Z/4th (N.T. in W.D.). INKPEN detached to contact and escort. My position 1800Z/4th 015.42 N. 020.00 W. 169° 10. Request final destination for BREDON, INKPEN, and INDIAN STAR may be communicated.
(BREDON 1817Z/4 to F.O.I.C.West Africa (R) N.O.I.C.Bathurst).
- T.S.26. Arrival 4th Dec. TAMARISK, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, SOUTHERN GEM with T.S.26.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1857Z/4 to Admty, N.O.I.C. Takoradi).
- CROCUS attack on U/B, * T.Ls.consider that your attack on a U-Boat on ~~5th~~ 6th October, 1942, probably achieved its destruction.2. They congratulate CROCUS on her success.
(D.A/S.W. Approved 1st S.L.2107A/4 to CROCUS):
Nothing not confirmed by Lt. Rosenthaler on (n). 6843
* See 25/11 - p. 1080.

131^A

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 1215C/4th Dec. IN.
From: C. in C.S.A., Date 4.12.42.
Recd: 1321.

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. *ALCANTARA, about 033° 35' South
027° 40' East to Simonstown. * *p. 130.*

GENISTA, H.M.S. NIGELLA, with L M D 3,
about 029° 30' South 031° 30' East to Durban

INCONSTANT, H.M.S. EXPRESS, with D N 4,
030° 30' South 035° 30' East to 030° 54' South
038° 44' East (?7) (?knots)

P. 552, 026° 25' South 011° 35' East to
(?028°) 20' South 012° 00' East and 031° South
015° East 9 knots.

SOUTHERN BARRIER, ROODE POORT,
STELLENBERG, STEENBERG, searching for survivors
in vicinity of 035° South 018° East. THYME
escorting tanker ELISE 033° 30' South 017°
(?50') East to westward 8½ knots.

1215C/4.

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

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

MOST SECRET

131^B

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.

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1247Z/4th December

From F.O.W.A.F.

Date 4/12/42
Recd. 1733

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Addressed A.I.G.150.

Situation at 2000Z.

2 Motor Launches escorting off Freetown to Marshall Is. 6.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, 00 57 19 38 to 00 35 South 19 43 thence to 270 degs. (?14). *See p. 130*

LADY ELSA, WELLARD, ^cARTIC EXPLORER, 05 40 19 20 064 degs. 9.

PICT, about 06 15 11 20 to Marshall Is. 9.

(?ST. WISTAN), escorting about 06 12 13 35 300 7.

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, escorting, 05 (?02) 11 58 135 12½.

~~2~~ ST. LOMAN, SPHENE, STELLA POLARIS, ^hKYBER, and 2 Motor Launches, with ST. 45, 03 36 (?10) 37 to 02 40 09 30 thence to 083 degs. 9.

FANDANGO, BARFOSS, 04 09 08 24 to Marshall Is.

H.M.S. NORWICH CITY, escorting 03 39 01 51 to Takoradi 9.

HOLCOMBE, with CF 9, 03 30 08 32 307 14.

H.M.S. ST. ZENO, H.M.S. NORTHERN DAWN, H.M.S. COVENTRY CITY, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE, escorting, about 01 59 South 08 08 East to Pointe Noire 5½.

H.M.S. CORINTHIAN, 007 degs. 51' South 004 degs. 22' 259 degs. 11½.

^{COMMANDANT}
H.M.S. *PHOEBE, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S. COMMANDANT
DROGOU, 000 degs. 12' 004 degs. 33' East 307 degs. 11 knots. ** See p. 129*

2 M.Ls. about Equator 005 degs. 01' East to Takoradi 11.

1247Z/4.

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.O.D.(F)(2) | | |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D.T.D.(3) | Hd. of M. | Adv. copies |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(M) | D.D.I.C.(2) | D.C., |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | D.T.D.(C) | I.P.(2) | D.O.D.(F) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.C.(2) | W.D. | D.T.D. |
| Captain Pim | U.S.N. | D. of P.(2) | D.M.S. |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | D.A./S.W. | D.N.I.(5) | D.D.O.D.(C) |

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Toulon, R/C of Toulon 1300/3. Vessel 150 feet long
Marseilles. now lying alongside STRASBOURG. Dry dock
containing 2 S/MS has been pumped out and S/MS
appear intact. ALGERIA and two "Suffren" class
cruisers still burning.

One tanker in Baie de la Seyne has steam up.
Marseilles 3 Dec. One tanker has sailed. Four small M/Vs
arrived and three small left. Movement of vessels in port
continues including one 380 foot liner to dry dock.
(P.R.U. Benson, 0335/4 D.D.I.C., 1030A/4 to N.C.X.F. etc).

Enemy Units. Following has been read by Malta. P.C. and S.
of one merchant vessel 32.58 N., 12.21 E.
180° 9 knots.

(A/C call sign ARB Duty F., 0412B/4).

P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers 32.57 N., 12.35 E. 270°
15 knots.

(A/C call sign ARB Duty B. 0541B/4).

P.45

See p. 141

Proceed forthwith to patrol position 037° 16'
010° 40'.

(Capt. S.10., 0501A/4 to P.45 C.S.15th Subs. on
Patrol N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8. C.S.12th).

My 0501/4th. Move 3 miles 270° from ordered
position.

(Capt. S.10., 1145A/4 to P.45 (R) N.C.X.F.)

ASHANTI

*See p. 139**(Algeria)**Movements.)*

Sailed (?ASHANTI) for Algiers routed through
position 17 (?39) and 100 E.T.A. 1700A/4th Dec.
(S.O. Force H., 0711A/4 to N.C.X.F., Cdre.
Algiers (R) F.O. Oran, Cdre. F. V.A. Gibraltar,
Capt. (S) 8, C.S.12, Capt. (D) 6).

Malta
Movements.

Arrivals ^{*}WELSHMAN, M.T.B. Nos. 262, 266, 315, 316.
(V.A. Malta, 0846A/4 to Admty. C.in C. Med.,
C.C.F.) ** See p 136*

MANXMAN

MANXMAN now at Mers el Kebir will not be in
safe condition to tow to U.K. until hull made
(?watertight) by patching. Ship must be docked
for this: cannot be docked at Oran since lifting
capacity of dock insufficient.

3. Intention is to carry out sufficient repairs and strengthen-
ing to enable ship to be towed to Gibraltar. Work will be
carried out at Oran, estimated time 3 or 4 weeks after arrival
there.

4. Ship cannot be moved to Oran until draught (?decreased)
by removal of weights. This now in hand.

5. Full details follow by air mail.

(S.O. Force H., 0857A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O. Oran, Admty.

VINDICTIVE. MANXMAN, V.A. Gibraltar).

Movements
Alexandria.

Arrivals 3rd Dec. HURWORTH, SOUTHERN ISLES, REDWOOD

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Lon/S.Movements,
Alexandria.
Contd.

T.L.C.17, 9, 113, 13, L.C.M.⁽¹⁾112. Departure 3rd Dec. PROTEA, KINGSTON CRYSTAL, T.L.C.106, SAKTOURIS, G.S.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0914B/4 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

Reinforcements
for Force X.

A. Your 1536/3 Dec. (Hush N.T. in W.D.) Will do everything possible to help.
B. Three Elco M.T.Bs. have reached Malta. Order them where you want. I am afraid VIENNA has not right spare gear but they can do a few days and then return Malta for overhaul or replenish torpedoes. Am sending five more to Malta. Draw on these as you wish. Will send Captain Coastal Forces to Malta.
C. Will place all my submarines at S.10s disposal but two should be stationed on east Tunisian Coast. Either TAKU or TURBULENT must complete a projected operation while on passage. Details of submarines available for you later.
D. 821 Albacore Squadron now in Malta. 826 Squadron now moving to Benghazi can be used to back it up as R.A.F. require. Appears hopeless for point of view of maintenance personnel and stores to send any to your area; in any case they appear well placed at Malta.
E. Am informing S.10.
(C. in C. Med., 0952B/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. V.A. Malta).

RORQUAL
minelaying.

Am keeping RORQUAL at Malta pending decision where laying is to take place.
(Capt. S.10. 0955A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S)1).
Your 1202/2nd. (N.T. in W.R.) It would be preferred that mines should be laid south of latitude of Cani Rock on Bizerta route. Request you will give RORQUAL discretion to lay as he (?thinks) best after study of the situation. Mines to be within 5 miles of Cani Rock if laid north of 37.20 or between 10.00 and 10.15 W., if south of that latitude.
(N.C.X.F., 1153A/4 to Capt. S.10 (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

L.C.T.

Tact. Your 1810A/3rd Request you divert L.C.T. to arrive Jijelli dawn 5th.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1006A/4 to N.O.I.C. Bone (R) R.A.F. Jijelli N.O.I.C. Philippeville, A.O.C. Eastern Air Command etc).

Force H.
Mers el
Kebir.

Your 1239A/2nd Dec. para. 2 following are objections to which some weight must be attached at present though in time they will disappear.
(A) Pending completion of net defence, ships in harbour are inadequately protected against under-water attack.
(B) Until such times as night fighters are available protection of fleet against night air attack will be poor.
(C) Coastal batteries are still in French hands.

/(D)...

War Diary.

4.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - 4/12/51.

→ Force H. (D) In bad weather period not more than (?3) heavy ships and 3 cruisers could berth safely unless berths on inner mole were available.
Mers el Kebir. (E) Until W/T station ashore can handle all outward traffic presence or absence of fleet from Mers el Kebir must always be known (?to) enemy.
Contd. (F) So long as priority given to unloading personnel and store ships may on occasion deny or limit use of port by Force H Mers el Kebir cannot be entirely suitable as fleet base.
2. For prolonged use improved base facilities would be required including (a) Victualling store ship (b) Canteen (c) Recreational facilities (d) Improved mail arrangements (e) At least another power tug.
(S.O. Force H., 1027A/4 to N.C.X.F.)

Air R/C. Forenoon visuals Dec. 4th.
1. Naples. 3 battleships 4 cruisers.
2. Taranto, 3 battleships.
3. Messina. 5 cruisers, 5 destroyers.
1 merchant ship leaving 1 merchant ship stopped, outside harbour.
(V.A. Malta, 1049A/4 to ORION S.O. Force K. etc).

→ Force H. Sailing (?4th) E.T.A. Gibraltar 0630A (?Zero) hour at Gate 0800A/6th Dec.
movement. (ii) Request arrangements may be made to take 3 destroyers in hand for boiler cleaning on arrival. (iii) F.O.C.N.A. acknowledge.
(S.O. Force H., 1101A/4 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
Force H leaves Mers el Kebir today and proceeds eastward subsequent arrive Gibraltar daylight 6th.
(Capt. S.8., 1140A/4 to 8 S.F.)

P.42 My 1535/2. Proceed from K to R/V M.L. at 0801A/5 Dec. in 036° 00' 014° 03' whence you will be escorted into harbour. You are not to be south of 036° 00' before R/V is made. Gozo Light N.W. sector will be shown from 0400A until 0600A/5 Dec. (Capt. S.10., 1114A/4 to P.42 (R) V.A. Malta, C.S. 15, ORION, M.L.3., Com. M.S.)

Situation Brief Sit. Rept. Western Med., 1958A/4th S/Ms. excepted.
1. EGRET's convoy K.M.F. 4 passes* Europa Point 2200A/1st routed 70.86, 109,34 100 12½. Oran section is detached in 109 during daylight 5th (?.) *QUICKMATCH *REDOUBT, TANATSIDE being detached to Gibraltar subsequently rejoining (?.) *OBAN, CLACTON *ALDENHAM) FARNDAL, AVON VALE part company daylight 5th and off Gibraltar. * see p.128
* passed intended. * BANFF intended - see p.128A * * SWALE

MOST SECRET

134A

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.

1138A/4th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From Captain (S) 8.

Date 4.12.42.

Recd. 1456A.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed Ships & Authorities in Area "G".

IMPORTANT

Submarine situation Western Mediterranean 2000A 4th.

- (i) H.M.S. P.222, 038 degs. 50' North 007 degs. 49' East to eastward 11 knots. *See p. 138. 7141*
- (ii) H.M.S. TRIBUNE, 038 degs. 46' North 002 degs. 42' East through 135 Cape Palos 10 and 180 Cape de Gata 10 to Gibraltar 11 knots.
- (iii) H.M.S. URSULA, 043 degs. 35' North 007 degs. 56' East course 230 degs. 8 knots.
- (iv) H.M.S. P.51, 036 degs. 24' North 004 degs. 44' West through 180 Cape de Gata 5, 135 Cape Palos 3 thence 065 degs. 8 knots. *See p. 127*
- (v) H.M.S. TIGRIS, within 20 miles 38 01 North 07 30 East.
- (vi) All submarines diving by day 2½ knots, surfacing as stated.

1138A/4

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

A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim.
D.O.D.(H) (2).
D.O.D.(F) (2).
D.T.D.(M).
D.D.C.D.(M).
Duty Captain (2).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D. of Plans (2).
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2).
Admiral Ramsey (4).
F.O.(S) by courier.

War Diary.

4.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - cont'd:

** WHEATLAND - See p. 139.*
 Situation. 2. BICESTER, VIGEROY, QUEEN EMMA sailed Algiers
 Contd. 2000A/4th routed 87.36 to Phillipeville 20.
 3. M.K.S. 3 (X) Bone section FELIXSTOWE,
 ROTHESAY, MARIGOLD, POLRUAN, BRIXHAM, 037° 05' N.
 004° 09' E., routed 10 miles N. of Bengut thence
** Movement of H.R. 261/4 - Via E. Roy to U.K.*
 Algiers 6.
See p. 128 4. M.K.S. 3 (X) ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, STORK,
 COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, AZALEA, sail Algiers 1200A (corrupt group)
 routed 100 44.17 035° 52' N., 000° 40' W., 93.50 78 (957) -
 7½. Oran section R/Vs in 035° 52' N., 000° 40' W., 1500A 6th.
 5. T.E.7 A. ALARM, *CADMUS, LORD HOTHAM, 037° 07' N., 006°
 17' E., routed inshore to Bone 7. ** See p. 114.*
 6. 7 and 8. Safe conduct ships.
 (N.C.X.F., 1129A/4 to S.&A. area G).
 Add to my 1129A/4th new para.
 (ix) Force H operating to North East of Oran turning W. to
 arrive Gibraltar at 0630A/6th and new para.
 (x) LEONIAN escorted by NASTURTIUM, LUNENBURG sailed Oran
 p.m./4th for Algiers.
 (N.C.X.F., 1712A/4 to A.I.G.262).

9 hits 3/4. See 1410/4, p. 139.

Cositrep Air. 4. Night 2/3 Dec. Albacores from Malta
 No. 613. successfully attacked escorted southbound convoy
 two merchant vessels off Kerkenna Islands. 4
 torpedo hits. Ships left burning.
 5. Malta Wellingtons bombed Docks at Tunis and
 Bizerta. Both operations hampered by cloud.
 6. Enemy aircraft bombed Tobruk Harbour. One shot down by
 A.A. fire. Wellingtons and Halifaxes intruded against
 Heraklion, aerodrome of returning enemy bombers, starting 4
 fires. Low cloud prevented observation damage.
 (C. in C. M.E., 1235B/4).

P.35, Arrival P.35, departure PORPOISE.
 *PORPOISE. (V.A. Malta, 1327A/4 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,
 * *See p. 141* Capt. S.1. N.C.X.F.)

Aden Arrivals 1030Z BOMBAY, 1332Z DAUNTLESS.
 Movements. (Cdre. Aden, 1401Z/4 to Admty. C. in C. Med.,
 F.O.C. Red Sea Force, S.O's (I) Kilindini,
 Colombo, Bombay).

E.T.5 Intend to sail for E.T.5 R/V 1400A/6th, 99 SS.
 OCEAN VALENTINE 11 knots. M.H. 85 D/F
 L.T.S. FOREST 10 knots. M.H. 87 D/F LTS to
 Algiers for onward routeing to U.K.
 (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1430A/4th to S.O.I.S. (R)
 Cdre. Algiers N.O.I.C. Bone).

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

CELENO
(Italian). Reported B.3 CELENO may arrive here from
Constanza Dec. 5th to Dec. 6th N.L.O. Black Sea
informed.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1432C/4 to S.O.I. Med).

Enemy Units Following has been read. P.C. and S. of one
enemy merchant vessel and one enemy war motor
boat 32.55 N., 13.12 E. stationary.
(A/C using Call Sign FCLM 1445B/4).

Following has been read. 2 enemy destroyers one small
merchant vessel and 3 E-boats position 36° 57' N., 10° 28' E.
course 235° speed 10.

(A/C using call sign FAUD 1512A/4).

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy merchant
vessels 4 E-boats, 3 minesweepers 37° 0' N., 10° 30' E. 180°
5.

(A/C using call sign FAUE 1515A/4).

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of enemy destroyer
37.25 N., 10.05 E., 220° 25, one minesweeper 37° 15' N., 10° 0'
E. 090° 5.

(A/C using call sign FAUE, 1520A/4).

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of one medium sized
enemy merchant vessel 37° 20' N., 10° 0' E., course 235° speed 10

(A/C using call sign FAUD 1525A/4).

P.C. and S. of 2 medium-sized merchant vessels one
destroyer two E-boats 37.26 N., 10.47 E. 080° 8 knots.

(Aircraft using call sign FAUD 1535A/4).

P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer 2 medium sized merchant
vessels and one E-boat position 37.55 N., 11.00 E., course 060°
speed 10 one E-boat position 37° 50' N., 11° 30' E., course
180° speed 20.

(A/C using call sign FAUE 1550A/4).

Rafts. Following received from Wick Radio addressed
Admiral Lyness. Intercept at 1450 G.M.T. from
Alexandria W/T addressed all ships. (Begins)
Three rafts position 33° 46' N., 12° 02' E.
remainder unread.
(A.C.O.S., 1550/4 to Admty).

*WELSHMAN,
destroyer.

* see p.132

My 1500/4th to C. in C. Med., Fleet only.
WELSHMAN and 1 fleet destroyer sail from Malta
for Alexandria at about 1500/5th routed through
position MM 035° 22' N., 014° 005' E. N N 032°
20' N., 019° 50' E., thence 15 miles off

Cyrenaican coast to O O 032° 50' N., 023° 15' E. P P 032°
25' N., 023° 40' E. thence direct to Alexandria searched channel.
Speed 20 knots.

2. Fighter protection codeword "Bosom" W/T call sign B A Z.
C. in C. Med., pass to air authority.
(V.A. Malta, 1559A/4 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. 15 C.S.etc).

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- 12 C.S. On completion of your sweep tonight return to Bone. Fighter protection has been arranged from 1st Light.
(S.O.I.S., 1606A/4 to C.S.12).
- Messina, Visual Dec. 4th. 1145 Messina, 5 cruisers still present, 3 E-boats. Augusta 7 E-boats 6 probably arrived yesterday.
Augusta, (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1618A/4 to C. in C. Med.,
R/C. N.C.X.F., etc).
- K.M.F.4 Pass to convoy.
See pp. 124, 125
(1) All ships will discharge at Algiers. One Officer each serial report E.S.O. on arrival.
(2) 5% baggage party each serial remain on board.
(3) All ranks F.S.M.O. and will march 10 miles to bivouac and then live hard, no transport.
(4) Arranged for petrol cookers available.
(5) Speed vital.
(Cdre. Algiers 1649A/4 to S.O. Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.4. (R) Escorts of K.M.F.4.)
- Sweep by C. in C. Med. 0952/4. Request you will sail
M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs as soon as convenient to carry out sweep in Gulf of Tunis and off Bizerta and arrive Bone at daylight.
(2) E-Boats are known to operate in this area and in the vicinity of Galita Islands.
(3) It would assist if C.C.F. could fly to Algiers for (?conference).
(N.C.X.F. 1700A/4 to V.A. Malta. (R) C. in C. Med. S.O.I.S. C.S.12. N.O.I.C. Bone.)
Your 1700/4. The 4 M.T.Bs now here will if possible be ready to sail p.m. Tuesday 8th otherwise Wednesday.
(V.A. Malta 2150A/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med. S.O.I.S. C.S.12. N.O.I.C. Bone.)
- M.T.Bs. Motor torpedo boats 265 and 307 leave Alexandria
Malta, 1400/5th arrive Ras al Hilal 0700/6th by Seaward
Benghazi. Route S. of A. 25 knots. Constant W/T watch on 425 k/cs. Code word "Solar". They are to be sailed on 7th to Malta. After their arrival at Malta transfer advance base to Benghazi, leaving 4000 gallons fuel at Ras al Hilal.
(F.O.C. Coastal Forces 1709B/4 to M.T.B. Advance Base (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.C. 15th C.S., A.I.G.72, V.10. H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.)
My 0952/4th Dec. para. (B). 4 M.T.Bs. have reached Malta and 4 more will be sent. My 0926/4th Dec. (N.T. in W.R.) was drafted last night and is modified by my 0952/4th.
(C. in C. Med., 1736B/4 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty. V.A., Malta).

4.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P.222
p.134 A
3 141
 Your onward route through (1) 038° 26' 009° 06' (2) 040° 18' 013° 10' further orders will be signalled.
 (Capt. S.10., 1740A/4 to P.222 (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8 S/Ms on patrol).
- TISZA
 (German).
 My 1621C/3 (Re Harbour tug flying German flag) Tug's name TISZA: expect to sail for Piraeus Dec. 5th B.4.
 (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1745C/4 to S.O.(I) Med., S.1)
- ABBEYDALE
 No.7 Port Wing tank damaged in fouling sunken wreck Oran Harbour. Consider dry docking necessary to make good repair. Ship now under orders proceeding Gibraltar, presumably for necessary repairs.
 (ABBEYDALE, 1801A/4 to Admty. (R) Force H., F.O.C.N.A, B.N.L.O. Oran).
- Algiers
 Sitrep 30 dated 3rd December.
 1. Naval. U.G.S. 2 being berthed Casablanca; conditions reported crowded.
 6. Air. On night 3/4th Dec. Bizerta docks and shipping were bombed from 20,000 ft. by 18 B.17s dropping 45 tons of bombs.
 Hits observed on 2 vessels canals and docks.
 (Algiers, 1801Z/4 to Abfor). See also E.A.C., 2230/4.
- Operation
 "Quadrangle
 A".
 D Day 6th Dec. time zone either side 2. N.O.I.C. Port Said is to sail convoy M.W.15 (AMERICAN PACKER and OZARDA) for Malta at 1400 D day, escorted by 14th M.S.F. routed by Alexandria inshore route to "Home" thence through "Warm" 10 miles North of "Rum" 5 miles North of "Bend" thence "Trouble" "Blow" "Chop" "Egg" below X 035° 00' N., 021° 00' E. Y Y 032° 27' N., 019° 40' E., and Z Z 035° 22' N., 014° 05' E.
 2. Anticipated S. of A. 10 knots.
 3. ORION 4 Hunts are to join M.W.15 at 0700 D plus 3 and provide escort to Malta.
 4. 14th Minesweeping Flotilla is to be detached at position Y Y and is then to act as ordered by S.O. Force I.
 5. ORION report intended movements between leaving M.E.11 and joining M.W.15.
 6. Force K is to be at 1 hour's notice for sea from 1200D plus I until otherwise ordered by R.A. Malta.
 7. Air authorities are requested to arrange necessary fighter and A/S protection, R/C and air striking forces to cover the operation.
 8. Fighter protection codeword for convoy M.W.15 throughout is "Siren".
 9. N.L.O. will not be embarked in merchant ships.
 (C. in C. Med., 1858B/4 2110B/6 to N.O.I.C. Malta, H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., etc).

/Malta...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Malta
Intelligence
Summary
2000A/3 to
2000A/4.

Naval. On 2nd Dec. H.M. Sub. P.35 gunned and set on fire a small M/V approx. 1100 tons south of Kuria⁶. She has now returned to Malta with nine G.A.F. personnel and one German army who had a few hours before been rescued by the vessel. They were from a Ju.52 bound from Tripoli to Trapani which they stated had run out of gas.
(2) Enemy air activity. Confined to two small

R/C sweeps.

(3) Strikes. Night 3/4 Dec. Wellingtons bombed Sicilian aerodromes to cover approaching Malta convoy. 29,000 lbs. of bombs dropped on Catania. Hits claimed on runway, dispersals, and perimeter tracks. 16,500 lbs. on Comiso. Hits claimed on middle of aerodrome and fire started. 12,000 lbs. on Gerbini results obscured by haze. Albacores torpedoed two M/Vs 3,000 tons 350° Zuara 44 miles course 130°. One M/V blown to pieces, second M/V left burning fiercely with strong list to starboard. Two Beaufighters on intruder patrols Eastern Tunisia saw no activity. Two 250 lb bombs dropped on railway between Sfax and Gabes. Two 250 lb. bombs dropped on Pantelleria aerodrome.

Day 4. Beaufighters and Spitfires maintained protective patrols over Malta convoy approaching from East.
(Govr. Malta, 1910Z/4 to Air Min. for Gen Eisenhower).

Air Report. Second Part A.70 4 Dec. T.O.O.1915A/4 Op. Sum. 1800/2 to 1800/3.

4 Hudsons carried out A/S sweeps 1 of them attacked large surfaced U-boat position 37° 15' N., 4° 45' E. with 4 depth charges of which 2 straddled the U-boat. Hits also scored on C/T with Aircraft's foreguns. Approx. 1 hour after attack oil patch half mile in diameter seen, also small yellow (?raft).
(E.A.C., No T.O.O.)

4. U.S.A.A.C. Report. 18. B.17s escorted by 18 P. 38s attacked Bizerta Harbour at 1043 hours from 20,000 feet, in 8/10 cloud. K.180 500 lb. bombs dropped. Hits observed on 2 of 6 or 8 ships in Port. 2 or 3 groups of U-boats also seen. Increased heavy flak.
(E.A.C. 2230A/4).

Supplies for
Malta.

When empty merchant ships have left Malta propose to load up the 4 fastest to ensure supplies for the Island being built up at the earliest possible moment.
(C. in C. Med., 1920B/4 to Admty. (R) V.A.M. 393 P.S.T.O. Middle East D.S.T.)

Algiers
movements.

Algiers arrivals, ASHANTI, from the west. Departures yesterday, third, QUIBERON to the west, today AURORA, ARGONAUT, *ESKIMO and TARTAR to the east. *QUEEN EMMA, *WHEATLAND, and *BICESTER to Philippeville. *
(Cdre. Algiers, 2116A/4 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C.) *
/Malta...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Night 3/4th Dec. Beaufighter dropped 2 250 lbs. bombs on Pantelleria airfield
C.S.R.4th 11 seconds delay
Dec. Delayed action prevented observation of results.
Day 4th Dec. Following action was taken to protect approach of convoy from east. 0345 hours. first patrol of 4 Beaufighters was airborne and convoy was located 0536 hours 220 miles south east of Malta. A total of 8 further Beaufighter sorties was flown over the convoy. At 1110 hours 1st Spitfire patrol found the convoy and continuous patrol over convoy was maintained in showery weather by a total of 28 long range Spitfires and 4 short range Spitfires. By 1612 hours convoy had been safely escorted to 75 miles south east of Malta and no attack was attempted while under our fighter protection. (?0928 or 0925) hours 16 enemy fighters approached Malta at great height and in spite of partial R.D.F. interference were intercepted north of the island by 8 Spitfires enemy fighters who had height advantage turned back refusing combat. A.A. fired pointer rounds. 1352 hours. 4 Spitfires Airborne to intercept 6 Me. 109s that approached Malta at great height. Enemy aircraft although having height advantage avoided combat and returned to Sicily A.A. fired pointer rounds. 12 Spitfires carried out reconnaissance patrols for enemy shipping and aircraft N. and W. of Malta 4 Spitfires on offensive R/C of Lampedusa made no sightings (A.H.Q., Malta, 2145Z/4, 2227/4).

→ P.219, No torpedoes remaining. Estimate 2 hits on ships
R. of P. bound Cagliari night 29th Nov. one possible hit southbound convoy night 1st Dec. 1 possible hit 5300 tons escorted merchant ship course and speed 250 10 knots. at 0918/4th in position 260° Marittimo 30. My P.C. and S. 039° 00' N., 012° 00' E., 030° 10 knots.
2 Supply vessels 1 destroyer 2 E-boats P.C. and S. 038° 12' 011° 45' 045° 8 knots at 1707/4th.
(P. 219, 2213A/4 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) Capt. (S) 8 LONDONDERRY).
If patrol position proves to close in for charging, you should withdraw to 210 Carina Point 15 which is recommended by TURBULENT.
(Capt. S.10., 2245A/4 to P.219).

P.43 Retire 30 miles N.W. and make situation report.
See next page We are not having success against important southbound shipping approaching Tripoli and Bizerta. I welcome proposals. Return patrol line by dawn.
(Capt. S.10., 2213A/4 to P.43).

S/M Patrols. (1) Your 1450/19th Nov. addressed Admty. not to Capt. (S) 1 and Capt. (S) 8. Ref. para. 3. If this is intended in near future subs concerned would be sailed with sufficiency of spares and personal gear for transfer without prejudice to patrol efficiency
(2) Your 1143/4th Dec. para. 2. P.212 and P.247 will be ready for patrol from Monday 7th and seem suitable reliefs for P.217 and P.219.
(Capt. S.10 2315/4 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 8). ~~/~~Enemy...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers 2 merchant vessels
38.55 N., 12.30 E., 045° 10.
(A/C C/S GHNT, 2330/4 to Air H.Q., Malta).

S/M situation P.37, P.43, P.48 on patrol line 350° 4 miles from
2000A/4th. Cape St. Vito 5 miles Bizerta.

See previous page.
See next page 2. P.217. P.219 proceeding from west of
Marittimo to patrol approaches to Naples. *See previous page*

3. P.45 in approaches to Tunis and Bizerta. *See p.132*

4. P.222 in position 038° 40' 008° 00' E. proceeding to patrol
off Naples. *See pp 134A & 138*

5. PORPOISE 036° 10' 013° 30' routed as in my 0005A/1st to G.
thence to 038° 40' 008° 00' thence to Gibraltar speed of advance
165 in 24 hours.

(Capt. S.10., 2335A/4 to R.A.12 C.S.)

→PORPOISE

See p.135

PORPOISE sailed 1300A for Gibraltar. Route as
in my 0005A/1st not to F.O.C.N.A., From B. to
038° 39' 008° 01' at 0100A 7th thence as
ordered by Capt. (S) 8th Sub. 2 torpedoes
carried, daily advance 165 miles.
(Capt. S.10., 2359A/4 to Capt. (S) 8th S.F. (R)
N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., Subs. on Patrol
F.O.C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Malta).

~~SECRET~~
14-1A

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.

2335A/4th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From Captain (S) 10.

Date 5.12.42.

Recd. 1735.

NAVAL CODE (L.2) BY W/T

Addressed R.A. 12 C.S. *See previous page*

Submarine situation 2000A 4th. H.M. Submarine P.37, H.M. Submarine P.43, H.M. Submarine P.48, on patrol line 350 degs. four miles from Cape St. (2 corrupt groups) to five miles apart.

(2) H.M. Submarine P.217, H.M. Submarine 219, proceeding west of Marettimo to patrol approaches to Naples.

(3) H.M. Submarine P.45 in approach to Tunis and Bizorta.

(4) H.M. S/M P.222 in position 038 degs. 40' 008 degs. 00' East proceed to patrol off Naples.

(5) H.M.S. PORPOISE 036 degs. 10' 013 degs. 30' routed as in my 0005A 1st to G thence to 038 degs. 40' 008 degs. 00' thence to Gibraltar speed of advance 165 in 24 hours.

2335A/4

Advance copy sent Duty Captain, D.O.D.(F).

A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim.
D.O.D.(H) (2).
D.O.D.(F) (2).
D.D.O.D.(M).
Duty Captain (2).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D. of Plans (2).
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2).
D.T.D.(M).
F.O.S. by courier
Admiral Ramsey (4).

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.P.61. Departures LISMORE, MADRAS, with B.P.61.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0050Z/4, to Admty, F.O.C.R.I.N,
S.O.(I) Colombo, etc).

Proposed A/S Operation. Your 1511C/3. My present destroyer force consists of HOTSPUR and Two "Hunts", the latter being quite unsuitable for extended operations with a Carrier.

2. It is not therefore possible to undertake the operation proposed in your para.3. until some long range destroyers are available. The proposal will then be further considered if Admiralty confirm that their evidence supports your suggestion.

(C. in C.E.F. 0814Z/4 to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty).
See also 0712Z/6.

Diego Suarez Minefields. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0851Z/3 December. In addition to blowing up of No.4 mine loop, numbers 5 and 6 were recently damaged by one of H.M.Ss. Thus large gap now exists in centre of minefield.

Propose these 3 mine loops should be relaid by SPINDRIFT and MANCHESTER CITY prior to the laying of the C.M.field at Saldanha Bay.

MANCHESTER CITY should complete refit at Durban on 5th December.
(C. in C.E.F. 0914Z/4, to Admty (R) C. in C.S.A. Cdre. Durban N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez).

Reply: C. in C.S.A. 1308G/5 Admty 2045A/5.

U.S.Forces. A.M. 1137/27. Following changes in disposition of U.S. Forces in Pacific.
RICHMOND, At Callao, INDIANA, COLUMBIA, South Pacific area. INDIANAPOLIS, NASHVILLE, At Pearl Harbour, MEMPHIS At San Juan.
(D.O.D.(F) 1024A/4 to C. in C.E.F.).

U/B assessment. A.M. 1845/9th July. (a) E.F.3. (b) 16th October, (c) TUUP, (d) 023.24 N. 065.13 E. (e) H, (g) Nil.
(a) E. F.4, (b)*8th October. (c)*ACTIVE. (d) 003.28 S. 017.05 E. (e) C. (g) U/Boat similar in appearance to NARWHAL Class. *U.179 ~~247~~ 4/10-p.202-9/10hp 247
(2) With ref. to serial E.F.4. Appreciate that this encounter took place off E.I.Station but since report forwarded to C. in C.E.F. an assessment has been included.
(C. in C.E.F. 1043Z/4).

Reassessed B. by Admty, 1744A/29/12/42.

Rangoon bombed. C. U.S.A.A.F. report 6 Liberators bombed Rangoon night 29/30. 1 missing.
(Air H.Q. India 1138Z/4).

Japanese U/Bs. Estimated positions.
(C. in C.E.F. 1320Z/4, to E.I.Stn.).

/Raider...

4.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Raider Situation. *see p. 147* 1. RAMSES en route Kobe to (?Germany) via Batavia intercepted by H.M. Ship and scuttled in position 023.46 S. 099.05 E. on 28th. . 78 German survivors Also 10 Norwegians ex AUST probably sunk by raider E in April and ex KATTEGAT by raider H in May, both in South Atlantic.

2. CORTELLAZZO out-bound blockade runner intercepted by H.M. Ship and sunk in position 500 West of Finisterre on 1st. Tanker ANTARKTIS reported departed Vigo 30th. May be out-bound blockade runner. In-bound vessel almost certainly EMPIRE DAWN which was believed captured or sunk by raider H. or J. in South Atlantic during September has arrived La Pallice. (C. in C.E.F. 1322Z/4 to S. and A.E.I. Stn.).

144

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Dakar Ref. J.S.M. 511 para 5 not to F.O.C. West Africa negotiations. or N.C.X.F. It is not quite clear to us whether Admiral Glassford will now proceed direct to Dakar after reaching Accra or to Algiers. In any case, we concur it is most desirable that F.O.C. West Africa should have an opportunity of talking things over with him at Accra. Request you will arrange this, if possible, and report arrangements direct to F.O.C. West Africa.
(M. Branch 0045A/4 to B.A.D. (R) F.O.C. W.A. N.C.X.F.)
- U.S. S/M Amend my 1550/3.
Notice. (Cominch 0157/4.)
- BARRIE Have been in vicinity (?Cape) Spear 0600Z, no
ST. CLAIR trace of ST. CLAIR or LADY RODNEY.
LADY (BARRIE 0840Z/4 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.U. 24.18.4.)
RODNEY.
- CLAN My 1141/3. Four more survivors landed Trinidad.
MACFADYEN Amended time of attack 2315 G.M.T.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1046R/4 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)
- L.C.I(L)s. Your 1011/4. Route ordered in my 2152/23 Nov.
is confirmed.
2. My 1842/1 para 1. It was understood by C.O.
of L.C.I(L) 7 that R/V was ordered in position 31.18 N 55.58 W
at 1600Z/28 Nov. in endeavour to obtain better weather.
3. Consider it probable that Flotilla has rejoined route ordered
and estimate position at 0001Z/4. Dec. as 34.45 N 32.20 W.
4. L.C.I(L)s are highly susceptible to weather and lack of
Meteorological information on route makes accurate estimation
impossible.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 1142Q/4 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty.)
- O.N.148 Unless there are indications of U-Boats shadowing
convoy intend detaching ships for Wabana at 1830Z/4
escorted by GENTIAN and HEATHER.
(C.T.U. 24.1.16. 1208Z/4 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav.
etc.)
- ASKILD My 1602/2. ASKILD (Nor.) ex C.L.61 aground near
aground Chance Cove, vicinity Cape Race, feared total loss.
2 men lost, rest of crew landed.
Sur p. 146
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1218Z/4 to Admty. (R)
N.S.H.Q. Connav. etc.)
- O.N.149 EMPIRE HEATH straggled in heavy weather and not in
company. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.12. 1301Z/4 to Connav. (R) C.T.F. 24.
Admty. etc.)
O.N.149. Task Unit No. 24.18.7 COLUMBIA (S.O.) FENNEL,
*DUNVEGAN, COWICHAN sail St. Johns N.F. 1500Z/5 to relieve you in
position 44.01 N 50.19 W at 1300Z/6.
(F.O.N.F. 1750Z/4 to C.T.U. 24.1.12. (R) C.T.24 etc.)

* Sur p. 146

/A.T.30...

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- A.T.30. Sail A.T.30 to arrive 56° 20' 09° 01' W 0900Z/13 Dec. through following positions.
(P) 39.10 71.30. (Q) 39.10 57.45. (R) 39.45 44.50. (S) 42.30 30.25. (T) 51.10 25.30. (U) 57.02 19.25. (V) 56.18 08.30.
Chop 1500Z/10. Fighter protection codeword "Donkey".
(Connav 1418/4 to U.S. Port Director at N.Y. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.E.S.F. C.T.24 etc.)
- T.A.29. N.O.I.C. Greenock 1016/3 (re sailing of T.A.29 at 0400Z/4 Dec.) On account of E.T.A. Halifax and large numbers to be disembarked Army propose to embark 11th and 12th. Request immediate reply giving latest date ship can be sailed to fit in with future programme. (N.S.H.Q. 1446Z/4 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C. B.A.D.)
Reply: Admty. 1730A/5.
- IOANNIS FRANGOS IOANNIS FRANGOS (Gr.) due Wabana from O.N.S. 146 not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1458Z/4 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. Connav.)
- NEWCASTLE Sail NEWCASTLE when ready to Plymouth via Bermuda through Points (J) 35.10 70.10. (K) 32.30 64.34 thence swept channel. Onward route (L) 34.10 51.40. (M) 34.55 39.40. (N) 44.10 34.35. (O) 51.30 29.20?. (P) 51.10 17.05. (Q) 49.45 06.28.
Advise sailing time and S of A. Com 5 pass to Port Director Norfolk for action.
(Connav 1502/4 to Port Director Norfolk. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. C.E.S.F. Com 5 etc.)
- WITHERINGTON WITHERINGTON reports after experience in heavy gale ship is not considered stable and reduction top weight essential and requests inclining experiment. We concur and intend sailing WITHERINGTON to Halifax forthwith for inclining experiment. C.O.A.C. requested to take necessary action for reduction top weight if required. Admty. Bath's DO 2687/42 of 13 March 1942, not to all addressees, refers. (F.O.N.F. 1523Z/4 to C.T.F.24. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C. W.A. WITHERINGTON.)
- U/B S/M estimate Dec. 4th and U.S. S/M Notice.
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1530Z/4, 1531/4, 1603/4, 1604/4, 1605/4, 1759/4, 2227/4.)
- S.C.112 Your 1513Z/3 (N.T. in W.D.) consider that maximum of 60 ships for S.C.112 should not be exceeded. (C.T.24. 1535Z/4 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.E.S.F. Connav.)

146

4.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ASKILD *See p. 144* ASKILD (Nor.) wrecked at Chance Cove Dec. 4th. Eleven men at Cape Race Station, sixteen men at Chance Cove and two men lost. (N.S.H.Q. 1607Z/4 to Admty. Connav.)

TENACITY H.M.R.T. TENACITY departed St. Johns 1447/4 to assist SS. EMPIRE GOLD disabled in 47.45 N 52.29 W. TENACITY and EMPIRE GOLD arrived St. Johns 1804/4. (F.O.N.F. 1818Z/4 to Admty.)

Tankers D.E.M.S. Your 1742/19 Nov. All ships concerned have been provided with ammunition in accordance with your instructions. (D.E.M.S. New York 1925Z/4.)

Antilles sugar cargoes Request you will investigate prospect of ships which discharge dry cargo in Caribbean and West Indian ports proceeding to the Antilles to load sugar etc. 2. Example WAYFARER arriving Curacao 5th Dec. to discharge required at St. Kitts and Antigua. (D.T.D. 2010A/4 to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O. Curacao.) Reply: B.A.D. 2045/5.

Sub. Attack and Sighting Summary. Para A. (Cdrs. all Sea Fron Lant Cdts all Nav. Dist. Lant N.O.B. Trinidad. N.O.B. G.T.M.O.A. C.T.F.23. Cafac all informed) TREVALGAN, two torpedoes, sunk 09.40 N 59.15 W 2306Z/30 Nov. Para C. P.C.576 attacks submarine 13.25 N 69.32 W 1900Z/16 Nov. Para D. P.C.496 attacks sound contact 29.04 N 80.13 W 2126C/19 Nov. (Cominch 2131/4 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

ATTACKER My 2142/11. ATTACKER is still at San Francisco but hopes to be ready to sail about Friday 11th Dec. (B.A.R.M. 2136Z/4 to Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. N.S.H.Q. ATTACKER.)

U/B Positions. C.E.S.F. 041925 S/M estimate of 0800Q/5 Dec. (Comnavu 2243/4 to Admty.)

* DUNVEGAN defects. ** See p. 144 (O.N. 149)* E.T.A. 0635Z/5. Following urgent defects - dome in haul wire carried away, mess deck tables damaged in heavy weather. Uncoded weather reports. (DUNVEGAN 2300Z/4 to JERSEY. (R) Capt. D. St. Johns N.F. C.O.P.)

/CALDWELL...

MOST SECRET

146^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.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C.O.A.C. Halifax.

1645Z/4/December.

Date 5.12.42.

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T & T/P

Time 0116

Addressed N.A. Escort Force.

IMPORTANT

Section South West C.N. 146 Western Local Escort
Task Unit 24.18.8 042 degs 53' 063 degs 02' 222 degs 7
altering to 27 degs in 039 degs 50' North
TRURO, 043 degs 43' 063 degs 09' to join O.N. 146

F.H. (?19) MEADOWSWEET, depart St Johns 2230Z/4th speed 7.5
Special Cape Cod Group,

U.S.S. SPEED, H.M.C.S. ONAKVILLE, FORT WILLIAM,
U.S.S. SEER, SUSTAIN, MIZPAH, 043 degs 55' 064 degs 01' 223
degs 7 altering to 270 degs in 065 degs 33' and to 245 degs
in 068 degs (?) 43' West

J.H. 24, SARNIA, 034 degs 27' 061 degs 18' 248 degs
10 altering to 270 degs in 062 degs 29'

ST FRANCIS, vicinity Sambro Light Vessel inbound
H J 20

GEORGETOWN, LINCOLN, depart Halifax 1900Z/4th
090 degs 8 altering to 065 degs in 062 degs 50' and to
081 degs in 060 degs 41'.

NANAIMO, searching area vicinity 043 degs 00' 058 degs
17'

H.M. S/M P. 512, surfaced, escorted by KAMLOOPS
depart south end of Gut of Canso 1930Z/4th routed through
L. 045 degs 22' North 060 degs 43' West

M. 045 degs 10' 060 degs 38'

N. 044 degs 57' 060 degs 56'

O. 044 degs 28' 062 degs 27'

P. 044 degs 28' 063 degs 22'

speed of advance 10 expected time of arrival

1300Z 5th.

U.S.S.R S/M L. 15, surfaced and possibly unescorted
en route Halifax from 041 degs 15' North 065 degs 01' W

U.S. Destroyer MCCORMICK, vicinity 041 degs 15' 065 degs
01' to meet and escort L. 15 to Halifax

S.H. 66, NORANDA, 044 degs 28' 062 degs 25' en route
Halifax 7.5.

1645Z/4.

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. (3)

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. (M)

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

D.D.I.C.

D.N.I. (4)

D.D.C.D. (M)

F.O.S. by courier

War Diary.4.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

CALDWELL

My position 2300Z 041° (?)08' N 066° 16' W course and speed 040° 9.5. C.G.R. (?30) (corrupt group) in tow crew on board. (?Was not in) (corrupt group). (?Pending your) (?communication) still considered wise to maintain present (?course) (CALDWELL 2359Z/4 to U.S. S/M NARWHAL. (R) U.S.S. CAPTOR. C. in C. U.S. Fleet. C.T.G.90.1. C.T.G.90.2.) See also 0314/5.

Australia and New Zealand.THOMAS A.
EDISON
(American)

Stranded on Vuata Vatoa Island. Salvage operations 0030M/4 to Ministry of Shipping London. (R) S.O.I. Wellington Ramsa Sydney (N.S.W) Connav Washington.)

German
Raiders.*See p. 143*

Norwegian Officer ex RAMSES has furnished following information regarding German Raiders. Number 10 arrived Yokohama 6th Oct. 1942, for 6 weeks refit. Number 28 in Indian Ocean 5th (groups missing) number 28 may proceed Japan for refit when relieved by number 10 and is due to return to Germany by March 1943. Number 28 German merchant ship - MICHEL, a banana carrier completed in 1939. She carries 2 E-Boats. Stated that number 10 always attacks by day and number 28 by night. Classified B.3. Above (?has) already been passed to C. in C. E.F. and F.O. Ceylon. (D.N.I. Melbourne 0604Z/4 to Admty.) O.I.C. Comment. Raider 10 is Raider "E" which is considered to have operated in the Indian Ocean since May 1942. It is considered very probable that the report of her arrival at Yokohama is correct. Raider 28 is **thought** to be Raider "H" which was last identified operating in the South Atlantic in September and is known to carry E-Boats.

Situation.

Digest serial number 316 Dec. 3rd. Reports indicate 3 heavy cruisers arrived Buin Faisi area from North morning 3rd and departed with 2 destroyers to N.E. same afternoon. 11 destroyers also departed to S.E. during day leaving 18 vessels Buin evening 3rd including 5 destroyers 1 sloop 2 gunboats 2? tankers 5 merchant vessels. Further evidence enemy consolidation ashore Buin. 2. Photo R/C Kavieng 3rd reported 1 seaplane tender, 1 destroyer, 1 small cargo vessel 2 other small craft in harbour 32 medium bombers including 2 unserviceable on aerodrome 3 fighters on drome 3 others airborne but nil interception. Considerable activity again evident 6 new blast bays and blast pens completed construction on others proceeding heavy A.A. guns also visible.

/3. Additional...

148

4.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - contd.

Situation Contd. 3. Additional enemy gun positions captured Gona area further reducing enemy front. Enemy casualties this area now estimated include 400 killed. Our attack continues on other fronts, some slight advances made. Bostons B.25 Aircobras, Kittyhawks and Beaufighters again active against enemy positions during day silencing A.A. and machine gun positions and destroying barges.

4. 9 medium bombers escorted by approx. 14 Zeros reported dropping supplies by parachute over Buna Sanananda areas afternoon 3rd.

5. One enemy aircraft over Darwin morning 2nd and 3 Zeros over same area at 29,000 feet, morning 3rd. Nil interception 1 enemy aircraft also over Wyndham morning 1st course N.W.

6. Beaufighters attacked approx. 30 medium bombers and 15 Zeros on Koepang aerodrome Dec. 2nd. Approx. 18 bombers 3 Zeros damaged including 5 bombers on fire. Fuel dump also hit by cannon and machine gun fire smoke 1500 feet high visible 50 miles from coast. 1 submarine sighted in Koepang harbour also many heavy transports on road near drome.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0800Z/4 to Admty etc).

PIETRO, My 0221Z/3 (N.T. in W.D.) Italian ship PIETRO
ORSEOLO. ORSEOLO or PIETRO COSTELLO left Batavia 20th Nov. two days before RAMSES. Painted grey. Armed. (N.O.I.C. Fremantle 0914Z/4 to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B.; etc).

O.I.C. Comment. PIETRO ORSEOLO left Biscay about 2nd Oct. 1942. It is estimated that the passage to Batavia would have taken about 6 weeks. It is therefore considered probable that PIETRO ORSEOLO left Batavia for Japanese port.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimates at 1200Z/4.
(D.D.I.C., 1420A/4, 1435A/4).

War Diary.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

An unidentified ship was torpedoed at 1200A today in 54° 10' N 17° 20' W.

Twenty five aircraft of Bomber Command laid 118 mines last night off the north German coast and in the Baltic. Ten Naval Swordfish laid mines off Le Havre from 1800 to 2230 today.

South Atlantic.

Explosion
at Lagos.

At about 0915Z today a disastrous explosion occurred at Apapa, probably in the magazines of trawlers refitting alongside and caused by petrol in harbour from civil sources becoming ignited. H.M. Trawlers BENGALI, CANNA and SPANIARD were sunk and KELT was wrecked. The dockyard was badly damaged and is out of action and two small Marine Dept. vessels were sunk and others damaged. There were several casualties.

Mediterranean.

DIDO (15th C.S.) has been detailed to reinforce Force Q temporarily so as to enable F.O. Force Q to have two forces, each containing 2 cruisers, to work watch and watch against the Bizerta/Tunis supply lines.

Operation
"Portcullis"

Convoy M.W.14 arrived at Malta this morning without incident in spite of being shadowed by enemy aircraft on passage.

P.217 secured 3 hits at 1515 today on a convoy of 3 destroyers and 2 merchant ships steering 38° in 40° 26' N 14° 6' E.

The port of Bone was heavily bombed again from 2000/4 to 0400/5 but no naval casualties occurred and no shipping was damaged.

Wellingtons attacked the docks at La Goulette, Tunis, last night; two medium sized merchant vessels were hit by bombs, one of them being set on fire. Liberators bombed Tripoli harbour.

War Diary.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Chittagong was bombed this morning; a barge was sunk in the river and a little damage was caused in the town.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M.Ls at Faroos and Lerwick. Your 2054A/1/12. It is proposed to abandon the policy of stationing M.Ls at Faroos in summer and to reduce the number at Lerwick to four all the year round. This will release eight boats permanently. To effect this, it is proposed that the following boats be withdrawn from the command:
22nd Flotilla 449, 460, 468 and 494. ✓
15th Flotilla 232, 258, 218 and 240.
This choice is dictated by the absence of so many refitting and rearming at the present time and desire to retain as many as possible of those completed. It will also make the release of all eight boats possible at the earliest possible date under existing conditions. It is intended to reconsider the possibility of a further reduction of four boats at a later date when Scapa Defences are further advanced. If approved, request instructions where boats should be sailed when ready.
(A.C.O.S. 1117A/5 to Admty.)

1st M.G.B.F. The 1st M.G.B. Flotilla is to be disregarded as an operational flotilla forthwith. Disposal.
(D.D.O.D. 1911A/5.)

2 M.T.Bs for Meditn. Request you will select two M.T.Bs of the 24th M.T.B. Flotilla for service in the Western Mediterranean. Re shipment.
(D.D.O.D. (C) 1918A/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements.

DOLFIJN. DOLFIJN due 180° Lizard 10 at 0800/5th from southward being met by 2 trawlers.
See next page 4 p. 152^c
(C. in C. Plymouth 0125A/5 to LOWESTOFT, SPIREA.)

SPEY S.O. Are to sail a.m. 6th at best speed routed through
ROTHER, (a) 55.30 10.01
SENNEN, (b) 52.02 12.59
CLARE. (c) 48.02 13.31
(d) 42.59 13.29 thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(C. in C. W.A. 0028A/5.)

P.555. Was hove to between 2200 and 0200 off Clyde lightship.
(Capt. S.7 0457A/5.)

CLYDE. Your position by plotting at 0815, 240° St. Catherine's 22 miles.
(Capt. S.5 0828A/5 to CLYDE.)
Your 1150A/25th Nov. Arrived Needles 1148/5.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1209/5 to Capt. S. 8.)

152

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - contd.

CHESTERFIELD. My P.C.S. 055° 42' N. 007° 23' W, 350°, 5 knots.
(CHESTERFIELD 1200A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

SEALION, Intend sailing WHITE BEAR escorting SEALION and
*DOLFIJN, DOLFIJN at 0100/6th to R/V GRAPH 180° Bishop
GRAPH. Rock (2 miles?) at 0900/6th thence by standard
* *See previous page.* route to Holy Loch E.T.A. 0900/8th. Communications
(3) Codeword "Wheel".
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1204A/5.) *See p. 152c*

WOODSTOCK. My 1042A/30. WOODSTOCK delayed 24 hours. *at Holy Loch*
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 1205A/5.) *(Pick List)*

P.615. Intend to sail P.615 for Freetown direct from
Holy Loch leaving 9 December and calling
Falmouth for fuel.
(F.O.(S) 1503A/5.)

Movements. Estimate position at 2159 tonight Sat. SUFFOLK,
* BERWICK, southerly from Reykjanes to S.E.
NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, FURY, OBDURATE, approaching
Hvalfiord, WILLIAMSBURG escorting one Merchant
Ship Fanafloi to Reykjavik.
(A.C.I.C. 1539A/5.)

* *See p. 154.*

Dispositions. My 1313/1.
Area Scapa. Delete GLASGOW add ANSON.
Area Rosyth. Delete ANSON.
(D.O.D. (H) 1655A/5 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

CASTLETON. Your 1716/5 (N.T. in W.R.) proceed Port Z.A.
(C. in C. W.A. 1941A/5 to CASTLETON.)

P.223 Intend sailing H.M. S/M P.223, H.M. S/M P.49
P.49. escorted by F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde at
1900A/7 via searched channel and Minches to
Scapa E.T.A. 0900A/9 speed 10 knots. Thence
F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE return Clyde speed 16 knots E.T.A. 1200A/10.
(2) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation
help message on 385 k/cs.
(3) Communication.
(Capt. (S) 3 2013A/5.)

252^A

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. IN

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

Date. 5.12.49.

From. C. in C. Western Approaches.

Recd. 2035.

P/L

Addressed. Admiralty.

Situation at 2001A/5/12.

Section N.E.

| | | | | |
|----------|---|-------------|--------------|----|
| COMBIBLE | | 57 19 06 58 | To Scapa | 17 |
| ROCKWOOD | | 57 44 06 46 | To Liverpool | 17 |
| EN. 69 | VALSE POLKA SHIPPIGAN QUALICUM | 58 44 04 53 | To Loch Ewe | 7 |

Section S.E.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--|----|
| U.S.S/M GUNNEL | CAPE PORTLAND | 53 12 04 50 | To Roseneath | 5 |
| SHEDIAC KINOGAMI | | 54 06 05 13 | To Liverpool | 11 |
| HALOYON | | 54 46 05 28 | To Milford Haven | 12 |
| HIODODENDRON 3 Corvettes | | 55 02 10 01 | To Greenock | 12 |
| H. 43 | LORD AUSTIN | 55 44 05 58 | To Rothesay | 8 |
| ROCKWOOD | | 57 44 06 46 | To Liverpool | 17 |
| HASTINGS | | 53 44 04 51 | To Londonderry | 12 |
| RU. 51 | MAZURKA BLACKELY | 55 51 07 10 | To North Channel | 7½ |
| SD. 34 | ST. MARY'S | 55 21 05 04 | To Clyde | 15 |
| Convoy | FLARAY | 52 18 05 14 | Northbound | 9 |
| SCB.110 | BODO | 55 03 05 30 | To Liverpool | 7 |
| ON.151 C.T.U. 24.1.15 | WATCHMAN VANSITTART DAHLIA WALLFLOWER MONKSHOOD BORAGE LEAMING TON | 55 46 08 59 | To 56 06 15 05 | 7 |
| MS. 2A | GERANIUM 2 Corvettes | 54 18 10 45 | To 55 00 10 05 then 03 55 26 08 31 | 7½ |

Section S.W.

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| WINCHELSEA | | 52 59 | 22 28 | To ONS, 150 |
| ONS, 150 | BEVERLEY | 53 53 | 23 32 | To 53 52 23 30 |
| C.T.U. | ANEMONE | | | thence |
| 24.1.18 | ASHPHODEL | | | 48 55 30 28 |
| | ABELIA | | | |
| | CLOVER | | | |
| N. 151 | WATCHMAN | 55 46 | 03 59 | To 56 06 15 05 |
| C.T.U. | VANSITTART | | | |
| 1.1.15 | DAHLIA | | | |
| | WALLFLOWER | | | |
| | MONKSHOOD | | | |
| | BORAGE | | | |
| | LEAMINGTON | | | |
| EX. 7 | KRAKOWIAK | 40 23 | 13 04 | To 40 00 13 00 |
| | BLEASDALE | | | thence |
| | LAUDERDALE | | | 36 30 09 00 |
| | MELBREAK | | | |
| MKS, 2A | GERANIUM | 54 18 | 10 45 | To 55 00 10 05 |
| | 2 Corvettes | | | thence |
| | | | | 55 26 08 31 |
| TA, 29 | Unsorted | 55 54 | 22 28 | To 55 50 24 55 |
| | | | | thence |
| | | | | 44 01 33 15 |
| 1 M/V | VIOLET | 50 05 | 13 12 | 180 degs. Fastnat. |
| | | | | 10' |

Section N.W.

N I L.

1355A/5.

- V.C.N.S.
- V.C.N.S.(H)
- B.N.S.(F)(2)
- B.N.S.(T)
- 1st S.L.
- C. Lt. Pim
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- Buty 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)
- Ad. Blake (2)
- Ad. Ramsoy (4)
- D.M.S.

- D.D.O.D.(M)
- D. of P.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.T.D.(C)

MOST SECRET

1529
1529

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.
1717A/5th December.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

III

From. F.O.(S).

Date. 5.12.49,

Recd. 1754.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. Admiralty.

228.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/6th December and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) JUNON escorted by LEICESTER CITY arriving Dundee from Northward.

(B) H.43 escorted by LORD AUSTIN vicinity Arran due Rothesay 1000/6th December.

(C) GUNNEL escorted by CAPE PORTLAND 54 degs. 10' North 05 degs. 10' West. Speed 5 knots to Clyde.

→ (D) GRAPH due R/V in 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles at 0800 6th December with WHITE BEAR, SEALION and DOLFIJN. These submarines then proceed escorted by WHITE BEAR to Healy Loch. *pp 151 & 152*

(E) TUNA in Biscay south zone.

(F) GURNARD in zone K.505. *see next page*

→ (G) SEALION, DOLFIJN escorted by WHITE BEAR sail from Falmouth at 0200 6th December to R/V as in para (D). *See pp 152 & 152*

1717A/5.

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)

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Patrols. Weather unsuitable for E-Boats. Intend leaving patrol at 0300.
(PYTCHLEY 0201A/5 to C. in C. Nore.)
Intend leaving patrol at 0400.
(HAMBLEDON 0355A/5 to C. in C. Nore.)
Arrival from Patrol HAMBLEDON.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1147A/5.)
Portsmouth Night Movements 5th/6th Dec. (1) CHASSEURS 41, 11 and 5 patrolling off E.A.5 buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1500A/5.)

Allied Air Activity.

Biscay Ports. Your 1331A/2. Bay of Biscay ports have been given highest priority for day bombing by the U.S. Air Force. Bad weather over the targets has been the only factor in curtailing the number and weight of attacks. Lorient aerodrome will be added to the priority targets for attack.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2301A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Mining.

Iceland. As Germans may lay mines on West Coast of Iceland (C) in similar manner to those laid off east coast. Ships are to keep more than 20 miles from land when between latitude of Malarrif and Goltur Lights.
(C. in C. H.F. 1947A/5 to Home Fleet, (R) A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

NORD ATLANTIC. There were signs P.M. 4th December that NORD ATLANTIC was getting ready to leave Vigo.
(F.O.S. 0653A/5 to S/Ms.)

SCHARLACH-BERGER. German 55 sailed from Bilbao 1045 today.
(D.D.I.C. 1435A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)
See p 161

2 M/Vs and escorts. C. and S. of 2 small merchant vessels, three escorts and 3 Ju.88s 43° 24' N. 8° 53' W. 270°.
(A/C 461 E. 1504/5, A/C C/SL8AE.)
Position of 2 small merchant ships, 3 escort vessels and three Ju.88s 43° 24' N. 8° 53' W. Co. 270° speed unknown.
(A/C C/S L8AE 1515/5.)
Informing*GURNARD as last, but giving course 090° at 1504.
(F.O.S. 1607A/5.) * *see previous page*

War Diary.5.12.1942.
SaturdayHOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boat
attacked.

Attacked one of 2 Asdic contacts with depth charges at 1245N in 066° 12' N. 024° 04' W. R.D.F. radiation on (group omitted) Megacycle received 2030N. 2 small R.D.F. echoes obtained at 2220N in 066° 11' N. (065°?) 02' W. *FURY left to investigate.

* (BERWICK 0158N/5 to A.C.I.C. (R) SUFFOLK.)

* *see p. 152.*

Ship attacked
→ (? SS
REMBRANDT)

Following from MEDZ VSJK (CUBA) at 10 hrs. G.M.T. sighted one ship fired two white rockets seemed FOUX-VOUX ? S/M attack her approx. position is 082° and 59 miles from position X cannot rescue. Too many passengers on board.
(Burnham Radio 1115 G.M.T/5 to Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

U/B
reports.

Possible U-Boat known A/C sighted in sea position 54° 50' N. 19° 30' W. later lost contact searching area Vis 2000 Yds.
(A/C 206 E 1303/5.)

Am over enemy submarine in 48° 43' N. 16° 49' W. submarine sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 225. Estimated speed 8.

(A/C H 10 OTU 1430/5.)

Enemy submarine previously reported in position ZXTQ 2035 47° 20' N. 9° 25' W. was sighted on surface and observed to submerged course 060° speed 6 knots.

(A/C C/S SL6 1446/5.)

→ SS REMBRANDT.

SARDONYX take SALADIN under her orders and proceed at best speed to assist ship believed to be SS REMBRANDT torpedoes in 54° 10' N. 17° 20' W. at 1200A/5.

(C. in C. W.A. 1605A/5 to SARDONYX, SALADIN (R) Commodore Londonderry, Admty 15 Group.)

K.X.7.

Inconclusive D/F on 4,540 k/cs at 1947Z indicates U-boat in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C. 2157A/5 to Escorts of K.X.7.)

Navigational.

Clyde.

Cancel my 1215/4.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 0950/5.)

Ice.

Russian forecast of edge of brash ice on 15th Dec.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1016A/5 to C. in C..H.F.)

War Diary.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- NUTFIELD. SS NUTFIELD bound for London from Tyne with cargo of coal. While at anchor off Tyne waiting to join F.S. 477 was rammed by unknown ship and badly holed. Now beached on Outer Herd Sands South of Tyne. Salvage Officer in attendance. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0940/5 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
- LAGAN. My 1139A/4 delayed by gun mounting defects further signal will be made. (N.O.I.C. Tees 1021/5.)
- Sabotage in KALE. G.A.F.O. 199/41. Case of suspected sabotage has occurred in KALE at Great Harbour, Greenock. When preparing for sea this morning, Saturday, condensers were found to have been tampered with and telemotor system drained and all valves reversed. Ship was taken over 1100 yesterday Friday. Contractor's men were on board until noon. Machinery was correct p.m. Wednesday on return from full speed trials. C.O. suspects contractor's workmen. Matter still under investigation. (Capt. (D) Greenock 1112/5.)
My 1112/5. On further investigation consider report was a false alarm. (Capt. D. Greenock 1614A/5 to Admty.)
- LEAMINGTON (Suspected sabotage.) My 1320A/28. Board of Enquiry reports that sabotage though a possibility is considered unlikely. I concur. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1201A/5 to D.N.I.)
- WRESTLER. WRESTLER can be spared for refit and conversion to two boilers as soon as she has completed duty referred to in Admty's 2005/4. *MT in W.B. but see next page.* (C. in C. W.A. 1439A/5.)
- CHAMPION. Negative rescue tug CHAMPION owing to engine defect. No other tug available. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1504A/5.)
- CARLISLE. Arrived in Belfast Lough, CARLISLE, codeword "Sapper", to make good minor defects. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1608A/5.)
- BORNHOLM, NUTFIELD. My 0950/5 SS BORNHOLM now on passage to Methil is suspected of having been in collision with SS NUTFIELD at 2000/4. N.O.I.C. Methil is requested to make necessary enquiries. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1642/5.)

/Raft ...

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

Raft. ^{N.T.N.W.D.} Your 1715/5 as weather is moderate endeavour to tow raft to Belfast or Lough Foyle. Use your discretion to abandon operation if necessary. Report situation daylight tomorrow Sunday.
(C. in C. W.A. 1951A/5 to NORTHERN SKY.)

Shipping and Convoys.

LADY OF MANN. Admty. 2005/4. ^{N.T.N.W.D.} WRESTLER is to act as escort. *See previous page.*
(C. in C. W.A. 1056A/5.)

U.S. CADDO. Your 1628/4th. Not arrived. Connav signal to N.O.B.I. T.O.R. 1445/4th states whereabouts not known.
(S.O.(I) Iceland 1131A/5 to Admty.)

K.X.6 A - L B. (a) 1000A/6. (c) - (c) Noon G.M.T. 7 December
051° 29' N. 008° 22' W. noon G.M.T. 8 December
050° 49' N. 011° 42' W. E.T.A. a.m. 17th Dec.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1147A/5.)

NALISEMENT. Alter course forthwith to position (W) 180°
Fastnet Rock 10 miles, thence via Q Z L 18.
Destination of NALISEMENT altered to Milford
Haven for Cardiff.
(C. in C. W.A. 1248A/5 to *VIOLET.) * *See p 164*

W.S.25. List of ships. Sailing arrangements.
(Admty. 138A/5) See Lion Copy.

K.M.S.5. Route etc.
(Admty. 1600A/5 1722A/5) See Lion Copy.

B.B. convoys. Admty's. 2342A/2/12. B.B. Convoys. Paras. D and E are concurred in and it is agreed that convoys can arrive in the Bristol Channel at any hour under present conditions.

Paras. A.B and C. It is not considered practicable for Commodores to be in trawler escorts and it is proposed that convoys enter Belfast to reform and embark the Commodore and sail as soon as practicable. This should entail only a small delay and it is considered desirable.
(C. in C. W.A. 1615A/5.)

K.M.F.5. Route etc.
(Admty. 1620A/5.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

156^A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1328A/5 Dec. OUT

Date - 5.12.42

Addressed - C. in C.W.A.452
F.O.I.C. Greenock
N.C.S.O. Clyde
F.O.I.C. Liverpool
N.C.S.O. Mersey
F.O.I.C. Cardiff
N.C.S.O. Cardiff
Repeated N.O.I.C. Avonmouth
N.C.S.O. Milford Haven
C. in C. H.F.114
R.A.D. H.F.
F.O.C.N.A.314
H.M.S. CILICIA
F.O.C.W.Af.939
C. in C.S. Atlantic 688
H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE
H.M.S. CHESHIRE
H.M.S. QUILLIAM
H.M.S. RACEHORSE
H.M.S. HAYDON
H.M.S. ROCKWOOD
H.Q.F.C.
H.Q.C.C.
Com. Londonderry N.C.S.O.
Cominch. Avonmouth.

Naval Cypher (TT) & Naval Cypher (XD)

From - Admiralty.

Following ships comprising convoy W.S.25 carrying military personnel and stores will be ready to leave the ports stated on the undermentioned dates:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Avonmouth | HIGHLAND PRINCESS MATAROA |
| Liverpool | ESPERENCE BAY ORION |
| Clyde | RANGITIKI BRITTANNIC HIGHLAND BRIGADE |

2. Bristol Channel ships will be ready to leave on 16th December remainder on 17th December.

3. All ships are capable of maintaining a speed of 15 knots except ESPERENCE BAY 14½ and MATAROA and RANGITIKI 14 knots.

4. Ocean escort will be provided by CARNARVON CASTLE, CHESHIRE, and CIBICIA from Clyde to Freetown, thence as arranged by F.O.C. W.Af.

5. Destroyer escort will be provided by -
 (a) QUILLIAM and RACEHORSE to the Cape.
 (b) HAYDON & ROCKWOOD plus 2 destroyers from W.A. Command to vicinity of Azores.

6. QUILLIAM and RACEHORSE may be detached when in the vicinity of the Azores to fuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently rejoining convoy.

7. Remaining destroyers are then to be detached to fuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently proceeding HAYDON and ROCKWOOD to Gibraltar as directed by F.O.C.N.A. the other two to U.K. as directed by C. in C.W.A.

8. Admiralty will promulgate route.

9. C. in C. W.A. is requested to:
 (a) Detail 2 destroyers referred to in para 5(b)
 (b) Arrange sailing of all ships and escorts to R/V off Oversay a.m. 18th December.
 (c) Arrange fuelling at Ponta Delgada.

10. F.O.I.C. Cardiff is requested to sail HIGHLAND BRIGADE so as to arrive Greenock by a.m. 17th December where she will embark U.S. Technicians before sailing with Clyde portion.

1328A/5
 for D.O.D. (H)

1st Lord
 1st S.L (2)
 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.
 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 Capt. (2)
 Ad. Blake
 C.C.L.S.
 U.S.N. (3)
 A.L.O.

MOST SECRET

156^c

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1600A/5 Dec. OUT
Date 5.12.42

Addressed - C. in C.W.A. 454
F.O.I.C. Greenock
N.C.S.O. Clyde
Repeated Comm. Londonderry
- C. in C. H.F. 117
F.O. W.Af. 943
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.
N.C.X.F. 626
V.A. Gib. 319

Naval Cypher (XD) Naval Cypher ((A.C.O))

From - Admiralty.

K.M.S.5 My.2137/30. Route. *Annexment p.156^c*

Rendezvous at 0800Z/12 in

P.270 degs. Oversay 6 miles

| | |
|--------|------|
| Q.5501 | 1125 |
| R.4900 | 1630 |
| S.3950 | 1701 |
| T.3645 | 1330 |
| U.3540 | 1000 |

thence as ordered by N.C.X.F.

2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered A. to F. with instructions that if straggling, ships are to keep 30 miles to Starboard of Route given.

3. Estimated speed of advance $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots which is to be adjusted to pass Europa Point 0100Z/22.

4. Southbound ships, estimated speed of advance $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots are to part company at S routed through

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| PF.33 degs. N. | 22 degs. W. |
| QQ.23 degs. N. | 21 degs. W. |
| RR.15 degs. N. | 19 degs. W. |
| SS.10 degs. N. | 17 degs. W. |

thence to destinations.

5/.....

156^D

- 2 -

5. PETUNIA is to part company as ordered by S.O. Escorts to fuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently rejoining southbound ships in vicinity of position PP.

6. Fighter protection codeword UNTRUE.

1600A/5

for D.O.D.(H)

1st S.L.(2)
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.T.D(3)
D.T.D(M)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Duty Capt. (2)
Ad. Blake
Ad. Ramsey (4)
U.S.N.(3)
C.C.L.S.

MOST SECRET

156^E

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 1620A/5 Dec. JUT

Date - 5.12.42

Addressed - C. in C.W.A.456
F.O.I.C. Greenock
F.O.I.C. Liverpool
N.C.S.O. Clyde
N.C.S.O. Mersey

Repeated LAFOREY
LIGHTENING
ARGUS *p. 162*
WAYLAND
Com. Londonderry
V.A. Gib. 320
N.C.X.F.628
C. in C.H.F.118
F.O. W.Af. 945
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.
QUICKMATCH
REDOUBT.

Naval Cypher (A.O.O.)

From - Admiralty.

KMF.5. My 2000/1 not to all addressees. Route -

Rendezvous at 1100Z/12 in -

| | | |
|----|-----------|-----------------|
| F. | 270 degs. | Oversay 6 miles |
| G. | 5605 | 1010 |
| H. | 5500 | 1300 |
| J. | 4900 | 1801 |
| K. | 3920 | 1740 |
| L. | 3612 | 1332 |
| M. | 3550 | 1000 |

thence as ordered by N.C.X.F.

2. Stragglers route to conform but lettered T. to Z. with instructions that ships are to open out and keep 30 miles to starboard of route if straggling.

3. Estimated speed of advance 12 knots but convoy is to adjust speed to pass Europa Point at 0100Z/19.

4. H.M.S. WAYLAND escorted by QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT.

/is

156^F

~~2~~

is to part company in position (K) and proceed through

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| (F) 33 degs. N. | 19 degs. W. |
| (O) 25 degs. N. | 20 degs. W. |
| (R) 14 degs. N. | 19 degs. W. |
| (S) 09 degs. N. | 17 degs. W. |

thence to Freetown.

5. Estimated speed of advance of WAYLAND after parting company 12 knots.

6. Fighter Protection Codeword SATHEEN.

7. F.O.C.N.A. pass to QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT on arrival.

8. F.O.C.W.af. is requested to arrange onward sailing of WAYLAND, QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT.

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1st S.L. (2) | 1620A/5 |
| Y.C.N.S. | D.O.D. (H) |
| 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.T.D (3) | |
| D.T.D (M) | |
| I.P. (2) | |
| W.D. | |
| Duty Capt. (2) | |
| Ad. Blake | |
| Ad. Ramsey (4) | |
| C.C.C. (2) | |
| U.S.N. (3) | |
| C.C.L.S. | |

MOST SECRET

156^G

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1722A/5th Dec. OUT

To: C. in C.W.A. 458
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.
V.A. Gib. 321
N.C.X.F. 629
Com. Londonderry
C. in C. H.F. 120
F.O.C.V.A. 946
H.O.C.C.
H.O.F.C.

Naval Cypher (II) Naval Cypher (XD)

From: Admiralty

p. 156^G
KMS5. A.M. 2137/30 Nov.

Paragraphs should be numbered from 1 to 12.

2. Date of sailing from Clyde has been postponed to 11th December.

3. Reference A.M. 1410/1 for para 7 read para 6.

1722A/5.

for 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 Capt (2)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
C.C.L.S.

157

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- J.W.51 A. Your 1638A/3. J.W.51 A. BEAGLE (S.O),
 J.W.51 B. BOADICEA. J.W.51 B. BULLDOG (S.O), ACHATES.
 Corvettes of 23rd Group will be allocated on
 return to harbour from present escort duties.
 (Capt. D. Greenock 1658A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)
- B.B.42. F.O.I.C. N.I. 1221A/5. No A/A ship available.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1843A/5.)
- H.X.
 Convoys. To speed up shipping it is proposed that ships
 of 12 knots and over sailing in H.X. convoys should
 be ordered to proceed at best speed to destination
 at nearest dusk to time convoy crosses 13° W.
2. To avoid navigational dangers from independent ships and
 outcoming convoys, it would be advisable for an approach route
 from 13° W. to be given to be promulgated by you to Commodore
 as necessary. Promulgation might be effected by method employed
 in "Torch" orders TSGO 28.
 3. Each convoy would be treated as an entirely separate problem,
 detachment of the fast ships being governed by all circumstances,
 namely weather, risk of aircraft attack, etc.
 4. Existing conditions no objection is seen to all ships
 following same course.
 5. Number of 12 knot ships in any convoy is not likely to
 exceed 8.
 6. Request your remarks.
- (A.C.N.S. (T) 1907A/5 to C. in C. W.A.) *Reply: 1935A/6.*

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.Aircraft
Recognition.

From War Registry. Please note that A.M. 1835A/5th November (dealing with new aircraft recognition procedure in Pacific Theatre) has been passed for information to S.O. Force H at the request of the originator.
(No T.O.O.)

Situation
Report
No.29.

1. Force Q sailed from Algiers at 0830/4 to carry out a sweep on the line Cagliari-Bizerta during dark hours returning to Bone by daylight tomorrow Saturday.
2. Algiers. QUEEN EMMA with two destroyers sail to Philippeville tonight with 900 troops. *b.17213*
3. Casablanca. 5000 ton Floating Dock in Balsin Lelande is expected to be raised shortly and to operate in about one month's time. Repair facilities on a small scale. Material supplies very low.
(N.C.X.F. 0032A/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D., A.F.H.Q. London.)

K.M.S.4.

Pass to Commodore and ships concerned. Revised destinations. ANTONIA, Algiers. EMPIRE GAZELLE, Dran. Both ships are loaded with Admiralty North Country Coal.
(N.C.X.F. 0037A/5 to TAY, Escorts of K.M.S.4. (R) Admty., etc.)

French Ships
for Dakar.

- M.W.T.R. Algiers 1031/3 to D. of S.T. proposal that ATHOS 2, CHAMPILLION, COLUMBIA, JAMAIQUE should be despatched to Dakar is causing us great concern. These are valuable potential troopships which are most urgently needed for the heavy British and American commitments. If the ships proceed to Dakar there is little hope that they will be available for the Allied pool for a considerable period.
2. We realise that there may be important political grounds for agreeing to the move of French troops from Dakar to North Africa, but we must emphasise that unless the ships are to bring back valuable military formations the present escort position does not seem to warrant us in providing adequate A/S protection. At the same time, such valuable ships obviously ought not to sail without proper escort.
 3. Request you ensure that the above considerations are fully taken into account by Eisenhower.
 4. If minor repairs are necessary in order to make the ships fit for voyage to U.K. or U.S.A. could this be arranged at Gibraltar and given priority?
 5. Please pass to M.W.T.R. Algiers.
(M.Branch approved V.C.N.S. 0145A/5 to N.C.X.F.
Reply: N.C.X.F. 1207A/6.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X - contd.

