

345e

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must not be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.
1650A/10/December.

From N.C.X.F.

Date 11.12.42.

Naval Code K.1 by T/P & W/T

Time 0005.

Addressed A.I.G.262

IMPORTANT

My 1104/10 amend para No. (≠corrupt group) for (?H.M.S. EGRET) read H.M.S. FLEETWOOD and add: (corrupt group) H.M.S. SIRIUS H.M.S. DIDO H.M.S. ASHANTI
H.M.S. TARTAR sails Bone at dusk/10 to north east returning to position 037 degs (?40') north 007 degs 00' East at 0700/11 thence to Algiers, amend para no. (?5) as follows: OXFORDSHIRE 036 degs 58' North 000 degs (?46') east through 76, 12, 100 to Algiers 14. *See p. 345A*

2. 3 M.T.B's proceeding ?from Malta to Bone expected time of arrival 0730A/11.

1650A/10

≠ might be 2.
Note message intercepted very corrupt.

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

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

E.M.

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1106A/10th Dec. IN.

From: V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 10.12.42.

Recd: 1456

Naval Cypher S by T/P

Addressed: Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT.

S/m situation in western Med. at 2000A/10th

(i) P. 228, 38 45 North 03 01 East through 38 30 North
07 59 East 11 knots.

(ii) P. 54, 36 37 North 02 13 east through 135° Cape
Palos 5 thence 40° 8 knots

(iii) Both above S/ms diving by day before arrival
(?ICOMP) speed as stated.

(iv) H.M.S. PORPOISE, 36 32 North (?61) 13 east
through 180 Cape Calburras 10 thence Gibraltar 11
knots daylight hours.

1106A/10

Advance Copy sent Duty Capt.,
D.O.D. (H) 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.V.S.W.
Hd of M.
V.D.
I.P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
F.O.S. by courier
Ad. Ramsey (4)

MOST SECRET

345E

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
 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: Mideast.

Recd: 2150Z

CIPHER

Addressed: A.F.H.Q. Repeated Air Ministry.

IMMEDIATE

IZ. 2566. CC/154 10th December, 1942.

BIGOT ALIBI

Following Most Secret and Personal for General Eisenhower repeated Chiefs of Staff from Commanders in Chief.

1. Enemy withdrawing from Agheila position since 6th December. Estimate Italian infantry and German non-mobile troops approximately 23000 men and 400 guns, of which half anti-tank, now in course of occupying Buerat position, on which mobile forces remaining at Mersa Brega may at any time fall back without awaiting our attack.

2. On Buerat position when withdrawal complete, enemy will probably have tanks German 80, Italian 40, personnel with fighting formations, German 3000, Italian 25000.

3. In view present and probable future scale of our success against shipping to Tripoli and east Tunisian ports, consider Panzer Army at Buerat is likely to rely considerably on the overland route from Tunis, Sousse and Sfax.

4. 51 div. right and 7 armd. div. left are in contact with enemy, N.Z. div. and 4 light armd. bde. area Haseiat Present intention of Eighth Army Commander is for N.Z. div. with one armoured bde. to move from Haseiat directed on Marble Arch. If in spite of this threat to his flank enemy remains in Mersa Brega position, 51 div. will attack in coastal sector. If enemy completes withdrawal earlier he will be followed initially by N.Z. div. and one armd. bde.

5. No material change in enemy air strength in Africa. Present dispositions of our air forces are designed for battle in Agheila area, and aerodrome and supply problems will restrict size of the air forces we can move forward in support of operations further to the westward.

1400Z/10

Air Ministry circulation:-

1st Lord.	D.N.I.(4)	(Brig. Jacob.	C.6. Tels.
1st S.L.(2)	D.A.C.D.	Foreign Sec.	A.M.C.S.(C)
D.F.S.L.	D.N.A.D.	First Sea Lord.	C.C.O.
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D.(H)(2)		
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.O.D.(F)(2)	I.P.(2)	
A.C.N.S.(U)	D.C.	W.D.	
P.A.S.(S)	D.D.I.C.(2)	Ad. Blake.	
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of P.(Q)	Ad. Ramsey, (4)	
C.N.A.S.	Hd. of M.(2)	D. of F.(2)	
A.C.N.A.S.			

J.R.

Rec'd in War Reg. 1105/11.

346

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.46 *see p. 345, Day 350* P.46 and PARTHIAN westbound on the surface
PARTHIAN. sailed today 1500A and 1450A respectively.
(V.A.Malta 1452A/10 to R.A.15 C.S.ORION).
Sailed 1300A/10th P.46 for patrol off
Bizerta and Tunis 1450/10th. PARTHIAN for working up practice
in 035.50 N. 013.30 E, then to patrol in area bounded by Tunis
coast 036.00 N. and 011.08 E. Request necessary restrictions
on own aircraft.

(Capt.S.10. 1605A/10 to N.C.X.F., C. in C.Med. (R)
S/Ms on patrol Capt.(S) I. R.A.15th C.S.
(Capt.S.10. 1708A/10 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Secret
Documents
Lost.

Regret to report 2 copies parts 1 and 2 of the
Med. daily state dated 1st December 1942 have
been stolen in transit (?on) station and must be
considered compromised.

2. Part 1 in addition to movements of all Units
operating in Eastern Med. includes present disposition of ships
off station and those allocated to stations. Certain destroyers
and S/Ms in foregoing are in are in Western Med and Freetown area.
3. Part 2 contains complete list of all merchant shipping and
auxiliaries in M.E, details of ships and their cargoes due Aden
from all parts of Indian Ocean and Red Sea traffic.
(C. in C.Med 1512B/10 to Admty),

M.W.15.

see p. 349

Convoy of 2 Merchant Ships escorted by ORION and
4 "Hunts" informed of your movements, E.T.A. end
of searched channel at 1800A/10th.
(Capt.S.10.1551A/10 to P.46).

M.K.S.O.3Y

Tact. Sailed M.K.S.O.3.Y.
For Gibraltar:- G.C.BROVIG, DAVILA, (32 Mail).
For U.K.:- KROMAN, GIRONDE.
(N.O.I.C.Oran, 1600A/10 to N.C.X. F.Admty,N.O.I.C.
Malta, Comdre.Algiers, V. A.Gib.N.C.S.O.Gib.)

EROS.
Safe conduct.

C. in C.Med 2508/21st Nov para.2. EROS leaves
Kalamata 0900B/ 12th for Piraeus passing through
035.00,022.50 thence as in para.3. Ship to be
granted safe conduct.
(Capt.S.1. 1604B/10 to TAKU.(R) C. in C.Med).

Force Q.

see p. 345

Add to my 2230/10th December (N.T. in W.R.).
C.Force Q at Bone 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers sailed
at dusk 10th and proceeded on sweep return
through 48.40. In position 037. 40 N. 007.00 E. at 0700A/11th
returning to Algiers. E.T.A. 1600A/ 11th, codeword "Faith".
Priority 1.
D.2 cruisers, 2 destroyers leave Algiers 1800/A/10th for Bone
arriving 0800A/11th. Codeword "Crescent."
(N.C.X.F. 1625A/10 to A.O.C.E.A.C. N.O's I.C.Bougie,
Philippeville, Bone,Algiers. (R) F.O.IS, SIRIUS, AURORA, A.O.C.
Pass to all R.A.F.concerned).

/Bougie....

347

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bougie. Situation report. *coaster*
See next page A. RONALDSHAY and ~~COASTER~~ SERULA. French
 Trawler GOELAND.
 B. GOELAND.
 C. OCEAN VICTORY noon/11th, BEGUM awaiting convoy, SERULA p.m./11th.
 D. 5 JU.88 attacked under fire low visibility 1800/9th. French
 Ship MASCOT* sunk by torpedo all Officers and Men saved and
 landed Bougie.
 E. Shore defences not in action.
 F. Nil.
 G. Coal 475 tons.
 H. Diesel 1200 gallons.
 I. Petrol 2600 gallons.
 (N.O.I. C. Bougie 1710A/10 to S.O.I.S.)
 *W.D. Note:- SS.1225 tons presumably in M.K.S.(3) Y same attack
 as MARIGOLD.

Movements. Arrival CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, JERVIS, KELVIN,
 NUBIAN.
 (V.A. Malta 1717A/10 to Admty C. in C. Med. N.C.X.F)

Supplies for Malta. Situation as to re-stocking Malta from Eastern
 Med. is not clear here.
 Request list of:-
 (a) Ships loading now.
 (b) Ships intended to load in near future.
 (A.C.N.S.(F) 1737A/10 to C. in C. Med.(R)
 N.C.X.F. V.A. Malta). Reply:- 1801B/11.

Movements. 10th December, arrivals Port Said, SEAHAM,
 HYACINTH, PRIMULA, departure SEAHAM, Z Lighters
 2 and 6.
 (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1747B/10 to Admty etc).

P.35. Well done, you have freedom of action in your
See next page area, the northern most boundary is now 035.55
 North.
 (Capt. S.10.1821A/10 to P.35).

8th M.T.B. A.M. 1843/28/10/4 *N.O.I.C.* not to C.C.F. Cancel
 Flot. allocation of M.T.Bs. 78, 80 and 81 to the
 8th M.T.B. Flotilla.
 (D.D.O.D.(C) 1828A/10 to C. in C. Med).

P.44. Intend to sail P.44 11th December for patrol
 in approaches to Bizerta and Tunis.
 (Capt. S.10. 1831A/10 to N.C.X.F. Capt.(S) 8th
 (R) F.O.15th C.S. N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Med,
 Capt.(S) 1st).

/K.M.S.4...

348

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.S.4. My 1231A/10th (N.T. in W.R.) Amend escort as follows. Bougie Section, ALBERNI and SUMMERSIDE. Philippeville Section, ENCHANTRESS, CLAYOQUOT, BADDECK. Bone Ships, VELOX, (? FLEETWOOD), PORT ARTHUR, and VILLE-DE QUEBEC. Bone Section adjust speed to arrive 0730/12th December. ** see route by page 2. B 6/12*
(N.C.X.F. 1840A/10 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.No.4 FLEETWOOD, (R) Cmdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville)
Your 1231A/10th. Request permission to retain escort Bougie section K.M.S.4 until 1700A/11th in order to sail
* BEGUM speed 10 masthead 94 no radio telephony L.T.S. ballast.
* OCEAN VICTORY insufficient speed 10 masthead 90 radio telephony D/F L.T.S. ballast at 1700A/11th to Algiers for orders. Expected time of arrival Algiers daybreak 12th. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1930A/10 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers, Escorts K.M.S.4). ** see previous page.*
My 1545/10th (N.T. in W.D.) MARGA and BERTS did not sail (Cdr. Algiers 2250A/10 to T-Z Escorts of convoy K.M.S.4. (R) N.C.X.F.).

S/Ms off
Naples.

Any S/M off Naples making an attack today is to withdraw and report if unsuccessful giving course and speed of enemy and time of attack. (Capt. S.10. 1841A/10 to S/Ms on Patrol).

Dinghy
* P.35.** see previous page.*

Yellow dinghy with 2 airmen on board (? in position) 305 Lampion 12 at 1100A today and 270 Lampion 8 at 1600 thought to be Beaufighter crew but may be Germans.
Provisions and pyrotechnics delivered by air this afternoon and latter may have sunk.
Estimate their positions at 0200A/11th, 035.30 012.00. Close them by this time when A/C will fire 2 Green Very lights overhead and dinghy should reply. If unsuccessful search by daylight surfacing at your discretion. On recovery report, returning to Malta if British, continuing patrol if prisoners. Dinghy was using life jacket as sail.
(Capt. S.10. 1915A/10 to P.35 (R) F.O.15th C.S.).

Malta Air
Report.

AI. 167, 10 December 1942. C.S.R. Malta.
Night 9/10th. December. No enemy air activity locally.

Day 10th December. Following action was taken to protect approach of convoy from East. At 0745 hrs. 4 Beaufighters located convoy 85 miles S.S.E. of Malta and at 0900 hrs the first patrol of Spitfires relieved Beaufighters in position 70 miles S.S.E. of Malta. Continuous patrol over convoy was maintained in very bad weather conditions by a total of 32 long range and 4 short range Spitfires. By 1600 hrs. convoy had been safely escorted to within 10 miles of Malta. 3 Beaufighters proceeding meet convoy encountered 0819 hrs. 120 miles S.S.E. of Malta 3 six-engined A/C and destroyed 1, probably destroyed 1, and severely damaged the third. At 0830 hrs. 1 FW.200 was encountered 100 miles S.S.E. of Malta and probably destroyed. 1 Beaufighter is missing. No attack was

/made...

MOST SECRET

348A

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.

1910Z/10 December.

IN.

From Governor Malta.

Date: 10.12.42.

Recd: 2234Z.

CYPHER.

Addressed Air Ministry for Gen. Eisenhower, repeated
Mideast for Chiefs of Staff, Command Post
First Army.

IZ 2568

HE/5634 10th December 1942.