Malta
Shipping at
Gibraltar.

Now that "Portcullis" has safely arrived, the disposal of Malta shipping waiting at Gibraltar requires reviewing. I would not propose to pass this convoy until the capture of Tunisia is achieved. Meanwhile these valuable ships lie idle. It is for consideration whether these ships should not now be discharged in North Africa where I have no doubt their contents would be welcome.
(N.C.X.F. 1610A/5 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A.)

K.M.F.4.

Following ships of K.M.F.4 are to sail for ports to eastward for quick discharge not exceeding 24 hours ANTENOR, SOBIESKI, for Philippeville ORBITA, MALOJA, VOLENDAM for Bone. Only 2 of these ships (? are to) be at Bone at one time. It is intended (? SCYLLA) shall be available to escort Bone section.
(? Escorts of K.M.F.) 4 should not be used if it can be avoided.
(N.C.X.F. 1645A/5 to F.O.I.S. (R) Cdre. Algiers, C.S.12.)

Landing
Operations.

Please impress on the authorities concerned that the following two requirements are essential to the success of any Combined Operation against an enemy coast -

(A) Landing craft Officers and Crews must be thoroughly trained in discipline and seamanship and 100 per cent spare crews must be carried. They must sail in the ship carrying their landing craft.

(B) L.S.I.S. must carry more landing craft slung on davits and all davits must be strong enough to enable craft to be lowered fully loaded.

(N.C.X.F. 1957A/5 to Admty. for D.N.C.X.F.)

160

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.SAN PIETRO,
FORTUNATA.

Merchant ships SAN PIETRO at Casablanca and FORTUNATA at Port Lyautey are Italian. Have these been taken in prize?
(N.C.X.F., 0033A/5 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty., A.F.H.Q. Algiers.)

U/B
damaged.

Enemy S/M previously reported is still on the surface and is damaged.
(A/C C/S TR1R, 0050/5 to Gibraltar M/F D/F.)

M/V
Collision,
K.M. F. 4.

Motor Vessels TEGELBERG and LLANGIBBY CASTLE entered Gibraltar. Damaged due to collision.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0245A/5 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.F. 4, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty.)
See p. 170
(1) LLANGIBBY CASTLE unfit for sea. Am transferring all passengers to LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE.
(2) TEGELBERG will be fit for sea after temporary repairs by p.m. tomorrow Sunday.
(3) OTRANTO will be ready for sea by a.m. Tuesday.
(4) Propose to sail LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and TEGELBERG p.m. Monday* to Algiers and OTRANTO p.m. Tuesday to Oran escorted by destroyer from Force H.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1807A/5 to N.C.X.F., Admty., etc.)
Approved. Instructions.
(N.C.X.F., 1133A/6.)
* Amended to Sunday.
(V.A. Gib., 1208A/6.)
My 1807A/5. (1) Temporary repairs to make LLANGIBBY CASTLE seaworthy will require 14 days in dock.
(2) Should ALMAACK be undocked and LLANGIBBY CASTLE given priority?
(V.A.C.N.A., 1808A/5 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty.)
Reply: LLANGIBBY CASTLE priority.
(N.C.X.F., 1610A/7.)

* EXE,
CITY OF
EDINBURGH.* *See p. 161^A*

Your 1555A/4th. CITY OF EDINBURGH not met. Am searching on line 040° 220' 10 miles either side of position 040° 02' N. 015° 56' W. Fuel remaining 37%.
(EXE, 0800Z/5 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)
CITY OF EDINBURGH has arrived. Proceed Gibraltar at best speed.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1107A/5 to EXE.)
Your 1107A/5. My P.C. and S. at 1800 039° 39' N. 014° 59' W. 120°, 14. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0730Z/7. Have condenseritis in starboard condenser, request dockyard assistance on arrival. One infectious case aboard. Have three R.A.F. Sergeant-Pilots and 140 bags mail for landing at Gibraltar.
(EXE, 1801Z/5 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) Admty.)

/AVON VALE ...

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

→ AVON VALE.

Return Gibraltar at best speed forthwith.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0803A/5 to AVON VALE, (R) N.C.X.F.,
Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.4, Admty.)*QUILK MATCH.
REDOUBT.
TANHTSIDE.
Force H.**See p. 168.*Your 1101A/4th. Owing to congestion in harbour
and anchorage and two damaged transports are
unable to accept first large ship of Force H
at Gate until 1030/6th and 3rd large ship until 1430.
Proposed berths are 49 NELSON zero hours; 47 RENOWN zero + 1
hour; 44 FORMIDABLE zero + 4; 53 FURIOUS zero + 5. Assume
no cruisers with you. Destroyer berths will be signalled
later.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1123A/5 to S.O. Force H, (R) N.C.X.F.)

SCHARLACH-
BERGER.Dec. 5th, telegram 185. German 55 left harbour
for France Dec. 5th 0945 G.M.T.(H.M. Consul Bilbao, 1145/5 N.A. Madrid no
T.O.O. to Admty.)Passing action being taken by W.R. F.O.(S)
H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.

GRETE.

Reported German controlled Danish SS. GRETE
expected Cartagena 5th Dec. leaving evening
6th Dec. for Marseilles.(S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1204A/5 to S.O.(I) X.F.,
S.O.(I) Malta.)

PORPOISE.

Proceed to Gibraltar by same route as in my
1040 to P.219. Adjust speed to pass 039° 01'
003° 16' E. at 2200/8th and then pass each
position 24 hours later than time stated in my 1040.

2. Do not cross 004° 35' W. before 0630/11th.

3. Submarines encountered on passage are not to be attacked
unless definitely identified as hostile.(Capt. S.8, 1210A/5 to PORPOISE, 8th S/M.F., (R) N.C.X.F.,
Capt. (S) 10.)

THRASHER.

Intend sailing THRASHER painted dark blue p.m.

6th for U.K. passing 42.59 N. 13.15 W. at
0130A/10th shifting wireless watch at that time,
thence as ordered by F.O.S.

(Capt. S.8, 1220A/5 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)

K.M.F. 4G.

My 0809/5 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend sailing MONARCH
OF BERMUDA, DERBYSHIRE escorted by FARNDALE (S.O.)
AVON VALE, ANTELOPE at 1700/5 for Oran routed
through 70, 86, 100, S. of A. 14 knots.

(2) Codeword "Collins One".

(3) ANTELOPE ordered to return Gibraltar at best speed reaching
entrance to swept channel as she is required a.m./?6th.

(4) OTRANTO, defective estimated time 48 hours.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1252A/5 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)

/Sailed ...

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.

1350A/5th December.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date, 5.12.42.

From, V.A. Gibraltar.

Reed, 2042.

Naval Cypher (3)3 By W/T.

Addressed. Situation report for Area X of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 1957/5.

1. H.M.S. THRASHER, sailed 1200/6th through 36 40 07 30 to 225 degs. St. Vincent 10. On surface 11. *See previous page*
2. K.M.S. 4, (?TAY), 7 corvettes, 4 trawlers, 35 45 10 01 to Gibraltar 7.
3. K.X. 7 KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, H.M.S. LAUDERDALE, 40 43 13.09 through 40 01 13 01 thence 142 degs. 7.
4. U.S. convoy, (landing craft), estimated 34 06 14 (?33) 076 degs. 10.
5. B.A.T. 6, B.A.T. 10, estimate 34 01 22 01 090 degs. 12. *See next page*
6. ARCTIC RINGER, one merchant ship, 37 01 07 19 direct Cape St. Vincent 631 coastwise to Lisbon 8.
7. Hospital ship ATLANTIC, 22 14 19 35 004 degs. 13.
8. 2 M.F.V.'s, 43 49 12 15 through 43 01 12 15 thence 162 degs. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
9. Portuguese sloop, GONCALO VELHO, left Cape Verde Is. p.m. 3rd for The Downs 10.
10. ~~EXE 57 48 11 53~~ to Gibraltar 15. *See p. 160.*

1350A/5.

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

V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 A.C.N.S. (T)
 N.A. 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)
 D. of P. (Q)

Admiral Blake
 U.S.N. (3)
 Ad. Ramsey (4)

SECRET

161^B

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

1352A/5th December IN

From F.O.C. North Atlantic

Date 5.12.42.

Recd. 1654.

Naval Cypher 3 (F) By W/T.

Addressed Ships and Authorities North Atlantic Station
Area Y.

IMPORTANT

Situation at 2000 A 5th (1) B.A.T. 6 B.A.T.
10 estimated 34 01 22 01 090° 12. *See previous page*

1352A/5.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H) & (F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty House
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D.9. (2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
C.C.R.T.

Advance Copy Ops.
O.D.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - con't.

K.M.F. 4G. Sailed 1714 Convoy K.M.F. 4G for Oran escorted
(Contd.) by FARNDALE, AVON VALE, ANTELOPE. ANTELOPE
part company off Oran and return to Gibraltar
unless otherwise ordered by N.C.X.F.
(V.A. Gib., 1733A/5 to Admty.)

SCYLLA. My 1047/5 (N.T. in W.R.) Sailed SCYLLA at 1400
Summary 169 & 170 for Algiers routed through 73, 56, 89, 100, S.
of A. 25 knots.
2. Relevant Q.B., Q.B.B., Q.B.C., and Q.B.A. up to 10 held.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1400A/5 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., C.S.12,
N.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers.)

French My 0950Z (N.T. in W.D.) French ships should
Ships for now be sailed for Dakar as early as convenient
Dakar. in accordance with my 1156/30th Nov.
(N.C.X.F., 1549A/5 to R.A. Gibraltar, (R)
S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.C.W.A., P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Gibraltar Op. summ. for 24 hours ended midnight 4th Dec.
Air Report. U-Boat sightings and attacks. Wellington D/179
0520 hours LBJB? 3230 (36° 32' N. 1° 30' W.) co.
240°, 6 knots. U-Boat fully surfaced at time of
attacks. 4 D/Cs dropped 2 of which exploded approx. 30 ft. on
starboard side slightly abaft C/T, large patch of oil 1 min.
after explosion which continued to increase. C/47 in transit
from Algiers at 1232 hours LBRN 0303 hours. Sighted fully
surfaced stationary U-Boat. Hudson W/233 1207 hours INV or
XTNV 1628 co. 180°, 18 knots, sighted U-Boat on surface 5 miles
away, dived before attack could be made.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gib., 1725Z/5.)

French S/M Ministry of Marine were informed by French N.A.
Cadiz. Lisbon that French submarine had entered Cadiz
and requested repair facilities. These were
? LE TONNANT. refused and she sank herself off the Port.
See 15/11 pp 646, 665, & 670^a. Date unknown. Ministry of Marine informed on 3rd.
16/11 - p. 705 - (N.A. Lisbon, 1840/5 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)
17/11 - pp 745, 755 Gibraltar, N.A. Madrid.)
17/11 - 773, 774

STORK. Request you will give repairs STORK highest
priority so that she can sail with M.K.S. 3(Y).
(N.C.X.F., 1853A/5 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) STORK.)

Aircraft Admty. 1314/25th Nov. to N.C.X.F. only. ARGUS
in ARGUS. leave U.K. on 11th Dec. in K.M.F.5 with following
See p. 156^E aircraft embarked: 6 Albacore, 6 Walrus, 3
Martlet, 3 Swordfish, and flying and maintenance
crews for 6 Albacore and 6 Walrus. They will be disembarked
at Gibraltar.
2. It is intended that the 6 Walrus shall relieve 833 Sqdn.
at Gibraltar, unless required elsewhere by you.

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - ~~cont.~~Aircraft
in ARGUS.
(Contd.)3. The remainder of the personnel and aircraft
are intended to be added to the reserve at
Gibraltar,4. 833 Sqn. should be embarked in ARGUS
together with any aircraft requiring repair for
passage to the U.K.(D.N.A.D., Approved by A.C.N.S.(H), 1908A/5 to
N.C.X.F.)

K.M.S. 4.

My 2333A/4th ~~(N.P. in W.D.)~~ Following M.S.4
route from position G through - 035° 24' N.
009° 00' W., 034° 58' N. 009° W., 034° 46' N.
008° 32' W., 034° 46' N. 008° W., 035° 05' N. 007° 40' W.,
035° 30' N. 007° 40' W. arriving 035° 59' N. 007° 12' W. at
1200A/7th. Convoy passed position G at (718)00A/5th.
(S.O. 30th Escort Group, 2001A/5 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F.)MAPLEWOOD,
SAMPHIRE.SS. MAPLEWOOD sailed from Melilla escorted by
SAMPHIRE. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1000A/6th. Special
uncoded weather report.(SAMPHIRE, 2030A/5 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.S.O.
Gibraltar, Capt. (D) Gibraltar.)South Atlantic.HIGHLAND
BRIGADE.Proposed to send HIGHLAND BRIGADE in W.S.25 to
Takoradi with personnel. Consideration is
being given to possibility of loading cargo in
her which will take one week at Takoradi to
discharge.2. F.O.C.W.A. is requested to advise whether from the naval
point of view HIGHLAND BRIGADE can be held at Takoradi for one
week and S.T.O. Takoradi to advise amount of cargo which can
be discharged in this time.(D.S.T., 0155A/5 to F.O.C.W.A., S.T.O. Takoradi, (R) D.S.T.O.
West Africa.)

TAKLIWA.

My 1141Z/30th. Do you concur?
(D.S.T.O. Kilindini, 0647Z/5 to D.S.T.O. Egypt,
(R) D. of S.T.)

/Gibraltar ...

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Gibraltar 4 trawlers arriving Bathurst from Horta will
- Dakar be required to meet Gibraltar - Dakar convoy of
Convoy. 7 French ships. Further signals will be made.
(R.A.W.A., 0913Z/5 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R)
F.O.C.N.A., Admty., N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

CLEANTHIS. Your 1450/4th (SS. CLEANTHIS reported having
been circled by unidentified merchantman).
Request you will signal description of
merchantman and position of incident.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 0945C/5 to C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, (R)
Admty., S.O.(I) Kilindini.)
Your 0945/5th my 1450/4th. 005° 03' S. 044° 30' E. 8 to
10,000 tons. 2 masts. One funnel near main mast. Full
description sent by air mail to S.O.(I) Capetown and S.O.(I)
Kilindini.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 1438B/5 to S.O.(I) Capetown, (R)
S.O.(I) Kilindini, Admty.)

AUBRETIA, When may AUBRETIA and VIOLET be expected to
* VIOLET. return to West Africa, as other ships requiring
refit cannot be spared until they return.
* *see p. 156* (F.O.C.W.A., 1009Z/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)
Reply: Admty. 1800A/6.

Shipping Following is Connav 041550 addressed to Admty.
Information, for action and to C.T.F.25; and Comsolantfor
S. Atlantic for information:
Force. Every effort is being made to keep South Atlantic
Force informed regarding shipping in that area.
As Cdr. S.A. Force, now has grid chart Z60 it
will be appreciated if Admty. will pass to Connav, repeated to
Comsolantfor, the daily grid positions of vessels for South
Atlantic dispersed from outbound convoys beginning at 20 North
and to include all vessels for which Connav does not have
destinations and routes.
The following arrangement of information is suggested if Admty.
concur with the above plan: (A) Date of first grid position.
(B) Name of vessel. (C) Grid numbers for daily positions
during voyage. (Where greater accuracy is possible the lettered
suffix to grid numbers should be used to indicate quadrant.
To avoid repetition the first digit of present grid number
should be deleted). (D) Destination.
Diversion to be indicated by follow-up grid.
(Comnaveu, 1107/5 to Admty.)

NOVA SCOTIA. NOVA SCOTIA sunk by torpedo in 7 minutes 20
miles N.E. Cape St. Lucia 0910Z/28th Nov.
Survivors list forwarded Casualty Section,
Admiralty by Shipping Consul. 192 survivors mostly Italian.
19 of crew saved including 2nd Officer, D.E.M.S. Gunner and
Convoy Signalman. Written report follows.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 1117B/5 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C.
E.F., Admty., Cdre. Durban.)

/C.A.1

SECRET

164A

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 1029Z/5 Dec. IN.
From F.O.C. W. Africa. Date 5/12/42.
Recd. 1545.
Naval Cypher 3 (M) by W/T.

Addressed: Situation Report area P.
Ship in area P of S.A. Station
North of 8 degrees North.
Admiralty, C. in C. S.A.
N.O.I.C. Bathurst.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. DUNCION, DUNKERY, BIRDLIP, 14 46 19 26
to Bathurst 10. BUTSER, 19 22 20 54 169 9.
INKPEN, 13 16 North 18 08 154 10

H.M.S. ARMEIA, 08 01 20 47 086 degrees
10.75. H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, 08 13 15 45 to
Freetown 10.1 (one) Motor Launch, escorting
off Freetown to Bathurst. 10 *LADY ELSA,

*WELLARD, *ARIC EXPLORER, patrolling off
Freetown. Situation at 1959Z 5th. H.M.S.
TURCOMAN, patrolling between 17 01 19 59
and 17 00 22 01 and escorting to southward.

* See p. 165C

1029Z/5.

V.C.N.S. Advance copy Ops. O.D. C.I.C.
A.C.N.S. (F)
N.A. 1st. S.L.
Capt. Pim, Admiralty Hse.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
C.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9. (2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
D.S.D. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.D.O.D. (C) (2)

5.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- C.A. 1. My 0628Z/5th (N.T. in W.D.) CALIFORNIA did not sail in C.A. 1.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1132Z/5 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. 1/c Durban.)
- Lourenco Marques. A.M. 1713/4th. Lourenco Marques has closed on 2 occasions for very short periods. Traffic is continued, but in view of U-Boat menace ships are sailing in groups to Durban and thence well to seaward. Impossibility of providing air cover off Portuguese East Africa has necessitated temporary suspension of direct coastal route to northward.
(C. in C. S.A., 1221C/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C.S.A. Lourenco Marques.) *(Reply. Admty 2385A/7, page 232)*
- Shipping Routes. Your 1550/2. Concur generally.
2. Recommend that while U/B disposition remains as at present appreciated, fast ships both north and westbound should keep east of 20° W. till North of 10° N.
3. Slower westbound ships to keep south of equator till west of 40° W.
4. Westbound fast ships routed as in (2) above to proceed direct to destination on U.S. East Coast keeping north of 10° N. till west of 40° W. and bunkering at Freetown if necessary.
5. Volume of shipping in fast and slow categories to be approximately equal and speed division to be determined accordingly.
6. Subject to your agreement and that of F.O.C. W.A. this proposal will be recommended to Connav for concurrence.
(D.T.D., 1254A/5 to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C.W.A.)
Reply: C. in C. S.A. 1311C/7.
- Diego Suarez Minefield. C. in C. E.F.'s 0914/4th Dec. SPINDRIFT is at present relaying D/G range at Capetown and proceeding Saldanha Bay on 7th Dec. to carry out survey. *MANCHESTER CITY unloading all explosives for dock. C. in C. Durban is requested to report date she will be loaded and ready for sea. Mines cannot be laid at Saldanha Bay until underwater fittings have been traced (my 1833/4th not to all addressees refers) but ship could lay guard loops.
(C. in C. S.A., 1308C/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, C. in C. Durban.) **See p. 180*
- LLANDAFF CASTLE. An untrue press report originating in Lourenco Marques alleged that LLANDAFF CASTLE carried S. African troops and that there were only 40 survivors.
(2) If published in S. Africa it would have caused considerable feeling in view of imminent return of first S.A. Division on leave and a denial would have been unavoidable.

165A

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 the British or Allied Forces.

MOST SECRET.

IN.

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 5.12.42.
Time 1835

NAVAL CYPHER D BY W/T.

CORRECTION.

Addressed Admiralty. S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Deputy C. in C.
Eastern Fleet. F.O.C. W.Af. F.C.C.N.A.
F.L.O. Delhi.

SEE ALSO NEXT PAGE.

288. Durban to Simonstown, H.M.S. ALCANTARA,
expected time of arrival 6th. Pointe Noire to Simonstown,
H.M.S. P.552, expected time of arrival 8th. With C A 3,
H.M.S. ROCKROSE, to 037 degs. south (? 067 degs.) east.
With D N 4, H.M.S. INCONSTANT, H.M.S. EXPRESS. Northwest
Capetown, escort tanker, H.M.S. THYME. *See next page p 166*

Simonstown, C.19, and 21, H.M.S. NIZAM, H.M.S.
FOXHOUND, H.M.S. FORTUNE, M.Ls. 380, 381, 382.

Capetown, EMILE BAUDOT, SPINDRIFT, COMMANDANT
DUBOC, MEAD. ** See previous page*

Saldanha Bay, FERNMOOR, BARCROSS.

Port Elizabeth, KHETI, STORMWRACK, H.M.S. ATHENE. *See p 178*

East London, COLOMBIA, SARKA, SATSA, H.M.S.
CAPETOWN, CECILE MAPLESON, OLWEN.

Durban, H.M.S. EREBUS, H.M.S. *MANCHESTER CITY,
H.M.S. *ENGADINE, H.M.S. CHITRAL, H.M.S. RESCURCE, H.M.S.
EROBISHER, H.M.S. ALBATROSS, H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA,
H.M.S. BILLWORT, H.M.S. FREESIA, H.M.S. JASMINE, H.M.S.
GENISTA, H.M.S. NIGELLA, H.M.S. ROTHERHAM, H.M.S. NEPAL,
H.M.S. NORMAN, H.M.S. CATTERICK, SONDRA. ** See previous page*

** See p 178*

1147C/5

NOTE: There are two messages with T.O.O. 1147/5 from
C. in C. S.A. The whole of this message after
"M.Ls. 380, 381, 382" is the correction.

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.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. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D.D.O.D. (M)

MOST SECRET

165^B

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.

POST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

1147C/5th December.

IN

From, G. in C. South Atlantic.

Date, 5.12.42.

Reed, 1540.

Naval Cypher 3(M) By W/T.

Addressed, Ships in Area Q of South Atlantic Station. Admiralty
Commodore i/c Durban. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.
N.L.O. East London. F.O.C. W. Africa.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, 034 degs. 55' South 021 degs. 20' East to
Simonstwn. 16½ knots.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, with convoy O.A. one 035 degs. 00' South
020 degs. 00' East to 037 degs. South 025 degs. East 10 knots.

See pp 165 & 166 THYME, escorting ELISE, 031 degs. 45' South 014 degs. 05'
East to 031 degs. 15' South 013 degs. 14' East 9 knots then on to
R/V with P. 552 in 031 degs. South 015 degs. East at 1100Z 6th.

P. 552, 029 degs. 20' South 013 degs. 05' East to Simonstown
9 knots.

INCONSTANT, H.M.S. EXPRESS 030 degs. 40' South 039 degs.
00' East to 028 degs. 03' South 041 degs. 40' East 19 knots to
R/V with NIEUW AMSTERDAM and escort to Durban.

1147C/5.

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, Pir
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)

See previous page

AJA

165^c

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1241z/5th December
IN

Date 5.12.42

Recd. 1645

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Naval Cypher (3) M 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

Situation at 2001z/5th. *p.166A*

H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, 06 20 20 32 to join H.M.S. ASTURIAS, Two M.L.'s, escorting about 07 05 12 59 to Marshall 6.
H.M.S. LADY ELSA, H.M.S. ~~WARIAGE~~, H.M.S. ARCTIC EXPLORER, patrolling off Freetown. * *p.164A*
HOLCOMBE, with C.F. 9, 06 58 13 10 to Freetown 14½.
H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, escorting 02 18 08 11 75 12½.
H.M.S. ASTURIAS, 02.06.21.21.358°14.
H.M.S. ST LOMAN, H.M.S. STELLA POLARIS, KYBER, two M.L.'s, with S.T. (~~256~~ or 45), 02 56 07 24 83 9.
H.M.S. SPHENE, escorting 03 34 07 21 89 8.
H.M.S. FANDANGO, BARFOSS, 05 04 09 43, to Marshall 9.
H.M.S. PHOEBE, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, 03 52 01 03 East to Takoradi 11.
2 motor launches, about 04 01 00 55 East to Takoradi 11.
H.M.S. CORINTHIAN, 08 44 South 08 52 259 11½.
H.M. Ships ST ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, COVENTRY CITY, MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE, 03 20 South 09 51 East to Point Noire 5½.
H.M.S. DESPATCH, on patrol between St Pauls Rocks and Equator 25 West, leaves patrol a.m. 6th for Freetown 17.
COPINSAY, off Accra.

1241z/5

Advance copy to 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)
D.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.F.(2)
Duty Capt.(2)

W.D.
U.S.N.
Hd. of M.
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(C)
D.M.S.
D.D.O.D.(C)

166

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

LLANDAFF (3) Censorship prevented report being passed
CASTLE. direct to Union from Lourenco Marques but United
(Contd.) Press cable to London was called back here.
(4) Press and other cables from London are
assumed to have been passed by London censorship
and are not subjected to further censorship here or submitted
to Naval authorities for scrutiny.
(5) Consequently report reached press who reluctantly suppressed
it on grounds that its publication was playing straight into
enemy hands.
(6) In view of position described in para. 4 above request
urgent representations may be made to London censorship to stop
items in press cables to S. Africa which are not suitable for
publication. This is the more necessary now as press have
realised leniency of London censorship and are arranging for
items from Lourenco Marques to be passed back to S. Africa from
London.
(C. in C. S.A., 1320C/5 to Admty.)

135 M.L. My 0022/5, ^{H.T.M. H.D.} not to R.A.C.F. H.D.M.L. 1150 and
Flotilla. next seven boats to be shipped from U.K. are to
constitute the 135th M.L. Flotilla. Request
you will indicate port to which stores and
spares should be shipped.
(D.D.O.D.(C), 1326A/5 to C. in C. S.A., (R)
R.A.C.F.)

Lagos At about 0915Z today disastrous explosion
Harbour occurred, probably magazine of trawlers refitting
explosion, alongside and caused by petrol in harbour from
BENGALI, civil source (? becoming) alight. Following
CANNA, trawlers sunk: BENGALI, CANNA and SPANIARD.
SPANIARD, KELT (? afloat) but wrecked. Dockyard badly
KELT. smashed and out of action. Naval casualty
list approx. 1 officer, 17 men and 3 Kroomen
missing presumed killed. Many injured. Full
list of killed and injured will be reported as soon as known.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1345Z/5 to R.A.W.A., (R) Admty.,
PHILOCTETES.)

Regret to inform you that three armed trawlers blew up at
Apapa this morning. So far as can be ascertained no loss of
life except those on the trawlers, numbers not known. Number
of persons injured. Two small Marine Department vessels sunk
and others damaged. Marine Dockyard out of action, but extent
of damage not yet ascertained. No suspicion of sabotage.
Enquiry will be held.

(Governor Nigeria, (Sir B. Bourdillon), No T.O.O./5 to
S. of S. for Colonies.)

THYME, Capetown departure 1915C/4th THYME escorting
ELISE, tanker ELISE to 031° 15' S. 013° 14' E. and
P. 552. thence to R/V with P.552 in 031° 00' S. 015° 00'
E. at 1400C/6th and escort to Simonstown.
See pp 16 SA 73 (C. in C. S.A., 1359C/5 to Admty., P.552.)

/TOUAREG ...

SECRET

166A

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.

14272/5th December.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

From. F.O.C. West Africa.

Date: 5.12.42.
Recd: 1948.

Naval Cypher (II) by W/T.

Addressed. Admiralty, N.C.X.F., C. in C. South Atlantic,
B.A.D. Washington, V.A. Gibraltar, Comsclant for
106, S.B.N.C. Western Atlantic.

~~351~~ Weekly statement 5th December. *See p.165c*

Freetown. H.M.S. EDINBURGH CASTLE, H.M. Sub. P.614.,
H.M.S. ILEX, H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, N,
H.M.S. BURDOCK, (?H.M.S. TAMARISK), H.M.S. PHILOCTETES,
COMM. DESTROYAT, H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM, Freetown Area.
H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER
H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, H.M.S. ARMERIA, HOLCOMBE,
Takoradi area. H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU,
F.S. DESTILLENNE DORVES.

Ascension area. H.M.S. CORINTHIAN.

Detached. H.M.S. DESPATCH, H.M.S. VENICTIVE, H.M.S. WIVERN,
H.M.S. VELOX, H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. VIMY, H.M.S. BRILLIANT,
H.M.S. VANSITTART, H.M.S. ANTELOPE, H.M.S. PETUNIA,
H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE,
COWSLIP, H.M.S. AUBRETTIA, H.M.S. SNOWDROP, H.M.S. VIOLET,
H.M.S. ROCKROSE, French Sloops SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA,
* PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, BELLWORT.

* A.P.V. (Trawler)

14272/5.

Advance Copy. Ops., O.D.

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

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- TOUAREG. Arrival Pointe Noire 5th Dec. CHASSEUR 43 escorting SS. TOUAREG. (B.N.L.O. W.A.F., 1525/5 to F.O.W.A.F., (R) Admty., R.N.O. Lagos, N.C.S.O. Duala.)
- U.S. M/V, Pass following for action to N.O.I.C. Falkland
distress. Islands from Cominch C. and R. U.S. merchantman
*(? MAY) CKEESDAWN bound Buenos Aires to
Valparaiso now in difficulties due to westerly
gale South (? of) Cape Horn has been directed to make Port
Stanley for further instructions. Upon arrival request you
re-route this vessel to its destination through Magellan
Strait. Alusna Buenos Aires has (? arranged accordingly).
(Radio Washington, 1546Z/5 to Admty.) *? MAKEESPORT in the S.
Passing action being taken by W.R.
- U/Bs. District Commissioner Afloa reports sub. sighted
by fishermen 3 miles off Afloa at 0610/4th.
U.S. aircraft reports sighting submarine 4 miles
south of Accra at 1155Z/5th. Course 180°.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1547Z/5 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C.
Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
- NIEUW Following received from NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Your
AMSTERDAM. 1751/4th Dec. will pass R/V 0200 G.M.T. 6th Dec.
Advise continuing on account of leak main steam
pipe, speed still 20 knots.
(Burnham Radio, 1600 G.M.T./5 to C. in C. S.A.,
(R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
- COLUMBINE, My 1655/30th, not to Eastern Fleet.
towage. Propose BOLD and INTEGRITY tow SS. COLUMBINE
disabled (?at) Pointe Noire to Capetown. Escort
to be provided by three of trawlers on passage to
Cape. This will avoid commercial tug being sent from Cape.
(F.O.W.A., 1615Z/5 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.,
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O.W.A., ST. LOMAN.)
Approved. (Admty., 1052A/7.)
- ENTERPRISE, Illuminated ship approx. 8000 tons in 019° 40' N.
Unidentified 020° 42' W. steering 035° at 10 knots. Unable
ship. to identify. Have assumed neutral and am
proceeding in accordance with previous
instructions.
(ENTERPRISE, 2001Z/5 to F.O. West Africa.)
- Personnel Your 1103/4th Dec., F.O.C. West Africa 1757/4th
ships. Dec. (re sailing of ALMANZORA, JOHAN VAN
OLDENBARNEVELT for U.K.) Unescorted numbers
only are to be embarked.
(D.O.D.(F), 2241A/5 to C. in C. S.A., (R)
F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Enemy
Units.P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers and one Merchant
Vessel 39.35 N. 12.50 E. 220° 12 knots.
(A/C C/S G5N/T 0030A/5 to Air H.Q. Malta).

* P.219. P.219 your 2213/4th. acknowledged good work
 P.217. *see p. 174* return forthwith through 038.27, 009.30 to pass
 * *see next page* 038.38 008.01 at 0430A/6th thence as ordered by
 v. p. 170 C Capt. (S) 8. Attention is called to movements of
 P.222 and PORPOISE. P.217 is to patrol your area given in my
 2359/3rd.
 (Capt. S. 10.0159/5, to P.219 P.217 (R) N.C.X.F. S/Ms on patrol
 Capt. (S) 8). (See also 1040A/5).

P.43.
R. of P.

Port generator broken down, unserviceable, Cape
 San Vito not yet reached.
 2, abortive submerged attacks, undoubted
 detection 9000 yards, no explanation, target
 turned away, few depth charges, 90 minutes
 hydrophone hunt.
 Convoy route 25' W. Marittimo. Probable R.D.F.
 direct destroyers by night certain vicinity
 Marittimo.
 (P.43 0346A/5 to Capt. S.10).

SPEEDY.

SPEEDY entering now.
 (Malta 0729A/5 to C.S.15).

Operation
"Portcullis."

Convoy M.W.14 arrived.
 (V. A. Malta 0812A/5 to Admty, N.C.X.F. etc).

Enemy
Destroyers.

Following has been ready from Alexandria W/T:-
 P.C. and S. of 4 destroyers. 37.20 N. 10.20 E.
 (A/C C/S FAU Duty D. 0840A/5 to Hal Far D/F
 (Malta)).

M.T.Bs for
Malta.

Intend sailing M.T.Bs 268 and 260 at 1100B/5th
 for Malta E.T.A. 0900B/6th passing through (AA)
 035.25 N. 014.06 E. S. of A. 20 knots. Constant
 watch on Admiral's wave shifting to read M.D.
 routine. Codeword "Object."
 (S.O. 10th M.T.B.F. 0846A/5 to N.O.I.C. Malta (R)
 C.C.F. F.O.C. 15th C.S. A.I.G. 72, R.N.H.Q.M.E.,
 WELSHMAN, S.H.A. 46, H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.).

QUICKMATCH
REDOUBT,
TANATSIDE.

QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT arrived 2230/4th fuelled and
 sailed 0435/5th TANATSIDE arrived 2200/4th fuelled
 and sailed 0625/5th. All ships rejoined
 convoy K.M.F.4.
 (V.A. Malta 0927A/5th to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.C
 Oran, Cdre. Algiers).

*? F.O.C. N.A.**see pp 124**9 124*

/Force.Q....

169

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Force Q. Force Q arrived Bone. U-Boats sighted at 1952
U/B in 37.39 N. 08.12 E. and at 2330 in 37.55 N.
attacked by 08.10 E. Not considered same U-Boats. Latter
ESKIMO. sighted at 8 cables by ESKIMO who attacked
leading edge at wake with full pattern as U/B
see p.177 crash dived. Destruction considered probable.
(F.O.C.12th C. S. 0930A/5 to F.O.I.S.(R) N.X.C.E)

TIGRIS. P.219's 2213/4th. TIGRIS proceed dive by
see p.170 + 177 day pass 038.10 N. 007.58 E. at 2100/ 5th
thence 065° or as ordered by Capt.(S- 10
to carry out patrol off Naples.
(Capt.S.8. 0940A/5, to TIGRIS (R) Capt.(S) 10
N.C.X.F. S/Ms on patrol).

P.219. Well done.
see previous page
p.170 page Proceed diving by day through 039.01 N. 006.59
E. at 2000/6th 039.01 003.16 at 2200/7th, 135°
Cape Palos 10 miles at 0200/9th, 180° Cape de Gata 10 miles at
2000/9th, thence 10 miles from Spanish Coast to arrive Gib.
1030/ 10th.
Proceed on surface at your discretion on 10th and do not cross
004.35 W. before 0630/10th.
(Capt.S.8. 1040A/5, to P.219 (R) 8th S.F., N.C.X.F., Capt.(S)
10th).

Enemy Three M/Vs 240, 3, 200, 19.30 S. 11.44 E.
M/Vs. (A/C C/S BTD Duty/E 1045Z/5 to No.201 Group H.Q)

SCYLLA. E.T.A. Algiers 0800A/6th. Request Gate at
see p.162 0830.
next page (SCYLLA 1052A/5 to Cdre.Algiers,(R) N.C.X.F.,
F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H.)

Order to Withdraw 50 miles from the Coast, orders
S/Ms. follow.
(Capt.S.10 1058A/5 to S/Ms on Patrol, (R)
N.C.A.F.).

Enemy Following has been read by Alexandria.
M/V. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 small Merchant Vessel
(not exceeding 2,000 tons) 37.55 N. 12.05 E.080
degrees, 12 knots.
(A/C C/S FAU Duty S. 1107A/5 to Hal Far).
P.C. and S. of one enemy M/V (not
exceeding 10,000 tons) are 0251 205 3.
(A/C C/S FAU Duty S. 1110A/5 to Hal Far).
Following has been read from Alexandria. 1 M/V 200 2 220°
35.05 N. 11.30 E.
(A/C C/S BTD Duty E. 1110Z/5 to 201 Group).

/LLANGIBBY.....

War Diary.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LLANGIBBY
CASTLE.
TEGELBERG.
See p.160

Your 1648A/4th (Circulated as 1709/4) LLANGIBBY CASTLE and TEGELBERG delayed by collision at Gibraltar. Request names of ships required in lieu.
(EGRET 1118A/5 to Cdre. Algiers (R) N.C.X.F.).

Enemy Units.

Following has been read by Alexandria W/T P.C. and S. of enemy 3 medium M/Vs 1 destroyer 38.00 N. 11.42 E. 020° 10 knots.
(A/C C/S FAU S. 1127A/5 to Hal Far).

Following has been read by Alexandria. One M/V 270° 2 miles 100° 35.14 N. 11.15 E. 2 M/Vs 090° 2 miles 170° 34.50 N. 11.30 E. One M/V 000° one mile 300° 34.37 N. 11.15 E.
(A/C C/S BTD Duty E. 1135/5, 1144/5, 1156/5).

Ammunition
for
Algiers.

Your 1120A/3rd now received. Amend my 1622A/4th not to Cdre. Algiers. (a) 1000 of each.
(b) 6", 150 H.E. 440 C.P.B.C. which is total stock given.
Request provision trays and shell bags for disembarkation.
*(SCYLLA 1132A/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.S. 12th. F.O.C.N.A. Cdre. Algiers, S.O. Force H.).

** See p. 162 & 169*

CELENO
(Italian).

My 11432C/4. CELENO arrived fully laden 8.30 G.M.T. from Constanza.
No indication yet when vessel will continue voyage to Aegean.
(S.O. (I) Istanbul via N.I.D. 1135C/5, to S.O. (I) Med. S.1 (R) D.N.I.).
My 1135C/5 ? addressed Malta. CELENO ? may sail next 48 hours for Piraeus. B.3
(S.O. (I) Istanbul 1550C/5 to S.1 Malta S.10, S.O. (I) Med. (R) D.N.I.).

Malta
Movements.

Arrivals. CLEOPATRA, ^xDIDO, ^xEURYALUS, ORION, JERVIS, KELVIN, NUBIAN, JAVELIN, DULVERTON, CROOME, TETCOTT, PAKENHAM, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, BELVOIR, HURSLEY, ^{*}PALADIN, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, PINDOS.
(V.A. Malta, 1140A/5 to Admty etc).
** See p. 171. x See p. 172*

Force Q.

Force Q is to sail after dark further instructions follow.
(S.O. I.S. 1148A/5 to C.S. 12 (R) N.C.X.F.).

"Portcullis"
"Quadrangle."
publicity.

See p. 168

Just heard that "Portcullis" has entered Malta. If as appears probable the Axis have not been interested I feel it would be better not to put out any communique until completion of "Quadrangle". If we talk too much it may goad them into activity.
(C. in C. Med 1151B/5 to Admty (R) N.O.I.C. Malta).

/WELSHMAN...

SECRET

170^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.)

MESSAGE 1001, 15th December IN

From Algiers.

Date 5.12.42

Recd. 1730Z

Addressed: ABFOR London.

Reference No. 1224.

Interior Addresses: To: ABFOR AGWAR
From: FREEDOM ALGIERS

Situation report 31, December 4:

1. Scale of fighting 3 December more serious than first reported. 11th Brigade suffered heavy casualties. Especially rear guard. 2 Hampshires who failed to get withdrawal order and were cut off. Due collapse and blocking track through defile used in night withdrawal. Loss in guns high. Particularly 6 pounder anti-tank guns of which 20 lost. 11th Brigade claim inflicted severe casualties on enemy 3 December. Strength enemy attack estimated at least 3 Battalions with 35 Mark 3 and Mark 6 tanks supported by dive bombers. After withdrawal position established line reported in Situation Report 30. Very heavy dive bombing morning 4 December. Only patrol activity during day. Attempt operate fighters from Medjex El Bab airdrome late December in order lessen burden of continual dive bombing of tired troops who cannot be relieved for 3 days at least. Until air threat properly dealt with no possibility of lessening effort demanded of supporting R.A.F. and U.S.A. Squadrons.

2. Air score December 4: 6 destroyed. 2 probable. 7 damaged. Our loss 8.

3. 11th Brigade must be reinforced strongly before fit for effective action. Situation 36th Brigade unchanged. Touch established with commando landed on North Coast. Total loss enemy tanks. 1 to 3 December estimated 33. No figures on those recovered. CG V Corps assumed command all troops forward zone. Administrative situation forward precarious. Reserves small. Should improve when large stocks all kinds reach railhead within 48 hours. Arrival of more trucks permits opening Sunday new road supply route south from La Calle. Latter port will be stocked from Bone by landing craft tank and

landing....

54 N
27 E

170^B

2.

landing craft MGX. Much progress relieving block from forward railways. Inefficient railway staff Souk El Arba still cause delays. Transportation expert obtained from Gen Juin to assist solve muddle there. Splendid work by Royal Engineers and French employees succeeded clear line at Souk Ahras for first train at 1600Z. Electricity will not be restored for 48 hours at least. Meanwhile shunting and other work impeded. CG First Army to visit Constantine. Ain Beida and Tobessa December 5.

Rec'd AG ETO: DEC.060915Z.
1121/5

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D. & O.I.C.

ETO DISTRIBUTION:

Relays: Relayed to Agwar by signals, AES Additional Action if Required: G-3 (8)
Information copies:

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
Naval Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
O.D. (5)
C.C.L.S.
O.I.C. (3)
Ops. (3)
D. or P. (3)
M. (2)
I.P. (3)
D.P.D.
W.D.
D.N.I. (5)
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
Ad. Blake

1. Cables
2. AG Records
3. Sec GS (2)
4. G-1
5. G-2
6. G-4
7. STANDARD SITUATION AND INTELLIGENCE DISTRIBUTION.

Rec'd in War Reg. 1800/6.

MOST SECRET

1709

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 ^{1130A/5th Dec 43} command ~~circles~~.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

From. N.C.X.F.

Date. 5.12.43.

Recd. 2330.

Naval Code (L.1) By T/P.

Addressed. Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

1. K.M.F. 4, (corrupt group), H.M.S. EGRET, H.M.S. REDOUBT, H.M.S. BANFF, SWALE, H.M.S. TANATHIDE, H.M.S. QUICKMATCH, 036 degs. 17' North 000 degs. 11' East routed 34, 100 to Algiers 12½.
2. H.M.S. QUEEN EMMA, escorted by H.M.S. BICESTER, H.M.S. WHARFLAND, 037 degs. 12' North 006 degs. 08' East routed direct to Algiers 20. *Amended 1735A/5*
3. M.K.S. 3 (X), H.M.S. ROCHESTER, H.M.S. LEITH, H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SCARBOROUGH, H.M.S. STORK, H.M.S. COREOPSIS, H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. AZALEA, 037 degs. 22' North 002 degs. 59' East routed 038 degs. 18' North 001 degs. 26' East, 038 degs. 18' North 000 degs. 48' East, 037 degs. 57' North 000 degs. 23' East thence 109 (corrupt group) direct Oran. Sections join at 1000A 7th, 93, 50, 78, 57, 7½. Cancel route given in paragraph 4 of my situation report 1958A 4th. *p.115*
4. E.T.5, H.M.S. ALARM, CAENUS, LORD HOTHAM, LORD NUFFIELD, sailing from Bone p.m. 5th routed 91, 99, 51 thence to Algiers.
5. Safe conduct Swiss GENEROSO 3 knots, (corrupt group) Swiss chartered Spanish NEUSTRA SENORA DEL CARMEN, sailed Genoa 3rd December routed 10 miles North of Revellata Point, West of Ibiza to Gibraltar.
6. Safe conduct Spanish NORTE, sailed Gibraltar 1200/3 east-wise to San Sebastian thence 10 miles South of Levant Island to Genoa 6½.
7. Following safe conduct ships routed Cape to Cape between Gibraltar, San Sebastian and Marseilles:-
 - (A) Portuguese AMERI sailed Gibraltar 1500/2 to Marseilles 9.
 - (B) Portuguese TAGUS sailed Gibraltar 1500/2 to Marseilles 9½.
 - (C) Swedish VEGA sailed Marseilles 2nd December to Gibraltar 8.
 - (D) Swedish EBLA sailed Marseilles 4th December to Gibraltar 7.

Brief

170^D

Brief situation report 200LA 5th Western Mediter~~ean~~,
submarines excepted.

8. Force H arrives Gibraltar 0630 6th from Eastward.

amended by
1720. 9.v.
P-172B.

9. H.M.S. LEONIAN escorted by H.M.S. NASTURTIUM, H.M.S. LUNENBURG sailed Oran daylight 5th for Algiers. Amend my situation report of yesterday para. 10 accordingly.

10. H.M.S. WISHART sails Algiers p.m./5th to arrive Bougie daylight 6th thence Phillippeville 18.

11. H.M.S. DEPTFORD sails Algiers p.m./5th to arrive Phillippeville a.m. 6th 12. *Sailed - see p. 175*

12. H.M.S. SCYLLA sails Gibraltar 1300/5th for Algiers.

1130A/5. *Sailed - see p. 162*

Advance copy sent 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)
H.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.T.D.(5)
D.T.D.(M)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Duty Capt.(2)
Ad. Blake
U.S.N.(3)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
C.C.O.(2)
D. of P.(2)
D.H.S.
D.E.W.D.(3)

M.A.

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential message. The text must be kept secret. It is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

From: Capt (S) 8.

Date 5.12.42.

Recd: 1740.

Naval Cypher 3 S by T/P

Addressed: Ships and Authorities in Area G

IMPORTANT.

S/m situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000A/5th.

(1) H.M.S. URSULA, 42 22 North 05 57 East course 230° 8 knots. *see next page*

(2) H.M.S. TRIBUNE, 37 36 North 00 17 West proceeding 10 miles off Cape to Cape to Gibraltar 11 knots.

(3) P.51, 36 38 North 02 18 West through 135 Palos Cape 5 thence 65° 8 knots.

(4) H.M.S. TIGRIS 38 07 North 07 49 East course 65° 11 knots. *see pp. 169-177*

(5) P.219 passing 38 38 North 08 01 East at 0430 6th thence through 39 01 North 06 59 East thence 270° 11 knots. *see pp. 168-169*

(6) H.M.S. PORPOISE passing 38 39 North 08 01 East 0100 7th thence following P.219 11 knots. *see p. 161*

(7) All S/ms diving by day 2½ knots surface speed as stated.

1230A/5.

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

- *.C.N.S.(H)
- *.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)
- F.O.S. by courier

171

5.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.WELSHMAN
* PALADIN.** See p. 170
(N.A. Malta)*

My 1541/4th WELSHMAN and PALADIN sailing at 1500/5th, speed adjusted to pass through position N N at 0800/6th, thence S. of A. 20 knots.

2. Request WELSHMAN be informed of shipping likely to be encountered.

(V. A. Malta 1202A/5 to C. in C. Med).

Sailed WELSHMAN, PALADIN.

(V.A. Malta, 1500A/5 to Admty etc).

Black Sea. 1. Naval.

(a) December 1st Russian surface forces sank a 10,000 tons tanker, 2 M/Vs of 2,000 to 3,000 tons and probably sank a gunboat of DUMISTRESKU Class and two R/Boats in Western Black Sea.

(b) Reported that a S/M (?depot) ship sailed from Bourgas on December 3rd to Eastward.

(2) (a) During night November 30th. Russians occupied Maryshky Pass.

(b) No changes on other fronts.

(N.L.O. Black Sea 1224C/5th to Admty etc).

Bi-Weekly

WX.2142.

Opsum No. 79.

Night 1/2 December, 7 Liberators bombed shipping and harbour installations at Tripoli, damage mainly obscured by low cloud but bursts seen

on bases of Spanish and Karamanli Moles.

Night 2/3 December.

About 12 to 15 aircraft believed JU.88s bombed Tobruk harbour.

1 jetty hit and high speed launch damaged. Casualties 7 killed 6 wounded. 4 Hurricanes up sighted 2 enemy aircraft, but could not make contact. 1 enemy A/C shot down by A/A fire.

4th December.

24 B.24s made afternoon attack on shipping and harbour installations at Ga Lech (?Naples) hits claimed on shipping including Battleship, Railway yards and quays, fires started on quays and in town. Photographs not yet examined.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 1228Z/5).

* URSULA
French
Ships used
by Axis.** See previous page*

Information from German prisoner indicates possibility of (?several) French Ships probably (?in ballast) with Italian markings and German crew proceeding independently Marseilles to Naples North of Corsica. My position 041.10 N. 004.02 E. Speed of Advance

110 miles per day. Weather Report.

(URSULA 1230A/5 to Capt.(S) 8, (R) S/MS on patrol Capt.(S).10, N.C.X.F.).

URSULA pass 135° Cape Palos 5 miles at 0130/9th, 180° Cape de Gata 5 miles at 2130/9th and arrive Gibraltar 1600/10th (Capt.S.8. 1416A/5 to 8th S.F.).

Your 1230 sounds good.

2. Proceed by previous route adjusting speed to pass 039.27, 001.26 E. at 0001/7th Cape Palos at 0600/8th Cape De Gata at 0600/9th to arrive Gibraltar 1100/10th.

3. Do not pass 004.35 W. before 0600/10th.

(Capt.S.8.2110A/5 to URSULA (R) 8th S/M.F.).

/Enemy.....

172

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units. Following ready by Alexandria. P.C. and S. of enemy 1 medium M/V, 2 destroyers 37.20 N. 10.35.E 250° 12 knots.
(A/C C/S FAU Duty S. 1237A/5 to Hal Far D/F).
Four enemy destroyers. Position 37.40 N. 11.40 E. Course 050° Speed 20 knots, at 1255A/5.
(A/C C/S FAU Duty S. 1256A/5 to Hal Far)
Following has been read. P.C. and S. of one enemy M/V and 2 enemy destroyers 37.48 N. 11.28 E. 045° 12 knots at 1300A.
(A/C Using C/S BTMS 1305A/5)

P.228. Observations made by P.228 between 18th and 21st November shows "Point of arrival" for U/Bs Enemy Intelligence. incoming to Naples was then 180° Imperatore point 1.5 miles.
2. They approached on course 050° and altered course at point of arrival to 090° into Boca Grande.
3. Other shipping apparently using the same route.
4. Point of arrival was believed to be end of (5 groups omitted) A/S sweep of 3 schooners with A/C left Boca Grande passing point of arrival at about 1,300 swept 20 miles to seaward and returned to Southward outward route.
6. Imperatore light burning intermittently during arrival of U/Bs who made point of arrival about one hour after sunset.
(Capt. S.8. 1258A/5 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) S/Ms on patrol N.C.X.F.).

KANARIS Arrival KANARIS 1145, departure DAUNTLESS.
DAUNTLESS. (Cdre. Aden. 1301Z/5 to Admty etc).

U/B. S/M periscope sighted by A/C in 036.21.30 N. 001.01.30 W. at 1002.
(S.O. Force H. 1314/5 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Force Q. It is necessary to reinforce Force "Q" in Reinforce- Western Med. to assist them in interrupting the ment by Bizerta and Tunis supply lines.
*DIDO. 2. Request you will send one 5.25 Cruiser from Malta Force to work temporarily under orders of N.C.X.F. making arrangements direct with N.C.X.F. and informing Admiralty.
* See p. 170
3. This will enable Force "Q" to have two forces, each with 2 cruisers, to work watch and watch.
4. Cruiser detailed should take as much spare ammunition as possible.
(V.C.N.S. 1340A/5 to C. in C.Med (R) N.C.X.F., V.A.M., C.S.15).
My 1340/5. Para.4. Ship detailed is to embark as many 5.25 S.A.P. shell additional to outfit for passage to Algiers as can be carried without prejudice to fighting efficiency.
2. Amount to be reported.
(D.G.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 1650A/5 to V.A. Malta (R) C. in C.Med, N.C.X.F., C.S.15)
Admty 1340/5th report cruiser detailed. Suggest you keep *EURYALUS for fighter direction. V.A. Malta is requested to sail the cruiser detailed as required by N.C.X.F.
(C. in C.Med 1833B/5, to C.S.15 (R) Admty, V.A. Malta N.C.X.F.). *Most Secret Distribution.

/Your...

SECRET

172^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. 1602A/5 December. IN.

From M.W.T.R. Algiers. Date: 5.12.42.
Recd: 2322.

NAVAL CYPHER 'XD' BY W/T.

Correction.+ - +

Addressed D. of S.T., repeated B.A.D. Washington for
B.M.S.M.

NASAB 502.

1. French Bareboat vessels chartered under provisional arrangements are allocated as follows DITTY TALKER LORRAINE and probably WYOMING to U.S.A. PLM 21 SCHIAPPINO AGENTO to United Kingdom. DE LA SALLE not yet serviceable but when ready probably to U.S.A. We shall cable sailing dates. Vessels will sail loaded when possible. PLM 21 now loading full cargo iron ore and some esparto grass SCHIAPPINO will load phosphates.

2.+ Vessels are being handled here as regards crews and stores by owners agents who will in due course charge C. in C. through Kerr with all expenses this end but vessels will be loaded when possible by agents appointed by us. It will be necessary to appoint time charterers agents U.S.A. or United Kingdom to handle vessels.

3. We understand that wages vary according to ownership of vessels but are all at present rate of exchange substantially lower than British wages. In order to obviate possibility of crew trouble we suggest steps should be taken to prevent contact with Gaullist elements+. We will send details of crew wages when obtainable.

4. No arrangements over arriving and degaussing were included in provisional arrangement or in charter parties but understanding was that vessels would be defensively equipped at French expense on same priority as allied ships, vessels remaining on hire meanwhile.

5. Suggest treatment of expenses paid by M.W.T. on ship on Bareboat Charter to C. in C. should be settled between London and Washington. Please inform us what is settled.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (W)
N.A.1st S.L.
D. of P. (3)
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (5)
D.A/S.W.

D.E.W.D. (3)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
M. (2)
O.I.C. (3)
Admiral Blake.
Admiral Ramsay. (4)
D. of P. (Q)

1602A/5.

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T. (2)
for action.

MOST SECRET

172^B

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.

1720A/5th December.

~~MOST SECRET.~~

MESSAGE.

IN

From. N.C.X.F.

Date. 5.12.42.

Recd. 1907.

Naval Code (L.1)(Secret) By W/T.

Addressed. Ships and Authorities, Area G.

IMPORTANT.

My 1130 5th paragraph 9. ^{p. 170 D} 036 degs. 28' North 000 degs. 59' East through 100. 8 knots.

1720A/5.

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.

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

~~MOST SECRET.~~

1735A/5th December.

SECRET.

MESSAGE

IN.

From N.C.X.F.

Date. 6.12.42.

Recd. 0215.

Naval Shore Code. L.1. Secret. by W/T.

ADDRESSED. Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT. Cancel paragraph two. QUEEN EMMA ^{p. 170 C}

H.M.S. BIGESTER. H.M.S. WHEATLAND. E.T.A. Algiers 2

2100. fifth. ^{See p. 158}

1735A/5.

Advance Copy. Ops. O.D. Trade.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim. Admiralty House.

Ops. (3)

O.D. (5)

O.D. 8.

D.A./S.V.

O.I.C.

D.P.S.

M. (2)

Mails.

Movts.

I.P. (3)

D.T.D (10)

D. of P. (2)

C.C.O. (2)

D.N.L. (G.O.)

Adl. Ramsey. (4)

W.D.

MOST SECRET

172^c

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

2220/5th December.

FROM: M.W.T.R. Algiers.

Date: 6.12.42.

Recd: 0819

Naval Cypher X by W/T.

ADDRESSED: D. of S.T. Repeated B.A.D. Washington for B.M.S.M.

French Shipping

NASAB 596

1. Provisional arrangement was signed on 3rd of December but back dated to 26th November. We are co-operating with Kerr in putting it into effect but please realize only a few more ships are likely to be chartered by C.in C. under it.
2. French coastal shipping will shortly start trading under French control as provided in arrangement. French will submit weekly programme to C.in C. for approval. P.S.T.O. will have opportunity to make demands on these ships for military cargoes. All ships covered by approved programme will be accepted by us for insurance if requested. Cable on insurance follows.
3. C.C.S. have decided that the four passenger ships shall proceed Dakar. They will receive bunkers for round voyage. Lemonnier has indicated he is prepared to charter some or all of these including AMIOS and CHAMPOLLION to us after Dakar round is completed Darlan has suggested use of MARRAKECH for round voyage to U.K. to fetch French repatriates. He may wish to substitute VILLE D'ORAN as MARRAKECH is thought not seaworthy. C.in C. is likely to agree one or other. We are working on comprehensive proposal to cover future use of all passenger ships including immediate use of all those not required.....

172^D

-2-

required for Dakar or repatriates. In view of necessity of keeping negotiations in name of C.in C. we are suggesting initial six months time charter.

4. We are avoiding any discussion of long term arrangements which are impossible without a diversion from C.S.A.B. on attitude they wish us to adopt to local administration. Lemonnier is cautious but very co-operative. We have no doubt he is in a position to give us physical possession of ships on long term arrangements but it requires a decision on policy which we cannot take here but we can negotiate with him except as a temporary measure and in name of C.in C.

5. Lemonnier has indicated Darlan may write C.in C. offering release of all British and Allied and Danish ships detained here including LEMONIA provided we agree to recognise as French all French vessels now in our service. He does not propose to ask for disturbance of existing arrangements for their employment. We shall cable fully as soon as this proposal is received but be ready for this. The proposal is apparently based on ignorance of our inability to pay compensation for and return requisitioned ships but it may now be necessary to promise similar terms to ships seized in prize. Meanwhile no ship except BOGHEMERUS has been handed over and French have written reserving their rights over her.

6. Information on ships at Dakar expected shortly.

7. Please confirm you wish we proceed on above lines.

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1st Lord, | D.O.D.(F)(2) | 2220/5. |
| 1st S.L.(2) | D.N.I.(5) | D.T.D.(4) |
| D.F.S.L. | D.of L.D.(2) | D.T.D.(M) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.A/S.W. | D.T.D.(C) |
| A.C.N.S.(F) | I.P.(3) | D.of S.T.(2) for action |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | D.C.(2) | Admiral Blake. |
| N.A.1st S.L. | Hd.of M.(2) | Admiral Ramsey(4) |
| D.of P.(3) | N.L. | D.of P.(Q) |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | D.D.I.C.(3) | W.D. |

173

5.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Force Q. Your 1834B.(?1833/5 intended) H.M.S.DIDO.
Reinforce- (C.S.15 2024A/5 to C. in C.Med). *p. 172*
ment by
DIDO.
Contd.

Cositrep 3.Air Night 3/4 December. Malta Albacores
No.614. attacked two southbound M/Vs about 3,000
tons N.W. of Tripoli. One ship blown up
by torpedo, second set on fire and left
with heavy list. Malta Wellingtons bombed aerodromes in
South Eastern Sicily to cover approaching convoy from Egypt.
American B.24s bombed shipping and harbour installations at
Naples. Hits claimed on ships, including battleship, and fires
started on quays. Photographs not yet examined.
(C. in C.M.E.1400B/5).

Air R/C. Visuals forenoon Dec.5th. 1, Messina, 5 Cruisers,
2.Naples, 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers, 1 Cruiser
appears to be on its side.
3.Palermo. 6 Destroyers and 2 Merchant Ships outside Harbour.
3 Merchant Ships against outer mole. Photographic confirmation
Naples follows.
(N.O.I.C.Malta 1426A/5 to C. in C.Med, N.C.X.F. etc).

E.T.5. Intend to sail E.T.5 at 1800/5th. Codeword "Hankey"
speed 7 knots. E.T.A. Algiers 0700/7th.
(N.O.I.C.Bone, 1430A/5th to F.O.I.S.(R) N.C.X.F.
etc).

Enemy From Alex. W/T following has been read:-
Units. Following is position of one medium sized
vessel, one destroyer, 2 E-Boats 38.05 N, 11.37 E.
090° 11 knots.
(A/C Call Sign BTM Duty E.1513A/5 to Malta W/T).

P.42. Arrived P.42 1240/5th, sailed P.35 1307/5th.
* P.35. (V.A.Malta 1522A/5 to Admty etc).
* *see next page*

12th C.S. Return to Algiers tonight. Report Time of
Sailing and E.T.A.
(F.O.I.S. 1602A/5 to F.O.C.12th C.S.(R) N.C.X.F,
Cdre.Algiers).

French Allocation under provisional arrangement
Shipping. (M.W.T.R. Algiers 1602A/5, 2220A/5 to D.S.T.)
See Lion Copy.

/Naples...

174

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Naples Photographs show 3 battleships in Naples.
Palermo Also 6 destroyers are inside Palermo.
R/C. (V.A;Malta 1616A/5, to C. in C.Med S.O. Force "I"
Cdre.Algiers. C.S.12. N.C.X.F(R)F.O.C.N.A.Admt'y,
(R) S.O. Force "H").

Enemy G-2 report for 24 hrs. period ending 2400Z/Dec/4th
Intelligence. Part 3 Naval. French Fleet P.R.U. December 3rd
 showed no major change. 3 cruisers still
 burning. Italian Fleet no major change. Between
6° E. and Gibraltar perhaps 10 U/Bs.
(Algiers 1627/5 to Usfor).

M.T.Bs. My 1709/4th.M.T.Bs 3 hours late entire passage.
265. (C.C.F. 1644B/5 to Advance M.T.B.Base (R)
307. V.10 F.O.15th C.S., V.A.Malta, H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.).
(imp. 202)
(Adm. unit)

P.217. *imp. 168.* Cancel previous orders, consider S.P. 02364 (22)
P.222. (Area recoding table for S/Ms in dangerous areas)
 may be compromised, am therefore giving you very
 large area. Establish patrol forthwith in
following sector, P.217 from 225° to 255°. P.222 from 205° to
225° both radii 60 miles from summit Mount Vesuvius. You must
rely on your R/C for interception.
(Capt.S.10. 1714A/5 to P.217, P222, (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

CRETE. Arrival 1 a.m./December 5th German controlled
 steamer CRETE loading lemons and leaving Dec.
 7th evening for Valencia, Marseilles.
 (Cartagena 1725/5 to Admt'y),

P.35. P.35 sailed 1300A/5th for patrol in area 336 by
see previous 035.10 N. 036.10 N. and 012° E.
page. (Capt.S.10. 1801A/5 to C. in C.Med).

Oran Area. M.S. and patrol vessels in Oran area. 8th. Tr.Gp
 SHIANT, EDAY, INCHMARNOCK, KERRARA:
 10th T.G. FOULA, WESTRAY, KINTYRE, HUNDA:
20th. T.G.NEGRO, MELBURY, FILEBAY: also FLUELLEN, CHARLES
MACIVER, Tug RESTIVE, M.Ls*(?280 ~~or 338~~), 463, 469, 471,
480, 483, 1142, 1127, 1128, 1139. M.M.S.(?78), 89, 46, 140
(F.O.I.C.Oran 1802A/5 to Admt'y).
**Pink list*

Convoy Two shadowing aircraft convoy codeword
"Mayfair." "Mayfair" 37.03 N. 4.09 E. 264° 20.
 (Call Sign A/L 1807/5 to Algiers W/T.)

Convoy Convoy "Funnel" 4 ships, 6 escorts S.O.
"Funnel." SNAPDRAGON due Benghazi 1030/7th passes
 Ras Ettin 2250/5th December. Speed 7 knots.
 routed 10 miles off shore.
 (C. in C.Med. 1830B/5 to WELSHMAN).

/K.M.F.4....

175

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.F.4. Sail ANTENOR and SOBIESKI for Philippeville and ORBITA and MALOJA for Bone escorted by BICESTER and WILTON to Philippeville and ZETLAND, WHEATLAND and LAMERTON to Bone.
Convoy to leave Algiers 1300A/6th and arrive Philippeville daylight and Bone 0800A/7th.
Route 24 (93 or 85). 36 91. Fighter protection arranged Codeword "Collins". SCYLLA may be sailed later for Bone to provide additional A/A protection.
(S.O.I.S. 1832A/5 to Cdre. Algiers (R) N.C.X.F., WILTON, WHEATLAND LAMERTON, SCYLLA, BICESTER, ZETLAND).

Movements Algiers arrivals FELIXSTOWE, ROTHESAY, MARIGOLD, POLRUAN, BRIXHAM from Bone with M.K.S.3.
Algiers. Departures to Philippeville, DEPTFORD, to Gibraltar with M.K.S.3.(X) ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, STORK, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, AZALEA.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1900A/5 to Admty (R) S.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.).

M.K.S.3.(X) 1. M.K.S.3.(X)
2.3, 1600A/5th.
4. 7½ knots.

5.8. As in N.C.X.F. 1630A/4.
→ 6. *TAY, *WESSEX, *ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, *LYME REGIS, *WORTHING, COREOPSIS, and JONQUIL, Med. escort ROCHESTER, LEITH, SCARBOROUGH, STORK, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, AZALEA.
(Algiers 1916A/5, 1936A/5 to Admty). * *See 1940 WEAR attached.*

E.A.C. Operations Summary No. 24 - 1800 hrs 3rd Dec.
Air to 1800 hrs 4th December.
Report. 1. One operations.

Blida. 19 Bisleys took off to attack Docks and shipping Bizerta and Sidi Ahmed airfield excellent weather over target. Building set on fire. Amongst bombs dropped docks were half 6 and 12 hours delay action.
(E.A.C. 1920A/5).

Jijelli. 2. U.S.A. C.C. Report. 8 L.26 escorted BS.81, P.38 left to bomb ships and docks at Bizerta. 7 A/C attacked 1057 hrs dropping 31 x 500 lb. bombs. Hits reported in ship, warehouse, railway station and oil tanks, Flak intense. 15 to 20 ships in Bizerta Lake also A/C Carrier, * heavy cruiser, several U/Bs. 6 ships convoys heading for port. One B.26 missing. Escort attacked by 10 ME.109s and FW.109s. 1 E/A destroyed 1 damaged. 1. P.38 damaged. 18.B.17 left to attack shipping in docks at Bizerta.

*W.D. Note. E.A.C. 2347/7 says "No sign of any aircraft carriers."
14. A/C dropped 110 or 150 x 500 lbs. bombs from 20,000 1024 hrs. Results considered excellent.
(E.A.C. 2150/5, 2245/5).

Malta Air A.I.150 C.S.R. Night 4/5th December, no enemy
Report. air activity locally, one Beaufighter carried out intruder patrol over Comiso to cover arrival of Malta convoy but saw no enemy A/C airborne.

Day 5th December 14 Spitfires were airborne to protect arrival of Malta convoy. 30 Spitfires were airborne on

/protective...

176

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report Contd. protective patrol throughout the day to cover unloading of convoy 8 Spitfires were despatched on offensive R/C for enemy aircraft and shipping in the area of Linosa and Lampedusa but made no sightings. Beaufighters have made 8 sorties on offensive sweeps in the Hamammet, Kerkenah, Khoms area. 2 Beaufighters found at 1345 hours 030° SFAX 35 miles one D/R one M/V 5000 tons 1 small vessel and attacked D/R at deck level with cannon and machine guns scoring many strikes amidships and on quarter deck causing small explosion and starting fire near bridge. (A.H.Q. Malta 1950/5).

Part 2 My AI 150 Dec 4. 2 special Wellingtons patrolled off Porto Empedocle and in the Straits of Messina to locate and report any E/Bs attempting to attack the Malta convoy. No sightings were made. 3 torpedo carrying Wellingtons despatch to locate and attack enemy southbound shipping North of Sicily found no suitable targets and brought torpedoes back. Wellingtons made 19 successful sorties to attack the dock at La Goulette Tunis. In first attack 1800 to 1930 hrs 10 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 4,000 ft scoring hits across the entrance to the harbour and on Quay sides, starting fires. 1 4000 lb bomb burst on railway sidings. 1 hit on a medium sized M/V was seen. In second attack from 0015 to 0301 hrs. 9 Wellingtons dropped 1 4000 lb H.C.38 500 lb. and 52 250 lb bombs from 5000 ft scoring hits on dock and buildings at entrance to Canal at La Goulette 1 direct hit was scored on a medium sized M/V causing smoke and small steady fire, several near misses on small vessels. Inaccurate Flak was experienced from 4 heavy guns. R/C December 5th. Photos R/C Naples show 6" Cruiser MU Z10. ATTENZOLO "Attendele" Class sunk in harbour and severe damage to warehouses (A.H.Q. Malta. 2047/5).

THORN. Your 2131/23/9. (Proposing date H.M.S. THORN be paid off). Approved. (Head of M. Branch 2012A/5 to C. in C. Med).

S/M for Greeks. Your 2232/22 Oct. and my 1604/6 November (1640/6 intended). Request information whether a new S/M is being allocated to the Greeks as their C. in C. is anxious to send them to U.K. as soon as possible (C. in C. Med 2017B/5 to Admty).

Landing Craft. G.O.S. (W) 384. Your J.S.M. 507. We understand from this that none of the 146 L.C.M. (3) approved by C.C.S. for British 1942 requirements have been shipped either to U.K. or to Suez, but that 50 American owned L.C.M. (3) without crews are being shipped to U.K. and 22 to North Africa for American forces. 2. Etousa have been consulted and are not aware of the reasons for consigning L.C.M. (3) to American forces in U.K. since they can neither look after them nor man them. It is therefore intended to take over the 50 shipped to U.K. in part satisfaction of the 126 allotted to U.K. These craft will be allotted to the British Overseas (Naval) assault force, which is designed for further Med. operations under Eisenhower. 3. The 22 craft shipped to North Africa will of course remain at Eisenhower's disposal. (C.O.S. T.O.O. 2130Z/5 to J.S.M. Washington).

/Situation...

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Situation Report No. 30. 1. Force Q. returning to Algiers after abortive night sweep ESKIMO attacked U/B at 2330/4 in position 37.55 N. 08.10 E. Sighted at 8 cables leading edge of lake attacked with full pattern as U/B crashed dived. A promising attack. *See p. 169.*
2. Force H. operating N.E. of Oran turning West to arrive Gib. a.m./6th. *2000-0400*
3. K.M.F. 4, LLANGIBBY CASTLE, TEGELBERG and TORONTO delayed at Gibraltar. First two in collision, former unfit for sea. Passengers transferring to LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Intend to sail all three East early next week.
4. Bone. Port heavily bombed before dawn 4th and 2000-0400/4th/5th No Naval casualties nor shipping damaged.
5. Noticeable improvement in last three days of rate of discharge of shipping attributed to arrival of M.T. and extended employment of local labour.
- (N.C.X.F. 2252A/5 to Admty).

TIGRIS.

*See p. 169
170C*

TIGRIS is proceeding course 065.degs. Speed of 12 knots from position 038.10, 007.58 at 2100/5.
(Capt.S.10. 2320A/5 to C.S.12.(R) Capt.(8) 8).

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TALAMBA

C. in C. East Indies 0542/8 April and my 2118/11 April re TALAMBA. C. in C. India's 29234/MD/21 Nov. to War Office requests use of this ship for conveyance of 500 invalids to South Africa. Approved subject to concurrence C. in C. E.F. Agreed.
(D.S.T., 0211A/5 to P.S.T.O.I. C. in C. E.F.)

WEST POINT

U.S.S. WEST POINT sailed from Bombay 4th Dec. for Australia. Numbers.
(P.S.T.O.I., 0846Z/5 to S.T.O. Melbourne (R) D. of S.T.)

B.M.33

Sailing telegram. Escorts. DIPAVATI to position (B) thence ASTER to Colombo and ST. ANTHONY to position (D).
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0901Z/5 to Admty).

ATHENE,
ENGADINE,
ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1726A/24 Nov.
When Eastern Fleet operates from Ceylon, it will be essential to transfer to India and Ceylon where there are no reserves, a large part of the erected reserve single seater fighter aircraft now at Nairobi.

2. ATHENE and ENGADINE are the only ships available to carry erected aircraft.

3. The alternatives to using one of these ships are -(A) to use ILLUSTRIOUS for a transport carrier accepting the fact that she would be unable to operate aircraft on passage. (B) Crate the aircraft at Nairobi and tranship them by rail and freight, lengthy method entailing much work.

4. Neither alternative is satisfactory.

5. In view of these facts, and if ILLUSTRIOUS is to remain in Indian Ocean, request decision to detach ATHENE may be reconsidered.

(C. in C. E.F., 1001Z/5 to Admty (R) R.A., N.A.S.) *Reply: 1106A/12*

Air Report

Summary 265.A.1 Blenheim low level attack damaged river steamer Min Kyun 4 Dec. P.R.U. showed 300 rolling stock (?on quay). 2 negative sea R/C.
C. U.S. A.A.F., report. 30 Nov. Naval

Auxiliary believed sunk by 6 Liberators Port Blair. 4 Dec. 6 Liberators bombed W/T Pyawbwe. 3 Dec. 4 P.40s on negative R/C Myitkyina, Sumprabue.

D. Chinese report 4 Squadrons fighters, including new S/E type arrived Hong Kong area, 3rd Jap. bomber from Kwellin raid 23rd Nov. now found crashed.
(A.H.Q., India, 1148Z/5).

/Transport...

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Transport of Seamen to India. M.W.T. is concerned at accumulation in South Africa of shipwrecked and time expired Lascars awaiting passage to India.

2. There are ships engaged in South Africa - India traffic fitted to carry considerable numbers of deck passengers but debarred from carrying full numbers by limitation of speed.

3. Request you will discuss this problem with C. in C. W.A. (S.A. intended?) on basis of your 0906/19th Sept. and Admty's concurrence 1702/27th Sept.

4. There would be no objection to Indian Ocean rules being extended to the longitude of the Cape.

5. M.W.T. agree.
(D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S. (T) 1300A/5 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

H.M.S. A.M.1317A/20th August and A.M. 0310A/2nd Sept.
IRONCLAD. In view of GENERAL FOCH's Nautical history, as given in my 1437Z/26 August, and no other ship being available, she has been rechristened IRONCLAD (?concur).

(2) N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0825/19th Nov.

propose to approve.

(C. in C. E.F., 1331Z/5 to Admty.)

W.R. Note. Refers to 1317/20 re proposal to send BARFOAM and BARONIA to Diego Suarez and rename latter IRONCLAD ~~and~~ history of GENERAL FOCH.

LÉOPARD Your 0642Z/5th (N.T. in W.R.) My 0815Z/5th
Reunion. refers (N.T. in W.D.) Island quiet but uncertain how genuine are the pro De Gaulle expressions of some inhabitants. Governor Choparry considers essential that F.S. LÉOPARD embarked for

Mauritius ex Governor, O.C. troops, Pillet (Chef de Cabinet) Presence of first 2 embarrassing only, but latter, violently pro-Vichy was in danger from local mob. Small quantity of stores being sent in F.S. LÉOPARD, also Mauritius Food Controller.

(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1446Z/5 to C. in C. E.F.) Message passed to Admiralty for information.

BIRMINGHAM Arrival 5th Dec.
(F.O.E.A., 1513Z/5 to Admty).

Transport of S. African Troops. P.S.T.O. Egypt's 0955/5 Dec. and A.M. 2340/4 Dec. neither to C. in C. E.F. or last two addressees. C. in C. E.F. is requested to inform other addressees of date when escort can be arranged from Aden to Cape for following ships with South African troops.

Ship Date of readiness to leave Suez.

HIGHLAND MONARCH Now.
EMPIRE WOODLARK 7th December.
EMPIRE TROOPER 8th December.

War Diary.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - *cont.*

Transport of
S. African
Troops.

2. P.S.T.O. Egypt may sail these ships accordingly. Extent of total move and future commitments are not known here but P.S.T.O. Egypt should reduce number of escorted moves by over-embarking troops and if necessary by not embarking Ps. of W.
3. C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. S.A. are requested to co-ordinate provision of best available A/S escorts.
4. D. of S.T. agrees.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1922A/5 to C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O.E.)

Saldanha Bay
Minefield.

- Your 0914Z/4. Not approved.
2. ~~X~~MANCHESTER CITY is to proceed to Saldanha Bay to lay C.M.(L) field on completion of refit and loading at Durban.
(D. of L.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 2045A/5 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A. etc).

** See P. 165.*

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

NEWCASTLE Norfolk, arrived. 2200Z/3.
(N.S.H.Q., 0314Z/5 to Admty).

CALDWELL Tow parted about 0100Z/5th approx. 41.20 N.,
66.00 W. C.G. 30270 request CAPTOR may join me
in search.
(CALDWELL 0314Z/5 to C.E.S.F., Cmdr. 1st U.S.
N.D., Boston, (R) U.S.S. CAPTOR C.T.G.90, 1. C.T.G.
90.2 Cominch, C.O.A.C.)

53 R.A.F. Sqdn. Marcus 560 /4th Dec. Your Webber W.296 16th Nov.
Arrangements have been completed for return
of 53 Sqdn. to U.K. Code name "Scream" will be
used (Arrangements).
5. Request you advise name of R.A.F. Station at
which Squadron will re-assemble in U.K.
(Rafdel, Washington, 0339Z/5 to Air Min).

CITY OF BATH *see p. 184* British CITY OF BATH sunk 0110 G.M.T./2nd U.F.
009° 50' N., 059° 25' W., 48 survivors landed
Trinidad. Master and 27 adrift, 6 believed
missing.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 0907R/5 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

M.T. Bs. My 0822/30th (M.T.Bs. 334, 336, 337, 342).
M.T.Bs. arrived (?tonight) 1930Z.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0932Q/5 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R)
Admty. etc).

SEAKAY As SEAKAY appears to have sailed in G.U.F.2 for
New York request she may be diverted to Curacao
where cargo awaits her.
(D.T.D., 1250Z/5 to Connav).

Tankers,
St. Johns. Your 1442/2. Regret general fuel situation will
not permit of third tanker being allocated.
Request sailing of EMPIRE SALVAGE be expedited.
Request confirmation that U.S. Navy can now meet
at Argentia commitment mentioned in para. 1.
See my 1449/7 Oct.
(D. of S., 1305A/5 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C.,
F.O.N.F. etc).

SEAWOLF Sail SEAWOLF when ready about Dec. 8th
Philadelphia to New London via coastal route
and Long Island Sound. Furnish coverage as
practicable.
(Connav, 1500/5 to C.E.S.F. (R) Com.4 Com 3 etc).

/Movements...

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. → Contd.Movements,
Trinidad.

Arrivals U.S.S. OMAHA, U.S.S. JOUETT,
Departure U.S. Ships SAUCY, CARNELIAN. U.S.
Ships P.C. 522, 534, 567, 624 escorting T.27.
(F.O.I.C. Port Of Spain, Trinidad, 1502Q/5 to
S.B.N.O.W.A.)

S/M
Report.

Panair pilot reports 2 S/Ms with tenders sighted
(?18)50 G.M.T. today 5th Dec. in 017° 15' N.,
076° 20' W., course 030° true, presumed are
S.54 and 55 N.O.B. Guantanamo 0702/1 refers, but
reference to tenders not understood.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jam. 1507R/5 to N.O.B.
Guantanamo Com. 10 Admiralty N.S.H.Q.)

L.C.I.(L)s

My 0230/2 para.1 In view of S.B.N.O.W.A's
1812/2 there is now no objection to 2nd batch of
L.C.I.(L) sailing as soon as you consider them
fit for passage.
(D.O.D. (H) 1525A/5 to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A.,
etc).

Troopship
Sailings.

Request reply to my 2050/27 Nov. passed to C.O.A.C.
observing that Movement Control now report
ANDES due to sail from U.K. 17th Dec. presumably
for Halifax, to embark Canadian service personnel.
As it is understood this vessel will sail
independently. Army authorities request full
details of life saving capacity also details
of troop carrying capacity.
2. It will be appreciated if N.S.H.Q. can be advised of such
expected sailings and future programmes at the time they are
being arranged.
(N.S.H.Q. 1540Z/5 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T. B.A.D., C.O.A.C.)

U/B
Positions.

S/M estimate Dec. 5th and U.S. Submarine notice.
(Cominch, 1540/5 1541/5, 1609/5, 1610/5, 1611/5).

T.A. 29

Your 1446/4 Request ship be sailed so as to
arrive U.K. not later than p.m./17th Dec.
(D.O.D. (H) 1730A/5 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.O.A.C.,
B.A.D.).

Convoy T.A. 29 sailed from U.K. a.m. 5 Dec. for Halifax.
2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by
War Office to N.D.H.Q. Ottawa, and Milstaf Washington.
(D.S.T. 2041A/5 to N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., (R) B.A.D.)

S.S.C.
Convoys.

There will be no further S.S.C. Convoys this
season after S.S.C. 112. Ships from New York in
S.C. Convoy bound for Canadian and West Coast
Newfoundland ports will be detached at H.O.M.P.
and proceed via Halifax.

(N.S.H.Q., 1800Z/5 to C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.,
C.E.S.F. (R) N.S.H.M.C., Dockyard Esquimalt, Connav, B.R.L.O.
New York, S.B.N.O.W.A., C.T. 24 Admty).

/New...

183

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

New Construction Assignments. Lorsa 6098. Following assignments have been agreed in M.A.C. (Navy) for period 1st March to 30th Sept. 1943.
(A) 6 B.A.M.S. to R.N. and we retain all "Algerines".
(B) 7 Canadian-built single screw corvettes previously assigned to U.S. now assigned to R.N. 6 Canadian built twin screw corvettes assigned to R.N.
(C) 6 D.Es. or B.D.E.s to R.N.
(D) 15 180 foot P.Cs. to R.N.
2. Assignments under (B) and (C) are based on the application of the one to 1.37 ratio to latest production estimates of escort vessels and adding in 50% of ocean going fleet minesweepers assignments, vide Salor 5357 para. 3. (Re requirements of Fleet Minesweepers 2058/10).
3. Retention of Canadian built vessels will result in our obtaining ships considerably earlier than if we had obtained D.Es in lieu.
4. Adoption by U.S. Government of the 330 target for escort vessels can be expected to increase production in the latter half of 1943 in which case any additional vessels completing before 30th Sept. will be subject to further assignment. (B.A.D., 1915Z/5 to Admty).

Tanker convoys for "Torch" area. Your Trans. 33. From a supply and transport angle we welcome the prospect of Tortank convoys provided that
(a) necessary arrangements can be made for convoys to proceed direct to North African discharge ports or if this is impossible to Gibraltar. It would be out of the question due to shortage of tankers to run a shuttle service from Gibraltar to Casablanca quite apart from the congestion which would result in Casablanca harbour.
(b) Intention is to keep up a continual service which will carry monthly requirements of up to 250,000 tons of oil products to North Africa of which British requirements are 30,000 tons per week of Admiralty fuel oil between Algiers, Oran and Gibraltar and some 10,000 tons per week White products between Algiers and Bone.
2. We take it you have approached U.S. Navy on the subject of escorts and that these are available.
3. If Tortank convoys can be arranged U.G.S.3 and U.G.F.3 will of course proceed but it will probably be unnecessary for tankers to be included in later U.G. and K.M. convoys.
4. Please inform us of position and confirm that para. 1 (a) and (b) are agreed.
5. Admiralty are expecting to hear of U.S.A. Navy reactions through Comnavu.
(M.W.T., 1958A/5 to B.M.S. Mission Washington).

/S/M...

War Diary.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S/M attack
and sighting
Summary.

See p. 181
A. CITY OF BATH torpedoed sunk 09.50 N., 59.25 W. 0110Z/2.
B. KOSMOS II four torpedo hits.
C. (?U.S.S.)*MOOSE attacks sound contact 32.49 N. 79.19 W., 1425Z/19 November. U.S.S.*OMAHA sights possible Sub. 08.02 N., 54.46 W., 1539Z/4. Sub. reported 12.33 N., 70.36 W., 1130Z/5.
(Cominch, 2015/5 to Admty for O.I.C.)* *See p. 182*

**not identified - ?H.M.C.S. MOOSEJAW.*

Acceleration
of Shipping.

Your 2305/3 (re modification of present convoy procedure in light of U-boat situation). Navy Dept. concurs proposals para.4. First convoy to be considered will be O.N.149.
(B.A.D., 2027Z/5 to Admty).

Shipping
Trinidad
Acceleration.

In order to avoid northbound shipping being delayed at Trinidad on account of being below convoy speed and to facilitate diversion suggest all such ships should be sufficiently bunkered and given alternative routes.

2. To avoid delay resulting from Embargo on independents sailing coastwise between Lookout and Chesapeake it is necessary to divert to Norfolk instead of Harleston. For this purpose M.A.C.R.I. Approach routes and additional reference position for Norfolk should be given to all this shipping. The last M.A.C.R.I. amendments held by the routeing authority to be noted in route signal.
(B.A.D., 2031Z/5 to Admty). *See also p. 280*

U/B actions,
publicity.

Request reply to my 1727/14 Nov. (U.S. Navy to release for publication stories of U/B actions as they occur). in view of recent statement regarding U-boats sunk or damaged in "Torch" area.
(B.A.D., 2043Z/5 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Antilles,
Sugar
Cargoes.

Your 2010/4th. Delay to ships proceeding Antilles depends on changing U-boat situation and available escorts. Therefore impossible to generalize prospects.
(2) Navy Dept. agree to take up each individual case with Comcarib as it arises.
(3) Information of WAYFARER applied for.
(B.A.D., 2045Z/5 to Admty (R) S.B.N.O. Curacao).

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serial No.s 4 and 5. TREVALGAN torpedoed sunk 30th Nov. 09.40 N., 59.15 W.
SCAPA FLOW torpedoed sunk 13th Nov. 09.05 N., 28.59 W. ASKILD aground off Cape Race 4th Dec.

believed complete loss.

→ CITY OF BATH torpedoed sunk 2nd Dec. 09.50 N., 59.25 W.
(Connav, 2137/5 to Comnav).

War Diary.5.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B

Aircraft reports sighting periscope of S/M in (7050°) 32' N., 048° 39' at 1045/5th. No attack carried out.
(C.O.A.C., 2216Z/5 to G.B.7 A. C.T.F. 24).

Movements,
Bermuda.

Bermuda arrivals. U.S. S/M R.7 from Patrol. U.S.S. BUTLER, BUCK, escorting TARAZED and ORIZABA. Departure H.M.S. TEXAS (sic).
(Cdre. I/C Bermuda, 2229Q/5 to Admty).

U/B
Positions.

C.E.S.F.'s 1840/5. giving 0800Q/6 submarine estimate.
(Comnaveu, 2253/5 to Admty).

LINCOLN,
Barge
adrift.

Your 1330/4th. Barge LAKE LOUISE with 8 men aboard drifting position 045° 20' 058° 38'. Appear in no immediate danger. Am standing by, request instructions. Your 2130/4th barge closely resembles tanker in appearance. Weather report.
(LINCOLN, 2330Z/5 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q., etc).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation.

Digest serial number 317 December 4th.

1. Only 7 vessels observed Buin Shortlands Base early morning 4th but 9 destroyers arrived from S.E. and 2 destroyers with 1 merchant ship 1 small craft from West during morning and total Midday reported to include 15 destroyers, 1 sloop, 2 submarines, 5 merchant vessels, 2 tankers, and several small craft.
2. 5 Catalinas attacked Kavieng Aerodrome night 3/4 dropping bombs on runway and vicinity dispersal area starting fires.
3. Little change reported Buna Gona fronts where Allied pressure continues. Bostons and Beaufighters again bombed and strafed enemy positions during day starting fires and destroying barges. Fortresses attacked Lae Aerodrome during night 3/4 many bombs in target area 1 machine gun position believed silenced.
4. 3 twin engined enemy aircraft reported Cape Gloucester area afternoon 4th heading towards Rabaul.
5. Old heavy cruisers arrived Dilli morning 2nd departed afternoon 3rd. 4 bombers arrived Killi and 3 fighters departed on 3rd 2 fighters on Recco aircraft maintaining daily patrol from Dilli where considerable motor transport activity also reported.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0400Z/5 to Admty).

/Movements.

5.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Movements. Departure Sydney (N.S.W.), 3rd, U.S. Destroyer MEADE and U.S. Ship NAVAJO for Guadalcanal. Fremantle, 4th, U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS for Exmouth Gulf.
(A.C.N.B., 1037Z/5 to Admty etc).
U.S. Transport TASMAN, arrived Port Moresby, 4th December.
U.S. Fleet oiler TRINITY departed Fremantle 3rd, due Exmouth Gulf 7th.
(N.B. Melbourne, 1201Z/5 to Admty Connav).

MAURETANIA In view changed local requirements A.C.N.B. have been requested to sail MAURETANIA for Wellington instead of Auckland. Boiler cleaning will be carried out at Wellington and vessel sailed in accordance with B.A.D.'s 1859/26 Oct.
(N.Z.N.B., 1148M/5 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., etc).

Raiders. Your 0221Z/3 and 0914Z/4. Considered very probable that Raider "E" arrived Yokohama as stated. Considered likely that Raider 28 is Raider "H" see W.I.R. number 107 of 27.3.42 last identified in South Atlantic in September and known to carry small E-boats. PIETRO ORSEOLO left Biscay about 2nd Oct.
(D.D.I.C., 1625A/5 to N.O.I.C. Fremantle (R) C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1357A/5, 1430A/5).

War Diary.

6.12.1942.

Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

A group of 4 trawlers (A.B.Vs.) is to join convoy O.N.S.152 in 55° 54' N., 11° 39' W., on 11th December to act as a trawler support group to any threatened trans-Atlantic trade convoy or to operate independently in an area where U-boats are likely to be met.

North Atlantic.

An aircraft reported a moving oil streak from a submerged submarine in 34° 42' N., 12° 0' W. at 1835A. At 1900A a U-boat was reported releasing flares.

Mediterranean.

A Wellington at 2113 in 36° 12' N., 0° 16' W. attacked a fully surfaced U-boat.

The port of La Calle (36° 54' N., 8° 27' E. near eastern frontier of Algeria) was opened today as a supply port for the First Army, being stocked with landing craft from Bone.

Wellingtons attacked Bizerta docks last night. Minelaying was suspected off Philippeville late this evening.

Operation
"Quadrangle
(A)".

Convoy M.W.15 consisting of M.V. AMERICAN PACKER and M.V. OZARDA sailed from Port Said today for Malta escorted by the 14th M.S.F. who will be detached at position Y Y. ORION and 4 Hunts who are to leave Malta tomorrow escorting Convoy M.E.11 are to join the convoy at 0700/9 and escort it to Malta.

6.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia. & New Zealand.

Bombs were dropped at Cocos Island by bombers of Navy, 96 type about 0300Z today. Communications were not damaged, but all medical supplies were demolished.

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

* GLASGOW
Visit to
Clyde.

If no Admty. objection I would propose to advise Civic Authorities Glasgow and the County Authorities of Lanarkshire both of which bodies are especially interested in the ship. It is probable that some entertainment and a reception at the City Chambers might then be offered. There should be no occasion for any Press report and I envisage no security objection. The question is only referred to Admty. because similar procedure for ARGUS was recently considered undesirable by Admty.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1515A/6 to Admty.) * See p.192

FIDELITY My 2000/29 Oct.
FIDELITY is urgently required on the Eastern Station.
2. She is to be sailed as soon as her seagoing efficiency admits.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1725A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

* GLASGOW
SUFFOLK

Cancel my 1821/31 Oct. para 1. p. 960.
2. GLASGOW is to join the 10th Cruiser Squadron in the Home Fleet.
3. SUFFOLK is to relieve GLASGOW in the Eastern Fleet.
4. Request you will sail SUFFOLK for Nore at your early convenience to be taken in hand as in my 2040/3 and to give leave.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2046A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

AJAX AJAX is required to join the 12th Cruiser Squadron under the orders of N.C.X.F.
2. When ready for service request you will sail her for Clyde.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 2047A/6 to C. in C. H.F)

Movements.

SEALION My 1204/5. Sailed.
DOLFIJN (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0102A/6.)
GRAPH
WHITE BEAR. See p.190A

NORFOLK Hvalfiord arrivals NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, FURY and
CUMBERLAND
OBDURATE.
* FURY (A.C.I.C. 0203A/6 to C.S.1.)
OBDURATE

JUNON Arrived Dundee.
(Capt. S.9. 1015A/6.)

IMPULSIVE IMPULSIVE proceed passing Switha 1500A/7 to
* FURY Hvalfiord routed through 058° 50' N 007° 02' W, thence through Reykjanes passage. When relieved by IMPULSIVE, NORFOLK is requested to sail FURY to Scapa to arrive if possible p.m. 9th.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1025A/6 and 1235A/7.)

/THRASHER...

6.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

THRASHER

See p. 198

Capt. S.8. 1220/5. Onward route dive by day from K. 042° 59' 013° 15' through J. 049° 10' 013° 22' I. 049° 50' 012° 34' H. 049° 50' 009° 00' B 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. A 180° Lizard Head 12 miles, thence as ordered by Capt. S.5. to Portsmouth.
 (F.O.S. 1047A/6 to THRASHER.)

O.15

See next page

N.O.I.C.
 Your 1920/4. Intend sailing O.15 at 1000 tomorrow on account of tide.
 (N.O.I.C. Leith 1117/6 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

P.221

See p. 198/3

Intend to sail P.221 p.m. 7th for U.K., passing 43° 01' N 12° 12' W at 0030A/11.
 (Capt. S.8. 1154/6 to Admty.) *Shore 13 be used in Nov 7th at Har. Tr. - (1916)*

SPEY
 ROTHER
 SENNEN
 CLARE

C. in C. W.A. 0028/5. Sailed SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, CLARE. S.O.A. 9 knots, arriving p.m. 10th.
 (F.O.I.C. Londonderry 1330A/6 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

Positions
 of S/MS.

At 0800/7. Details.
 (F.O.S. 1751A/6.) See Lion Copy.

NORTHERN
 GIFT.
 NORTHERN
 FOAM.

*See p. 193
 (K.X.6A)*

You appear to be standing into danger. Suggestion steer more to southward.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1843/6 to NORTHERN GIFT. NORTHERN FOAM.)

Operations.

Patrols → (2) ESKDALE and M.G.B. 615 patrol between 050° 32' N 000° 40' E and 050° 15' N 000° 40' W., passing E A 5 Buoy 1800/6 outward and 0900/7 inward.

Keep to south eastward during passage of convoy C.W.139 (S.O. escort HAMBLEDON) which passes C 2 Buoy at 0125/7 and arrives E A 5 Buoy 0900/7. Codeword "Device".

(3) CHASSY 15 (S.O.) 11 and 13 patrol south of E A 5 Buoy.

(4) *P.W.259 (S.O. of escort BROCKLESBY) passes N 1 Buoy 1800/6.

(5) *W.P.259 (S.O. of escort ALBRIGHTON) arriving Needles 1400/7.

(6) M.G.Bs 611 (S.O.) and 613 patrol between 250° St. Catherines Point 15 miles and 250° St. Catherines Point 35 miles, passing Needles 1730/6 outward and 0930/7 inward. Keep to southward of convoy during their passage as far as patrol line allows. Codeword "Service".

→ (7) If weather unsuitable for M.G.B. ESKDALE and M.G.B.615 return to St. Helens and M.G.Bs 611 and 613 return to Yarmouth Roads. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1245A/6, 1747A/6 and 1755A/6.)

** See p. 191*

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.

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1751A/6th December

From F.O.S.

Date 6/12/42
Recd. 1800P/L by T/P (Secret)

Addressed Admiralty.

234.

Positions of submarines at 0800/7th December and movements for following 24 hours.

(a) P.223, and P.49, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE, leave Clyde 1900/7th December speed 10 knots due Scapa 0900/9th December.

(b) GUNNEL, escorted by ^{*}CAPE PORTLAND, arriving Clyde from Southward. ** see p 193*

(c) GRAPH, SEALION, and DOLFIJN, escorted by WHITE BEAR, 52 degs. 27' North 05 degs. 34' West proceeding to Clyde. *see p. 189*

(d) O.15, escorted by M.L.454, leaves Leith about 1000/7th December for Dundee. *see previous page*

(e) TUNA in Biscay South zone.

(f) GURNARD in zone K.505.

1751A/6.

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.D.O.D. (M)
Duty Captain (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of Flans (2)
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)

Advance copies Duty Captain
D.O.D. (H)

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Escort
for
P.W.259 and
W.P.259.*See p. 190*

Swordfish aircraft of 16 Group will carry out 2 Anti-E-Boat cross-over patrols from 1830 today till dawn 7th to cover passage of convoys. Details. (C. in C. Plymouth 1421A/6.) My 1421/6. Patrol is cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Plymouth 2041A/6 to Escorts P.W.259 and W.P.259.)

Enemy Air Activity.Convoy
F.N.84.

German aircraft have sighted and reported F.N.84, weather at number 4 buoy. (WALPOLE 1621A/6 to C. in C. Nore.)

Mining.Sweep
of
Route "M".KELLET⁷, PANGBOURNE, SELKIRK, SUTTON, ROSS, of 4th M.S.F. sailed at 0815/6 sweeping route M and thence to Plymouth, E.T.A. 1630/6. Codeword "Scent". (F.O.I.C. Portland 0922A/6.)

Iceland

Request report of sweeping by 15th M/S Flotilla since your 2150/21 Nov. (C. in C. H.F. 1242A/6 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

CANADOLITE

Photographs of Brest on 3rd Dec. show that Tanker T.4 CANADOLITE has arrived from Havre. (D.D.I.C. 1200A/6.)

TIRPITZ.

B.2 report states on 5th Dec. TIRPITZ was lying in Aas Fiord, Trondheim area, exact berth not stated. (D.D.I.C. 1540A/6.)

U-Boats.Ship
attacked.
(REMBRANDT)My 1605/5. Ship was not REMBRANDT. Her identity is not yet established. (C. in C. W.A. 1253A/6 to SARDONYX, SALADIN.) See also C. in C. W.A. 1236A/6 in Shipping. *p. 194*U-Boat
reported.
U-Boat
attacked.

On day 5th Dec. two sightings were made to the N.W. of the Bay of Biscay. In one instance no attack was made owing to 10/10 cloud patches obscuring the U-Boat which submerged before action could be taken. The other Whitley sighted a fully surfaced U-Boat which immediately submerged, and attacked it with depth charges fifteen to twenty seconds after the conning tower had disappeared. The depth charges fell slightly short of the swirl, into which the rear-gunner fired one hundred rounds, no results were observed. (H.Q.B.C. 1300A/6.)

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

GLENEARN

E.T.A. 0730Z/6. Request buoy as have only one anchor and require to be at extended notice for carrying out repairs to main engines.
(GLENEARN 0014Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Unknown ship

The following has been received from FBPJ. SOS D P W S 30 04. (indecipherable)
(Nore W/T 0410/6 to Admty.)

Landing craft damaged in Operation "Torch"

A.M. 1556A/16 Nov.
OCEAN VETERAN, L.C.A. 197 ex 61st Flotilla.
L.C.A. 391 ex 57th Flotilla.
JUNE CREST L.C.P.(L) 567, ex 57th Flotilla.
L.C.P.(R) 785, 818, ex 78th Flotilla.
DORELIAN L.C.A. 46, 242, 255, and L.C.P.(L) 555, ex 52nd Flotilla.
L.C.P.(R) 770 ex 76th Flotilla.
L.C.P.(L) 564 ex 77th Flotilla.
Damaged, all over 14 days.
(S.O. A.S.C. 1040A/6 to Admty.)

Methil Dock Gate

GLENAVON caused slight damage to No.3 Dock Lock Gates at 1534 on 26 Nov. 42. No damage to H.M. ship.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1106/6 to Admty.)

WRESTLER

~~WRESTLER can be spared for refit and conversion to two boilers as soon as she has completed duty referred to in Admty. 2005/4.~~
~~(C. in C. W.A. 1439A/5 to Admty.)~~ See p.155
next page

LEAMINGTON

LEAMINGTON returning Londonderry with steering defects.
(WATCHMAN 1550Z/6.)

(Two corrupt groups) steering gear completely out of action. As weather and forecast unsuitable oiling at sea and LEAMINGTON endurance is low am returning to Londonderry for expert attention to steering engine. E.T.A. Merville 1100A/7.
(LEAMINGTON 1710A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

GLASGOW

See p.189

GLASGOW taken in hand by Messrs. John Brown & Co., Clydebank on 6th Dec. for progress arcticisation and as many defects and alterations and additions as can be carried out in time available i.e. 12 working days. Letters quoted in C. in C. H.F. 1133/1st received, but no drawings give details of arcticisation. These are urgently required.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1631/6 to Admty.)

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.S.2A E.T.A. 055° 35' 007° 00' 1430A/6. E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 1230A/7 with OCEAN VISCOUNT, OCEAN VISTA, REINE DES FLOTS in company. ANFIGONE proceeding independently from position (R) at 0800A/6, E.T.A. Loch Ewe 0900A/7. LOTUS will be detached at 1430A/6 for Londonderry.

(GERANIUM 0001A/6.)

Request approval KINGSLAND proceed independently at 8 knots at 1700A/6 from 000° Altacarry 3 miles to Barrow to enable Mersey portion save daylight 7th Dec.

(GERANIUM 1145A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1145/6. Approved.

(C. in C. W.A. 1449A/6 to GERANIUM)

K.X.6A Your 1743/4. Arrived (DRANGEY)
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0721A/6 to N.O.I.C. Belfast)
K.X.6A. Sailed at 1300A/6. Codeword "Hickory".

Routed in accordance with A.M. 1930A/2.

Cable ship AQUILLA (Cdre) two ferry steamers, tug EMPIRE NED, EMPIRE TITAN, one waterboat. Escorts *NORTHERN GIFT (S.O.)

*NORTHERN FOAM. Admty. 1720/27, DRANGEY did not sail. Speed 6 knots. E.T.A. 17th Dec.

(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1621A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.) * *See p.190*

P.W.258 Leave convoy forthwith and proceed Falmouth.
ELLESMERE (C. in C. Plymouth 1045A/6 to ELLESMERE)

LADY OF Intend to sail *WRESTLER 0930A/8 for Belfast Lough
MANN. to escort LADY OF MANN from Belfast to Liverpool
night 8/9 Dec. in accordance with *A.M. 2005A/4.
and C. in C. W.A. 1056A/5.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1116A/6.) * *See p.155 1156*

M/Vs at EMPIRE GALLIARD, CAMPFIRE, with ST. KENAN, CAPE
Molotovsk. ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO, proceeded in accordance
with my 1027A/30. E.T.A. Kola 0700A/8.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1143A/6.)

Trawler Pass to all S.O. of escort groups.
Support The Ind. (?2nd intended) A/S group comprising
Group. trawlers NORTHERN SUN, S.O. NORTHERN SKY, *CAPE
PORTLAND and VASCAMA is to proceed as necessary to
join convoy (?0)N.S.152 in 055° 54' N 011° 39' W

at 1200Z/11. ** See p.190A*

(2) The group is to act as trawler support group to trans-Atlantic trade convoys, and may be ordered to join any threatened convoy or to operate independently in an area where U-Boats are likely to be met.

(3) The principal duties of group are to escort damaged ships or stragglers, to pick up survivors, and generally to act in such manner as to allow Escort Groups to exercise their proper functions of escorting convoys.

(4) While C. in C. W.A. will normally retain the Broad Operational Control of Group, the S.Os of Escort Groups are at liberty to give orders to trawlers of group in their company or vicinity in the light of their local knowledge, informing shore

/authorities...

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - *cont'd.*

Trawler Support Group. Contd. authorities of any radical departure from previous orders. As a general rule trawlers of group should not be ordered to operate singly.
 (5) Ships of the group may be ordered to refuel at Reykjavik or St. Johns N.F.
 (6) It is anticipated that the group will return to Belfast about end of December.
 (7) Wireless watch as for Ocean convoy escorts Western Approaches signal orders part 3. When co-operating with aircraft a guard on convoy high frequency wave is to be maintained.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1227A/6 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

O.N.S.150. O.N.S.150. Report forthwith if you have any stragglers who could have been in the vicinity of 054° 10' N 017° 20' W at 1100A/5. Repeat your reply to SARDONYX. *see p.191*
 (C. in C. W.A. 1236A/6 to Escorts of O.N.S.150.)

P.Q.19. A.M. 2010/20 Nov. and 0010/30 Nov. Request four older destroyers referred to in former message may arrive Scapa to join Home Fleet not later than 22nd Dec.
 (C. in C. H.F. 1255A/6 to Admty.)

O.N.S.156. Concur your 2351A/2.
 (Cominch C & R 1832/6 to Admty.)

Sailing of Tankers with defective D.G. 1. A.F.O. 2540/42 amended by A.F.O. 5564/42. To reduce delay in turn-round, outward-bound tankers whose D.G. equipment cannot be repaired during normal pre-sailing period in port should be sailed without waiting for repairs unless the port has been closed on account of suspected magnetic mine-laying.
 2. Any circumstances likely to prevent the sailing of a tanker under these instructions should be reported promptly to Admty.
 3. Ports on East Coast of U.K. South of Humber and the South Coast of U.K. are excluded from this instruction.
 4. After a port or area has been closed owing to magnetic mining it should be re-opened at F.O.I.C.'s discretion in 2 stages.
 (a) for degaussed ships (b) for ships with defective D.G.
 5. Admty. message 2200/9 June 1941 is cancelled.
 (D.T.D. 1920A/6 to A.I.G. 12.)

H.X. Convoys. Admty. 1907A/5 Dec. These proposals will be implemented whenever possible with all homeward-bound convoys.
 Para 2. Ships detached will normally be instructed to proceed to the last position on stragglers route which, since it coincides with convoy's last position, will ensure their being on the same route.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1935A/6 to Admty.)

War Diary.

6.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

M.K.S.3 (X) Following ships join from Gibraltar.
OCEAN MERCHANT, OCEAN FAME, REVERDY JOHNSON,
HORACE BINNEY, EMPIRE BUCKLER, MATTHEW P. DEADY,
OCEAN ATHLETE, JAMES MONROE, THOMAS PINCKNEY, MOBILE CITY,
ALEXANDER HAMILTON, JOHN MARSHALL, INNESFOOR, ALRESFORD, LWOW,
RUDBY, ANDREW HAMILTON, WILLODALE, NORTH DEVON, EMPIRE FOAM,
CITY OF NORWICH, BRISK, MAPLEWOOD, ARTEMUS WARD. Two ships
FLAMINIAN, BARON FORBES, join from Lisbon.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1053A/6 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. Cdre. Algiers.)

French Ships for Dakar (See also North Atlantic.) Your 0145/5. I have naturally been fully aware throughout that it would be most important to send these ships to U.K. if possible. But as has been repeatedly pointed out in messages from Gen. Eisenhower and myself the over-riding Military necessity was to get these ships away immediately from Algiers where they were occupying essential berths. The price that had to be paid to clear the ships from Algiers was that of sending them to Dakar. This again has been repeatedly made clear by all concerned including W.S.A. and M.W.T. Representatives. Combined Chiefs of Staff have now approved the move to Dakar in their fan 32 and I am acting accordingly.
(N.C.X.F., 1207A/6 to Admty).

French West Africa. Boisson in the conversations at Algiers has refused to grant us facilities in French West Africa unless H.M.G. undertake not to allow from British territory any action contrary to sovereignty of French High Commissioner. We shall probably give such an undertaking in proper terms but meanwhile it is most undesirable that we should allow activities to be carried out from British territory to which Boisson could legitimately take exception.
2. Gen. de Gaulle recently asked if we would order two Free French Chasseurs at Freetown to visit Lome with the object of seeing whether Dahomey will rally to him. We have told de Gaulle that in present circumstances this cannot be permitted, but from past experience we cannot be sure that our objections will be enough to deter him.
3. You are therefore requested to watch this point and to report at once any sign of a Free French attempt to interfere in Dahomey or elsewhere in French West Africa.
4. Please inform Resident Minister.
(M. Branch, Approved 1st Lord. 1346A/6 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) N.C.X.F)

Spain, chances of German occupation. We are concerned at somewhat alarmist signals sent to Gen. Eisenhower by Washington giving what purports to be intelligence concerning an impending German occupation of Spain.
2. These ungraded reports are unlikely to be taken at their face value but we fear that Gen. Eisenhower may be influenced in his decisions by the constant reiteration of a growing danger from Spain.
3. It may therefore be of value to you to know that, from both the military and political intelligence available, there is no

/reason...

6.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X. - 100/5.

Spain,
changes of
German
occupation.
Contd.

reason to believe that the danger of a German occupation of Spain has in any way increased in recent days.
4. Further, J.I.C. have expressed the opinion that:- "Every day that passes will increase the Spanish will to resist. It is most improbable that Germany would attempt such a move against Spanish resistance during winter, even if she had the forces. She is unlikely to have the forces available to do so next spring unless unexpectedly Russia collapses".
(M. Branch, Approved 1st Lord, 1348A/6 to N.C.X.F)

U.S.
Shipping.

My 2331A/2 para. 2. (request by Navy Dept. to be kept supplied with all possible information of U.S. managed shipping employed in Eastern North Atlantic & U.K. etc). Connav now requests to be supplied with the names of all ships irrespective of flag.
(D.T.D., 1519A/6 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A.C.N.A.)

ARGUS

A.M.1908/5 para. 4.
Request you will return ARGUS to U.K. as soon as convenient after arrival and exchange of aircraft has been completed.
(D.O.D. (H), 1528A/6 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib. ARGUS).

Salvage
Officer.

Your 1730/4 Dec. (Capt. Ellsberg, U.S.N. proposal he should be designated as chief Salvage Officer "Torch" area).
Proposed designation and duties of Captain Ellsberg U.S.N. are concurred in.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1700A/6 to N.C.X.F.)

SECRET

196A

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 1534Z/6 December OUT

Date 6/12/42

Addressed: CONNAV

Type Z U.S. Settings
Secret Cypher

From Admiralty.

K.M.S.4.
Add to A.M. 1208/3. #

MANCHESTER COMMERCE and VILLE D'ANVERS to Oran.

BARRISTER, CEMFAY-BRYN, CLAUSINA, COCHRANE, EMPIRE
CAMERON, EMPIRE GUINEVERE, EMPIRE HAVEN, EMPIRE HEYWOOD,
EXPLORER, FANAD HEAD, HERMITTAN, INDIAN PRINCE, LIBERIAN,
NURJEHAN, OCEAN SEAMAN, OCEAN VANQUISHER, STANCLEEVE and
TRADER to Algiers.

CITY OF PERTH, DAIHANNA, KAIMATA, MAHOUT, OCEAN FREEDOM,
OCEAN TRAVELLER, ST. MERRIEL, SEAPOOL and TURKESTAN to Bone.
ANGLO-AFRICAN, EMPIRE CABOT, HADLEIGH and MOANDA (Bel.) to
Bougie.

CONAKRIAN, DELANE, FORT ELLICE, OCEAN STRANGER and
PROMETHEUS to Philippeville.

NATONIA, CORRALES, COWRIE, EMPIRE GAZELLE, FORT PITT, HAMPTON
LODGE, HERANGER, SAN AMADA, SALVESTOR and TILFA to Gibraltar.

1534Z/6

for D.T.D. (723)

A.C.N.S. (T)
Ops. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)
D. of S.T. (2)
I.P. (3)
D. of S.2A

W.D.
U.S.N. (3)
Adl. Ramsey (4)
C.C.O. (2)

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

French Ships N.C.X.F's 1549/5*. Intend sailing French ships
for Dakar. at 1700/6 routed through (m) 35° 51' N. 06° 01' W.
See p. 198A (n) 35° 26' N. 06° 36' W. (o) 34° 01' N. 07°
39' W. S. of A. 8 knots thence as ordered by
S.N.O. Casablanca. 2. Escorts LA BOUDEUSE to Dakar, BLYSKAWICA,
VANOC and VELOX to position (o).

(V.A. Gibraltar, 0006A/6 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty.,
etc.) * re sailing of French ships to Dakar.

Four P.M. escort vessels Minron 7 plus French merchant ship
CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE R/V Gibraltar-Dakar convoy 1400Z/7th Dec.
34.01 07.39 relieve escort according to V.A. Gibraltar 0006A/6
escorting convoy through point P 33° 30' 08' 50', point Q 32° 00'
10° 00', point R 29° 30', point S 28° 40' 12' 40'. Escort
furnished by F.O.C.W.A.F. gather expect relieve point S. E.T.A.
point S 1000Z/10.

(S.N.O. Casablanca, 1745Z/6 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A.F.,
(R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

N.C.X.F's 1156/30/11. Following ships sailed in accord-
ance with F.O.C. Gibraltar's 0006/6: PARAMÉ, ATHOS II, JAMAIQUE,
COLOMBIE, CHAMPOLLION, RHEA, CEVENNES, PAUL DE ROUSIES, LA
BOUDEUSE, acting as Commodore, ATHOS II Vice Commodore, escorts
VANOC (S.O.), BLYSKAWICA and SANDWICH. Codeword "Sampson".

(V.A.C.N.A., 1800A/6 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) N.C.X.F.,
F.O.C.W.A.F., Admty.)

My 0006/6. Convoy "Sampson" escorted by VANOC, BLYSKAWICA,
SANDWICH, F.S. LA BOUDEUSE sailed 1745. Q.K.A.79 negative LA
BOUDEUSE.

(F.O.C. Gib., 2144A/6 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty.,
N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A.F.)

U/B. S/M reported by aircraft at 1430A/5th in 034° 14'
N. 011° 04' W.
(R.A. Gib. 0135A/6 to S. & A. Area X, Admty.,
N.C.X.F.)

Movements. MONARCH OF BERMUDA, DERBYSHIRE sailed 1700/6.
(S.T.O. i/c Gibraltar, 0915/6 to S.T.L.O. Oran,
(R) D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Air Report. Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 5th Dec. U-Boat
sightings and attacks. Wellington R/179 on A/S
night sweep east at 2106 hours picked up and
illuminated fully surfaced U-Boat in (LBNV (36° N. 1° E.) ?
corrupt) 4506. Attacked from U-Boat's port beam as it was
diving with four D/Cs explosions close to starboard quarter, 500
rounds fired at U-Boat's hull, no results seen.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0935Z/6.)

LLANSTEPHAN Your 1807/5th (LLANGIBBY CASTLE unfit for sea, all
CASTLE, passengers transferred to LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE.
TEGELBERG, Proposed sailing p.m. Monday etc.) Approved.
MAIDSTONE etc. Request you will sail MAIDSTONE with this convoy
At least 5 escorts are to be provided and maximum
A/S air patrol laid on.
(N.C.X.F., 1133A/6 to V.A. Gib., (R) Admty., F.O.S.
Capt. S.8, Capt. S.10, S.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers.)

/My ...

198

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - ~~contd.~~

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, etc. (contd.) My 1807A/5th para. 4, for Monday read Sunday. (V.A. Gib. 1208A/6 to N.C.X.F. etc.) Your 1133/6th and my 1807/5th. (1) TEGELBERG defects will not be complete until a.m. 8th. (2) Intend sailing MAIDSTONE, TEGELBERG and OTRANTO on Tuesday 8th. (V.A. Gibraltar 1915A/6 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty. etc.)

THRASHER. *See p. 1909*
next page. Capt. (S) 8 1220/5th THRASHER sailed 1205. Only such Q messages affecting passage to port of destination held. (V.A. Gib. 1256A/6 to Admty.)

U/B (?) Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 36.00 N. 02.30 W. probably a submarine (bearing 014° ?) am investigating suspicious object wake or swirl in 36.16 N. 02.22 W. (A/C Call Sign U.A.1 Duty J. 1730/6 to Gib. W/T.) My 1730. My position (presume "enemy's position" intended) is 36.16 N. 02.32 W. course 270° speed 8 knots. (A/C Call sign UA1 Duty J. 1800A/6 to Gib. W/T.)

EXE. *See next page* Your 1527A/6th (N.T. in W.D.) My P.C. and S. at 1900Z, 036° 36' N. 008° 32' W. 124° 14 knots. Intend to commence searching vicinity of position given at 2300. If no further signal is sent by EXE indicating boat located, request aircraft co-operation at daylight 7th December. (EXE 1905Z/6 to V.A. Gib.)

Cable Operation. LADY DENISON PENDER expects to complete picking up cable at 0600Z/8th and requests instructions. SOUTHERN PRIDE has endurance to remain until operation is completed and then to proceed

Bathurst. My P.C. and S. 1900Z/6th 024° 36' N. 017° 42' W. 052°, one knot. (SOUTHERN PRIDE 1930Z/6 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A.) Reply: F.O.C. Gib. 1803A/7.

FARNDALE. AVON VALE. Request you sail FARNDALE, AVON VALE for Gibraltar forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A. 1950A/6 to F.O. Oran (R) N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H.)

U/B. Report by 73 Squadron Sea Plane. R.A.F. Personnel, at 1835A. Moving oil spot 034° 42' N. 012° 00' W., at 1850A course 000° speed 2. At 1900A, U-boat releasing flares. (BARNEGAT 2030Z/6 to V.A. Gib.)

/Following ...

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is ~~an unclassified message~~ ~~in 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. 1330A/6th Dec. IN

From:- V.A. Gibraltar.

Date. 6/12/42.

Recd. 2250

N.CYPHER 3(S) by T/P

Addressed:- N.A. Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report at area X Situation at
1959A/6th.

(1). H.M.S. THRASHER, 036 degs 18' 006 degs
46' on surface through 36 40 07 30 and 225
degs St. Vincent 10. Thence dived by day 24
knots surface by night 11 knots course 333 degs. *See pp 1904
198*

(2). K M S 4, TAY, 7 corvettes, trawler, 34 50
07 56 through 35 05 07 40 and 35 30 07
40 to arriving 35 59 07 12 at 1200 7th
5r. Thence through Straits? 7. *See next page.*

(3). K X 7, KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, H.M.S.
*LAUDERDALE, *MELBREAK, 37 54 10 54 through 36
30 09 31 to Gibraltar 7. **See p. 205*

(4). U.S. ZANZIBAR, (Landing Craft), 35 03 09
58 to Gibraltar, 10.

(5). BAT six, and BAT 10, 34 01 16 18 through
34 01 15 01 to Gibraltar 12.

(6). ARCTIC RANGER, one M/V, off Cape Espichel
to Lisbon, thence ARCTIC RANGER to R/V one
trawler off Tagus 0800A 7th and escort coast-
wise to Cape. St. Vincent thence direct to
Gibraltar 8.

(7). Hospital ship ATLANTIC, 027 degs 25' 019
degs 12' through 030 degs 01' 019 degs 01'
thence 010 degs 13.

(8). 2 M F V's, 041 degs 42' 011 degs 42' 162
degs 51. Portuguese Sloop GONCALO VELHO left Cape
Verde Is: date 3rd for Madeira 10th. **See p. 198c*

(10). Polish Des: BLYSKAWICA H.M.S. VANOC
H.M.S. SANDWICH, F.S. MINESWEEPER LA BOUDEUSE,
035 degs 54' 050 degs 48' through 035 degs 51'
006 degs 01' 035 degs 26' 006 degs 36' thence
034 degs 01' 007 degs 39' from Lagos Position
Polish Des: BLYSKAWICA H.M.S. VANOC H.M.S.
SANDWICH return Gibraltar 15 knots. *See p. 197*

(11). EXE 036 degs 40' 008 degs 23' to
Gibraltar 14. *See previous page.*

(12)

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.

- 2 -

(12). H.M.S. VENOMOUS, H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS,
H.M.S. WIVERN H.M.S. VELOX H.M.S. FLEETWOOD,
leave Gibraltar 2359/6th, Eastward & Southward
rendezvous K M S 4 at dawn/7, when TAY, WEAR,
H.M.S. ARDROSSAN, H.M.S. WORTHING, LYME REGIS,
depart for Gibraltar 13. ** See previous page*

(13). Submarine P.221 sails 1200/7th through
036 degs 01' 006 degs 12' 036 degs 40' 007
degs 30 to 225 degs Cape St. Vincent 10 on
surface 11. *See p.190.*

1330A/6.

Advance Copy. Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (F).
D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H) (2).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
N.A. 1st SL.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D. (H) (2).
D.O.D. (F) (2).
D.D.O.D. (1).
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. Ransey. (4).
U.S.N. (3).
D.T.D. (3).
D.T.D. (C).
F.O.S. by courier.
D. of P. (Q).
C.C.R.T.
C.C.O. (2).

MOST SECRET 1980

~~WAS SECRET~~ **MESSAGE** 1332/6th December IN
is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential
code message, and the text must first be paraphrased in its essential to
From V.C. Gibraltar Date 8.12.45 outside British or Allied Government Services.

Recd. 1945

Naval Cypher 3 (S) by W/T.

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT

Situation Report Area "Y" 2001A/6th.

(i) Portuguese Sloop GONCALO
VILHO left Cape Verde Is. p.m. 3rd for Madeira 10. *See p. 198A*

(ii) H.M.S. ENTERPRISE 26 59 21 34 341 degs 19.

1332A/6

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

Advance copy Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (H)
D.D.I.C.

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - *con 15.*U/B.
(contd.)

Following has been read by Gibraltar. Following received from B.73, submarine submerged trailing oil released signal flares position 34.42 N. 12° 00' W. Catalina F.P. 111 was trailing same oil slick.
(S.O.I.S. T.O.R. 2300/6.)

Force H.

Arrival 6th. S.O. Force "H" in NELSON, RENOWN, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, CHARYBDIS, MILNE, METEOR, LOOKOUT, PENN, PATHFINDER, PARTRIDGE, PORCUPINE, QUALITY, QUIBERON, PUCKERIDGE.
(V.A. Gib. 2150A/6 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

South Atlantic

ENGADINE.

Sailed ENGADINE routed in accordance with C. in C. E.F. 1335/26th Nov. not to N.O.I.C. Fremantle. (ii) S. of A. 13½ knots. E.T.A. Fremantle 0300Z/19th. (iii) Shifting to Group N U at 1415Z/8th.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0402Z/6 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B., N.O.I.C., Fremantle.)

Movements.

Arrived H.M.S. HAWKINS.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0635Z/6 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 6th Dec. BRIDGEWATER.

(S.O.(I) Freetown 1127/6 to Admty.) *COMMANDANT*

Arrival 6th Dec. PHOEBE, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, M.Ls 272, 244, 266.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1744Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals 6th Dec. H.M. Tug LADY ELSA, WELLARD, ARCTIC EXPLORER.

(S.O.(I) Sierra Leone 2042Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

Departure 6th Dec. MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YES/TOR, ARRAN with F.T.T.4.

(S.O.(I) Sierra Leone 2057Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

Arrival 6th Dec. HERTFORDSHIRE, LE TIGER, CAPE WARWICK, LADY ROSEMARY.

(S.O.(I) Sierra Leone 2140/6 to Admty.)

W.S.24 (B)

Sailed FROBISHER escorting W.S.24 (B) Local Escort for first 24 hours NEPAL and NORMAN.

2. S. of A. 16 knots. Routed in accordance with

C. in C. E.F. 1635/23, not to Admty.

3. Shift W/T organisation to Group N U at 1415Z/8.

(Cdre. Durban 0904Z/6, 0933Z/6 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

C. in C. South Atlantic.)

ASTURIAS,
CYCLAMEN.*See p. 200¹³*

ASTURIAS escorted by CYCLAMEN patrol between position X 000° 28' S. 021° 57' W. and Y 001° 17' N. 018° 21' W. commencing position X at 1000Z/7th Dec. S. of A. 12½ knots.

(F.O.C.W.A. 0959Z/6 to Comslantfor (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty. etc.)

/Minefields ...

War Diary.

6.12.1942
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Minefields, Your 1308/5. If it is decided to repair
Diego Suarez, Diego Suarez Minefield first, Mark 111 mines will
Saldanha. not be required, and ship can be ready for sea
by 12th December.
(2) All stores for Diego Suarez available by that
date will be embarked. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0631/5 Dec. refers.
(3) In event of para. 1 SPINDRIFT and navigating party from
Saldanha required at Durban by 11th December.
(4) If decided MANCHESTER CITY proceeds Saldanha advisable to
embark mines from MANCHESTER DIVISION due Durban 10th December
and ship should then be ready for sea by 15th December.
(Cdre. Durban 1052C/6 to C. in C. S.A. (R) MANCHESTER CITY,
Capt. Supt. Durban.)

Gibraltar - My 0913Z/5th and N.C. X.F.'s 1549A/ 5th.
Dakar Request route, R/V at which my escort should
Convoy. take, and method of communication between escort
and ships in convoy. Report convoy orders be
transferred at rendezvous.
(R.A.W.A. 1326Z/6 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) S.N.O.
Casablanca, N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)

HARVEY W. SS HARVEY W. SCOTT sent out following S.O.S.
SCOTT, (begins) 055° 33' S. 076° 25' W. quarter inch
distress. crack in ship's side proceeding toward Magellan
Straits T.O.O. 0521Z/6th.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1321Z/6 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. S.A. etc.)

"S" Report. Following has been read. S S S S QUEEN CITY,
submarine sighted, 24 YO S. (as received)
3.45 E.
(Simonstown W/T T.O.R. 1350Z/6.)

Dakar Re British representations.
negotiations. (Foreign Office 1400/6 to Washington.)
See Lion Copy.

Flying Over Your 1747A/2. A.O.C. West Africa informs me
French W. (A) No De Gaullist aircraft based in B.W.A.
Africa. (B) P.R.U. sorties ceased after 1/12.
(C) F.F. Liason Officer has been asked to ascertain
if any flights have been made from Chad and if
they have to request such flights be discontinued.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1413Z/6 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.,
V.A. Gibraltar.)

AUBRETIA, Your 1009/5. AUBRETIA and VIOLET will be required
VIOLET. to operate from Western Approaches Command with
"Torch" follow up Convoys. It is not anticipated
that they will return to your Command for some
months.
(D.O.D. (H) 1800A/6 to F.O.C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET

200A

WARNING: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it outside British or Allied Government Services.

M E S S A G E

OUT

MOST SECRET

T.O.D. 1400/6th December

To Washington.

Date 6/12/42

Cypher

From Foreign Office.

IMMEDIATE

No.7670. 6th December 1942.

C C C C

Ref. F.O. Letter No.29646/631/G of December 4th.

Your telegram No.5872 (of December 3rd) British representation in negotiations at Dakar.

Please take this up immediately with the United States Government on political grounds as you suggest. United States Government are insisting in Algiers Conference that facilities in West Africa shall be granted to the United Nations and not to United States of America alone. Details of these facilities are to be discussed at Dakar. Owing to the geographical position of British and French colonies in West Africa offer of facilities to the United Nations, if it is genuine, presupposes close contact between British and French authorities in West Africa and therefore British participation in the Dakar discussions ought to go without saying. In the circumstances to allow the French to refuse British participation would place us in a disparaging position and encourage the French to play off the Americans against us in future. It would incidentally prejudice prospects of smooth co-operation between the French and ourselves both in military and economic spheres.

2. Apart from this, Boisson is now asking for certain assurances from us in connection with the agreement about West Africa now being negotiated with him by the Americans at Algiers. That being so, we cannot admit that he should refuse to have dealings with us at Dakar.

T.O.D. 1400/6.

F.O. circulation -

C.O.S.

D.O.

C.O.

W.C.O.

Maj. Morton

Received from F.O. ?

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|----|----------------|---|-------------|----|---|
| 1st Lord |) | A.C.N.S.(T) |) | Head of M. |) | D. of P.(Q) |) | 0 |
| 1st S.L. |) | P.A.S.(S) |) | Admiral Blake |) | D. of L:D. |) | 0 |
| D.F.S.L. |)0 | D.O.D.(F) |)0 | Admiral Ramsey |) | D.D.I.C. |)n | 1 |
| V.C.N.S. |)n | D.O.D.(H) |)n | D.C. |) | 0 |) | 1 |
| A.C.N.S.(F) |)1 | D.N.I. |)1 | I.P. |) | n |) | y |
| A.C.N.S.(H) |)y | D. of P. |)y | W.D. |) | 1 |) | Y |

MOST SECRET

200B

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

1013Z/6th December IN

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 6.12.42.
Time 1406

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T.

Addressed A.I.G.150.

IMPORTANT.

2 Motor Launches, escorting about 05 45 11 01 to Takoradi 6.

PORTSDOWN, escorting off RobertsPort to Freetown.

NORTHERN CHIEF, 04 10 05 01 to Takoradi 10.

ST LOMAN, STELLA POLARIS, KHYBER, 2 Motor Launches, with ST 45, 03 20 03 45 to Takoradi. 79

SPHENE, escorting 03 35 04 10 to Takoradi 8 at 1959Z 6th.

H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, escorting 03 35 03 20 to Takoradi 12½

RUMBA, OOPINSAY, off Accra. H.M.S. *ASTURIAS, H.M.S.

*CYCLAMEN, 02 25 21 40 to patrol between 00 28 South 21 57 and 01 17 18 21 12½. H.M.S. DESPATCH, about 02 01 22 20 to Freetown 17. CORINTHIAN, 09 40 South 13 30 to 10 01 15 02 thence Rio de Janeiro 11½ * See p. 199

1013Z/6.

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

A.C.N.S.(T)

N.A. 1st S.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.D.O.D.(C)(2)

Ad. Blake.

ma.

War Diary.

6.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

GRYFEVALE.

Your 1245Z/6th November. If GRYFEVALE not required by you in near future propose she return Freetown. Absence of Freetown water carriers for refit is causing difficulty in watering escort.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1801Z/6 to F.O.C.N.A., N.C.X.F., Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

6.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B. At 0210 U-Boat in position 224° Cape Palos 19, course 290°, 6 knots.
(P.51, 0243A/6 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) N.C.X.F.)

S O S. Following received from FBPJ (undecypherable).
S O S 32.27 N. 17.25 E.
(Nore W/T, 0320/6 to Admty.)

Following received from FBPJ.
S O S 32.38 N. 15.17 E. T.O.R. 0255A.
(Nore W/T, No T.O.O./6 to Admty. recd. 0321/6.)

Movements. → Departure RANPURA.
(Cdre. Aden, 0519Z/6 to Admty., etc.)
Arrival M.T.B.*260, 268. *See p.204
(V.A. Malta, 0750A/6 to Admty., etc.)
My 1603/5th (N.T. in W.D.) Under departures add PRIMULA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0832B/6 to Admty., etc.)
Arrival 5th Dec. ANTWERP, M.T.B.61. Departure 5th Dec. SNAPDRAGON, WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON, G.S. SAKTOURIS, SOUTHERN MAID, ROMEO, GENERAL BIRDWOOD, MAPLE, Tug, Magnetic Motor Launch 358, *M.T.B.265, *M.T.B.307. *See p.174.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0934/6 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
→ Arrived WISHART 0830A/6th and sailed for Philippeville 1015A/6th having unloaded ammunition and dunnage.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1020A/6 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)
5th Dec. Arrival Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS. Departure FALK, → M.L.348.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 1139B/6 to Admty.)
Departure HYDRANGEA. In W. Africa Command. Falk list - see also p.200-73
(V.A. Malta, 1457A/6 to Admty., etc.)
Departure RORQUAL. See p.206
(V.A. Malta, 1457A/6 to Admty., etc.)
→ 6th Dec. Port Said arrival WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON, M.L.348. Departures WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1733/6 to Admty., etc.)
Algiers arrivals QUEEN EMMA, BICESTER, WHEATLAND from the east, *NASTURTIUM, *LUNENBURG with LEONIAN from Oran, SCYLLA from Gibraltar. AURORA, ARGONAUT, ESKIMO, TARTAR from Bone. LC.T.(2) 152 and 169 from Bone. EGRET, RHYL, BUDE, CLACTON, BANFF, REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH, TANATSIDE, SWALE, HELVIG with K.M.F.4.
→ Departures WISHART to Philippeville, BICESTER, WILTON to Philippeville, WHEATLAND, LAMERTON, SCYLLA, ZETLAND, L.C.T.⁽²⁾ 135, 152, and 169 to Bone. *See p.205
(Cdre. Algiers, 2056A/6 to Admty., (R) S.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.)

→ Convoy A.K. 5. Sailing telegram. Escort RANPURA.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0531Z/6 to Admty., etc.)

Enemy Reports. Wellington report on landing 7 unidentified ships, one fully lit stopped in position 220 (? Cape) San Vito 05' at (?23 or 11)59A/6.
(V.A. Malta, 0857A/7 to N.C.X.F., R.A. 12 C.S., F.O.I.S.)

/Following ...

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. *with 18.*

Enemy Reports. (Contd.) Following has been read. Position and course of enemy (5 aeroplanes) 37.27 N. 17.05 E. 180°. (Malta W/T, 0920A/6 to Admty.) Position of one enemy destroyer (? one escort vessel) 37.45 N. 11.20 E. course 190°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S 6TME, 0930A/6 to Hal Far.) Position of one enemy small vessel 37.35 N. 11.50 (or 59) E., course 250°, speed 8 knots.
(A/C C/S 6TME, 0935A/6 to Hal Far.) Position of 8 enemy torpedo boats 36.50 N. 11.20 E., course 270°, speed 20 knots.
(A/C C/S 6TMD, 1027A/6 to Hal Far.) P.C. and S. of 1 medium vessel 2 (?) 2 escort vessels 36.0°, 10, 37.10 N. 11.50 E.
(A/C C/S 6TME, 0945A/6 to Hal Far.) P.C. and S. of 1 destroyer 37.35 N. 11.35 E., course 270°, speed 20 knots, and 3 E-Boats 37.34 N. 11.45 E., course 090°

15 knots.
(A/C C/S BTMD, 1050A/6 to Hal Far.) P.C. and S. of one enemy tanker 37.20 N. 11.00 E., 230°, 10 knots.
(A/C C/S GMMB, 1506A/6 to Hal Far.) Position of 1 enemy destroyer and 1 enemy E-Boat 37.30 N. 11.00 E., course 60°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S BTMD, 1245A/6 to Hal Far.)

GRETE. German controlled Danish steamship GRETE expected to leave Cartagena p.m. 6th Dec. for Marseilles. (Capt. S.8, 0942A/6 to 8 S/M.F.) Cartagena states SS. GRETE will leave for Valencia and Marseilles Dec. 7th with German cargo. (N.A. Madrid, 13(?)4/6 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

DIDO. C. in C. Med's 1834/5th (1833/5 intended). Request you will sail DIDO for Bone p.m. tomorrow 7th to arrive within 50 miles off Bone at daylight 8th. Inform N.O.I.C. Bone of route to enable fighter protection to be arranged a.m. 8th. (N.C.X.F., 1121A/6 to V.A. Malta.) C. in C. Med. 1834/5th (1833/5 intended). Propose routing DIDO when ordered to sail as MANXMAN in my 2346/24th Nov. S. of A. 28 knots. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1505/6 to N.C.X.F., (R) F.O.I.S., C. in C. Med.)

MANXMAN. Force H's 0857A/4th and F.O.I.C. Oran's 1106/5th. MANXMAN situation. Owing to congestion in Oran and inadequate depth over wrecks preliminary repairs will be done by VINDICTIVE at Mers-el-Kebir under superintendence American F.O.I.C. Oran and his constructor commander. (2) Repairs will be on lines of MANXMAN's 2330A/3rd, amended as experience of damage dictated in consultations with constructor commander. (3) I am satisfied that this is the best arrangement and that if present perfect weather holds ship will be ready to tow to Gibraltar about 15th Dec. (MANXMAN, 1215A/6th to N.C.X.F., (R) S.O. Force H, VINDICTIVE, 13th D.F., F.O.I.C. Oran, V.A. Gibraltar.) /M.T.Bs ...

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- M.T.Bs. Your 1502B/5th. Propose sailing M.T.Bs* 260, 262, 266 and 316 under C.O. 20th Division at 1500/7th. *260, 262
(V.10, 1247A/6 to C.C.F., (R) V.A. Malta.)
My 2150A/4th (M.T.Bs to carry out sweep in Gulf of Tunis). 4 M.T.Bs will be ready p.m. Monday, when it is intended to sail them. Request you will inform Air authorities.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1320A/6 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)
- P. 712 Renamed. Greek flag hoisted in P.712 5th Dec. and name changed to MATROZOS. Request allocation groups in appropriate S.P.
(C. in C. Med., 1520B/6 to Admty., (R) F.O.S., Capt. S.1.)
- M.C. 1. Your 0714/6/12. Cancel my 1037/3/12 (N.T. in W.D.) Ships composing M.C.1 will be sailed to arrive Aden a.m. Dec. 16th.
(F.O.R.S.C.A., 1729B/6 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O.M.E., Cdre. Aden, N.O.I.C. Suez, G.H.Q.M.E.)
W.D. Note:- Not understood. Our information was that M.C.1 sailed 7th Nov. (Kilindini - Durban). Presumably this is a new series, Aden to Cape, but seem queer to have two M.C. series on same station.
? should M.C.1 be M.C.2 see C. in C. E.F., 0714Z/6 (East Indies).
- Transport of S. African Troops. Admty. 1922/5th Dec. (see E. Indies).
1. Propose to embark HIGHLAND MONARCH 500 German prisoners of war for (corrupt group) and 1000 South Africans.
2. EMPIRE TROOPER capacity 2300 South Africans.
Both ships ready to sail Suez 8th Dec.
3. EMPIRE WOODLARK delayed approx. 10 days due to rudder trouble. Propose embarking together with SONTAY ex Suez about 14th Dec. capacity 2650 South Africans provided F.O.R.S.C.A. able to arrange escort.
4. Providing full move (? takes place) maximum estimated balance is 12000. Propose embarking these in NIEUW AMSTERDAM, ASCANIUS, FELIX ROUSSEL, ARONDA, end of December.
5. Embarking prisoners of war in HIGHLAND MONARCH as there will be no saving in later escorts if this space allocated South Africans.
6. Agreed G.H.Q.M.E. F.O.R.S.C.A. pass to Movements 80 Area. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1815B/6 to D.S.T., (R) C. in C. S.A., Admty., etc.)
Reply: D.S.T. 0641A/8.
- Air R/C. Visuals p.m. Dec. 6th.
(1) Naples, 3 battleships, 1 cruiser only sighted, visibility poor.
(2) Taranto, 3 battleships.
(3) Messina, 5 cruisers.
(4) Palermo, destroyers not sighted.
(V.A. Malta, 1821A/6 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/Malta ...

MOST SECRET

204 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.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1345A/6 Dec.

From ... Capt. (S) 8.

Date .. 6.12.42.

Naval Cypher 3 (S) by Recd...2304.

W/T.

Addressed ... Ships and authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean
at 2000A/6th.

1. H.M.S. URSULA, 39 44 North 01 53 East through
39 27 North 01 26 East thence 5 miles off Cape to
Cape to Gibraltar 7 knots. *p.206*
2. H.M.S.P. 219, 39 01 North 06 59 East through
39 01 North 03 16 East thence 244 11 knots. *Lu p.206*
3. H.M.S. PORPOISE, pass 38 39 North 08 01 East
at 0100/7th following H.M. P.219 8 knots.
4. H.M.S. P. 51, 37 41 North 00 15 West course
65 8 knots.
5. All above submarines dived by day 2½ knots
surface speed as stated.
6. H.M.S. TRIBUNE, 36 27 North 02 59 West on surface
11 knots to arrive Gibraltar 1100/7th.

1345A/6.

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.
D.O.D. (F), D.D.I.C.

A.C.N.S. (F) (2).

N.A. 1 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)

F.O.S. by Courier.

Admiral Ramsey (4).

U.S.N. (3).

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta 2000A/5 to 2000A/6.
Intelligence Naval. 6 M.T.Bs now at Malta. Two others
Summary. expected tomorrow. Air.
Night 5th/6th Dec. Wellingtons dropped twelve
tons of bombs on Bizerta docks including two
4000 lbs. near harbour goods station. Other bursts near fuel
storage tanks on quays and at harbour entrance.
(Govr. Malta, 1900Z/6.)

M.K.S. 3Y. Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.
3(Y) at 1200A/9th routed through 100, 44, 17,
109, 93, 50, 78, 57 letters A to H.
2. Stragglers route as convoy route.
3. Ocean route all North and West, 036° 10' 010° 10', 038° 28'
015° 00', 040° 28' 017° 02', 043° 45' 017° 50', 051° 10' 017°
11', 054° 30' 013° 45', 055° 26' 008° 31' letters J. to P.
For stragglers letters Q to W.
4. Algiers section escorted by DEPTFORD, MARIGOLD, VETCH,
CONVOLVULUS,*NASTURTIUM,*LUNENBURG. *See p.202
5. Oran portion escorted by WEYBURN, PENTSTEMON, R/V in
position 109 at 1500A/10th.
6. Gibraltar section R/V position (Q) at 1600A/11th.
7. V.A. Gibraltar and F.O.I.C. Oran to signal Algiers and
repeat to me names of ships for inclusion.
8. Ocean escorts *KRAKOWIAK, *BLEASDALE, *LAUDERDALE, *MELBREAK,
STORK, AZALEA. *See p.198A
9. On relief by Ocean escorts local escorts to return to
Gibraltar.
10. First two letters of convoy W/T call sign U K.
11. Emphasise priority watch-keeping impossible Algiers area.
12. Codeword "Taunton".
(N.C.X.F., 1905A/6 to V.A. Gib., Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

E.A.C. WX.2307. A/85 6th Dec.
Report. Operational summary No. 25 - 1800 hours 4th Dec.
to 1800 hours 5th Dec.
1. R.A.F. activity. 13 out of 13 Bisleys
dispatched successfully attacked Bizerta docks from 2,700 -
5,500 feet. 0500 hours. Numerous fires including 1 outstanding
fire 100 yards North of quayside, seen in docks and town.
15 out of 16 B.17s escorted by 12 P.38s attacked docks and
shipping at Tunis from 22,000 feet in good weather dropping 150
x 500 lb. bombs docks, sheds, railway yards. Ship hit, much
smoke. Flak light, inaccurate. All A/C returned.
(E.A.C., 2000/6, 2350Z/6.)

ALBACORE. Acknowledge. Sail at 1800/8th (7th intended) to
arrive Bougie at daylight Tuesday 8th. You will
be sailing from Bougie at 1000A/8th as escort to
2 coasters for Bone.
(F.O.I.S., 2013A/6 to ALBACORE, (R) N.O.I.C.
Bougie, Cdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F.)

/RORQUAL ...

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

RORQUAL. RORQUAL sailed 1300/6th to carry out your 1153/4th reporting result during night 8th/9th while on passage to patrol area bounded by 38.50, 39.20, 09.00, 10.00.
See p. 202 (Movements)
(Capt. S.10, 2051A/6 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8.)

Operation "Quadrangle". My 1247/3rd after passing DD M.E.11 is to pass through 033° 26' N. 021° 57' E. thence EE.
2. Para. 1 delete ORION. Delete para. 2.
Para. 3 for EURYALUS read ORION. Para. 4, delete 1st sentence.
3. My 1858/4th para. 3 and 4 (? 5 intended) for EURYALUS read ORION.
(C. in C. Med., 2110B/6 to V.A. Malta, etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.159 6th Dec. C.S.R.
Night 5th/6th Dec. no enemy air activity locally.
Day 6th Dec., today a total of 30 Spitfire sorties have been flown to protect the unloading of our convoy. 8 long range and 4 short range Spitfires have carried out offensive R/C over Pantellaria, Lampedusa, Kerkenah areas but made no sightings. A small M/V was attacked in Sfax Bay, cannon strikes being observed at the water line, a schooner anchored 5 miles north of Kerkenah was attacked strikes seen on the deck. 1 Hurricane collided with the mast of the schooner damaging port wing but returned safely, crew unhurt.
Night 5th/6th Dec. Wellingtons made 6 sorties to attack Bizerta docks. In first attack 1845 to 2000 hours 4 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 7000 feet scoring hits with 2 4000 lb. Bombs near docks, railway goods station, other bombs burst near fuel storage tanks, railway goods yard, and on quays. In second attack from 0155 to 0218 hours 2 Wellingtons dropped 8 x 500 lb. and nine G.P. bombs scoring hits across the harbour entrance and on the dockside area. Very little flak encountered.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 2126Z/6, 2151/6, 2203Z/6.)

TIGRIS. Establish patrol in following sectors between 260 and 290 miles summit Mount Vesuvius radius 40 miles. Although outbound vessels are more important captured Vichy shipping may be inward bound and should be sunk.
(Capt. S.10, 2147A/6 to TIGRIS, (R) Submarines on Patrol, N.C.X.F., Capt. S.8.)

P.219, URSULA. P.219 is to pass 039° 01' 003° 58' E. at 2100/7th and then proceed direct to R/V in 037° 01' 003° 23' E. at 0900/8th with escort onward passage to Algiers.
See p. 204 A
(2) URSULA is to pass 038° 45' N. 000° 41' E. at 0800/7th 038° 30' N. 001° 26' E. at 2030/7th 038° 42' N. 003° 02' E. at 0800/8th thence direct to 037° 01' N. 003° 06' E. to R/V with escort at 0900/9th for onward passage to Algiers.

War Diary.

6.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean—cont'd.

P. 219,
URSULA.
(Contd.)

(3) Last Q.B.A. held by both submarines Q.B.A.1.
(4) Cdre. Algiers commence arranging escort as above and for stragglers Q.B.A. message to be passed to submarine by escort.
(5) Both submarines proceed on surface at discretion on day of arrival.
(Capt. S.8, 2230A/6 to 8 S.F., (R) F.O.I.S., N.C.X.F., etc.)
(Capt. S.8, 2258A/6 to S. & A. Area G.)

K.M.F. 4,
suspected
minelaying.

Minelaying suspected off Philippeville. Ships of K.M.F.4 ? bound there should R/V with sweepers at 0730/7th on 50 fathom line who will sweep them into harbour.
(F.O.I.S., 2335A/6 to BICESTER.)

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements

Departure 0029/6th Dec. SUTLEJ, JUMNA.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0033Z/6 to Admty).

C.M. 35 B.

Arrived WORCESTERSHIRE with C.S. 35 B.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0525Z/6 to Admty).Proposed
A/S operation.My 0814/4 (Re present destroyer force of
Eastern Fleet inadequate for extended operations)
Request early Admty remarks regarding para. 2,
C. in C. S.A's 1511/3rd.2. If Admty. confirm C. in C. S.A's appreciation
BIRMINGHAM flying flag of C.S.4 with ILLUSTRIOUS escorted by
2 "Hunts" could leave Kilindini about 11th Dec. for a search
centred about 035° S., 055° E. The 3 fixed range destroyers with
W.S. 24 A would leave the convoy east of Madagascar and after
refuelling at (corrupt group) (?India) relieve the "Hunts" in
the vicinity of Mauritius about 15th Dec.3. Object of operation would be to search area to S.E. of
Madagascar for enemy supply ships or blockade runners.
(C. in C. E.F., 0712Z/6 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.)
Reply: Admty, 1038/8.Transport
of S. African
Troops.Your 1013/4th (Expected sailings from Suez for
week ending Dec.11). and A.M. 1922/5th (escorts
for ships from Aden to Cape) Earliest date on
which cruiser escort can arrive Aden is p.m./16th
Dec.(2) Your 1037/3rd gave (?sailing date) from
Suez of ships composing convoy M.C.2 as Dec. 13th. Request
verification.
(C. in C. E.F., 0714Z/6? to F.O.C.R.S. (R) Admty. etc).LÉOPARD
Mauritius.F.S. LÉOPARD sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0800Z/6 to Admty. F.O.
Ceylon, S.O.(I) Bombay, C. in C. E.F. C. in C.
S.A., S.O.(I) Kilindini).

Movements

Kilindini.
Arrival 6th Dec. SIGFRA, JANUS, GLENROY.
(F.O.E.A. & Z. 1207Z/6 to Admty).

Enemy Unit

D/F indicates unknown Japanese unit REHE 2
frequency 4100 k/cs 2300 62/5 in area from Madras
East to South East of Ceylon.
(C. in C. E.F., 1509Z/6 to N.O.I.C. Ceylon,
A.C.N.B., Admty. S. and A. E. Indies Station).

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- Air Report. Operations December 6 Times G.M.T.
(B) A/S Sorties (not for convoys) 18 Canso A 'K'
5. Squadron sighted U/Boat Periscope at 1045
position 50.32 N, 48.39 W.(?). Sighting reported
to S.N.O. of H.X. 217 who ordered sweep by destroyer FAME.
Attack made by A/C.
(E.A.C. 0855/6).
- Movements. Departure U.S.S.OMAHA (?U.S.S.JOUETT).
(N.O.I.C.Trinidad 0902Q/6 to S.B.N.O.W.A.).
- CLAN My 1141/3rd, amended position 009. 00 N. 059.50 W.
MACFADYEN (S.O.(I) Kingston 1103R/6 to Admty, N.S.H.Q.).
(Sunk
26th Nov).
- Force J. For F.M.Dill from Prime Minister.
It is most important that C.O.S.(W) 380 (T.O.O.
1310/4) should be presented to the Americans as
an inducement to form a similar force over here to start combined
training and development of a common technique at the earliest
possible moment, and not of course to deter them from
participation in any necessary offensive action by dwelling
on its difficulties.
(Air Min. 1330Z/6 to Britman, Washington).
- H.X.217. One U/B sighting and H/F bearings indicate 2nd
in vicinity of convoy. P.C. and S. at 1500Z/6th
53.47 N. 35 W. (A) 074. 9. 25 ships and all
escorts present.
Altering to position S at dusk. Weather.
(C.T.24.1.4. 1532Z/6 to Connav (R) C.T.24.etc).
D/F bearings on 10510 K/Cs at 1512Z/6 indicate U/B in
your vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C. 1850A/6 to Escorts of H.X.217).
- U/B, S/M situation December 6th and U.S.S/M Notice.
Positions. (C.in C.U.S.Fleet, 1637/6, to Admty).
- Aircraft Your 1843/4th.
Carrier 1.I saw Deputy Chief of Staff today and he
Construction. advises against asking reassignment at present
time. I think his advice is sound because.
A. The carrier situation is still very liquid.
B. Up to February allocation of A.C.V's are nearly equal(15 to
15)
C. More A.C.Vs than at first thought may be required in Pacific
They are examining this problem now in light of present
performance of A.C.Vs.
D. The efficiency of Independence Class, the first of which comes
out in January, is not yet known.
E. The efficiency of Kaiser Class is unknown, the first ones come
out in March and may be later.
F. Deputy Chief of Staff considers reassignment of any coming
out before March is most unlikely.

/(2).....

6.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Aircraft Carrier Construction. Contd. 2. U.S. Navy are anxious to employ some of their A.C.Vs in Atlantic. When this will be possible depends on situation at time.
3. It will help me to keep this whole question to the forefront if I know.
(A) When we expect to employ our A.C. Vs on Atlantic trade convoys or (B) whether we intend to use the first few available with reinforcing group.
4. An early report on the performance first M.A. C. is eagerly awaited, particularly with reference to the adequacy of its freeboard.
5. B.A.S.R. concurs with this signal.
(B.A.D. 1635Z/6 to Admty).

Tankers and Convoy. Your 0727/3 and 2259/3.
Although the decision to sail ships independently between New York and Galveston is very welcome, the desirability of three days in advance in NK - KN convoys is not immediately clear.
2. Aviation gas tankers still rely on KN convoys and all ships may at any time be forced back into convoy both ways.
3. Existing U.S. coastal convoy schedule enables Gulf tankers to make comfortable connections out of and back into North Atlantic convoys and gives sufficient loading time in Gulf Ports.
4. Under the new schedule it appears to us that
(a) O.N. fast convoys may fail to connect with N.K. convoys and ships from K.N. for H.X. convoys will have a wait of 6 days at New York.
(b) Ships from O.N. slow convoys have a wait of 7 days at New York on southbound trip and 4 days on return to join SC convoy. In the case of ships under 10 knots it seems that round voyage time will be increased by 8 days.
5. We therefore, regret the change in the KN-NK dates.
6. Request your comments.
(D.T.D. 1656A/6 to B.A.D.).
Reply:- B.A.D. 1635Z/7.

M.T.Bs. My 0822/30th Nov. (sailing of M.T.Bs. 334, 336, 337, 342). M.T.Bs departed Guantanamo for Miami via Antilla Dec. 5th.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1732Q/6 to S.B.N.O.W.A.).

T.A.29. (QUEEN ELIZABETH). N.K. Recommend new route from M. through new
Q. 39° N. 38° W. New.
R. 38° N. 45° W. New.
S. 38° N. 56° W. thence to Halifax.
(D.O.D.(H) 1812Z/6 to Connav).
D/F bearings at 1302Z/6 indicate U/B within 60' of 42° N. 33° W.
(D.D.I.C. 2235A/6 to SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH.
(R) Cominch).
T.A.29. N.K. alter course from (M) through new (Q) 39 N. 38 W. new (R) 38 N. 45 W. new (S) 38 N. 56 W. thence Halifax.
(O. in C.U.S. Fleet (C. and R.) 2255/6 to T.A.29. (QUEEN ELIZABETH (R) C.T.F.24, Cinclant, N.S.H.Q. C.O. A.C.F.O. N.F. Admty).

/H.X.218.....

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

H.X.218. H.X.218 C.E.S.F. 1626/5th Western Local escort North Task Unit No.24.18.5 Sails as follows CALDWELL (S.O) NIPIGON escorting HHX. 218 3 ships at 1900Z/7th arrives 000° 8 miles from "Homp" at 1530Z/8th and MATAPEDIA, MONCTON, GRANBY, at 0700Z/8th join position N.N. at 1830Z/8th. On relief by CALDWELL and NIPIGON detach ships for Canadian ports to Halifax under escort of NIPIGON and MINAS. Remainder T.U.24.18.2. return to Halifax on relief by balance T.U.24.18.5. (C.O.A.C. 2029Z/6 to Western Local Escort T.U.24.18.2.).

RED DEER Search. Unable to contact CHEDABUCTO but carried out search to a depth of 40 miles to leeward of St Paul Island without success. Search greatly hindered by snow. Now proceeding Gaspe via

Bird Rock. (RED DEER 2100Z/6 to N.O.I.C.Sydney, C.B.(R) WATCHMAN, C.O.A.C. N.O.I.C.Gaspe).

A/S Dome apparently perforated as indicated by watertight test. Am now proceeding Gaspe with E.T.A. approx. 2000/7th, due to heavy seas. As use of slip is necessary to effect repairs request instructions whether to continue Gaspe or return Sydney (C.B).

(RED DEER 2200Z/6 to N.O.I.C.Gaspe, (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C.O.A.C. N.O.I.C.Sydney (C.B).

Search for C.G.3070. *17.* My 1655/6th (N.T. in W.D.) section South West. Amend U.S.S.P.G.553, detached from S.C.112 to assist U.S.S.CAPTOR searching for U.S. C.G.3070 now derelict in approx. position 041.20 N.

063.40 W. CHICOUTIMI en route Halifax from vicinity 042. 53 N. 063.51 W. 014° 8.

U.S.Dest.MC CORMICK and U.S.S.R.S/M L.15 in vicinity 041.21 N 065.09 W. en route Halifax when R/V effected. L.15 may be on surface unescorted proceeding to Halifax. (C.O.A.C. 2103Z/6 to Admty)

Sub.Attack and sighting Summary. Para.B. ANDREAS 2 S/Ms participating. REGISTAN U-45 type. EMPIRE NOMAD 3 hits 2 red bands and red ball on C/T and No. 14' or 4'. EMPIRE STARLING U.114 reported. Para.C. Plane sights periscope 50.32 N. 48.39.W. 1045Z/05. (C. in C.U.S. 2104/6 to Admty).