BIGOT ALIBI

Malta Intelligence Summary 2000A/9 to 2000A/10

Naval

1. As the result of a report at 0730 hrs that two 8-inch cruisers had left Messina, force K was sent to sea to cover a convoy MW.15 which was approaching Malta from the south east. Subsequent air recce. having established that there was no threat to the convoy, force K returned to Malta at 1800 hrs; the convoy was close to the southward of the island.
2. One of our submarines sank a 1607 ton southbound ship off Hammamet on the forenoon of 9 December.
3. Three M.T.B. sailed for Bone at 1600 hrs.

Air

1. Recco. Messina 10 December 1115 hrs two 8-inch cruisers departed.
2. No enemy air activity.
3. Strikes. Night 9/10 December Wellingtons in very bad weather dropped one 4000 lb. seventeen 500 lb., 23 250 lb. bombs on La Goulette, scoring hits in dockside area and across causeway and canal, and 5 250 lb. bombs on El Aouina aerodrome, scoring hits on aerodrome buildings.

Day 10 December/.....

34819

Day 10 December. Beaufighters destroyed one 6-engined aircraft, probably destroyed one 6-engined aircraft and one FW.200, and damaged one 6-engined aircraft. 120 miles south south west of Malta. Beaufighters on offensive sweeps in Lampedusa-Kuriat area saw nothing. Beaufighters bombed M/V 5000 tons unloading in Sousse harbour, scoring two near misses on merchant vessel and two hits on quayside and among unloaded cargo, and one hit on warehouse and starting fire visible 40 miles away. Beaufighters and Spitfires maintained continuous protective patrols over convoy approaching Malta from east.

Military. Unloading Portcullis convoy completed.

Civil. Nil.

1910Z/10.

Air Ministry circulation:

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

- Brig. Jacob.
- Foreign Secretary.
- 1st S.L.
- C.G. Tels.
- A.M.C.S. (C)
- C.C.O.

Received in War Registry at 1102/11.

Note: Above has been passed to ETOUSA for onward transmission.

DR.

349

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. Contd. made on convoy whilst under our fighter protection 12 Spitfire sorties have been flown on protective patrols over Naval Units leaving Malta 12 Spitfires airborne for raid which turned back before reaching the Island. 6

Beaufighters together with 8 long range Spitfires carried out offensive sweeps against enemy A/C and shipping in the Lampedusa Kuriat area but made no sightings.

(A.H.Q.Malta 1931/10).

Part 2 Night 9/10th December.

13 Wellingtons were despatched to Tunis from 1807 - 2131 hours. 5 Wellingtons dropped bombs on La Goulette docks scoring hits in dockside area and across causeway and canal. 1 Wellington also dropped bombs on El Aouina Aerodrome scoring hits on aerodrome buildings. The remaining 8 Wellingtons were unable to locate their target owing to much low cloud and heavy electrical and rain storms.

Day 10th December. R/C Messina 1115 hours 2 8" cruisers departed. 1250 hrs, 6 Beaufighters 4 carrying bombs, were despatched to attack shipping in Sousse Harbour, bombs were dropped scoring 2 very near misses on an M/V 5,000 tons unloading cargo at the main commercial quay. 2 bombs scored direct hits on the cargo lying on quayside which started large fire visible 40 miles away. A warehouse also received a direct hit. Intense heavy and light flak was encountered and 1 Beaufighter is missing.

(A.H.Q.Malta 2100/10).

Movements. Algiers arrivals. *see p. 334*
 Gibraltar. *see pp. 342 & 350.*
 *MAIDSTONE, BLYSKAWICA, BOREAS, ANTELOPE from
 VENOMOUS, ENCHANTRESS, FLEETWOOD, VELOX, STORNOWAY with K.M.S.4
 Departures, PRINSES BEATRIX, BICESTER, AURORA, ARGONAUT, ESKIMO
 and QUALITY to Bone. *see p.p. 345 & 345A*
 EGRET, WISHART, BULOLO, BLEAN, BANFF, SWALE, TANATSIDE with
 M.K.F.4. VELOX, ENCHANTRESS, FLEETWOOD to the (?southward) with
 K.M.S.4. *see p. 346*
 (Cdre. Algiers, 2036A/10 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S.).

RORQUAL S/M Situation 2000A/10th.
see p. 342 P.51, *see p.p. 345 & 346* P.46. RORQUAL off Cavoli Island, following on passage. speed 9 knots routed as in my 0005/1st. P.51 to Malta position 038. 30, 009.00.
 P.46, for patrol off Bizerta position 037.10. 011.30.
 (Capt.S.10. 2049A/10 to F.O.12th C.S.).

Oran Minesweeping. Position same as my 1805/5th. Searched channels swept negative results. (F.O.I.C.Oran 2119/10 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.Comdre. Algiers).

M.W.15. Arrival. Convoy M.W.15. ORION, HURSLEY, CROOME, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR. *see next page*
see p. 346 (V.A.Malta, 2131A/10 to Admty C. in C.Med.N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C.Alex.).

M.N.B. D.O. Chiefs of Staff No.(M.E.) 336.
 (Air Min. 2230Z/10 to Cs in C.Middle East).

/P.46....

350

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.46.

*See pp 345, 346
9349*

You are not to pass West of longitude 010.20 unless so ordered by me.
(Capt.S.10. 2257A/10 to P.46).

Situation
Report No.52.

1. P.219 while on patrol in Bizerta-Marittimo Area obtained hits on four merchant vessels one of which is known to have sunk.
2. URSULA blew up train at Alassio and sank A/S schooner in Gulf of Genoa. Hits by gunfire observed on oil tanks and a train. Ex French Vessel ST MARGUERITE from Marseille to Naples sunk North of Corsica on 2nd December. German master and Chief Engineer captured and landed at Algiers.
3. Force Q. SIRIUS, DIDO and 2 destroyers proceeding to sweep N.E. returning to Algiers a.m. 11th December. AURORA, ARGONAUT and 2 destroyers sailing for Bone from Algiers to arrive a.m. 11th December. (But See N.C.X.F. 1452A/10). *See pp 345 346 + 349*
4. PORCUPINE torpedoed while escorting MAIDSTONE now arrived Arzeu. Engine room and gear room flooded. *See pp 342 + 349*
5. Force H less RENOWN, FURIOUS and Cruiser due Mers-el-Kebir 11th December from Gibraltar.
(N.C.X.F. 2300A/10 to Admty).

HURSLEY
(Operation
"Quadrangle
A") *See previous
page*

My 1625/9th.

HURSLEY has engine defect and will be unable to accompany ORION and remaining 3 "Hunts" who are now being sailed at 0900A/11th.

If defect remedied in time intend to sail HURSLEY to meet ORION early on 12th. Suggest if possible one of 2 escorts continue with M.W.16 till relieved by HURSLEY.
(V.A.Malta 2347A/10 to C. in C.Med (R) PALADIN, HURWORTH, ORION, EXMOOR, S.O.Force I, R.A.D., N.O.I.C.Benghazi).
Cancelled by 0330A/11 q.v. p.380

My 1625/9th. Intend sail ORION and 3 "Hunts" at 0900A/11th. C. in C.Med. pass to 219 Group, R.N.H.Q. and H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.
(N.O.I.C.Malta 2355A/10 to H.Q.R.A.F.Middle East, A.I.G.72, Capt.(S) 1st S.F. PALADIN, HURWORTH, C.C.F.(R+) 219 Grp. R.N.H.Q.).

Enemy
Units.?

P.C. and S. of 4 unidentified enemy units are 38.20 N. 10.02 E. 230° 22.
(A/C 2350A/10 to Air H.Q.Malta)
W.D.Note:- This was Force Q. see SIRIUS 0452A/11, and Malta 1717A/11.

War Diary.10.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrived H.M.S. JANUS and H.M.S. GLENROY.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 0706Z/10 to Admty.)
Colombo arrival 10th Dec. 0040Z, ASTER, 0040Z,
OKABI, 0400Z, GAMBIA, 0400Z, SCOUT. Departures nil.
(S.O.(I). Colombo 1202Z/10 to Admty. S.O.(I). Bombay.
S.O.(I). Kilindini. S.O.(I). Aden.)

CLEANTHIS Greek ship CLEANTHIS sunk by gunfire by U-Boat
024° 29' S 035° 44' E 30th Nov. Reported U-Boat
large, light green hull, light grey C/T, 2 guns.
(S.O.(I). Kilindini 0903Z/10 to S.O.(I). Colombo.
(R) S.O.(I). Capetown etc.)

S.U.5. (1) Intend sailing convoy S.U.5 consisting of
5 K P M ships p.m. 11th Dec. escorted by KANIMBLA.
(2) Route W. 000° 36' S 078° 51'.
X. 022° 42' S 079° 25'. Y. 027° 08' S 091° 49'. Z. 031° (?15')
S 110° 18' thence to Fremantle. Route for these ships has been
chosen to take full advantage of calmer water in latitude 025° S
and to avoid strong east winds reported by KANIMBLA.
(3) E.T.A. Fremantle 2200Z 31st Dec.
(4) Local A/S escort, ASTER until night 13th/14th Dec.
(F.O. Ceylon 0920Z/10 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Netherlands
Forces in East, Cdre. W. Australia. A.C.N.B. KANIMBLA.)

DAUNTLESS Arrival 10th Dec.
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini 1303Z/10 to Admty.)

SPRINGTIDE and BUSHWOOD, mobile deperming units,
are now available for deperming similar (as
received) operations at Kilindini and Persian
Gulf area respectively.
Request S.I.D.Gs of your areas may be informed.
(C. in C. E.F. 1604Z/10 to Med. Fleet. C. in C. S.A.
F.O.C.R.I.N. N.O.I.C. Ceylon. (R) Admty. A.S.D.G.
Helensburgh, S.N.O. P. Gulf, F.O.E.A.)

Abadan,
Air defence. For Chiefs of Staff. Ref. OZ.2151 of 7th Dec.
First. Agreed. Second. Noted. Third. It is
considered essential to increase facilities for
operation of night fighters before we can be
considered ready to defend Abadan adequately.
Fourth. (Noted)
(P.A.I.C. T.O.O. 1725Z/10 to Air Ministry.)

GLENROY Ref. C. in C. E.F. 0941/7 (?0942/7 intended)
JANUS Sailed GLENROY and JANUS E.T.A. 0600C/17. GLENROY
is proceeding on starboard engine only.
Requirements at Durban. JANUS request 4 days
maximum for docking and refit (?immediately) at Capetown due to
reduced endurance. GLENROY also has one offender ex Diego Suarez
awarded 50 days imprisonment with big (?forfeit).
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 1901Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Durban. (R) Admty. etc.)

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Transport of
S. African
Troops.

A.M. 1922/5th Dec. para 3.

The importance attached to this and subsequent convoys with South African troops warrants the transfer of flying boats for special A/S - protection if this is practicable.

2. C. in C. S.A. is requested to keep General Smutts informed.

(D.O.D. (F), 2150A/10 to C. in C. E.F. (R)

C. in C. S.A.)

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH. Halifax arrived 2015Z/9 QUEEN ELIZABETH. (N.S.H.Q., 0025Z/10 to D.S.T.)

Offer of troopships for Atlantic. For D.D. Mov(P) and Salter from D. Mov. and D. of S.T. Present allocation ships to K.M.F.6, 7, 8 and to W.S.26 includes reserves against casualties in Torch convoys and other possible commitments. Some of these reserves instead of being kept idle in home ports could be used in North Atlantic. Thus if escort can be found and if U.S. troops available propose sail following ships ex K.M.F.5 to U.S.A. in G.U.F.3 to sail for U.K. in escorted convoy about 10th Jan. EMPRESS OF CANADA, STRATHALLAN, DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, ARUNDEL CASTLE, DUCHESS OF YORK, total capacity 19000. Speed of slowest ship 17½ knots. Admiralty state no British escort available. Request you refer to U.S. authorities for early answer observing that we might make another similar offer in February. (Troopers, 0050A/10 to Milstaff Washington).

QUEEN MARY. 10th Dec. A.T.30 30.18, 43.25 078° 26.5. (Connav, 0252/10 to all units). D/F bearings of U-boat transmission on 7640 k/cs at 1838Z/9 were estimated by Admty. to give fix in vicinity 39° N., 42° W. and by Cominch in 40° N., 42° W. (D.D.I.C., 1133A/10 to A.T.30 (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)
All informed. A.T.30 BQ change course from (W) to new (Y) 37.30 N., 42.01 W., new Z 37.31 N., 37.50 W. then to X. (Cominch C. and R. 1417/10 to A.T.30. (R) Cinclant, C.T.F.21 C.T.G.24.6 Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

PAN VIRGINIA U-boat. Hileah W/T reports PAN VIRGINIA at 1227 G.C.T. in 024.49 N., 082.17 W., sighted and fired on submarine. (Kingston Jam. 0954R/10 to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary.	S/M K.14	36½° N. 71½° W.	308°	9
	ENTERPRISE	39½° N. 37° W.	282°	19
	CORINTHIAN	17½° S. 30° W.	243°	11½
	T.A. 30	39° N. 45° W.	078°	26½
	Tanker)			
	Convoy)	09½° N. 28½° W.	273°	9½
	MILFORD)			
	(D.O.D. (F) 1015Z/10 to Opnav (R) Comnavu).			

354

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.BINTANG
(torpedoed
21 Nov.).*See p. 357*

My 2236/27th Nov. (BINTANG overdue at Trinidad)
Trinidad reports arrival of 12 survivors of Dutch
BINTANG torpedoed sunk 0830Z/21st Nov. in 010°
30' N., 051° 00' W., 4 rafts with about 36 others
still adrift, total crew 74.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1132R/10 to Admty etc).

INDRA
(sunk
26 Nov).

Trinidad reports Norwegian INDRA torpedoed sunk
by 2 U-boats 1630 G.M.T./26th Nov. in 002°10' N.
028° 52' W.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1137R/10 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.,
S.O.(I) Capetown, S.O.(I) Freetown, S.O.(I)
Montevideo).

B.R.N.4

Arrivals U.S.S. SOMERS, U.S.S. OSMOND INGRAM,
U.S.S. ~~Z.A.E.~~ BADGER, U.S.S. ELLIS, Brazilian C52,
escorting B.R.N.4.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1142Q/10 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R)
Admty etc).

Movements

Arrival 10th Dec. U.S. Warship S.C. 503 and S.C.
637 and U.S. salvage steamer KILLERIG.

(Harbour Master Barbados, 1232/10 to Admty).

Your 1833A/9 (Sent by War Reg) My 1622/30

(Quoted in Cominch's 0108/8) Not to you directed

N.O.B. Bermuda to sail K.14 after arrival of H.M.S. REGENT to
Philadelphia advising time of sailing speed of advance to all
interested Commands.

(Cominch C. and R. 1456/10 to Admty). ** See previous page*

A.T. 31

My 1559/7. Intend sailing A.T. 31 to leave
Chebucto Head 1300Z/13 Nov. (As received ? Dec.
intended) arriving Clyde p.m./18th Dec. routed
through positions as in Cominch C and R's 1915/8
Dec.

(C.O.A.C., 1517Z/10 to Admty (R) Cominch C. and R.
C. in C. Lant, C. in C. Western Approaches
N.S.H.Q., C.T.F. 24 F.O.N.F.)

A.M. 1730/5 and Connav 1915/6 convoy A.T. 31. Request you
will arrange R/V in 56.40 N., 09.01 W., at 0830A and signal date
of arrival at R/V in order that air protection may be arranged.
Fighter protection codeword "Gosling".

(D.O.D. (H) 2040A/10 to C.O.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q., Ottawa,
Connav, C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping
Routes.

Your 2150/8 concur.

(Cominch C and R 1540/10 to Admty) (re temporary
routeing for north and westbound ships from South
Africa).

My 1540/10. Add "Suggest para. 1 (C) read south of 2° N. till
W. of 38° W.

(Cominch, C. and R. 1841/10 to Admty).

355

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U-boat Sub. estimate 10th Dec. and U.S. sub notice.
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1547/10, 1548/10, 1626/10,
1627/10, 1628/10, 1938/10).

LORD KELVIN My 1917/9. Add "Escorted throughout voyage by
See next page BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER"
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 1555Z/10 to Admty).

B.5 Escort C.E.S.F. sailed ships of B.5 group New York to
Group. St. Johns (N.F.) as follows.
LAVENDER with H.X.219. HAVELOCK, GODETIA,
PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE, with S.C.114.
WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, COLUMBINE with H.X.220. *See p. 716*

C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) sailed ships from St. Johns N.F.
to U.K. with most convenient trade convoy to break off for
U.K. as required by fuel/endurance. ** See p. 356*
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1617/10 to Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier,
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) C. in C. W.A., C.T.24 B.A.D.
Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F., F.O.I.C.
Londonderry).

W.L.E.F. Owing to withdrawal of destroyers from Western
strength Local Escort Force for Western Support Force
and of 17 Canadian Corvettes for North African
Convoys the strength of these groups is now often
reduced to 2 corvettes and 1 minesweeper. In
view of size of (?convoy) escorted this force is considered
inadequate.
2. In view of above would it be possible for the 6 Canadian
Corvettes at present lent to C.E.S.F. to be detailed for service
in Western Local Escort Group early in 1943?
(N.S.H.Q., 1636Z/10 to Cominch (R) N.M.C. J.S. Washington,
C.E.S.F., C.O.A.C. Admty). Reply: B.A.D.2147/11.

PRINC ANDREJ Your 0857R/9. PRINC ANDREJ sailed Freetown
6 Dec. for Trinidad 19 Dec. as reported in N.C.S.O.
Freetown's 1813Z/6 to S.O.(I) Jamaica only.
Vessel returned to Freetown 8 Dec. with engine
defects.
(D.T.D., 1649/10 to S.O.(I) Jamaica).

BATTLER Comply with Cominch 2030/9th.
Ship should arrive New York prior to Dec. 10th,
by hand to C.T.G. 90.3 and Port Director.
(C.E.S.F., 1722/10 to Commandant 5th U.S.
Nav. Dist. Hampton Roads, (R) Cominch, Cinclant,
C.T.24., N.S.H.Q., Admty).

W.I.M.R.I. Amendment number 237.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1725Q/10 to A.I.G.129,130).

/WALKER...

MOST SECRET

355A

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

1715Z/10/December.

From C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date 11.12.42.

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Time 0135.

Addressed All concerned

IMPORTANT

Section South West.

ON 149 Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.1
(E) 041 degs 02' 064 degs 08' 239 degs 9.5
ON 148 Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.4
(E) 043 degs 37' 061 degs 24' 289 degs 5 altering to
223 degs in 062 degs 00' West.
Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.7 departs Halifax
2200Z 10th to join ON 148 at 1200Z 11th
H.F. 20, NIPIGON, 043 degs 56' 066 degs 39' en route
for St John N.B. 8.
Cape Cod portion H F 20, BUXTON, MEADOWSWEET, 042 degs
41' 067 degs 32' 264 degs 8 alter to 246 degs in 069 degs
17'. Cable ship ~~RESEARCHER~~, KELVIN carrying out repairs in
044 degs 49' 059 degs 50' screened by *BUTTERMERE
*WASTEWATER, U.S.S. MCCORMICK 040 degs 23' 069 degs 22'
en route New York 14. * *see previous page*
1 (one) U.S. destroyer escorting U.S.S.R. S/M's S.51,
S.56, on surface 042 degs 12' 064 degs 33' 022 degs 10'
2 U.S. destroyers patrolling vicinity 041 degs 15'
065 degs 01' to rendezvous with U.S.S.R. S/M's S.55,
S.54, at 1400Z/11th
Tug DAISY, FORT WILLIAM, 043 degs 45' 064 degs 56'
en route Halifax 8.
U.S.O.C.R. 30270 disabled and adrift in vicinity of
041 degs 38' 061 degs 00' West.
FELLOWCRAFT (U.S.), 043 degs 25' 066 degs 10' 330 degs
5 altering to 284 degs in 043 degs 50' North
ARCLIGHT (Pan), 043 degs 59' 064 degs 16' 232 degs 6
altering to 265 degs in 065 degs 25' West and to
248 degs in 066 degs 00' West.

Entered, Sec
0205/11.
p. 393

1715Z/10

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. Trade.

A.C.N.S. (H)	Duty Captain (2)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.D.I.C. (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D. of Plans (2)
Captain Pim	D.A./S.W.
D.O.D. (H) (2)	Head of M.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	W.D.
D.T.D. (3)	I.P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)	U.S.N. (3)
D.T.D. (C)	
D.D.O.D. (M)	

356

10.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

WALKER defects. Admty. 1721/27th Nov. para. 2. Intend to sail WALKER a.m./11th Dec. to overtake S.C.112 and provide support to Ocean Escort until prudent limit thence detaching to refuel Londonderry and to Sheerness for refit vide Admty. 2350/4th Dec.

2. WALKER has punctured A/S dome and suspected crack in base plates. A/S can operate up to speed 12 knots. Refit urgently required and ship unfit for further protracted escort service. (F.O.N.F., 1801Z/10 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. etc).

ATTACKER My 2136/4th. ATTACKER now expects to sail from San Francisco Monday 14th Dec. (B.A.M.R., 1810Z/10 to Admty. Cominch (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., N.S.H.Q., ATTACKER).

U/B U-boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made sighting report of a convoy or important unit at 1709Z/10th. 14577 k/cs. (Cominch, 1850/10 to MILFORD (R) Admty).

Fuel, Newfoundland. In view of the rapidly increasing requirements of Fuel Oil in Newfoundland it is anticipated that the total monthly requirements in 1945 will be at least 300,000 BBLs per month. If three month's strategic reserve is to be established this will mean a total tankage of 1200000 BBLs if the present tankage constructed is approximately 80,000 BBLs. Tankage under construction 220,000. Future tankage required therefore is 900,000 BBLs.

(2) It has been suggested that only 1 month's strategic reserve need be kept in Newfoundland provided there is sufficient additional strategic reserve in other parts of the maritimes to provide the 3 months strategic reserve for Newfoundland.

(3) There is in Halifax at the present time 700,000 BBLs of tankage belonging to the British Petroleum Board for gasoline shuttle service which is at present not being used. Information is requested whether an agreement can be made for this tankage to be filled with fuel oil and to be considered part of the total strategic reserve of fuel oil in the maritimes.

(4) In this event the total tankage required in Newfoundland in 1945 will only be 600,000 BBLs.

(5) Request an early reply.
(N.S.H.Q., 2034Z/10 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc).

Report of Action 14-15 Nov. U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA's report of night action 14/15th Nov. which is being forwarded by priority Air Mail is of much interest, particularly as regards Radar. (B.A.D., 2047Z/10 to Admty).

/Shipping...

357

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav, serial 10. EMPIRE GLADE serial 28 arrived Charleston. Received 10. (?Rito).
*BINTANG torpedoed sunk 21st Nov. 010° 30' N., 050° 00' W.
(Connav, 2057/10 to Comnav etc).

See p. 354

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

-Para. → BINTANG torpedoed sunk 10.30 N., 50 W. 0830Z/21 Nov. Para. B. R.C.A.F. plane attacks contact 46.32 N., 50.37 W. 1714Z/09. EMPIRE CHAUCER, Wolf or Dog on C/T.
(Cominch, 2101/10 to Admty for O.I.C.)

SCORPION

Sub. Notice Dec. 10th. Operating during daylight only U.S.S. SCORPION will be to westward of Isle of (?Shoals) and in area D (U.S.C. and G.S. chart 1206) 11th Dec. in Areas C and D. 12th.
(Cominch, 2128/10 to Admty).

U.G.F.3

Modify my 2134/17th Nov. (?2129/17 intended) Composition of U.G.F.3 as follows. For West African Ports A.P.'s ARGENTINA, BRAZILIAN (?BRAZIL URUGUAY, THUPITSTON, WEETHALS, SLOTERDIJK,

ANTHONY, ACADIA, ^{THO}BARRY, A.O. BENNINGTON, plus SEATRIN TEXAS, U.S.S. LAKEHURST.

For Mediterranean both Port, A.P.'s LYON, NIGHTINGALE, STANTON, DIX, ^{TAN}PARKER, ALEXANDER, A.O.'s MONMOUTH, TICONDEROGA, ?2. U.S.S. MERRIMACK accompanies to fuel destroyers. Total 21 ships. N.C.X.F. pass to C. in C. A.F. Commandant 3rd U.S. Nav. Div. New York pass to Port Dir. New York. Admiralty pass to S.N.O. Casablanca.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2150/10) Passing action being taken by War Registry.

U.G.S.3

Sailing telegram. Escort C.T.F.33. U.S. Destroyers WAINWRIGHT, MAYRANT, RHIND, U.S. TRIPPE, U.S. ROWAN, CHAMPLIN.
(Port Dir. New York, 2208Z/10 to Connav).

ENTERPRISE

*See pp 336-4
353*

A.M. 2344/9th Dec. and your 1531/9th Dec. If you have no charts which enable you to reach St. Johns act in accordance with the intention expressed in your signal.
(D.O.D. (F) approved V.C.N.S. 2216A/10 to ENTERPRISE).

Movements

Departure 10th Dec. U.S. Sub. Chasers S.C. 503 and 637 for Trinidad 11th Dec.
(Harbour Master, Barbados, 2355/10 to Admty).

10.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Digest serial number 322 Dec. 9th. Enemy troops Gona attacked night 8/9 resulting 95 Japanese killed, four badly wounded captured. After intermittent fighting throughout Dec. 9th remaining enemy posts Gona area mopped up. Our troops now occupy whole area. Enemy detachments occupying villages Moutk Kumusi river attacked by Australian patrol Dec. 5th inflicting heavy casualties capturing equipment destroying stores. Little change reported Buna Enaiadere area.