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 318 Dec. 5. R/C Rabaul 5th Dec. reported approx. 35 large vessels from 25,000 feet including one possible aircraft carrier, visibility obscured by clouds. Photos portion of harbour indicate three heavy cruisers, four light cruisers five destroyers one minelayer two patrol craft, two unidentified vessels, twelve merchant vessels 5000 - 10000 tons, five flying boats, five float-planes. Portion Lakunai Aerodrome 49 fighters one medium bomber two dive bombers considerable activity increased dispersal area. Vunakanau shows 24 medium bombers including four damaged, two fighters, intense activity.

(2) Partially successful attack on Buna village against heavy automatic fire Dec. 5, pressure being maintained other fronts. Strong forces Bostons and B.25s carried out four attacks Buna Sanananda Areas during day.

(3) Single enemy aircraft made R/C Darwin area 27,500 feet morning 5th.

(4) Enemy strength Dilli reported 7000 men including one General. 13 Zeros reported Dilli Aerodrome 3 Dec. three bombers arrived same day and four more on fourth one small merchant vessel six landing craft arrived same place 4 Dec. Enemy patrols remain active inland but evidence our bombing proving effective.

(5) Reports indicate enemy small craft operating along coast between Buna and Morobe during night hours.

(6) Strong force Liberators attacked Kavieng Aerodrome early morning fifth dropping bombs on runway and among dispersal bays fires started but results unobserved.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0300Z/6 to Admty etc).

Air Raid, Cocos. Between 0251Z/6th and 0305Z/6th Fremantle cable station received from Cocos (?report that) 3 aircraft overhead and at 0307Z report that bombs had been dropped. At 0330A/6th Cocos reported all clear.

(Cdre. Western Australia 0337Z/6 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, Admty. D.N.O. Northern Territory Darwin).

My 0337/6th. Following from Manager of Cable and Wireless (Begins) - Your 0347. Bombed by 3 twin engined Japanese planes flying at 20,000 feet approx. similar to Navy 96. After a preliminary run over target at 0250Z returned flying south dropping 6 bombs. Last seen flying E.S.E. Installations undamaged. Communications normal. 1 building demolished. 1 Chinese casualty. Please code and advise Navy Intelligence, Ceylon, (ends).

(Cdre. Western Australia, 0435Z/6 to A.C.N.B. (R) F.O. Ceylon, D.N.O. Northern Territory (Port Darwin) C. in C. E.F., Cmdr. S.W. Pacific, Admiralty).

My 0435/6 Cocos reports that inspection indicates nine bombs dropped. All medical supplies demolished, essential replacements from Colombo requested.

(N.O.I.C. Fremantle, 0805Z/6 to F.O. Ceylon (R) A.C.N.B., C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Comsowespac Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Darwin).

War Diary.6.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.MONOWAI
conversion.

HT. 242.
Your 2319A/4 (2109A/4 intended From War Reg. requesting repetition of N.Z.N.B.1428M/26) Following is a repetition of my 1428M/26 (begins) B.A.M.R. Washington (R) C.M. Auckland Admiralty N.O.C.A. from N.Z.N.B.

Your J632/22, my 1509/24. Can indication of date required and Port of destination be given as ten days' notice required for removal of 6 6-inch guns, relevant ammunition, and embarking fittings required for conversion. (re conversion MONOWAI) 1428M/26 (ends).
(N.Z.N.B., 0705M/6 to Admty).

Movements

Arrival U.S.S. TAGANAK 0600/6th.
(N.O.I.C. Christchurch N.Z., 0750Z/6 to Admty. (R) Comsopac S.O.(I) Wellington).
Dutch naval store ship SOEDOE departed Thursday Is. 5th December due Cairns 9th.
U.S. Transport ANHUI arrived Townsville 5th.
(A.C.N.B., 0946Z/6 to Admty, Connav).

ALCOA
POLARIS.

Anticipate ALCOA POLARIS U.S.A. speed 15 knots depart Wellington p.m./7th Dec. Vessel carrying cargo of extreme importance for Persian Gulf and is being sailed for Fremantle E.T.A. 16th Dec. for onward routeing.
(N.Z.N.B., 0949M/6 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F., Cdre. Western Australia, S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimates at 1200Z/6, indefinite.
(D.D.I.C., 1335A/6, 1349A/6).

214

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Home Commands.*(C.C.O. Landing
from 2 hours
at mouth of
Gironde R.)*

TUNA reported Operation "Frankton" completed at 2100A today. TUNA later proceeded to patrol near 45.0 N. 2.30 W.

South Atlantic.

Traffic on
East part
of Station.

Lourenco Marques has twice lately been closed for very short periods on account of U/Boat sinkings. The Admiralty have pointed out to C. in C.S.A. that the prolonged closure of Lourenco Marques would cause serious difficulties in maintaining coal supplies to the Middle East and other areas. In view of the U/Boat menace ships are sailing in groups to Durban and thence well to seaward. The impossibility of providing air cover off Portuguese East Africa has necessitated temporary suspension of the direct coastal route to the Northward. The Admiralty wish C. in C.S.A. to adopt the following policy, so far as the limited surface and air forces now available will permit:-

- (a) Group sailing.
- (b) Surface escorts to groups as far as possible in area to the northward of Durban.
- (c) Air escorts to groups in the area Saldanha Bay to Durban.

Mediterranean.

An aircraft from Gibraltar attacked a U/Boat at 2018 today in 36.48 N. 1.26 W; the U/Boat appears to have been still on the surface at 2050, but the aircraft was damaged by the enemy's fire and set course for base.

On return from patrol in the Tyrrhenian Sea TRIBUNE reports that on 22nd November she sustained considerable minor damage from counter attack off Naples and will require 14 days to make good defects.

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy M.E.11 ORION and 11 destroyers from Operation "Port-cullis" sailed from Malta at 0924A today to escort Convoy M.E.11 consisting of 8 Merchant Ships and one tanker, all empty, for Port Said. ORION and 4 "Hunts" are to break off at dark tomorrow and take over next day the escort of Convoy M.W.15 to Malta.

Aircraft reported this morning that the 3 "Littorio" Battleships have left Naples.

Four M.T.Bs sailed from Malta at 1711A for patrol in the Gulf of Tunis, after which they are to proceed to Bone from which they will operate. Two of the M.T.Bs returned to Malta with defects and two arrived at Bone on 8th December.

Bone was bombed last night; no damage is reported, except to enemy aircraft.

Wellingtons last night again bombed Bizerta docks and the harbour at La Goulette, Tunis. Hits were obtained across the fuel tanks at Bizerta. Hurricanes shot up a small ship in Sfax Harbour today.

Benghazi was bombed today, but no naval damage was caused.

Action is being taken to reopen the Iraq- Tripoli (s) oil pipe line

East Indies.

The new air operational boundaries proposed by H.Q.R.A. F.M.E. on 24th November, became effective from today.

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

SS. PETER MAERSK (independent to Aden after dispersal from O.N.149) was reported torpedoed in 39.47 N, 41.0.W at 0247Z today, SS.CERAMIC is also thought to have been sunk in the same area last night; the ship carried 350 passengers. ENTERPRISE which arrived at Ponta Delgada p.m./8th (she was unable to berth until a.m./9th) left at 1400 G.M.T./9 to search for survivors of both ships and the Portuguese destroyer DAO at Horta will also search. Exceptionally bad weather, compelled ENTERPRISE and DAO to abandon the search on 10th December.

Australia.

Six destroyers were sighted at 2320Z today steering S.W, apparently in the New Britain - New Guinea area and were later attacked by two forces of Fortresses who obtained two probable hits with 500 lb bombs on the stern of one of the destroyers who were later reported returning to Rabaul. Fifteen enemy fighters intercepted the Fortresses and lost about two thirds of their number without loss to the Fortresses.

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

GUNNEL Clyde arrivals GUNNEL, escorted by CAPE PORTLAND. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1044A/7).

P.615 Intend sailing P.615 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from Campbeltown at 1200/10 Dec. by standard route to 180° Lizard Head 5 miles, E.T.A. 0800 /12th Dec. Speed 10 knots. (Capt. S.3., 1049A/7).

North Atlantic dispositions. Area Iceland (C) CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK, 2 Destroyers
Area Scapa. KING GEORGE V, ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, HOWE, BERMUDA, BERWICK, LONDON, SHEFFIELD, SUFFOLK 10 destroyers.
Area Liverpool, ARCHER, ADVENTURE.
Area Gibraltar NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE FURIOUS, AURORA, ARGONAUT, CHARYBDIS, DELHI, SCYLLA, SIRIUS 12 Destroyers. (D.O.D. (H), 1050Z/7 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

AJAX *Sup. 223 -* Your 2047/6. Subject to weather permitting adequate progress with practices anticipate AJAX will be ready to leave Scapa 20th Dec. (C. in C. H.F., 1332A/7 to Admty).

W.A. Command Situation at 1956A/7. Details. (C. in C. W.A., 1358A/7) See Lion Copy.

P.223, P.49. *Sup. 218* Sailed P.223 P.49 and LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with 3rd S.F's 2013A/5. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1914/7).

SUFFOLK, BERWICK. Scapa arrivals SUFFOLK and BERWICK. (A.C.O.S., 1920/7).

CLYDE Intend sailing CLYDE for Philadelphia 31st Dec. (F.O.S., 1926A/7 to Admty).

GRAPH *Sup. 218* GRAPH is hove to in 53° 37' N., 04° 54' W. and may proceed unescorted to Clyde when weather moderates. (C. in C. W.A., 2319A/7 to LORD AUSTIN, AYRSHIRE etc).

MOST SECRET

217A

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 1358A/7th December. IN

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Situation at 1956A/7/12/42

Section N.E.

| | | | | |
|------------|--|-------------|------------------------------------|----|
| ST. MARY'S | | 57 44 05 56 | To Aberdeen | 15 |
| IMPULSIVE | | 58 50 05 38 | To 58 50 07 02 thence Hvalfiord | 15 |
| E.N.70 | HORNPIPE BERKS PIPE H.N.M.S. FARSUND | 58 43 04 46 | To Loch Ewe | 8 |

Situation at 1956A/7/12/42

Section S.E.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------|
| SEALION GRAPH DOLFIJN | WHITEBEAR | 54 16 05 00 | To Holy Loch | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| P.223 P.49 | LA CAPRICIEUSE | 55 46 05 00 | To Scapa | 10 |
| Convoy | HUDDERSFIELD TOWN | 52 16 05 16 | Northbound | 9 |
| K.X.6.A | NORTHERN GIFT NORTHERN FOAM | 51 17 09 10 | 180° Fastnet 10' thence 50 36 12 37 thence 46 00 14 00. | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| B.B.42 | PAUL RYKENS SOUTHERN SPRAY | 53 04 05 03 | Southbound | 8 |
| 1 M/V | VIOLET | 51 46 05 50 | Milford Haven | 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ |

Situation at 1956A/7/12/42

Section N.W.

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| O.N.151 | WATCHMAN | 56 50 19 00 | To 57 12 21 10 thence | |
| C.T.U. 24.1.15 | VANSITTART DAHLIA WALLFLOWER MONKSHOOD BORAGE | | 57 03 30 35 | 7 |

Situation at 1956A/7/12/42

Section S.W.

SARDONYX
SALADIN

Searching in vicinity 54 10 17 20

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|----------------|----|
| SPEY ROTHER SENNEN CLARE | | 51 49 13 02 | To 48 02 13 31 | 12 |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------|----------------|----|

/ O.N.S.150 ,.....

217^B

Situation at 1956A/7/12/42

Section S.W. (continued)

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| O.N.S.150 | BEVERLEY | 49 42 29 23 | To 48 55 30 28 |
| C.T.U. | WINCHELSEA | | thence |
| 24.1.18 | ANEMONE | | 43 20 34 01 7 |
| | ASPHODEL | | |
| | ABELIA | | |
| | CLOVER | | |

1358A/7

- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Fin.
- 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)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.N.I. (4)

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

LIG

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Patrols ALBRIGHTON is to anchor at St. Helens tonight with M.G.B. 608 and if weather permits proceed to patrol between 50° 27' N., 0° 05' W., and 50° 32' N., 0° 30' E. passing E.A.3 Buoy at 1800 and 0800.

2. Convoy C.E.137 (S.O. HAMBLEDON) passes E.A.5 at 1800. 3 ships from Shoreham with 2 M.Ls. join it at C 3 buoy 2020. Patrol to southward of it during its passage as far as patrol-line permits.

3. 2 CHASSEURS patrolling south of E.A.5 Buoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1308A/7).

Amend my 1308/7 to read:- Para. 1 ESKDALE and ALBRIGHTON are to proceed to patrol between 50° 27' N., 0° 05' W., and 50° 32' N., 0° 30' E. passing E.A.3 buoy at 1800 and 0800. Code word "Advent".

Para. 5. Aircraft report one merchant vessel with two torpedo boats at Le Havre. These may proceed eastward. If ordered to intercept cross Q.Z.X. 771 by passage one. Aircraft are patrolling enemy route.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1620A/7 to D.1, HORNET).
2 destroyers patrolling 12 miles south of Beachy Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1717A/7 to Admty).

Return to St. Helens and remain at immediate notice. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1816A/7 to ALBRIGHTON, ESKDALE).
My 1620/7. ESKDALE and ALBRIGHTON anchored St. Helens 2110/7 at immediate notice. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2121A/7 to D.1., HORNET).

Biscay S/M Patrols. TUNA in Biscay south zone. GURNARD in zone K.505. (F.O.S., 1554A/7 to Admty).

Prospective S/M Patrols. (1) Submarines are required to leave Lerwick for patrol as follows.
(a) 15th Dec. P.339, TORBAY, SOKOL,*P.223,*P.49.
(b) 23rd Dec.*GRAPH, P.312, P.216, SEALION.
(2) Subject to convenience C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S. requested to sail P.223 and P.49 so as to arrive Lerwick not later than 13th December to enable them to complete and provision (F.O.S., 1859A/7 to Capt. S.3). * see p.217

Allied Air Activity.

J.W.51 A. Air co-operation during the passage of both
J.W.51 B. convoys is requested as follows:-
(a) A/S air escort from U.K. and Iceland to limit of endurance.
(b) Long range fighter escort while within range.
(c) Photographic R/C of Trondheim when practicable.
(A.C.N.S. (H.), 2115A/7 to H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.South
Foreland.

My 1126A/3. Mine has not yet been swept. It is requested that the area within half a mile radius of $51^{\circ} 07' 12''$ N., $01^{\circ} 22' 27''$ E., may be declared dangerous by Q.Z.X. (V.A. Dover, 1251A/7 to Admty).

Iceland

Proceed in FRASERBURGH tomorrow and succeeding day with BOOTLE and BEAUMARIS in company to carry out a 25% search along a line joining the following positions.

(F) Malariff $196^{\circ} 13$ miles (G) Svortu (corrupt group) $270^{\circ} 3$ miles (H) Bjartangar $270^{\circ} 3$ miles (I) Goltur $358^{\circ} 9$ miles. Arrange your programme to make most use of daylight, anchoring as convenient during dusk hours.

(A.C.I.C., 1409A/7 to M/S 15).

Your 1242/6. No sweeping has taken place since my 2150/21 FRASERBURGH, BOOTLE and BEAUMARIS have boiler cleaned and had their defects made good during this period and are recommencing operations tomorrow.

(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1415A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Portsmouth
Inshore
Route "A".

Portsmouth inshore route A is temporarily suspended for independently sailed vessels between C buoy (Q.Z.S.373) and Shoreham owing to suspected minelaying. P.S. and S.P. groups are being swept on this route on alternative days commencing 8th Dec.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1736A/7).

Your 1736A/7. Intend to sail M.M.S. 60, 57 and 62 at 0730/8 to sweep ahead of S.P.8 from Shoreham to Looe Buoy where duty will be taken over by sweepers from Portsmouth. M.M.S. from Newhaven will return, sweeping ahead of P.S.8 to Shoreham. E.T.R. Newhaven 1900/8. My 2049A/5. R.M.Ls. 513, and 529 will proceed astern of S.P.8 and enter Littlehampton. R.M.L. 518 will join P.S.8 from Littlehampton returning to Newhaven, Additional escort of S.P.8 L.C.F. 4.

(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 1950A/7 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Enemy Intelligence.Off Cape
Finisterre.

P.C.S. of one Merchant vessel $43^{\circ} 02'$ N., $09^{\circ} 32'$ W., 195° 5 knots.
(A/C 10 R.A.A.F. Sqdn. Duty T., 1220/7 to 19 Group)

Kaa Fiord
Osanpollen.

My 1536A/27. According to Norwegian Press all navigation, except for vessels sailing for German Wehrmacht, is prohibited in Kaa Fiord south of a line joining $69^{\circ} 58.8'$ N., $23^{\circ} 08.6'$ E. and $69^{\circ} 57.8'$ N., $23^{\circ} 14.4'$ E.

2. Restrictions on entering Osanpollen $68^{\circ} 14'$ N., $14^{\circ} 33'$ E. also announced.

(D.N.I., 1819A/7 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., F.O.S.)

7.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- STANGATE. STANGATE sunk after collision in approx. 054° 46' 30" N., 001° 03' 45" W. All crew in VERDUN. 2nd ship believed entered Tees.
(VERDUN, 0516A/7 to C. in C. Rosyth)
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1501/7).
- HIRONDELLE Intend sailing damaged SS. HIRONDELLE in tow of tug DUNDAS for Grangemouth at 0900/8. Routed by Q.Z.S.150 and 353 to 32 Buoy, thence by standard route. Escorted by SAURIAN to 32 Buoy 2300/8. Request relief escort and fighter protection.
(N.C.S.O. Invergordon, 1027A/7).
- LEEDS Engine-room defects. See Shipping. *next page*
- TOORAK,
DUKE OF
ARGYLL. Regret collision between TOORAK and DUKE OF ARGYLL off James Watt Dock. TOORAK slight damage to hawse-pipe and anchor.. Latter badly damaged. No casualties reported as yet. Both had pilots, so enquiry by Clyde pilot authorities.
(Admty. Berthing Officer, Clyde 1730/7 and 1126/8 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
My 1730/7. TOORAK now in Loch Long at Port anchor only. Starboard anchor (corrupt incomplete).
DUKE OF ARGYLL. Now at Terminus Quay Glasgow. No casualties. Bows pushed in. Both anchors useless.
(A.B.O. Greenock, 2051/7 and 1126/8).
- Unknown Ship reported torpedoed. Your 1644/7. Nothing seen or heard. My position 054° 29' N., 016° 27' W. Proceeding Londonderry. SALADIN in company.
(SARDONYX 1801A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)
- JASTLONE sunk. N.A.B. JASTLONE sank in collision p.m./7th. No casualties. Salvage impossible.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1821A/7 to Admty).
- Landing craft from Operation "Torch". A.M.1556A/16 Nov. Arrived 5th December OCEAN VENGEANCE with L.C.M. (3) 515 and 559. OCEAN VIRTUE with L.C.M. (3) 637. Arrived 6th Dec. LAMBROOKE with 4 L.C.P. and 5 L.C.A. (Nos. to follow) All craft unserviceable.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1920A/7 to Admty).
- SHARPSHOOTER
EMPIRE SNOW. Involved in collision with SS. EMPIRE SNOW of Glasgow at 0223A/27th Nov. EMPIRE SNOW bound U.K. Consider her at fault. Estimated time to repair damage to SHARPSHOOTER 3 weeks.
(SHARPSHOOTER, 1950/7 to Admty).

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

CADDO
CADDO overdue Reykjavik from Key West since 2nd December.
(Connav, 2109/7 to C. in C. U.S.N.F. in Europe).

Shipping & Convoys.

P.W.259,
→P.W. 259 (S.)
P.W.259 delayed by weather will not R/V at Eddystone. My 1237/6 pass Gate at 1115/7 escorting P.W.259 (S) to Bristol Channel Ports. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1035/7 to AMBROSE PARE, LA NANTOISE, DANIEL CLOWDEN, INCHGOWER, M.L.540)

→P.W. 259 (S.)
Pass gate at 1400/7th and proceed to join P.W. 259 (S) as S.O. escort and continue until North of Longships returning to Plymouth.
2. P.W.259 (S) sailed from Plymouth at 1115/7th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1303A/7 to TYNEDALE).

M.K.F.4
TEST and FISHGUARD will be required to sail about December 10th to reinforce 44th Group returning with M.K.F. 4.
(C. in C. W.A., 1452A/7 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

→F.S480
One corvette is to be sailed as necessary to meet F.S480 off Flamborough Head and form escort in position of LEEDS.
(C. in C. Nore, 1454A/7 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).
LEEDS is unable to escort F.S480 and F.N888 owing to engine room defects. No other ship is available. Request if possible you will provide one escort for these convoys between Flamborough and Southend.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1501A/7 to C. in C. Nore).

M/Vs at
Molotovsk.
My 1027A/30. Group 2 consisting of RICHARD ALVEY and HUGH WILLIAMSON will leave last at daylight 10th. Request you sail CAPE ARGONA, CAPE MARIATO,*ST. BLAZEY to arrive at 064° 55' N., 039° 31' E., at 1200C/10. Merchant ships have similar orders to those in group.1. Speed to be adjusted to arrive Cape Orlov Terski 0900C/11 where minesweeper will join you, breaking W/T silence to report when merchant ships are in company.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1557A/7 to CAPE ARGONA).

→F.S480
Your 1454/7. WIDGEON 1645, speed 12 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1605A/7 to C. in C. Nore).

** W.P. ... - ? SE KENAN m/... See 6/12 - p.193.*

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

K.M.F.5

Cmdre's R/V Noon G.M.T. 13th Dec. 054° 34' N.,
013° 23' W. Noon G.M.T./14th Dec. 050° 17' N.,
016° 55' W.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1705A/7 to N.C.S.O. Clyde).

Cancel paras. 3 and 8 of A.M. 2000/1 and paras. 4 and 8 of
A.M. 1620/5.

2. Amend time of R/V in para. 1 of A.M. 1620/5 to read 1400Z/12.
(A.C.N.S. (F.) & (H.), 1708A/7).

E.N.72

In order to include special ships propose E.N.72
be postponed one day.
(D.T.D., 1837A/7 to C. in C. Rosyth).

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.QUICKMATCH
REDOUBT.*See pp. 233+237
* (Paranormals)*

QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT are required for special escort duty from U.K.

2. Request you will sail them to arrive Clyde not later than 15th Dec.

(D.O.D. (F.) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) & (H.) 1442A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gib. C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock) See also N.C.X.F. 1826A/7 (Mediterranean)

b-237

Sit. Reps.

It is intended to discontinue daily situation report and to send them when justified.
(N.C.X.F. 1615A/7 to Admty.)SCYLLA
* AJAX.** See p. 217*

A.M. 2047/6. Request you will sail SCYLLA for U.K. as convenient after arrival of AJAX.

2. Destination will be signalled later.

(D.O.D. (H.) Approved A.C.N.S. (H.) 1701A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.N.A. C.S.12. C. in C. H.F.)

K.M.F.4.
escorts.

My 1101/4., cancel new para 5 and substitute M.K.F.4 sailing date uncertain. Ocean escort EGRET, BANFF, *EXE, SWALE, TANATSIDE, ROTHER, SPEY, CLARE, SENNEN. Mediterranean escort EGRET, BANFF,

SWALE, TANATSIDE, WISHART, BLEAN. Cancel para 2, ENCHANTRESS should rejoin E.G.61 escorting K.M.S.4.

(N.C.X.F. 1920A/7 to V.A. Gib. (R) C. in C. W.Af. F.O.I.C. Oran. F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers.) ** See pp 225B + 226*North Atlantic.

K.M.S.4.

VENOMOUS, VELOX, FLEETWOOD, ENCHANTRESS sailed 2345/6 to join convoy K.M.S.4. Q.B.A.10.

(V.A. Gib. 0155A/7 to Admty. N.C.X.F. Escorts of convoy K.M.S.4. F.O.I.C. Oran. Cdre. Algiers.) *See p. 225A*
Arrival TAY, WEAR, LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN, WORTHING from

K.M.S.4.

See p. 225A
(V.A. Gib. 1920/7 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C. Greenock.)Sailed STORNOWAY, *IMPERIALIST with R.F.A. BALTONIA, SS. VANELLUS to join K.M.S.4. Q.B.A.11. *See p. 227*

(F.O.C.N.A. 2200/7 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

Sailed V.S.I.S. BALTONIA. A.S.I.S. VANELLUS escorted by STORNOWAY, IMPERIALIST to R/V and join with K.M.S.4 in 035° 50' 004° 16' at 0800/7.

(2) Destination Merchant ships and STORNOWAY, Algiers.

(3) IMPERIALIST parting company on R/V-ing and proceeds to M.K.S.3 (X).

(F.O.C.N.A. 2231A/7 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.4 for Cdre.)

224

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

GRYFEVALE. Following is a repetition of my 2000A/4
(received indecypherable) (Begins)
Addressed N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. F.O.C. W.A.
My 1245/6 Nov. In view of the exceptionally heavy demands for
fresh water, suggest GRYFEVALE be sent to Gibraltar as soon as
conveniently practicable. (Ends.)
(V.A.C.N.A. 0250A/7 to N.C.X.F.)

Air Report. A.I.210 7th Dec. Opsum for 24 hours ended
Midnight 6th Dec.
U-Boat sightings and attacks. Wellington J/179
at 1725 hours in position LBRN 0332 sighted
periscope and wake of sub. which was completely submerged by
time A/C was 1 mile away. Sighting was on edge of S.B.R. area.
Wellington X/179 at 2113 hours in position 36° 12' N 0° 16' W
sighted and attacked fully surfaced U-Boat ? sunk 140/5 - A/C
attacked at angle of 90° to starboard side and dropped 4 Torpex
depth charges. 2 explosions were seen and on coming over position
a second time a white streak was observed on water. Nothing
further observed.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gib. 0750Z/7, 0753Z/7.)

Movements. Arrival ANTELOPE.
(V.A. Gib. 0930A/7 to Admty.)
P.221 sailed at 1200/7 on the surface routed
through 036° 01' N 006° 12' W 036° 40' N 007° 30' W. *See next page*
(V.A. Gib. 0958A/7 to Escorts of convoy K.M.S.4. EXE. S.O.P.)
KAIMATA sailed. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE with 2350 personnel ex
* LLANGIBBY CASTLE sailed 0000/7. * *See next page*
(D.S.T.O. Gib. 1015A/7 to D.S.T.)
Arrival S/M TRIBUNE. *See p. 236.*
(V.A. Gib. 1224A/7 to Admty.)
Situation at 1958A/7. ENTERPRISE 034° 10' 024° 19' to
Ponta Delgada 19.
(V.A. Gib. 1342A/7.)
E.T.A. 0730A/8. My position 1700A/7 034° 23' N 007° 25' W.
Weather report.
(SANDWICH 1701A/7 to V.A. Gib. (R) Capt. D.13.)
Sailed 1700, SAMPHIRE escorting SS. TINTERN ABBEY to
Melilla.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1842A/7 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)
E.T.A. Gib. 2145A/7 ALBERNI, PORT ARTHUR, BADDECK, *See p. 225A*
SUMMERSIDE in company. Request service of berthing officer.
(QUEBEC (?VILLE DE QUEBEC intended) 1847A/7 to F.O.C. Gib.)
Arrival FARNDALE and AVON VALE.
(N.O.I.C. Gib. 1930A/7 to Admty.)
Your 1841A/7 (N.T. in W.R.) E.T.A. 2130A/7.
(BLYSKAWICA 1945A/7 to F.O.C. Gib.) *See p. 225B*

French ships for Dakar. My 1745/6. Add convoy "Voice" frequency 2410
K/cs. Codeword "Sampson". Escort guards
Gibraltar "Fox".
See p. 229 (S.N.O. Casablanca 1019Z/7 to V.A. West Africa.
(R) F.O.C.N.A. C.T.U. 26.7.1.)

/Following...

225

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - con't.French
ships for
Dakar.
Contd.

Following is a repetition of F.O.C. W.Af. 1326Z/6.
(Begins) My 0913Z/5 and N.C.X.F's 1549A/5.
Request route R/V at which my escort should take
over and method of communication between escort
and ships in convoy. Could convoy orders be
transferred at R/V? (Ends)

2. Request you will reply.

(V.A. Gib. 1647A/7 to S.N.O. Casablanca. (R) F.O.C. W.Af.)

F.O.C. W.Af's 1111/7. Request you will comply.

(N.C.X.F. 1809A/7 to V.A. Gib. (R) S.N.O. C.A. F.O. W.A.F.)

(S) to R/V position (T) 023° 21' N 017° 58' W at 1700Z/12 Dec.

(V.A. Gib. 2327A/7 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) F.O. W.Af.)

N.C.X.F.)

*LAUDERDALE
U/BAm searching for U-Boat in 36.24 N 08.28 W,
rejoining convoy before dark.(LAUDERDALE 1130A/7 to V.A. Gib. N.A. Station.
(R) KRAKOWIAK.)** See next page*NORDFELS
KAULDI

Dec. 7th repeat M of E.W. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I)
Gib. German NORDFELS 1214 G.T. in future to be
referred to as 62, arrived 6th to load iron ore
and should complete loading tonight 7th.
Spanish 59 (KAULDI) also completing loading today
7th.

(Consul Bilbao 1215/7 to Admty.)

THRASHER.

See 6/12 p. 198.~~Capt. S.8. 1220/5. THRASHER sailed 1205.~~~~Only such Q messages affecting passage to port of
destination held.~~~~(V.A. Gib. 1256A/6 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.S.
C. in C. Plymouth. C. in C. Portsmouth.)~~

P.221

*See previous
page.
(Plymouth)
7 p. 225A*Capt. S.8. 1158/6 (1154/6 intended) P.221 sailed
1230. Only such Q messages affecting passage
port of destination held.(V.A. Gib. 1338A/7 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.S.
C. in C. Plymouth. C. in C. Portsmouth. Capt. S.3.
Capt. S.5.)*TEGELBERG,
LLANGIBBY
CASTLE.
collision.** See previous
page*

Ref. collision between TEGELBERG and LLANGIBBY
CASTLE previously reported. Assume Marine Court
of Enquiry will be necessary. LLANGIBBY CASTLE
detained here for repairs approx. 14 days.

TEGELBERG expected renew passage tomorrow. On
return vessels may overlap stay in port. Request
instructions as to whether Naval Authorities should convene a
Marine Court here on return of TEGELBERG or whether same should
be deferred until both vessels return to U.K. (S.T.O.I.C. Gib.
1345A/7 to D of S.T. P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Your 1808/5. LLANGIBBY CASTLE should receive priority over
ALMAACK.

(N.C.X.F. 1610A/7 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty.)

/Cable...

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

1340A/7/December.

From V.A.Gibraltar.

Date 7.12.42.

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Time 2030.

Addressed A.I.G.63

IMPORTANT

Situation at 2002A/7.S/M H.M.S. THRASHER, 037 degs 30' 009 degs 31' course 333 degs diving by day 2 1/2 surfacing by night 11 knots.

S/M P. 221, 036 degs 18' (2006 degs) 46' through 036 degs 40' 007 degs 30' at 0001 8th and 225 degs Cape St Vincent 10 at 0800 8th thence diving by day 2 1/2 knots surfacing by night 11 knots course 340 degs. *See pp 224 & 225*

K M S 4.H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. VENOMOUS, H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS, H.M.S. VELOX, H.M.S. FLEETWOOD, BADDECK, ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE, PORT ARTHUR, VILLE DE QUEBEC, 036 degs 01' 006 degs 05' through Straits of Gibraltar passing Europa Point at 0100A/8th 7. *See pp. 223 & 224*

K X 7.H.M.S. *LAUDERDALE, KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, 036 degs 12' 007 degs 22' to Gibraltar 7 1/2. * *See previous page*
BAT 6, BAT 10, 034 degs 52' 010 degs 38' to Gibraltar 12.

ARCTIC RANGER, one trawler, 037 degs 21' 008 degs 58' coastwise to Cape St Vincent thence direct to Gibraltar 8.

Hospital ship ATLANTIC, 032 degs 34' 018 degs 33' } *amended by 1454 A/P, 1.v.*
010 degs 13. *See pp 225 & 226*

2 M.F.V's, 039 degs 34' 010 degs 49' 162 degs 5 1/2..
H.M.S. VANOC, O.R.P BLYSKAWICA, H.M.S. SANDWICH,

033 degs 27' 007 degs 20 to Gibraltar 15. *amended next page.*

French Minesweeper LA BOUDEUSE, 7 French Motor vessels, 033 degs 52' (?007 degs) 58' through 033 degs 30' 008 degs 50' and 032 degs 00' 010 degs 00' thence approximately 207 degs 8.

M K S 3 X.H.M.S. ARDROSSAN, H.M.S. DUNBAR, H.M.S. WORTHING, (?H.M.S. ROTHESAY), H.M.S. JONQUIL, TAY, WEAR, LYME REGIS, passes Europa Point 1600A/8th to 036 degs 10' 010 degs 00' 7 1/2 knots. *See p. 223*

United States convoy (landing craft), 034 degs 14' 013 degs 40' to Gibraltar 10.

1340A/7

Advance copy sent D.O. 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. (C)

D.D.O.D.(M)

Ad. Blake (2)

Ad. Ramsey (4)

C.C.O. (2)

D.M.S.

C.C.R.T.

D.N.I. (4)

D.E.W.D. (3)

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 1820A/7th December IN

From F.O.C.N.A.

Date 7.12.42.
Time 2105

Naval Cypher A.1 by W/T and T/P

Addressed Ships and Authorities N.A. Station Area Z.

IMMEDIATE.

My 1340/7th delete paragraph 9 add new paragraph

13.

O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA ^{see p. 224} 035° 32' 006° 26' to Gibraltar 25.
New paragraph 14. H.M.S. VANOC 035° 17' 006° 42'
through 35 21 06 35 to Gibraltar 20.
New paragraph 15 H.M.S. SANDWICH 034 deg 56' 006 deg 58'
through 35 21 06 35 to Gibraltar 14. ^{see p. 224}
New paragraph 16 H.M.S. EXE left vicinity 36 04 07 30
dusk 7th to Gibraltar 14. ^{see pp 223, 226.}
New paragraph 17. JAUNTY off Tarifa to Gibraltar 12.

1820A/7.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

V.O.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)
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)
D.D.O.D. (M)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
C.C.O. (2)
D.M.S.
O.C.R.T.
D.N.I. (4)
maf, D.E.W.D. (3)

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
0454A/8 December
From F.O. Gib. Force Date 8.12.42.
Recd. 0529
NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities N. Atlantic
Station Area X.

IMMEDIATE.

My 1340⁺ A/7th para. 12 amend
position to (E) 032 deg 35' 010 deg 08'
and speed to 15. p. 225A

0454A/8

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

Situation at 2000/7

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 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. | D.D.O.D. (M) |
| Hd. of M. | Ad. Blake. (2) |
| D.D.I.C. (2) | Ad. Ramsey (4) |
| I.P. (2) | C.C.O. (2) |
| W.D. | D.M.S. |
| D.T.D. (3) | C.C.R.T. |
| D.T.D. (M) | D.N.I. (4) |
| D.T.D. (C) | D.E.W.D. (3) |
| D.of P. (2) | |
| D.of P. (Q) | |

IH.

226

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Cable Operation
see p. 229
 Your 1930/6 (re picking up of cable by LADY DENISON PENDER) On completion of operation escort LADY DENISON PENDER to Casablanca. (F.O.C. Gib. 1803A/7 to SOUTHERN PRIDE. (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. R.A.W.A. S.N.O. Casablanca.)
 My 1803/7. Cable and Wireless requested LADY DENISON PENDER be ordered to Gibraltar to await orders.
 2. In view of SOUTHERN PRIDE 1930Z/6, I have ordered them to Casablanca.
 (V.A. Gib. 1838A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca)

EXE
see pp. 223 & 225
 Your 1303A/8 (sic) Search completed negative result. My P.C.S. at 1800Z 035° 54' N 007° 38' W 090° 10 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0600Z/8.
 Require 410 tons oil fuel on arrival and dockyard assistance in accordance with my 1801Z as directed.
 (EXE 1805Z/7 to V.A. Gib.)

Removal of survivors from Spanish ships.
 Owing probably to some jealousy between Government Departments we have received an official protest because we took 74 survivors off VILLA DE MADRID at Gibraltar without consulting M.F.A. Until this petty affair is settled it will not be possible to make similar arrangements in fresh cases or advisable to take off survivors. CIUDAD DE ALICANTE is due Cadiz tomorrow 8th Dec. with 31 British 10 Dutch and some Chinese survivors of POLYDORUS but in the circumstances we are not trying to get vessel diverted and men will have to be repatriated by land. Consul Cadiz is requested to report arrival of men to Embassy and to Gibraltar.
 (N.A. Madrid 1859/7 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty. R.O. Cadiz.)
 Reply: Admty. 1958/8.

M.K.S.3X
 Your 1610 via aircraft (N.T. in W.R.) Convoy is to pass through position 57 at 1600/8.
 (F.O.C. Gib. 1907A/7 to ROCHESTER. (R) Escorts of convoy, M.K.S.3X.)

IRIS (French S/M.)
 F.O.C.N.A. please pass to N.C.X.F. my 1630/9 French N.A. informs me submarine must move to Naval base for maintenance and (corrupt group) is (corrupt group) because of presence of German S/M crew semi-interned. He has been told by Minister of Marine that one officer and 10 men will be accommodated S/M base at Port Soller and that he believes S/M will be allowed to escape later. I doubt this last impossible.
 (N.A. Madrid 1941/7 to Admty. (R) F.O. in C. Malta. F.O. in C. Gibraltar.)

?Distress
 Following received on 385 K/cs. BJ3 (signification unknown) from Gibraltar W/T. What is your position? What assistance do you require?
 (Plymouth C.C.O. 2010/7 to Admty.)

/Following...

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - ~~cont.~~?Distress
Contd.

Following received on 385 K/cs Gibraltar W/T from BJ3 A A A stand by us at Carnera Point and have an M.L. standing by me.
(Plymouth C.C.O. T.O.R. 2051/7 to Admty.)
W.D. Note: ? Carnero Pt. N coast of Spain about 8° W.

U/B
attacked.

Am over enemy submarine in 36° 48' N 1° 26' W.
First sighted on surface course 320° speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S TV5/X 2023/7 to Gibraltar M/F D/F.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
Submarine previously reported is still on surface.
(A/C C/S TV5X 2050/7 to Gibraltar M/F D/F.)

Enemy
Tankers,
Ferrol.

P.R.U. Ferrol at 1215/7 showed tankers ANTARKTIS, SPICHERN and MAX ALBRECHT still present.
(D.D.I.C. 2045A/7 to V.A. Gib. C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.S.)

M.K.S. 3.X.

COREOPSIS, JONQUIL are to part company and proceed to Gibraltar at best speed on *IMPERIALIST R/V-ing with convoy. * ~~2.2.3~~

(2) LEITH is to continue with convoy, parting company with IMPERIALIST when COREOPSIS and JONQUIL rejoin.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 2229A/7 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S. 3.X. CHERWELL. (R) IMPERIALIST.)

South Atlantic.French
West
Africa,
Allied
Facilities.

Your 1225/4 (not to B.A.D.) There is a reasonable expectation that agreement will shortly be reached at Algiers under which we will be entitled to facilities in West Africa equally with the U.S.
The only references to Command in the draft agreement are:-
(a) the port and port facilities including watering, fuelling, repairs and docking and the airports in French West Africa and Togoland, as well as telecommunications may be used by the Americans, British and Allied Forces, it being understood that the command of the operations and of the seaports will remain under the direction of the French local authorities.
(b) Transit by sea without landing in French West Africa and in Togoland, or transit by air without departure of personnel from the airports, is in any event authorised. French warships will operate in close co-operation with the military and naval authorities of the United States, Govt. of the U.K. and their Allies for the accomplishment of the above mentioned purposes. Such ships will continue to fly the French Flag and will remain under French command.

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - un 5.French
West
Africa,
Allied
facilities.
Contd.

2. Our object will be to maintain existing arrangements with the U.S. under which all Atlantic waters east of the agreed dividing line are a British strategic and operational area. This agreement is part of the United Nations strategic set-up and as such will, we hope, come in time to be accepted by the French. The question of command may give rise to difficulties but we intend if possible to stand out for general command of operations of all United Nations forces on the high seas within our strategic area. The justification for this is the very large column of United Nations shipping which passes through the area under the escort of the Royal Navy and our more recent experience in the area. Furthermore it will be some time before the main French forces can be concentrated at Dakar in a state of operational efficiency.

3. Negotiations at Algiers have shown that Boisson is extremely sensitive about Gaullist activities against his territory and bitter at what he regards as our complicity in these activities. Consequently, it may be better to concentrate at first on the question of facilities and to return later to the question of command when Boisson's fears concerning Gaullist activities have subsided.

4. B.A.D. is requested to signal to Admty. repeating to F.O.C.W.A.F. and N.C.X.F. any available information concerning the directive given to Admiral Glassford on the question of Command or of liaison between the United Nations in the West African area.

(M. Branch. Approved 1st. S.L. 0202A/7 to F.O.C.W.A. B.A.D.
(R) N.C.X.F.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.*See p. 229A*

Sailed QUEEN OF BERMUDA by route R (corrupt group) to position (? (D)) 034° 55' S 025° 28' E then through position (E) 034° 55' S 019° 50' E thence Capetown.

2. S of A 16 knots. E.T.A. Capetown 1100C/9.

3. Shifting to group S L at 1530C/7.

(Cdre. in C. Durban 0604C/7 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. N.L.Os East London, Port Elizabeth, Capetown.)

Free
French
and
Vichy.

It is possible Free French vessels such as Chasseurs may wish to visit ex Vichy territory. If this occurs you should use your best endeavour to dissuade Charrier from such action and inform me immediately.

(R.A.W.A. 0733Z/7 to B.N.L.O. West Africa. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

Your 1346/6 para 2 (see Force X) Free French Chasseurs are at Pointe Noire under direct operational control of Free French S.N.O.

(F.O.C.W.A. 0747Z/7 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

Movements.

Arrival 7th Dec. INDIAN STAR, BREDON, INKPEN. (S.O.(I.) Freetown 1015Z/7 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. V.A. Gibraltar. (R) N.O.I.C. Belfast.)

/Arrival...

229

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - cont'd.

Movements Contd. Arrival 7th, ST. LOMAN, SPHENE, STELLA POLARIS, KHYBER, NORTHERN CHIEF, tug BOLD, tug INTEGRITY, M.Ls. 265 (corrupt group). Departure PHOEBE, HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT DROGOU, Freetown 11th. *see p. 230*

M.L. 274, M.L. 278, Lagos 9th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1932Z/7 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)
Arrived and left same day 5th Dec, U.S. Destroyer*GREENE.
Arrival 6th, U.S. Destroyers*BELKNAP, MOFFETT, WINSLOW. British Cable ship CAMBRIA, Departure 7th, U.S. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW.
(R.O. Pernambuco 1950Z/7 to Admty.) * *See p. 1815*

Towing of COLUMBINE Your 1615/5th. BOLD and INTEGRITY. Approved.
(D.O.D. (F.) 1052/7 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Cable Operation. *see p. 226* LADY DENISON PENDER escorted by SOUTHERN PRIDE completes picking up cable at 0600/8 in position (Q) 024° 57' N 017° 11' W.
(2) Intend SOUTHERN PRIDE to escort LADY DENISON PENDER from position (Q) to Casablanca passing through position (X) 027° 40' N 013° 41' W (Y) 028° 41' N 013° 02' W (Z) 033° 30' N 008° 38' W. S.O.A. 9½ knots, E.T.A. Casablanca p.m. 11th. Dec.
(3) As SOUTHERN PRIDE is urgently required in my area request she be sailed Bathurst after refuelling.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1057Z/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar. SOUTHERN PRIDE. S.N.O. Casablanca.)
Comply with my 1057Z/7.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1745Z/7 to SOUTHERN PRIDE.)

French Ships for Dakar. S.N.O. Casablanca's 1745/6. Regret my escort can not reach position (S) 028° 40' N 012° 40' W by 1000Z/10 Dec. Request convoy "Sampson" be routed from (S) to (T) 023° 21' N 017° 58' W where ILEX and trawler can take escort at 1700Z/12 Dec.
(R.A.W.A. 1111Z/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst Gambia, S.N.O. Casablanca. V.A. Gibraltar.)
See also North Atlantic. *pp 224 & 225*
My 1111Z/7. Intend trawlers DUNKERY, DUNCTON, and BUTSER, to meet convoy "Sampson" in position. (X) 024° 14' N 017° 06' W at 0800Z/12. Dec. Trawlers approaching from position (T). From (T) intend convoy to proceed to (Z) 015° N 018° W dispersing at (Z) a.m. 15th Dec. escort proceed Bathurst.
(F.O.I.C. W.A. 2351Z/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca. N.O.I.C. Bathurst. Admty. V.A. Gibraltar.)

CERINTHUS (sunk 9 Nov.) British ship CERINTHUS sunk by U-Boat three torpedoes and gunfire at 2350Z/9 Nov. in 12° 28' N 27° 45' W. U-Boat two guns, otherwise not identified. 19 survivors brought Freetown. Master and 19 others adrift in second boat.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1112/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

/SOUTHERN...

MOST SECRET

229A

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.

1138C/7 December.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic Station. Date 5. 12. 42.

Received 0920.

Naval Cypher (M.3) by W/T

Addressed Ships in Area Q of S.A. Station. Admiralty.
Cdre. i/c Durban. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.
N.L.O. East London. F.O.C. West Africa.

Situation report "E"

THYME, Sub: P.552, off Dassen Island
expected time of arrival Simonstown 1300Z/8th.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, 036 degs 20' south
028 degs 20' east to Simonstown 13 knots.

H.M.S. NORMAN, NEPAL, about (30 degs)? 31'
south 032 degs 50' east to Durban 20.

H.M.S. JASMINE, about 030 degs 40' south
033 degs 20' east to Durban 13.

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 033 degs 25' south
028 degs 12' east to Capetown 16. ~~3.11~~ / 218

H.M.S. CAPETOWN, 031 degs 51' south 023 degs? 42'
east to Durban 17.

1138C/7.

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

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).
Duty Capt. (2).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D. of Plans (2).
D.A/S.V.
Hd. of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2).
D.T.D.(M).
D.M.S.

BIW

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.SOUTHERN
GEM
depot.

SOUTHERN GEM has bent tail shaft which cannot be replaced in West Africa. Intend sailing her in company with F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT on 9th Dec. escorting LAFONIA and tug HUDSON to Gibraltar and U.K. Ref. A.M. 2115/26th not to N.C.X.F. refers. (F.O.C.W.A. 1147Z/7 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S
Trawlers,
Tugs.

Arrival Pointe Noire a.m. 7th Dec. MAGNOLIA, NORTHERN DAWN, COVENTRY CITY, ST. ZENO, BARBRAKE, TUZLA, EMPIRE PAT, EMPIRE SAM, towing crane lighter. (B.N.L.O. W.A. 1255/7 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Takoradi. N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)

My 1255/7 and your 1621/27. Tugs report fuel capacity 88 tons, daily consumption 8 tons, and probable duration voyage Pointe Noire to Walvis Bay 13 days. Request instructions. (B.N.L.O. W.A. 1315/7 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Takoradi. N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)

Overdue
ship

(HQPD) TAIHOKU due Capetown 2nd Dec. not yet arrived. (C. in C. S.A. 1257C/7 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Montevideo.)

Shipping
routes.

Ref. A.M. 1254/5. Concur generally. 2. Your para 3. Suggest westbound ships keep south of 5° north to coast of Brazil thence close inshore.

3. Your para 4. Suggest northbound ships make West African coast at widely separated points between Monrovia and Cape Three Points (Gold Coast).

(C. in C. S.A. 1311C/7 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

A.M. 1254A/5. My views were expressed in my 1059/4 to Admty. and C. in C. S.A.

2. I agree scheme outlined in A.M. 1254A/5 should be given a trial but fear that it will not be possible to provide adequate air cover should U-Boats discover the concentration of shipping in the vicinity of 10° N 20° W.

(F.O.C. W.A. 1341/7 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.24 B

W.S.24 B sailed 6th Dec. for Bombay, E.T.A. 17th Dec. personnel on board. (D.S.T.O. Durban 1529C/7 to S.S.T.O. Bombay.)

VILLE DE
MAJUNGA
grounding.

B/S VILLE DE MAJUNGA grounded at Sandy Bay 6th Dec. was refloated same day and is now in Capetown. Condition of hull at present unknown. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1606C/7 to Admty.)

SCAPA FLOW
(sunk
14 Nov.)

Panamanian ship SCAPA FLOW sunk two torpedoes at 1220Z/14 Nov. in 12° N 30° W. German U-Boat 500 (?tons) Type. 27 survivors brought Freetown, one died in boat. Remainder of crew, number 32, perished with ship. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1727/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

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 to persons outside British ~~Government Services~~ ^{IN} ~~Government Services~~.

1231Z/7th December

From R.A.W.Af.

Date 7.12.42.

Recd. 1428

NAVAL CYPHER M BY W/T

CORRECTION.

Addressed A.I.G. 150

IMPORTANT

2 M.Ls. escorting about 004 deg 10' 008 deg 56' to 003 deg 50' 008 deg 30' thence 090 deg 7'.
H.M.S. DESPATCH, 006 deg 02' 016 deg 54' to Freetown.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, patrolling between 000 deg 28' South 021 deg 57' and 001 deg 17' 018 deg 2
H.M.S. RUMBA COPINSAY, off Accra.

COMMANDANT

D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, 2 Motor Launches, escorting 004 deg 26' 002 deg 52' 261 deg 10'.

H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT DROGOU, about 004 deg 39' 003 deg 01' to 004 deg 45' 004 deg 00' thence 260 deg 10.7. *222*

1231Z/7

Advance Copy D.C.

D.O.D. (F)
D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N. 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. (14)
- D.M.S.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.D.O.D. (C).

TH.

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.DUNEDIN
STAR
(beached
29 Nov.)

Further to S.O.I. Capetown's 1734/1. Remaining 42 crew of DUNEDIN STAR including Master abandoned ship to MANCHESTER DIVISION 2nd Dec. Heavy surf prevented evacuation of personnel ashore who were badly in need of supplies. MANCHESTER DIVISION having rendered all assistance possible left for destination at 1450/3.

- (2) Ventura aircraft with 3 days supplies landed survivors on shore at 1725/3 but stuck in sand. Reported tug aground at Rocky Point with crew ashore. Tug probably total loss.
- (3) Other aircraft dropped supplies of food on 5th and further supplies on 6th, but attempt to drop water in motor tyres not successful.
- (4) Rescue party for survivors on shore started from Windhook on 3rd Dec. expected to arrive 8th Dec. but not sighted by aircraft on 6th.
- (5) Further attempt being made to drop supplies and water from aircraft.
- (6) Surf boat and crew being sent in minesweeper from Walvis Bay expect to arrive a.m. 9th.
- (C. in C. S.A. 1804C/7 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)

Loops,
Durban,
Saldanha.

Your 1855/18 Nov. (Re report progress in laying loops at Durban and Saldanha Bay as in converting MEAD.) para 21 (a) Work has not yet started at either Durban or Saldanha Bay. EMILE BAUDOT sails for Durban 9th Dec. Completion date of MEAD 31st Dec. ex trials. CECILE MAPLESON at East London on passage to Capetown.

(C. in C. S.A. 1810C/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Vichy
Ships.

Vichy convoy two merchant vessels and sloop A.75 sighted at 0629Z/7 Dec. in 5° 48' N 1° 13' E course 244° speed 8 knots.

(S.O.I.) Freetown 1821A/7 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib.)

O.N.
Convoys.

Routes of southbound ships breaking off from O.N. convoys. In view of frequent (a) wide diversions of convoys (b) alterations in date and position of dispersal (c) consequent last minute amendments to individual ships routes, the practice of passing original convoy routes to you will be discontinued.

2. You will receive the routine signal which my 1327/5 O.N.153 illustrated including sailing date and speed of advance of convoy and coloured route letters.

3. Subsequently Admty. will pass to you as soon as ships have been dispersed, time and position of dispersal, ships names, speeds and amended routes. This information should reach you at least three days before the Chop to F.O.C.W.A. which is considered ample margin of time.

(D.T.D. 2015A/7 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

CORINTHIAN

E.T.A. Rio de Janeiro 1501Z/13. My P.C.S. 011°
20' S 017° 48' W 243° 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots.
(CORINTHIAN 2101Z/7 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Shipping
Group
Sailings.

Your 1221C/5. With the limited surface and air
forces now available request you will consider
adoption of following policy:-

- (a) group sailing.
- (b) surface escorts to groups as far as possible
in area to the northward of Durban.
- (c) air escorts to groups in area Saldanha Bay to
Durban.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) & (T) 2335A/7 to C. in C.
S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Reply: 1154C/10.

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.

2305Z/7 December.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From J.S.N. Washington.

Date 8. 12. 42.

Received 0120Z.

Cypher

Addressed War Cabinet Offices, London.

IMPORTANT

IZ 2513. J.S.N. 530. 7th December 1942.

Following is text of telegrams 164 and 165 from Algiers.

No. 164 Dec. 6th from Algiers -

BEGIN.

From: Doolittle.
To: General Arnold C.G. A.A.F.
Ref: 12th A.F. Nr. 164.

"Move of our forces to the east has been much earlier than planned. As a result our air force has been in contact with German Air Force earlier and with higher attrition than previously anticipated. To date no replacements have been received in this theatre except P-40 type. Request replacements be expedited earliest possible. Unless immediate replacement for P-38 type are obtained serious reduction of American effort will result".

END.

No. 165 Dec. 6th from Algiers -

BEGIN.

From: Doolittle
To: Agwar
Ref: 12th (?) A.F. NR. 165

Arnold from Doolittle.

"Our aircraft in forward areas are constantly exposed to night bombing. Urgently request that a night fighter group

232^B

- 2 -

be made available to this theatre as early as possible!

ENDS

2305Z/7

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

Air Ministry Circulation

Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord, Admiralty
C.6 Tels. War Office,
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

Recd. in War Reg. 1605/8

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Italian Repatriations. SAGITTA escorting Italian repatriation ships GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO sailed 0330Z/7th Dec. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 0604Z/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Italian repatriation ships passing Straits of Bab El Mandeb en route Port Elizabeth at approx. 1600Z/8 on reciprocal course to that indicated in F.O.R.S.C.A's 1113C/6 October. S. of A. 16½ knots. E.T.A. Port Elizabeth p.m. 18th Dec. (N.O.I.C. Massawa 0621Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

U/B Assessments. Repetition of portion of 1735B/1. (C.C.O. Alexandria 0605B/7.)

A/C Report. Wellington reports on landing 7 unidentified ships, one fully lit stopped in position 220° Cape Sanvito 05' at 2359A/6th. (V.A. Malta 0857A/7 to N.C.X.F., F.O. 12 C.S. F.O.I.S.)

M.T.B. Sweep. My 1247A/6. 4 M.T.Bs leaving Malta for Bone 1600A/7 through 037° 11' 012° 02' carrying out offensive sweep in Gulf of Tunis and Bizerta Road thence close Cape Guardia arriving Bone 0730A/8. Fighter protection codeword and call sign "Nugget". (V.A. Malta 0909A/7 to C.S.12, Cdre. Algiers. C.C.F.)

Departure. M.T.Bs. 260, 262, 266, 316. (V.A. Malta 1711A/7 to Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bone (R) C.C.F.)
4 M.T.Bs leave Malta p.m./7th carry out sweep off Bizerta thence close Cape (corrupt group) is to arrive Bone 0730/8th. Codeword "Nugget". Call sign B.D.7. (N.C.X.F. 1858A/7 to N.O.I.C. Bone, A.O.C.E.A.C., SIRIUS, DIDO, ASHANTI, TARTAR.)

Movements. Departure ORION, PAKENHAM, DULVERTON, TETCOTT, BELVOIR, EXMOOR, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, CROOME, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, PINDOS. (V.A. Malta 0924A/7 to Admty.. C. in C. Med. R.A. Alexandria, (R) N.C.X.F.)
7th Dec. Port Said. Arrival ANTWERP, HURWORTH, Greek Destroyers SPETSAI, AETOS, H.M.S. PRIMULA, WOLBOROUGH. Departure ANTWERP, HURWORTH. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1646B/7 to Admty., C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Red Sea Force, R.A. Alexandria.)
Algiers arrivals. CADMUS, ALARM, LORD NUFFIELD, LORD HOTHAM, with E.T.5 from Bone. DEPTFORD, WISHART with M.K.S. 4.
Departures *QUICKMATCH, *REDOUBT to Oran. *SIRIUS, ASHANTI, TARTAR to the East. ALBACORE to Bougie. French ship ZERAMNA, escorted by ANGLE PERCY to the West and French Ship MASCOT escorted by COELAND to the East. (Cdre. Algiers 2133A/7 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.S. N.C.X.F.)

** Sample 223 > 137*

/M.K.S.O.3 X ...

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

M.K.S.O. 3 X. Tact. Sailed M.K.S.O 3 X for Gibraltar: ABBEYDALE, SELVIK. For U.K. DAHOMIAN, (vice Cmdre), THO(?M)AS STONE, WILLIAM M. STEWART, * FRANCIS S., RAJPUT, escorted by PENTSTEMON for Gibraltar. All ships hold S.P. 00272 (22) (F.O.I.C. Oran 0930A/7 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., Cmdre. Algiers, F.O.C.N.A., N.C.S.O. Gibraltar.) *? FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.

Air R/C. Visuals A.M. December 7th.
(1) Messina, 5 cruisers, 2 destroyers. 2 Merchant ships outside harbour stationary.
(2) Taranto, 3 battleships.
(3) Naples, no sighting, bad visibility. Palermo not covered.
(V.A. Malta 1029A/7 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

SIRIUS. Sail 2000A today 7th to arrive Bone 0800A/8th Route 87, 18. N.O.I.C. Bone to arrange fighter protection from daylight 8th, priority (2).
(2) DIDO may arrive Bone from eastwards daylight 8th.
(N.C.X.F. 1031A/7 to SIRIUS (R) ASHANTI, TARTAR, DIDO, C.S.12, F.O.I.S., V.A. Malta, Capt. (D) 6, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone.) *Sailed - See previous page (Instruments)*

→ DIDO. N.C.X.F. 1121/6. Intend sailing DIDO at 1630A/7 routed through position:
See next page
AA 035° 39' N. 014° 22' E.
BB 053° 07' N. 013° 15' E.
CC 037° 18' N. 012° 47' E.
DD 037° 39' N. 012° 12' E.
EE 037° 47' N. 011° 41' E.
FF 038° 09' N. 010° 51' E.
GG 037° 51' N. 008° 58' E. thence direct Bone.

(2) DIDO will pass through position FF at 0230A/8th subsequently S. of A. 28 knots.

(3) Fighter protection codeword "Dinner" W/T Call Sign B A L. Frequency 6450 x 18 k/cs.

(4) DIDO will (A) Decypher message bearing DG Q H in table held (B) Shift to Gibraltar broadcast as convenient after entering area G (C) Make your message on 385 k/cs.

(V.A. Malta 1040A/7 to N.C.X.F. Bone (R) F.O.I.S., C.S.12. C. in C. Med. DIDO, C.S.15.)

Your 1650/5th, not to DIDO. 600 5.25 S.A.P. Shells.

(V.A. Malta 1059A/7 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C.S.15, N.C.X.F., DIDO.)

Departure DIDO.

(V.A. Malta 1639A/7.)

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

TISZA.

My 1745C/4 (Tugs TISZA expected sail for Piraeus Dec. 5) Tug left night December 6th to December 7th for Aegean. Fact. Reported destination Piraeus. B.3. Speed probably 5 knots owing to South Wind.
(S.O.I.) Istanbul 1106C/7 to S.O.I.) Med. (R) S.1, D.N.I.)

Enemy A.S.V. In order to pursue the search for enemy A.S.V. Transmissions. transmissions two specially instructed R.D.F. ratings with equipment are being drafted to NELSON.

2. They will take passage in LAFOREY and will be referred to as party "Hat".

3. Reports of results should be made as provided in C.B. 03067/42 Chapter 4 paras.12, 13 and 14.
(D.S.D. 1107A/7 to S.O. Force H. (R) F.O.C.N.A. NELSON.)

RORQUAL
information.

Following sailed for Bone 1600A/7th.
(1) DIDO close South of Sicily warned of submarine position. *see previous page*
(2) 4 M.T.Bs North of Pantellaria 'via' approaches to Tunis and Bizerta ordered not to attack S/MS, warned of RORQUAL's high silhouette.
(Capt. S. 10 1202A/7 to RORQUAL, P.43.)

P.228, Intend sailing P.228 and P.54 for patrol on
P.54. *sup. 228* 8th and 9th respectively to (?pass) 038° 30' N.
see next page 2236 007° 59' E. at 0300/12th and 0001/15th respective-
ly. Thence as ordered by you.
(2) Both S/MS carry 02364 (22) and (26) and one time pad.
(3) S/M of 8th S/M Flotilla understands procedure in A.G.M. 271A T.O.O. 1126/3rd Sept.
(Capt. S.8, 1230A/7 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

P.217, *sup. 238* Patrol within 10 miles of following focal point
P.222, keeping within your sector, P.217 120° 15, P.222
TIGRIS. 180° 2, TIGRIS 350° 5 from Imperatore Point.
(Capt. S. 10, 1233A/7 to P.217, P.222, TIGRIS (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8)
See also P.217's 2105Z/7, and Capt. S.10, 0125A/8.

Your 1233/7th and 1714/5th. Focal point for P.222 is in sector ordered for P.217 and vice versa. Intend patrolling 180° 2 miles from point named. Weather report.
P.222 1915A/7 to Capt. S.10.)

ORION, It is possible convoy was sighted by aircraft
Convoy at about 1015.
M.E.11. (V.A. Malta 1315A/7 to ORION (R) C. in C. Med.
sup. 233 237 F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

Your force was probably sighted by enemy aircraft at 1045B/7th.
(Capt. on Staff Alexandria 1323B/7th to ORION (R) R.A. 15th C.S., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med.)

/TRIBUNE ...

MOST SECRET

235A

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From Capt (S) 8

1330A/7/December.

Date 7.12.42.

Naval Cypher 3 by T/P & W/T

Time 1824

Addressed A.I.G. 262

IMPORTANT

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean
at 2000A 7th (?H.M.S. POIPOISE) 39 01 N 06 08 E through
39 01 N 03 16 E at 2000 8th thence 243 11 knots.

(2) (?H.M.S. URSULA) 38 32 N 01 23 E through 38 42 N
03 02 E to arrive 37 01 N 03 06 E at 0900 9th 7 knots
thence escorted to Algiers.

(3) H.M. P.51 038 degs 33' north 002 degs 12' east
through 038 degs 50' North 003 degs 01' East thence
090 degs 8 knots.

(4) All above S/M's dive by day 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Surface speed
as stated

(5) H.M. P.219 039 degs 01' North 004 degs 15' East
on surface through 039 degs 01' North 003 degs 58' East
thence rendezvous in 37 01 03 23 at 0900/8th with escort
for Algiers.

(6) H.M. P.228 leaves Gibraltar 0830 8th on surface
at 11 knots 10 miles off Cape to Cape to 135 Cape Palos
10 then diving by day course 66 degs. *S. 11/235, 7234*

1330A/7

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 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)

D.T.D. (M)

F.O.S. by courier

Ad. Ramsey (4)

E.M.

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

TRIBUNE reports:
R. of P. (1) At 2240/18th Nov. U-Boat sighted in position 43.33 N. 09.04 E. course 050° U-Boat dived.
see p. 224
(Thomson's) (2) At 0646/19th Nov. M.V. GRADISCA observed entering Bastia.
(3) 1410/21st one tanker and one M.V. out of range entered Naples from South West close Northward of Capri.
(4) 0403/22nd large Destroyer came through centre of Boca Piccola, TRIBUNE commenced attack but destroyer turned towards at 4000 yards and carried out extremely efficient A/S hunt, sixteen D/Cs which lasted for 2½ hours, causing considerable minor damage.
(5) TRIBUNE is convinced that she was not sighted visually by this destroyer.
(6) Defects will require about 14 days to make good including 2 or 3 days in dock.
(Capt. S.8 1408A/7 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar (R) V.A. Malta, S.10, Admty., F.O.S.)
My 1408. (i) C.O. Lieut. Coe R.N.R. unfit for and wishes to be relieved of further command.
(ii) Intend retaining TRIBUNE at Gibraltar until defects have been made good when Lieut. Porter will assume command.
(iii) If Lieut. Cmdr. Selby Hall has not arrived at Gibraltar by this time Cdr. Pizey will be sent from Algiers as S.O. Subs. Gibraltar temporarily.
(Capt. S.8, 1414A/7 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C. Subs., V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Air R/C P.R.U. visual at 1210. 3 Battleships not in
Battleships Naples. 3 cruisers in harbour. (2) 5 cruisers
leave in Messina at 1230. (3) 3 battleships in
Naples. Taranto at 1150.
(V.A. Malta 1410A/7 to C. in C. Med., C.A.12 etc.)
My 1410/7th. Departure of battleships and a number of
destroyers confirmed by photographs.
(V.A. Malta 1555A/7 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., S.O.15 C.S.,
S.O.12 C.S., ORION, DIDO, F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers, S.O.
Force H. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)
Aircraft report a.m. today 3 Littorio class battleships
have left Naples.
(Capt. S. 10 1616A/7 to Submarines on patrol (R) N.C.X.F.,
Capt. (S) 8, V.A. Malta.)

P.228, P.228 leaving Gibraltar 0830/8th 10 miles off
P.54. Spanish coast Cape to Cape to arrive 135° Cape
see pp 2357 Palos 10 mile at 1300/9th thence through 038°
2354 45' 003° 01' E. to 038° 30' 007° 59' E.
(2) P.54 leaving Gibraltar 1500/9th 5 mile Cape to Cape to arrive
135° Cape Palos 5 mile at 1200 11th and then follow P.228.
(3) PORPOISE may encounter both submarines.
(Capt. S.8 1540A/7 to 8 S.F.)

/S/M ...

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>S/M Movements.</p> | <p>Arrivals P.45, departures P.212, P.247. (V.A. Malta 1553A/7 to Admty., N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1.)</p> |
| <p>P.212, P.247.</p> | <p>P.212, P.247 sailed 1300A/7 for patrol in Marittimo area. (Capt. (S) 10, 1715A/7 to N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8, S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, C.S.15.)</p> |
| <p>Naples Approach Routes.</p> | <p>Ref. para. 3 of Capt. (S) 8's 1528/28th November. Request any information from P.228 concerning safe approach routes into Naples be signalled to S.O.(I) Malta (R) S.O.(I) Mediterranean. (S.O.(I) Mediterranean 1745B/7 to (?N.C.X.F.) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty., S.O.(I) Malta.) Reply: S.O.(I) Gib. 1704/8.</p> |
| <p>Air R/C.</p> | <p>Dec. 7th. 1. Naples, 3 battleships, one 8 inch cruiser under (? repair) and some destroyers have all gone. 2 6-inch afloat and one on its side. (2) Taranto, 3 battleships, one of which has moved into centre of harbour but no other sign of activity. (3) Messina, 5 cruisers and 5 destroyers. (4) Palermo, one cruiser under construction. The damaged 5.3 inch cruiser has left. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1758A/7 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. etc.)</p> |
| <p>REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH.</p> <p><i>See AA 223 ? 233.</i></p> | <p>My 1027/7 (N.T. in W.R.) Cdre. Algiers 1212/7 (N.T. in W.R.) On arrival DUCHESS OF BEDFORD at Oran REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH proceed Gibraltar. (N.C.X.F. 1826A/7 to REDOUBT, QUICKMATCH (R) V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran (?) Cdre. Algiers, EGRET.)</p> |
| <p>ORION.</p> <p><i>See pp 233 5 235</i></p> | <p>Act in accordance with EURYALUS 1435/6th (N.T. in W.R.) which was passed to EXMOOR and reads as follows: (begins) When detached from M.E.11 intend to steer to south westward until midnight and then to pass through position Y Y at 0600A on 9th. Thence alongside convoy route until convoy is met. S. of A. 17 knots. (Ends). (R.A. Malta 1847/7 to ORION (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. 15th C.S.)</p> |
| <p>Toulon P.R.U.</p> | <p>P.R.U. of Toulon is still listed as a daily requirement. Do you consider that it could now be carried out less frequently and if so at what interval? (D.O.D. (F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1906A/7 to N.C.X.F.) Reply: N.C.X.F. 1935A/8.</p> |

238

7.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

P.54. *Comp. 2359*
236
P.54 should be sailed when ready to carry out a roving patrol on South coast of France between Marseilles and Genoa. Object coastwise shipping. (N.C.X.F. 1954A/7 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Capt. (S) 10.)

Operation "Quadrangle" (B) D day 9th December times zone minus 2.
(2) R.A. Alexandria is requested to sail convoy M.W.16 (CLAN MACINDOE, DANIEL H. LOWNSDALE and ROBERT MAERSK) for Malta p.m. D day escorted by *ARROW, HURWORTH to pass 15 miles north of P thence (yy) 032° 22' N. 019° 35' E. at 1100 D plus 3. thence through (zz) 035° 22' N. 014° 05' E. 1 Hunt will reinforce escort p.m. D plus. *Refitting at Malta/see through - *Track List*.
(3) Anticipated S. of A. 10 knots.
(4) V.A. Malta is requested to sail ORION 4 Hunts to pass through yy at 0700D plus 3 thence along convoy route to meet M.W.16 and provide escort to Malta.
(5) PALADIN, 2 Hunts, are to be detached 10 miles north of Mist to escort ROBERT MAERSK to Benghazi, and are then to act as required by S.O. Force I for escort duty.
(6) Force K is to be at one hour's notice for sea from 1200D plus 3 until otherwise ordered by Malta.
(7) Air Authorities are requested to arrange necessary fighter and A/S protection R/C and Air Striking Force to cover operation.
(6) Fighter protection codeword for M.W.15 throughout is "Outwit".
B.N.L.O. (corrupt group) pass to merchant ships.
(C. in C. Med. 2045B/7 to R.A. Malta, H.Q.R.A.F. M.E., A.I.G. 72 C.C.F. Capt. (S) 19, Capt. (S) 1, ORION, F.O. 15th C.S., Capt. (D) 12, Capt. (D) 14, PALADIN, HURWORTH, DULVERTON, R.A.D. Med. A.O.C. Med., Group 219, R.N., G.H.Q.)

Iraq - Tripoli Pipeline. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (M.E) 335. Ref. your CC/146. Proposal to reopen Iraq - Tripoli (S) pipeline approved. Necessary action is being taken by Petroleum Division. (Air Min. T.O.O. 2050Z/7 to Mideast (R) P.A.I.C.)

* P.217. *P.235*
Hits on enemy convoy. Have withdrawn 50 miles. Your 1233A/7th not understood with reference to sectors in your 1714A/5th. At 1515/5th December in 040° 26' N. 014° 06' E. 3 destroyers and 2 merchant ships steering 38° 3 hits.
* *Comp. 235*
(P.217 2105Z/7 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) Capt. (S) 8, N.C.X.F., S/Ms on Patrol.)

M.W.14. *?15*
Detach 1 Hunt to arrive Tobruk 0800/10th complete with fuel and join convoy M.W.14 before dark 10th. (C. in C. Med. 2131B/7 to Capt. (D) 12th D.F., (R) PALADIN, DULVERTON, A.I.G. NO.72, C.C.F., R.A.(D) Med. 219 Group.)

/Malta ...

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta A.I. 160, 7 Dec. 1942 C.S.R. Night 6/7th Dec.
 Air Report. No enemy air activity locally.
 Day 7th Dec. 0410 hours. 2 long range Hurricanes were despatched on offensive R/C of Sousse Sfax Area. No railway traffic was seen but a locomotive was hit with cannon fire outside a railway shed at Sfax. A machine gun post was silenced North of Sfax Barracks and a small ship in Sfax Bay was shot up with cannon fire.
 0847 hours. 10 Me.109s approached Malta at height and were intercepted North of the Island by 8 Spitfires. Enemy Aircraft although having height advantage dived into cloud and returned to Sicily.
 1604 hours. 8 enemy aircraft approached Malta on a high fighter sweep but turned back 15 miles North of the Island. 8 Spitfires airborne on interception encountered 1 torpedo carrying Ju.88 South of Malta and destroyed it. 1 Spitfire is missing. Today a total of 58 Spitfire Sorties have been flown to protect shipping and Convoy returning from Malta to the East.
 (A.H.Q. Malta 2147Z/7.)

Second section of Part 2 my A.I. 160.
 Night 6th/7th Dec. 3 special Wellington 8s on shipping R/C patrolled Gulf of Taranto and Straits of Messina but made no sightings. Wellingtons made 12 sorties to bomb Bizerta Docks with La Goulette Harbour Tunis as alternative target.
 In first attack on Bizerta Docks from 1809 - 1912 hours 7 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 7000 feet scoring hits in docks area. Slight and heavy light flak was encountered and 6 very accurate searchlights were exposed making observation of results of bombing difficult. In second attack 0040 - 0152 hours 2 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 6000 feet scoring hits across fuel tanks south of harbour entrance. 3 Wellingtons unable to locate Bizerta due to adverse weather attacked La Goulette Docks Tunis from 0220 - 0259 hours dropping bombs from 8000 feet and saw bursts in target area. Heavy rainstorms prevented more accurate observation of results. Several enemy fighters showing Orange lights endeavoured to intercept our Wellingtons but all our aircraft returned safely.
 Day 7th Dec. 3 Beauforts armed with 4 250-lb depth charges carried out A/S patrols ahead of departing Eastbound convoy throughout hours of daylight but made no sightings.
 (A.H.Q. Malta 2133Z/7, 2152/7.)

Enemy P.C. and S. of 3 destroyers 36.51 N. 12.58 E.
 Destroyers. 360° 15.
 (A/C C/S ANRK 2200A/7 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Ships for Request you will load four more ships to supply
 Malta in pairs to follow on the present
 Supplies. "Quadrangle" Series. Speed 10 to 12 knots.
 (C. in C. Med. 2215B/7 to P.S.T.O., M.E., (R)
 V.A.M., N.C.X.F., D.S.T. Admty.)

/27th M.L. ...

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

- 27th M.L.
Flotilla. A.M. 1301/2/May 1942. Request consideration may now be given to passing 27th M.L. Flotilla through the Mediterranean to join Fleet in Eastern Med.
(C. in C. Med. 2233B/7 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib. V.A. Malta.)
Reply: 1837A/9.
- U.559. Use of S.B.T. during attack on 30 Oct.
(Technical)
(C. in C. Med. 2323B/7 to Admty.)
- P.42,
P.35,
R. of P. (1) P.42 reports at 0930/21 in position 315° Cape Gallo 9 (38° 13' N. 13° 19' E.) fired salvo at two northwest bound medium merchant vessels escorted one A.M.C. and aircraft, range 2000, missed.
(2) At 0250/25 off Cape Suhero opened fire on train crossing viaduct, gun jammed after second round and out of action rest of patrol, traffic averaged one train every half hours, large increase on August.
(E) 27th Nov. to 3rd Dec. spent Cape Gallo Cuito area. Constant air and surface A/S patrols, eastbound traffic passed one mile off these Capes. (R) Passage made seven miles to north of the new route through QBB 255 between H and J no incident. Trawler patrols north and south Pantellaria. (T) P.35 reports at 1830A/2 in position 35° 28' 11° 21' having surfaced and closed to 300 yards fired 2 rounds 12 pdr. at 1100 ton northbound M/V SACRO CUORE severing steampipe stopping ship, ascertained no British prisoners aboard, enemy abandoned. P.35 holed ship both sides waterline many times then closed boat and selected 9 G.A.F. 1 German army for prisoner, leaving 8 German and Italian crew to make shore. Germans were from Ju.52 forced landed in sea off Kerkenah, name of pilot and only officer was Ober Lieut. Willywopp.
(S. 10 2332A/7 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. (R) S.1, S.8.)
- E.A.C. P.R.U. R/C of Bizerta shows no sign of any report. aircraft carriers reported this summary No.24 (2150/5).
(E.A.C. 2347/7.)

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P. 62

→Departure FALMOUTH with B.P. 62.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 0130Z/7 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz,
S.N.O.P.G., Admtv. F.O.C.R.I.N., S.O.(I) Colombo
S.O.(I) Kilindini)
Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0146Z/7
0148Z/7).
Numbers and requirements. (P.S.T.O.I., 0819Z/7).

DUNERA

My 1101/28th Nov. and 0541/3rd Dec.
DUNERA is now required to make a further voyage to
Suez in B.A. 35 and will not be available to
proceed to Durban.
(P.S.T.O. Bombay, 0405Z/7 to D.S.T.)

Movements

Arrival 0443Z/7th Dec. SCOUT escorting H.T.
SANTHIA *R.F.A. SINGU. *not from as much in Heavy List -
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0455Z/7 to Admtv).
Arrivals 0615Z ST. ANTHONY with M.B.19. 0845Z
DIPAVATI. Departure 0930Z AGRA.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1139Z/7 to Admtv. F.O.C.R.I.N.
S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Kilindini N.O.I.C.
Cochin).

C. J. 35

Arrival 0443Z/7th Dec. Convoy C. 35 (as received
? "J" omitted).
(F.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0459Z/7 to Admtv).

Convoy
Escorts.

Intended escorts, SUTLEJ, and *CEYLONITE, P.B. 17,
→ FALMOUTH, P.A. 15, sailing 0430Z/16th Dec.
ocean route 2. F.O. Ceylon please say if he
would prefer a different ship to go to Aden.
(S.N.O.P.G., 0631Z/7 1331Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz,
(R) Cdre. R.I.N. Com. I/C Aden, Connv, N.B.
Melbourne, C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A., F.O.
Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Karachi). * at Harindink - 7/12 List.

GLENROY,
JANUS.