2. Photos Buka Aerodrome Dec. 8th show 14 fighters 6 medium bombers runway being resurfaced.
3. Increased enemy activity Salamaua Mupo area where light bridges being built.
4. Six Liberators attacked Aerodrome Gasmata night 8th results unobserved.
5. Bostons and Marauders bombed and strafed enemy positions Buna Area during day.
6. Enemy fighters and bombers reported active Dilli Aerodrome. Two large merchant ships unloading Dilli 7th with one destroyer off harbour entrance.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0449Z/10 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimate at 1300/10.
(D.D.I.C., 1355A/10, 1406A/10).

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Valuable".

The important enemy vessel referred to on 9th December passed down Channel last night and put into Boulogne at 2245/10 without being intercepted by the destroyers on patrol. Coastal Command have been asked to destroy her.

During last night our coast artillery engaged enemy shipping between Calais and Gris Nez. Eleven straddles were reported by R.D/F and a fire was reported in the target area. The enemy batteries replied and caused some non-naval casualties and damage in the Dover-Folkestone area.

North
Russia
convoys.

F.O.(S) notified today the positions which will be occupied by 5 submarines during the passage of convoy J.W.51A and J.W.51 B to and R.A.51 and R.A.52 from North Russia in a few days' time. C. in C. Nore is to lend 4 destroyers to C. in C. Home Fleet for about 4 weeks from 22 Dec; to reinforce the Home Fleet battleship screen during the operation. (C. in C. Nore reported that this will result in the reduction to a dangerous degree of the forces in his command for escorting and protecting trade). Convoy J.W.51 A will be escorted by 6 destroyers, 2 corvettes and 2 trawlers. All convoys when east of 15° E. will be covered by Force R (SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA, MUSKETEER and MATCHLESS) The season in the White Sea is about a month astern of station and forecasts predict the continuance of mild weather. Up to six ships including two tankers, can be received at Molotovsk.

Convoy C.E.138 has been postponed 24 hours and S.P.11 and P.S.11 are cancelled on account of the weather. A southerly Gale is blowing.

South Atlantic.

Traffic on
west part
of Station.

On 2 Dec. C. in C. S.A. made certain proposals regarding north and westbound traffic proceeding through F.O.C.W.Af's area from the south Atlantic in order, presumably, to avoid the area near St. Paul's Rocks, where U-boats are estimated to be operating. C. in C. S.A. proposed that traffic should be divided into a fast and slow stream respectively: the former to proceed via

/the...

360

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic - am/8:-Traffic on
west part
of station.
Contd.

the west coast of Africa and the latter via the coast of Brazil. F.O.C.W.Africa, however, thought it best to spread shipping as widely as possible over the area, relying on dispersion and individual diversion, accepting the raider menace, since the U-boat policy is to search for lanes of traffic, and when one is found it is usually too late to divert shipping effectively. The Admiralty concurred generally with C. in C. S.A. and proposed that whilst U-boat dispositions remain as at present fast ships both north and westbound should keep east of 20° W., until north of 10° N., (i.e. to the east side of the Atlantic narrows) when westbound ships should proceed direct to destination on U.S. east coast (bunkering at Freetown if necessary). Slower westbound ships should keep to the west side of the Atlantic narrows. The Admiralty proposal was designed to reduce the volume of shipping passing through the area east of Trinidad in which regular losses are being suffered. F.O.C.W.Af. agreed that this scheme should be given a trial, but had misgivings about the concentration of shipping near 10° N., 20° W. if U-boats should discover it, since it will not be possible to give adequate air cover. C. in C. S.A. also concurred generally in the scheme. The scheme as proposed by the Admiralty to Convoy and Routeing Section of the U.S. Navy Department is given in A.M. 2150Z/8 December 1942. Cominch concurred in it, with one small suggestion. Today the Admiralty, issued details of the routeing policy which they wish C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C.W.Af. to adopt as a temporary measure, in order to avoid the area near St. Paul's Rocks, where U-boats are estimated to be operating.

Mediterranean.

Force Q.

SIRIUS, DIDO, ASHANTI and TARTAR, carrying out a sweep between Bone and Algiers were shadowed by aircraft continuously from 0030, flares being dropped. At 0652 attack developed by torpedo aircraft and Ju.88; one Ju.88 was shot down but no damage to Force Q is reported. Fighters arrived at 0720. It appears that an "enemy" report made at 2350A/10 referred to Force Q, which had a row of flares dropped around. Report and flares came from Malta aircraft on Cavoli-Marittimo patrol. Malta had no information of the sweep by Force Q.

/Air...

11.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Air Patrol.** At 1836A V.A. Malta reported that A.O.C. Malta intends to withdraw the Cavoli-Marittimo dawn to dusk patrol for the present, as it has been compromised and the enemy has standing fighter patrols in the area.
- Malta Convoys.** In order to ease the strain on the Malta forces Operation "Quadrangle (C)" is postponed.
- Malta Supplies.** Unloading of convoys M.W.13 and 14 has now been completed. An estimate of the stock position is given by Govr. Malta, which shows that flour will last until mid-May, benzine and Kerosine until mid-April, coal about the end of February, foodstuffs other than flour until March, and fodder, mid April. In view of the improved position, he has made some essential small increases in the scale of siege rations, and hopes to make further increases shortly.
- BLEAN sunk by U.443. (6.3.443)** The Hunt class destroyer BLEAN was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat at 1630A in 126° 36' N. 2° W. 11 miles (about 60 miles West of Oran) whilst escorting convoy M.K.F.4.
- American B.24's bombed shipping and harbour installations at Naples today and claim to have hit a merchant vessel.
- Gabes was bombed at dusk.
- Beaufighters attacked a small coastal vessel off Tripoli and left it in a severely damaged and possibly sinking condition.
- Wellingtons from Malta attacked with torpedoes a southbound 3/4000 ton merchant ship escorted by 2 destroyers in 353° Cape San Vito 56 miles at 0050 and it is believed sank the merchant ship.
- Malta Wellingtons last night also bombed Tunis docks, bombs bursting near a destroyer and suspected cruiser, the former was left smoking.
- The French S/M CASABIANCA left Algiers at 1930 today to patrol west of Corsica.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Operation
M.H.2.

Eight empty merchant ships and tanker YORBA LINDA have arrived at Port Said and Alexandria respectively from Malta. Air attack was slight and there was no damage to the convoy or its escort other than one officer killed in DULVERTON yesterday.

East Indies.

SS. MODASA reported being missed by a torpedo from a submarine at 1710Z today in 14° 15' N., 80° 28' E. (240 miles north of Ceylon).

U.S.A Air Force reports that the ship sunk in the raid on Haiphong on 22nd Nov. was TENGHAI, 10,000 tons, proceeding Saigon with a cargo of cement.

America & West Indies.

The departure of convoy S.C.113 from New York has been delayed indefinitely by fog.

363

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

O.15. Due to engine trouble, E.T.A. Scapa 1630A.
(O.15 0850A/11 to A.C.O.S.)

Positions of S/MS. F.O.S. 0951A/11, 1024A/11, 1651A/11.
See Lion Copy. *p. 363^E*

Movements. A.M. 1050/7. Area Scapa. Delete SUFFOLK.
Area Gibraltar. Amend destroyers to read 11.
A.M. 1058/8. Area Rosyth. Delete DUKE OF YORK.
(D.O.D. (H) 1100Z/11 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

→ P.221 *p. 363^E* F.O.S. 1047/6. THRASHER R/V with escort in
position (A) at 0830/14 for passage to Falmouth
to await P.221.

(2) P.221 R/V with escort in position (A) at 0830/15 Dec. for
onward surface passage to Portsmouth in company with THRASHER.

(3) Name of escorts will be communicated.

(4) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange total bombing restrictions
within 35 miles of Lizard Head from 0730 to 1130 on 14th and 15th
Dec.

(5) Re. lights.

(Capt. S.5. 1145A/11 to THRASHER. P.221. (R) C. in C. Portsmouth.
F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth. Capt. S.3. N.O.I.C. Falmouth.
H.Q.C.C.)

P.52 My 1147/6 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1024/11.
Amended date for sailing P.52 is p.m. 15th.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1534A/11.)

SOKOL Arrangements for sailing escorted by CAPE PALLISER
P.339 from vicinity Campbeltown at 1630A/13 to Lerwick
TORBAY E.T.A. 1200A/15.
p/p 365⁷
366
(Capt. S.3. 1643A/11 and 1047A/13.)

Situation. At 2005A/11 (C. in C. W.A. 1355A/11)
See Lion Copy. *pp 363B, C, D.*

→ P.221 K.X. North (?6) A. Estimated position P.221 at
2000A/11 44.50 N 13.00 W northbound. On surface
by night.
(C. in C. W.A. 1741A/11 to NORTHERN FOAM,
NORTHERN GIFT.)

M/S.F.4. My 1611/11 not to all addressees. Request you will
sail M/S.F.4 to Plymouth when weather is suitable
sweeping a.m. Q.Z.S.315 and convoy route on passage.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1749A/11 to N.O.I.C. Milford
Haven. (R) S.O. M/S.F.4. N.O.I.C. Falmouth. Admty.)

MOST SECRET

363A

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.

0951A/11 December.
MESSAGE.

III.

From F.O.S.

Date: 11.12.42.
Recd: 0956.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

272. My 1724 10th December para (F) amend to read
after LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Campbeltown 1100 11th December
due 180 degrees Lizard Head 5 miles at 0700 13th December.

0951A/11.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D.

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)(2)
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)

DR.

Section N.W.

U.R.53	GAVOTTE STAFFNESS REIGHTON WYKE	62 25 18 10 To 62 55 22 10	5 1/2
R.U.52	ARAB ANGLE HUGH WALPOLE NORTHERN SPRAY	60 10 13 55 To 59 02 10 03	4
O.N.S.152 C.T.U. 24.1.13	BURNHAM SKEENA GALT AGASSIZ SACKVILLE WETASKIWIN	56 25 11 27 To 57 53 13 20 thence 58 35 24 30	6

Section S.W.

Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND		43 05 14 35 000°	13
REDOUBT QUICKMATCH		46 48 14 40 To 50 46 14 03 thence 54 11 11 00	20
NORTHERN SUN CAPE PORTLAND VASCANA		56 08 11 20 To SC 111	5 1/2
S.C.111 C.T.U. 24.1.3.	U.S.S. SPENCER U.S.S. BADGER TRILLIUM DIANEIUS ROSTERN DAUPHIN	56 01 23 33 To 56 31 08 29	7
H.S.217 C.T.U. 24.1.4.	FAME BURZA POTENTILLA EGLANTINE ROSE VERVAIN	56 52 14 48 To 56 31 08 29	9
O.N.S.150 C.T.U. 24.1.18.	BEVERLEY WINCHELSEA ANEMONE ASPHODEL ABELIA CLOVER	47 22 36 25 To 46 50 41 25	6
O.N.S.152 C.T.U. 24.1.13	BURNHAM SKEENA GALT AGASSIZ SACKVILLE WETASKIWIN	56 25 11 27 57 53 13 20 thence 58 35 24 30	6

MOST SECRET

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

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

- 3 -

Section S.W. (continued)

KX.6.A.	NORTHERN GIFT NORTHERN FOAM	46 26 13 53	To	46 00 14 00 thence 40 00 13 00	5
A.T.30	UNESCORTED	40 53 31 39	To	41 30 30 30 thence 51 10 25 30	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
M.K.S.3.X	TAY 3 CORVETTES 4 MINESWEEPERS	59 55 14 59	To	49 00 14 45	8

1355A/11

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(T).
A.C.N.S.(H).
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim.
D.C.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.A/S.W.
D. of Plans (2).
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2).
D.M.S.
D.T.D.(3).
D.T.D.(C).
Admiral Blake (2).
Admiral Ramsey (4).
D.D.O.D.(C).
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
D.N.A.D.
Head of Air Branch
U.S.N.(3).

3630

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.

1651A/11th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From F.O.S.

Date 11.12.42.

Recd. 1700.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

277.

Positions of submarines at 0800/12th December and movements for following 24 hours

(A) P.615 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Smalls due 180 degs. Lizard Head 5 miles at 0700 13th December thence escorted to Falmouth.

(B) THRASHER 49 degs. 23' North 13 degs. 05' West dived by day through 49 degs. 50' North 12 degs. 34' West and 49 degs. 50' North 09 degs. 02' West. *See p. 363*

(C) P.221 46 degs. 54' North 13 degs. 03' West dived by day through 49 degs. 10' North 13 degs. 05' West and 49 degs. 50' North 12 degs. 34' West. *See p. 363*

(D) TUNA 46 degs. 40' North 04 degs. 29' West dived by day through 48 degs. 08' North 06 degs. 01' West to R/V in 130 degs. Lizard Head 12 miles at 1400 13th December proceeding on surface when within 40 miles of Lizard Head.

(E) U.S.S. GURNARD in Zone K.505.

1651A/11

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 Pin.
- D.O.D.(H) (2).
- D.O.D.(F) (2).
- D.T.D.(M).
- D.D.O.D.(H).
- 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).

364

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.ICARUS
OBDURATE

ICARUS proceed to pass Switha 1500/12 to Hvalfjord routed through 058° 50' N 007° 03' W thence through Reykjanes Passage.

(2) NORFOLK is requested to sail OBDURATE to arrive Rosyth a.m. 15th Dec. for boiler cleaning calling Scapa on passage to land mail.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2000A/11.)

P.615

My 1049A/7. Add 24 hours to all times.
See pp. 363 & E. (Capt. S.3. 2220A/11 to LA CAPRICIEUSE.)Operations.Shelling by
Coast
batteries.

My 1022A/11 (See Enemy Intelligence) Enemy ship in both tracks E.3.D. and E.5.D. were engaged when between Calais and Griz Nez by coastal artillery 92 rounds of 9.2" and 36 of 15" being fired at the former and 31 of 15" at the latter:-

In the case of E.3.D. eleven straddles were reported by R.D.F. and there were reports of a fire being seen in target area from a Fire Command Post. This track contrary to expectations entered Boulogne either possibly owing to damage or on account of Southerly Gale. Two Albacores of 841 Squadron waiting to attack south of Boulogne were accordingly recalled. The two Albacores later proceeded to attack E.5.D. off Gravelines and dropped their bombs without making any specific claims enemy batteries replied on both occasions with about 30 and 20 rounds distributed between south Foreland or Deal. Dover and Folkestone Area - some damage reported including fire at Folkestone Gas Works. Casualties at Dover and Folkestone. No Naval casualties or damage have been reported.

(V.A. Dover 1151A/11.)

Attack
on enemy
convoy.*Op. "Vulnerable"*Tonight 11/12th Dec. (My 1127/10 Dec. para 9.)
Force A. WHITSHED, WORCESTER, VESPER, ALBRIGHTON,
ESKDALE, BROCKLESBY, Force C nil.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1315A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth. V.A. Dover. N.O.I.C. Newhaven. C. in C. Nore.)

My 1315A/11 sailed 1420/11.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1450A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth. V.A. Dover. N.O.I.C. Newhaven. C. in C. Nore.)

Portsmouth night movements 11/12 Dec. 1. 6 destroyers operating S.E. Beachy Head.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1458A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Nore.

C. in C. Plymouth. V.A. Dover. F.O.I.C. Portland. N.O.I.C. Newhaven. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth. R.A.F. Thorney, R.A.F. Tangmere, H.Q.B.C. H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C. 10, 11, 16 Groups.)

Two medium sized vessels and four small craft 210° Cap Alprech 5 miles course 185° speed 8 at 1830. Proceed to attack.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1838A/11 to Force A.)

Your position by R.D.F. 171°. Beachy Head 16½ miles.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1939A/11 to Destroyer Force, (R) Admty. C. in C. Nore. V.A. Dover. C. in C. Plymouth. 16 Group, 11 Group.)

Your position by R.D.F. at 2000 was 181° Beachy Head 27'.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 2016A/11 to Destroyer Force, (R) Admty. C. in C. Nore. V.A. Dover. C. in C. Plymouth. 16 Group, 11 Group.)

/P.C.S...

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 11/5.

Attack on enemy convoy. Contd. *Op. "Valuable"*

P.C.S. of enemy at 2031 was 011° Dieppe 20 miles course 205°.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2102/11 to Destroyer Force, (R) Admty. C. in C. Nore. V.A. Dover. C. in C. Plymouth. 16 Group, 11 Group.)
Enemy position 357° Point Dailly 8 course 205°.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 2206A/11 to Destroyer Force, (R) Admty. C. in C. Nore. V.A. Dover. C. in C. Plymouth. 16 Group, 11 Group.)
1 convoy bearing 075° distance 3½ miles. My position 50.04 N 1.05 E.
(WHITSHED 2244A/11 to Portsmouth.)
WORCESTER take over command, am damaged and proceeding on a westerly course.
(WHITSHED 2309A/11.)
My P.C.S. 328° Dieppe 11½ miles course 270° 15 knots.
VESPER in company.
(BROCKLESBY 2330A/11 to WORCESTER.)
Returning to westward.
(WORCESTER 2349A/11 to Force A) (P/L by T/P)
Retire to westward.
(WORCESTER 2349A/11 to Force A) (Fleet Code (24) by W/T)
Engaged and sunk large enemy trawler at point blank range.
Main target last seen burning fore and aft.
(BROCKLESBY 2356A/11 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Destroyers and S/Ms for North Russia convoy operation.

C. in C. H.F. has requested that 4 destroyers may be sailed to arrive Scapa by 22nd Dec. in order to reinforce Home Fleet battleship screen during passage of convoys to and from North Russia.
2. It is anticipated they will be required for about 4 weeks.
3. Request you will detail 4 suitable destroyers and sail them accordingly.

(D.O.D. (H.) 1350A/11 to C. in C. Nore.)

Request following may be passed to S.B.N.O. North Russia begins -

Submarines will occupy following positions in area 2 and 2A by a.m./20th.

Letter.	Position.		Submarine.
R.1.	071° 14'	024° 27'	* P.339
R.2.	071° 10'	023° 44'	P.223
R.3.	071° 02'	022° 56'	O.R.P. *SOKOL
R.4.	070° 53'	022° 05'	* TORBAY
R.5.	070° 32'	020° 02'	-

2. R.4 may not be occupied until 22nd Dec. Ends.

(F.O.S. 1511A/11 to Admty.)

1. Convoys J.W.51A and J.W.51B bound Kola Inlet cross longitude of Bear Island p.m. 22nd and a.m. 30th respectively.
2. Convoy route Green passes south of Bear Island. Alternative route Yellow which passes north of Bear Island may be ordered by signal while on passage.
3. Convoys R.A.51 and R.A.52 bound U.K. cross Meridian of Bear Island a.m. 2nd Jan. and a.m. 18th Jan respectively.
4. Escort of J.W.51A 6 destroyers, 2 corvettes and 2 trawlers. Cover for all convoys when east of 015° E by Force R SHEFFIELD, JAMAICA, MUSKETEER, MATCHLESS.
5. I appreciate that enemy main units based on Alten Fiord may attempt to attack convoys.

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 10/15.

Destroyers
and S/Ms for
North Russia
convoy
operation.
Contd.

6. Complete submarine patrol position established (as 1511A/11 q.v.)
Patrol zones are separated by Meridians midway between adjacent positions and are not to be crossed except when on passage or in pursuit of enemy.
7. S.O.S. Lerwick is to sail P.339, P.223 and SOKOL so as to reach patrol position not later than 0800/20th.
8. Capt. S.3 is to sail TORBAY as soon as practicable on or after 14th Dec. Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. H.F. or A.C.O.S. TORBAY is to be escorted to a position west of Shetlands. Thence proceeding to patrol as ordered by Capt. S.9.
9. Capt. S.9 is to route and arrange bombing restrictions for all submarines.
10. Object of submarines in accordance with F S B 2 during passage and patrol. Submarines are warned positively to identify submarine before attacking as some difficulty may be experienced in maintaining positions.
11. S/Ms forced to leave patrol prematurely are to return to Lerwick by reverse of their routes reporting when 100 miles clear of patrol positions.
12. S/Ms mentioned in para (6) will probably be relieved on 28th Dec.
13. Capt. S.3. Capt. S.9. S.O.S. Lerwick repeat back positions in para (6).
14. Extracts paras (6) (7) and (8) are being passed to S.B.N.O. North Russia.
(F.O.S. 1512A/11 to Capt. S.3. Capt. S.9. S.O.S. Lerwick.
(R) Admty. C. in C. H.F. A.C.O.S.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in
sea.

Your 1730/10. In view of weather abandon search and proceed to Scapa.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0022A/11 to FAULKNER)

Important
enemy
vessel.

See next page

Enemy vessel which passed down channel to Boulogne last night 10/11th is considered to be an important unit and therefore a Class One target.
(2) Request efforts be made to destroy her.
(D.O.D.(H.) 1057A/11 to H.Q.C.C.)

Mining.

Sheerness

One ground mine detonated as follows:-
(A) 1022A/10. (D) M.M.S. 41 148° Whitaker Beacon 1.67 miles. (E) Red 150° 1.5 cables.
(F) On pulse blue to port.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1005/11.)

Portsmouth.

One spontaneous explosion at 0900/11 Dec. approx. position 317° 2.5 miles from Nab Tower.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1430/11.)

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy vessels plotted. *See previous page* Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/10 to 0900/11.
Track E.2.D. Three or four small from Calais at 1850 westbound at 10 knots, entered Boulogne at 2105.
Track E.5.D. One large at 8 small from 7 miles W of Dunkirk at 1857, westbound at 12 knots, entered Boulogne at 2245.
Track E.5.D. One large at 6 small from Boulogne at 2330, eastbound at 11 knots, faded 2 miles W of Dunkirk at 0300. (V.A. Dover 1022A/11.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER

Diary captured from German sailor confirms ADMIRAL SCHEER was in Haugesunds 1600/7th Nov. with 3 destroyers course south. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1045Z/11.)

ATLANTIDES.
Port Lulea.

A. My 1159/6. Owners of large tanker ATLANTIDES learn vessel is leaving or has already left Stettin with petrol for ABO also Bothnian ports if ice permits. Graded A.2.
B. Director of Swedish Ice Breaking disclosed unwittingly that Port Lulea will close for winter about December 18th. Graded A.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1637/11 to Admty.)
Comment by D.N.M.S. In view of the comparatively mild season to date, it is probable that Port Lulea can be kept open without much difficulty until the end of this month were it particularly desirable to do so.

Tanker and 7 escorts.

Air Int. 547 11 Dec. Photo of 9 Dec. Convoy 8 vessels reported position 43.45 N 07.08 W. Course 090° seen to comprise large tanker probably T 39 last seen El Ferrol 7 Dec. 1942 and screen of seven M.L. Class M/S. (R.A.F. Medmenham 1705A/11) See also R.A.F. Medmenham 0415A/12.

U-Boats.

U/B attacked.

AC 659 11 Dep. Daily Resume. A/S sweep ref. my Ice W11/9 Dec. Task 4 by E S W F G Z/269 from 1030N/10 to 1430N/10 during which W/269 UT 1339N/10? (11) IN BXMZ 4015 one anchor wreckage believed part of superstructure of vessel with rubber dinghies lashed to side step also at 1241/10 in GSCU 0823 G/269 sighted and attacked U-Boat full report follows soon as available. At 1142N/10 H/84 sighted surfaced U-Boat in GTCU (?) 1532 course 170/8 kts but it submerged 27 seconds before A/C was over position. At 1226N/10 H/84 in GSCU 1227 sighted U-Boat surfacing on course 160° which turned into wind and manned cannon in conning tower but U-Boat did not open fire but crash dived after about three minutes. A/C dived to attack but conning tower disappeared 11 seconds before A/C over position and no bombs were released. This U-Boat was chocolate brown one gun forward German type conning tower and jumping wires fore and aft. At 1232N/10 when one half mile due east of position of latter U-Boat H/84 sighted periscope and conning tower of third U-Boat but did not arrive over position till 23 seconds later and no attack made. At

/1256N/10...

368

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - *cont'd.*

U/B 1256N/10 in GSRP 1005 H/34 sighted surfacing
 attacked. U-Boat course 180° but U-Boat dived and A/C not
 Contd. over position till 24 seconds later and no
 attack made STMG at 1354/10 in GSRP 0415 H/84
 sighted the 5th U-Boat on surface course 150°
 10 kts. and climbed into cloud but unable to sight U-Boat again.
 At 1403/10 in 58° 9' N 22° 44' W H/84 sighted 6th U-Boat on
 surface course 130/15 kts distant 6 miles and attacked with one
 650 lb USN depth bomb Mark 29 with mark 24 fuse set 25 feet from
 25 feet while 6 feet of conning tower and few feet of stern still
 showing. Depth bomb hit water starboard of conning tower and
 exploded 8 feet aft of conning tower and 12 feet to starboard drop
 triangular patch light oil immediately after explosion spread to
 size half mile by 300 yards. After explosion one dead man seen
 on surface and three minutes later 8 blimp shaped floats came to
 surface ahead of explosion, 2 of them with one man each. Also
 saw scattered patches light coloured wood about 18 inches to 2
 feet long. Captain of H/84 was Lt. Davis. Fortress V/220 did
 not meet H.X.217 but landed Reykjavik 1658N/10 and S/220 escorted
 H.X.217 from 1100N/10 to 1342N/10 and landed Reykjavik 1800N/10.
 Add following to report of attack by H/84. U-Boat was German
 Type 500 tons one gun forward none aft and one cannon in conning
 tower no jumping wires. Two men manning and opened fire on A/C
 at 800 yards and A/C replied with .50 calibre M.G. No cannon
 bursts from enemy fire seen by A/C which probably was shooting
 over.
 (H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland 0116N/11.)