(i) GLENROY escorted by JANUS sailing Kilindini
7th Dec. E.T.A. Diego Suarez 1800C/10th Dec.
(ii) She is to be sailed for Durban west of
Madagascar through positions A 016° 42' S., 041°
20' E. B. 028° 54' S., 035° 40' E. *United Sea route*
(iii) Cdre in C. Durban is requested to adjust the approach route
(?to) Durban if necessary observing that JANUS endurance is
reduced to 180 hours at 13 knots.
(C. in C. E.F., 0942Z/7 to Cdre. in C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Diego
Suarez, (R) C. in C. S.A., GLENROY, Admtv).

/Diego...

MOST SECRET

241A

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
0814Z/7 December

From C.in C. Eastern Fleet

Date 7.12.42.

Recd. 1619

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed Eastern Fleet 163Y, Admiralty,
C.in C. South Atlantic, F.O.C.R.S.F.
(?Cdre. i/c) Durban.

402. Movement Summary Number 27 December

7th

- (1) H.M.S. FROBISHER left Durban 6th December escorting Convoy W S 24 B - 2 ships routed west of Reunion Is. and East of Seychelles speed 16 knots
- (2) H.M.S. MAURITIUS left Bombay 3rd December escorting Convoy B (?A) 34 to 055 deg East thence Seychelles due 11th December
- (3) GLENROY and H.M.S. JANUS left Kilindini 7th December for Durban calling Diego Suarez 10th December
- (4) H.M.S. DURBAN left (?Durban) 3rd December due (?Kilindini) 8th December *See Memo page*
- (5) H.M.S. DAUNTLESS left Aden 5th December due Kilindini 10th December
- (6) H.M.S. RANPURA left Aden 6th December escorting convoy (?A) K 5 - 2 ships due Kilindini about 12th December speed 11 knots.

0814Z/7

Advance Copy D.O. D.O.D. (F). D.T.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.S.
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. of P. (2)
C.C.O. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Ad. Blake.

TH.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Diego Suarez Guard. C. in C. South Atlantic's 1518/3rd Dec. (N.T. in W.D.) For your information present Guard consists of Askaris. Understood to be intention of H.Q. Island Area to reinforce with local Garde Mobile. Patrols are somewhat undisciplined. This position although unsatisfactory may prove acceptable if police from Cape or E. Africa not available. Experienced police officers referred to would nevertheless be a valuable addition to co-operation Staff. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez (or C.C.O.) 1405Z/7 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.E.A. and Z. Admty. Cdre. i/c Durban, Capt. Supt. Simonstown).

Jibuti, American negotiations. Following from G.O.C. in C. East Africa. Continuation my 69041 of 6 Dec. 1. Arrived Harar this afternoon and learnt that American Consul was landed by air at Zeila yesterday afternoon 6 Dec. and has apparently proceeded to Jibuti. 2. American Consul's terms of reference from Washington are apparently "investigate report situation and give recommendations regarding best means obtain co-operation French Somaliland with United Nations". 3. As the sudden landing of an American Consul in my command from Aden without any reference to me does not make my task any easier shall be grateful for instructions. (12 Div. 1445Z/7 to W.O.)

Iraq-India air boundaries. A.216 7 Dec. Further to my A. 209 Nov. 24 following boundaries are to become effective from Dec. 7 1. Aden to extend Eastern boundary up to 57° 30' E., This new boundary is to be operational and administrative for all purposes. 2. In order to meet wishes of Iraq and India are to be as follows (a) For operation of land based G.R. aircraft as described in para. 2 B of my Signal A.209 24 Nov. (b) Admin boundary and operational boundary in so far as flying boat R/C is concerned to remain as laid down in 222 group signal A.392 24 Oct. and H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., letter S.505/3/ORG Nov 1. (H.Q.R.A.F., M.E., 1654Z/7 to 222 Group, C. in C. E.F., etc).

Firing Report. Following from MATHERAN. Rockets or flares followed by heavy gunfire at 1645 G.M.T., 27.48 S., 53.58 E., flames forecastle 1650 G.M.T. coming from vessel* which died away at 1745. No W/T signals of distress heard. (Burnham Radio, 1905/7 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty).

* probably Greek EUGENIE LIVANOS

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

PETER MAERSK torpedoes. SS. PETER MAERSK torpedoes in 039° 47' N. 041° 00' W. at 0247Z/7th. (C.O.A.C., 0307Z/7 to G.B.7A, C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7.) (Valentia Radio, 0311/7.) (C.C.O. Plymouth, 0311/7.)

U/B Positions. C.E.S.F's 1935/6 informs as follows. S/M estimate 0800Q/7th Dec. (Comnav, 0859/7 to Admty.)

LINCOLN. E.T.A. 1400Z/7th. Boiler hours. Request Hedgehog control gear now on board be fitted. (LINCOLN, 0900Z/7 to F.O.N.F.)

ENGLEMAN. Departure 4th Dec. U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN to sea (Broutof Aruba, 0952QR/7 to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

53 Air Sqn. CR. No. 247. Following information received from C. in C. U.S. Fleet: 53 Sqn. during the past four months, has made 16 attacks on U-Boats of which a minimum of 9 attacks have resulted in damage to submarines. They have rendered great assistance which has been appreciated and their leaving at this time is regretted by all of those who have been in contact with them in U.S. The difficult conditions under which this Sqn. had to operate indicates that great credit accrues to the Squadron Commander and all personnel under his command. All this has been repeated to Rafdel, Washington, and 53 Squadron is departing for England, duty completed. (Comnav, 0956/7 to Admty., etc.)

U/B. Following has been read. Barbados W/T reports submarine sighted by U.S.A.T. FLORIDA in 011.06 N. 062.00 W. at 1218 G.M.T./7th. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1212R/7 to Admty.) (Demerara Radio, no T.O.O./7 to Admty.)

U/B Positions. S/M estimate Dec. 7th and U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1544/7, 1545/7, 1616/7, 1618/7, 2004/7.)

T.A. 29. Admty's 1730/5 and your 1612/6 not to Admty. or B.A.D. Washington sailing is entirely dependent on arrival Halifax, requirements and completion embarkation. Do not anticipate departure could be before 13th, return route not yet received. (C.O.A.C., 1559Z/7 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., B.A.D.)

7.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

LARIAT, Admty. 1525/5 and S.B.N.O. Trinidad 0932/1 (re
→L.C.I.(L)s. LARIAT sailed with tail end shafting out of
alignment). LARIAT has not yet arrived at
Norfolk. Decision as to sailing date of
second batch of L.C.I.(L)s will be made when LARIAT's condition
is known. Earliest date possible would be 9th Dec. Presume
L.C.I.(L) 7 will be included.
(B.A.D., 1627Z/7 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

Barbados Departure 7th Dec. U.S. Warship A.M. C.41
Movement. Trinidad 8th Dec.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 1632/7 to Admty.,
(R) S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Tankers. Your 1656/6.
Independent sailings for tankers is operative
from dispersal from N.K. off Key West direct to
Gulf loading ports and return to Key West direct to join K.N.
To take advantage of three days gained at sea K.N. sails three
days earlier thereby achieving 24 day turn round Gulf - New
York - Gulf. In order to maintain convoy schedule H.K. also
sails three days earlier with ships not eligible for independent
sailing. Former loading time is unaffected. Primary reason
for change was eight day gain for U.S. traffic and New York
pool without penalising U.K. service.
2. Aviation gas tankers are admittedly at a disadvantage but
it is hoped to remove this embargo. It is specially irksome
in preventing them proceeding Panama independently. It is
fully realised that sailing in convoy may have to be resumed
at short notice on normal schedule.
3. Your para. 4. Sailing dates of N.K. convoys are unchanged
and in fact the only change for U.K. tankers both fast and slow
is that the time gained at sea in the Gulf is spent in New York.
4. My 2259/3 refers to ships loading on east coast only.
(B.A.D., 1635Z/7 to Admty.)

→L.C.I.(L)s. Have first seven L.C.I.(L)s arrived yet, if so
are there any further lessons learnt which might
be applied to next flight? S.B.N.O.W.A.

1842/1 refers.

2. When may Ocean personnel be expected to return to U.S.A.?
(B.A.D., 1653Z/7 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A.)

A.T. 30 Convoy sailing telegram.
(QUEEN MARY) (Port Liaison Officer New York, 1654Z/7 to
Connav.)

U.G.S. 3. Route convoy U.G.S. 3 via (J) 035° 50' 067° 20'.
(K) 031° 10' 061° 20'. (L) 032° 35' 051° 40'.
(M) 033° 15' 039° 20'. (N) 032° 40' 027° 10'.
(O) 031° 10' 016° 30'. (P) 034° 20' 009° 50' thence destination
1st "Chop" 40° W. 0900Z/20th, 2nd "Chop" 1200Z/28th.

/Admiralty ...

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Conn 1/5.

- U.G.S. 3. Admiralty* pass to S.N.O. Casablanca and
(Contd.) V.A. Gibraltar.
(Connav, 1701/7 to Port Director New York, (R)
Admty., etc.)
* Passing action being taken by W.R.
- G.A.T. 26. Arrival U.S. Des. LEA, U.S. Ships P.C.469,
495, 575, U.S. Ship S.C.637 escorting G.A.T.26.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1742Q/7 to S.B.N.O.W.A.,
(R) Admty., etc.)
- North African Convoys. To keep Connav informed regarding ships move-
ments following has been arranged.
1. N.C.X.F. has been requested to supply full
composition of M.K. convoys and ships transferred
from M.K. to G.U. convoys.
2. Admiralty will pass (a) Full composition of K.M. convoys.
(b) Summary numbered in sequence containing movements of U.S.
controlled ships in U.K. coastal convoys and advance information
of such ships entered for O.N. convoys.
(c) Independent ships as heretofore with addition of first U.K.
port in Vesca arrival series.
(D.T.D., 1750A/7 to Connav, (R) B.A.D., N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib.,
N.S.H.Q.)
- Trinidad, B.R.O. Trinidad reported in his 1143/3 that to
bunkers. ease congestion of coal bunkering at Trinidad
four ships were sailed in T.A.G.26 for Port
Royal, Jamaica, for bunkers. It is hoped this
practice may continue when necessary to relieve Trinidad
bunkering and that such ships may not be held unduly at Port
Royal.
2. As a further measure of relief when necessary request you
will investigate possibility of a number of northbound coal
fired ships bound Trinidad for bunkers or convoy only being
diverted wide of Trinidad area to St. Thomas for bunkers. It
is suggested such ships bound Guantanamo for convoy might sail
independently from St. Thomas when U-Boat situation permits.
(D.T.D., 1825A/7 to B.A.D.)
Reply: B.A.D. 1821Z/9.
- Tankers, In view of N.C.X.F. 1138/3 Navy Dept. have been
North Africa. informed that onward shuttle service from
Casablanca can be arranged.
2. This now would appear to conflict with D. of
S.T. statement in para. 1(a) of TRANS 1023 to
B.M.S.M. Washington only.
3. The shortage of tankers mentioned would surely be offset by
ultimate gain in reduction of tankers from U.G. and K.M. convoys
if scheme considered in my 0351/1 is adopted.
4. Navy Dept. are now waiting to review the U-Boat escort
situation nearer the time.
(B.A.D., 1901Z/7 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af.)

War Diary.7.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- H.X. 217. Detached from H.X.217, returning to St. Johns N.F. Convoy P.C. and S. at 1930Z/7th 080° 120 miles from S 045° 9 knots. Probability of 2 or 3 U-Boats still in vicinity. (Weather report ?) (C.T.U. 24.12.1, 2000Z/7 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.) Transmission on 10510 k/cs and 4796 k/cs indicate possibly still 4 subs in vicinity. (N.S.H.Q., 2245Z/7 to Ships escorting H.X. convoy No.217, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) Ships escorting S.C. convoy No. 111, Opnav.)
- IRISH ROSE suspicious. My 1944Z/7, not to Admty. and C.T.F.14. Aircraft sighting of SS. IRISH ROSE at 1712Z/6 in 42.35 N. 64.10 W., course 080°, places steamer 55 miles off route and not attempting to rejoin. N.C.S.O. St. John N.B.'s 2014Z/11 refers. (C.O.A.C., 2004Z/7 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.T.F. 24, Connav.)
- ANDES. My 1540/5, reference life saving capacity ANDES. Request total number of crew carried may be included in reply. (N.S.H.Q., 2054Z/7 to Admty., (R) D. of S.T., B.A.D., C.O.A.C.)
- Sub attack and sighting summary. Para. A. C.T.F.23 Cafac Cdts. all Nav. Dist. Lant. Cdts. all Seafron. Lant. N.O.B. Trinidad, N.O.B. G.T.M.O. all informed. Sub sighted 53.47 N. 42.31 W. about 1530Z/6. (Cominch, 2120/7 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- SOLON II sunk. SS. SOLON II torpedoed 2nd December 2330 G.M.T. 007° 45' N. 056° 30' W., position very inaccurate. Books went down with ship. No special bags on board. Depth 600 fathoms approx. Ship was not board. Information obtained from extra 4th engineer. (B.R.O. Georgetown, 2125/7 to Admty.)
- M.T.Bs. When ready about Dec. 11th sail ^{from Miami} British M.T.Bs. 334, 336, 337, 342 via Inland Waterways to New York. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2146/7 to C.G.S.F., etc.)
- 30 M.L. Flotilla. Sailing British 30th M.L. Flotilla when ready to Miami for onward routeing by C.G.S.F. to Trinidad. Com. 6 pass to N.Y.D. Charleston for information. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2154/7 to Commandant 6th U.S. Nav. Div. Charleston, (R) U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad, Com. 7, C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.C.S.F., S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

7.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B Positions. C.E.S.F's 1906/7 informs as follows. (Comnaveu, 2155/7 to Admty.)

L.S.T. 301. Am returning Base. Steering gear defective. One man for hospital. (Corrupt group) fracture of skull. E.T.A. 0600/8. (L.S.T.301, 2216Z/7 to N.O.I.C. Halifax.)

Vessels from India, Routes. Request U.S. controlled vessels from India and Persian Gulf Ports destined U.S. be routed Trans-Pacific, those for U.S. East Coast to Panama Canal for onward routeing. (Navcom Washington, 2335/7 to Admty.)

CHURCHILL. E.T.A. St. Johns 1100Z/9th Dec. (CHURCHILL, 2340Z/7 to F.O.N.F., (R) C.O.A.C., Cominch.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 319 Dec. 6th. Two Fortresses attacked grounded aircraft Lakunai Airdrome early morning 6th; bombs dropped along runway but results not observed. R/C Rabaul Harbour Base later in day from 24,000 feet reported at least 38 vessels in harbour including 6 very large. 6 Fighters airborne but nil interception, further observation obscured by clouds.

2. Enemy continues offering strong resistance Buna area where counter attack repulsed. Air operations hampered by bad weather 6th.

3. Further reports enemy small craft operating between Cape Ward Hunt and Buna during night hours.

4. Enemy submarine reported on surface off Yule Island (50 miles N.W. Port Moresby) at 0710Z/6 course South.

5. 18 medium bombers escorted by 16 Zeros attacked Air Strip Popondetta and Porlock Harbour area afternoon 6th no damage reported. Four dive bombers also attacked shipping off Porlock Harbour and off Fergusson Island during same afternoon.

6. One Liberator on rescue unsuccessfully attacked by 14 Zeros escorting 9 twin engined bombers off Gasmata 10 probably destroyed.

7. Maximum 17 enemy fighters and 6 bombers reported using Lae Aerodrome. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0550Z/7 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

7.12.1942.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approximate positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1415A/7, 1416A/7.)

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

33 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night off Biscay ports and in the Frisian Is. - Elbe area.

North Atlantic.

An Italian midget submarine attempted to enter Gibraltar harbour at 0215 today and was sighted by a R.A. sentry, illuminated and engaged and sunk. A merchant vessel picked up the crew of two, one of whom stated that a submarine had brought them to the neighbourhood of Gibraltar.

*Attack launched from Italian tanker OLTERRA
in Algeiras. (See W. I. R. 198/58, 296/19)*

(p. 263)

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. does not entirely agree with the recent Admiralty estimate of submarine dispositions. He considers that at least 2 S/Ms are working in the Durban - Lourenco Marques area and that the S/Ms are being supplied from somewhere in the Indian Ocean. Attacks in this area started early in November and still continue. He asks for carrier R/C of the calm area south-east of Madagascar, as he feels that destruction of the source of supply may be the best means of removing these submarines which are taking a heavy toll of our shipping. C. in C. E.I. offers to carry out such an operation with BIRMINGHAM, ILLUSTRIOUS and available destroyers, since his destroyers are inadequate for an extended operation. However, the Admiralty consider that the evidence does not warrant this operation at present and they consider his destroyers will be better employed as escorts with the group sailings.

The Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO today picked up 6 survivors from a ship reported to be Greek SS. AMARLLIS (presumably Panamanian AMARYLIS which left Aden 18th Nov. for Durban), in 28° 14' S. 33° 24' E.: the ship is reported to have been sunk on 2nd December.

** Confirmed by B.R. 1337.*

/The ...

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

The Master of JEREMIAH WADSWORTH, sunk on 27th Nov. in 39.25 S. 22.23 E., complains that deck cargo loaded at New Orleans was plastered with destination labels, and states that he was told his approximate route by the Second Officer of another ship at New Orleans.

Mediterranean.

JERVIS, KELVIN and NUBIAN sailed from Malta at 1414A today for a sweep in the Gulf of Gabes. They returned to Malta at 0957A/9, having sighted nothing.

SIRIUS, DIDO (who joined the force at Bone today), ASHANTI and TARTAR left Bone this evening to carry out a sweep to the northward tonight.

RORQUAL reports having laid mines again off Cani Rock Light.

Wellingtons attacked Bizerta docks again last night; bombs dropped on Bizerta seaplane base, setting fire to a large building believed to be a hangar, and on the quayside and near the docks goods station. A destroyer in Sidi Abdulla dockyard and a fuel dump were hit by bombs.

America and West Indies.

H.X.217
attacked.

Convoy H.X. 217 was attacked by, it is estimated, six U-Boats at 0127Z today and SS. EMPIRE SPENSER was torpedoed in 57° 0' N. 37° 6' W. on 10th Dec. The Admiralty reported that the 6 hours' escort given to the convoy yesterday by Liberator H/120 at a distance of 800 miles from its base almost certainly saved the convoy from serious casualties the following night. The persistent attacks on 8th Dec. by Liberator B/120 and the long duration of her escort gave invaluable protection. It is hoped that the destruction

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.America and West Indies - contd.H.X. 217
attacked.
(Contd.)

of a U-Boat by the Liberators will be confirmed. Attacks were reported by aircraft at 0929N in 57° 25' N. 35° 19' W., at 1250 in 57° 37' N. 34° 43' W. on 2 U-Boats, at 1427N in 57° 57' N. 33° 51' W., at 1451N in 57° 45' N. 33° 45' W., at 1527N in 57° 58' N. 33° 39' W., at 1620N in 57° 56' N. 33° 37' W. and at 1643N in 58° 27' N. 33° 18' W. In an attack at 1127 oil, wreckage and parts of human bodies were found by a naval unit which was sent to investigate.

It is reported that SS. GLENLEA was sunk at 1340Z/7th Nov. in 50° N. 30° W. by a German U-Boat and that SS. EMPIRE GLADE was shelled by a German U-Boat at 0802 G.M.T./28th Nov. in 17° 16' N. 48° 44' W., causing damage and some casualties, though the ship arrived safely at Charleston.

NIGERIAN, British, was torpedoed and sunk at 1110Z in 08.32 N. 57.54 W. Another report gives position 9° 20' N. 58° 50' W. at 2305 G.M.T. today. Three British officers who were on board were taken prisoners.

Australia and New Zealand.

A.C.N.B. reports that M/S ARMIDALE was sunk by aircraft by 2 torpedoes and probably one bomb at 1530/1 whilst carrying relief personnel to Timor. She shot down one bomber and one fighter and probably a second fighter.

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Flag of R.A.A. H.F. Request the flag of R.A.A. Home Fleet may be transferred to INDOMITABLE. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1039A/8 to C. in C.H.F.).

10th C.S. Request you will administer 10th C.S. during absence of F.O.C.10th C.S. (C. in C.H.F. 1205A/8 to F.O.C.1st C.S.).

SEVERN. My 2141/11th November. In view of changed situation in Mediterranean it is proposed for consideration that SEVERN should be employed operationally under C. in C.E.F.

ii. SEVERN's limited diving depth and size render her unsuitable for operations in Mediterranean, while her habitability high speed, and long range should make her peculiarly suitable for operations in Eastern waters. She will still be a potential store-carrier.

iii. The only British S/M at present operating in eastern waters is TRUSTY who is due for refit in U.K. in mid-March.

iv. SEVERN should be ready to leave U.K. towards end of January 1943. (F.O.S. 1311A/8 to Admty).

PENELOPE, CARLISLE. When ready for Service PENELOPE and CARLISLE will rejoin the Med.Fleet. (V.C.N.S. 1650A/8).

Movements.

DUKE OF YORK. Scapa Departures DUKE OF YORK, FAULKNER, ECLIPSE, FORESTER. (A.C.O.S. 0125A/8).
Rosyth arrival DUKE OF YORK escorted by FAULKNER and FORESTER. ECLIPSE returned to Scapa before being (?sailed) for May Island. (C. in C.Rosyth 1425A/8 to A.C.O.S.).

~~FEODOR~~ LITKE KRASSIN.

^{FEODOR}
Dvina arrivals. Ice Cutter ^{LITKE} and Icebreaker KRASSIN. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1033A/8).

North Atlantic Dispositions. My 1050/7. Area Scapa - Delete DUKE OF YORK. Area Rosyth - Add DUKE OF YORK, Area Liverpool Delete ARCHER. (D.O.D.(H) 1058Z/8 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet).

W.A.Command. Situation at 1959A/8. Details. (C. in C.W.A. 1347A/8) See Lion Copy.

/BUFFOLK...

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.

1347A/8th December.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

DATE: 8.12.42.

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches. RECD: 2020

Secret Code

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

Situation at 1959A/8/12/42.Section N.E.

| | | | | |
|--------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----|
| P.223 | LA CAPRICIEUSE | 57 54 06 04 | To Scapa | 10 |
| P.49 | | | | |
| LAGAN | | 58 01 06 16 | To Tobermory | 12 |
| U.R.53 | GAVOTTE | 58 29 05 43 | 271 degs. Cape | 7½ |
| | STAFFNESS. | | Wrath 18 miles | |
| | REIGHTON WYKE | | thence | |
| | | | 59 30 09 05 | |
| W.N.70 | HORNPIPE | 58 12 05 33 | To Methil | 7½ |
| | BERKSHIRE | | | |

Section S.E.

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|------------------|-----|
| RACEHORSE | | 58 38 05 45 | To Clyde | 15 |
| Fishguard | Vicinity | 52 15 05 23 | Fishguard to | 12 |
| SPIRAEA | | | Londonderry. | |
| | | | SPIRAEA parts | |
| | | | company to | |
| | | | Liverpool. | |
| H.M.79 | DERBY COUNTY | 53 04 05 03 | To Milford Haven | 7 |
| | FIARAY | | | |
| O.N.S.M. | ROSEMARY | 51 50 05 38 | Northbound | 6 |
| 152 | GOODWIN | | | |
| | KINGSTON BERYL | | | |
| | MAID MARION | | | |
| STEWARD | INVERFORTH | 52 09 05 20 | Northbound | 9 |
| 2 M/Vs | KIRKELLA | 53 53 04 39 | To Clyde | 10½ |
| 1 M/V | WEBSTER | | To Liverpool | 16 |
| | | | Sails | |
| | | | Belfast | |
| | | | 0200A/9 | |

Section N.W.

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|----------------|----|
| IMPULSIVE | | 61 44 16 13 | To Hvalfiord | 15 |
| H.X.217 | FAME | 58 46 32 27 | To 59 25 30 36 | 9 |
| (E) | BURZA | | thence | |
| C.T.U. | POTENTILLA | | 59 06 20 31 | |
| 24.1.4. | EGLANTINE | | | |
| | ROSE | | | |
| | VERVAIN | | | |
| O.N.151 | WATCHMAN | 57 07 26 05 | To 57 01 30 58 | 9½ |
| (E) | VANSITTART | | | |
| C.T.U. | DAHLIA | | | |
| 24.1.15 | WALLFLOWER | | | |
| | MONKSHOOD | | | |
| | BORAGE | | | |

/Section S.W.

252^B

2.

Section S.W.

| | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|--------|-------------|----|
| SPEY | | 49 17 13 23 | To | 48 02 13 31 | 10 |
| ROTHER | | | | | |
| SINNEN | | | | | |
| CLARE | | | | | |
| O.N.S. 150 | BEVERLEY | 48 37 30 41 | To | 43 20 34 01 | 6½ |
| (E) | WINCHELSEA | | | | |
| C.T.U. | ANEMONE | | | | |
| 24.1.18 | ASPHODEL | | | | |
| | ABELIA | | | | |
| | CLOVER | | | | |
| K.X. 6, A | NORTHERN GIFT | 50 51 11 05 | To | 50 36 12 57 | 5 |
| (A) | NORTHERN FOAM | | thence | 46 00 14 00 | |

H.M.S. FURY sails Hvalfjord 1900A to Scapa 20.

| | | | | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|----|-------------|----|
| O.N. 151 | WATCHMAN | 57 04 26 05 | To | 54 01 30 58 | 9½ |
| C.T.U. | VANSITTART | | | | |
| 24.1.15 | DAHLIA | | | | |
| | WALLFLOWER | | | | |
| | MONKSHOOD | | | | |
| | BORAGE. | | | | |

1347A/8

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.D.O.D. (M)
D. of P. (2)
D.M.S.
Admiral Ramsey (4)

253

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.→ SUFFOLK,
GARTH,
EGLINTON.A.M. 2040/3 and 2046/6.
SUFFOLK will be ready to sail from Scapa p.m./9th
December. Request you will signal time ship
should arrive Sheerness and details of any speed
restrictions on passage or S.A. escorts necessary
(C. in C.H.F. 1354A/8 to C. in C.Nore).Your 1354/8. Request SUFFOLK may be sailed to pass
Flamborough Head at 0630/10 or, if this is not practicable,
at 0630/11. She is required to arrive Sheerness at 1630 on
either day. 2 destroyers from this command will be sailed to
provide escort as soon as intended date of sailing is known.
2. If sailing can be delayed until 10th Nore destroyers will
meet SUFFOLK before dark that day between May Island and
Aberdeen.3. No speed restrictions required north of Barrow Deep. Route
by swept channel and QZS. 277 and 287.

(C. in C.Nore 1802A/8 to C. in C.H.F.).

Your 1802/8. Ship will be sailed to pass Flamborough
Head at 0630/11.

(C. in C.H.F. 2159A/8 to C. in C.Nore).

Comply with C. in C.Nore 1802/8th. Pass Flamborough Head
at 0630/11th.

(C. in C.H.F. 2229A/8 to SUFFOLK).

S/M
Positions.At 0800A/9. Details.
(F.O.S. 1616A/8 and 2041A/8).
See Lion Copy.→ SUFFOLK,
GARTH
EGLINTON.Leave Sheerness at 1400/9th R/V with EGLINTON
at 51 buoy at 1600. Proceed thence by swept
channel in force and adjusting your speed as
necessary to be off May Island at 1100/10th.
Weather permitting proceed thence North bySwept Channel at 15 knots until SUFFOLK is met between May Island
and Aberdeen when you are to form escort for her to Sheerness
passing Flamborough Head at 0630/11, arriving destination
1630/11 by A.M. QZS 277 and 287.

(C. in C.Nore 2252A/8 to GARTH, EGLINTON).

TUNA.

Your 1802/8. Well done.

Proceed diving by day to Plymouth through
position (A) 046° 01', 003.59 (B) 048.04, 006.01.
to R/V at (C) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 1400A/11th December
with escort as arranged by C. in C. Plymouth.
(F.O.S. 2209A/8 to TUNA).

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1616A/8 Dec. IN
 From - F.O.S. Date - 8.12.42
 Recd. 1658
 P.L. by T.P.

Addressed - Admiralty.

248. Positions of S/M's at 0800A/9th December and movements for next 24 hours.

- (A) P. 223, P. 49, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE, *in Parallel Firth;*
 * ~~PENELAND FIRTH~~, due Scapa 0900/9th December.
 * *handwritten mark 9/42.*
- (B) TUNA in Biscay South zone. *see pp 253 & 254. 9th Dec page.*
- (C) GURNARD in zone K.505
- (D) THRASHER crosses 43 degs. North in 1315 W at
 0130A/10th December course 360 degs. Dived
 by day speed of advance 160 miles per day. *see p. 262.*

1616A/8

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

A.C.N.S. (E)
 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. /S.W.
 Hd. of M.
 W.D.
 I.P. (2)
 D.T.D. (M)

DAT.

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

2041A/8 Dec.

From: F.O.S.

DATE: 8 Dec. 1942. ^{IN}

RECD: 2048.

P/L by T/P.

Addressed: Admiralty.

252.

My 1616/8.

Amend para. (B) to read:-

(B) TUNA approximately 44 degs. 15 mins. North 06 degs.
40 mins. West proceeding to area K.501.

2041A/8. *See pp 253, 253^A 7254*

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt., D.O.D.(H),

A.C.N.S.(H).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pin. Admiralty Hse.
D.O.D.(H)(2).
D.D.O.D.(14)
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.(H).
D.O.D.(F)(2).

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols.

1. Movements affecting Patrols tonight
P.W.260 (S.O. Escort ESKDALE) leaves
Needles 1700.

W.P.260 (S.O. Escort ST ALBANS) arrives Durlestone Buoy 0800.
2. ALBRIGHTON, M.G.B.'s 616 (S.O) and 608 proceed to Yarmouth before dark and if weather permits to patrol between 245° St. Catherines 15' and 245° St. Catherines 35', passing Needles at 1800 and 0800. Keep to Southward of Convoys during their passage. Codeword "Service" A/C are patrolling Southward of Convoys West of Line 160° from Portland Bill.
3. CHASSEURS 41 (S.O), 14, and 5 patrolling South of E.A.5 Buoy. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1415/8).

Night 8th/9th M.Ls 139 and 293 patrolling between S.W. Gate and D buoys.

(V.A. Dover 1719A/8).

Carry out patrol 2 tomorrow. Proceed Humber on completion and carry out patrol one on Friday night, returning to Sheerness on completion.

(Capt. D.21 1720/8 to CATTISTOCK).

Operation
"Frankton"
(TUNA).

p. 2.53

Operation "Frankton" completed at 2100A/7th. Estimated P.C. and S. at 2300A/8th will be 044. N. 005. W, 280°, 9 knots. (TUNA 1802A/8 to F.O.S.).

TUNA
Patrol.

p. 2.53

Your 1802/8. Well done. Proceed through 044.20 N. 007.01 W. to patrol area K 501. Homing restrictions arranged. (F.O.S. 2101A/8 to TUNA).

Exercises.

MALAYA.

MALAYA proposes to carry out S.A. trials referred to in Admty 2235/3rd on 12th and her D.G. ranging on 13th before sailing so as to R/V with escort at Eyebroughy Buoy at 1500/13th. Thereafter proceeding to Scapa carrying out 4-inch and pom-pom gun trials on passage.

2. This programme is dependent on the maximum progress in embarking ammunition. If necessary an amending signal for the time of R/V will be made p.m. Friday 11th.

3. Request destroyer escort be detailed. (C. in C. Rosyth 1820A/8 to C. in C.H.F.).

Allied Air Activity.

Cover for
Convoys
P.W.260 &
W.P.260.

Whiteley A/C of 19th Group will carry out two anti E-Boat cross over patrols from 1830 today till dawn 9th to cover passage of convoys.

2. Eastern patrol between positions.

(a) 215 Portland Bill 23.

(b) 335 Cap de la Hague 14.

255

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Cover for (c) 155 Start Point 41.
 Convoys (d) 150 Start Point 19.
 P.W.260 & Western Patrol between positions:-
 W.P.260 (c) (d) (e) 180 Eddystone 17.
 Contd. (f) 180 Eddystone 37.

3. Convoy escorts are not to leave vicinity of convoys, unless ordered, or unless requested by A/C to attack damaged enemy.

4. Subject to above conditions A/C have freedom to attack all contacts south of line joining positions (e) (d) (a) and (g) 160 Portland Bill 18.
 (C. in C.Plymouth 1155A/8 to Escorts).
 My 1155. Air Patrol will not be carried out until weather, now unsuitable, improves, Escorts will be notified if Patrol is put on.
 (C. in C.Plymouth 1631A/8 to Escorts, P.W.260 and W.P.260).

Enemy Air Activity.

Faroes. One A/C identified as JU.88 reconnoitred Thorshavn at 1240 today and flew off in S.E. direction.
 (N.O.I.C.Faroes 1856A/8).

Mining.

Sweep of QZS.386. Intend sailing DALMATIA and REBOUND for Portsmouth at 0800 tomorrow proceeding by Q.Z.S. 382 and sweeping along Q.Z.S.386 to N.I. buoy.
 E.T.A.Needles 1400/9.
 (F.O.I.C.Portland 1439/8).

Harwich. At 1230A/8 one Magnetic Mine exploded by Sweepers in 51.48.38 N. 01.43.37 E. Details.
 (F.O.I.C.Harwich 1733A/8).

Iceland. Your 1401/7 and your 1415/7. Suggest low percentage of searching sweeps should be carried out progressively westward.
 2. It is essential to make full use of sweepers whilst they are available.
 (C. in C.H.F. 1839A/8 to A.C.I.C.).

U/Boats.

U-Boats reported. D/F Bearings at 0039Z indicate U/Boat in vicinity of convoy and may have reported it (D.D.I.C. 0137Z/8 to Escorts O.N.151).
 D/F at 1056Z indicates U/Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.
 (D.D.I.C. 1319A/8 to Escorts O.N.151.)
 Am over enemy S/M in 58.23 N. 033.00 W. S/M was sighted on the surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 040°, estimated speed 10 knots.
 (A/C Nilw Duty M 1515N/8 to 15 or 19 Group).

/am.....

256

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - con. fr.

U-Boats Am over enemy S/M in 58.13 N. 33.17 W. Enemy
Reported. was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
Contd. When first sighted was on course (?169° or 262°),
speed 12 knots.
(A/C NIUM.1558N/8).

Am over enemy S/M in 58.30 N. 32.32 W. Enemy was sighted
on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was
on course 040°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C NIUM 1618N/8).

U/Boats Am over enemy S/M in 57.25 N. 35.19 W. Enemy
attacked. was on surface when first sighted on course
020°, speed 10 knots. Have attacked enemy with
depth-charges.
(A/C NIU.Duty B. 0929M/8).

Am over two enemy S/Ms in 57.37 N. 34.43 W. Enemy
was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first
sighted was on course 030°, speed 10 knots. Attacked enemy
with depth-charges.

(A/C NIUB 1250/8).

Am over enemy S/M in 57.57 N. 33.51 W. Was sighted on
surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on
course 328°, speed 10 knots. Have attacked enemy with cannon.
(A/C NIU.Duty B. 1427N/8).

Am over enemy S/M in position DMNM 4515. 57.45 N. 33.45 W.
Enemy was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When
first sighted was on course 028°, estimated speed 10 knots.
Have attacked enemy with cannon.

(A/C NIU Duty B. 1451N/8).

Am over enemy S/M in 57.58 N. 33.39 W. Enemy was sighted on
surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on
course 343°, estimated speed 10. Have attacked enemy with
cannon.

(A/C NI4B. 1525N/8).

Am over enemy S/M in 57.56 N. 33.37 W. Enemy was on the
surface. When first sighted was on course 052°, estimated
speed 10 knots. Have attacked enemy with cannon and estimate
9 hits.

(A/C N2UB.1620N/8).

Am over enemy S/M in 58.27 N. 33.18 W. Enemy was on
surface when first sighted, on course 030°, estimated speed 10
knots. Have attacked enemy with cannon.

(A/C NIUB. 1643N/8).

U/Boats Their Lordships consider that the attack by
sunk by Liberator Aircraft H of 224 Squadron on 20th
A/C. October, 1942, achieved the destruction of a
U/Boat. U. 216 - See 20/10 - p. 613.

2. They also consider that the attack by Fortress A/C F of 206
Squadron on 27th October, 1942, probably achieved the
destruction of a U/Boat. *U. 627 See R. (Com: 7030/10/10 9 Cont. 6482)

3. They request that Their congratulations may be conveyed to
these concerned with these successes.

(1st S.L. 1611A/8 to Air Ministry). *Pos: 54°14'N. 22°49'W.

U/B sunk by Their Lordships consider that your attack on a
GRAPH on 21st U/Boat on 21st October, 1942, probably achieved
October. its destruction.

Not confirmed by 2. They congratulate GRAPH on this success.
(1st S.L.1617A/8 to GRAPH). See 27/10 - p. 839.

Com: 7030/10/10
p. 6443.

257

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- Dinghy. Departure HSL.251 to search for Dinghy in 52.20 N. 02.40 E.
(F.O.I.C.Gt Yarmouth 1129A/8).
- BURWELL. My 2036/30th. BURWELL has damaged propellor and will not be ready to sail with O.N.S.154.
(C. in C.W.A. 1351Z/8 to F.O.N.F.).
- FIDELITY. Engineer Officer on my Staff has visited FIDELITY and has a most unfavourable impression of the efficiency and condition of the engine room Department and organisation. Request you arrange for an inspection of FIDELITY's engine room department and forward a report on her seagoing efficiency.
(C. in C.W.A. 1715A/8 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool).
My 1715/8/12. Following received from F.O.I.C.Liverpool begins:- After inspecting the engine rooms of FIDELITY my P.E.R.O.(Eng) reports they are in a very uncared for and deplorable condition. He considers the senior engineer officer is quite unsuitable to be in charge of the engine room complement which is composed of 30 British Ratings and 3 French Ratings. I concur and consider he should be relieved forthwith by an engineer officer of Lieut. Commander's rank to ~~the~~ senior to the existing French Engineer Officer. 1924A/8 Ends.
I personally visited this ship yesterday and formed a very unfavourable opinion of the senior engineer officer whose manner and bearing showed that he is overborne by his responsibilities and unfitted in my opinion to be in charge of a ship which is likely to have to undertake special and onerous duties. Request immediate action be taken to implement F.O.I.C. Liverpool's proposal in view of Admiralty's 1725/6/12.
(C. in C.W.A. 2245A/8 to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X. 217. Convoy attacked at 0127Z/8. 2 ships torpedoed.
2 ships P.C.S. at 0200Z/8, 057.00 N. 027.06 W. 045°, 9
torpedoed. knots.
See p. 278 (FAME 0217Z/8 to C. in C.W.A.).
- U.R.54. LOCHNAGAR will embark R.A.F., 2 Officers and 48
LOCHNAGAR. ORS.a.m./12th at Tail of Bank for Iceland.
2. Arrangements should be made to sail vessel
with U.R.54.
(D.S.T. 0227A/8).
- P.S.8, P.S.8 and S.P.8 cancelled.
S.P.8. (C. in C. Portsmouth 0845A/8).
- E.N.72. Your 1837/7. Concur.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1003A/8 to Admty).

258

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S.5. Intend sailing, LONDONDERRY, LULWORTH, WOODSTOCK, PRESCOTT, REGINA, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA, CALGARY, KITCHENER from Lough Foyle 1000A/9, arriving Clyde 1800A/9.
2. HASTINGS and CAMROSE will sail 2000A/9th arriving Clyde daylight 10th.
3. BIDEFORD delayed by defects will be sailed to join in position P. A.M./1600A/5th refers.
4. LOUISBURG is damaged and will not sail.
(Cdre. Londonderry 1057A/8).
A.M. 2137/30. Para.1. Delete INGERFIRE.
Destination of KAFIRISTAN and ITTERSUM is Gibraltar in the first instance.
(D.O.D.(H) 1925A/8 to C. in C.W.A.).
- E.N.71.F. My 1125/21. E.N.71 (F) is postponed 12 hours to include important ship.
Admiralty's 1617/30/11 refers.
(C. in C.Rosyth 1113A/8 to Admty).
- BB.Convoys. Your 1615/5 para.2. Concur.
(D.T.D. 1123A/8 to C. in C.W.A.).
- LADY OF MANN. F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1116A/6. Intend sailing LADY OF MANN escorted by WRESTLER at 0200A/9. S.O.A. 16 knots, to Weymouth Light Vessel, thereafter 9 knots. E.T.A. Bar Ship 1100A/9.
(F.O.I.C.Belfast 1246A/8 to F.O.I.C.Liverpool).
- K.X.6.A. EMPIRE NED with MORAY in tow lost contact ~~of with~~
See next page Convoy in low visibility, position 051.15, 009.20. Searched wide area, negative contact.
Weather 4462, 1357.
(NORTHERN GIPT 1530/8 to F.O.I.C.Milford Haven).
- W.S.25. My 1328/5 not to N.C.X.F. Cancel paras. 5, 6 and 7 and substitute new paras.5.
Destroyer escort will be provided by (a) QUILLIAM HAYDON, ROCKWOOD. (b) 2 Destroyers from W.A.Command.
6. When in vicinity of Azores S.O. of Escorts is to detach QUILLIAM and the "Hunt" with best endurance to fuel at Ponta Delgada rejoin convoy and provide through escort to Freetown and Cape.
7. On these destroyers rejoining, remainder are to be detached to fuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently proceeding the "Hunt" to Gibraltar as directed by N.C.X.F.(A.M. 2215/27 November refers) the other two to U.K. as directed by C. in C.W.A.
8. Para.1 add CITY OF LINCOLN to Liverpool portion.
(D.O.D.(H) 1616A/8).
- D.S.35. *N.T.H.3.*
A.M. 1325/22nd November and C. in C.W.A. 1020 and 1028/2nd December. WELLS and LANCASTER should not proceed to Scapa. Request you will sail them from Port Z.A. to provide escort for D.S.35 as ordered by N.O.I.C.Greenock.
(A.C.O.S. 1851/8 to R.A.M.).

/QUEEN....

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

QUEEN MARY,
QUEEN
ELIZABETH

A.M. 1045/18 April para.2.
Both QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELIZABETH are expected to
be berthed at Tail of the Bank from p.m./17th
to p.m./20th December.
(D.O.D.(H) 1944A/8 to Air Ministry).

K.X. 6A.
endeavour to locate EMPIRE NED towing MORAY and rejoin convoy.
The other Trawler is to remain with AQUILLA. Report situation
at 1200/9.

(C. in C.W.A. 2325A/8 to NORTHERN GIFT). *See previous page.*

H.M. 79

Your position by R.D.F. is 053. 08 N. 004.52 W.
at 2342.A.
(N.O.I.C.Liverpool 2349A/8 to DERBY COUNTY).

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.Attacks on
U/Bs.

N.C.X.F. 1341/23. Written reports of the following attacks on U-boats have not yet been received.

LORD NUFFIELD 10th Nov. URSULA 11th Nov.
SPEEDWELL 8th Nov. VENOMOUS 12th Nov. LOTUS 13th
Nov. VERITY 11th Nov.
(D.A/S.W., 1732A/8 to N.C.X.F.)Civilian
Stores for
N. Africa.

Abfor London advises that following merchandise will be shipped and consigned to North Africa Economic Board Algiers in K.M.5 and K.M.6 for civilian consumption; 200 tons soap, 250 tons condensed milk, 100 tons coffee beans, 10 tons black tea, 300 tons sugar.

As they are taken out of rationed stores, British Departments ask us to inform you they hope above items may be replaced by U.S. in U.K.
(Algiers, 2255Z/8 to Usfor).Raiders.

Intelligence. My 2155/1. (1) Norwegians from RAMSES report as follows:- Raider 10 (known to be Raider "E") arrived Yokohama 6th Oct. 1942 for six weeks refit. Raider 28 (considered to be Raider "H") is now in Indian Ocean. These reports are probably accurate. (2) NURMAHAL overdue at Charleston since 19th Nov. 1942 from Capetown. REYNOLDS overdue at Karachi since 20th Nov. 1942 from Durban. No evidence of cause of non-arrival. (3) Blockade runners. Report graded B.1. states PIETRO ORSEOLO left Batavia 20th Nov. 1942. Ship left Biscay about 2nd Oct. 1942 and may, therefore, have left Batavia for Japan. BELGRANO, CATARACTE, BURGENLAND and SILVAPLANA could by now have reached Japanese controlled waters. KOTA NOPAN could be in Pacific or Indian Oceans. SPICHERN, ANTARKTIS and MAX ALBRECHT still at Ferrol 7th Dec. 1942. Slight D/F indications that German Merchant Ship was on passage between Japan and Malaya between 26th Nov. 1942 and 5th Dec. 1942. PERSEE and other ships possibly on passage to Europe from Far East.
(D.D.I.C., 1704A/8 to A.I.G. 13 etc).

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

K.M.S.4 Arrival WOODRUFF, CROCUS with Gibraltar Section K.M.S.4.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0128/8 to Admty. N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)

Air Report. Op. Summary for 24 hrs. ended midnight 7 Dec. U/B attacks. Catalina D/210 at 1015/7 in 36° 21' N., 2° 35' W. sighted U/B in act of surfacing CO 140° 6 knots attacked with 4 D/Cs which fell 150 ft. from swirl on back of U/B no results observed. Catalina A/210 at 1105/7 in 36.25 N., 08.29 W. sighted U/B 4 miles distant A/C dived to attack but U/B had submerged 05234 1 min. before position was reached no attack made. Wellington R/179 at 0312/7 in HXP 5510 made contact 5 miles on port beam light switched on. But nothing observed until U/B seen 200 yds. to port too close for attack to be made but Rear Gunner fired 100 rounds and estimates hits round C/T. Wellington X/179 at 2018/7 in 36° 48' N., 1° 26' W. CO 320° 10 knots. Sighted fully surfaced U/B which opened fire at A/C when ½ mile distant with MG or Cannon. A/C attacked with D/Cs which exploded close to U/B completely obscuring amidships. Rear Gunner also opened fire further results not seen. A/C set course for base as Wellington X/179 had Wing and overload tanks damaged by gunfire from U/B.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0738Z/8, 0740/8).

Movements Arrival EXE.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0742A/8 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)
Arrival Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA, H.M.S. VANOC, H.M.S. SANDWICH.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0748A/8 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., S.N.O. Casablanca Area).
Arrival H.M.T. ARCTIC RANGER escorting Trawler PORT PATRICK.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1843A/8 to Admty).
Arrival SAMPHIRE from Almeria..
(F.O.C. Gib. 1845A/8 to Admty. N.C.X.F.)

Spain, chances of German occupation. Please note that A.M.1348/6 addressed N.C.X.F. and given a Most Secret distribution has been passed to B.A.D. Washington and N.A. Madrid under T.O.O. 0804A/8.
(H.W.R. Request of N.I.D.20).

French Ships for Dakar. V.A. Gibraltar 1647/7th F.O.C.N.A.'s 2327/7th N.C.X.F.'s 1809/7th F.O.C. West Africa's 1111/7th for P.C.473 my 061745. Escort of convoy "Sampson" through additional point T 023° 21' N., 017° 58' W. You will be relieved by ILEX and trawlers at point T at 1700Z/12th Dec. Guard 2410 k/cs R/T voice call "Dreamy" W/T call "Nald".
Transfer convoy orders at R/V.
(S.N.O. Casablanca) 0845Z/8 to C.T.U.26.7.1. F.O.C.W.A., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, N.C.X.F. Admty.)

/SIDI...

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- SIDI IFNI Your 1632/7th Spanish SIDI IFNI, ship and cargo seized.
(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar, 1005/8 to M.E.W.)
- P. 221
See p. 263 Capt. (S) 8, 1154/6th Dec. In order to reduce width bombing restrictions request you will route 221 on THRASHER's route given in my 1047/6th Dec. transmit as G.S. Number 289.
(F.O.S., 1046A/8 to S.O. S/Ms Gibraltar, (R) Admty. THRASHER, C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. (S) 8 P.221, Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5, H.Q.C.C., V.A. Gibraltar).
- K.X.7 Arrival O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, LAUDERDALE, MELBREAK with A.K.X.7.
(F.O.C. Gib., 1156A/8 to Admty. C. in C. W.A., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
K.X.7 arrived (12 ships) (V.A. Gib.1710/8 to Admty)
- KAULDI Spanish 59 (KAULDI) left harbour (corrupt group) party 0330 G.M.T./8th.
(Consul Bilbao, 1230/8 to Admty (R) M.E.W., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib).
- Loss of AVENGER. Ref. 1933/24 Nov. MACHARDA was number 23 in convoy astern of AVENGER which was number 22. When the attack commenced MACHARDA was about two cables astern of AVENGER course 271° speed 12 knots and not zig-zagging. About 0307 an explosion was heard on the port bow and the signal was given for an emergency turn to starboard 45° by the Commodore on SAMUEL CHASE. On the turn explosions were heard in the direction of ALMAACK and ETTRICK then AVENGER was hit on the port side amidships. There was a high column of water then a second explosion a few seconds later and the midship section was blown right out and the vessel collapsed in the middle. She was immediately enveloped in flames of a dull red colour which rose to a great height then the bow and stern rose in the air and sank very quickly: the bow disappeared first. A buoy with light attached was seen floating after the stern sank and snowflakes were fired at this time from all the ships. Men were seen jumping through the flames into the sea and others sliding down the flight deck into the flames. From the time the vessel was hit until she disappeared was about two minutes.
(MACHARDA, 1235/8 to Admty).
- P. 228 Capt. (S) 8 1230/7th P.228 sailed 0835.
(V.A. Gib. 1305A/8 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) N.C.X.F. Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).

/Midget...

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.

1331A/8th December.
 MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
 Date. 8.12.42.
 From. V.A. Gibraltar. Recd. 1936.
 Naval Cypher 3 (S) By W/T.

Addressed. Situation report for Area X of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation 1953A 8th.

1. H.M.S. THRASHER, 039 degs. 42' 010 degs. 59' to 042 degs. 59' 013 degs. 15' diving by day 2½ knots surfacing by night 11. *See p. 253A*
2. H.M. S/M. P.211, 037 degs. 27' 009 degs. 21' course degrees 333 diving by day 2½ knots surfacing by night 11.
3. H.M.S. ARCTIC RANGER, 1 trawler, 035 degs. 58' 005 degs. 46' to Gibraltar 8. *See p. 261.*
4. Hospital ship ATLANTIC, 37 40 17 30 through 40 01 17 01 thence 011 degs. (?13).
5. 2 M.F.V., 37 34 10 01 through 36 31 09 35 to Gibraltar 5½.
6. United States MINROW, (?219 degs.) 8 French M.V., 31 27 10 08 through 29 30 10 30 to 28 40 12 40 8. *Not in List.*
7. M.K.S. 3 (X). TAY, WEAR, LYME REGIS, H.M.S. ARDROSSAN, H.M.S. DUNBAR, H.M.S. WORTHING, H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. COREOPSIS, 036 degs. 01' 005 degs. 57' 274 degs. 7½. *See p. 264*
8. Cable ship, and 1 (one) trawler, 26 16 15 28 through 27 40 13 41 and 28 41 13 02 thence to 038 degs. 9½.
9. 2 U.S. Destroyers, one merchant ship, sailed 0700A 9th from Casablanca coastwise to Gibraltar 8.
10. U.S.S. STANSBURY, searching vicinity 34 55 11 (?40)
11. SPIEY, ROTHER, H.M.S. SENNEN, CLARE, 47 02 (?13) 31 130 degs. 12. *See next page*

1331A/3.

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

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

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Midget S/M. Night 7/8. Italian midget submarine attempted harbour entry at 0215 hours. Spotted by R.A. sentry at T.3 illuminated and engaged by R.A. with S.A. fire and depth charges from T.3 and T.2. Crew of two were picked up shortly afterwards by merchant vessel anchored off detached mole. Submarine presumed abandoned by crew and sunk. Crew very uncommunicative up to date but commander stated that he had been brought to neighbourhood of Gibraltar by a submarine. Investigation proceeding by V.A. Gibraltar.. (Govr. Gib. 1430/8 to W.O.) *See W/R. 198/58, 296/19*

P.221 *See p. 262* F.O.(S) 1046/8th. Pass position 037° 27' 009° 21' W., at 2000 8th and then proceed direct to pass position K.042° 59' 013° 15' At 0130/11th. Shift W/T watch at that time.

2. Bombing restrictions arranged accordingly.
3. Your onward route is through (J) 049° 10' 013° 22' (I) 049° 50' 012° 34' (H) 049° 50' 009° 00' (B) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles (A) 180 Lizard Head 12 miles. (Capt. S.8., 1450A/8 to P.221 (R) H.Q.C.C., S.O.(S) Gibraltar Admiralty V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.(S) Capt. (S)3, THRASHER, Capt. (S) 5).

ENTERPRISE (1) ENTERPRISE leaving Ponta Delgada 2002A/8th 013° 19. (V.A. Gib. 1456A/8 to Area Y). ENTERPRISE arrived Ponta Delgada 1730 G.M.T./8th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1530/8 to S.O.(I) Gib).

Fast Convoy It will be practicable to sail fast convoy about for U.S.A. 12 Dec. SANTA MARIA, SANTA MONICA, EXAMINER, (S.N.O. F. 2.) BARNEGAT escorted by Desdiv 19 with *SALAMONICA as oiler retaining MATTOLE with Task Force 37 and retaining Mindiv 21 to escort ALMAACK.

Detachment Mindiv 19 will leave this frontier without any escort vessel with speed and communication equipment adequate for command of convoy escort and for proper co-ordinating with air in anti-submarine warfare. Request early instructions in order that routing may be obtained from Admiralty if return of D.M.S. desired. Gibraltar pass to Cinclant. *? SALAMONIE *in file* (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1610Z/8 to Cinclant, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Admty) Reply from Cinclant, 1428/9 see America & West Indies.

SPEY, Onward routing from position (D) to (E) 039° 01' N., 013° 01' W. (F) 036° 30' N., 009° 35' W. ROTHER, (G) 035° 53' N., 005° 59' W. thence Gibraltar. SENNEN, (V.A. Gib. 1612A/8 to SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, CLARE. H.M.S. CLARE, (R) Admty. C. in C. Western Approaches, N.C.X.F.) *See previous page*

War Diary.

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Casablanca
convoy
facilities.

Until port of Casablanca is cleared and docks repaired 5 days inadequate for unloading a fast convoy. Effective unloading time reduced to about 3 days by time required for entrance and sorties for rigging merchant ships for unloading and for securing their hatches and holds for sea.

Strongly recommend convoy schedule be amended accordingly to avoid undue risk to the ships of succeeding slow convoys. N.C.X.F. pass to Cominch Cinclant for information. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1630Z/8 to NC.X.F. (R) Cinclant, Cominch). Reply: 2003/9.

M.K.S.3 (X)

See p. 262 - A

Sailed 1800 TAY, WEAR, ARDROSSAN, LYME REGIS, WORTHING, DUNBAR, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL with Gibraltar section M.K.S. 3 (X). ~~COREOPSIS, JONQUIL with Gibraltar section M.K.S. 3 (X).~~
COREOPSIS, JONQUIL Q.Z.H. 971 less 965 970 Q.Z.L. 52 Q.Z.S. 388 Q.Z.X. 884 Q.Z.Y. 366.
(F.O.C. Gib. 1836A/8 to Admty etc).

M.K.S.3 (X). Gibraltar section sailing as in my 1053/6th plus LEWANT, less WILLODALE and BRISK, Lisbon ships FLAMINIAN and BARON FORBES will not join. Gibraltar ships hold Incon 290 Mersigs volume III and S.P.02272 (21) and (22) Commodore holds Incon 290 stragglers have been instructed to open out to 30 miles to starboard of ocean route. Destinations unknown except as in your 2043/2nd.

(V.A. Gib. 1901A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers).

WILLODALE and BRISK did not sail BARON FORBES and FLAMINIAN not joining.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1902/8 to Escorts of convoy K.M.S.3 (X) for Cdre).

Ships for
Casablanca.

Your 1530/7. Propose using two destroyers escorting CHILBRAN to escort CONTESSA salvage ship SALVESTOR and CAUDEBEC to Casablanca sailing p.m./10th. If you are still unable to accept CAUDEBEC request I may be informed.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1927A/8 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F.)

CERAMIC
probably
lost.

German broadcast claims sinking of CERAMIC west of Azores. This is considered probable and there are indications that sinking may have occurred on night of 6th/7th Dec. between position 41° 30' N., 41° 35' W., and 39° 20' N., 39° 00' W. Ship carried 350 passengers.

As we have no ships in the vicinity we would greatly appreciate Portuguese assistance in searching for survivors.

(D.T.D. 1934A/8 to N.A. Lisbon, (R) V.A. Gib. Connav).

(Retained from A.N. 149)

War Diary.

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

POLYDORUS
survivors.

Your 1859/7. Request that consulate at Cadiz be urgently asked to facilitate passage of survivors to Gibraltar, avoiding delay and possible contact with German authorities who might offer repatriation to Dutch and obtain important information from them.

(M. Br. 1958A/8 to N.A. Madrid, (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
Reply 1355/9.

U/B attacked

Have attacked S/M in position 036° 02' N., 006° W.

(S.O. 30th Escort Group, 2312A/8 to V.A. Gib).

My 2312. Submarine dived and was attacked.

Have lost contact. Have instructed LEITH to remain in the vicinity until daylight. Remaining escort have rejoined convoy.

(S.O. 30th Escort Group 2355A/8 to V.A. Gibraltar)

South Atlantic.

CORINTHIAN

Following is a repetition my 0007/8th to Rio de Janeiro (begins) My 1227Z/2nd E.T.A. CORINTHIAN at Rio de Janeiro 1501Z/13th Dec. (ends).

(R.A.W.A., 0009Z/8 to N.A. Rio de Janeiro (R) CORINTHIAN Admty).

Movements

Arrived NAPIER. *See pp. 277A & B*
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0441Z/8 to Admty etc).

Arrival 8th Dec. DESPATCH. *See p. 267*
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1249Z/8 to Admty etc).

Departure 0700Z/8th F.F.A D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES

M.Ls. 209, 302, E.T.A. Freetown p.m./12th Dec. 1800Z/8 NORWICH CITY, STELLA POLARIS, Lagos 0800Z/10th Dec.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1800Z/8 to Admty etc).

Departure 8th Dec. U.S. Destroyer* BELKNAP U.S. Destroyer

MOFFETT, H.M. Transport BANFORA.

(R.O. Pernambuco 1855Z/8 to Admty). * *See appendix 1000*

JEREMIAH
WADSWORTH.
(sunk 27 Nov).

JEREMIAH WADSWORTH hit by 3 torpedoes at 1640C/27 Nov. in 039° 25' S., 022° 23' E. 4th torpedo missed. Vessel sank at 1723/27th after forward bulkhead collapsed.

2. U-boat surfaced and spoke to survivors who are divided in opinion whether U-boat German or Italian.

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - *cont'd.*

JEREMIAH
WADSWORTH.
(sunk 27th
Nov). Contd.

3. Medium size tall C/T without markings grey very rusty one 4 inch gun forward unusual counter stern high out of water like Duck's tower.

4. 18 survivors landed from "ALCANTARA", 19 rescued by JOHN LYKES being taken to Trinidad. (?one) boat unaccounted for. Names of landed survivors follow in my 1029/8. ** Same p. 267*

5. Master complains deck cargo loaded New Orleans was plastered with destination labels and states was told his approx. route by Second Officer of another ship at New Orleans. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1026C/8 to Admty. B.A.D. Washington. (R) C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Colombo).

ST. WISTAN

Cancel my 1013/7th Dec. *N.T.A. N.D.*
(S.O. (I) Freetown, 1251Z/8 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).
Departure 8th Dec. ST. WISTAN.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 2009Z/8 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst (Gambia)).

COMMANDANT
BORY.
(M/s - (40150))

French Admty. request we inform you small French Steamer COMMANDANT BORY sailed 8th Dec. for Dakar for Port Bouet route coastal speed 10. (S.N.O.C.A., 1700Z/8 to F.O.C. West Africa). */C. B. B. B.*

Convoy
"Sampson"
for Dakar.

Your 2351Z/7th. Departure 1800Z/8th Dec. Trawlers DUNCTON, DUNKERY, BUTSER routed through position (T) to R/V with convoy "Sampson" in position (X). Trawlers keep continuous watch on 500 k/cs. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1830Z/8 to R.A.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

Lagos,
explosion
5 Dec.

Ref. 1345/5 Dec. No news of explosion at Lagos yet released. Governor considers early release desirable to prevent wild rumours. Suggested announcement. Request I may be informed of Admty's view repeated N.O.I.C. Lagos for Governor Nigeria.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1940Z/8 to Admty (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos).

Ref. 1345/5th Dec. from R.N.O. Lagos, I have today inspected damage at Lagos. Unlikely BENGALI, SPANIARD, CANNA can be salvaged but wrecks must be moved to clear wharf and channel. Great difficulty anticipated in doing this with local appliances. Suggest possibility of sending camel and 8 inch wire hawser be considered. Alternative of removing wrecks by explosives considered dangerous in view of explosives which may still be on board. KELT has very severe structural damage from stem to boiler room. Probability possibly of making seaworthy for passage to Cape for reconstruction of fore part. Further report will be made after docking. Dockyard in action and nearly all machinery intact but numerous damage to buildings many of which may have to be rebuilt. Naval stores and boom sub-depot seriously damaged. Floating dock undamaged. I consider Apapa dockyard will be able to continue naval work

/without...

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. 1141C/8th Dec. IN

From:-- C. in C. South Atlantic. Date. 8/12/42.
Recd. 1234.

N. CYPHER (3) M Ly. W/T

Addressed:-- Ships in Area Q of S.A. Station.
Admiralty N.L.O. E. London. Omdro. I/C. Durban.
F.O.C..W. Africa. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 034 degs 52' South
020 degs 57' East to Capetown 16 knots expected time
of arrival 0200Z/9th. H.M.S. ROCKROSE, 034 degs 55'
South 019 degs 40' East to Simonstown 13 knots,
expected time of arrival 0400Z/9th. H.M.S. CAPETOWN,
from East London, expected time of arrival Durban 0300
Z/9th. CECILE MARINSON, leave East London P.M. 8th for
Capetown. H.M.S. FREESIA, H.M.S. NIGELLA, with convoy
D.N.5, leave Durban 1100Z/8th for the North.

1141C/8.

Advance Copy. 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. Fin.
D.O.D.(H)(2).
D.O.D.(F)(2).
Duty Capt.(2).
U.S.N.
D.V.S.W.
Hd. of M.
D.D.I.C.(2).
I.P.(2).
D.T.D.(M).
D.T.D.(3).

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - con/7.Lagos
explosion,
5 Dec.
Contd.

without serious interruption. Governor has ordered full enquiry by judge Supreme Court sitting with Assessor. Intend to order ^{*}DESPATCH to Lagos to hold naval enquiry after evidence at Government enquiry (?has been) taken. (F.O.C.W.A., 2340Z/8 to Admty). Reply: Admty. 1636A/10.

*See p. 265

M/V ashore.

Following received from (BDQT) GEO. H. JONES:- SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT of Capetown ashore Fort Rock Point. (?Have) investigated, no sign of crew, (?2) boats on beach. (Simonstown, 1945 G.M.T./8 to Admty).

ALCANTARA

See p. 266

Following is a repetition of my 1233C/6 (Received undecypherable) addressed. Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F., (begins) Simonstown arrival 6th ALCANTARA (ends). (C. in C. S.A., 2135C/8)

Shipping
Routes.

In order to avoid area in which U-boats are estimated to be operating in St. Paul's Rocks vicinity propose following temporary routeing for north and westbound ships from South Africa.

(A) Coal burners of 12 knots and over and all oil-burners to keep east of 20° W. till north of 10° N.

(B) Ships for U.S. East Coast in (A) above to proceed direct to Chesapeake keeping north of 10° N., till west of 40° W., and bunkering at Freetown or St. Thomas if necessary.

(C) Coal-burners of under 12 knots for ports in U.S. area to keep south of the Equator till west of 40° W.

2. Speed qualification (A) above is imposed on account of limited coal bunkers stocks at Freetown. When adequate stocks are available, and if U-boat situation remains as at present it is proposed that shipping concerned should be equally divided between routes in (A) and (C) above, speed limit in (A) being reduced as necessary.

3. As this suggested routeing is temporary only and liable to modification at short notice, it is not proposed to amend M.A.R.I. (D.T.D., 2150Z/8 to Connav (R) C. in C. South Atlantic. F.O.C.W.A.) F.O.C.W.A.'s 1059/4 and 1341/7 concur with general principle of wide dispersion.

2. Object of A.M.1254/5 is, however, (A) to avoid an area indicated in paras. 2 and 3 in which both Admty. and Connav appreciate that 6 to 8 U-boats are operating, and (B) to reduce volume of shipping passing through area east of Trinidad in which regular losses are being suffered.

3. This proposal is intended as a temporary measure to meet the existing situation and not as a permanent routeing policy.

4. C. in C. S.A.'s 1311/7 para. 2 to keep clear of danger area it is considered that ships should keep south of the Equator.

5. C. in C. S.A.'s 1311/7, para. 3. F.O.C.W.A. is requested to remark.

(D.T.D., 2247A/8 to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 1135/10.

/SVEND FOYN...

War Diary.

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - *cont'd.*

SVEND FOYN Under consideration to use whale oil factory ship SVEND FOYN, speed 12 knots, for carriage of 30/35 twin engined aircraft from U.K. to Takoradi.

2. She could be included in a special convoy leaving U.K. about 26th Dec. for Gibraltar, being detached with escort to vicinity of Azores.

3. Request your views of possibility of providing escort from Azores to Takoradi and from Takoradi to link up with G.U.S. convoy for return to New York.

(D.O.D. (F) 2211A/8 to F.O.C.W.A.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A.1121/9.

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

S/M My 1233/7. Amend focal point to read P.222 120°
Patrol 15. P.217 180° (?) 2. TIGRIS 350° 5 from
Areas. Imperatore Point. P.222 and P.217 keep at least
20 miles to (?southward) of focal point for 24 hrs.
(Capt. S.10 0125A/8 to P.217. P.222. TIGRIS (R)
C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1. Capt. S.8.)

→ SONTAY C. in C. E.F.'s 1314/29 Nov. states that report
from Escort of C.M.35 shows clearly that SONTAY
is unsuitable for inclusion in troop convoys and
that reports from Commodores of earlier convoys confirm this
opinion. On arrival request your candid opinion. Also whether
suitable for conversion to Hospital ship if required. D.S.T.O.
Kilindini where she put in for repairs reported vessel smoking
badly on voyage from Durban. Request report whether this
persisted on voyage Kilindini to Suez.
(D.S.T. 0141A/8 to P.S.T.O. Egypt.)

Toulon P.R.U. Sortie C/667 date time 1330 hours shows:-
Marseilles Toulon. Positions of intact Naval Units unchanged
R/C. since 3rd Dec. The condition of damaged Units
shows little change since that date but most of
the partially submerged vessels appear to have
settled further into the water. The ALGERIE and two Suffren Class
Cruisers are still burning. Dry dock occupied by Battle cruiser
DUNKERQUE remains partially flooded. No change in position of
merchant shipping.
Marseilles. Since 3rd Dec. four M/Vs. 200/300 ft. arrived and one
M/V 200/250 ft. departed. Normal internal movement amongst other
shipping including change of berth of Liner MASSILIA.
(P.R.U. Benson 0330/8 to Admty. etc.) (D.D.I.C. 1129A/8 to
N.C.X.F. etc.)

→ Transport Your 1815/6. Subject to the approval of C. in C.
of S. E.F. there is no objection to your proposals
African except as regards SONTAY. C. in C. E.F.'s 1314/29
Troops. Nov. reports her as unsuitable for inclusion in
troop convoys and she therefore should not be used.
2. Of the 1240 South African Personnel intended to
embark in SONTAY, 902 should be embarked in HIGHLAND MONARCH and
balance retained until end December convoy.
3. Prisoners of war should be embarked in SONTAY for passage to
Durban.
4. Agreed.
5. F.O.R.S.C.A. pass to Movements 80 Area.
(D.S.T. 0641A/8 to P.S.T.O. M.E.)

Enemy Position of one enemy tanker 35.50 N 11.10 E.
Tanker Course 180° speed 8 knots. W.L.U.
(A/C C/S CH2D 0715A/8 to Hal Far.)

M.T.B. My 0909A/7. M.T.B. 266 is returning to Malta
Sweep. with damaged shaft. *See next Page.*
(V.A. Malta 0734A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S. F.O.C.
Coastal Forces. F.O.C. 12th C.S. Cdre. Algiers.
A.O.C. Med.)

/Arrival...

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd. *from previous page*

M.T.B. Arrival M.T.Bs. 266, 307.
Sweep. (V.A. Malta 0845A/8 to Admty. etc.)
Contd. M.T.B. 316 returned Malta with engine defect.
(V.A. Malta 2043A/8 to N.C.X.F.)

SCYLLA MALOJA and ORBITA were ordered to leave harbour
MALOJA at dark to anchor west of Cape de Gard under cover
ORBITA of A/S patrols. I anchored in same vicinity but
ORBITA was absent at dawn. Have despatched
WHEATLAND to search along coast for 20 miles but
suspect she has sailed direct to Algiers on her own last night
Monday without orders.

(SCYLLA 0832A/8 to F.O.I.S. (R) N.O.I.C. Bone.)

MALOJA will not complete unloading of remaining 60 tons of
cargo today Tuesday owing to weather. ORBITA has already left as
reported in my 0832A/8. In absence of instructions intend to
remain at Bone with destroyers until unloading is completed.

(SCYLLA 1438A/8 to F.O.I.S. (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.(C) 12. N.O.I.C.
Bone. LAMERTON. S.O. Force H.)

Have sailed for Algiers. MALOJA and three destroyers in
company, E.T.A. 1000A/9.

(SCYLLA 1816A/8 to F.O.I.S. (R) N.C.X.F. R.A. 12th C.S.
N.O.I.C. Bone.)

P.54 My 1230/7. P.54 will now proceed p.m. 9th to
see next page patrol off coast France between Marseilles and
Genoa remaining under operational control of
Capt. S.8.

(Capt. S.8. 0912A/8 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)
My 1540/7 para 2.

P.54 from Cape Palos now proceeding Toulon Area.
(Capt. S.8. 1242A/8 to 8 S.F.)

Movements. Arrival 7th Dec. DELPHINIUM, GLOXINIA, PALADIN,
WELSHMAN, SOUTHERN SEA, BOKSBURG, M.T.Bs 264, 267.
Departure 7th Dec. SOUTHERN ISLES, AMBER, REDWOOD,
ST. MINVER, LANGLAAGTE.
(S.O.(I.) Alex. 0916B/8 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

TRAVELLER. Withdraw forthwith and report by 0100A/9 when
clear of Gulf of Taranto.
(Capt. S.10. 0955A/8 to TRAVELLER. (R) Capt. S.1.)

Air R/C. Visuals a.m. Dec. 8th.
(1) Messina, 5 cruiser.
(2) Taranto, 3 battleships.
(3) Naples, only 1 cruiser seen.
(V.A. Malta 1005A/8 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

OXFORDSHIRE (1) Subject to confirmation from N.O.I.C. Bougie
that ship can be accepted Hospital ship
OXFORDSHIRE is to be sailed to Bougie and then to
Oran for temporary repairs.
(2) Hospital ship is not to remain in Bougie harbour during hours
of (three groups missed) operate off Taza Bay or eastward of
Jijelli displaying her lights. (N.C.X.F. 1054A/8 to V.A. Gib.
N.O.I.C. Bougie. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran. A.F.H.Q. Algiers)

270^A 

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.

1236A/8th December,
MESSAGE. IN
Date, 8.12.42.
Recd. 1556.
Naval Cypher 3 By W/T.

Addressed. Ships & Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine situation Western Mediterranean 2000A/8th.

1. P. 51 (?38) 47 North 04 26 East through 38 40 North 08 01 East to Malta 8 knots.
2. P. 228 36 (?30) North 03 01 West through 135 degs. Cape de Gata 10 135 degs. Cape Palos 10 thence 065 degs. 11 knots.
3. H.M.S. PORPOISE 039 degs. 01' North 003 degs. 35' East through 39 01 North 03 16 East thence through 135 degs. Cape Palos 10 to Gibraltar 11 knots.
4. All above submarines diving by day 2½ knots surface speed as stated.
5. H.M.S. URSULA 038 degs. 12' North 003 degs. 03' East to rendezvous in 37 01 North 03 06 East at 0900 9th for escort to Algiers.
6. P. 54 leaves Gibraltar 1500 9th coastwise to Cape Palos thence north east 8 knots diving by day on and after 10th.

1236A/8. *See previous page*

Advance copy sent Duty Capt. 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. 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. Ramsey (4)
F.O.S. By courier.

271

War Diary.

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.K.F.4. Cdre. Algiers is requested to sail convoy M.K.F.4 at 1600A/9 routed through 100, 39, 17, 109, 93, 50, 37 then 035° 50' N 006° 30' W lettered K to Q.
2. Stragglers route as convoy route.
 3. Ocean route. 035° 50' N 006° 30' W. 036° 00' N 010° 00' W. 039° 12' N 017° 01' W. 045° 25' N 017° 26' W. 050° 35' N 016° 50' W. 054° 05' N 013° 37' W. 055° 28' N 008° 30' W. lettered A to G.
 4. R to X for stragglers.
 - 5. Algiers portion escorted by EGRET, BANFF, TANATSIDE, WISHART, BLEAN, SWALE.
 6. Oran section escorted by EXE R/V in position 109 at 0830A/10. F.O.I.C. Oran requested to arrange local escorts as far as R/V.
 7. Gibraltar section with ROTHER, SPEY, CLARE and SENNEN, R/V in position 35.50 N 07.19 W at 0930A/11.
 8. WISHART and BLEAN return to Gibraltar after Gibraltar section joins. Remaining escort proceeding to U.K. with convoy.
 9. First 2 letters of convoy wireless call sign R M.
 10. Fighter protection priority one in Algiers section.
 11. Codeword "Manicure".
 12. Stragglers east of 10° W instructed to proceed to U.K. North.
 13. V.A. Gibraltar and F.O.I.C. Oran are requested to inform Cdre. Algiers repeating to me names of ships for inclusion. (N.C.X.F. 1145A/8 to Cdre. Algiers etc.)

Convoy M.W.16. My 2045/7. Delete DANIEL GLOWNSDALE and substitute ERINNA. Para 3. S of A 9½ knots. (C. in C. Med. 1146B/8 to C.C.F. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. etc.) See also 2112/8.

See p. 275

Enemy M/Vs. Position of 3 small merchant ships 35.03 N 11.13 E stationary. (A/C call sign GYR Duty K 1200B/8 to Hal Far.)

WISHART TANATSIDE WILTON *See p. 274* WISHART and TANATSIDE are to return to Algiers at 25 knots when convoy arrives Bone. They are to join convoy M.K.F.4 off Algiers and escort to Gibraltar where TANATSIDE will refuel and rejoin convoy. WISHART will be detached when Gibraltar escort joins at about 0930A/11. WILTON act as ordered by F.O.I.S. (N.C.X.F. 1218A/8 to WISHART. WILTON. TANATSIDE. (R) F.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Bone, Cdre. Algiers. V.A. Gibraltar.)

Transfer of 3 S/Ms of 10th Fl. to 8th Fl. Your 1450/19 Nov. para 3. Admty. have no objection to proposed transfer. (Admty. 1259A/8 to N.C.X.F.)

CAVA M.L.1133. Intend sailing CAVA and M.L.1133 for Bone at 0001/9. E.T.A. Bone 0700/9. Request air protection. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1330A/8 to F.O.I.S. (R) Cdre. Algiers. N.O.I.C. Bone.)

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.37.

see p. 274

Return from patrol after dark tonight by route in my 005/1, keep to your starboard side of the route. Pass J to K daylight 10th Dec. Instructions for arrival at Malta will be signalled.
(Capt. S.10 1333A/8 to P.37 (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

M.T.Bs
for
Benghazi.

M.T.Bs 309 and 311 leave Alexandria 1700/9 to arrive Tobruk 0745/10 by seaward route, S of A 21 knots. Request N.O.I.C. Tobruk sail them 1700/10 to arrive Benghazi 0800/11 by seaward route S of A 19 knots. Constant wireless watch 425 K/cs codeword "Susie".
(C.C.F. 1347B/8 to A.I.G. 72. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. R.A. 15th C.S. ORION. Capt. D.12. PALADIN.)

P.44

Own surface force from Malta may operate tonight. On leaving your area tomorrow remain on surface unless attacked by enemy.
(Capt. S.10. 1355A/8 to P.44. (R) S/M on patrol. V.A. Malta.)

Convoys
"Major"
"Siren"
"Pocket"

(1) Convoy "Major" S.O. SNAPDRAGON 7 ships storm 1515/8th Dec. rain mist 0315/9th Dec. Benghazi 1100/9th Dec.
(2) Convoy "Siren" S.O. S/M Flotilla 14, 5 ships blow 2200 8th Dec. Chop Egg 033° N 021° E 032° 27' N 019° 40' E 10 knots.
(3) Convoy "Pocket" S.O. ORION 17 ships 032° 27' N 019° 40' E 1715 8th Dec. 033° 06' N 021° 08' E 033° 26' N 021° 57' E 033° 06' N 022° 34' E 12 knots.
(4) *ORION 4 Hunts, leave "Pocket" dark 8th Dec. steering S.W. until midnight passing through 032° 27' N 019° 40' E 0700 9th thence to meet "Siren" speed 17 knots.
(5) Capt. D.12 becomes S.O. "Pocket" when ORION leaves.
(C. in C. Med. 1356B/8 to ORION. Capt. D.12 D/F. SNAPDRAGON. 14 M/S Flotilla.) * *see next page*

P.48

see p. 275

Arrival.
(V.A. Malta 1412A/8 to Admty. etc.)

JERVIS
KELVIN
NUBIAN

Departure for operation JERVIS, KELVIN, NUBIAN.
(V.A. Malta 1414A/8 to Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.X.F.)