U/Bs In 57° 6' N 19° 57' W.
 reported. (A/C 201 S. 1111/11.)
 In 59° 7' N 23° 16' W.
 (No T.O.O. T.O.R. 1123/11.)
 In 74° 41' N 23° 8' W.
 (A/C 206 H. 1420/11.)
 In 57° 16' N 20° 3' W.
 (A/C 206 H. 1508Z/11.)

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 56° 41' N 23° 8' W. Enemy
 attacked. S/M previously reported was sighted on the surface
 and observed to submerge. Enemy S/M when first
 sighted was on course 250° estimated 6 knots.
 (A/C 206 Sqdn. H. 1251Z/11.)
 Have attacked enemy with depth charges estimate
 no hits.
 (A/C 206 Sqdn. H. 1252Z/11.)

Distress Received at 1720 G.M.T. from Garronhead Radio
 signal. begins at 1714 SSSS from unknown station. No
 further particulars. Signals strength one.
 (Wick Radio 1721/11.)

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Navigational.

Workington. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Owing to further silting the Port of Workington will be closed Dec. 15th, 16th and 17th.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1906A/11.)

Technical.

GRAPH's experience. Experiences in GRAPH indicate that in rough weather U-Boats would show preference for attacking escaping on course away from direction of wind and sea. Further details will be issued in secret W.A.G.O.
(C. in C. W.A. 1858A/11.)

Casualties and Defects.

CANTON. Details of defects. Require assistance by Thornycroft to effect repairs. Sailing will have to be postponed by about 3 days.
(CANTON 2101Z/11 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.111. Procedure B. Listen out on time of departures for Liberator aircraft BFKA at 0915/11 and at 1015/11 for BFKA one. BFKA will give close escort. BFKA one will carry out A/S sweep.
(A.C.I.C. 0251A/11 to Escorts S.C.111. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
Cancel my 0251/11 owing to weather at base.
(A.C.I.C. 0507A/11.)
D/F bearings on 6675 K/cs at 0942Z indicate U-Boat has reported convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 1124A/11 to Escorts S.C.111.)

Convoy
A.T.31. Due Clyde 17 Dec. 2. Total of approx. 10,500 personnel will disembark 18 Dec.
3. Up to about 1,000 personnel will embark at the Tail of the Bank on 19 Dec.
4. Convoy should be ready to sail p.m. 20 Dec.
(D of S.T. 0423A/11 to P.S.T.O. Scottish Ports.)
My signal of even date. Convoy A.T.31 is No. 25966 in C.B.
3060-E.
(D.S.T. 0424A/11.)

White Sea conditions. Conditions in White Sea are entirely different from that experienced during last years severe winter. Season is about one month behind temperatures have been high for time of year with heavy snow falls which have kept seasonal ice soft. Forecasts predict continuation of mild weather. In these circumstances Molotovsk can be used without much difficulty for another month and with (?) 2 large ice breakers all well armed in service there is no danger of ships being frozen in. Am prepared to receive up to six ships including two tankers at Molotovsk and in view of bombing at Murmansk and weather difficulties for long flights it might be well to take

/advantage...

370

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - cont'd.

- White Sea conditions. Contd. advantage of present conditions and divert six ships from J.W.(?51) A to Molotovsk where so far as tankers are concerned fast discharge is available and greater safety exists for all ships. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0937A/11.)
- C.E.138 My 1620/10. Convoy C.E.138 postponed 24 hours. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1016A/11.)
- H.X.217. Indefinite D/F bearings on 3920 K/cs at 0843Z suggest U-Boat may still be in contact with convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1018A/11 to Escorts H.X.217.)
D/F bearings on 6675 K/cs at 0926Z and 0937Z indicate convoy is still being shadowed. (D.D.I.C. 1119A/11.)
- R.A.51 Your 1729/8. GLEANER. Nil. 4 trawlers. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1104Z/10 to C. in C. H.F.)
- P.S.11. My 1710/10 P.S.11 and S.P.11 cancelled. S.P.11. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1132A/11.)
- Scuttling of M.Vs. Amendment to 1013/9. (D.T.D. 1241A/11.)
- Chop. Your 0211/11. Para 2 of my 1003/9 referred to Admty. 1725/5 addressed Connav amending Chop times of H.X.217 and S.C.111.
2. Agree that unless convoys are greatly ahead or astern of schedule Chop should not be amended but this matter is dealt with by Admty. and Connav and my assumption in para 2 was made to ensure their decisions were promulgated. (C. in C. W.A. 1427Z/11 to C.T.24.)
- K.M.F.5. My 1508/9 sailed codeword "Sateen One" less DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1510A/11.)
- W.S.25. A.M. 2035/10.
1. 1630 G.M.T. 17th. Bar L.V.
2. R/V Clyde and Bristol Channel ships at 0900 G.M.T. 18 in 270° Oversay 6 miles.
3. Commodore's R/V noon G.M.T. 18th in 055° 35' N 007° 48' W
noon G.M.T. 19th in 053° 39' N 015° 15' W.
4. First 2 letters of convoy W/T call sign are Q.H.
5. Out-con 354.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1543Z/11.)
The following sailed. (List of ships - letters and numbers)
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 1945/11.)

371

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.EMPIRE
BARD.

North Russia 1616/3. In view of possibility of some ships of J.W.51 A unloading at Molotovsk, Russians request EMPIRE BARD may remain there until decision is reached.
(Ad. Miles 1816C/11 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

B B, H M
convoys and
independents.

My 1616/9. Subject to warning of enemy mine-laying in Bristol Channel ships with defective D/G gear may be sailed from Belfast or Holyhead to Bristol Channel ports if time taken to effect repairs entails delay in docking at final destination.
(C. in C. W.A. 1834A/11 to F.O.I.C. Belfast. N.O.I.C. Holyhead. (R) Admty.)

K.M.S.5.

Sailed convoy and escort with following exceptions -
Escort. LOUISBURG and PETUNIA did not sail.

defects.

* MOOSEJAW sailed to overtake on completion of
* *see p. 410.*

Convoy. KAFIRISTAN, STAD HAARLEM, FORT BATTLE RIVER, CLAN MACBRAYNE, BLENHEIM, BELNOR and FORT CONFIDENCE did not sail. FLOWERGATE joins convoy from Belfast at Oversay. Destination Huelva, Cdre. is Cdre. Anchor, R.N.R. in VILLE DE STRASBOURG also Cdre. of N. Portion (Bone) Vice Cdre. of convoy and Cdre. of "A" Portion, Master of MASIRAH. Cdre. of "O" Portion Master of ROSARIO. Destination of EMPIRE METAL altered to Algiers first Port. All ships hold S.P. 02272 (21) (22) and Outcon 341. Codeword "Untrue". Latest messages Q K A 79 Q B A 9.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1908A/11.)

K.M.S.5. Following ships sailed with degaussing switched off-
PORT ST. JOHN, FORT A LA CORNE, EMPIRE SUNBEAM, STAD MAASLUIS, DIRECTOR, OCEAN COURIER, CONTRACTOR, CLAN MACINNES, HARPALYCE, NORELS.

(2) Ships carry cased petrol and have degaussing coil passing through hold. My number 3901/476 of 26th Nov. 1942 refers.

(3) Ports of destination not informed.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1914A/11 to Admty.)

Convoy
T.A.31A.

SS. ANDES speed 22 knots will embark personnel and be ready to leave Clyde for Halifax N.S. on 17th Dec. unescorted.

2. Admty. will promulgate route.

3. Request that air A/S and A/A escort may be provided.

4. Fighter protection codeword "Skunk".

5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship as requisite and to signal estimated speed of advance and E.T.A. to authorities concerned.

6. It is anticipated that ANDES will return to U.K. from Halifax as A.T.32 sailing approx. 29th Dec.

(D.O.D.(H), 1947A/11.)

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

M.K.F.4.

TEST, FISHGUARD are to proceed a.m. 12th at best speed towards 043° 00' N 017° 01' W to meet M.K.F.4 S.O. EGRET.
(C. in C. W.A. 2209A/11 to VENOMOUS.)

A.T.30.

Destroyer escort will not be provided.
(C. in C. W.A. 2225A/11 to A.T.30 (R) Shore Authorities in U.K. concerned, C. in C. H.F.)

F.N888.
WAR
PINDARI.

H.T. 21.3.
My 1150/11. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2240/11 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

Manning.

Your 1843A/22/11. Admiralty state that second flight 100 ratings urgently required for manning H.M. ships and cannot be retained earmarked indefinitely. Request very early reply whether second party will be required.
(D.N.C.X.F. 2227A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

North Atlantic.

U/B.

Am over enemy submarine in 36.10 N. 01.24 W.
(A/C C/S UAL/T 0330/11 to Gibraltar.)
Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 36.14 N.
00.25 W. probably a submarine.
(A/C call sign U A 1 M 0716A/11 to Gibraltar.)

SAMUEL CHASE. U.S.A. Ship SAMUEL CHASE is to be detached to Gibraltar for onward routeing to U.S.A. EGRET pass to Cmdre. and SAMUEL CHASE.
(N.C.X.F. 0945A/11 to EGRET (R) V.A. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca, U.S.S. SAMUEL CHASE.)
S.N.O. Casablanca Area's 0919/10th (?0710/10 intended, re sailing of convoy plus CONTESSA convoy off Casablanca.
(N.C.X.F. 1735A/11 to F.O.C.N.A. . (R) S.N.O. Casablanca Area.)

SPEY,
ROTHER,
* SENNEN,
(M.K.F.4.)
* *Sup. 376.*
E.T.A. Gibraltar 0800A/12th, ROTHER, SENNEN in company.
(SPEY 1000A/11 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. W.A., N.C.X.F.)
Your 1630A (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. 0700A/12th.
SPEY requires new spigot mortar control switch junction box, also weather screen welded. C.B. Separator cover requires rejoining if time permits only.
(SPEY 2030A/11 to V.A..Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)

Gibraltar
Air Report.

Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 10th December.
U/B sightings and attacks by A/C - American A/C LT 396 at 1600 hours in 35.22 N. 09.52 W. sighted U/B Co. 2900/2 kts. no other details.
Wellington R/179 AI.2155 hours in 36.48 N. 01.05 W. course 2800/2 kts. Sighted U/B on surface, attacked with D/Cs which appeared to straddle U/B aft. As attack made U/B opened fire to which rear gunner replied as U/B came into his sight firing from U/B ceased when D/Cs exploded, nothing further to report Catalina E/210 ADK1308/10 hours 36.11 N. 02.30 W. sighted U/B 2 miles distant, Co. 1800/6 kts, U/B was diving and no attack was made. At 1315 hours in 36.06 N. 02.31 W. another U/B sighted a C/T depth 2 miles distant which immediately submerged no attack. A/C diverted to escort damaged D/R, No E/A sightings or combats, no casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar 1005Z/11.)

/M.K.S.3 ...

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

M.K.S.3. Your 1630A/10th (N.T. in W.D.) Estimated time of M.K.S.3 passing position 57 is 0100A/12th. Merchant ship HINDUSTAN, in company but unseaworthy and entered harbour. Merchant ship GIRONDE also entered harbour for coal and water. Both escorted to examination vessel by LORD HOTHAM who rejoined. Commodore has not ocean route. Request initial course from R/V (corrupt group) AGEN did not join off Oran. Merchant ship PORTSEA bound to Gibraltar. (VETCH 1115A/11 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F.)

U/B. First class bearing German submarine transmitting sighting report 378 metres bearing 030° or 219°. (VETCH 1146A/11 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F.)

PORPOISE. Arrival. (V.A. Gibraltar 1154A/11 to Admty.)

P.228. P.228 crosses 007° 59' E. in 038° 30' N. at 0300/12th. Request onward route. *see pp 381, 382, 385, 386* (V.A. Gibraltar 1201A/11 to Capt. S. 10 (R) Capt. S.8, P.228.)

BULOLO, E.T.A. 0230A/12, Gibraltar Bay 0330A. When CHARYBDIS. can CHARYBDIS sail? (BULOLO 1352A/11 to V.A. Gib.) See 1652/11. *next page.*

G.U.F.2. My 0910/10th and Admiralty's 2105/10th. Delayed G (?U) F 2 codeword IRVING sailing 0700/12th routed direct to position (G) 033° N. 012° W. thence in accordance with Admiralty's 2105A/10th. 2. S.O. Capt. Vonhimbung in SALAMONIE. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1515Z/11 to SALAMONIE (R) Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C.T.U. 26.7.1, C.T.U. 26.7.2, C.T.U. 26.7.3.)

M.K.S.3 (Y) Your 1021/11 (N.T. in W.D.) Not approved. Routeing. Re-route convoy M.K.S.3 (Y) in accordance with Admty. 1249/8. (N.C.X.F. 1525A/11 to V.A. Gib. (R) C. in C. W.A.) Sailed KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, LAUDERDALE, MELBREAK, AZALEA, PALOMARES with Gibraltar portion M.K.S.3 (Y), Q ?Z H 977 L 52 S 388 X 885 Y 366.

(V.A. Gibraltar 2224A/11 to Admty. etc.) Your 1525/11. Captains of MELBREAK, KRAKOWIAK, LAUDERDALE and BLEASDALE have all personally represented to me their doubt as to being able to manage a long route unless weather is fine throughout and there are no threatened attacks on convoy.

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - *W.N.B.*

M.K.S.3 (Y)
Routeing
(contd.)

2. Following are their approx. estimated endurance in company with 7½ convoy under normal conditions. MELBREAK, 9 days, KRAKOWIAK 8½ days, remainder 8 days, this allows for hunting and 5 per cent fuel remaining. They will almost certainly therefore, require relief en route.
(V.A. Gibraltar 2314/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

BLEAN
sunk *by U. 443.*
(6.2.443)

Following has been read by Burnham Radio: Addressed Gib. W/T. BLEAN torpedoed and sunk in position 126°, 36° N. 2° W. 11.
(WISHART 1630A/11.)

SALVONIA,
VANOC.

Your 1410 (No trace in W.R.) Tug SALVONIA sailed to assist.
(V.A. Gibraltar 1632A/11 to VANOC.)

My 1410A and my 1610A (N.T. in W.R.) Towing span pulled out as wind got up. Aircraft has sunk, crew rescued. Returning to Gibraltar. V.A. Gibraltar pass to SALVONIA.
(VANOC 1812A/11 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) SALVONIA.)
Arrival VANOC.
(V.A. Gib. 2008A/11 to N.C.X.F. etc.)

CHARYBDIS.

See previous page

Intend to sail CHARYBDIS for U.K. a.m. 12th routed through

(Q) 35.52 06.01
(R) 36.16 08.01
(S) 37.01 11.01
(T) 41.01 15.30
(U) 45.01 15.30 S. of A. 20 knots.

2. Admiralty is requested to signal destination and C. in C. W.A. onward route.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1652A/11 to Admty. etc.)

IRIS
(French
S/M.)

N.T. in H.D.
My 1630/9th and my 1941/10th. American N.A. received same and wishes to associate himself with whatever reply I am instructed to make. It is significant point that note asks if H.M.G. (and American Govt.) had any objection which seems to doubt Spanish position.
(N.A. Madrid 1725/11 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib.)

POLYDORUS
survivors.

Your 1808/10th following extract of report of Master of POLYDORUS which will follow by bag. Nov. 24th, 2214, vessel attacked by S/M with gun and machine gun fire. Slight damage received. Enemy broke off action and was shaken off by 2200. 26th, 0600, torpedo avoided. 0610, S/M opened gunfire. Some damage received. Attack repulsed and evasive action taken. 0820, enemy disappeared below horizon. 27th, 0500, in bright moonlight vessel hit by 2 torpedoes almost simultaneously, 009° 01' N. 025° 32' W. Vessel abandoned and sank 0500. 81

/survivors ...

376

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - con 17.POLYDORUS
survivors
(contd.)

survivors and 3 boats. Only casualty 1 Chinese fireman died of injuries received on board. 29th, 0200, Spanish EOLO sighted and signalled. All taken on board. Ship bound Cadiz but diverted Las Palmas owing to insufficient provisions. Master speaks in highest terms of Master and crew of EOLO. Position when picked up 008° 39' N. 025° 40' W. (Seville, 1750/11 to B.N.A. Madrid (R) Admty., (D.N.I.) R.O. Horta, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

K.M.
Stragglers.

Request information as to directions to be given to stragglers in K.M. Convoys when East of Gibraltar. My 1915/16 for K.M.S.3 refers. (D.T.D. 1843A/11 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

STURGEON,
TRIBUNE.

(1) STURGEON is to be sailed for Algiers as soon as Lieut. Langridge arrives and defects to exhaust Y piece has been made good. Spare liner and exhaust piece from U.K. are to be sent on to Algiers.

(2) On completion of defects TRIBUNE is to be sailed for?working up patrol similar to P.54s present patrol thence to Algiers.

(3) Report expected date completion defects to STURGEON and TRIBUNE.

(4) Can date of arrival Gibraltar of Lieut. Cdr. Selby Hall be ascertained?
(Capt. S.8 1846A/11 to S.O. S/M Gibraltar Force (R) N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C., Gib., F.O.(S).)

SENNEN.

See p. 373

Your 1630A/11th. After abnormal consumption maintaining best speed in heavy weather insufficient fuel remaining on board for safe passage to U.K. with fast convoy. Request permission to refuel at Gibraltar requiring 180 tons. (SENNEN 2132A/11 to V.A. Gib.)

South Atlantic.A/S Trawlers
for Cape.

Departures Pointe Noire. ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN DUKE, COVENTRY CITY, escorting MAGNOLIA, BARBRAKE, TUZLA routed in accordance with your 1621Z/27th November. E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1800Z/17th. Shift to area Q at 2359Z/12th. (B.N.L.O.W.A. 0815/11 to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

See p. 377^A

/ORDUNA ...

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

ORDUNA. (1) Request approval for ORDUNA 14 knots to proceed to U.K. Escort by one destroyer can be given to limit of my station in latitude 020°N.
(2) Numbers on board. Total on board 1694.
(R.A.W.A. 1011Z/11 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.C. X.F., C. in C. W.A., D. of S.T.)
Your 1011/11th December ORDUNA. Two destroyers ex W.S.25 will be available at Azores about 23rd December A.M. 1616/8th December refers.
2. Alternatively ORDUNA should be escorted to Gibraltar for onward passage with M.K.F. convoy.
3. Request you will make necessary arrangements with V.A. Gib. for onward escort from 20° N.
(D.O.D. 1939A/11 to F.O.C.W. Af., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)

CORINTHIAKOS Survivors ex Greek Ship CORINTHIAKOS torpedoed at 0235/20/11 in 25° 45' S. 30° 10' E. report that Portuguese ship LOURENCO MARQUES was 4 to 5 miles on starboard bow at 0205. At 0220 LOURENCO MARQUES extinguished all her lights. Action appears significant and suggest master be interrogated at Freetown. Second officer is known pro-Nazi and was probably on watch at the time.
(S.O.(I). Capetown 1156C/11 to S.O.(I) Freetown (R) Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

PHOEBE. 1. Intend to sail PHOEBE escorted by BRIDGEWATER and one corvette p.m. 14th December for Brooklyn Navy Yard, New York, calling at Pernambuco and Trinidad. E.T.A. Pernambuco 21st December.
2. PHOEBE has endurance for 2500 miles at 12½ knots in moderate weather. Draught 21 feet, forward 18 feet aft. Estimated requirements of oil fuel at Pernambuco 700 tons.
3. Request information whether PHOEBE can proceed in convoy from Pernambuco to destination.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1247Z/11 to Comsolantfor, Admty., (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, PHOEBE, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D.)
Arrival 11th December PHOEBE escorted by HYDRANGEA and ~~COMMANDANT~~
DROGOU.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1433Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

DESPATCH. Sailing DESPATCH at 1200Z/11th December to patrol between position
see next page (b) 04.41 S. 20.59 W. and
(c) 03.08 S. 17.46 W. commencing at (b) at 1800Z/13th December. S. of A. 17 knots.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1249Z/11 to Admty. (R) DESPATCH, Cominch, CYCLAMEN, ASTURIAS, Comsolantfor, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)

/SIMANCAS ...

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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

"O.T.P." are excepted from 11th December

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

FROM: F.O.C. West Africa. DATE: 11.12.42.
RECD: 1558

Naval Cypher M by W/T

ADDRESSED: Ships in Area "P" of South Atlantic Station south of 8 degs. North., Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

COMMANDEANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, 2 motor launches, escorting 07 40 14 10 to Freetown 10.

H.M.S. DESPATCH 06 40 14 30 209 17 at 1958Z 11th. *See previous page.*

H.M.S. FANDANGO off Marshall to Freetown 9.

H.M.S. ARCTIC EXPLORER, H.M.S. CAPE WARWICK, H.M.S. NORTHERN ISLES, with S.T. 46, 03 40 10 35 to 02 40 07 46 thence 74 8 1/2.

COPINSAY, 2 motor launches, escorting Takoradi to Lagos 9.

H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, H.M.S. SPHENE, NORTHERN CHIEF, KHYBER, escorting 02 25 05 30 East 143 10.

NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN DUKE, MAGNOLIA, ST. ZENO, BARBRAKE about 08 10 South 11 20 East to South 8. *See p. 376*

/H.M.S. ASTURIAS

377^B-

2.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN
patrolling between 00 25 South 21 57 and 01
17 18 21 12½.

Allied Naval Units on patrol 00 35
South 27 45 to 01 35 23 10 12½.

1111Z/11

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

LAM

378

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.

SIMANCAS
suspicious. Your 1621/10. CASTILLO SIMANCAS is now Naval Transport bearing Spanish Naval Ensign manned by Naval Officers and ratings. Concur no action required. Reference to "Trade Agreement NIGERIA" not understood.
(D.E.W.D. 1258A/11 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

Convoy
D.N.6. D.N.6 consisting of 5 ships sailed 1400Z/11th escorting by JASMINE and GENISTA speed 9 knots to position (b) thence 10 knots to position (c).
Route:
(a) 031° 58' S. 038° 55' E.
(b) 028° 25' S. 042° 10' E.
(c) 021° 01' S. 041° 45' E.

NIRPURA to Karachi, CLAN MACPHERSON to Colombo, detaching at position (b) thence independently as in my serial numbers (?811) and 700 respectively. TOULOUSE to Diego Suarez, HONG SIANG to Kilindini, INDO CHINOIS to Aden, dispersing at position (c) thence independently as in my serial numbers 695, 697 and 698 respectively.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1407C/11 to Admty., C. in C. S.A, C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. East London, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.)

JEREMIAH
WADSWORTH
(sunk 27
November) (?) NEW ATLANTIC Pan arrived with 20 survivors from JEREMIAH WADSWORTH torpedoed and sunk in 40° 03' S. 22° 28' E. on 27th November at 1335Z by German U-Boat. All C.Bs were thrown overboard by Master states Second Officer. Lists of survivors follows.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1529/11 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Capetown.)

AMARYLIS
(sunk 2nd
December) Press reports state Panamanian ship AMARYLIS torpedoed by U-boat 55 miles off Zululand coast on 2nd December, and Portuguese Sloop GONÇALVES ZARCO sailed Lourenco Marques 7th December bound Lisbon has rescued 6 survivors. * Not known where these have landed.
(Capetown 1626C/11 to Admty., C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Cdre. I/C Durban, Consul General Inanda.)
* 2-9/12-10.300

TJILEBOET. Have you any news of TJILEBOET (Dutch) due Bahia 4 December ex O.N.145?
(D.T.D. 1806A/11 to S.O.(I) Montevideo)
Reply: 2109/12.

Routeing
Policy. In order to avoid area in vicinity of St. Pauls Rocks, where U-boats are estimated to be operating, request the following routeing policy be adopted as a temporary measure for north and westbound ships from South Africa.

379

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - ~~cont.~~Routeing
Policy
(contd.)

2. (A) Coal burners of 12 knots and over and all oil burners 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. ~~north~~ till west of 40° W. and bunkering at Freetown for coal and oil or St. Thomas for coal if necessary.
(C) Coal burners of under 12 knots for ports in U.S. area keep south of 2° N. till west of 38° W.
(D) Instructions in A.M. 2330/1st September regarding routeing via Cape Horn are unaffected by the above. All ships allocated to load bauxite should be routed as in paragraph 2 (C) above.
3. Ships now at sea should be diverted to conform where feasible. Those in paragraph 2 (B) above to be diverted to Freetown for routeing instructions for Chesapeake.
4. All above instructions should be regarded as temporary and subject to modifications and it is not intended to amend M.A.R.I. Diverting Authorities are authorised to divert individual ships concerned to meet any change in U-Boat disposition.
(D.T.D. 1945A/11 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A. (R) Connav.)

U/B.

At 1857/11 G.M.T. on 12,260 k/cs U-Boats made a sighting report, probably of convoy F.T.T.4.
(D.D.I.C. 2213A/11 to Escorts of F.T.T.4 only
(R) F.O.C.W.A. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

PORTSDOWN,
JOHN PAGE.

Sailed PORTSDOWN escorting JOHN PAGE at 1700Z/11 December for Bathurst, proceeding by following route

A. 010° 00' N. 016° 25' W.
B. 011° 22' N. 017° 23' W.
C. 013° 17' N. 017° 20' W. thence Bathurst.
S. of A. 9½ knots. E.T.A. Bathurst p.m. 13th December. ?PORTSDOWN to be sailed for Freetown as required for escorting.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2325/11 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admty.)