SIRIUS
DIDO
ASHANTI
TARTAR

Intend to proceed 1745A to sweep northwards returning at daylight Wednesday, DIDO, ASHANTI, TARTAR in company. Fighter cover arranged.
(SIRIUS 1435A/8 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Bone. C.S.12.)
SIRIUS, DIDO, ASHANTI, TARTAR are to remain at Bone tonight 8th/9th. Report amount of fuel remaining.
(?N.C.X.F. 1610A/8 to SIRIUS (R) F.O.I.S. V.A. Malta. C.S.12. N.O.I.C. Bone.)
Following has been passed to Admty. for information.
Your 1435/8. Concur vessels sailed, cancel my 1610/8.
(N.C.X.F. 1830A/8 to SIRIUS.)

/SIRIUS...

273

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean-~~cont.~~

SIRIUS, DIDO, ASHANTI, (?TARTAR) are to remain at Bone tonight 8th/9th. Report amount of fuel remaining. *Cancelled - See previous page*
 (?N.C.X.F. 1510A/8 to SIRIUS. (R) S.O.I.S. V.A. Malta. C.S.12. N.O.I.C. Bone.)

CELENO My 1550C/5. CELENO sailed 1400 G.M.T. Dec. 8th (Italian) for Piraeus. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1701C/8 to S.O.I. Med. (R) S.O.I. Malta. S.10. D.N.I.)

Naples S.O.I. Med's 1745/7. 3 U-Boats observed to Approach on course 50° to position 180° Imperatore Routes. Light 15 miles then altered course to 090° through Boca Grande. (2) Imperatore Light burned intermittently during arrival of U-Boats who made point of arrival about one hour after sunset. (3) A/S schooners seen leaving on similar course but returning on slightly southerly course. (S.O.I. Gib. 1704/8 to S.O.I. Malta. (R) S.O.I. Med.)

Air R/C. P.M. visuals Dec. 8th Messina five cruisers. Taranto three battleships. Naples not covered but forenoon photographs show 8" cruiser reported in my 1758A/7th to have sailed, is still in harbour having shifted berth. (V.A. Malta 1718A/8 to C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S. R.A.12 C.S. ORION. Capt. D.14. (R) Admty. S.O. Force H. VA. Gibraltar.)

Night R/C. The Cavoli - Marittimo night R/C remains a standing Cavoli - and important requirement so long as there are Marittimo. light forces and merchant shipping in Bone area and no suitable aircraft in North Africa. On several nights recently this has been dropped in favour of other commitments. Are you satisfied that Malta has sufficient R/C aircraft to satisfy all requirements? (N.C.X.F. 1901A/8 to V.A. Malta. (R) C. in C. Med.)

M/S After turning over convoy M.W.15 enter Benghazi Group before dark. 14. (S.O. Force I 1913B/8 to Minesweepers Group 14. (R) ORION. N.C.X.F. A.I.G.72.)

M.W.15. *See previous page*
 Estimate ORION will meet convoy M.W.15 in 032° 49' 020° 33' at 1000/9 after which convoy will proceed as in ORION's 1043/8 and 14th Minesweeping Flotilla proceed Benghazi at 13 knots. (S.O. Force I 1915B/8 to Fighter H.Q. Benghazi Sector N.L.O. 247 Wing. (R) ORION. WHITEHAVEN. C. in C. Med. R.A. Alexandria. N.O.I.C. Benghazi.)

/Algiers...

274

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Algiers Movements. Algiers arrivals QUALITY, CALPE, BICESTER, WILTON, P.219. Departures *WILTON, *WISHART, *TANATSIDE to Bone with K.M.F.4B. (Cdre. Algiers 1925A/8 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F. * *see p.271.*)

Location of enemy battleships. Request P.R.U. of Spezia, Genoa and Leghorn may be carried out when practicable. It is particularly desired to find whereabouts of Italian battleships recently at Naples. (A.C.N.S. F. 1926A/8 to Air Ministry (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Toulon P.R.U. Your 1906/7. Propose P.R.U. of Toulon is carried out twice weekly until arrangements can be made to carry it out from North Africa. (N.C.X.F. 1935A/8 to Admty.)

S/Ms. Situation 2000/8th. RORQUAL S.E. of Q.B.A.11 Northeastbound to patrol off Cavoli. P.37 southbound passes latitude Marittimo at dawn. *see p.272* P.212, P.247 northbound pass latitude Marittimo at 0300. *see next page* (Capt. S.10 1945A/8 to R.A. 12 C.S.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 162. 8 Dec. C.S.R. Malta. Night 7/8th Dec. No enemy activity locally. 8th Dec. Today a total of 16 Spitfire sorties has been flown to protect shipping and 12 Spitfires were airborne on R/C for enemy shipping and aircraft north of Malta. 8 long range Spitfires have carried out offensive R/C over Lampedusa area but no sightings have been made. Night Dec. 7/8. Wellingtons made 14 sorties to attack Bizerta docks. In first attack 1750/1905 9 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 6000 ft. scoring hit on dockside with one 4000 lb. Other bombs burst on quayside and near docks goods station. 1 Wellington dropped bombs on Bizerta seaplane base setting fire to a large building thought to be a hangar. Moderately accurate heavy flak was encountered and 6 searchlights were exposed. Enemy night fighters were active in the target area. 1 Wellington is missing. In second attack owing to much low cloud only 1 Wellington found target. 4 Wellingtons returned with their bombs. Bombs were dropped from 5000 ft. scoring hits on a destroyer in Sidi Abdulla dockyard and on a fuel dump. Adverse weather prevented further observation of results. Day 8th Dec. At 0614 hrs. a Baltimore in extremely bad weather and visibility sighted 070° Kuriat 7 miles a vessel believed to be a tanker of 4/6000 tons course 180° speed 8 knots. 6 Beauforts and 9 Beaufighters despatched at (1605 or 1005?) hours to attack this vessel found only a wreck in position of reported tanker. (A.H.Q. Malta 2005/8, 2017/8, 2024/8, 2032/8.)

/Supplies...

275

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Supplies for Malta. 4 ships required to load for Malta as soon as possible, propose using GREYSTOKE CASTLE which is the only British ship with required speed and readiness for loading.
- Mr. Robinson of U.S. Maritime Commission has cabled Washington for permission to use PIERRE S. DUPONT, O'HENRY and Dutch TOSARI. Agreed Murrant.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 2100B/8 to D.S.T.)
- Convoy M.W.16. *See p. 271* C. in C's 2045/7 and 1146/8. Codeword "Outwit" W/T B.D.X. CLAN MACINDOE, ERINNA, ROBERT MAERSK, Escort PALADIN, HURWORTH and one Hunt from Tobruk. Sailing 1701/9 S of A 9 knots, route 5 miles north of "Warm" 2230 3 miles north of (corrupt group) 0830/10 Bar 5 miles north of bend 2202, "Tin" 0930 11th "Covenant" Chop Egg 1830 15 miles north of Port 2150 position YY 032° 22' N 019° 35' E at 0730/12 thence as ordered by C. in C.
(R.A. Alex. 2112B/8 to Capt. S.1. ORION, C.S.15. Capt. D.12. Capt. D.14. DULVERTON. PALADIN. HURWORTH. R.A.D. Med. V.A. Malta. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. C.C.F. A.O.C. Med. SNAPDRAGON. R.N.G.H.Q. M.E.)
- P.212 Proceed towards Naples by following route P.212
P.247 through G. 038° 20' 012° 10' direct to patrol
See previous page within 10 miles of position 040° 30' 014° 19' S and east of 205 from Vesuvius.
P.247 through G. 038° 20' 011° 30' direct to patrol within 10 miles of 040° 15' 014° 00'.
Both submarines may proceed on the surface by daylight 9th Dec. at C.O's discretion. P.37 may be met on opposite course before dawn 9th.
(Capt. S.10 2125A/8 as amended 1116A/9 to P.212. P.247. (R) N.C.X.F. S/Ms on patrol.)
- P.48 *See p. 272* Intend to sail P.48 Dec. 10th for patrol in Approaches to Bizerta and Tunis.
(Capt. S.10 2225A/8 to N.C.X.F. Capt. S.8. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.1.)
- E.A.C. Report. 8th Dec. Operational summary. A/C Z/500 or 508 attacked U-Boat with 4 D/Cs, only D/C residue and small patches of bubbles seen after attack. 13 B.17s escorted by 8 P.38s despatched to attack docks and shipping at Bizerta, due adverse weather no A/C reached target.
(E.A.C. 2230/8.)
- M.W.14. Total unloaded to 1700/8 21189 tons.
(V.A. Malta 2255A/8 to C. in C. Med.)

276

8.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

D.G.S.R. Ref. my 0931/11 August for Controller. Government of India have issued notification dated 1st Dec. that designation has been changed to Director General Ship Building and Repairs. (2) Abbreviated title is D.G.S.R. and request necessary Code and Cypher Groups may be issued. (D.G.S.R. and S.C., 0902Z/8 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon.)

Proposed A/S operation. Your 0712/6 Dec. It is not considered that the evidence warrants this operation at present. 2. In view of this it is considered destroyers will be better employed as escorts with the group sailings. (D.O.D.(F) Approved 1st S.L., 1038A/8 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

TAKLIWA (troops, Madagascar to Mombasa) Your 1141/30. Agree subject to approval of C. in C. Eastern Fleet. (D.S.T., 1057A/8 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini, (R) P.S.T.O. Egypt, C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. India.)

Air Report. Int. 194 8th Dec. Our 268. Daily summary 8 G.C. (R) Cocos Island raid 5th Dec. 3 bombers navy 96 type over Island 30 minutes. (Some ?) bombs from 20,200 or 20,400 ?) feet. Approach from south, withdrawal east-south-east. No ground opposition. (A.H.Q. India, 1138Z/8.)

WAYLAND, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT. Cancel my 1720/3rd. 2. Sailing of WAYLAND is postponed as QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT are required for another special escort duty. (D.O.D.(F), 1141A/8 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)

Movements. Departure 1155Z/8th Dec. GAMBIA and SCOUT.. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1159Z/8 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I) Aden.) Colombo arrival 8th Dec. 0135Z KANIMBLA. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1200Z/8 to Admty., etc.)

Berths for Fulmars. F.O. Ceylon 1345Z/15th Oct. Have approved berths 7 and 8 being arranged. They are a Trot on the North Side of Malay. (C. in C. E.F., 1338Z/8 to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, ZZZ Group.)

/DURBAN ...

277

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

→ DURBAN.

Arrival 8th Dec. *Kilindini*.
(F.O.E.A., 1407Z/8 to Admty.)

NAPIER.

Report of inquiry re grounding off Kilindini on
28th Nov.
(C. in C. E.F., 1417Z/8 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy. *pp. 277A & B.*Shipping
for U.S.A.Connav requests that all U.S.A. Controlled
merchant ships bound U.S.A. from Indian and
Persian Gulf ports shall be routed via the
Pacific, those for U.S. East Coast to Panama
for onward routeing.
2. Request you will comply.
(D.T.D., 1637A/8 to C. in C. E.F., (R) F.O.C.
R.I.N., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, S.B.N.O. Persian Gulf,
A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., Connav.)→ DURBAN
grounding.While entering Kilindini today 8th Dec. at 1650C,
DURBAN grounded about five cables south of Rae
Seoani. Cause not yet known. Ship went ashore
at top of high water at 8 knots and ran up 3
feet. Hopeful of refloating on morning tide which is 2 foot
higher but much will depend on how much internal and external
pumping capacity can be applied and on weight that can be
removed in the time. Some damage to and leaks in bottom from
foremost boiler room forward.
(C. in C. E.F., 1755/8 to Admty., (R) C.S.4.)

SECRET

277A

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.

*NAPIER, grounding, 28/11/42, Board of Inquiry.
REVENGE implicated.*

M E S S A G E

IN

1417Z/8th December

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet

Date. 9:12.42

Recd. 1130

NAVAL CYPHER XD PLUG by W/T & T/1

Addressed Admiralty, repeated Australian Commonwealth Naval Board.

IMPORTANT!

429. Propeller of H.M.A.S. NAPIER touched ground on Feven Reef off entrance Kilindini at 0732 on 28 November while ship acting as S O of anti submarine escort to H.M.S. REVENGE approaching Harbour. NAPIER and BLACKMORE were in S C number 2, NAPIER occupying position O. Both propellers damaged and port shaft slightly bent.

2. Case governed by instructions in E.F.W.O. number 9 which directs that Senior Officer of screen is responsible for ordering the appropriate screening diagram and for turning screen back on approaching harbour entrance unless Senior Officer of group indicates under para 6 J of the instructions that he will assume this responsibility.

3. Though these instructions place responsibility for turning screen back before running into danger on Senior Officer of screen, situation was complicated by C.O. REVENGE (?who) signalled the night before that REVENGE executed "S.J" on approaching Harbour entrance. Destroyers were to act independently and follow REVENGE into Harbour, which was tantamount to assuming responsibility for safe navigation of whole unit. The signal provided in E.F.W.O. No.9 para.6 J to enable the S.O. of Group to retain control of the screen and to direct when it should return back, which definitely assumed this responsibility was however not ~~repeat not~~ used.

4. Use of signal I.J. by Senior Officer of ships screened to turn the screen back on approaching Harbour has been the usual practice prior to issue of E.F.W.O. No. 9.

/ 5. Board of

277^B-

SECRET

- 2 -

5. Board of Inquiry established that C.O. REVENGE was late in executing his signal I.J. partly because he and his Navigating Officer were concentrating on the safe navigation of REVENGE and partly because he desired to retain the screen as long as possible, and that the fact that this signal was used at all put doubt in mind of C.O. NAPIER who however signalled almost simultaneously to the screen to turn 180 degrees outwards being apprehensive that he was getting too close to reef. Notwithstanding, C.O. NAPIER turned his ship with normal wheel.

6. Board of Inquiry attributed blame primarily to C.O. NAPIER (Lieut. Cdr. A.H. Green, R.A.N.) for hazarding his ship, but considers C.O. REVENGE (Capt. L.V. Morgan, R.N.) also to blame in that by using signal I.J. he assumed responsibility for safe navigation of whole unit, and then executed this signal too late thus placing NAPIER in a dangerous position to perform the normal manoeuvre of turning outwards to take station astern. Navigating Officers of REVENGE (Lt.Cdr. P.V.B. Wadlof, R.N.) and NAPIER (Sub. Lt. D.Nicholls, R.A.N.) also found to blame for not communicating essential navigational information to their respective C.O.'s.

7. I agree with finding of the Board of Inquiry but do not consider a court martial necessary. The case is quite clear and further would involve transporting C.O. NAPIER and witnesses from Durban where ship has been sent for repairs it being more important to get her fit for service than to hold her here while case is sub judice.

8. Accordingly intend to admonish officers concerned.

1417Z/8

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
2nd S.L.
Controller
Vice Controller
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
Hydrog. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
M. (2)
Movts.
I.P. (3)
Ops. (3)
O.D. 5
O.D. 8
O.I.C.

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
W.D.
D.A/S.W.
N.L.
D.
D. of N.
D.T.S.D.
N.A. 2nd S.L. (2)
C.W. (2)
N.L.O. Australia House.
Dep. Contr. (3)
D. (4)
P.
D.A/S.W. (2)

Bath
by courier

DRJ.

278

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Corvettes,
Newfoundland.

Your 1925/7. We are prepared now to receive Corvettes B groups for topping up and fully concur with C. in C. W.A.'s 1855/7th* (F.O.N.F. 0039Z/8 to C.T.F. 24 (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)
* No trace of receipt in War Registry.

K.14.

See p. 282

This is N.O.B. Bermuda's 2140/7 to K.14 for action repeated S.B.N.O. W.A., B.A.D. Admty, Connav, Cominch, C. in C. Lant, Com. Four Com. East Seafront. "Connav 16 22/30 of Nov. K.14 proceed when ready to Philadelphia about 1200Z/8" (Cominch 0108/8 (R) Admty.)

U/S S/M notice 8th December. Netherlands S/M K.14 leaves Bermuda at 1200Z/8th for Philadelphia unescorted course 308° speed of advance 9 knots.

(Cominch 0302/8 to THRASHER, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Mid-Ocean, Escort T.U. 24.1.3.)

H.X.217

U/B
attacks.*See p. 257*

Convoy attacked at 0127Z/8. 2 ships torpedoed. P.C. and S. at 0200Z/8, 057° 00' N. 027° 06' W. 045° 9. Following 2 groups are special uncoded 8 figure weather report, 4488 7853. (FAME 0217Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Large number of position reports between 1657Z/7th and 0301Z/8th on 10510 k/cs and 4796 k/cs fixed your area by D/F indicates preparation for attack soon by four-six S/Ms.

(Cominch 0637/8 to C.T.U. 24.1.4 (R) C.T.U. 24.1.3.)

My 0217Z/8th to C. in C. W.A. EMPIRE SPENSER was only ship torpedoed. 57 ship survivors one missing. Estimate 6 U-boats were attacking. H.X.217 P.C. and S. at 1000Z/8th 57.59 N. 34.37 W. (A) 055° 9. Weather 4778 6915.

(C.T.U. 24.1.4 1116Z/8 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7, C.O.A.C.)

U/B
attacked.

? The following has been read P.C. and S. of enemy submarine 57.25 N. 35.19 W. on the surface when first sighted was on course 020° estimated speed 10 knots. (?) Have attacked with depth charges.

(Halifax W/T 0929N/8 to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

L.C.I.(L)'s.

Your 1627/7 (re sailing of 2nd batch of L.C.I.(L)'s Intend to include L.C.I.(L)7 in next batch. L.C.I.(L) 7 and *DESTINY (BAT 9) are both ready for sea. Admiralty pass to C.G.O. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 1002Q/8 to B.A.D.) * *See p. 281*

A.M.C.72.

Arrival 8th December U.S. Minesweeper A.M.C.72. (Harbour Master Barbados 1006/8 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

/Shipping ...

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

Shipping
ex O.N.
Convoys. In order to save delay request that while independent sailing is permitted on East Coast ships ex O.N. Convoys loading south of New York as far as and including Chesapeake should not enter New York.

2. If you concur ships concerned will be supplied with M.A.C.R.I. route by U.K. routing authorities and with any further instructions which you may consider necessary.
(D.T.D. 1015Z/8 to Connav (R) B.A.D.)
Reply: 1527/9.

SOLON II
(sunk 2/12) Georgetown reports British SOLON II sunk 2330 G.M.T. 2nd in approx. 070° 45' N. 056° 30' W. 4th Engineer and 6 Indians believed only survivors.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1048R/8 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

Zigzagging. Ref. C.A.M.S.176/42 as amended by British B.A.M.S Lettered Message "JQ" in order to provide for clear nights, especially in the tropics, on which there may be no moon, it is proposed to zigzag by day and night when in the areas specified except in heavy weather or low visibility
2. Request your concurrence.
(D.T.D. 1135Z/8 to Connav.)
Your 1135Z/8. Concur.
(Cominch C. & R 2027/8 to Admty.)

Convoys
for U.K. Request Commodores of U.K.-bound convoys may be informed that Bristol Channel portion will from now on remain in Belfast for sufficient time only to embark local Commodore and will proceed as soon as possible.
2. Masters of ships concerned to be warned to be prepared accordingly.
(D.T.D. 1224A/8 to Connav (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland, B.R.L.O. New York.)

LACONIA
survivors. Meter. Survivors of LACONIA who have arrived in U.S. report that:
(1) P/Boats (?U.Boats) were aware of position of ship since she left Capetown.
(2) Survivors were well treated by U-boat crews.
(3) Ship was steaming approx. 13 knots when struck.
(4) U-156 was one of the U-boats that attacked.
(5) U-Boat mentioned in para.F of S.O.(I) Freetown's 2207/24 October*was not sunk. *(N.T. in W.D.)
(B.A.D. 1407Z/8 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.) *See next page*

ENGLEMAN. Arrival 7th December U.S.A. Transport ENGLEMAN.
(B.R.O. Aruba 1425QR/8 to Admty.)

H.S. 21/53.

(Copy - Translation)

Search 3344
279A

Ministere de la Defense Nationale
Secretariat d'Etat a la Marine
SERVICE HISTORIQUE
3, Avenue Octave-Greard
PARIS (VII^e)

Republique Francaise

Paris, le 14th August, 1953

Rear-Admiral R. M. Bellairs
Head of Admiralty Historical Section
Admiralty, Whitehall, London, S.W.1

No. 757 BSG/H1

Dear Admiral,

While in pursuit of investigations into submarine warfare in the Atlantic, the Historical Department is trying to reconstruct the details of the rescue of survivors from the steamship LACONIA, torpedoed on 12th September, 1942, in position 05° 05' South, 11° 38' West.

This British steamship was transporting more than 3,500 persons, of whom 1,500 to 1,800 were Italian prisoners of war.

The Captain of the German submarine himself made an S.O.S., called up other Axis submarines and the German Navy passed a request to the French Admiralty to send boats to the spot.

It was in this way that 1,041 survivors, of which about 600 were English, were picked up by the cruiser GLOIRE and the escort vessels DUMONT d'URVILLE and ANNAMITE.

We should be greatly interested to know if other survivors were rescued by British ships, or landed on a British coast.

One point leads us to an affirmative answer. The "Weekly Naval Notes" did, in fact, publish the account reported by the Captain of the QUEBEC CITY, torpedoed on the 19th September, 1942, 350 miles to the North-West of the position where the LACONIA had been.

The survivors of the QUEBEC CITY disaster were picked up on 30th September, 1942, by H.M.S. DECOY, 120 miles west of Freetown, and shortly afterwards the DECOY rescued the survivors of another transport. You may perhaps be able to inform us if the latter were the LACONIA survivors.

We know that the Captain of one of the German submarines informed the officer of the ANNAMITE, who had boarded his vessel to take off survivors, that the Captain of the LACONIA had preferred to steer for Freetown in his (own) boat.

We should, in any case, be glad to receive any information you possess on the survivors of the LACONIA whose rescue was effected under conditions apparently unique in the history of submarine warfare.

With thanks, Sir, I beg you to accept my respectful regards.

(sgd) ROSTAND

Commander ROSTAND, Head of the Historical
Department of the Navy.

See previous page.

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

- U/B. PPPP S/M sighted 57.15 N. 35.19 W. at 1029 G.C.T./08.
(Cominch 1509/8 to B.A.M.S.1A)
Following received via Halifax addressed C.F.H. and C.F.S. Position of enemy submarine 57.15 N. 35.19 W. on surface, when first sighted was on course 020° estimated speed 10 knots, time of this report 0929N/8.
(Cominch 1512/8 to Admty.)
- U/B Positions. S/M estimate Dec. 8th and U.S. submarine notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1525/8, 1526/8, 1610/8, 1611/8, 1612/8.)
- U/B attacked. PPPP S/M attacked 57.37 N. 34.43 W. at 1250 G.C.T./08.
(Cominch 1529/8 to B.A.M.S.1A.)
Following is an aircraft report passed by Halifax to Opnav and Connav. "Am over enemy S/M in 57.37 N. 34.43 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 030° at estimated speed of ten knots. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Reporting at 1250G/8".
(Cominch 1535/8 to Admty.)
- U/B. PPPP S/M sighted 57.57 N. 33.51 W. at 1527 G.C.T./8.
(Cominch 1703/8 to B.A.M.S.1A.)
- T.A.G.27 Departure U.S. ship TENACITY, U.S. Destroyer GREER, U.S. ships P.C.492, 563, 564 escorting T.A.G.27 (fast)
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1802Q/8 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
- Trinidad Shipping, Acceleration. Your 1929/7. No Admiralty action now required beyond addition to A.M. 0020/23 September as recommended by Cominch C. and R.
2. It has been agreed that ships will be diverted as proposed in my 2031/5.
(B.A.D. 1803Z/8 to Admty.)
- LORD KELVIN, BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER. B.A.D's 1557/8. LORD KELVIN sails 9th December escorted by BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER to repair Halifax - Harbour Grace Cable. Probable duration of repairs 12 days. Request BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER may complete this operation, as no other escort can be spared except at the expense of coastal convoy.
(C.O.A.C. 1914Z/8 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

/L.C.I.(L)'s ...

MOST SECRET

1635/8th December.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN

Date. 9.12.42.

From. C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Reed. 0029.

Naval Cypher S By W/T.

Addressed. G.B.7A.

IMPORTANT.

Section (?East), O.N. 149, Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.7. (?vicinity) 43 (?21) 56 27. 270-degs. 6 altering to 239 degs. in 59 57 (?West.)

Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.1, (?vicinity) 43 (?21) 57 00 (?to) relieve (?Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.7).

^{55.42} O.N. 148 Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.4 43 ⁴⁸ (255) ⁵⁶⁻⁴⁹ 260 degs. 5 altering to ²⁶⁶ degs. in ⁶⁰⁻⁰¹ West. *amended 07552/9.*

T.A. 29 40 11 (?51) (?33) (?296 degs.) 26.5.

COLLINGWOOD, (?45) (?26) 56 30 078 degs. 13 en route St. Johns N.F.

J.H. 25, MORDEN, PICTOU, depart St. Johns (?23) 00Z/8th speed 13.

^{GEORGE M.} U.S.S. BIBB, U.S. Destroyer SIMPSON, U.S. Destroyer MACLEISH, 44 19 57 43 222 degs. (?10) (?altering) to 247 degs. in (?43) 03 North.

CHURCHILL, due St. Johns 1100Z/9th (?from) (?Westward)

(?N) J 24, PRESERVER, WASAGA, Q.O. (?through) 49 27 53 21 southbound 7.

CLAYOQUOT, attending tug SECURITY, barge LAKE LOUISE, vicinity 45 00 56 20 en route Sydney (C.B.) when under tow.

H.M.S. BEAVER, tug BUTTERCUP, searching for derelict LAKE HEMLOCK in vicinity 47 00 North 57 45 West B.Y.M.S. 2, 3, 4, 40 departing St. Johns N.F. 1930Z 8th en route St. Pierre. *del. list 5 - see next page*

AFRICAN DAWN, 39 54 57 09 082 degs. 14.5.

IRISH ROSE, 44 30 54 31 090 degs. 7 altering to 250 degs. in 51 30 West.

MOSDALE, (Nor.) (?42) 59 51 07 270 degs. 14.

1635/8.

* Alternatively 301 degs.

*additions 21032/8
23502/8*

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

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE IN
2103Z/8 December

From C.O.A.C. Halifax

Date 9.12.42.

Recd. 0220

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Previous page
My 1635Z/8th, add U.S.S. SALINAS,
TAHOMA, MODOC, 046 deg 21' 054 deg 08' en route
St. John's N.F. speed 9. Delete reference to
B Y M S, 2, 3, 4, 40, movement delayed.
Delete reference to BEAVER.

2103Z/8

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.A.1st S.L.
- Capt. Pin.
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.(2).
- U.E.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.of P.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.E.W.D.(3)
- M.S.
- Ad. Blake.

IH.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN
2350Z/8 December

From C.O.A.C. Halifax

Date 9.12.42.

Recd. 0450

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

^{14288A}
My 1635/8th Section East add HARVESTER,
GARLAND, (?ORCHIS), *NARCISSUS, in company en route
Argentia to St. John's expected time of arrival
1100Z 9th.

** See next page*

2350Z/8

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)
- 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. of P. (2)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- D.M.S.
- Ad. Blake.

IH.

War Diary.8.12.1942.
TuesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

L.C.I.(L)'s
*LARIAT.
** See next page*

When ready about December 15th and after first favourable weather report, sail British L.C.I.(L)s 98, 100, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 239 and H.M.R.T. LARIAT Norfolk to Bermuda via

(C) 35.05 69.54
(D) (? 44) 33 64.38 Onward route to Gibraltar
(E) 30.01 62.02.
(F) 29.30 40.59
(G) 30.02 27.01
(H) 35.03 17.58

N.O.B. Bermuda sail L.C.I.(L) 58 (alternatives 906 and 707) and H.M.R.T. *DESTINY in company. Report speed and time of departure. (Admiralty pass to S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F. and V.A. Gibraltar.) ** See p. 278*
(Connav 1920/8 to Commandant 5th U.S. N.D. Hampton Roads N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) C.E.S.F., C. in C. A.F. (U.S) S.N.O.C.A., N.C.X.F. Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

EMPIRE
GLADE
(attacked
28/11.)

EMPIRE GLADE 26th B.M.W.T. shellfire attack by German submarine at 0802 G.M.T. November 28th in 017° 16' N. 048° 44' W. P.C. and S. of S/M not known on sighting or when last seen. S/M on surface, one killed 5 slightly injured (list) C.Bs 148 and 2 Bags of Mail consigned to British Consul General New York thrown overboard in 2200 fathoms. S/M fired approx. 30 shells 8 hits 3 near waterline. Ship to be repaired Charleston, I.D. Form S.A. by Air Mail. (B.R.O. Charleston 1928Z/8 to Admty., Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q.)

ORCHIS
defect.

H.P. stuffing box joint blown. Intend returning to Argentia for repairs. NARCISSUS in company. *See previous page*
(ORCHIS 1930/8 to Comtask 24, S.O.P.A. Argentia (R) British Maintenance, Cdr. Argentia, HARVESTER.)

BUCTOUCHE
defects.

E.T.A. 0100Z/9th. Boiler hours. Major defects (details).
(BUCTOUCHE 1955Z/8 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) D. Halifax.)

GLENLEA
(sunk 7/11)
See next page

This is re-encipherment of Com 3 1705Z/8 "Opnav Connav Info C.E.S.F. from Com.3. SS GLENLEA British Cargo B.M.W.T. sunk 1340 G.M.T. Nov. 7th 1942 in 50° N. 30° W. by German Submarine U/B or U/R 114, of 49 crew Captain taken prisoner, about 20 in Port lifeboat last seen same day running Northeast by North, of 18 in starboard boat 3 survived landing New York this date on SS THORSTRAND, Norwegian, confidentials secured overboard. 1705Z/8".
(Cominch 2020Z/8 to Cinclant, C.T.F. 24. Admty.)

/Pacific ...

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.Pacific
Shipping
Routes.

Connav intends routeing ships with sufficient bunker capacity from (?the) coast of U.S. in convoy via Panama thence independently to India for Persian Gulf via composite course to Fremantle passing to southward of N. Zealand and Australia. Request comment.
(Connav 2035/8 to C. in C. Pac. Flt. (U.S.) Cdr. S.Pac. Force, Cdr. S.W. Pac. Force, Cdr. Western Sea Frontier, Admiralty, Com. Sou. East Pac., N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B.) *Reply: 87B 1124/24/12.*

K.14.

See p. 278

Your 1622/30th (N.T. in W.R.) Dutch S/M K.14 departed Bermuda 1900Z/8th routed via position
(A) 33.25 N. 66.18 W.
(B) 36.33 N. 71.30 W. thence X M and as ordered. Dutch S/M K.14 will guard (?N) S S F schedule. Will transmit on 4235 k/cs and harmonics.
(N.O.B. Bermuda 2055/8 to Connav (R) C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Admty., Dutch S/M K.14, B.A.D. Commandant 4th U.S. Naval District, Philadelphia, C.E.S.F.)
Departure Bermuda K.14 1950Z today for Philadelphia.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 2109Z/8 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival U.S.S.R. S/M L.15 escorted by U.S. Destroyer McCORMICK.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax N.S. 2101Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav's Serial 8. GLENLEA torpedoed sunk *See previous page.*
7th November 50 N. 30 W. 3 survivors landed New York. → EMPIRE SPENSER torpedoed today 57.00 N. 37.06 W. (as amended 2101/9) Convoy H.X.217.
(Connav 2113/8 to Comnav.)

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.

→ A. EMPIRE SPENSER torpedoed, sunk 57 N. 37° 06' W. (? 27°) 0127Z/08 December. Plane sights sub. on surface course 030 57.15 N. 35-(?) 21 W. 1029Z/8. Plane attacks Sub. on surface course 328 57.37 34.43 W. 1250Z/8. Plane attacks sub. 55.57 N. 33.51 W. 1527Z/8.
(Cominch 2146/8 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

LARIAT.

See previous page.

My 1627/7. LARIAT unfit to sail until after docking. Expected date of departure now 15th December.
(B.A.D. 2219Z/8 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) Admty., C.C.O., V.A. Gibraltar.)

U.S.
Transports.

TABINTHA, (Dutch), ANTIGUA, both U.S. Army Transports arrived San Francisco 5th and 6th respectively.
(N.S.H.Q. 2254Z/8 to Admty.)

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

ARMIDALE
sunk. While on mission to Timor carrying relief personnel and D/F ARMIDALE was attacked by A/C and sunk at 1530 1st December by 2 torpedoes and probably one bomb. One bomber, one fighter, shot down and one fighter probable. Boat with 20 survivors including C.O. recovered by KALGOURLIE. Survivors report being machine gunned in water. Raft with about 30 survivors located by A/C p.m. 7th December about 280 miles N.W. of Darwin. Catalina despatched to recover. No statement yet released, request you confirm (?conform).
(N.B. Melbourne 0631Z/8 to Admty.)

Situation. Digest serial number 320 December 7.
Shipping observed Buin Shortlands Area early morning 7th included 15 destroyers, 2 submarines, 2 tankers, 3 merchant ships.

2. 1 probable tanker, 1 large schooner, several small launches observed Gasmata Harbour morning same day unsuccessfully attacked by 4 Fortresses who also dropped bombs Gasmata runway where several zeros observed. Fortresses twice unsuccessfully attacked by approx. 10 zeros.
3. 4 Catalinas attacked Kavieng Area night 6/7 scoring direct hits probable bomb dumps near jetty causing fire. Large fires heavy explosions also hits on runway causing fires.
4. 6 Beaufighters strafed Lae Aerodrome afternoon 7th destroying 1 zero and killing several Japanese on ground. Aerodrome reported littered with wrecked aircraft. 6 B.25s attacked Samt Area previous night without observing results.
5. Beaufighters, B.25s and Wirraways attacked enemy positions Buna Gona area during day enemy A.A. still considerable from well protected positions.
6. No change reported Buna Endaiadere Area. Our troops advancing on Soputa Sanancnda Track. Field hospital attacked twice by enemy dive bombers during day.
7. 18 bombers and 12 zeros attacked by Kittyhawks and Aircobras over Buna Area afternoon 7th five dive bombers 6 medium bombers and 7 zeros shot down without loss to our aircraft.
8. Enemy R/C aircraft active over Timor where considerable ground patrol activity continues inland.
9. 1 aircraft made R/C Darwin area at 2600 feet morning 7th.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0745Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

U.S. Transport. U.S. Transport ANHUI arrived Mourilyan 8th Dec.
U.S. transport VANDERLIJN arrived Cairns (?8th)
(N.B. Melbourne 1042Z/8 to Admty. Connav.)

Movements. 7th December, arrival Sydney (N.S.W.), MORESBY, BOWEN, U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX, U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. Departure, Melbourne, COLUMBIA for Sydney (N.S.W.), Neth. Cruiser TROMP, for Sydney (N.S.W.), on escort duty, Brisbane, GYMPIE for Sydney (N.S.W.)
(N.B. Melbourne 1311Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.8.12.1942.
Tuesday.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1447A/8, 1450A/8.)Submarines Attacked.Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22 July.

1. On the 3rd an aircraft attacked a U-boat N.W. of Bougie straddling and hitting her with machine gunfire, and saw yellow buoy and an oil patch $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in extent.
2. On the 4th after an attack by a Leith light Wellington in 36.22 N. 01.30 W. a large patch of oil, increasing in extent, was seen. 6 other night sightings and 4 other attacks were made by this squadron during the week.
3. On the same day ESKIMO in 37.39 N. 08.12 E. attacked the leading edge of a swirl of a U-boat which had crash dived and considers destruction probable.
4. On the same day an aircraft attacked a U-boat in 36.25 N. 00.55 W. and an hour later reported her damaged on the surface, but she was not found again.
(DA/S.W 1227Z/8 to Cominch, B.A.D. Comnaveu, N.S.H.Q.)

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.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

An Admiralty message today describes the intended allocation of cruisers to various commands.

Home Commands.

Convoy P.W.260 has been ordered into Plymouth on account of weather, W.P.261 sailing from Bristol Channel ports has been delayed by weather (in the event, both these convoys were cancelled) and W.P.262 will be delayed 24 hours.

As soon as the weather moderates a striking force of 3 M.G.Bs and 3 M.T.Bs is being sailed from Portsmouth to Newhaven, to deal with a heavily armed merchant ship possibly escorted by 2 T.Bs and some M class minesweepers, which is expected to pass the Dover Straits westwards during the next four days.

ANTARKTIS.

An aircraft of 19 Group C.C. reported on landing that a tanker escorted by 7 torpedo boats was sighted at 1220 today in 43° 45' N. 7° 8' W. steering 90°. This was ANTARKTIS which left Ferrol at 0001 today.

61 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 232 mines last night off the coast of Denmark, in the Frisian Is - Elbe area and off Heligoland. Four Naval Swordfish laid mines off Le Havre this evening.

EMPIRE SCOTT at Murmansk was the target for persistent small scale air raids on Murmansk last night. No damage is reported except to the town and to Russian shipping.

A B.2 report dated 6th December states that TIRPITZ is undergoing major repairs in Lo Fiord. A 100 ton crane is alongside and a depot ship for workmen is in the Fiord.

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

Survivors were landed at St. Vincent (C.V.) today from SS WALLSEND which is reported to have been sunk by a submarine at 2145/2 in 20° 8' N. 25° 50' W.

Mediterranean.

N.C.X.F. intends to establish a landing craft base in North Africa as an independent command under S.O.L.C. (Senior Officer Landing Craft.)

^{N.C.X.F.}
~~C. in C. Med.~~ reports that the corvette MARIGOLD was sunk by aircraft torpedoes whilst escorting Convoy M.K.S.3 (Y). The Captain and 39 men are missing. ~~No other details are known.~~ 3-12-31
French SS MASCOT (1225 tons) was also sunk by aircraft torpedo; all officers and men were saved and were landed at Bougie.

→ French ship MASCOT, with a cargo of coal from Algiers, was sunk by aircraft off Cape Carbon at 2000.

Operation
Quadrangle
(B)

Convoy M.W.16 (SS CLAN MACINDOE, tanker ERINNA) sailed from Alexandria today for Malta escorted by PALADIN, HURWORTH, and one Hunt from Tobruk. It was arranged that ORION and 4 Hunts should sail from Malta on 11 Dec., to meet and escort the convoy on 12 Dec. on the last stage of its passage, but in the event C. in C. Med. at 0924B/11 ordered the force to be held at Malta.

PORCUPINE
torpedoed
by U.602.
(G.3.443)

The destroyer PORCUPINE was torpedoed whilst escorting S/M depot ship MAIDSTONE from Gibraltar to Algiers at 2300 today in 36° 40' N. 0° 4' W. (70 miles N.N.E. of Oran) She reported at 0020/10 that she was in no danger of sinking though her engine room and steering gear room were completely flooded. VANOC is standing by her and N.C.X.F. has instructed N.O.I.C. Oran to send out escorting tugs. PORCUPINE arrived at Arzeu (near Oran) on 10 Dec.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

P.35 reports that she grounded at 0455 in approx. 36° 23' N. (?10°) (?38' E) and refloated an hour later. DEPTFORD went aground at Algiers in bad weather.

Wellingtons bombed Tunis tonight in very bad weather, obtaining hits on La Goulette docks.

East Indies.

The present routing orders concerning ships detached from outbound convoys from the Persian Gulf are given in message 0924Z/9 from S.N.O.P.G.

America and West Indies.

Convoy H.X.217 was attacked again by U-boats and M.V. CHARLES L.D. was torpedoed and sunk at 0815Z today in position reported to be 58° 59' N. 29° 31' W. (390 miles S.W. of Reykjavik). The convoy had no air escort today. It eventually arrived in the U.K. with the loss of only two ships in spite of the fact that shortly after leaving Westomp at least 4 U-boats were constantly in touch.

SECRET

284A

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: 2015A/9th December.
From: C.C.O. IN: Date: 9.12.42.
Received: 2154.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated: S.O. Force J.

Your 803/29 October. Consequent upon A.M. 1218/27/October and various allocations made within the C.O. Command the composition of Force J has now changed to that given below. Request authorities concerned may be informed by signal.

2. Present composition of Force J. H.M.S. LOCUST, 5 L S I (S), and 2 L S I (H), namely, PRINCE CHARLES, (S O), PRINCE LEOPOLD, PRINCE ALBERT, PRINCESS ASTRID, PRINCESS ^{JOSEPHINE} CHARLOTTE, INVICTA, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, 'A' L O T Squadron, (less 3rd L O T Flotilla), comprising 4th, 5th, 21st, L O T Flotillas and 1st L O F (L) Flotilla.

6 L O P (L) Flotillas based on Northoy comprising 1st 2nd 5th, 6th, 7th and 24th Flotillas.

1st Coastal Forces Flotilla.

L O S (L) ~~(1)~~ 202, 203, 204 and 205.

3. It is intended to equip Force J with an eventual total of 63 L C A, 15 L O S (M), 18 L C P (M), 12 L C I

(L) and /

287^B

SECRET

(L) and 24 LC I(S) additional to the above including the craft for the L S I.

2015A/9.

* 1st Coastal Force Flotilla is allocated to Force J and will be attached to HORNET for administration.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | D. of S. (3). |
| 1st S.L. (2). | O.D.8. |
| 3rd S.L. | D.A.S. (L). |
| Vice Controller. | D.T.S.D. |
| 4th S.L. | D. of P. (3). |
| W.C.R.S. | D.T.M. |
| A.C.N.S. (H). | D.C.D. (2). |
| R.O.N.S. (W). | M. (2) for action. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Mails. |
| Capt. Pin. (Admy. Hse.) | Movts. |
| Ops. (3). | D.M.S. |
| G.D. (5). | D.M.S. Citadel. |
| O.I.C. (3). | D.T.D. (4). |
| T.P.P. (3). | D.T.D. (M). |
| D.S.D. 9. (2). | D.T.D. (C). |
| D.A/S.W. | Adl. Blake. |
| W.D. | T/P for D.A.S. (4) |
| D.K. (CO). | D. of S. } Bath. (BA. 8720) |
| D. of P. (Q). | |
| B.D.I.C.S. (C) (2). | |
| D.S.D. (2). | |

169

150 200 300 (1) (1)

100 200 300 (1) (1)

100 200 300 (1) (1)

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.General.~~Proposed~~
*Intended*allocation
of Cruisers.The following allocation of cruisers is intended.
2. Home Fleet - BELFAST to join the Home Fleet when ready for service. BERMUDA to rejoin the Home Fleet.3. Western Mediterranean - AJAX to replace BERMUDA leaving U.K. about 22nd December. A.M. 2047/6 refers. CHARYBDIS to return to U.K. and to be attached to the Home Fleet. A.M. 1706/7 refers. SCYLLA to return to U.K. after AJAX has arrived in the Mediterranean and to be attached to the Home Fleet. A.M. 1701/7 refers.4. Eastern Mediterranean - PENELOPE to replace ARETHUSA leaving U.K. about end December. A.M. 1650/8 refers. CARLISLE to replace COVENTRY leaving U.K. about mid January. A.M. 1650/8 refers. * *cancel 9/42*5. Eastern Fleet - GLASGOW to leave the Eastern Fleet and join the Home Fleet. A.M. 2046/6 refers. *SUFFOLK to join the Eastern Fleet as a relief for GLASGOW, leaving U.K. about mid January. A.M. 2046/6 refers. SUSSEX to join the Eastern Fleet, leaving U.K. when ready for service about mid February. KENYA to join the Eastern Fleet, leaving U.K. when ready for service about mid February. NEWCASTLE to rejoin the Eastern Fleet, leaving U.K. when ready for service towards end of February. DEVONSHIRE, GAMBIA, BIRMINGHAM will return to U.K. for refits and modernisation at the discretion of C. in C. Eastern Fleet.6. West Africa - NEWFOUNDLAND and UGANDA will join the West African Command when ready for service during March 1943. SHROPSHIRE is transferred to the R.A.N. (*Sept. 1942.*) (A.C.N.S. (H), 0043A/9.)** See next page*

U.S. Warship Following is a paraphrase of Cominch despatch dispositions. 1403/9, addressed for action to Admiralty (via Comnavu) and for information to Comnavu and Opnav.

Serial 51, amending Cominch despatch 2140/2.
LOUISVILLE - In South Pacific. CARD - San Diego. TRENTON - At Valparaiso. RICHMOND - At Balboa. SAN FRANCISCO - En route U.S. PORTLAND - At Sydney. TUSCALOOSA - In Casco Bay. BROOKLYN - At New York. OMAHA - At San Juan. MARBLEHEAD - On patrol. SUWANNEE, MEMPHIS, WICHITA, ST. LOUIS, CLEVELAND, SANGAMON, NEW MEXICO, MISSISSIPPI, CONCORD - At sea.
(Comnavu, 2151/9 to Admt.)HOME COMMANDS.Policy.N.O.I.C.
Dartmouth.

Captain Lord Ashbourne has assumed the duties of N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, vice Captain E.A. Aylmer. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1000/9.)

Flag of
R.A.A.H.F.

Propose to transfer my flag to INDOMITABLE a.m. 15th December. (R.A.A.H.F., 1715A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

15th and
22nd M.L.
Flotillas.

The 15th and 22nd M.L. Flotillas are to be reconstituted as follows. Details. (D.D.O.D.(C), 1848A/9 to A.C.O.S.)

/A.F.D. 7 ...

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.

A.F.D. 7, F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1114/3/42. Request
 A.F.D.20. information as follows:-
 (A) Earliest date of arrival of A.F.D.20 in
 Clyde.
 (B) Confirmation that A.F.D.20 is to replace A.F.D.7 in the
 latter's present position.
 (C) Position of new site for A.F.D.7 and direction of dock.
 (D) Priority of the above mooring work relative to resiting
 of B.3. Mooring in Holy Loch, observing that Mooring-Vessel
 is not expected to be available before 15th January 1943.
 (A.S. Rosyth, 1915/9 to Admty.)

Force J. Amended composition.
 (C.C.O., 2015A/9 to Admty.)
 See Lion Copy. *p/s 267A 973.*

Movements.

ABDIEL. Sail from Scapa as convenient p.m. 10th by normal
 route through Minches and Irish Sea, thence by
 searched channel and Q.Z.L.15 to arrive Plymouth
 in daylight a.m. 12th December.
 (C. in C. H.F., 1132A/9 to ABDIEL.)

THRASHER. Estimated P.C.S. of THRASHER at 0201A/10 040°
See p/s 289C 9
 06' N. 013° 15' W., 000°, 11 knots.
 300A
 (C. in C. W.A., 1157A/9 to SPEY.)

W.A. Situation at 2003A/9. Details.
 Command. (C. in C. W.A., 1350A/9.)
 See Lion Copy.

S/M At 0800A/10. Details.
 Positions. (F.O.S., 1607A/9.)
 See Lion Copy. *p. 289C*

* SUFFOLK, Sheerness departure GARTH at 1357 to R/V EGLINTON
 GARTH, at 51 buoy, thence in company to R/V SUFFOLK
 EGLINTON. between May Island and Aberdeen at 1100/10.
 * *See previous page* (C. in C. Nore, 1612A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

Operations.

Biscay Cancel my 2209/8th. Proceed forthwith diving by
 S/M Patrol. day to establish patrol in vicinity 045° 02' N.
 (TUNA) 002° 30' W.
See p. 289C (F.O.S., 1126A/9 to TUNA.)

/Patrols ...

MOST SECRET

289A

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

1350A/9 December

Date 9/12/42

From - C. in C. Western Approaches.

| <u>Section N.E.</u> | <u>Situation at 2003A/9/12/42</u> | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--|-----|
| LIMBOURNE | 58 | 32 | 05 50 | To Plymouth | 17 |
| <u>Section S.E.</u> | <u>Situation at 3003A/9/12/42</u> | | | | |
| LANDGUARD | 53 | 57 | 04 56 | To Clyde | 11 |
| LIMBOURNE | 58 | 32 | 05 50 | To Plymouth | 17 |
| LANCASTER | 54 | 32 | 05 08 | To Port Z.A. | 15½ |
| HASTINGS CAMROSE | Sail Lough Foyle 2000/9 | | | To Clyde | 12 |
| GOODWIN | 55 | 25 | 06 07 | To Loch Ewe | 11 |
| KALE | Sailing Clyde Approx. 1730/9 | | | To Tobermory | 15 |
| STEWARD LEEDS UNITED | 52 | 11 | 05 20 | Northbound | 8 |
| 6 M/Vs TANGO | Sails Belfast 0600A/10 | | | To Loch Ewe | 7½ |
| O.N.S. 152 | BODO | 53 | 57 04 50 | 270 degs. Oversay 6 thence 56 10 15 02 | 7 |
| O.N.S.M. 152 | KINGSTON BERYL | 54 | 10 05 00 | 270 degs. Oversay 6 6 miles | |
| O.N.S.U.J. 152 | HELLIER II | 57 | 27 06 54 | 270 degs. Oversay 6½ 6 miles | |
| O.N.S. 152 | UNESCOR- TED | Sails Clyde 2115/9 | | 270 degs. Oversay 7 6 miles | |

289^B-

| <u>Section N.W.</u> | <u>Situation at 2003A/9/12/42</u> | <u>Secret Code</u> |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| FURY | 60 38 12 43 to Scapa | |
| H.X. 217 C.T.U. 24.1.4 | FAME BURZA POTENTILLA EGLANTINE ROSE VERVAIN 59 18 26 31 To 59 06 20 31 | 7 |
| U.R. 53 | GAVOTTE STAINLESS REIGHTON WYKE 59 43 09 44 To 62 20 17 30 | 5 |
| R.U. 52 | ARAB ANGLE HUGH WALPOLE NORTHERN SPRAY 62 30 21 12 To 61 02 16 59 | 4 |

| <u>Section S.W.</u> | <u>Situation at 2003A/9/12/42</u> | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| INTERPRESE | 44 48 23 44 To 50 00 22 00 | 19 |
| SPEY ROTHER SIENNEN CLARE | 45 19 13 30 To 42 59 13 29 thence 39 01 13 01 | 10 |
| O.N.S. 150 C.T.U. 24.1.18 (E) | BEVERLEY WINCHelsea ANTHONY ASPHODEL ABELLA CLOVER 47 58 30 29 To 47 30 39 01 | 6 |
| S.C. 111 C.T.U. 24.1.3 | U.S.S. SPENGER U.S.S. BADGER DIANTHUS ROSEBERRY TRILLIUM DAUPHIN 55 36 33 30 To 55 40 32 00 59 01 19 59 | thence 6 1/2 |
| K.X. 6A | NORTHERN GIFT NORTHERN FOAM 50 01 13 06 TO 46 00 14 00 | 5 |

1350A/9

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.I.
- Capt. 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 (S)
- D.T.D (C)
- D.M.S.
- Ad. Blake (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)

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

DAT.

2898^c

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This Message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it outside British or Allied Government Services.

M E S S A G E

IN

MOST SECRET

1607A/9th December

From F.O.S.

Date 9/12/42
Recd. 1654

P/L by T/P (Secret)

Addressed Admiralty.

259.

Positions of Submarines at 0800A/10th December and Movements for the following 24 hours:-

(a) TUNA on patrol in vicinity 45 degs. 00'W. 002 degs. 30' W. *See pp 289*

(b) THRASHER in position 44 degs. 14' 013 degs. 17' dived by day towards 49 degs. 10' 013 degs. 19' speed 160 miles per day. *See pp 289 + 300A*

(c) P.221 anticipated position at 0130A/11th December 43 degs. 01' 013 degs. 15' from Southward dived by day towards 49 degs. 10' 013 degs. 19' speed 160 miles per day. *See pp 299 + 300A*

(d) P.615 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Campbeltown 1200/10th December by standard route towards position 180 degs. Lizard 5 miles speed 10 knots.

(e) O.15 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END leaves Dundee 1500A/10th December by standard routes for Scapa Flow estimated time of arrival 0900A/11th December.

(f) U.S.S. GURNARD in zone K.505.

1607A/9.

Advance copies Duty Captain
D.O.D.(H)

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

(H)

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Patrols. Tonight ST. ALBANS to anchor at St. Helens at immediate notice. **CHASSEURS** 41 (S.O.), 5, 10 patrolling south of E.A5 Buoy if weather permits. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1303A/9 to Capt. D.1.) M.Ls 347 and 297 will patrol weather permitting on line St. Catherines Point, 50° 20' N. 01° 35' W., 50° 20' N. 02° 20' W., Kimmeridge Bay. My 1303/9 refers. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1615A/9 to D.1.)

Interception of Enemy M/V. A heavily-armed enemy merchant ship, possibly escorted by two Torpedo Boats and some M-Class minesweepers, is expected to pass the Dover Straits westwards during next few days.

A striking force of three M.G.Bs and 3 M.T.Bs is being sailed to Newhaven as soon as weather moderates. This is to be kept at immediate notice during dark hours. Orders to sail will be given by C. in C. Arrangements are to be made to keep Force immediately informed of relevant intelligence received from Dover. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1755A/9 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven.)

ANTARKTIS. My 1751/9 (? 1759A intended). Ship identified as ANTARKTIS which left Ferrol 0001/9. *See next page* *My 1618/9. Cancel last paragraph. (F.O.S., 2119A/9 to S/MS.) *9/2.299* * N.T. in H.D.

Exercises.

MALAYA. C. in C. Rosyth's 1820/8. Concur. R.A.(D) is requested to detail escort of 3 destroyers. (C. in C. H.F., 1254A/9.)

Allied Air Activity.

Attack on M/V. Result of attack on merchant vessel of 5000 tons: 1 hit observed. In position 62° 42' N. 6° 30' E. (A/C C6CG, 1345/9 to 18 Group.) P.C.S. of 4 merchant vessels 62° 42' N. 6° 30' E., 180° 8 knots. (A/C C6CG, 1350/9 to 18 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk bombed. Persistent small scale air raid from 1600C/8 to 0730C/9. (3 corrupt groups) on town but comparatively small damage. No damage to (? British) ships or personnel but EMPIRE SCOTT definitely target and narrowly missed by 5 sticks of bombs. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 1043A/9.) Murmansk raided last (? night) by succession of single aircraft. Some damage in town and to Russian shipping. No British casualties or damage. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1922A/9.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Enemy Air Instructions. Reliable source quotes message sent to all German Air Force as follows "In the Channel Area attacks on 4-engine aircraft have proved best when made head-on from below. I recommend that you imitate them".
(Air Ministry, 1750Z/9 to Air Commands.)

Mining.

Selsey. One magnetic mine red detonated by LL in approx. 144° 2.9 miles from Selsey Bill House. Details.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1800A/9 and 2150A/9.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ. B.2 report dated 6th December, states TIRPITZ and SS. STAVANGERCFJORD are in Lo Fiord. The latter is a depot ship for workmen. TIRPITZ is undergoing major repairs. 100-ton crane alongside.
Comment. Photographs of Lo Fiord on 2nd December showed TIRPITZ, STAVANGERCFJORD, and other vessel which was probably the repair ship HUASCARAN.
(D.D.I.C., 1317A/9.)

Trondheim area. My 1819A/7. According to Swedish Press, Sea Defence Commandant Trondheim has declared all harbours in his command closed from one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise and issued following instructions for entering Trondheim:-
(a) Unescorted vessels over 300 tons must report their arrival off Trondheim to the Harbour Captain through the naval signal station on Garten Island.
(b) Vessels must remain on the line Hysnes - Selven until given permission to proceed.
2. Bodo has also been closed during darkness by the Harbour Captain.
(D.N.I., 1702A/9 to A.C.O.S., F.O.S.)

Enemy Tanker. An aircraft of 19 Group reported on landing that a tanker escorted by 7 torpedo boats was sighted at 1220/9 in 043° 45' N. 007° 08' W., steering 090°, estimated speed 9 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1759A/9 to F.O.S.)

ANTARKTIS. German Tanker ANTARKTIS left Ferrol 0001/9.
(D.D.I.C., 2115A/9.)

*See previous page
p. 299*

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy submarine in 43° 45' N. 07° 08' W.
reported. Submarine was first sighted on course 090°,
speed 9 knots.
(A/C M6DN, 1220/9 to 19 Group.)

A.M. 1239A/9. Presence of U-Boats near and ahead of H.X. 217
as appreciated in A.M. 1438A/9 confirmed by nearly 20 trans-
missions between 1052Z and 1555Z.
(D.D.I.C., 1816A/9 to Escorts H.X. 217.)

Casualties and Defects.

CYGNET. CYGNET grounded Calve Island, Tobermory 0830.
Efforts to tow off this tide failed. Opinion
is to send tug. Request second tug if available.
(Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, 0947/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
CYGNET refloated. Rudder out of action, port engine undamaged.
Starboard propeller all blades one third chipped off.
(Cdre. WESTERN ISLES, 1823A/9.)

PRIAM. Following received from SS. PRIAM 047° 34' N.
030° 00' W. Request escort. Number 2 hatch
stove in. 10 feet water in hold. Advise port
refuge.
(Burnham Radio, 1010 G.M.T./9 to C. in C. W.A.)
Following from PRIAM begins. My 1010/9. Running before
wind, steering 045°, 17 knots. Weather moderating. May
effect repairs before dark.
(Burnham Radio, 1128/9.)

JED. JED delayed by engine defects. E.T.D. is now
p.m. 12th.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1024A/9.)

SHARPSHOOTER. When will SHARPSHOOTER be ready to sail for U.K.
(C. in C. H.F., 1032A/9 to A.C.I.C.)

LOUISBERG. While lying alongside LOUISBERG was rammed by
BIDEFORD and has sustained considerable
structural damage. LOUISBERG is being taken in
hand for repairs at Belfast.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1051A/9.)

ADHERENT. My 1719/8. Floating dock will be ready to
receive ADHERENT p.m. 11th. Request vessel may
be brought to Rosyth on Friday morning.
(A.S. Rosyth, 1051/9 to N.O.I.C. Methil.)

/Landing ...

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

Landing A.M. 1556/16/11. ENNERDALE. Craft returned
Craft from ex 81st Flotilla L.C.M.(f) 151, 154, 160, 163,
Operation 164, 168. 82nd Flotilla L.C.M.(f) 171, 229, all
"Torch". damaged, over 14 days.
(S.O.A.S.C., 1616A/9 to Admty.)

ABIGAIL damaged. ^{not damaged} BENREOCH collided with ABIGAIL in Leith Docks
on 7th December. H.M. Ship was moored alongside
and was damaged, but not extensively.
(N.O.I.C. Leith, 1710/9.)

Shipping and Convoys.

LADY OF My 1246A/8th. Sailed WRESTLER escorting LADY
MANN. OF MANN.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 0145A/9 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

ANDES. Your 1127/5. ANDES will embark approximately
2500 personnel in Glasgow on 17th December and
sail 18th December.
(D.S.T., 0314A/9.)

P.W.D. 260. Postponed owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth, 0845/9.)
Convoy and escorts are to enter Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1137/9 to Escorts P.W.260.)

Scuttling It has been decided that scuttling charges
of M/Vs. should only be fitted to British managed
merchant ships when sailing in operational
convoys (e.g. Malta convoys) in areas where
our control of sea communications is slender.
2. In other cases ships should scuttle themselves by smashing
inlet pipes etc. in accordance with C.A.M.S.I. 212/42 in course
of distribution.
3. Instructions for fitting scuttling charges in ships mentioned
in para, 1 are being promulgated in C.A.F.O. 2518/42.
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1013A/9, 1241A/11.)

Convoy H.X.217, CHARLES L.D. torpedoed and sunk at 0815Z/9.
CHARLES L.D. Rescue ship standing by.
(British, Several U-Boats still in contact with convoy.
5273 tons) H.X. 217 P.C.S. at 1000Z/9, 58° 59' N. 29° 14' W.,
sunk. 090°, 9.
ROSE ROSE reports condenser damaged and after compart-
damaged. ments leaking badly. Will require docking.
Weather 4678 5676.
^{p. 317} (S.O. Mid-Ocean Escort, 1025Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1025Z/9. 12 survivors picked up. Intend altering course
direct for position (V) at 1930Z.
(C.T.U. 24.1.4, 1237Z/9 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- U.R. 53. Estimate you may meet U.R. 53 at about 0001A/10.
(C. in C. W.A., 1106A/9 to FURY.)
- A.T. 30 Admiralty 1747/3. As only destroyers available
(QUEEN MARY) are two "Esses" and two destroyers working up,
I do not intend to provide escort.
(C. in C. W.A., 1116A/9 to Admty.)
- Tankers in All tankers in O.N.153 and all subsequent O.N.
O.N. and and O.N.S. convoys are to be given approach
O.N.S. routes for Bermuda and for Norfolk (Virginia)
Convoys. Charleston, Guantanamo, Key West, Corpus Christi,
Galveston, Port Arthur, New Orleans, Mobile and
Tampa in accordance with M.A.C.R.I.
(D.T.D., 1206A/9 to C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.F. 5. SCIMITAR is to escort Liverpool portion from Bar
Light Vessel at 1430A/11 to R/V with Clyde
portion 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1400Z/12.
SCIMITAR to Londonderry on completion.
(C. in C. W.A., 1221A/9.)
Intend to sail SCIMITAR escorting EMPRESS OF CANADA, DUCHESS
OF RICHMOND, DUCHESS OF YORK, ZOELLA LYKES, EXIRIA, IRENE
DUPONT, EMPIRE PRIDE 1330Z/11 for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles.
E.T.A. 1400Z/12.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1508A/9.)
- O.N. 151. Convoy scattered. Heavy gale. 15 stragglers plus
DAHLIA, BORAGE. Expect corvette and 6 ships to
rejoin soon. Suggest have not received new
route. Name will follow.
(WATCHMAN, 1250Z/9 to Admty.)
Your 1250Z/9. Report situation including P.C.S., weather report,
and proposed R/Vs to be broadcast to stragglers. Prefix your
reply "Immediate" and address it to A.I.G. 303.
(C. in C. W.A., 1624Z/9 to Escorts O.N. 151.)
- P.W. 260, P.W.260 has been ordered into Plymouth on account
W.P. 261, of weather and is to be sailed at 0900/10.
W.P. 262. 2. W.P.261 sailing from Bristol Channel ports has
been delayed by weather and is to be sailed a.m.
tomorrow Thursday.
3. W.P.262 will be delayed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1311A/9.)
- *W.S. 25. A.M. 1328/5. SS. TARIFA speed 14½ knots
TARIFA. destination India with important service cargo
is to join convoy W.S. 25 sailing from Liverpool.
(D.O.D.(H), 1516A/9.)

* See next page

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- W.S. 26P. MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE will not now be included in convoy W.S. 26P. (D.S.T., 1552A/9.)
WINCHESTER CASTLE will not now be included in convoy W.S. 26P. (D.S.T., 1553A/9.)
- B.B., H.M. To facilitate quick turn-round of shipping, and Convoys and having regard to times of docking at Bristol independents. Channel ports, cancel my 1459/17/3, 1109/18/3, 1849/24/9 and 1918/14/10.
2. B.B. convoys are to be sailed as soon as practicable after the Commodore has been embarked.
3. H.M. Convoys are to be sailed as soon as practicable daily.
4. Independent ships over 15 knots are to be sailed at all practicable times.
5. Southbound ships from Mersey Ports are to be sailed to Holyhead for onward routeing in H.M. convoys as at present.
6. In the event of ships destined for W.P. convoys being unable to enter Milford Haven, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is to divert such ships to Swansea.
7. Attention is also called to para. 2 of my 1248/10/7.
8. C.B. 0423 (5) (Atlantic convoy instructions) article 435 para. 8 and para. 9 (A) and (B) now being distributed are cancelled.
(C. in C. W.A., 1616A/9.)
- Zigzagging. In order to provide for clear nights, especially in the tropics, on which there may be no moon, merchant ships of 10 knots and over proceeding independently are in future to zigzag by day and night, except in heavy weather or low visibility, when in those areas in which ships are ordered to zigzag.
2. C.A.M.S.I. 176/42, in course of distribution, will be amended. (D.T.D., 1752A/9 to A.I.G. 11.)
- K.M.S. 5. Clyde arrival LONDONDERRY S.O., ALGOMA, PRESCOTT, MOOSEJAW, KITCHENER, CALGARY, LULWORTH, REGINA, WOODSTOCK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1834A/9.)
- W.S. 25. My 1328/5.
See previous page. 1. Cancel para. 10.
2. SS. HIGHLAND BRIGADE will not now be required to embark U.S. Technicians at Clyde and should be sailed with Bristol Channel portion to R/V.
(D.O.D.(H), 1903A/9.)
- O.N.S.152. Milford Haven, Liverpool sections are to proceed to Altacarry R/V. C.T.U. 24.7 is requested to sail one corvette to R/V Loch Ewe section in 180° Barra Head 10 miles at 1500A/10 and Escort Ship to Commodores R/V for noon 11th.
(C. in C. W.A., 2131Z/9 to BODO, KINGSTON BERYL, HELIER II.)
- O.N.S.C.152. Clyde portion failed to sail. Weather bound.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2310/9 to A.I.G. 191.)

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

K.M.F.4. Delays due to weather and defects have led to VOLENDAM, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, TEGELBERG and possibly MALOJA missing K.M.F.4.
I am therefore retaining ROTHER and SPEY at Gibraltar as nucleus of ocean escort of these ships to U.K. to be reinforced as necessary from Gibraltar Escort Force to P.L.E. Expect to sail these ships to pass Gibraltar about 14th Dec. Further signal will be made.
(N.C.X.F. 1231A/9 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)
Bad route instructions given in U.K. led to the following errors in destination of K.M.F.4. MONARCH OF BERMUDA and DERBYSHIRE went to Gibraltar instead of Oran. DUCHESS OF BEDFORD arrived Algiers instead of Oran (instructions of N.C.S.O. Mersey) OTRANTO who stopped at Gibraltar with defects, had route orders for Algiers instead of Oran.
(ii) These errors made a heavy call on additional escort to correct mistake.
(iii) Request you will investigate.
(N.C.X.F. 1233A/9 to Admty.)

Attacks on U/Bs. No written reports of R.A.F. aircraft attacks on U-boats after 11th November in your area have been received except in the case of 6 attacks by Gibraltar based aircraft. It is requested that unless other instructions have been given these reports may be forwarded to Admty. (D.A/S.W.), Air Ministry, (D.D.A.T.) H.Q.C.C.
(D.A/S.W 1335A/9 to N.C.X.F.)

Landing Craft. 1. Is considered that following British landing craft should be based on North Africa in addition to those embarked in assault shipping.
(A) L.C.P.18. (B) L.C.A.18. (C) L.C.M.18.
(D) L.C.T.6 increasing to 24 when weather permits reinforcement. (E) L.C.I.40. (F) L.C.S.3.
2. It is requested that a Commander R.N. be appointed as Senior Officer Landing Craft (S.O.L.C) together with appropriate maintenance and base personnel.
3. It is intended to establish a landing craft base in North Africa as independent command under S.O.L.C. administered by Commodore F.
4. It is proposed that following British assault shipping should be based in Western Mediterranean
(A) QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX.
(B) ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTMAN, until Tunisia is occupied.
(C) Two Landing Ships Gantry.
(D) 16 L.S.T. Mark 2.
5. If the above proposals are approved further proposals for implementing the decisions will be made.
(N.C.X.F. 2001A/9 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C.C.O. Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.S.)

/M.K.S.3 (Y) ...

MOST SECRET

296A

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.)

1709/9th December.

MOST SECRET.

MESSAGE.

Date. 10.12.42. ^{IN}

From. Agwar Washington.

Recd. 0445.

Addressed. UNFOR London.

Mission to Dakar.

Reference No. R.4039.

Interior Addresses. FOR. Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers.
FROM. The Combined Chiefs of Staff,
Washington.
Cite: FIN 30-6.

Acting through the Committee of the Combined Boards in Washington, certain civil departments of the U.S. and U.K. have prepared the following comments and recommendations which they wish to have the proposed American Mission to Dakar discuss with the appropriate officials of French West Africa. They are furnished for the information of the Civil Affairs Section of your staff:

1 - Civil and economic matters pertaining to North and West Africa which do not affect military operations are being dealt with by appropriate U.S. and U.K. Civil Departments which collaborate with the State Department through machinery which brings together the Executive Secretaries of the Combined Shipping Adjustment Board, The Combined Raw Materials Board, The Combined Production and Resources Board, and the Combined Food Board in Washington. Certain telegrams dealing with the economic and shipping issues regarding North Africa have been sent through this machinery. For Example see FIN 20-3.

2 - In order to avoid wasteful use of shipping and to achieve the economical and coherent purchase of food products and raw materials it is essential that there should be the closest coordination between the US and British Civil Authorities of the economic and financial arrangement affecting French West Africa.

3 - For these reasons the CSAB, the CFB, the CRMB and the CPRB are anxious that:

(a) No long term engagements should be entered into with FWA in respect of the use of French merchant shipping, the purchase of foodstuffs, or raw materials, or the supply of products to FWA without prior reference to the State Department and the Secretariat of these combined boards.

(b) That the long term arrangements to be made for obtaining from and getting supplies to FWA should be fitted into the supply arrangements already made for the British, Fighting French, and Belgian Territories in West Africa; which arrangements are now coordinated at ACCRA by the West African Supply Committee, and in London by a corresponding committee, both of which are already joint American British committees or subcommittees.

By the/.....

296^B

- 2 -

By the adoption of (b) above you will appreciate that in future all supply arrangements for FWA would thus become coordinated in the 3 centers where action is to be taken.

4 - Shipping raises 2 problems, (1) the arrangements for dealing with the vessels now in FWA Ports. Briefly the policy should be to insure that these vessels sail for the area as soon as possible but that no long term engagements as to their employment or their terms of operation should be made at this stage. (2) Long term arrangements with the object of making the vessels available for service in the general pool of tonnage controlled by the United Nations should be made under the direction of the CSAB who will be guided by a due regard for all political considerations. (See telegrams numbers FAN 20-4, 20-6, 20-8). (3) The arrangements for providing shipping services to and from the area. These will of course be coordinated by the CSAB in line with the arrangements in 3(b).

5 - The CRMB has decided to allocate all rubber and Kapok to the UK and all Sisal to the USA and for your guidance a telegram embodying this recommendation of the CRMB will also be sent you very shortly.

6 - The DIB is discussing the extension of the memorandum of understanding between the UK and US Governments (under which the British Ministry of Food are responsible for the purchase of all vegetable oils and oilseeds for the 4 British West African, Belgian and Fighting French Territories) to cover the purchase of oils and oilseeds in FWA also. For your guidance it seems unlikely that any considerable part of the FWA oils and oilseeds, which consist mostly of peanuts, would be shipped to the USA.

7 - Lastly questions about the rate of exchange in French West Africa are complicated, owing to the fact that a rate of 75 francs to the dollar is in force in North Africa, while a rate of 176 francs to the pound sterling (namely 44 francs to the dollar) is in force in Fighting French Africa, and in other parts of the French Empire administered by the Fighting French. At the present stage it would be premature to try to settle the exchange rate for French West Africa.

1709/9

Received in War Registry 1945/11.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2).
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (T).
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
P.A.S. (3).
P.A.S. (0).
D.O.D. (H) (2).
D.O.D. (F) (2).
D. of P. (2).
D. of P. (Q).
D.N.I. (4).
D. of L.D.
D.D.I.C. (2).
D.E.W.D. (3).

G-1. AFHQ DISTRIBUTION:

1. Mr. Stirling
2. Mr. Hudson
3. Mr. Workman
4. Mr. Brunt
5. Sir A. Rumbold
6. Mr. Bruce Lockhart
7. Brig. Jacobs.
8. Admiralty.
9. Economic Warfare Section, G-2
10. C-4
11. C-1, ETO
12. Civil Affairs, ETO.
13. Civil Affairs, AFHQ.
14. AG, Records.
15. ETO Trans. Off. Arr.
W.D.
I.P.

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X - contd.

M.K.S.3 (Y).

see p. 310

My 1905/6th. M.K.S.3 (Y) sailed 5 hours late. VETCH S.O. of escort. Oran section R/V in position 17 at 1700A/10th. Gibraltar Section R/V in 035° 56' N. 006° 24' W. at 0900A/12th. N.O.I.C. Oran is requested to sail French AGEN to U.K. in the convoy. (N.C.X.F. 2107A/9 to V.A. Gib. N.O.I.C. Oran (R) Cmdre. Algiers, A.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (S) 8, VETCH.)

9.12.1942.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

P.221. *See p. 289^c* Your 1548/8 to S.8. (W.R. Note A.M. 1548/8 was originated by W.R. requesting repetition of corrupt positions of S.8s 1154/5. concerning sailing of P.221. Following message corrects para 1 and 3).

1. Shifting W/T Watch at that time and thence as ordered by F.O.S.
2. S.P.2s carried, etc.
3. W/T Watch on home station S 2/42 table two (three), (four) F.O.S.

(V.A. Gibraltar 0001A/9 to Admty).
Following is a repetition of my 1106A/6 (begins) Addressed Admty (R) N.C.X.F., V.C.N.A., F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, and Portsmouth, S.3., S.5. from S.8. Intend to sail 221 painted dark blue p.m. 7th for U.K. passing 45.01 N. 12.12 W. at 0030A/11 shifting W/T Watch at that time, thence as ordered by F.O.S.

2. S.P.s carried 02319 (32) and (33) 02466 Series and 02467 Series.
3. W/T watch on N.A. Stn. S 1/42 Section N.A. Table two. (1) Line 10 W/T Watch on home station S2/42. Table 2 (3). (S.8. 0842A/9 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

Search for CERAMIC. *See next page 9 p. 316* Your 1934/8th, Portuguese destroyer DAO now at Horta will carry out search. (N.A. Lisbon 0031/9 to Admiralty. FERVENT, V.A. Gibraltar).

Air Report. Op. Summary for 24 hours ended midnight. December 8th. U/Boat sightings and attacks Wellington R.179 at 2201 or 2210 8th December. In LAXP or NHXP 5309, 35.53 N. 00.51 W. picked up and illuminated U/B on surface. Attacked from starboard beam 4 DCs dropped ahead and on edge of swirl. 12 secs later U/B submerged all DCs exploded, no results seen. No E/A sightings or combats (H.Q.R.A.F. Gib. 0850Z/9).

SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, CLARE. *See p. 300^A* Proceed at best speed. Report E.T.A. Gib. forthwith, SENNEN report if endurance* rendezvousing convoy 036° N. 007° W and return to U.K. without refuelling. (F.O.C. Gib. 1001A/9 to SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, CLARE (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C.W.A.). *? per tick

Convoys for America. My 1610/8th Fast convoy "Indeterminate". Your 1939A/8th (N.T. in W.D.). G.U.S.2. speed 9 about December 20th will advise date when progress unloading permits. V.A. Gibraltar pass to Admiralty and Admiralty pass to Cinclant and N.O.I.C. Freetown. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1017Z/9 to V.A. Gib, (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. A.F., F.O. C.W.A. Admiralty). Passing action being taken by W.R.).

Movements. Sailed 0940 EXE for Oran. E.T.A. 0015/10th. Q.B.A. message 11. (V.A. Gib. 1041A/9 to F.O.I.C. Oran, N.C.X.F.). /Arrivals....

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Movements
Contd.

Arrivals ex M.K.S.3.X.ROCHESTER, LEITH, ERNE, SCARBOROUGH, STORK, AZALEA, PENTSTEMON, IMPERIALIST.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1222/9 to N.C.X.F.Cdre Algiers, F.O.I.C.Oran.(R) Admty).

SALVESTOR
(Salvage
Ship).

N.T. in W.D.
Your 1927/8. Request information why SALVESTOR is being sailed to Casablanca.
(N.C.X.F. 1115A/9 to V.A.Gib. (R) S.N.O.C.A. Admiralty).

CAUDEBEC.

Your 1927/A/8. Can accept CAUDEBEC. May be delayed unloading.
(S.N.O. Casablanca Area. 1120Z/9 to V.A.Gib, (R) Admty, N.C.X.F.).

QUICKMATCH.
REDOUBT.*See p. 300A*

Request you will sail QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT to U.K. forthwith.
(N.C.X.F. 1127A/9 to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty C. in C.W.A.).

Intend to sail QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT for Clyde at 1830/9th routed through (A) 36.30, 10.01 (B) 39.01, 15.01. (C) 43.01 15.01 S. of A. 20 knots.
2. C. in C.W.A. is requested signal onward route.
(V.A.Gib. 1802A/9 to Admty, C. in C.W.A. (R) N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C.Greenock).

CHARYBDIS.

See p. 288

Your 1156/8th. (N.T. in W.D.) CHARYBDIS is to remain at Gibraltar until arrival of BULOLO in K.M.F.4. She will then be required to sail for U.K., R.A.Burrough taking passage.
(N.C.X.F. 1136A/9 to S.O.Force H. (R) V.A.Gib. C.S.12).

ANTARKTIS

See pp. 290 & 291

German Tanker ANTARKTIS left Ferrol 0001/9th. (Guyatt Corunna 1145/9 to Admty, (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar B.N.A.Madrid).

Reported German Tanker ANTARKTIS left Ferrol 0001/9th. (Description).
(V.A.Gibraltar 2140A/9 to S. and A.N.A. (R) Admty).

ENTERPRISE
(Search for
CERAMIC and
PETER MAERSK).*See previous page
p. 316*

ENTERPRISE left Ponta Delgada 1400 G.M.T.9th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1218/9 to S.O.(I) Gib, (R) Admty).

ENTERPRISE 041.13, 024.55 014.19.

Situation at 2002A/9th.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1332A/9 to A.I.G.64).

My 0805/9th* Arrived off Ponta Delgada at 0900Z/8th, but was not allowed to enter until 1800Z/8th as berth was not vacant. Proceeding at 1300Z/9th. E.T.A. position of search daylight 11th Dec. In absence of orders to contrary, intend to search until dark Dec. 11th and then proceed for U.K. S. of A. 16 knots. Estimated fuel remaining on arrival 15 per cent. No chart of U.S.Strategic Zone held.

(ENTERPRISE 1531Z/9 to Admty (R) V.A.Gib. B.N.A.Lisbon, Connav)
*Admty's message intended:- Search for survivors from CERAMIC and PETER MAERSK. (See America & West Indies).

/CRETE....

300

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- CRETE. My 1204/5. (German controlled Danish S.S. CRETE expected Cartagena 5th December leaving evening 6th for Marseilles).
Sailing from Cartagena delayed until evening 9th December. (S.O.(I) Gib.1238A/9 to S.O.(I) X.F., S.O.(I) Malta).
- NORDFELS, December 9th, Telegram 188. German 62(NORDFELS) MONBALDO. 60(MONBALDO) for France about midnight 8th. (Consul Bilbao 1255/9th to Admty).
- AMARYLIS Portuguese sloop GONCALVES ZARCO picked up on (Sunk 2nd Dec.) 8th six survivors from *Greek Ship AMARYLIS, in 028.14, S. 053.24 East and is taking them to Lobito. Latter was sunk on 2nd. Admiralty please inform Africa station. (N.A.Lisbon 1258/9 to Admty). * *Guin at Panamanian 6/12 - See p. 249*
- U/B Am over enemy S/M in position 36.45 N. 0125.W. Attacked. on surface course 020°. (Gib A/C (AUI) Duty S. 1325/9 to Gibraltar M/F D/F).
Enemy S/M has dived (A/C U/S UAFS 1330/9 to Gib M/F D/F).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges S/M dived on course 020° T in 36.45 N. 01.25 W. (A/C C/S UAI 1355/9 to Gibraltar M/F D/F).
- POLYDORUS Your 1958/8th. Ship proceeded Cadiz to Seville survivors. with men still on board. Consul Seville reports Civil Authorities have instructions to hold at disposal of M.F.A. Matter being taken up vigorously with M.F.A. and Ambassador seeing M.F. A. in person tomorrow. We know Germans are strongly urging on Spanish Govt in total war. Merchant Seamen of military age should be interned and that Spanish are showing signs of giving way. Please consult F.O. and request them to telegraph comments immediately although H.M. Ambassador will proceed without waiting for them. (N.A.Madrid 1355/9 to Admiralty (R) Gibraltar).
Your 1355/9. F.O. have been consulted and are sure H.M. Ambassador will continue vigorously the line already taken with Spaniards on question of Merchant Seamen. The right of Merchant Seamen survivors under international law to be released is beyond dispute and is confirmed by Spanish practice during this war. Even Naval personnel rescued from the Sea by a neutral are entitled to be released unless rescued by a neutral war-ship. Request report of circumstances in which these men were picked up. (Hd. of M. 2230/9 to N.A.Madrid).
- Fast Convoy Cinclant 1428/9. See America & West Indies. for U.S.A.

ARIS...

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.

1328A/9 December.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 9. 12. 42.

Received 2035.

Naval Cypher 5 (S) by W/T

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation report Area X. Situation at 2001A/9th.

- (1) H.M.S. **THRASHER** 42 05 12 41 through 42 59 13 15 diving by day 2½ surfacing at night 11 thence 359 degs. *See pp 289 289c*
- (2) H.M. S/M. P.221, 39 39 10 54 diving by day 2½ surfacing at night 11 through 42 59 13 15. *See pp 289c 2299*
- (3) Hospital ship **ATLANTIC**, 42 48 16 13 11 degs 13.
- (4) U.S. **MINRON**, **LA BOUDE** ^{not identified} & French Merchant ships, 29 01 11 45 through 28 40 12 40 thence 222 degs 6¼. *See next page*
- (5) **SEY**, **ROTHFR**, **SEIMEN**, **CLARE**, 45 10 13 29 through 42 59 13 29 thence 174 degs 10.
- (6) M K S 3. (X). **TAY**, **WEAR**, H.M.S. **ARDROSSAN**, H.M.S. **DUNBAR**, H.M.S. **WORTHING**, H.M.S. **JONQUIL**, H.M.S. **COREOPSIS**, **LYME REGIS**, 39 09 09 38 through 36 10 10 01 thence 300 degs 7½.
- (7) Cable ship, 1 trawler, 28 59 12 47 38 degs 9¼.
- (8) U.S. Destroyers ^{HARRY} **H.P. JONES**, ^{HARLES} **C.F. HUGHES** (one) merchant ship, 34 41 06 36 coastwise to Straits 2, thence merchant ship to Gibraltar, destroyers return Casablanca 15. *See p. 301*
- (9) Hospital ship **NEWFOUNDLAND**, 36 03 07 16 through 36 18 10 01 thence 316 degs. 13. *See p. 301*
- (10) **QUICKMATCH**, ^{DUET} 35 59 06 01 through 36 30 10 01 and 39 01 15 01 thence 01 degs 25. *See p. 299*

1328A/9.

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.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).

Advance copy sent Duty Capt.
 D.O.D. (F) and D.T.D.

Ad. Ramsey (4).
 Ad. Blake (2).
 D.M.S.
 D.D.O.D. (M)
 D.T.D. (3).
 D. of P. (2).
 D. of P. (Q).
 D.S.D.
 U.S.N. (3).

MOST SECRET

3008

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

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

FROM:- V.A. Gibraltar

1334/9th December

DATE:- 9.12.42

RECD:- 1723

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

ADDRESSED:- A.I.C. 65

IMPORTANT

Situation 1959A/9th.

not identified

- (1) U.S. MINROW, LA BOUDEUSE, 8 French merchant ships
029 degs. 01' 011 degs. 45' through 028 degs. 40'
012 degs. 40' thence 222 degs. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$. *See previous page*
- (2) Italian repatriation tanker TAIGETTE. (E) 026 degs.
15' 021 degs. 19' 075 degs. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 302*

1334/9

Advance copy sent 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.

Capt. Fin.

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.C. (2)

D.A/SW

Hd. of M_a (7)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (M)

D.T.D. (C)

U.S.N. (3)

Admiral Ramsey (4)

Admiral Blake (2)

D. of P. (2)

D.N.I. (4)

D.E.W.D.

D.D.O.D. (M)

D.M.S.

I.P. (2)

W.D.

EG/

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- IRIS (French S/M). V.A.Gibraltar pass to N.C.X.F. Spanish M. of M. states in writing French S/M IRIS is interned in Barcelona but that there are no facilities there for internment and that they propose moving her to Port Sollen in tow and without full crew. They ask if H.M.G. has any objection. Believe same question has been put to Axis Naval Authorities. In view of unsatisfactory results obtained in connection with Axis submarines in Spanish ports submit some advantages might be obtained in exchange for consent. (N.A.Madrid 1630/9 to Admiralty (R) V.A.Malta, V.A.Gibraltar).
- M.F.Vs. Arrival H.M.M.F.V. 2013 and 2017. Admiralty pass to N.I.D.(Q). (V.A.Gib. 1634A/9 to Admty, (R) N.C. X.F., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C.Falmouth).
- L.C.I.(L)s B.A.T.s. Arrivals L.C.I.(L) 6, 97, 161, 162, 163, 210, 244, B.A.T.6, B.A.T.10. (V.A.Gibraltar 1637A/9 to Admty, (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. B. A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica, Cominch).
- OXFORDSHIRE. Intend to sail OXFORDSHIRE for Bougie at 1900/10 routed through 78.82, 76.12 94.99. S. of A. 14 knots. (V.A.Gib.1652A/9 to N.C.X.F., N.O.I.C.Bougie, (R) Admty, Capt.(S) 8th F., F.O.I.C.Oran).
- U.S.Escort for Convoy. Complying with F.O.C.N.A. proposal ^{HILARY P.} JONES and ^{CHARLES} F. HUGHES Escort Convoy to Casablanca sailing p.m./10th. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1715Z/9 to C.T.F.37, F.O.C. N.A., (R) N.C.X.F.(?) U.S.Destroyer JACOB JONES) In view of N.O.I.C.Casablanca 1715Z/9th. Gibraltar escort will not be sailing. You will be required to sail at 1700A/10. (V.A.Gib.2345A/9 to U.S.S.HILARY P.JONES ^{CHARLES} C.F.HUGHES(R) S.N.O.Casablanca Area). *See p.300A*
- NEWFOUNDLAND. Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND sailed 1400/9th for U.K. routed through following positions (all following position N. and W.). *See p.300A*
(B) 36.01,06.01.
(C) 36.18,10.01.
(D) 40.01,14.30.
(E) 50.01 14.30 thence as ordered by Admiralty. S.of A. 13 knots (V.A.Gib.1727/9 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.).
- Casablanca Convoys. Your 1630/8th. Would the following schedule meet your requirements and port capacity?
U.G.F.3. arrive 23rd December. G.U.F.3 sail 29th December, U.G.S.3 arrive 30th December, G.U.S.3. sail 16th January. U.G.F.4 arrive 17th January. G.U.F.4 sail 23rd January, U.G.S.4 arrive. 24th January.
(N.C.X.F. 2003A/9 to S.N.O.C.A.(R) Admty, Cominch, V.A.Gib. Cinclant). Reply:- 1803/10.

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NIEUW AMSTERDAM. Your 1634/7. Can date of sailing of NIEUW AMSTERDAM be advanced observing that after carrying out voyages Durban/Suez/Durban/Suez she will probably be required to sail from Suez about 26.1 on a voyage of approx. one month's duration. (D.S.T. 0307A/9 to D.S.T.O.Durban.(R) P.S.T.O.Capetown).

Movements. Arrived CAPETOWN.
(Cdre i/c Durban 0752C/9, to Admty etc).

SVEND FOYN. Your 2211A/8. Anticipate 1 corvette will be escort. available.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1121Z/9 to Admty).

Movements. Arrival 9th ^{Sumnerstown} (corrupt group) P.552, THYME, Capetown
9th QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(C. in C.S.A. 1125C/9th to Admty etc).

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Sailed 9th December for New York (?E.T.A.) 28th December personnel on board.
(D.S.T.O.Durban 1239Z/9th to D.S.T.).

Convoy, D.N.6 D.(?N) contingent expect to sail 1100Z/(?11th) escorted by JASMINE and GENISTA. Speed 10 knots. Consists of 4 ships, HONG SIANG to Kilindini.
*(?ELLINGTON) to Diego Suarez escorted to 021.01 S. 041.45 E.
** NIDUNEPURA to Karachi, and CLAN MACPHERSON, Colombo, will leave convoy 3 (?28°) 25 South 042.10 E.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1432Z/9 to Admty etc).

* TOULOUSE *at 9.12* - ** NIDUNEPURA *at 11.12* - p. 378

A/S trawlers B.N.L.O. W.A.F's 1315/7 (MAGNOLIA, NORTHERN DAWN, Tugs. COVENTRY CITY, and others, and tugs EMPIRE PAT and EMPIRE SAM towing crane Lighters).
Suggest tugs be refuelled at Lobito.
(C. in C.S.A. 1436C/9 to R.A.W.A.(R) Admty B.N.L.O.W.A.).

Italian Repatriations. Following for (?from) S.B.N.O. ARCOLA (Begins) Have evidence Italians wish to delay sailing of Tankers and to rejoin in Las Palmas. No essential repair necessary to *TAIGETE for safety in navigation to my knowledge (Ends).
(N.C.S.O. St.Vincent (Cape Verde) 1500/9 to Admty).
* *see p. 3003*
ARCOLA completes discharge on 11th Dec. Request orders for onward route be passed N.C.S.O. St.Vincent C.V.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1717Z/9 to Admty).

MOST SECRET

302A

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1153Z/9th Dec. IN

From: - R.A. West Africa.

Date. 9/12/43.

Recd. 1528.

N. CYPHER M BY W/T

Addressed: - A.I.G. 150.

IMPORTANT.

*ARTIC EXPLORER, *CAPE WARWICK, *LE TIGER,
*INDIAN STAR, *WIVANLA, with S T 46, off Freetown to
07 38 14 10 thence 142 S.S. FANDANGO, PICT, off
Marshall. H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, COMMANDANT
DROGON (F.S.), 05 25 10 28 to 07 00 12 25 thence
288 10.7 at 1959Z/9th, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, 2 Motor Launches,
escorting 03 42 07 25 to 03 39 07 45 thence 301
10.2 Motor Launches, escorting about 03 50 04 15 090 degs
6 *NORWICH CITY, *STELLA POLARIS, escorting about 05 42 02
28 East to Lagos 10. H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, on
patrol between 00 28 South 21 (957) and 01 17 18 21
12.5, Allied Naval Units, on patrol between 00 35 South
27 45 and 01 35 23 10 12.5

* See next page.

1153Z/9.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
A.C.N.S. (P).
N.A. 1st S.I.
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. (3).
D.T.D. (C).
D.M.S.
D.D.O.D. (C).
R.A.C.F. by Courier.

Advance Copy. Ops. O.D. Trade.

ps

303

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

S.T.46. Intend sailing CAPE WARWICK. ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR escorting convoy S.T.46 by red route at 1800Z/9th December. S. of A. $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots E.T.A. Takoradi p.m./14th December. LE TIGER escorting WILLIAM TILGHMAN from Marshall arriving Takoradi about 14th December. CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR are to be boiler cleaned on arrival. Estimated requirements 40 tons coal each trawler. (F.O.C.W.A. 1527Z/9 to N.O.I.C.Takoradi G.C.(R) N.O.I.C.Lagos Admiralty ARCTIC EXPLORER).
Departure 9th December ARCTIC EXPLORER, ~~LE TIGER~~ INDIAN STAR, CAPE WARWICK, VIVIANA, with S.T.46. *See previous page*
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1831Z/9 to Admty, N.O.I.C.Takoradi)

BELLWORT Sailed BELLWORT to Capetown escorting SS LARGS LARGS BAY. BAY routed close to coast. 2.S. of A.12 knots E.T.A. p.m./12th December.
3. Shifting to group S.L. at 0801C/10.
(N.O.I.C.Durban 1653C/9 to Admty etc).

A/S Intended programme of trawlers on passage to Trawlers for Cape. Cape:-
1. ST ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN DUKE, COVENTRY CITY, MAGNOLIA, and B.D.V. BARBRAKE from Pointe Noire about 9th December to Walvis Bay.
2. NORWICH CITY, STELLA POLARIS, from Lagos about 11th December to Point Noire and Walvis Bay. *See previous page*
3. ST LOMAN, SPHENE, *AELVELLYN, KHYBER from Takoradi about 9th December to Pointe Noire and Walvis Bay. *? WELLSBRO intended.
4. *BOARHOUND, LETIGARE (?LE TIGER) from Takoradi about 16th Dec. to Walvis Bay. * at Cape - (Red list)
5. CAPE WARWICK, INDIAN STAR, from Takoradi about 21st December to Walvis Bay.
6. *KOOLIGA, VIVIANA, HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN ISLES, LADY ELSA, LADY ROSEMARY from Freetown about 17th December to Takoradi and Walvis Bay. * not intended
7. On sailing N.O.'s I.C. of intermediate ports will report ships being escorted, onward S. of A. E.T.A. requirements at next port and time of shifting W/T organisation where applicable.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1713Z/9 to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty etc).

WALLSEND Survivors landed at St.Vincent (C.V.) 9th (Sunk Ex SS. WALLSEND, sunk by S/M 2nd December. 2nd Dec). (N.C.S.O. St.Vincent 1720/9 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Freetown).

Overdue Ship. Your 1257C/7 no trace of (HQPD) TAIHOKU in Admiralty. Is ATLANTIC (Panamanian) intended whose signal letters are HPQD. My 1830A/24 November refers.
(D.T.D. 1806A/9 to C. in C.S.A.(R) S.O.(I) Montevideo).

/COMMANDANT..

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- COMMANDANT, DETROYAT, SOUTHERN GEM, LAFONIA, HUDSON, GRYFEVALE.
1. Sailed F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT and SOUTHERN GEM escorting LAFONIA and tug HUDSON for Gib, and U.K. at 1730/9th December.
Route A. 010.35 N. 019.22 W.
B. 024.00 N 019.22 W.
C. 028.38 N 012.40 W.
D. 032.00 N 010.30 W.
E. 035.53 N 006.00 W. thence Gibraltar. S. of A. 9 knots.
 2. Intend GRYFEVALE escorted from Bathurst by M.L. to R/V in X. 018.47 N, 019.22 W. at 1730/13th onward escort to Gibraltar being provided by SOUTHERN GEM by same route. S. of A. about 6 knots.
 3. E.T.A. COMMANDANT DETROYAT a.m./20th December. SOUTHERN GEM p.m./23rd.
 4. Escort shifting to N.A.W/T organization at 2000/13th.
 5. Admiralty 1754/1st December is passed to V.A. Gibraltar. (F.O.C.W.A. 1855Z/9 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty etc).

Movements.

Arrival 9th RUMBA, COPINSAY, M.Ls. 1218, 1014. ✓
Departure *ST. LOMAN, *SPHENE, *KHYBER, NORTHERN CHIEF, Tugs BOLD, INTEGRITY, Pointe Noire 14th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1917Z/9 to Admty etc).

** See previous page*

U/B.

Following received from CLA St. Vincent (begins)
S/M reported sighted off Pedra Badejo Bay, St. Jago. 7th December. (Ends).
(F.O.C.W.A. 2037Z/9 to Admty).

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

L.C.M. 4) 98 L.C.M. 4) 98 lost by enemy action 6th Dec. Benghazi area.[^]
(C. in C. Med., 0018B/9 to Admty (R) D. of C. Ops. M.E., SAUNDERS). For details, see 0023/9 para. 2.

Situation report No. 301. Western Desert, Tobruk. Ref. situation report 299 Para. 1. and 300.

Para. 2. KIUNGCHOW now refloated and will return to Alexandria under own power with steering gear jury rigged. In air raid p.m./2nd Dec. 1201 high speed launch and South African Minesweeper

BOKSBURG damaged by near misses.

2. Benghazi. Air raids 4th Dec. and 7th Dec. by 12 and 16 aircraft respectively. No naval damage. Two aircraft shot down in former. One L.C.M. sunk by cannon fire from two Ju.88s 6th Dec. in approx. 32° 10' N., 19° 35' E. 2 casualties.

3. Total of 1560 tons per day discharge of cargo has been reached and it is hoped to improve on these figures.

4. Malta. DIDO sailed 5th Dec. to join force Q at Bone. Three M.T.Bs. sailed 7th Dec. also for Bone.

5. P.712 (Submarine as in my 1907/23 July to Admty. only) now renamed MATROZOS and handed over to Greek Navy 5th Dec.

6. Greek Destroyer KANARIS joined Mediterranean Station 5th Dec. PORPOISE has left station for refit in U.K.

7. Levant. Belated report received of sinking of Egyptian motor schooner 17th Nov. by single enemy aircraft in approx. position 33° 50' N., 32° 10' E.

8. My 1952/28th Nov. last para. Italian ships sailed 7th Dec.

9. There were no incidents during passage of "Portcullis" in spite of shadowing aircraft.

(C. in C. Med., 0023B/9 to Admty).

Use of Albacores. Governor Malta's H.E. 5536 of 0900/6 for General Eisenhower. Para. beginning night 5/6th. In view of the shortage of T.B. aircraft generally and the fact that Albacores are no longer in production it would appear necessary to reserve Albacores for sea targets as far as possible. (1st S.L. 0044A/9 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

Enemy M/Vs *Position of 3 small merchant vessels stationary. (Aircraft using W/T call sign ARME 0648Z/9th to Admty). *33° 45' N., 11° 0' E.

D.14 sweep. Nothing seen. E.T.A. Boom 0940. 150 tons fuel required each ship. (Capt. (D) 14th D.F., 0801A/9 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

JERVIS, KELVIN, NUBIAN carried out sweep between Ras Turgeeness and Kerkenah night of 8th/9th nothing sighted. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0922A/9 to Admty. C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C. 15th C.S.)

/Movements.

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements

Arrival 8th Dec. ANTWERP, *HURWORTH, departure 8th Dec. Yugoslav T.B. KAJMAKALAN, Yugoslav T.B. DURMITOR, GLOXINIA. * *see p. 308*
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0911B/9 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

→ Passage of
DIDO and
M. T. Bs.

Request you inform me of any incidents concerning DIDO and M.T.Bs. passage night 7/8th of value for similar movements in future.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0925A/9 to F.O.I.S., (R)
N.O.I.C. Bone, N.C.X.F., C.C.F., F.O.C.15th C.S.)

FLEETWOOD,
torpedo.

Torpedo exploded near FLEETWOOD in 036° 01' N., 000° 51' W., at 0813A/9th FLEETWOOD, and VELOX hunting 6 miles.
(VENOMOUS, 1021A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S Admty).

→ SIRIUS,
DIDO.

See p. 310

SIRIUS in leeward berth failed to clear harbour before dark and in view of your 1610 remaining for the night. No air activity. DIDO and Destroyer now returned and force? is at 2 hours notice. Intend remaining at Bone until further orders.

Oil fuel remaining at 0900A/9th, SIRIUS 7.5%. DIDO 60%, destroyer 65%. There is no oil fuel at Bone. Hope to report in accordance with your 1734/8th p.m. today Wednesday.
(SIRIUS, 1026A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.S.12, F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bone).

OTRANTO,
MAIDSTONE.

See p. 306

Detach OTRANTO to Oran escorted by 2 destroyers. Destroyers rejoin you on completion.
(N.C.X.F., 1042A/9 to MAIDSTONE (R) V.A. Gibraltar F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers).
My 1042/9. Expect OTRANTO about 2100A today 9th Dec. unless escort signals otherwise.
(N.C.X.F., 1048A/9 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) MAIDSTONE, F.O. Gibraltar).

M.K.F.4

My 1145/8th para. (1) amend time of sailing to 1700A/10th. Para. (6) amend time of R/V to 0930A/11th. Para. (7) amend time of R/V to 1030A/12th. Para. (12) amend to read stragglers west of Gibraltar instructed to proceed to U.K.
(N.C.X.F., 1129A/9 to Cdre. Algiers V.A. Gib. F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Capt. (S) 8, Admty. A.O.C. Gibraltar Cdre. F. A.O.C. E.A.C.)

P.212,
P.247.

Proceed towards patrol positions with all despatch important you are there by 0500A/10th orders follow. (see 1240/9). *p. 307*
(Capt. S.10., 1156A/9 to P.212, 247 (R) submarines on Patrol).

MOST SECRET

306A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1140A/8th. December

IN

FROM: N.C.X.F.

DATE: 9.12.42.

RECD: 0530

Naval Code L.1 Secret by W/T

ADDRESSED: Ships and Authorities in Area "G".

IMPORTANT

1. ROCHESTER's convoy M.K.S.3 (X) off Tarifa westbound 7.5 miles. *See p. 299*
2. VENOMOUS' convoy K.M.S.4 035 degs 03' North 002 degs 42' West through 109, 34, 100 to Algiers 7. *See p. 306c*
3. ? CLYDE convoy sails Bougie 1800/8th to Phillipeville E.T.A. 0900/9th by inshore route 6.
4. Safe conduct Spanish NORTE sailed Gibraltar 1200 3rd coastwise to San Sebastian thence 10 miles south of Levant Island to Genoa 6.5.
5. Following safe conduct ships routed 10 miles north of Revellata Point and west of Ibiza may be encountered (A) Swiss GENEROSO 8 knots and Swiss chartered Spanish NEUSTRA SENORA DEL CARMEN sailed Genoa 3rd December for Gibraltar. (B) *Portuguese SANTA IRENE sailed Gibraltar 6th for Savona 7.5. * *See p. 306e*
6. * Portuguese PAULA sailed Gibraltar 6th for Marseilles routed coastwise to Cape San Sebastian thence direct 7. *See p. 306c*
7. Swedish EMBLA sailed Marseilles 4th for Gibraltar routed Cape to Cape 7.
8. ALBACORE and 2 Merchant ships in approximate position 037 degs. 10' North 006 degs. 22' East to Bone 7.
9. 3 large Merchant ships escorted by H.M.S. WISHART and two other destroyers in approximate position 037 degs. 02' North 004 degs. 52' East to Bone coastwise 13. *See p. 310*
10. /.....

10. H.M.S. ZETLAND, H.M.S. LAMERTON, H.M.S. WHEATLAND, escorting two large merchant ships, sailed from Bone 1800/8th for Algiers.

Brief situation report 2002A/8 Western Mediterranean submarines excepted.

11. Convoy MKS 3, destroyers, sailing Algiers 1200A/9 routed 100, 44, 17, 109, 93, 50, 78, 57.

12. H.M.S. EGRET, convoy MKF 4, sailing Algiers 1600A/9 to westward 13.

H.M.S. SPEEDWELL, escorting *PROGRESS, 036 degs. 40' North 001 degs. 47' East through 100 to Algiers 6.

1140A/8.

See p. 310

**not identified? possibly.*

Advance copies sent Duty Capt.

D.O.D. (F)

D.T.D.

1st S.L. (2)
 D.F.S.L.
 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.L. (H) (2)
 D.O.D. (F) (2)
 Duty Capt. (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. (M)
 D. of P. (2)
 L. of P. (Q)
 D.E.W.D. (3)
 D.N.I. (4)
 Ad. Blake.
 Ad. Ramsey (4)
 F.O.S. by courier.

306^C

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 1147A/9 Dec. IN.

From ... N.C.X.F. Date .. 9.12.42.

Naval Code K.1 by W/T. Recd... 2120.

Addressed ... Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

1. Safe conduct ship Portuguese SANTAIRENE sailed Gibraltar 6th December for Savona routed 10 miles North of Revelata Point and West of Ibiza 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 306^A*

2. Safe conduct ship PAULA sailed Gibraltar 6th December for Marseilles direct routed coastwise to Cape San Sebastian thence direct 7. *See p. 306^B*

3. H.M.S. VERITY, 4 escorts, MKS 3, 36 47 North 02 04 East, through 44 17 109 93 50 78 57. Oran section joins in position 109 at 1500A/10th 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See opposite.*

4. H.M.S. MAIDSTONE, 3 destroyers, and 1 merchant ship, 36 47 North 01 05 West through 100 to Algiers 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 306*

5. 1 Merchant ship, 2 destroyers, approaching Oran. Destroyers rejoin H.M.S. MAIDSTONE.

6. H.M.S. VENOMCUE, convoy KMS 4, 36 27 00 34 through 100 to Algiers 7. *See p. 306^A*

Brief situation report 1958A/9th Western Mediterranean submarines excepted.

7. Safe conduct ship Swedish EIBLA, sailed Marseilles 4th December routed Cape to Cape to Gibraltar 7.

8. H.M.S. SCYLLA, and 3 destroyers, escorting 3 merchant ships, sail Algiers 1400/9th expected time of arrival Bone 0800. *See p. 310* 1151A/9.

SECRET MESSAGE 1550A/9th December. IN

From: N.C. X.F. Date: 9.12.42.
Reed: 2055.

NAVAL CODE (K.1) BY W/T.

Addressed: Ships and Authorities in Area G.

My 1151 / 9th. Add Paragraph 9. Coaster escorted by 1 Trawler on passage Phillippeville to Bougie to arrive daylight 10th.

1550A/9.

Most Secret Distribution.

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 the British or Allied Government Services. IN

MOST SECRET

1200A/9th December

From N.C.X.F.

Date 9/12/42
Recd. 1348

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities Area G.

IMPORTANT

Submarine Situation 2000A/9th Western Mediterranean.

1. P.51,38 43 North 06 57 East through 38 40 North 08 01 East to Malta 8 knots.
2. P.228,37 37 North 00 12 West through 135 part company 10 thence 065 degs. 11 knots.
3. ████████ PORPOISE, 037 degs. 56' North 000 degs. 36' East through 135 Cape Palos 10 and 180 Cape De Gata 10 to Gibraltar 11 knots.
4. P.54,36 23 North 04 46 West through 180 Cape De Gata 5 and 135 Cape Palos 5 thence North East 8 knots.
5. All above submarines dive by day 2 1/2 knots surface speed.

1200A/9.

Advance copies Duty Captain
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.I.C.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Captain Pim
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- Duty Captain (2)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D. of Plans (2)
- D.A./S.W.
- Head of M.
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- U.S.N.(3)
- F.O.S. by courier

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Bi-weekly
Opsum
No. 80.

(No new naval details).
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1213Z/9).

Air R/C.

Visuals not carried out due to weather. Expect to cover Naples, Palermo, Taranto, Messina, 1400.
(V.A. Malta, 1216A/9 to C. in C. Med., etc).

Orders to
S/Ms.

Assume following positions by 0500A/10th.
P.222, 310° 3. *P.247, 220° 8. *P.212, 120° 4.
TIGRIS, 258° 10 P.217, 214° 17. All from Carena Point Light. After attack or at 1100A/10th S/M proceed, P.217 to Algiers, remainder to their respective positions and sectors ordered in my 0125/8th and 2125/8th P.217 route follows.
(Capt. S.10., 1240A/9 to S/Ms on patrol (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8). Cancelled by 1051A/10 q.v.
** Sup. 306.*

S/Ms

Admiralty's 1259/8th (Admiralty have no objection to transfer of three S class subs from 10th S/M F. to 3rd S/M.F). If N.C.X.F. concurs, request you will arrange with Capt. (S) 8th S.F.
(C. in C. Med., 1318B/9 to Capt. S.10. (R) N.C.X.F. etc).

P.43

Arrival.
(V.A. Malta, 1354A/9 to Admty etc).

Enemy M/Vs

P.C. and S. of two medium vessels 39° 8' N., 9° 45' E., 080° 7.
(A/C C/S BTBP 1405A/9 to Hal Far).

P.46,
* PARTHIAN.
* *See p. 311*

Departure.
(V.A. Malta, 1423A/9 to Admty etc). *See 10/12 pp 345 346*

Air R/C.

Visuals noon Dec. 9th. Naples 1 cruiser sighted. Taranto 3 battleships. Messina 5 cruisers, 5 destroyers.
(V.A. Malta, 1440A/9 to C. in C. Med., etc).

TAKU

TAKU leaves Beirut searched channel at 1730B tonight routed direct to 035° 19' 026° (40' or 37') thence operating in Aegean as limited by my 0907/8th. Running on surface speed 10 knots during daylight Dec. 10th then daily advancing 125 miles diving by day.
(Capt. S.1., 1507B/9 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre (D) Capt. (S) 10, C.S.N., C.C.F.)

SECRET

304A

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: Air Ministry, Whitehall.

Date: 9.12.42
Recd: 0205.

Cypher.

Addressed: Admiralty, H.Q.R.A.F. Widewings,
R.A.F. Norfolk House, Eastern Air H.Q.
Algon, 44 Group, 24 Sqdn Hendon,
C. I. (N. Z. Z.)

AX.383 8 Dec. Following signal received from H.Q.R.A.F. Middle East. Begins. "A.164 6 Dec. CERTOP. The following cancels all previous routing instructions for non-operational and reinforcement flights proceeding from the Delta to Cyrenaica and is to be brought into force VEF 0001Z/9 Dec.

1. Prohibited Areas exist within a 10 mile radius of Tobruk Derna and Benghazi.
2. Aircraft proceeding westwards from the Delta Area are to do so by the Northern Wadi Natrun Corridor.
3. Aircraft entering the Delta Area from westwards are to do so by the Southern Wadi Natrun Corridor.
4. Aircraft proceeding to and from the West from Alexandria-Aboukir-Elkou Area are to enter and leave the Delta Area by crossing the Alexandria-Cairo Road at a point 5 miles south of Mariya.
5. Aircraft entering or leaving Cyrenaica from the West must do so via the Tobra Corridor which is 10 miles wide and extends 30 miles North-West from Tobra Village (position 32 degs. 32 mins. North 20 degs. 35 mins East routes.
6. Gibraltar-Egypt overland aircraft using the Gibraltar-Egypt overland route are to fly on a line Marada position 20 degs 05 mins. North 19 degs. 05 mins. East Giarabub position 29 degs. 44 mins. North 24 degs. 31 mins. East thence into the Delta via the appropriate Wadi Natrun Corridor.
7. (A) Egypt Cyrenaica Malta and U.K. direct. Aircraft proceeding to or from the West are to follow the following route. Proceed along a corridor 10 miles wide and 5 miles South of the Coastal Road or railway as detailed below South of the railway Burg-El-Arab and Mersa Matruh South of road Mersa Matruh and Sollum South of the railway Sollum and El Adem and South of the road El Adem and Benghazi.
- (B) Aircraft entering or leaving the Delta area are to proceed to or from Burg-El-Arab via the appropriate corridor.
8. Special instructions. Aircraft wishing to proceed West of Derna during daylight are to circle Martuba (position 32 degs. 31 mins. North 22 degs. 42½ East) for permission to proceed. Permission to proceed will be indicated by a white square displayed near the windsock. If no such indication is observed aircraft are to land and obtain

307^B

instructions.

9. No aircraft other than flying boats are to fly over the sea East of the Tobra Corridor.

10. Flying boats proceeding to and from Malta and Gibraltar are to proceed direct to Iboukir and not approach the coast within 30 miles intermediately.

11. Approach to landing grounds. Landing grounds in Libya are to be approached from the South East along a corridor 10 miles long and 2 miles wide. Aircraft wishing to land at landing grounds within prohibited area are to approach the landing ground along the prescribed corridor at a height not exceeding 1000 feet.

12. Recognition. Pilots must at all times be prepared to carry out the normal recognition procedure (i.e. colours of the day etc.).

13. Height.

(A) During daylight aircraft are not to exceed a height of 7000 feet East of Derna.

(B) Aircraft flying between Benghazi and Derna during daylight must do so as low as compatible with safety but at a height not exceeding 500 feet avoiding flying directly over encampments.

(C) At night aircraft are not to fly at a greater height than 4000 feet East of Tobra.

(D) Aircraft using the Tobra Corridor at night are to fly at 4000 feet within the Corridor.

(E) Aircraft entering the Tobra corridor from the West during daylight are to do so at 4000 feet and gradually lose height to conform with sub-para. (B)

14. Balloons. Balloon barrages are at Tobruk and Benghazi. Height of balloons 2000 feet.

1417Z/8.

Advance copy Duty Capt.

Air Ministry Distribution

Copies to:

Internal:

A. D. O. F.

A. I. S. (U. S. A.)

D. O. Ops.

F. O. C. (Orig.)

External:

Admiralty (War Reg.) (2 copies)

H. Q. E. T. O. U. S.

H. Q. R. A. F. Norfolk House.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S. L. (2)
- C. N. A. S.
- V. C. N. S.
- A. C. N. S. (F)
- A. C. N. S. (T)
- N. 1st S. L.
- A. C. N. S.
- D. N. A. D.
- Ops. (3)
- C. D. (5)
- O. I. C. (3)
- D. W. I. (4)
- D. of L. D. (2)
- D. of P. (3)
- D. S. V.
- D. S. D. (2)
- M. (2)
- D. A. C. D.
- C. C. L. S.

L. P. (3)

Ad. Ramsey (4) S. 61917/111 refers.

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.CELENO
(Italian).

My 1701 ?C/8. CELENO entered Aegean 0800 G.M.T. course West escorted by one destroyer. Fact. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1605C/9 to S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1 S.10. D.N.I.)

Operation
"Quadrangle
A".
(M.W. 16 to 22nd/42)

Night arrival.

See next page

1. Lights. Q.B.B.293. Following will be shown A.C.D. and Delimara Ricasoli and Saint Elmo. Also R.A.F. beacon see Q.B.B.307. Harbour lights see Q.B.B.305.
2. Approach. SPEEDY will meet convoy in position 2 miles 220° from position VI of Q.B.B. 288 will burn a green masthead light and will lead up channel and into harbour at 10 knots.
3. Order of entry. SPEEDY, AMERICAN PACKER, one Hunt, OZARDA, one Hunt, ORION, 2 Hunts.
4. Berth (A) AMERICAN PACKER No. 9, OZARDA No. 6, (See CERES II Section III appendix 2). (B) SPEEDY on OHIO. ORION number 2 G.H. 1st 2 Hunts to Dolphin Ras Hanzir. Last 2 Hunts to Cannakale wharf.
5. If weather conditions make a night entry impracticable, signal will be made as early as possible and convoy is to stand off to South-westward during night and is to arrive R/V with SPEEDY at 0600/11th.
6. ORION and Hunts will be fuelled immediately on arrival and will be required to sail before noon to comply with C. in C. Med., 2045/7.
(V.A. Malta, 1620A/9 to ORION, EXMOOR, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, CROOME, (R) F.O. 15th C.S.)
Intend sailing ORION and 4 Hunts at about 1100A/11 to ^{1910. 3. 10. 11} 356 comply C. in C. Med's 2045/7th.
2. Routed through position 035° 22' N., 014° 05' E., thence direct Y Y.
3. Fighter protection codeword for ORION's force till convoy is met "Virus" W/T call sign BBZ.
4. M.C.A.O.12 Mark C will be in force. F.D.S. to spread large white canvas on forecastle when fighters presumed airborne. C. in C. Med., Fleet pass to 219 Group and R.N. Headquarters. (V.A. Malta, 1625A/9 to CANOPUS, Spares for C. in C. Med., C.C.F., H.M.S. ORION, F.O. 15th Cruiser, Squadron Capt. (S) 1, PALADIN, HURWORTH, (R) 219 Group R.N. H.Q.)

K.M.S.4

Tact. K.M.S.4 convoy arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1656A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).Operation
"Quadrangle
(B)"
Convoy M.W.16.Departures 9th December Merchant ships CLAN
MACINDOE, ERINNA (Dutch) for Malta.
(R.A. Alex. 1732B/9 to Admty. (R) V.A.M.)

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean. - Contd.

P. 35

Regret to report grounded at 0455 in approx. position 036° 23' (7010°) (738') refloated at 0555 this morning. One time pad and key memorandum burnt, other S.Ps. intact drop keel dropped. Your 1302 8th* ship sunk at 1104. Continuing patrol.
(P.35, 1747A/9 to Capt. S.10., (R) VA. Malta).
W.R. Note* Received undecypherable.

MANXMAN

I have read with satisfaction the initial report on action taken to bring MANXMAN into harbour after her torpedoing and of subsequent steps to push forward her repair. Clever efficient working of the damage control organization and action taken to regain control of the ship are particularly noted and are a credit to all concerned.
(N.C.X.F., 1809A/9 to MANXMAN (R) Admty).

Malta Air Report.

AI. 164 9 Dec. 1942. C.S.R.
Today 13 Spitfire sorties have been flown to protect Naval Forces and 8 Spitfires were airborne to intercept several raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
Night 8/9th Dec. No activity owing to weather conditions impossible for flying.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1818/9).

Air R/C.

P.M. Visuals Dec. 9th.
(1) Messina, 5 cruisers 5 destroyers
(2) Taranto 3 battleships.
(3) Naples, 2 cruisers 4 destroyers 10 merchant ships 2 to 3,000 tons. Noon photographs Naples show 2 6 inch cruisers and 1 8 inch cruiser (BOLZANO) and 2 10,000 tankers apparently French.
(V.A. Malta, 1820A/9 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. etc).

M.E.11
* M.W.15.

* *See previous page*
Your 1638/9th (N.T. in W.D.) DULVERTON, TETCOTT, BELVOIR, PINDOS, M.E.11. EXMOOR, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, CROOME with M.W.15.
(V.A. Malta, 1835A/9 to C. in C. Med., (R) R.A.(D) Med).

27th M.L. Flotilla.

Your 2233/7. M.L.s are providing invaluable trade protection in West Africa and the allocation of 27th M.L. Flotilla to Freetown must remain in force.
2. Re-allocation of M.L. Flotillas to Med. and West Africa will be considered when weather conditions in 1943 permit an additional three or more flotillas being steamed out from U.K.
(D.D.O.D. (C) Approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 1837A/9 to C. in C. Med).

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Force Q Intend AURORA, ARGONAUT, ESKIMO, QUALITY to proceed p.m. tomorrow 10th to arrive Bone 0800A/11th.
(2) SIRIUS, DIDO, ASHANTI, TARTAR to 4 hours notice at 0700A/10th reverting to one hour by 1600A/10th and sail at dusk for sweep or for Algiers as ordered later. *See p. 206*
(N.C.X.F., 1906A/9 to C.S.12 (R) SIRIUS).

P.54 *See p. 306 D*
Capt. (S) 8 1230/7th P.54 sailed 1530. Q.B.A. 11 Q.B.86 Q.B.B.307 Q.B.C.525 missing 532, 529, 528 Q.K.A.79.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1920A/9 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) N.C.X.F. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, Admty. V.A. Malta).

RORQUAL minelaying. Following is a repetition of RORQUAL 2015/8th addressed Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Med., from RORQUAL. Mines laid within 1 mile of following positions measuring from Cani Rock Light. 170° 4.4 miles 142° 6.5 miles (ends).
(Capt. S.1., 1945B/9 to Capt. (S) 10th (R) C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. V.A. Malta, Subs on Patrol.)

Your 0922/9 (N.T. in W.D.) You may lay mines inside Serpentaria and Cavoli Island* after careful study of swept channel on 12th December, N.C.X.F. does not countermand this order.

(Capt. S.10., 2316A/9 to H.M.S. RORQUAL (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1). *"if" omitted?

Movements, Algiers arrival URSULA, from West. SPEEDWELL *See p. 306/3*
Algiers. with W.D. Gibraltar for Oran, *WISHART, *WILTON, *TANATSIDE returned with K.M.F.4 (B). SCYLLA ** See p. 306A*
ZETLAND, WHEATLAND, LAMERTON Bone. Departure *See p. 306*
SCYLLA, LAMERTON, WILTON, WHEATLAND with K.M.F.4
B. Resailed to Bone, M.K.S.3 Y to Gibraltar, escorted by VETCH, CONVULVULUS, NASTURTIUM, LUNENBURG, LORD HOTHAM, LORD NUFFIELD. *See p. 297*
(Cdre. Algiers, 2019A/9 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

Enemy Units Aircraft reports at 2055A/9th one large merchant ship one destroyer P.C. and S. 038° 35' 012° 05' course 040° 14.
(Capt. (S) 10, 2042A/9 to Submarines on patrol, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8).
My 2042/9th. Target justifies full salvo.
(Capt. S.10., 2208A/9 to S/Ms on patrol).

→ M.K.S.3 Y *See p. 297*
Sailing telegram.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2158A/9 to Admty).

9 Dec. 1942

MARIGOLD

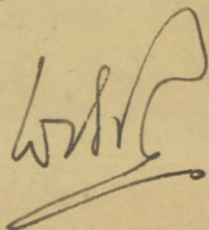
sunk by APC torpedo

0800 C. Coxine 7.2 miles

($36^{\circ}58'N.$, $3^{\circ}00'E.$)

Narr. at Sea.

Delete "West of Fib Str." x



22-9-1952

War Diary.

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

PARTHIAN

^{9th - see A. 307}
PARTHIAN sailed 10th Dec. for patrol in Area North of 036° 00' W (?) 011° 08' with primary object of sinking all southbound unescorted coastal traffic by gunfire. Working up practice with new C.O. will take place on passage.
(Capt. S.10., 2216A/9 to N.C.X.F. (R) Capt. S.1., Capt. S.8).

Situation report No. 31.

- (1.) N.C.X.F. established ashore 7th Dec. BULOLO returning in M.K.F.4. F.O. Inshore Squadron at Bone 12th Dec.
- (2) CADMUS made 2 promising attacks on U-boat on 4th Dec. in 037° 12' N., 006° 13' E. CADMUS overrode U-boat Hull and dropped shallow pattern.

U-boat broke surface but was again attacked with shallow pattern on re submerging. U-boat considered probably sunk.
(3) Force Q. DIDO joined SIRIUS, ASHANTI and TARTAR at Bone 8th Dec. Force carried out sweep to northwards returning daylight 9th Dec.
(4) Bone. M.T.Bs. 260, 262, arrived 8th Dec.
(5) Algiers. DEPTFORD aground in bad weather. MARIGOLD with M.K.S.3 (Y) sunk by aircraft torpedoes. 6 Officers and 37 men saved. Capt. and 39 men missing. (N.C.X.F., 2247A/9 to Admty).

M.W.14

Total unloaded to 1700/9th 26049 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 2304/9 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. P.S.T.O. Egypt).

PORCUPINE
(Completed by U.602.)

Following has been read by Gibraltar W/T:-
Addressed Algiers, Gibraltar. PORCUPINE torpedoed my P.C. and S. at 2300 36.40 N., 00.04 W. (MAIDSTONE, 2340A/9).

312

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.DURBAN
refloated.My 1755/8th(Re DURBAN aground). Ship refloated.
(C. in C.E.F. 0128Z/9 to Admty (R) C.S.4).Shipping
W.Coast
of India
Routes.Cancel 637 C. of 0809 2nd May 1942.
Independent shipping on West Coast of India
between Bombay and Cape Comorin is to conform
with principles laid down in 923C of 0914 17th
Oct. using lanes of similar change terminating
Bombay and Muttum Light. Northbound traffic to

use inshore lanes.

2.To avoid crossing Colombo Traffic ships from ports South of
Ceylon must not attempt to enter coastal lanes except when
visibility is more than 3 miles. Until then they must keep
between 35 and 60 miles off shore.3.Ships from Northwards for Australasia etc. must finally leave
coastal lane in time to be at least 60 miles off shore before
dark.4.Shipping from Bay of Bengal for ports north of Colombo is to
(remain) in original coastal lane until reaching Colombo swept
channel thereafter make direct for new lane keeping North of
line joining Cape Comorin and Tang.5. Independent shipping between Bombay and Karachi and Persian
Gulf is to conform with above principles proceeding direct across
Gulfs of Cambay and Kutch.

(C. in C.E.F. 0900Z/9 to E.I.Stn.(R) Admty etc).

MATHERAN,
firing
report.Message 1905/7th from SS. MATHERAN reporting
heavy gunfire was only received at 0051/8th as
No.100/886 from Admty without Priority. Request
I may be informed whether this message was
(?received) direct from SS.MATHERAN by anyWireless Station in S.A. Area, and the time of receipt and
frequency used

(C. in C.E.F. 0913Z/9 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty).

Reply:- 1036C/10).

Shipping
Persian
Gulf.For information my present orders concerning ships
detached from outbound convoys from Persian Gulf
are as follows:-1.Ships proceeding Africa Australia, are to
disperse from P.B.Convoy on reaching longitude062° East and then revert to their individual routes as given
by N.C.S.O. loading port.2.Ships for Ceylon and South India Ports proceed Bombay with P.B
Convoys for onward convoy to destination.3. Para 1 (?is to be) introduced to prevent convoy being too
large for A/S escort.(S.N.O.P.G. 0924Z/9 to C. in C.E.F.(R) N.O.I.C.Hormuz, C. in C.
S.A.S.F.O.Ceylon, A.C.N.B. Cmdre. R.I.N. Connav Cmdre i/c Aden,
N.O.I.C.Karachi).

/Transport...

MOST SECRET

WARNING: THIS IS A SECRET MESSAGE
IT IS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO COMMUNIST
OR TO ANY OTHER ENEMY OF THE ALLIED
GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0700Z/9th Dec. IN.

From: (?F.O.Ceylon) Date 9.12.42.

Recd: 2207.

Naval Cypher A(3) by W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty C. in C.E.F. Cdre R.I.N.
S.N.O. Persian Gulf.

417

(?Ceylon) Movements summary number (?28)
of December

- (1) H.M.S. FALMOUTH escorting B P 62 due Quion Is. 12th December
- (2) H.M.S. SCOUT in company H.M.S. GAMBIA left Addu Atoll 8th December due Colombo 10th December.
- (3) H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ and H.M.I.S. JUMNA left Addu Atoll 6th December to rendezvous and escort O W one. D.S.*WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN relieving H.M.I.S. JUMNA in the vicinity Bombay. * See next page.
- (4) H.M.S.SONAVATI left Colombo 5th December.
- (5) H.M.S. ASTER escorting B M 33 to rendezvous with OKAPI vicinity of Cochin thence to Colombo due 10th December
- (6) H.M.A.S. LISMORE and MADRAS escorting B P 62 leaving Bandar Abbas 10th December.
- (7) H.M.S. OVERDALE WYKE escorting 2 tankers to Trincomalee leaving Colombo 9th December E.T.A. 11th December. See next page
- (8) BARBOUR arrived Colombo 4th December from Trincomalee.
- (9) H.M.S.*GERALDTON escorting B A 35 reassembling Bombay 12th December, return 15th December. * See next page
- (10) H.M.S. MARGUERITE escorting MATIANA, leaving Diego Garcia 10th December, due Addu Atoll 12th December, then escorting H.M.S. APPLELEAF to Colombo, due 15th December.

0700Z/9.

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

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1st S.L.(2) | D.T.D.(3) | D.M.S. |
| V.C.N.S. | D.T.D.(M) | D.N.I.(4) |
| A.C.N.S.(F) (2) | I.P.(2) | D.N.L.O. |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | W.D. | P.N.L.O. |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | Duty Capt (2) | N.L.O. Aust. House. |
| D.O.D.(H) (2) | Ad. Blake. | D of S. |
| D.O.D.(F) (2) | Capt Pim. | D of S.T. |
| Hd of M.(10) | D.A/S.W. | D of P (2) |
| D.D.I.C.(2) | | |

313

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Transport of P.S.T.O. Middle East 1815/6 and D. of S.T. S.African 0641/8. Cruiser will be provided at Aden on Troops, 17th December as escort for first troop movement M.C.2. M.C.3. to S.Africa to be known as M.C.2.
2. Further escort will be provided at Aden at the end of December for convoy M.C.3. with balance of personnel.
3. G.H.Q. Middle East pass to Movement, 80 Area. (C. in C.E.F. 0928Z/9 to P.S.T.O. Middle East. F.O.C.R.S.F.(R), G.H.Q.M.E. D. of S.T.Com.Aden. Movement 80 Area, Admty, C. in C. S.A. S.S.T.O. Suez, C. in C.Med).

ALCOA
PIONEER.

My 0407Z/7th (N.T. in W.D.) letter reference positions given ALCOA PIONEER were based on C. in C.E.F. 1232Z/9th November not amended. (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 1001Z/9 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F. S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, C. in C. S.A. S.O.(I) Kilindini, N.C.S.O. Bahrein).

VASNA,

Secret your U.2257A/24/3/1942 to C. in C. Ceylon. VASNA sailed Bombay 9/12/42 fuel oil lifted Colombo 548 tons 2 fuel oil in bunkers on sailing 670 tons. (S.T.O. Colombo 1109Z/9 to D.S.T.).

Movements.

Colombo arrival 9th December, 0055Z, BALTA, Departure, 0745Z* OVERDALE WYKE. (S.O.(I) Colombo 1200Z/9 to Admty etc).

Arrivals 0910Z, RANCHI, PUNJAB, with AB4. 0845Z* GERALDTON, Dutch Sloop SOEMBA with PB.15. Departure 1030Z* D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN* *in previous page.* (S.O.(I) Bombay 1208Z/9 to Admty etc).

*KHYBER.
CAP
PADARAN.
collision.

At 1445Z/7th December. when entering Takoradi astern of S.O. of escort in single line ahead within 1 mile of boom entrance, SS.CAP PADARAN overtaking on port quarter collided with KHYBER KHYBER's speed at moment of impact about 5 knots estimated speed CAP PADARAN 12 knots.

** see pp 303 & 304*
M/Bs and davits damaged, consider M.B. unserviceable. Collision entirely due to complete disregard of article 18 of rules of road by CAP PADARAN. Ship is administered by Sea Transport Office. Also S. 252 in quadruplicate is being rendered. Ship seaworthy 1730Z/7th. (KHYBER 1216Z/9 to F.O.C.R.I.N.(R) Admty etc).

W.S.24 B.

W.S.24 B. E.T.A. 10° South 2000Z/11th. S. of A. 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots. MAURITIUS is requested to leave one C.N.T. 100 pattern W.25 36 at Port Victoria Weather report 3762 1413. My position 023.38 S. 052.40 E. (FROBISHER 1630Z/9 to C. in C.E.F.(R) MAURITIUS N.O.I.C.Seychelles).

/Jap....

MOST SECRET

313 A

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1250A/8th December.

OUT.

TO: G.O.C. in C. East Africa

DATE: 8.12.42.

CYPHER

FROM: The War Office.

IMPORTANT.

85062 Cipher (M.O.5.) 8 Dec.

Following is repeat of telegram 7705 from Foreign Office to Washington repeated Minister of State Cairo. Begins

"Minister of State's telegram No.2101 of December 6 visit of United States Consul at Aden to Jibuti.

I am surprised that we were not consulted about this, seeing that the United States Chiefs of Staff have recognised that Jibuti is within area of British responsibility and have so informed General Eisenhower (see telegram No.518*(of December 3rd) from Joint Staff Mission). Unexpected arrival of United States Consul will probably cause serious trouble with the Fighting French who will suspect a plot to win Jibuti over to Darlan despite our assurances that they themselves are to have the first try. It may be too late to stop visit now, but if we had known in time we should have strongly advised postponement.

2. Please let State Department know how we feel about this and ask Joint Staff Mission to inform United States Chiefs of Staff." Ends.

1250A/8

* copies to 1st S.L. only. Recd; in War Reg. 0628/9.12.42.

War Office Circ:- S. of S. P.U.S. P.U.S.(F)
C.I.G.S. V.C.I.G.S. D.M.O. D.D.M.O.(O)
For.Sec. M.O.1.5.11. D.M.I. D.D.M.I.(I)
M.I.3.17a. D.F.(a) F.5. Brig.Jacob.
Mr.Stirling,For.Off. Col.Archdale,20 Mil.Mis.
Col.Rolleston,Col.Off. Major Morton,10 Downing St.
Hd. of War Reg. Admiralty. A.M.C.S. Air Min.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
Sec.
Nav.Sec.
N.A.1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
P.A.S.(O)

D.N.I.(4)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.C.(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
Hd. of M.
D. of P.(2)
Ad. Blake.

I.P.(2)
W.D.

MFG

MOST SECRET

313B

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE IN
1330Z/9 December

From Armindia

Date 10.12.42.

Recd. 0035Z

CYPHER

Addressed Air Ministry.

IMPORTANT.

IZ 2553 31063/COS(?) 9th December 1942

Following for COS from General Wavell.

Your OZ 1849 COS (India) 95

1. From your telegram we calculate that the following numbers will be required to man these craft with Indian ratings and to provide reserves.

- (a) Crews for landing craft. Officers 394
Ratings 3054.
- (b) Beach parties. Officers 36. Ratings 360.
- (c) Artificers maintenance parties and engine
drivers. Officers 49. Ratings 1105.
- (d) Signal personnel. Officers 12. Ratings 497.

2. Of these 600 volunteers from Indian Army are already under training. These do not include communications ratings.

3. If the remainder are to be of the high quality required they will have to be found from volunteers from men already serving in units of Indian Army which has proved to be a lengthy and difficult process and results in depriving many units of best men. I can only satisfactorily find the above numbers by inducing whole units to volunteer and then eliminating unsuitable men. This will mean approximate equivalent 4 battalions removed from field army. Difficulties regarding signals probably insurmountable.

4. In any case I propose to raise sufficient personnel in addition to the 600 given in para. 2 to enable the R.I.N. to provide naval parties under the various headings given in para. 1 for one infantry brigade group landing. Before I take further action will you confirm that none of the personnel mentioned in para. 1 can be found from British sources.

5. I cannot provide crews for the landing-ships tank.

1330Z/9

Recd. in W.R. 1600/10 Dec.

Circulation

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.6 Tels.
C.I.S.
C.C.O.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (W)
Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
P.A.S. (C)
N.A. 2nd S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.C.
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (1)
Hd. of A. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Ad. Blake.
D.P.S.
D.N.I. (4)

IH.

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Jap A.F.O. 3076/42. Japanese Govt. have intimated
Hospital that following ships will be employed as Hospital
Ships. MIZUHO MARU 8506 tons length 130.2. metres
one funnel 2 masts.
SAHOPBERIYA MARU 3461 tons length 106.7 metres
one funnel 2 masts KOHOKU MARU 2578 tons length 86.7 metres one
funnel 2 masts.
Acceptance of these as hospital ships will be confirmed.
(C. in C.E.F. 1652Z/9 to E.I.Stn).

LÉOPARD. F.N.F.L. have instructed F.S. LÉOPARD to propose
programme for passage to South Pacific Area
after conveying General Legentilhomme from Kilindini
to Majunga on about 24th December.
2. My 1621/15th F.N.F.L. London 1245/16 November and C. in C.S.A.
1107/22 November refer.
3. War Office are asking G.O.C. E. Africa if he has any objection
and are instructing him to keep you informed.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1911A/9 to C. in C.E.F.).
Your 68543 of 4th December (1000C/4).
1. Agreement likely to be signed within next few days and Legentil
homme should arrive in Madagascar in F.S. LÉOPARD which they
have already ordered to Mombasa in anticipation of arrival.
3. We consider it politically undesirable that you should
accompany Legentilhomme in French vessel but still think it
desirable that you should be in Madagascar in order formally
to hand over the administration to Legentilhomme on his arrival.
4. Have you any objection to Legentilhomme proceeding to
Madagascar in LÉOPARD.
5. Please keep C. in C.E.F. informed.
(W.O. 2130A/9 to G.O.C. in C.E.A.).

SEVERN. On completion of refit SEVERN will join Eastern
Fleet. 2. She should be ready to leave U.K.
towards the end of January, 1943.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1940A/9 to
C. in C.E.F., C. in C. Med.(R) F.O.S. Capt.(S) 5).

Cables. Your 0826/21.
1. Proposal to divert Durban-Zanzibar cable to
Majunga is quite impracticable.
2. Cable is too old to pick up for relaying and diversion would
therefore require at least 700 miles of new cable.
3. This would consume major portion of strategic reserve
ordered for next year.
4. A. practicable and comparatively simple means of providing
cable communication to Madagascar is available in the Mauritius-
Reunion-Tamatave cable which could be repaired.
5. Mauritius being focal point in main Indian Ocean system would
provide better connection than Zanzibar.
(M.(88) Approved by V.C.N.S. 2055/9 to C. in C. E.F.(R) C. in C.
S.A. East African Command).

/My....

315

9.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Cables. My 2055A/9.
Contd. Cable & Wireless are being instructed to restore the Tamatave - Reunion - Mauritius cable as soon as cable ship is available.
2. Free French authorities in London are being asked to agree arrangement, for Reunion to plug cables through to enable Tamatave to work direct with Mauritius. Reunion could come in at stated intervals daily but would be unable to intercept without breaking down the through circuit.
3. Request you will signal particulars of type and conditions of cable apparatus at Tamatave and if operators are available. (M.(88) Approved by V.C.N.S. 2212A/9 to C. in C.E.F. (R) East African Command, N.O.I.C. Tamatave, N.O.I.C. Mauritius).

H.M.S. Your 1531/5, para. One.
IRONCLAD. Alteration of name was ordered by my 0310/2 Sept because Free French took umbrage at change. She should now be re-christened and remain GENERAL ROCH for remainder of her nautical life.
2. If necessary a craft at Kilindini should be christened IRONCLAD.
(Sec. to A.C.N.S.(F) 2354A/9 to C. in C. E.F.).

316

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Wooden Lorsa 6147. Ref. Salor 5400, 1858/14 Nov.
Salvage Question of assignment of wooden salvage vessels
Vessels. now under consideration. As this may depend on
interpretation of "Ocean going" with reference to
existing vessels, request dimensions of and any
other relevant information regarding 21 vessels stated in Salor
1210/23rd August 1942, para 3 to be stationed around U.K.
(B.A.D. 0005Z/9 to Admty.)

K.14 S/M situation 0055/9 U.S. S/M notice. Modify my
see p. 317^A 1611/8 Dutch K.14 departed 1900Z*(?Norfolk
(Virginia)) via positions 33.25 N 66.18 W and
36.33 N 71.30 W speed 10.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 0055/9 to Admty.)

**Berunda - see p. 282.*

Movements. 8th Dec. arrivals Q.080 from Pictou N.S. U.S.S. *Aug*
JUNALUSKA, Y M S 78, from Casco Bay, U.S.S. **STAFF.**
9th Dec. departures, U.S.S. **STAFF** for Boston, U.S.S.
JUNALUSKA, Y M S 78, for Argentia. Arrival H.M.C.S.
TIMMINS, BUCTOUCHE, MINAS, NIPIGON ex H.X.218.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax N.S. 0301Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

see p. 318^A

QUEEN New York departed 1250Z/8 QUEEN MARY.
MARY (N.S.H.Q. 0400Z/9 to D.S.T.)
(A.T.30) A.T.30 change course forthwith to new (W) 39° N
45° W (X) 41.30 30.30 thence (T). A.T.30
(corrupt group) by separate despatch.
(Connav 2050/9 to A.T.30 (R) Cinclant. C.T.24. C.T.G.24.6.
Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)
Following is Connav 1532/9. Estimated P.C.S. 2000Z/9.
A.T.30. 39.12 57.03 086° 26.5. altering in 44.50 W to 076°.
(Connaveu 2141/9 to Admty.)

U/B Following received. Intercept 0330 G.M.T. 500 K/cs.
De V SH (Bathurst W/T) (unread) only part of message
intercept 07? 2 N. 58.16 W we sighted submarine,
now surface 015 G.M.T. T.O.R. 0303/9.
(C.C.O. Plymouth 0433A/9 to Admty.)

ENTERPRISE Proceed to position 40° 30' N 40° 20' W to search
search for for survivors from CERAMIC and PETER MAERSK
CERAMIC and torpedoed night 6/7th. Dec. Portuguese destroyer
PETER MAERSK. DAO from Horta is also proceeding.

see pp. 298 & 299 (D.O.D. F. Approved V.C.N.S. 0805A/9 to
ENTERPRISE. (R) Connav. N.A. Lisbon. V.A. Gib.)

A.M. 0805/9. ENTERPRISE is to continue search in this area
until limit of prudent endurance, subsequently proceeding to
refuel at St. Johns N.F.

2. As ENTERPRISE may not hold charts and navigational information
for Newfoundland F.O.N.F. is requested to issue necessary routing
instructions. After fuelling she is to be sailed for the Clyde.

3. ENTERPRISE is to report her P.C.S on abandoning search.

4. A south-westerly gale has been blowing in area 40° N 40° W
since sinking, veering to N.W. early 8th December.

(D.O.D. F. 1350A/9 to ENTERPRISE. F.O.N.F. (R) Connav. etc.)

ENTERPRISE 1531/9 and other signals, see North Atlantic.

Your 1531/9, comply with my 1350/9. (D.O.D. (F.) 2344A/9 to

ENTERPRISE. (R) Connav. V.A. Gib.)

/Attacks...

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Attacks on U/Bs. Cominch's 2125/8 addressed for action to Admty. and for information to B.A.D. and Comnavu, informs as follows: this refers to your 1059B/22 July. (weekly signal of promising attacks on U-Boats) A submarine was blown to the surface by depth charges from P.C.493 near Aruba on Nov. 9th. On Nov. 12th. 8 attacks by surface craft escorting convoy off Aruba, and 3 by armed guards of merchant vessels in the convoy. Inconclusive evidence of damage is given in incomplete reports. In week ending 2400Z/6, 58 attacks were reported. (Comnavu 0819/9 to Admty.)

U/B positions. C.E.S.F's 081847 informs as follows: S/M estimate 0800Q/9 Dec. (Comnavu 0829/9 to Admty.)

H.X. 217 U/B. *See p. 293* D/F on 3920 K/cs at 0647Z indicates U-Boat in vicinity of 59° N 29° W which may have reported you. (D.D.I.C. 0851A/9 to Escorts of H.X.217.)

PRINC ANDREJ. Overdue Trinidad Yugoslav PRINC ANDREJ. (S.O.(I). Jamaica 0857R/9 to Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A. B.A.D.) Safe, see Admty. 1649/10.

ENGLEMAN Departures 9th Dec. U.S.A. transport ENGLEMAN to sea. (Aruba N.W.I. 1108QR/9 to Admty.)

ATTACKER Am setting watch in accordance with your 2235Z/30 135. (ATTACKER 1200Z/9 to B.A.D. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A. N.S.H.Q. Cominch. C.W.S.F. C.P.S.F.)

Convoy from "Torch" Area. Ref. your 1610Z/8 sail convoy when ready and when directed by N.C.X.F. Naumea and Mindiv 19 are required on this side. Advise whether your Sea Frontier Forces augmented by U.G. convoy ocean escorts as available in Moroccan waters are inadequate to meet your needs. (Cinclant 1428/9 to C.T.G.26.7. (R) Comnavu. Cominch. Admty. N.C.X.F. Recd. from U.S.N. at 2225/9.)

Destroyers for R.C.N. Personal for 1st. Sea Lord. You will no doubt have seen despatch No. 54 from Prime Minister of Canada to Prime Minister of Great Britain on subject of 14 destroyers to be turned over to R.C.N.

2. We in Canada are fully aware of great difficulties you are having in U.K. in provisioning of adequate number of Fleet destroyers in addition to those T.B. destroyers for trade and troop convoy escorts.

3. We of course do not expect to get all 14 destroyers immediately but we would very much like to get say 4 immediately and remainder spread over next 18 months.

/4. I should...

317A

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it outside British or Allied Government Services.

MESSAGE

OUT

MOST SECRET

1057Z/9th December

To Opanv.
Repeated Comnavou.

Date 9/12/42

U.S.X.

From Admiralty.

Movements Summary at 1800/G.M.T./ 9th December.

| <u>Ship</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Course</u> | <u>Speed</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| S/M K.14 <i>see p. 316</i> | 35 degs. N., 69 degs. W. | 308 degs. | 9 |
| MILFORD) Tanker Convoy) | 09 degs. N., 25½ degs. W. | 273 degs. | 9½ |
| AT 30 | 39 degs. N., 58 degs. W. | 086 degs. | 26½ |
| TA 29 | 43½ degs. N., 60½ degs. W. | 294 degs. | 25 |
| CORINTHIAN | 15½ degs. S., 26 degs. W. | 243 degs. | 12 |
| ENTERPRISE <i>see p. 316</i> | 41 degs. N., 28½ degs. W. | 270 degs. | 18 |

1057Z/9.
for D.O.D.(F)
(164)

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

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Destroyers
for R.C.N.
Contd.

4. I should like to point out that while it is economical for Canada to build a large number of frigates and single screw corvettes it is not economical in the interest of the total war effort for us to build destroyers. Therefore we must look to you or to U.S.A. for any addition to or replacements for our destroyer fleet.

5. It is suggested that possibly Canadian Government might agree to allocation of the 4 Canadian Tribals at present completing or building to fleet work in U.K. provided these would assist you to release the escort destroyers requested by us.
(C.N.S. Ottawa 1512Z/9 to Admty.)

U.S.S.R.
S/Ms.

Your 2044/10 Nov. (N.T. in W.D.) Request I be informed (a) Destination of U.S.S.R. Submarines.
(b) Whether they are to be sailed singly, in pairs or in company.

(c) Whether escort will be provided to take submarines clear of Canadian coastal zone.

(d) Whether Cominch or C.O.A.C. is to route submarines onward to destination.

(C.O.A.C. 1525Z/9 to Cominch. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Shipping
ex O.N.
Convoys.

Your 1015Z/8 concur in that C.E.S.F. has authority to divert ships from O.N. convoys from positions outside (?of) New York to destinations as far south as Chesapeake at his discretion and as conditions warrant. Macri route should be supplied by U.K. routing authorities.
(Cominch C & R 1527/9 to Admty. (R) C.E.S.F.)

U/B
Positions.

Submarine estimate Dec. 9th and U.S. Sub. notice.
(Cominch 1627/9.)

ILE DE
FRANCE

San Francisco 2025Z/8 ILE DE FRANCE for Bombay via Honolulu and Wellington 13th Dec. a.m. knots 20, days 13.6. Honolulu oil fuel 2500.

Section 2. A. 038° N 127° W. B. 033° 30' N 135° W.
C. 029° N 145° W. D. 023° N 155° W. thence proceeding Pearl Harbour. S.P. 02272 (21) (22) S.P. 02413 copy 709. H/F con hydropac 45 QFA 146 QMA 82.
(N.S.H.Q. 1708Z/9 to Admty.)

Trinidad
bunkers.

Your 1825/7. Diversion of northbound ships with the exception of Bauxite Loaders to by-pass Trinidad is now the normal practice. To prevent onward delays Navy Dept. are agreeable to consider each individual case on its merits and where possible even a call at Guantanamo will be omitted. 2. In order to make intelligent diversion possible request that route signal should contain loading destination as many of these specify first port of call only. Also notation after days bunkers whether coal or oil.
(B.A.D. 1821Z/9 to Admty.)

/LORD KELVIN...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1710^Z/9th Dec. IN.

From: C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date 10.12.42.

Recd: 0630

Naval Cypher S by W/T.

Addressed: Admiralty

IMPORTANT.

Section South west.

O.N194 Western local Escort Task Units 24.18.1 042° 43' 060° 03' 239° 7'

H.S. 73, MAHONE, 044° 34' 062° 25' speed eight.

H.F. 20, BUXTON, MEADOWSWEET, NIPIGON, 043° 59' 063° 50' 223° 8 altering to 264° in 065° 17'.

St. John N.B. portion escorted by NIPIGON detach in 005° 56' course 333° ** see p. 316*LORD KELVIN, BUTTERMERE, WASTEWATER, departed Halifax 2100Z/9th, en route for position 044° 49' North 059° 50' West for cable repair. *See next page*

F.H. 20, GCDETIA, E.T.A. 2100Z/9th, U.S. Destroyer MCCORMICK 043° 48' 063° 58' 218° 14. altering to 261° in 067° 00' West.

U.S.S. Y.M.S 78, tug JUNALUSKA, 044° 51' 061° 53' coastwise to 046° 00' 059° 32' thence 084° 9. ✓

Tugs DAISY, FORT WILLIAM, vicinity Cape Sable en route Halifax.

U.S.S. BIBB, MCLEISH, U.S. Des. SIMPSON, 042° 13' 062° 03' to position 041° (15') 065° 01' to

rendezvous with U.S.S.R. Submarine S. 51, S 56, in 041° 15' 065° 01' at 1400Z.

U.S.C.G.R. 30270, disabled estimated in the vicinity 041° 38' 061° 00' set 090° drifting two knots. *Windsor*

MAID OF STIRLING, 045° 10' 065° 00' en route WINDSOR Nova Scotia.

NEWTON ASH, 045° 05' 061° 00' 056° 7 en route Sydney (C.B.)

U.S.S. STAFF, 043° 22' 065° 05' en route Boston 12 knots. *See p. 316*

1710Z/9

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (H); D.D.I.C.

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.I.C. (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.
 U.S.N. (3)
 D.S.D. (2)

F.O.S. by courier.
 C.C.R.T.
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (C)

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

LORD
KELVIN
(Cablesnip)
See previous page.
Sailing telegram for cable grounds, thence
Sydney N.S.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1917Z/9, 1555Z/10 to Admty. (R)
Connav etc.)

San Pedro
de Macoris
sugar
cargoes.
It has been understood that ships can load sugar
at San Pedro de Macoris in protected berth down to
draught of 14 feet only. They then proceed to
another port for balance cargo.
2. Information lately received indicates that net
defences may have been established enabling loading
to be completed in safety in San Pedro de Macoris roadstead.
3. Request any available information.
(D.T.D. 2012A/9 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) S.O.(I.) Jamaica. B.A.D.)

BATTLER
When ready sail BATTLER Norfolk to New York to
depart with H.X.220. Aircraft in this vessel are
in operating status and available for protection
of convoy en route.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 2030/9 to C.E.S.F. (R) C.T.24.
Com. 3. Com. 4. Com. 5. Cinclant. N.S.H.Q. Admty.
C.O.A.C. U.S. Port Director New York.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH
(T.A.29)
Departure and arrival HAMILTON, HEPATICA, escorting
T.A.29.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 2038Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

Shipping
casualties.
Connav serial No. 9.
Correct position EMPIRE SPENSER Serial 8 to 37° 06' W.
→ CERAMIC believed torpedoed sunk 7th Dec. approx.
40° N 39° W.
→ Sailing STAR OF SCOTLAND sunk by torpedo 13th Nov. 26.30 S 00.20 W.
CHARLES L D sunk by torpedo 9th Dec. approx. 59° N 29° W H.X.217.
(Connav 2101/9 to Connaveu.)

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary. → Para A. CHARLES L D torpedoed sunk 58.59 N 29.31 W.
0815Z/9.
→ Para B. CERAMIC torpedoed area 40.30 N 40.20 W 6/7
Dec. STAR OF SCOTLAND attacked sunk 26° S 00.20 W.
13 Nov. LEA, U.B. or U.R. 114. JEREMIAH WADSWORTH

3 torpedo hits.
Para C. P.C.545 attacks sub. 24.23 N, 72.35 W, about 2240Z/7. CG.
Picket boat sights sub. on surface course northwest 40.09 N
73.44 W 0045Z/9. SS. JAMES E. JONES attacks sub. on surface
07.22 N 58.16 W 0015Z/9.
(Cominch 2121/9 to Admty. for O.I.C. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

ANDES
Request early reply to my 1540/5 and 2054/7.
(N.S.H.Q. 2144Z/9 to Admty. (R) D of S.T.)

/Tanker...

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Tanker
convoy
for
"Torch"
area. My 0351/1 and 1901/7. Suggest destroyers
mentioned in your 1900/8 not to N.C.X.F. might be
used to escort convoy of five or six fast tankers
to "Torch" area leaving U.S. about 1st week in
January.
(B.A.D. 2201Z/9 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)
See also 1707Z/11.

Dakar
negotiations. My 2125/7 (N.T. in W.D.) Full text of Admiral
Glassfurds directive is being signalled in J.S.M.
547. Request you will inform F.O.C.W.Af. and
N.C.X.F. as necessary.
(B.A.D. 2223Z/9 to Admty.)

Floating
dock. My 1805/24. Para 2. (a) Navy Dept. now give
completion date of Dock as 15th Feb. Date in
para 4 should be amended accordingly.
(B.A.D. 2235Z/9 to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F. (R)
C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. S.A. S.B.N.O. W.A.
S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)

U/B Contact picked up by R.C.A.F. aircraft indicates
submarine in 046° 32' N 050° 37' W at (?22)14 9th.
(C.O.A.C. 2304Z/9 to GB7A. C.T.F.24.)

ORCHIS
ROSELYS When ready for sea about 1130Z/10 proceed to join
H.X.218 at R/V. By hand to ROSELYS and ORCHIS.
(C.T.24. 2331Z/9 to ORCHIS. (R) ROSELYS. C.T.G.
24.6. C.T.G.(7) C.(?R) C. ? Admty. C. in C. W.A.
N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 321 Dec. 8th.
Photos Buin Shortlands area morning 8th indicate
9 destroyers 2 submarines 1 minelayer 1 tanker
3 merchant vessels 3000-7000 tons, 4 small merchant vessels,
2 wrecked merchant vessels.
(2) Photo R/C Rabaul morning same day showed 38 vessels in
harbour including 2 heavy cruisers, 1 light cruiser, 9 destroyers,
2 torpedo boats, 1 possible seaplane tender, 1 possible submarine
tender, 1 large and 1 small tanker, 2 patrol craft, 17 merchant
vessels, totalling approx. 93,000 tons 1 other unidentified ship
(8) 16,000 ton vessel also sighted anchored in Massawa Bay (20
miles West Reba) 10 Zeros engaged Fortress over Vunakanau one
probably destroyed 1 damaged.

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

2250/9th Dec. IN

From:- COMNAVEU.

Date. 9/12/42.

P/L BY D/R.

Addressed:- Admiralty.

Following is Comnav 1919/9 addressed for action to all Commands concerned convoy movements Atlantic North of 40 North and West of 26 West, Less Eastern Sea Frontier:

Reference COMNAV 1516/9 Add:

GUF-2(E) 40-01 . 60-45 270 13

2250/9.

Advance Copy. Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (F).
D.T.D.

Rec'd from U.S.N. at
0325/10.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- A.C.N.S. (T).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (H) (2).
- D.O.D. (F) (2).
- Hd. of M. (10).
- D.D.I.C. (2).
- D. of P. (2).
- D.T.D. (3).
- D.T.D. (M).
- I.P. (2).
- W.D.
- Duty Capt. (2).
- Ad. Blake.
- Ad. Ramsay. (4).
- File 1919/9.

War Diary.9.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand - con/8.

Situation. (3) 1 converted aircraft carrier sighted north of
Contd. Witu Islands morning 7th course $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ shadowed to
vicinity Admiralty Islands $20^{\circ} 30' 147^{\circ} 45' E$ at
0300Z/8. 1 light cruiser 2 destroyers one large

merchant vessel also sighted $2^{\circ} 5' S 147^{\circ} 55' E$ at 0340Z/8
course 220° .

(4) 6 destroyers in 2 columns 1 ahead formation spaces 1 mile
apart sighted $5^{\circ} S 152^{\circ} 35' E$ at 2320Z/7 course S.W. shadowed and
later attacked by two forces of Fortresses scoring 2 probable
direct hits (500 lb.) one stern leading (?destroyer) interception
by approx. 15 fighters 8 probably 9 destroyed 2 others damaged
without loss to Fortresses, destroyers later reported changed
course returning Rabaul last sighted $5^{\circ} 5' S 142^{\circ} 25' E$ at
0545Z/8 course 10° .

(5) No further advances made in Buna area where enemy are counter
attacking vicinity S.E. Buna, repulsed with enemy losses 50
killed. Australians attacking enemy positions Gona area.

(6) Forces Bostons and B.25s attacked Buna and Ciadere area
during day. Six B.25s bombed Lae aerodrome afternoon (?December)
causing large explosion and fires.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0459Z/9 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrival Fremantle 7th Dec. U.S. Seaplane tender
WILLIAM B. PRESTON, from Exmouth Gulf. Departures

~~4.12.1942~~ 8th, U.S.S. HERON for Exmouth Gulf,
Townsville 8th, WHYALLA for Port Moresby, H.M.A.S. WARREN for
Milne Bay, Cairns, Departure U.S. Patrol Gunboat TULSA for Milne
Bay.

(A.C.N.B. 0827/9 to Admty. etc.)

Arrival Papeete 7th Dec. F.S. CHEVREUIL.

(D.N.I. Wellington 1302M/9 to Admty. F.N.F.L. London. (R) A.C.N.B.
Comsopac.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.

(D.D.I.C. 1438A/9, 1439A/9.)

322

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

H.X.217.

About 14 attempted attacks were made on convoy H.X.217 last night. Several promising counter attacks were made. Today Catalina A/C H/84 from Iceland (apparently escorting the convoy) made 6 U-Boat sightings and at 1403 attacked the sixth on the surface in 58° 9' N 22° 44' W (340 miles S of Reykjavik) and brought to the surface half a mile of oil, a dead man and 8 blimp shaped floats, 2 of them with one man each, and some wreckage.

South Atlantic.Group
sailings.

Replying to the Admty. request on 7th Dec. for group sailings, etc., on the eastern part of the station C. in C. S.A. says that group sailings from Durban, Lourenco Marques and Capetown have been instituted and used whenever any escorts are available. His organisation is much on the lines suggested, but he has retained one destroyer and 2 corvettes in Capetown area, which enables him to escort tankers and other special ships. Air escort is provided by (a) S.A.A.F. (b) No. 25 Training Group, or (c) Catalinas. The latter are now at St. Lucia Bay, but can return to Saldanha Bay at short notice.

Trinidad reports that Norwegian M.V. INDRA was torpedoed and sunk by 2 U-Boats at 1630 G.M.T. 26th Nov. in 2° 10' N 28° 52' W (about 70 miles N.E. of St. Pauls Rocks)

Mediterranean.

Force Q

The term Force Q is now to be employed to signify the cruiser and destroyer force employed as a striking force in the Bone area. The force will normally be formed of two of the 12th C.S. and 2 of 4 Fleet destroyers detached from Force H, as detailed by C.S.12.

AURORA, ARGONAUT, ESKIMO and QUALITY sailed from Algiers for Bone this evening. SIRIUS, DIDO, ASHANTI and TARTAR sailed from Bone to Algiers at dusk today, carrying out a sweep to the north eastward on the way. No special incidents occurred during the sweep.

/PORCUPINE...

323

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

PORCUPINE (torpedoed yesterday) arrived at Arzeu today. S/M Depot ship MAIDSTONE which PORCUPINE was escorting arrived at Algiers.

N.C.X.F. reports that P.219 whilst on patrol in the Bizerta - Marittimo area obtained hits on 4 merchant vessels, one of which is known to have sunk. URSULA blew up a train at Alassio and sank an A/S schooner in the Gulf of Genoa. Hits by gunfire were observed on oil tanks and a train. The ex-French SS. ST. MARGUERITE from Marseilles to Naples was sunk north of Corsica on 2nd Dec. and the German master and chief engineer were taken prisoners.

M.T.Bs 266, 307 and 315 left Malta at 1600A for Bone, but had to return on account of bad weather.

A Wellington laid 2 mines at the entrance to Tripoli Harbour last night.

Operation
"Quadrangle
(A)"

P.R.U. reported that two 8" cruisers had left Messina at 0730A. Force K (EURYALUS, CLEOPATRA, JERVIS, KELVIN, NUBIAN) sailed from Malta at about 1000 today, to meet convoy M.W.15, and additional air R/C was carried out to the northward. Several 6 engined flying boats were seen between the convoy and Malta and 2 of them were shot down. It is thought they were either troop carriers or minelayers. Air R/C having established that there was no threat to the convoy, the force was recalled to harbour at 1216A and arrived at Malta at 1717A. Convoy M.W.15 arrived at Malta at 2131A escorted by ORION, HURSLEY, CROOME, ALDENHAM and EXMOOR.

Force H

NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, MILNE, METEOR, LOOKOUT, PANTHER, PARTRIDGE, FARMDALE, AVON VALE, and VERITY sailed from Gibraltar at 1516A today for Mers El Kebir.

Beaufighters carrying bombs attacked shipping in Sousse Harbour early this afternoon and caused damage in the port and 2 very near misses on a 5000 ton merchant vessel which was unloading at the main commercial quay. A large fire was started.

324

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

The railway and docks were damaged when Chittagong was bombed today by 24 plus Army 97 HB with fighter escort.

America and West Indies.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa reports that in consequence of the withdrawal of destroyers from the Local Escort Force for the Western Support Force and of 17 Canadian corvettes for North African convoys the strength of the local escort groups is often inadequate.

Cominch reports that Dutch M.V. BINTANG was torpedoed and sunk at 0830Z/21 Nov. in 10° 30' N 50° W.

325

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- BELFAST. My 1701/9. Sailed. E.T.A. 1500/11. *Scapa.*
C. in C. Plymouth 0925A/10.)
- SUFFOLK. Scapa departure 0933 SUFFOLK.
(A.C.O.S. 1015/10 to C. in C. Nore.)
- GLENEARN. C.C.O's 1640/9. *N.T.A.D.* Request when GLENEARN is
sailed to London the following facts may be taken
into account in ordering escort and air protection.
Ship is deficient in A.A. armament and is not
completely manned. There are only 2 other
L.S.I.(L) in the country.
(S.O. A.S.C. 1148A/10 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- P.31. Your 1546/9. *N.T.A.D.* Request you sail P.31 for
Portsmouth when ready about 19th December.
P.31 will proceed later to Holy Loch to work up.
(F.O.S. 1259A/10 to C. in C. Nore.)
- W.A.
Command. Situation at 1958A/10. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 1351A/10.)
See Lion Copy.
- O.15. O.15 sailed for Scapa.
PRESTON NORTH (Capt. S.9 1615A/10 to B.D.Z.)
END. (See 9/12. p. 259C) *See 1/30 p. 325 D*
- P.615. Codeword "Keeper". Sailing postponed pending
improved weather owing to defect in escort
vessel.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1625A/10 to F.O.S.)
- S/M
Positions. At 0800/11. Details.
(F.O.S. 1724A/10, 1024A/11)
See Lion Copy.
- * THRASHER. Convoy K.X.6 A consisting of cable ship in tow of
P.221. 2 trawlers at 2000A/10 in 047° 55' N. 013° 30' W.
K.X.6A 187°, 5 knots.
* *See p. 325 D* (2) THRASHER and P.221 keep 10 miles to starboard
of your route until 049° N.
(F.O.S. 1938A/10 to S/Ms.)
X K.X.6 A. Estimated position of THRASHER at 0800A/11 046°
45' N. 013° 05' W. northbound submerged by day.
(C. in C. W.A. 2342A/10 to NORTHERN FOAM, NORTHERN GIFT.)
X See p. 330

SECRET

325A

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 IN
10244/11 December.
From F.O.S. Date 11.12.42.
Recd. 1030
P/L BY T/P

Addressed: Admiralty.

273. My 1724 / 10th December para.(E) amend to read vicinity Kinnaird Head due Scapa 1630 11th.

10244/11.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D.

/ Most Secret.

A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
D.D.O.D.(M)
D.N.I.(4)
Ops.(3)
O.D.(5)
O.I.C.(3)
D. of Plans(3)
D.A/S.W.
M.(2)
W.D.
I.P.(3)
D.T.D.(M)

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 1351A/10th December IN

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Situation at 1958A/10/12/42

Section N.E.

ABDIEL 58 47 05 05 To Plymouth 20

Situation at 1958A/10/12/42

Section S.E.

LIMBOURNE 52 20 05 21 To Plymouth 17

P.615 LA CAPRICIEUSE 54 48 05 22 To 180° Wizard Head 5' 10

BELFAST 52 15 05 23 To Scapa 26 till daylight then 29.

LADY MADRELEINE Should sail Belfast about 0600/11 10
NORTHERN WAVE to R/V L.C.T's in 55 07 05 25

ABDIEL 58 47 05 05 To Plymouth 20

NORTHERN SUN 55 18 05 53 To 55 54 10 39 10
CAPE PORTLAND
VASCAMA

O.N.M.153 SOUTHERN BREEZE 52 17 05 14 To Belfast 9½
3 Trawlers

STEWARD Unescorted 52 01 05 28 Northbound 9

5 M/Vs TANGO 55 43 06 44 To Loch Ewe 7½

O.N.S.152 AGASSIZ 50 43 07 33 R/V 55 54 10 39 6
C.T.U. SACKVILLE thence
24.1.13. GALT 56 10 15 02.

WETASKIWIN
BURNELM (S.O.)

O.N.S.U.J.152 1 Corvette 56 24 08 20 R/V 55 54 10 39 5

Situation at 1958A/10/12/42

Section N.W.

H.X.217 FAME 57 51 20 02 To 56 55 15 02 9
C.T.U. BURZA thence
24.1.4. POTENTILLA 56 31 08 29
EGLANTINE
ROSE
VERVAIN

R.U.52 ARAB 60 59 16 51 To 59 02 10 03 4
ANGLE
HUGH WALPOLE
NORTHERN SPRAY

U.R.53(A) GAVOTTE 61 15 14 12 To 62 20 17 30 5½
STAFNESS
REIGHTON WYKE

/Section S.W.

Situation at 1958A/10/12/42

Section S.W.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|---|-----|
| Hospital Ship ATLANTIC | | 47 47 15 03 | Course 011° thence Avonmouth | 13 |
| SPEY ROTHER SIENNEN CLARE | | 42 04 13 25 | To 39 01 13 01 thence 36 30 09 35 | 8 |
| REDOUBT QUICKMATCH | | 39 01 15 01 | To 43 01 15 01 | 20 |
| K.X.6A | NORTHERN GIFT NORTHERN FOAM | 48 28 13 28 | To 46 00 14 00 thence 40 00 13 00 | 4 |
| S.C.111 C.T.U. 24.1.3. (E) | U.S.S.SPENCER U.S.S.BADGER DIANTHUS ROSIHERN TRILLIUM DAUPHIN | 55 47 28 36 | To 56 31 08 29 | 7 |
| O.N.S.150 C.T.U. 24.1.18 | BEVERLEY WINCHET,SEA ANEMONE ASPHODEL ABELIA CLOVER | 47 47 34 08 | To 47 30 39 01 thence 43 35 43 02 | 6 |
| A.T.30 | Unescorted | 39 17 43 20 | To 41 30 30 30 thence 51 10 25 30 | 26½ |
| O.N.151 C.T.U. 24.1.15 (E) | WATCHMAN VANSITTART DAHLIA WALLEFLOWER MONKSHOOD BORAGE | 53 51 31 38 | To 49 59 44 00 | 8 |

1351A/10

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.
MFG 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. of P.(2)
D.M.S.

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

Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)

325D

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 1724A/10th December IN

From F.O.S. Date 10.12.42.
Time 1737

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty

265

Positions of submarines at 0800/11th December and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. GURNARD in zone K.505.
- B. TUNA leaving vicinity 45° 02' North 05° 30' West dived by day through 46° 30' North 04° 15' West and 48° 08' North 06° 01' West. *see p. 327*
- C. P.221 44° 14' North 13° 17' West dived by day through 49° 10' North 13° 22' West and 49° 50' North 12° 34' West. *see p. 336A*
- see p. 325* D. THRASHER 46° 54' North 13° 19' West dived by day through 49° 10' North 13° 22' West and 49° 50' North 12° 34' West.
- E. O.15 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END vicinity Duncansby Head due Scapa 0900. *see p. 325*
- F. P.615 escorted by LA CAROLIEUSE 52° 28' North 05° 34' West due 160° Lizard Head 5 miles at 0800 12th December. *see p. 325 - early proposed*

1724A/10 *see memorandum 095/12/42*

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.C.D.(M)
- Duty Capt.(2)
- D.N.L. (4)
- 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)

maf.

326

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Operation "Valuable".
1. Portsmouth Operation "Valuable".
 2. Information of a heavily armed enemy merchant ship possibly escorted by T.B. and M. Class Minesweeper is expected to pass Dover Straits westward during next few days.
 3. Object destruction of merchant ships.
 4. Preliminary disposition. Force B consisting of M.G.Bs 616, S.O., 613, 615 M.T.Bs 243, 86 will be sailed to Newhaven as soon as weather permits and are to be at immediate notice there each night during hours of dark as striking force. Force A consisting of destroyers as detailed are to leave Portsmouth each night for patrol in vicinity 050° 28' N. 000° 15' E. Beachy Head light will be shown for 5 minutes after each exact hour at which as ordered a landfall may be made to check position. Force A is to sail to pass E A 3 Buoy outward at 1730 and inward at 0800. Force C consisting of destroyers not detailed patrol will be anchored St. Helens Roads at immediate notice.
 - (5) Execution. C. in C. Portsmouth will pass enemy information as received to N.O.I.C. Newhaven and Force A. and will order forces to attack. A.M. Q Z X 771 is to be crossed by passage 2 as given Portsmouth memorandum 0221/94 of 23rd November 1942. Force B when ordered is to follow Force A across A.M. Q Z X 771 but is not to overtake it, and is to attack after destroyers. S.O. Force A is to give necessary directions when he has sighted enemy. Force C will be sailed to approx. 25 miles North of Cap Barfleur to intercept to southward A.M. Q Z X 771 depending on circumstances.
 6. Air R/C will be flown between Le Havre and Somme.
 7. Fighter codeword of Force A "Advent", Force B "Device".
 9. Destroyer Force tonight, Force A ESKDALE, BROCKLESBY, ALBRIGHTON, TYNEDALE. Force C Nil.
- (C. in C. Portsmouth 1127A/10.)
ALBRIGHTON, ESKDALE, BROCKLESBY are patrolling near 180° Beachy Head 16 miles during night and arrive E.A.3 Buoy at 0800/11.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1850A/10 to PYTCHLEY, WHITSHED.)
My 1123/10th 1942. Para. 9 TYNEDALE will not sail.
S.O. of escort C.W. 140 arrives E.A.5 buoy 0900/11 is PYTCHLEY. WHITSHED, WORCESTER, VESPER arriving E.A.5 at 0730/11.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1853A/10 to ALBRIGHTON.)
Attack. One vessel and 5 escort, position off Calais, proceeding West, speed 15 knots.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2015A/10 to Force A.)
Estimated position of enemy by R.D.F. 240° Cap Gris Nez one mile. Enemy one large ship and 7 escorts, speed 12 knots.
(3 S Z U ? Force A 2135A/10 to Portsmouth.)
Proceed your best speed through 050° 18' N. 000° 15' E. and 050° 11' N. 000° 24' E. and patrol to westward meridian 000° 30' E. to attack enemy armed merchantman with 7 escorts.
BROCKLESBY, ALBRIGHTON. and ESKDALE are to proceed ahead of you to operate to eastward 000° 30' E.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2207A/10 to WHITSHED.)

/My 2207/10th ...

327 [REDACTED]

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations *- L.A. 1/10*

Operation "Valuable". (contd.) My 2207/10th to WHITSHED after passing through Q Z X 771 operate to eastward of 000° 30' E. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2208A/10 to BROCKLESBY, ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON, (R) WHITSHED.) Cancel my 2207. Enemy has entered Boulogne. Proceed to Portsmouth in accordance with previous orders, arriving E.A.5 buoy at 0730/11. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2305A/10 to WHITSHED.) My 2305. Cancel my 2208A/10. Return to patrol North of minefield and act in accordance with para 4 of my 1127/10. (C. in C. Portsmouth 2311A/10 to BROCKLESBY, ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON.)

Biscay S/M Patrol. (TUNA) *see p. 325* Unless otherwise ordered TUNA is to leave patrol position (W) 045° 02', 002° 30' at 0800A/11 and proceed dived by day through (X) 046° 30', 004° 15' (Y) 048° 08', 006° 01' to R/V in (Z) 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 1400/13. 2. TUNA may proceed on surface at C.O's discretion within 40 miles Lizard Head. (F.O.S. 1726A/10 to S/Ms.)

Allied Air Activity.

Escort of Convoy *H.X.217. ** see p. 331* The 6 hours escort given to convoy H.X.217 on 7th December by Liberator H/120 at a distance of 800 miles from base almost certainly saved this convoy from serious casualties the following night. The persistent attacks on the 8th December by Liberator B/120 and the long duration of her escort gave invaluable protection. It is requested that the Squadron and particularly the two crews be informed of our appreciation of their fine work and our hopes that the destruction of a U-boat will be confirmed. (1st S.L. 0941A/10 to A.O. C. in C. C.C.)

Own A/C fired on. 18 Group reports that meteorological Spitfire was fired on by SUFFOLK when at 20 thousand feet at 1025/10 whilst over Pentland Firth. (C. in C. Rosyth 1147A/10 to SUFFOLK.)

Crashed A/C. Red Very Light sighted in 058° 26' N. 023° 45' W. at 1116Z/10. *EGLANTINE investigated, found crashed aircraft but no sign of survivors. (FAME 1351Z/10 to C. in C. W.A.) ** see p. 331*

/Humber ...

328

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - contd.

Humber. F.O.I.C. Humber reports that bombs have been
Explosions of jettisoned recently by friendly aircraft in
jettisoned vicinity 53° 29' N. 00° 50' E. At 1904/6
bombs. what appeared to be a single very heavy bomb
exploded near three minesweeping trawlers.
At 2055/8 twenty small bombs which did not explode fell near
a trawler, and again at 1925/9 a single large bomb exploded
two miles from another trawler. Request representations may
be made to the Air Ministry.
(C. in C. Nore 1437A/10 to Admty.)

A/C in Proceed to 82° Peterhead 110 miles via gap A
sea. and search for Beaufighter crew in sea.
Aircraft assisting.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1452A/10 to FAULKNOR.)
My P.C.S. are 126° Peterhead 49 miles, 058° 29 knots.
E.T.A. 082° Peterhead 110 miles at 2025. Request call sign and
frequency of searching A/C. Weather 4865 9735.
(FAULKNOR 1730A/10 to C. in C. Rosyth.)
If nothing found abandon search in time to arrive Scapa
before dark tomorrow. FORFEIT sail from Aberdeen with orders
to arrive position at daylight. FORFEIT will continue search
after your departure. No aircraft co-operation tonight owing
to weather but details of co-operation tomorrow will be
communicated later.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1811A/10 to FAULKNOR.)
Intend searching with Star Shell and searchlight throughout
night, leaving area at 0800 and proceed Scapa north of mine
barrier. E.T.A. 1500A/11. My position at 2200, 075°
Peterhead 98 miles. Weather 4862 9546.
(Capt. D.8 2206A/10 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Banak. Enemy A/C present on 9th December.
See Enemy Intelligence.

Mining.

Unknown Your 1522/6, last para. S.O. 4th M/S Flotilla
operation. p.m. 11th Dec. and ADVENTURE a.m. 12th December.
Weather permitting.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1253A/10 to C. in C.
Plymouth.)

Z S My 1409/7th. S.O. 15 M/S Flot. carried out one
Search. day's sweeping of southern section on 8th Dec.
but has made no further progress in last 48 hours
owing to north easterly gale and snow. Has now
sailed for shelter in Hesteyrfiord.
(A.C.I.C. 2045A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.10.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.WESTSEE
(German,
5911 Tons)
sunk on
30th Nov.
PRINZ EUGEN.

My 1305/2. 3 merchant ships sunk in all a
(?fourth) being WESTSEE of Bremerhaven.
(2) Russian staff request appreciation of enemy
disposition of surface craft submarines air and
land forces in Finland and North Norway. They
have reason to believe some U-Boats left this
area.
(3) Russians report PRINZ EUGEN arrived Trondheim
30th November. *but see 13/12. p. 447*
(4) Air R/C at Banak 9th December observed 11
twin engined machines on aerodrome.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1615A/10 to Admty.)

U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.

D/F bearings up to 0354Z/10, indicate U-Boats still
in your general area, probably shadowing and
reporting.

(D.D.I.C. 0615A/10 to Escorts H.X. 217.)

Am over enemy submarine in 58° 15' N. 22° 42' W.
Submarine was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
When first sighted was on course 160°, speed 8 knots.

(A/C 6 L F H 1142/10 and 1229/10.)

Am over enemy submarine 58° 08' N. 23° 37' W. Submarine
was on surface and seen to submerge, course 130°, knots 10.

(A/C 6 L F H 1423/10.)

My 1313A/10. Considerable U/B W/T activity continuing
from your area.

(D.D.I.C. 1914A/10 to Escorts H.X.217.)

H.X.217
attacked.

See shipping.

Casualties and Defects.

GREYFRIARS.

GREYFRIARS from Methil to Humber in F.S. 981
has entered Tyne after having been in collision.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1032/10.)

CYGNET.

Your 1823/9. CYGNET should be sent Greenock
at first opportunity for examination.
(N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1122/10 to Cdre. WESTERN ISLES.)

ADHERENT.

Your 1051/9/12. Unable to undock ADHERENT
today. Vessel will be sailed to arrive Beamer
at 1300 Saturday if weather permits undocking
p.m. tide Friday.
(N.O.I.C. Methil 1740/10 to A.S. Rosyth.)

/SHARPSHOOTER ...

330

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - contd.

SHARPSHOOTER. Your 1032/9th. Estimate that SHARPSHOOTER will be ready to sail 18th December on completion temporary repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 2040A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

CERAMIC. A.M. 2216/10 ^{p. 357} to ENTERPRISE has been repeated for information to C. in C. W.A.
(H.W.R. 11/12.)

M.V. PRIAM. Following from C.Z.V.O - G.B.L.L. (PRIAM) Advise owner. Begins:
Number 2 hold present sounding 8 feet. Pumping results poor. Bilge suction choked with wood shavings from cargo packing case (2 corrupt groups) maintain suction by flooding. Windlass motor room flooded, fear considerable damage to motors. Weather continues bad. No leaks in holds and hatch covers tight.
(Burnham Radio 2340 G.M.T. 10 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy F.N.886. LYNG sunk. SS LYNG Nor. bound Tyne from Southampton in F.N.886 sunk in collision with unknown vessel at 2350/9 in approx. N 75 E 3 to 4 miles from Tyne North Pier light. Crew including three naval gunners all saved.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0140/10 to Admty.)

K.X.6 A. ^{See p. 325} My 1621A/6. Two ferry steamers and tug EMPIRE TITAN returned Milford Haven a.m. 7th December.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0203A/10 to V.A. Gibraltar)

P.W.260. My 1544/9. P.W.260 postponed owing to weather.
W.P.261. (N.C.S.O. Plymouth 0752/10.)
W.P.262. Owing to weather P.W.260 and W.P.261 are cancelled.
P.W.262. 2. My 1311/9. Cancel para. 3. F.Os I.C. Cardiff and Milford Haven are requested to sail W.P.262 according to schedule on 11th December escorted by AMBROSE PARE, ELLESMERE, LA NANTAISE.
3. Group D Trawlers will be sailed from Plymouth to arrive Portsmouth to escort P.W.262 sailing on 12th December.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0923A/10.)

O.N.S.150. Your 1730/8. Report names of stragglers as soon as known.
(C. in C. W.A. 0840Z/10 to Escorts, O.N.S.150.)

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- S.P.10. My 1639A/9. S.P.10 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 0919A/10.)
- K.M.S.5. Intend sailing convoy and escort as in A.M.
2137A/30 and amendment to pass Clyde boom
1400A/11th December to pass through position
(P) at 0900A/12. Codeword "Untrue".
2. LOUISBURG will not sail. *See 8/12 - p. 258*
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1026A/10.)
- H.X.217. H.X.217 P.C.S. at 1100Z/10, 58° 26' N. 23° 38' W.
108°, 9.
About 14 attempted attacks on convoy last night.
Several promising counter attacks. BURZA short
of depth charges. *EGLANTINE no star shells.
Weather 5491 6354.
(C.T.U. 24.1.4 1125/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
** See p. 327*
- O.N.S.152. C. in C. W.A. 1227A/6. Sailed NORTHERN SUN,
CAPE PORTLAND and VASCAMA to overtake O.N.S.152.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 1210A/10.)
Situation Report at 2000. My 1335 and my 1729/10.
O.N.S. 152, corrected position 55° 43', 07° 33'.
(C. in C. W.A. 1829A/10.)
- Disembarkation Until further notice the present practice of dis-
of Passengers. embarking at Belfast passengers for Bristol Channel
ports and at Loch Ewe passengers for East Coast
ports is to be suspended.
2. Bristol Channel passengers should remain on board to des-
tination. East Coast passengers should be disembarked at Methil
or Leith.
 3. N.C.S.Os Belfast and Aultbea should, however, be ready to
revive the present disembarkation arrangements at immediate
notice.
 4. A.M. 1236/21/11/41 refers.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1343A/10 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Convoy Escort M.Ls for C.W. unable to sail owing to
C.W. weather.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1705A/10 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
- LADY OF MANN. Request you sail WOLVERINE or BADSWORTH to
arrive Belfast p.m./11 to escort LADY OF MANN,
carrying military personnel to Liverpool sailing
0200A/12th. Destroyer to return Londonderry on
completion.
(C. in C. W.A. 1849A/10 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

332

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

- S.C.111. It is possible for German U-Boats to D/F $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres R.D.F. at range of about 20 miles. As U-Boats from H.X.217 may be in your vicinity making for their bases it might be advisable not to use it unless there are indications that a U-boat is in contact with your convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1852Z/10 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)
- J.W.51. Your 1532/5. Details and proposed arrangements.
J.W.51 A. (D.T.D. 2005A/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
J.W.51 B. See Lion Copy.
- W.S.25. A.M. 1328/5. Route and Stragglers Route. Details. Rendezvous at 0900Z/18 in position P 270° Oversay 6 miles. Estimated S.O.A. $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (D.O.D. (H) 2035A/10.)

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

MESSAGES

2005A/10 December

Addressed S.B.N.O. N. Russia 327
 Repeated S.B.N.O. Archangel 524
 Admiral Miles 607

Date 10.12.42.

SP.02392(6 WAY)

From Admiralty.

Following for Dalgliesh and Roullard from
 M.O.W.T. and Harriman Mission.

1. Your 1532/5 December. Final decisions should be discussed and agreed between British Naval authorities S.T.O. and yourselves, but we suggest following -
2. First Party. J.W.51. A Tankers must not repeat not enter White Sea as black oil requires to be discharged at Murmansk urgently.
3. All British and American dry cargo ships and Tankers have been stiffened according to British and U.S. specifications.
4. Estimated maximum drafts of dry cargo ships in J.W. 51A on arrival are:-

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| DALDORCH | 22' 9" |
| EMPIRE ARCHER | 22' 3" |
| EMPIRE OLIVION | 23' 3" |
| BRIARWOOD | 21' 0" |
| EL OCEANO | 25' 7" |
| DYNASTIC | 25' 7" |
| BEAUREGARD | 24' 5" |
| RICHARD BLAND | 26' 4" |
| EL ALMIRANTE | 24' 1" |
| OREMAR | 26' 2" |
| GREYLOCK | 25' 4" |
| J.L.M. CURRY | 23' 9" |
| RICHARD BASSETT | 26' 7" |
| GATEWAY CITY | 25' 11" |

WIND RUSH 25'
 WEST 90 TOMSKA 21'
 EMPIRE METEOR 23' 8"

Estimated draft on arrival of Tankers -

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| SAN CIPRIANO | 26' 6" |
| OLIGARCH | R.F.A. 27' 1" |

5. Subject to your being satisfied ice conditions and availability of sufficient suitable icebreakers, 5 ships of suitable draft ex J.W.51A repeat 51A might proceed Molotovsk and remainder to Murmansk. In view of availability of suitable cargo for U.S.A. at Molotovsk, we have suggested to Washington that

/these

these 5 should be American. We will report reply, if any casualties occur during voyage the number for Molotovsk to be correspondly reduced.

6. Second Party. J.W.51. All ships in J.W.51B should proceed Murmansk, subject to any further advices at a later date from you.

7. Every effort must be made to assemble sufficient cargo or ballast for ships at Murmansk. Please advise prospects earliest possible.

8. Admiralty concur.

2005/10, 2356A/17.
for D.T.D.(723)

- A.C.N.S.(T)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.C.(2)
- U.S.N.(3)
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(C)
- D.of S.T.
- I.P.(2)
- D.of S.
- W.D.

IH.

'333

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

M.K.S.3. Following nine ships missed M.K.S.3. LUTHER MARTIN, BENEDICT, FORT LAC, LA RONGE, CAITHNESS, LEWIS MORRIS, EMPIRE CENTAUR, OCEAN VICTORY, BEGUM, MANCHESTER CITIZEN.
(P.S.T.O. X.F. 1005A/10 to D.S.T.)

A/S
Search.

Intend Capt. D. 3rd D.F. with available destroyers of Force H (BR) carries a 36 hour anti-sub. search of area between Palos Cape, Tenez Cape and Habibas Is. commencing at 1200/11. Request air co-operation from Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force H (BR) 1244A/10 to N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (R) A.O.C. Gibraltar. F.O.I.C. Oran. Capt. D 3rd D.F.)

North Africa, U.S and U.K responsibility. For Eisenhower from U.S. Chiefs of Staff. Ref. your NAF 39 (Message number 1526) (J.S.M. 549, IZ 2565) dated Dec. 9th, the question of establishing a dividing line between primary responsibilities of civil administration of the U.S. and U.K. has by direction of the President been referred to the State Department for direct negotiation and settlement with British Foreign Office. In this connection the President informed State Department that, in his opinion, all of Tripoli should be included in the sphere of American responsibility because of its close relationship to Tunisia, both social and economical.
(Agwar, Washington 1555/10 to Usfor, London.)

*EXPORT
RHEA
PLUTO

*Sup. 336

For Eisenhower from Combined Chiefs of Staff.
1. The following hereafter constitutes recommendations of Combined Shipping Adjustment Board and does not constitute a directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

2. Netherlands Flag vessel EXPORT is at your disposal for purpose you consider most urgent. It should sail under Netherlands Flag, the crew employed as prescribed by Dutch Articles and conditions, and since she is an allied vessel should not be requisitioned by U.S.A.
3. REHA (?RHEA) and PLUTO should be handled in a similar manner. However, the ships and their crews should be dispatched immediately to U.K. if they are not required for urgent service locally.
4. Until Ministry of War Transport and Netherlands Gov. have clarified the status of the vessels, this is a temporary arrangement.
(Agwar, Washington 1604Z/10 to Usfor, London.)

Movement
Summaries.

Daily movements summaries will in future be made as follows for area G A between Meridian of Gibraltar and Greenwich Meridian by V.A. Gibraltar, for area G B between Greenwich Meridian and 006° 28' E by N.C.X.F., and for area G C between longitude 006° 28' E and Eastern limit of station by F.O.I.S. Admty. is requested to promulgate area and allot address indicating groups.
2. In addition S.O. Force H is authorised to promulgate to A.I.Gs of area affected intended movements of Force H.
3. This will be brought into force by signal when A.I.Gs are received.
(N.C.X.F. 1756A/10*to All British S and A concerned in Operation "Torch". V.A. Malta. Inshore Sqdn. Admty. C. in C. Med.)
*Amended 1118A/11.

/M.K.F.4...

334

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X - Contd.

M.K.F.4. Sailing telegram. Escorts EGRET, BANFF, TANATSIDE,
See pp. 345A 9 *CLARE, SWALE, ROTHER, *SPEY, SENNEN.
349 (Cdre. Algiers 1859A/10 to Admty.)* *See p. 336*
X See p. 337

BLYSKAWICA Intend to sail Polish Destroyer BLYSKAWICA shortly
See p. 349 escorting to Gib. on conclusion of which she is to
 join Force H. One Hunt of 59 division is then to
 join Inshore Squadron vice BLEAN boiler cleaning. On completion
 BLEAN is to rejoin Inshore Squadron (2 groups missing) of Inshore
 Squadron being sent to boiler clean at Gibraltar.
 (N.C.X.F. 1924A/10 to S.O.I.S. (R) BLYSKAWICA. S.O. Force H.
 N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Cdre. Algiers. Cdre. F.)

Shipping To Agwar (R) Usfor, London for Marshall from
 for Eisenhower. Ref. Your R4054.
 Civil Of the military requirements for forces set up,
 needs. for essential civil needs, and equipping French
 forces, it is apparent that present allocation of
 shipping cannot meet the demands. So far only
 requirement which is definitely known is military requirement.
 Civil and French Army requirements are being formulated. The full
 capacity of present shipping is required for military needs,
 however, because the military situation may be vitally affected
 unless we need certain civil and increase common items to include
 vast military requirements such as utilities, small tonnages are
 being requested within present convoy limitations. Provided ship
 losses remain small, build up reserves may permit some additional
 tonnages for civil use. These tonnages are entirely inadequate
 to meet civil and French military needs. The civil needs are so
 closely tied up with success of the military campaign that unless
 there is a general readjustment of shipping to increase the
 tonnages received here I shall be compelled to decide between
 reducing the size of the total forces or by failing to supply
 essentials which they are expecting to receive, causing
 disaffection with the French.
 (Algiers 2016Z/10 to Usfor, London.)

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OXFORDSHIRE. Your 1223A/9th and my 1652A/9th.
(2) Intend to sail OXFORDSHIRE for Algiers at 1000/10th routed through 78, 82, 76, 12, 100 S. of A. 14 knots.
(3) E.T.A. Algiers 1600/11th.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0225A/10 to N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie.)

Gibraltar Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 9th December.
Air Report. U-Boat sightings and attacks. Wellington VIC/179 at (0517 or 0107) (corrupt)/9 in 36.55 N. 00.59 W. S/E contact presumed U/B. A/C switched on S/L but doused as haze made visibility nil. Press Med. R/B opened fire which A/C returned. Nothing further observed. M/179 Wellington at 0547/9 in 36° 29' N. 1° 26' W. 6 miles switched on S/L and sighted U/B. A/C dropped 4 torpex D/C which exploded between C/T and bow obscuring everything except stern of U/B. Nothing further seen. Course of U/B on sighting 145° 15 knots. Hudson D/233 at 0912 in 36.00 N. 06.05 W. sighted C/T of U/B. C/T disappeared too quickly to attacks. Hudson S/233 at 1323/9 in 36.45 N. 01.25 W. sighted MRN U/B 020° 12. A/C attacked and dropped 4 torpex D/C which overshot. A/C and U/B? exchanged fire. U/B submerged 8 mins. after attack. No E/A sightings or attacks, no casualties. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0800Z/10.)

6082 Fast Convoy Propose sail convoy, my 1610/8, plus ^{*} CONTESSA for U.S.A. 12th Dec. S. of A. 13.5 knots. Will there be a Gibraltar section? Request Admty. route from 10° W. onward. ^{*} See next page
(S.N.O.C.A., 0910Z/10 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cinclant, C.T.U. 26.7.1, Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)
Your 0910/10. Route through position (G) 33° N. 12° W. (H) 31° N. 17° W. (J) 33° N. 26° W. (K) 34° N. 32° W. (L) 35° N. 40° W. thence as ordered by Connav.
2. Stragglers route as convoy route but lettered (S) to (W) with instructions that if straggling ships are to open out and keep 40 miles to port of route given.
S.N.O. Casablanca pass to C.T.U. 26.7.1.
(D.O.D.(H), 2105A/10 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Cinclant, C.T.U. 26.7.1., Connav.)
Onward route. (Connav 1934/11, see America and West Indies, 11th December.)

CHARYBDIS My 1215/10 not to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar. Request you will sail CHARBYDIS for U.K. as convenient after R.A. Burroughs has embarked. Destination as ordered by Admiralty.
(N.C.X.F., 1216A/10 to V.A. Gibraltar, C.S.12, Admty., CHARYBDIS, BULOLO.)

/Movements ...

336

War Diary.10.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements.

Arrival U.S. Destroyers ^{HARLES} C.F. HUGHES, ^{HILARY} H.P. JONES
with SS. CHILBAR.
(V.A. Gib., 1237A/10 to S.N.O. Casablanca, C.T.F.
37, N.C.X.F., (R) Admty.)

*CONTESSA, Intend to sail CONTESSA for Casablanca at 1630/10
CAUDEBEC, escorted by ^{HILARY P. JONES} JONES and ^{CHILBAR} HUGHES routed through
* EXPORT. (A) 35.51 06.01. (B) 35.25 06.36. (C) 34.01
* See previous page 07.39 thence as ordered by S.N.O. Casablanca.
x 333. page All positions N. and W., S. of A. 14½ knots.
(2) Intend to sail CAUDEBEC and EXPORT at 1700/10 escorted by
P.C. 472 and 475. Destination EXPORT Port Lyautey, CAUDEBEC
Casablanca, routed through (L) 35.51 06.01. (M) 35.25 06.36
(N) 34.27 06.50 thence Port Lyautey S. of A. 8½ knots. All
positions N. and W.
(3) Request you will signal necessary instructions for passage
Port Lyautey, Casablanca.
(4) W/T and call signs.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1246A/10 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) Admty.,
N.C.X.F., Port Director Port Lyautey, HILARY P. JONES.)
Sailed U.S. Ships P.C.472, P.C.475 escorting SS. EXPORT to Port
Lyautey and SS. CAUDEBEC to Casablanca. Casablanca pass to
Lyautey.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1644A/10 to S.N.O.C.A., U.S.N. Port Director
Port Lyautey, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.) See next page.

HINDUSTAN
damage..

Motor Vessel HINDUSTAN requests permission to
enter Gibraltar to repair D/G and bomb damage.
(VETCH, 1420A/10 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

Force H.

Sailed S.O. Force H in NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE,
MILNE, METEOR, LOOKOUT, PARTRIDGE, PANTHER,
FARNDALE, AVON VALE, VERITY.
(V.A. Gib., 1516A/10 to Admty., N.C.X.F., (R)
N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O.I.S., 12th C.S.)

SPEY.

See p. 334

My P.C. and S. at 2000A, 40.38 N. 13.07 W. 175°,
11 knots. Weather report.
(SPEY, 1800A/10 to V.A. Gib.)

Casablanca
Forces.

Your 1421/9 (? 1428/9 intended). U.G. Convoy
escorts present are available only for local
escort. Request they be made available for
patrols which will not interfere with their
readiness for return voyage. Further request assignment
division of destroyers or large escort vessels when available.
End of message.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1800A/10 to Cinclant, (R) N.C.X.F.)

/Casablanca ...

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 ^A 1340/10th December. IN
FROM: F.O.C.N.A. DATE: 10.12.42.
RECD: 2032
NAVAL CYPHER S BY T/P

ADDRESSED: A.I.G. 63.

IMPORTANT. Situation 1959A 10th

1. H.M.S/M P.221, 042degs. 04' 012degs. 40' dived by day 2½ surfaced by night 11 through 42 59 13 15 at 0130 11th thence 359. *See p. 325 D.*
- (2) M K S 3 (X), TAY, WYAR, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR, LYME REGIS, WORTHING, H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. COMEOPSIS, 37 35 13 06 through 38 28 15 01 thence 322 8.
- (3) LADY DENISON FINDER, one ^{*}Trawler 031degs. 54' 010degs. 08' to Casablanca 9½. **SOUTHERN PRIDE.*
- (4) QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT, 038degs. 57' 014degs. 51' through 039degs. 01' 015degs. 01' thence 000degs. 20.
- (5) Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 038degs. 26' 012degs. 34' through 040degs. 01' 014degs. 30' thence 000degs. 13.
- (6) U.S.S. ^{*}MINROW and French Convoy 027degs. 22' 014degs. 09' 222degs. 6½. **not identified - see next page.*
- (7) H.M.S. ST. NECTAN, 1 Merchant Ship, off Tarifa coastwise to Guadalquivir, then H.M.S. ST. NECTAN direct to Gibraltar 8.
- (8) H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. IMPERIALIST, escorting 4 merchant ships 036degs. 05' 006degs. 10' direct to Lisbon 7½ knots. *See p. 337*
- (9) U.S. Destroyers HILARY P. JONES, ^{CHARLES F.} HUGHES 1 (one) Merchant ship 035degs. 41' 006degs. 14' through 035degs. 25' 006degs. 36' and 034degs. 01' 007degs. 39' to Casablanca 14½. *See previous page*
- (10) P.C. 472 and 475 (2 comm) 2 merchant ships 035degs. 54' 005degs. 47' through 035degs. 51' 006degs. 00' and 035degs. 25' 006degs. 36' to 034degs. 27' 006degs. 50' thence Port Lyautay 8½. Thence escorts and 1 (one) merchant ship to Casablanca as ordered by S.N.O. Casablanca. *See previous page*

1340A/10

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

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D.A/S.W. | |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | Hd. of M. | Adml. Ramsey.(4) |
| N.A.1st S.L. | W.D. | D.M.S. |
| Capt. Pin. | I.P.(2) | F.O(S) BY COURIER |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | D.T.D.(M) | |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(3) | |
| D.D.O.D.(M) | D.T.D.(C) | |
| D.C.(2) | U.S.N. | |
| D.D.I.C.(2) | Adml.Blake. | |
| D. of P.(2) | | |

SECRET

336B

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.)

MESSAGE

1342A/10 December

IN

Date 10.12.42.

From V.A. Gibraltar

Recd. 1610

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed. Situation Report for Area "Y".

IMPORTANT

Situation 1959A 10th.

1. Italian Tanker TAIGETE 027 degs. 12' 017 degs. 13'
to Las Palmas 9.
2. U.S. S. *MINROW and French convoy 027 degs. 22'
014 degs. 02' 222 degs. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$

**not identified - see previous page*

1342A/10
Advance copy sent Ops., O.D., Trade.

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 Hsq
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
I.P. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.C. (2)
U.S.N. (3)
D.N.I. (5)
V.D.
D.E.V.D. (3)
M. (2)
A.L.O.
Admiral Ramsey (4)

AS

MOST SECRET

336c

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

1344A/10the December.

IN

FROM: V.A. Gibraltar

DATE: 10.12.42.

RECD: 1939

NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T

ADDRESSED: A.I.G. 65.

IMPORTANT.

Situation at 1959A/10th.

1. H.M.S. ENTERPRISE, 39 40 35 50 to search in vicinity of 40 30 40 20 17 knots. *See pp 353 & 357*
2. DUNCTON, DUNKERY, BUTSER, 19 26 18 01 000degs. 8.
3. (?BLYSKAWICA) approximately 39 57 36 52 to search in vicinity of 40 30 40 20 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

1344A/10

Advance copies Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

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

MFG

SECRET

336D

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.)

M E S S A G E I N 1431A/10/December

From V.A. Gibraltar. Date 10.12.42.

NAVAL CYPHER A.2. by W/T. Recd. 1759.

Addressed N.C.X.F., Repeated S.C. Force H,
H.M.S. FORMIDABLE.

IMMEDIATE.

U-Boat dispositions 10th December.

Mediterranean German. Activity moderate. 1 approximately
036 deg. North 002 deg. 29' West.

4 possibly 6 in area Cape de Gata - Oran - Cape Tenex -
Cape Palos.

1 or 2 about 037 deg. North between 001 deg. 32' West
and Algiers.

2 may have passed from Atlantic to Mediterranean recently.

Italian. 4 patrolling Algiers - Bone - Sardinia.

4 or 5 Cagliari - Cape Bon - Sicily.

? ^{Trapani}
~~Killingholme~~ Makalla. Only slight activity on station
1 D/F fixed at 0339A 10th with (five groups omitted)

North 021 deg. 34' West.
5 or 6 in Western Approaches to Gibraltar East of 011 deg.
West.

5 or 6 patrolling in area 035 deg. - 040 deg. North,
012 deg. 35' West to 019 deg. West.

2 bound South west within 150 miles of 039 deg. North
017 deg. West one outward within 150 miles of 033 deg.
North 025 deg. West.

3 outward 200 miles of 042 deg. North 015 deg. West.
3 outward off Cape Finisterre.

Italian. Possibly 1 (? off) Madeira.

1431A/10.

From War Registry.

Correction.

V.A. Gib. U/B Disposition. T001431/10.

For Killingholme read ?TRAPANI

II

Marking. (see 1431/10th December.)

337

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Casablanca Convoys. Your 2003A/9. While proposed schedule would meet naval requirements and berthing capacity, schedule depends upon ability to unload ships which is not a naval function. It is necessary that whatever the schedule I be authorized to sail convoys on time whether or not ships are unloaded this because U.S.S. convoys utilize maximum berthing capacities port of Casablanca, Nafi and Fedala. Commanding General W.T.F. has been requested to inform you whether proposed schedule is satisfactory as concerns port capacity for unloading cargo.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1803Z/10 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cominch, C. in C. Lant, N.O.I.C. Gib.)

MIRROR, cable operation. Intend to sail Cable Ship MIRROR escorted by ARCTIC RANGER a.m. Dec. 12th to carry out repairs to Lisbon - Gibraltar number 3 in 35° 55' N. 05° 49' W.
(V.A. Gib., 1804A/10 to Admty.)

POLYDORUS survivors. Ref. survivors Dutch POLYDORUS. Please signal Admty. repeated Gibraltar and the circumstances in which men were picked up.
(N.A. Madrid, 1808/10 to Seville, (R) Admty., Gibraltar.)

Reply: 1750/11.
Your 2403 (? 2230/9 intended). I know nothing of circumstances except men were landed in Canary Islands and brought thence by CIUDAD DE ALICANTE.
Seville instructed to inform you direct.
Men are now in hotels in Seville.
(N.A. Madrid, 1839/10 to Admty., (R) Gibraltar.)

CLARE. Proceed Gib. at best speed. Report E.T.A. forthwith.
See p. 334
(F.O.C. Gib., 1812A/10 to CLARE, (R) SPEY,

ROTHER, SENNEN.)
Your 1812/10th. My P.C. and S. 040° 22' N. 013° 12' W. B. 144° 20 knots. E.T.A. 2300A/11th. Special uncoded weather report.
(CLARE, 2103A/10 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. W.A., SPEY.)

Movements. Sailed 1436 WOODRUFF, CROCUS, IMPERIALIST escorting ELIZABETH MASSEY to Huelva, BLAIRESK, EMPIRE FRANKLIN, NETA and SHETLANDS to Lisbon, thence escort FLAMINIAN, VOLTURNO and MABRAE to join M.K.S. 3(Y) thence return to Gibraltar.
See p. 336A
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 1818A/10 to Admty., N.C.X.F., (R) N.A. Lisbon.)

/Search ...

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Search for
 CERAMIC
 survivors.
 → WALLSEND
 sunk.

My 0031/9th. Portuguese Ship DAO sailed a.m. 9th but now reports unable to make headway on account of terrible weather and will probably be obliged to return to Horta.

(2) Portuguese Sloop PEDRO NUMES proceeded to Island of Santo Antao (Cape Verde) to embark 36 survivors of British ship WALLSEND torpedoed 180 miles north-west of that Island (see South Atlantic; 0955/10). They will be landed St. Vincent (Cape Verde Is.) (N.A. Lisbon, 1832/10 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

L.C.I.(L)s,
 L.S.Ts.

Admty. 1739/8 para. 3 (Hush, M/S).
 From experience gained by Sherwood with L.C.I. (L)s it is not recommended that L.C.I.(L) should be sailed in company with L.S.Ts owing to low

speed of latter.

2. If done, this would necessitate alteration of pitch with consequent excessive fuel consumption. Otherwise temperature of 168° Fahrenheit could not be maintained.

3. On Atlantic passage engines ran best at 450 to 500 revs. pitch 45, which gave 11 to 12 knots. Mean speed obtained 11 knots. Fuel consumption 48 gallons per hour. Lubricating oil one gallon per hour. Necessary to limit water consumption to one gravity tank full per day giving 100 gallons.

4. Intend to sail tug EMINENT and seven L.C.Is in company to U.K. on Saturday 12th Dec. weather permitting, Cdr. Sherwood in charge.

(V.A. Gib., 1944A/10 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., etc.)

South Atlantic.

JOHAN DE
 WITT.

H.M. Transport JOHAN DE WITT sailed 9th Dec. E.T.A. Trinidad 25th Dec. Requirements Trinidad. (S.T.O. Capetown, 0848Z/10 to D. of S.T., N.O.IC. Trinidad, (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

→ WALLSEND
 (sunk 2nd
 December.)

I.D. form S.A. (1) WALLSEND. (2) Burnett Shipping Co. (3) 2145/2nd Dec. 020° 08' N. 025° 50' W. (4) Not sighted. (5) Position as (3) 2330 N.E. (as received). (6) Not known. (7) Ship sunk by S/M. (8) Not known. (9) Appeared to be U.25

type. No number seen. (10) Torpedoed. (11) Master, books thrown overboard, W/T Book sank with ship.

(N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 0955/10 to Admty.)

See also 1832/10, North Atlantic.

WALLSEND had been in Convoy O.N.146. (D.O.R. 1210.)

339

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

MATHERAN, firing report. Your 0913/9th. Message not received by any W/T stations in South Atlantic Command. (C. in C. S.A., 1036C/10 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.)

ALCANTARA, ALMANZORA, J.V. OLDEN-BARNEVELT. My 1103/4. Expect to sail ALMANZORA and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT escorted by ALCANTARA for Freetown 16th Dec.
2. Both ships will carry 500 Italian P.O.W. and other personnel on unescorted basis.
3. Request you will arrange A/S escort and R/V in Freetown area.

4. ALCANTARA is available (? as) in para.2 of my 1103/4. Request I may be informed whether she will be required to enter Freetown or proceed direct to patrol from a position on her route in order that passages for service personnel may be arranged.
(C. in C. S.A., 1042C/10 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., ALCANTARA.)
Your 1042/10th para. 4. Ship will enter harbour. (F.O.C.W.A., 1744Z/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

Convoy C.A. 3. Sailing telegram. Escort ROCKROSE. *See p. 339¹²*
(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1108Z/10 to Admty., etc.)

Shipping Routes. A.M. 2247A/8 para. 5. I would prefer ships not to be routed as in C. in C. S.A's 1311C/7 for the following reasons.
(A) This area is seldom free from U-Boats.
(B) Air cover available is barely sufficient for convoys and special ships. It is not available at night when many attacks take place.

2. I still consider it wiser to disperse ships and rely on individual diversion by diverting authorities to meet the change in U-Boat dispositions, as frequent temporary amendments to M.A.R.I. cause confusion and the situation has often again changed before the amendment is operative. In this way I should always be able to make use of the coastal route when U-Boat dispositions and availability of aircraft made this desirable.
3. Although my views are as above, I would be most willing to see arrangements in C. in C. S.A's 1311/7 tried as a temporary measure, because more opportunity for offensive action against U-Boats would be afforded.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1135/10, 1045Z/11 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.)
A.M. 2150/8th (re temp. routing for north and westbound ships from South Africa.) Propose if these orders come into force to divert shipping at sea affected by para. B to Freetown for onward routing to Chesapeake as none will have approach route.
(F.O.W.A., 1855Z/10 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., Connv.)

MOST SECRET

339A

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 Service.

MESSAGE

IN

MOST SECRET

1041Z/10th December

From F.O.C. W.Af.

Date 10/12/42
Recd. 1317

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Addressed A.I.G. 150.

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. HYDRANGEA, ^{COMMANDANT} DROGOU 07 20 13 10 to Marshall 9 at 2000Z/10th.

H.M.S. ARCTIC EXPLORER, H.M.S. CAPE WARWICK, H.M.S. INDIAN STAR, with ST 46, 05 55 12 50 to 03 55 11 18 thence (?109 degs.) 8½.

H.M.S. LE TIGER, 06 01 12 40 to Marshall 9.

^{COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, 2 M.Ls., escorting, 05 35 10 50 301 degs. 10.

H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, H.M.S. NORTHERN CHIEF, KHYBER, SPHENE, escorting off Takoradi to Pointe Noire 8.

H.M.S. NORTHERN DUKE, H.M.S. NORTHERN DAWN, H.M.S. ST. ZENO, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE, off Pointe Noire to South 8. *See 11/12 - p. 376*

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, patrolling between 00 28 South 21 57 and 01 17 18 21 12½.

Allied Naval units on patrol between 00 35 South 27 45 and 01 35 23 10 12½.

1041Z/10.

Advance copies Duty Captain
D.O.D.(F)
D.T.D.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.T.D.(3) | I.P.(2) |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | D.T.D.(M) | W.D. |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(C) | D.M.S. |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | Duty Captain (2) | D.D.O.D.(C) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | U.S.N. | D.B.D. |
| Captain Pim | D.A./S.W. | P.N.L.O. |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | Head of M. | |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.D.I.C.(2) | |

GMM

MOST SECRET

339B

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 the limits of the Government Security Code.

1116C/10th December.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
Date. 10.12.42.
From. C.in C. South Atlantic. Recd. 1221.
Naval Cypher 3M By W/T.

Addressed. Ships in Area Q of South Atlantic Station
Admiralty. Cdre. in Charge, Durban.
N.L.O. Port Elizabeth. N.L.O. East London
R.A.W.Africa.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. NIGELLA, H.M.S. FREESIA, 030 degs. 50' South
036 degs. 05' East to Durban 13 knots.

THYME, with C.A. 2, 037 degs. 25' South 014 degs. 30'
East to the South West 9 knots.

BELWORT, with LARG3 BAY, 034 degs. 15' South 026 degs.
00' East to Capetown 12 knots.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE with EMPIRE CORAL and PHEMIUS 034 degs.
50' South 020 degs. 06' East to 038 degs. 16' South 027 degs.
05' East 10 knots. *See p.339 (C.A.2)*

CATTERICK, Oiler ARNDAL, 029 degs. 00' South 034 degs.
50' to Durban 7 knots.

1116C/10.

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

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

AJA.

340

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Group Sailings. Admty. 2335/7. Group sailings from Durban, Lourenço Marques, and Capetown have been instituted and used whenever any escorts are available. Organisation is much on the lines suggested, but I have retained one destroyer and two corvettes in Capetown area. This enables me to escort tankers and other special ships. 2. Air escort is provided when possible by (A) S.A.A.F. (B) No. 25 Training Group or (C) Catalinas. Latter are now at St. Lucia Bay but can return to Saldanha Bay at short notice.
(C. in C. S.A., 1154C/10.)

Transport of Seamen to India. A.M. 1300/5 being passed to Cdre. Durban. Accumulation can probably be dispersed by utilising fully the provisions of C. in C. E.F. 0946 of 1st October 1942 (890 C) para. (B) which relaxes the limitations for 12-knot ships.

(2) C. in C. E.F.'s approval should be sought by Com. i/c Durban still further to exceed the limits when any particularly suitable ship is available, especially as shipping concerned now frequently sails as escorted group from Durban for the most vulnerable part of the journey.

(C. in C. S.A., 1156/10 to C. in C. E.F., Com. i/c Durban,
(R) Admty.)

LLANDAFF CASTLE, U/B. Quartermaster of LLANDAFF CASTLE reports (A) Submarine which surfaced within 300 yards of his boat shortly after sinking signalled in westerly direction with blue or green lights.
(B) He saw faint reply also with blue light which he considered came from second submarine.
(C) Ship's boats were signalling to each other, but different positions and with white light.
(D) Submarine used blue searchlight to sweep area around boats. Two captains did not see signalling, but report is confirmed by two other members of crew in quartermaster's boat.
(Cdre. i/c. Durban, 1329C/10 to Admty., etc.)

Movements. Arrival and departure 10th December NORWICH CITY, STELLA POLARIS.
(R.N.O. Lagos, 1526Z/10 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.W.A.F., N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Tugs for Walvis Bay. Your 1436C/9th. Crane lighter is being towed by tug BOLD or INTEGRITY.
(F.O.W.A., 1539Z/10 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty., B.N.L.O. (?W.A.))

SIMANCAS, suspicious. Following from Consul, Fernando Po:- (begins). "Recommend (? interception), search, permanent detention on any pretext Spanish Ship SIMANCAS due Sant Isabel December 11th ex Canary Is.

Understand this (? ship) carried troops and war material in contravention of terms of Trade Agreement Nigeria". (Ends).

Intend to take no action.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1621Z/10 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos.)
Reply: Admty. 1258/11.

/M/V ...

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.

1507Z/10 December.
MESSAGE.

IN.

From J.S.M. Washington.

Date: 10.12.42.
Recd: 2010Z.

CYPHER.

Addressed War Cabinet Offices London.
IMMEDIATE IZ. 2564
J.S.M. 548

Dakar Mission, directive.

Admiral Glassford will leave for Dakar as soon as we hear from Eisenhower that Boisson is ready to receive him. (See J.S.M. 541)

2. We have concurred in directive and letter of instructions from U.S. Chiefs of Staff to Glassford which reads as follows.

3. Directive begins:-

(1) By direction of the President a U.S. Military Mission to French West Africa is hereby appointed consisting of following:- Rear Admiral William A. Glassford Jr. U.S. Navy Senior Member. Brigadier General A. Franklin Kibler, A U.S. Brig. General Cyril R. Smith A U.S. Member to be designated by General Eisenhower. Captain Hugh E. Haven U.S.N. Comdr. John W. Harris U.S.N. Lieutenant Comdr. Ralph K. James U.S.N. Lieutenant L. Allen Morris Jr. USNR Secretary. First Lieutenant James C. Blythe (FA) U.S.A. Asst. Secretary.

(2) The Mission will proceed to Dakar French W. Africa by air, for the purpose of arranging details of the implementation of the provisions of the announcement made by the C. in C. Allied Forces in North Africa, and Admiral Darlan and Gov. General Boisson, on December 7th 1942, relative to co-operation between Allies and French West Africa in the defeat of the Axis powers and the liberation of France.

(3) In view of the urgency of the situation with regard to

(a) The use of air bases and supporting facilities in French West Africa for the movement of aircraft and airborne supplies to North Africa and

(b) The use of naval and air base facilities for supporting the anti-submarine campaign, the Mission is directed to take up these questions as a matter of first priority with a view to their immediate settlement.

- (4) The recommendation of the Mission will be submitted simultaneously to the C.C.S. in Washington and the British C.O.S. in London.
- (5) It is the present intention that upon the conclusion of the negotiations the Mission will be withdrawn. However it is desired that the Mission recommend the personnel which should be stationed in French West Africa for the co-ordination of the war effort of the Allied Forces. Ends.

4. Letter instructions begins:-

- (1) In accomplishing the objective set forth in (the directive) matters to be discussed include, but are not limited to the following:-
 - (a) Stationing of allied air units in French West Africa for protection of sea communications,
 - (b) Command of air units and units and personnel necessary for operation and security of installations and supporting facilities to remain under command of their own officers regardless of location of station,
 - (c) Control and routing of shipping.
 - (d) Protection of harbours, adequacy of equipment and supplies including fuel and petroleum products,
 - (e) Use and development of naval base facilities.
 - (f) Employment of French shipping in supplying French West Africa, and in support of the war effort.
 - (g) Repair and reconditioning of French naval units in the United States.
 - (h) Assistance required including escorts for movement of French naval vessels to the United States.
 - (i) Use of such airports, landing fields, seaplane bases and other available military facilities as may be necessary in furtherance of the Allied war effort and the construction of such additional facilities as may be necessary, including acquisition of the necessary areas therefor. The conduct of air operations throughout French West Africa as required.
 - (j) Use of ports, waterways, railroads, highways and other available transportation facilities and utilities and such improvements thereto as may be deemed necessary for the operation and supply of military activities.

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. facilities and necessary extension thereof.

- (1) The employment in French West Africa of such personnel as may be necessary to construct new facilities or improve existing facilities.
 - (m) The stationing in French West Africa of such personnel as may be necessary for the operation and security of installations and supporting facilities.
 - (n) Jurisdiction over and protection of the installations and military, naval, air and civilian personnel of the Allies
 - (o) Postal matters and censorship.
 - (p) Exchange rates and customs duties and taxes affecting Allied installations, personnel and supplies in West Africa.
 - (q) Health measures.
 - (r) Signal communications
- (2) Preliminary discussions on most of these matters have been entered into between General Eisenhower, Admiral Darlan and Governor General Boisson as indicated in (text of agreed announcement). Continuation of these discussions will pass to your mission upon its arrival in the area. A member of General Eisenhower's staff has been included in your mission to insure continuity of such discussions.
- (3) Discussions on civil and economic questions (including shipping) will be conducted under your general direction, but you will be assisted by expert advisers as required. You will inform the Combined Chiefs of Staff at the appropriate time of your requirements in this respect.
- (4) Both Admiral Darlan and Governor General Boisson insist that their discussions with the Allies must in the first instance be carried on with Americans hence all matters for discussion with French West African officials are to be presented through the U.S. Mission. You will therefore represent the interests of the British as well as the United States in making arrangements with the French. General Smith has been instructed by General Arnold to get in touch with British West African officials prior to the arrival of the Mission, with a view to ascertaining what arrangements are desirable for direct contacts between French and British colonial authorities. Governor General Boisson has been informed that in due time British representatives should be attached to the American Mission. You will inform the Combined Chiefs of Staff as soon as this is considered desirable.
- (5) The objective to be sought in conducting all discussions with French West African officials is

that o2/.....

- 4 -

is that of obtaining their full cooperation with Allied forces in the war against the Axis powers. To this end every effort must be made to insure that all French West African facilities are made available for employment to the best interests of the common cause, that the provisions of international law are observed that you arrive at equitable understandings regarding compensation and that while respecting local interests, the interests of the Allies are safeguarded.

- (6) As understandings on particular subjects are reached, the text of the proposed understanding will be communicated by the most expeditious means simultaneously to the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington and the British Chiefs of Staff in London. Ends.

5. The following documents will also be given to Mission

- (a) Text of announcement made by C. in C. Allied Expeditionary Force, 7th December 1942, relative to French West Africa.
- (b) Text of announcement made by C. in C. Allied Expeditionary Force, 22nd November 1942, reference French North Africa.
- (c) Statement of matters which the Committee of Combined Boards wishes to have discussed (see FAN 36)
- (d) Pertinent FAN and NAF messages referring to economic questions.

15072/10

Air Ministry Circulation.
Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
S. of S. Colonies
First Sea Lord
C.S. Tels.
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

Recd. in War Reg.
1220/11th Dec.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
Controller
4th S.L.
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
P.A.S. (S)
P.A.S. (O)
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)

P.N.L.O.
D. of L.D.
D.N.I. (4)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C. (2)
Hd. of M. (11) & for
Mr. Waldoock, Mr. Seal
D. of P. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (9)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
Ad. Bellairs.

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

M/V
 scuttling. My 1013/9 (re scuttling of merchant ships) is being passed to you for information. (H.W.R. (at request of D.T.D.), 1627A/10 to F.O.C.W.A., N.C.X.F., A.C.I.C., S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Lagos,
 (explosion
 5th Dec.,
 trawlers
 sunk.) Your 2340Z/8. No lifting craft can be sent from U.K. Are two craft available at Lagos or adjacent port which can be strengthened to make a pair of lifting lighters? Displacement of largest trawlers in light condition is 670 tons and in loaded condition is 900 tons. Suitable wires and clamps could be supplied. Have all possible alternatives been considered, namely patching and cofferdamming, or piecemeal cutting up? (Director of Salvage, 1636A/10 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, Cdre. Freetown.)

ILEX,
 CALIFORNIA. Departure 10th Dec. ILEX escorting CALIFORNIA. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1721Z/10 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

Overdue
 Ship. Your 1806/9th. Cancel my 1257/7th. Mistake (explanation). (C. in C. S.A., 1740C/10 to Admty.)

ARRAN. Arrival 10th Dec. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1741Z/10 to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A., S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

SOUTHERN
 GEM. Your 1147/7 to N.C.X.F. and F.O.C.N.A. only. A/S Whaler SOUTHERN GEM now on passage to U.K. can be taken in hand in the Rosyth area for repairs to shaft, refit and "A"s and "A"s. (D.A/S.W., 1950A/10 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

TJILEBOET
 overdue. Overdue shipping. Dutch ship TJILEBOET (PKIJ) ex O.N.145 due Bahia 4th not yet arrived. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2049Z/10 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., (? Connav), S.O.(I) Freetown (Jamaica).)

342

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

MAIDSTONE. My 2340. My P.C. and S. at 2300, 36.43 N.00.05 E.
081 degs 14 knots.
See p. 349 (MAIDSTONE 0005A/10 to Algiers, Gib.).
Proceed with all despatch to escort MAIDSTONE
Estimated P.C. and S. 0800, 036.53 N, 002.25 E. 090 degs 14
knots.
(N.C.X.F. 0735A/10 to ROCKINGHAM, WISHART, (R) MAIDSTONE).

PORCUPINE Engine room and gear room completely flooded, am
(torpedoed (?making) water further aft, no immediate danger
9th December). of sinking.
(PORCUPINE 0020A/10 to Algiers. Gib).
Send rescue tugs escorted by 2 trawlers to
assistance of PORCUPINE torpedoed in 036. 40 N. 000.04 W. at
2300/9th.
(N.C.X.F. 0025A/10 to N.O.I.C.Oran, (R) MAIDSTONE,
PORCUPINE, F.O.C.N.A.).
Am about to take PORCUPINE in tow to Oran.
(VANOC 0058A/10 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A.Gibraltar, MAIDSTONE)
My 0220.(0020 intended). List steadily increasing stern
compartments (?except steering) compartment. If Tiller Flat
holds it is possible ship will remain afloat.
(PORCUPINE 0325A/10 to V.A.Gib.Algiers, C.C.O. Oran
C.O.O.).
My 0058/10th. PORCUPINE well down by stern. Engine room
and steering gear room flooded. Tow was just being joined
when A/S contact was obtained. Tow was slipped. Contact
lost. Am searching and intend staying with PORCUPINE till
she reaches Oran.
(VANOC 0329A/10 to N.C.X.F.(R) V.A.Gibraltar, N.O.I.C.
Oran).
On arrival of PORCUPINE sail VANOC for Gibraltar.
(N.C.X.F. 1747A/10 to N.O.I.C.?Oran (R) S.O. Force H.etc)
Proceed Gibraltar.
(F.O.I.C.Oran 2225/10 to VANOC,(R) S.O. Force H. F.O.C.
Gibraltar, N.C.X.F. Capt"F.")
PORCUPINE arrived Arzeu. See 2300A/10.

P.51. No onward route received. Will remain in
See p. 349 vicinity 038.40, 008.01 where I arrive
0530/10th.
(P.51 0158A/10 to Capt.(S) 10.(R) Capt.(S) 8).
Your onward route through (1) 038.30, 008.32
(2) 038.30, 010.28 thence as in my 0005/1st.Keep to your
starboard of route G. to K passing J to K. daylight/12th.
Keep W/T silence in Sicilian channel except for signals of
greatest urgency. R/V with sweeper at end of Malta searched
channel at 1028A/13th.
(Capt.S.10. 0655A/10 to P.51 (R) Capt.(S) 8, N.C.X.F.S/Ms
on patrol).

/Enemy....

343

War Diary.10.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Cruisers, Movement by Force K. *See next page (air R/C)*
P.R.U. reports 2 8" cruisers had left Messina at 0730A. (V.A.Malta 0820A/10 to C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S. R.A. 15th C.S. Cdre. Algiers. R.A. 12th C.S. ORION 201 Group, (R) V.A.Gib, S.O. Force H. Admty). My 0820. Force K sailed at about 1000 to meet M.W. 15. (V.A.Malta 0950A/10 to C. in C.Med. 201 Group. ORION, 247 Wing Force K (R) Admty N.C.X.F.). Sail Force K to cover convoy. Presume you have arranged additional R/C to Northward of Convoy. (C. in C.Med 1059B/10 to V.A.Malta (R) R.A. 15th C.S. 201 N.C. Group. ORION, 247 Wing). Your 1059/10. See my 0950/10. R/C arranged and small Beaufort (corrupt group) in readiness. (V.A.Malta 1042A/10 to C. in C.Med. (R) C.S. 15, ORION, 201 Group, 247 Wing). My 1059/10. Recall Force K when R/C establish no threat. (C. in C.Med 1145B/10 to V.A.Malta (R) C.S. 15, ORION, 201 Group, 247 Wing). Force K. is to return to harbour now. (Malta W/T 1216A/10 to ?EASTON).

K.M.S.4. VENOMOUS. *Supp/s 345B 4349*
Escorts of K.M.S. E.T.A. Algiers 1530A, Request instructions for forward sections. VENOMOUS has leaking condenser which requires repair before proceeding further. (VENOMOUS 0835A/10 to F.O.I.S. (R) N.C.X.F. Cdre Algiers).

Movements. Departure 9th December PALADIN, HURWORTH, M.T.B. 309, M.T.B. 311, M.L. 1122, T.L.C. 15, T.L.C. 17. (S.O. (I) Alexandria, 0905B/10 to Admty, C. in C. Mediterranean).

P.37. R/V with M.L. at 0802A/11 December in 056.02, 014. 01 whence you will be escorted into harbour. You are not to be South of 056.00 before R/V is made. Gozo Light N.W. sector will be shown from 0400A until 0600A/11 December. You may meet P.48 and PARTHIAN Eastbound on your route tonight. (Capt. S.10. 0940A/10 to P.37. (R) V.A.Malta, C.S. 15, ORION, M.L. 5. Cdr. M.S.). My 0940/10th, Eastbound should read Westbound. (Capt. S.10. 1410A/10 to P.37).

Transport of S. African Troops. D. of S.T.'s 0641/8th. December. HIGHLAND MONARCH will now embark to capacity with S. African personnel. 2. SONTAY will embark Army 120, R.A.F. 250, German P.O.W. 500, all for Durban subject approval C. in C. E.F. D. of S.T.'s 0141/8 December refers. 3. Agreed G.H.Q.M.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. pass to Mov 80 Area. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 1020/10 to D.S.T.O. Suez (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. E.F. G.H.Q. M.E. Admty for D. of S.T. C. in C. S.A. Mov. 80 Area) Approved C. in C.E.F. 1607Z/11.

/Enemy...

344

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Enemy
Flying-
Boats.Several 6-engined flying boats seen between
convoy and Malta. 2 shot down. May be troop
carriers or possibly laying mines.
(V.A.Malta 1032A/10 to ORION, C.S.15).Admiral
Darlan.Following points from declaration by Darlan
may help for Secret Session.

From Cunningham to Ismay.

1. French Africans with Allies must make maximum effort for defeat of Axis.
2. Unity of all citizens of true political or religious opinion essential.
3. Once France and French Empire free from Axis yoke French people themselves will decide freely their form of Government.
(N.C.X.F. 1037A/10 to Admty).

P.212, P.222, Cancel my 1240/9th, assume following position with
P.247, TIGRIS, all despatch P.212, P.222, no change, P.247 280.
P.217. *See next page* 11 TIGRIS 300.(?14) P.217, 242.25 all from
Carena Point.
(Capt.S.10. 1051A/10 to S/Ms on patrol, (R)
N.C.X.F.).

Any large fast ship south westbound justifies full salvo
(Capt.S.10. 1116A/10 to S/Ms on patrol, (R) N.C.X.F.,
Capt.S.8).

Air R/C.

First Visuals 10th December.

*See previous
page - (Enemy
units.)*

Taranto, 3 battleships.

Messina, 3, 6" cruisers 5 destroyers.

Naples, 2 cruisers plus 1 cruiser, unserviceable
(N.O.I.C.Malta 1103A/10 to C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F.
etc).

First photographs Messina show 2 - 8" cruisers and 3
destroyers have left. One - 6" cruiser moved out of berth
2. 2 - 6" cruisers making smoke.

(V.A.Malta 1209A/10 to Cdre.Algiers, C. in C.Med. N.C.X. F.,
C.S.15th C.S.12th ORION F.O.I.S.(R) Admty, V.A.Gibraltar,
S.O. Force H.).

Visuals a.m./10th Dec.1035.Messina, 3 - 6" cruiser 2 destroy-
ers still present.

Naples, not covered owing to engine failure.

Taranto, 3 battleships.

(N.O.I.C.Malta 1414A/10 to C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S. F.O. 12th
C.S. F.O. 15th C.S., Cdre.Algiers, ORION (R) Admty, F.O.C.Gib.
S.O. Force H.).

p.m. Visuals December 10th.

Naples no change.

Taranto no change.

Messina 3 cruisers. The 6" cruiser reported moving out has shifted
to berth previously occupied by 8" cruiser.

(N.O.I.C.Malta 1735A/10 to C. in C.Med Cndre Algiers N.C.X.F.
F.O.I.S. F.O.12th C.S. ORION (R) Admty F.O.C.Gib.S.O. Force
H).

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- Force Q. Cmdre. Algiers 0047/10th (N.T. in W.R.).
Being passed to you. My 1905/9th. Request
See p. 346 you will sail at 1830 today 10th, Force Q.
- *PRINSES BEATRIX, *BICESTER in company and proceed to Bone routed
24.27, 40.96, E.T.A. Bone 0830/11th.
(N.C.X.F. 1118A/10 to C.S.12 (3 groups missed) SIRIUS, BICESTER,
ARGONAUT, QUALITY, S.O.I.S. Capt.(D) 6, Cmdre. Algiers. N.O.I.C.
Bone). ** See next page & p. 349*
- M.V. Sunk by PAPANICOLIS. Ref. situation report 300, 2nd sentence,
Ship was sunk at 1635/30th Nov in 036.15 N.
027.44 E.
(C. in C. Med 1151B/10 to Admty).
- M.T. Bs. Intend sailing M.T. Bs. 307, 315, 266 for Bone
at 1600A today 10th. E.T.A. Bone 0730A/11th.
(V. A. Malta 1248A/10 to S.O.I.S., N.O.I.C.
Bone, N.C.X.F. (R) V.10. Cdr. Coastal Force,
C. in C. Med. 437. C.S.12).
- 3 M.T. Bs from Malta E.T.A. Bone 0730A/11th keeping close
inshore.
(N.C.X.F. 1656A/10 to C.S.12. SIRIUS (R) S.O.I.S.
N.O.I.C. Bone, V.A. Malta).
M.T. Bs 266, 307, 315, sailed for Bone 1600A/10th.
(V.A. Malta 1733A/10 to S.O.I.S. Bone, F.O.I.S. R.A.12th C.S.
C. in C. Med. (R) N.C.X.F., C.C.F. Admty).
My 1600/A/10th (?1733 intended) not to SIRIUS. M.T. Bs
266, 307 and 315 have returned to Malta because of weather.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2223A/10 to N.O.I.C. Bone etc).
- Force Q. Cancel my 1700/25th (re forming of Force Q).
Force Q will be employed to signify the cruiser
and destroyer force employed as striking force
Bone Area. It will be normally formed of 2 of the 12th C.S.
and 2 of 4 Fleet Destroyers detached from Force H as detailed by
C.S.12.
(N.C.X.F. 1251A/10 to A.I.G. 259, 207K. V.A. Malta, C. in C.
Med. Admty).
- Sweep by Force Q. My 1905/9th (1906A/9 intended). Proceed at
dusk 10th sweep N.E. and return through 48,40
to cross line 007.00 E. at 0700/11th unless
otherwise ordered thence Algiers.
(N.C.X.F. 1258A/10 to SIRIUS (R) C.S.12
F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bone, Capt.(S) 8).
- HYPHE,
P.46. *See p. 346, 349, 1350*
HYPHE and P.46 sailed at 1300.
(V. A. Malta 1324A/10 to Force K.).
- P.217. *See previous page*
At 2000A/10th return to Algiers through
1. 038. 50, 012.16,
2. 038. 30, 008.32.
3. 038. 40. 008.00. at 2359/12th thence as
ordered by Capt. S.8.
(Capt. S.10. 1357A/10 to P.217. (R) S/Ms on patrol, N.C.X.F.
Capt. S.8).

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.

M E S S A G E 1104A/10th December.

MOST SECRET.

In.

From N.C.X.F.

Date 10.12.42.

Time 1745

NAVAL CODE L.1. by W/T.

Addressed Ships and Authorities Area G.

IMPORTANT.

(1) MKS 3 (Y), VETCH, 7 escorts, 035 degs. 53' North 000 degs. 39' West through 109 93 50 78 57 - 7 1/2. Brief situation Western Mediterranean - submarines excepted - 2003A/10th.

(2) MKF 4, EGRET, 5 escorts, 036 degs. 51' North 002 degs. 22' East through 39 17 109 where Oran section joins 93 50 37 - 13. *See p. 334 & 3349*

(3) BICESTER, PRINCESS BEATRIX, 037 degs. 07' North 003 degs. 28' East through 24 27 40 96 thence Bono - 18. *See previous page op. 349*

(4) Force H, sailing p.m. 10th to arrive Mers El Kebir a.m. 11th.

(5) Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE, 036 degs. 02' North 004 degs. 46' West through 78 82 76 12 bound Algiers - 14. *See p. 345 C*

Following safe conduct shipping on approved route may be encountered:-

(A) Between Gibraltar and Marseilles: Portuguese PAULA. Portuguese PADUA. Swedish EMELA.

(B) Between Gibraltar and Genoa:- Swiss CALANTA. Swiss GENEROSO. Portuguese SANTA IRENE. Swiss CAEORTEGAL.

1104A/10

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)
- 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)

- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- C.C.O. (2)
- D. of P. (Q)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- Ad. Blake (2)

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 OUT
1452A/10 Dec 1942
From N.Cdr. X.F. Date 10.12.42
Recd. 1714
NAVAL CODE L.1 BY W/P

Addressed Ships and Authorities in Area C.

IMPORTANT.

My 1104/10th. Add new paragraph:-

(7) H.M.S. VANOC, F.S. LE MALIN, U.S. Destroyer SMITH, in approx. position 035 deg 48' North 000 deg 36' West to Oran 5.

(8) K.M.S. 4, H.M.S. VENOMOUS, 9 escort sails Algiers 1800A/10th (corrupt group) with ships for Bougie, Phillippeville, and Bone. *See p 343.*

(9) H.M.S. AURORA H.M.S. *ORIBI, H.M.S. ESKIMO H.M.S. QUALITY sail Algiers 1800A/10th to arrive Bone 0800A 11th.

**at Semp - ARGONAUT intended - See p 322
1452A/10*

Advance Copy D.C.D.O.D. (F)
D.T.D.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.C. (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.M.S.W.
- Hq. of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (11)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.D.O.D. (11)
- C.C.O. (2)
- D. of P. (1)
- D.E.W.D. (3)
- Ad. Blake. (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)

IH.