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

*P.35, Enemy My 1915/10th (re 2 airmen on yellow dinghy.
Dinghy. Position 0200A/11th 035° 30' 012° 00'.)
**See pp 388 389* Personnel considered hostile. Aircraft not
co-operating at 0200. Make quick search at
dawn with view to taking prisoners, then return to patrol.
(Capt S.10, 0020A/11 to P.35.)
At 0900 in approx. 035° 29' 012° 03' rescued dinghy and 2
Germans shot down by Beaufighter.
(P.35, 0955A/11 to Capt. S.10, (R) V.A. Malta.)

Enemy P.C. and S. of one merchant vessel and 2
Units. destroyers are 39.10 N. 12.32 E., 210°, 10
knots.
(A/C C/S C7H/G, 0045A/11 to Air H.Qs. Malta.)

Enemy previously reported are 4 destroyers.
(C7HK, 0120A/11 to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one merchant vessel and 2 destroyers are 39.10
N. 12.32 E.
(A/C C/S C7HX, 0138/11 to Air H.Qs. Malta.)

HURSLEY, Cancel my 2347A/10th. HURSLEY will be ready
ORION in time to accompany ORION.
(Operation (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0330A/11 to C. in C. Med. Fleet,
"Quadrangle (R) H.M. Ships PALADIN, HURWORTH, ORION, EXMOOR,
A".) S.O. Force I, N.O.I.C. Benghazi, R.A.D.F. Med.
Fleet.) *See next page*

SIRIUS. Sweep 38.25 N. 10.17 E. completed nothing to
See next page report except. (1) E-Boat sighted 35 miles
16.385 north-east Bone at 1915.
(2) Row of flares dropped round us.
(3) Enemy reported by aircraft at 2350 was Force Q.
(4) E.T.A. Algiers 1900A/11th.
(?SIRIUS, 0452A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) C.S.12, V.A. Malta,
N.O.I.C. Bone, Cdre. Algiers.)
SIRIUS's 0452/11th para. 2 and 3. Flares were dropped
and report made by Malta aircraft on Cavoli - Marittimo patrol.
No information received here of SIRIUS's sweep.
(V.A. Malta, 1717A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) C.S.12, N.O.I.C.
Bone, Cdre. Algiers, SIRIUS.)

Force Q, I am being shadowed by one enemy A/C "Crescent"
A/C attack. 295 GAR 55 100 18.
(S.O. Force Q, 0530/11 to Bone W/T.)
Am being shadowed by enemy A/C "Crescent" position
310° GAR 15 miles.
(S.O. Force Q, 0700A/11 to Algiers.)
Help "Haulum" 37.22 N. 6.26 E., 240°, 27.
(SIRIUS, 0705/11 to Algiers.)
Am being attacked by enemy A/C "Horatios" position 37° 22'
N. 6° 26' E., course 140°.
(? SIRIUS, 0705A/11 to Algiers.)
Enemy aircraft bombing.
(SIRIUS, 0710/11 to Algiers.)

/Shadowed ...

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.

Force Q, Shadowed continuously from 0030, flares being
A/C attack. dropped. Enemy homing signals heard on 355
(Contd.) k/cs. Attack by about 2 torpedo aircraft and
6 Ju.88s developed at 0652 in position 037°
(four groups missed) west, spontaneous attack
between line from Algiers (three corrupt groups) (2 incomplete
groups) I.D. One Ju.88 damaged. Fighters arrived 0720.
(C.S.12, 0845A/11 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, ?S.O.I.S.)

→ ORION, Hold ORION and "Hunts".
"Hunts". (C. in C. Med., 0924B/11 to V.A. Malta, (R)
F.O. 15th C.S.) *See previous page*

Convoy. Tact. Intend to sail at 1900A/11th SS. OCEAN
(Bougie Section VICEROY 10 knots masthead 90 R/T D/F LTS, Ballast,
K.M. 2.4) SS. BEGUM 10 knots masthead 94 no (? "R/T" omitted)
LTS, Ballast, escort SUMMERSIDE and ALBERNI S. of A. 9 knots.
Request fighter protection. Codeword "Minor". E.T.A. Algiers
daylight 12th.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1040A/11 to Com. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.S.)

"Quadrangle So as to ease strain on Malta Forces operation
C". "Quadrangle (C)" is postponed.
(C. in C. Med., 1115B/11 to All concerned
"Quadrangle (C)".)

"Quadrangle Operation "Quadrangle B". PALADIN, HURWORTH,
B". BELVOIR are to escort M.W.16 to Malta after
sending ROBERT MAERSK into Benghazi. ORION's
force will not now meet M.W.16.
(C. in C. Med., 1117B/11 to PALADIN, (R) Capt. (D) 12th, Capt.
(D) 14th, N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.C. 15th C.S., A.I.G. No.72, ORION,
DULVERTON, F.O.C. Med. F., A.O.C. Med.)

*P. 54 Following safe conduct ships on approved route
information. may be encountered.
* *See p. 382* (A) Between Gibraltar and Marseilles, Portuguese
PAULA PADUA, Swedish EMBLA.
(3) Between Gibraltar and Genoa, Swiss CALANDA GENEROSO, CABO
ORTEGAL, Portuguese SANTA IRENA.
(Capt. S.8, 1142A/11 to P. 54.)

P. 228. P.228 crosses 007° 59' E. in 038° 30' N. at
See pp 374, 382, 385, 386 0300/12th. Request onward route.
(V.A. Gib., 1201A/11 to Capt. S.10, (R) Capt. S.8,
P.228.)

/P.228 ...

MOST SECRET

~~MOST SECRET~~ ~~MESSAGE~~
 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.

To G.O.C. in C. East Africa.
 G.O.C. in C. West Africa.

Date 11.12.42

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

OZ 2186. 11th December 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

1. NORTH AFRICA.

Situation in Tunisia. In the rush forward, we have outrun present possibilities of minimum supply of immediate troop reinforcement and of reasonable air support. Our air casualties have been heavy. Our fighter aircraft were trying to support front lines from airfields 120 miles distant, while enemy had only 15 miles to fly. We did not succeed in getting into critical points ahead of Axis, because they managed to build up quicker than our lack of transport allowed us to do, and also because of senselessness of French officials in Tunisia who chose to follow Vichy instead of Darlan. During period 9th/15th November, if French forces in that area had resisted even feebly, our gamble would have won.

Because of shortage of motor transport, sidings of railway line between Constantine and forward areas had become crowded and supplies immobilized. All native labour deserts the second a bomb falls in the neighbourhood.

Counter-attacks of December 1st to 3rd set us back and caused material losses. A breathing space was needed. This started on 4th and is being used to straighten out transportation and get supplies moving to proper places. Air casualties are being replaced as much as possible, but lack of space in landing grounds and airfields puts a ceiling on support that air can give to army. Enemy has continued sharp counter-attacks since 4th, and on 6th we suffered considerable casualties and only succeeded in regaining our positions next day. When we can again gather our resources for attack, capture of Tunis will be main objective

in hope

in hope of throwing enemy back into Bizerta where his confinement will enable us to bring up additional means for the final kill. Weather is important. Bad weather would make our few airfields unusable and would facilitate Axis reinforcement by rendering our bombing operations ineffective.

Present total Axis strength in Tunisia is rated at about 31,000 troops, of which bulk are north of Sousse. Very short sea passage, supplemented by transport aircraft at night has enabled enemy to reinforce at rate of about 1,000 men per day.

Political Situation. There has naturally been a good deal of criticism in press and Parliament about the deal which Eisenhower has done with Darlan. The line which is being taken by the President and by His Majesty's Government is that whatever we have done has been done for military reasons and will not prejudice freedom of choice later. At every meeting with Darlan, General Eisenhower makes it clear that, so far as his headquarters is concerned, Darlan is head of a local de facto organisation through which we are enabled to secure co-operation for prosecution of campaign.

2. WEST AFRICA.

General Eisenhower has submitted for approval draft text of arrangement with Boisson whereby French West Africa and Togoland spontaneously adhere to Darlan and resume fight against Axis for liberation of French territory. Other matters involving, particularly release of British and Vichy internees, are under consideration.

3. JIBOUTI.

Considerable elements of Jibouti garrison have come over into British Somaliland. G.O.C. East Africa has been instructed to do his best to get colony to rally to de Gaulle if

this

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.

-3-

this can be done without severe fighting. If not, His Majesty's Government would accept the colony rallying to Darlan.

1150Z/11.

Received from Air Min. 0039/12

Air Ministry Circulation.

- Brig. Jacob.
- First Sea Lord.
- C.I.G.S.
- C.A.S.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(2)
- 4th S.L.
- C.N.A.S.
- V.C.M.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- N.A.1st S.L.
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- Duty Capt.(2)
- Hd. of M.
- D.N.I.(4)
- I.P.(3)
- D.P.D.
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake
- A.C.N.A.S.
- D.N.A.D.
- D.A.C.D.
- D. of P.(0)
- Ad. Ramsey.(4)

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

P.228, *supp 374* Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at
*P. 54. *381* 2000A/11th.
4386 (1) P.228 038° 35' N. 006° 25' E. through 038°
sup p. 381 30' N. 007° 59' E. 11 knots.
(2) P. 54 037° 50' N. 000° 21' W. through 040° 23' N. 002° 30'
E. thence 040° 8 knots.
(3) Both submarines diving by day 2-2½ knots surface speed as
stated.
(V.A. Gib., 1202A/11, 1406A/11 to S. & A. Area G.)

PETRONELLA. PETRONELLA urgently required for supplying bulk
petrol to 8th Army. Request she be despatched
to Suez immediately and E.T.A. reported. (2)
If sailing delayed for any reason request tanks be cleaned for
carrying white oils and ship armed and degaussed if not already
done. (3) Agreed G.H.Q. Middle East.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1208B/11 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D. of S.T.,
F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Enemy Following has been read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S.
Units. of one medium sized merchant vessel, 2 destroyers,
10 aeroplanes 38.03 N. 11.43 E., 250°, 11 knots.
(A/C Call Sign GKK Duty 'D', 1215A/11 to Hæl Far.)
Aircraft report at 1215A 1 merchant ship, 2 destroyers with
aircraft in 038° 03' 011° 43' course 250°, speed 14 knots.
(Capt. S.10, 1436A/11 to P. 46.)

Shipping N.A.S.A.B. 509. Following French vessels are
at Dakar. at Dakar: MEDIE 2, HOGGAR, FORT ARCHAMBAULT,
ILE DE BREHAT, ST. LOUIS, *ELMA, ARCTURUS, TOURS,
SURVILLE, GABRIEL, GUISTHAU, ARGONNE, BAMAKO, ANDRE
MOCYRAND, OUED FES. CAP LOPEZ, ROUENNAIS, FOAMALHAUT, MONTVISO,
CEPHEE, VILLE D'ORAN, *CARGO, FORT DE VAUX, GROSS, SAINT BASILE,
GRAND QUEVILLY. 24 ships, list may not be complete. Details
of Allied ships there not yet available but include Polish
OKSYWIE. You should see Dakar agreement signed 9th Dec. which
provides for return of these.
(M.W.T.R. Algiers, 1226A/11 to D. of S.T., (R) B.A.D. for
B.M.S.M.) **not in E.P.D.*

German A/C, German aircraft D A P X D arrived from Berlin
Istanbul. Dec. 10th with eight passengers and (?3,350)
gold sovereigns: left December 11th with six
passengers.
(N.S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1243C/11 to Admty., (R)
N.S.O.(I) Med.)

PETARD, Sailing PETARD, QUEEN OLGA at 0700/12th Dec. for
QUEEN OLGA. Malta S. of A. 19 knots, inshore route to H thence
sup p. 384 8 miles north of B through G.T 3 miles north of D
through C 10 miles north of F to pass through R
at 1900/14th thence at best speed to Malta. Codeword "Piker".
Aden Authorities are requested to provide fighter protection.
(C. in C. Med., 1245B/11 to N.O.I.C. Port Said, Capt. S.10 S/F,
Capt. S.1 S/F, F.O.C.R.S.F., Capt. D. 12th D/F, Spares for Med.
Fleet, (R) Com. (D), V.A. Malta, F.O.C. 15 C.S., A.O.C. Med.,
Capt. D 4th D/F.)
/Air ...

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air R/C. Visuals Dec. 11th.
 (1) Taranto 3 battleships.
 (2) Naples 3 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 13 merchant
 ships, 3 tankers, one large liner.
 (3) Messina 3 cruisers.
 (V.A. Malta, 1340A/11 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

P. 217. Onward route through 038° 40' 008° 00' E. at
 2359/12th 038° 01' 003° 18' E. at 0545/14th
 thence on surface at your discretion to R/V
 escort in 037° (?) 01' 003° 18' E. at 1100/14th for onward
 escort to Algiers.

Total bombing restrictions arranged daylight 14th.
 (Capt. S.8, 1522A/11 to P.217, (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S., Capt.
 S.10, Cdre. Algiers, S/Ms on Patrol.)

Your onward route to Algiers unless amended by S.8.

(a) 38.01 N. 04.59 E. at 2300/13th.
 (b) 37.05 N. 03.16 E. at 0800/14th to R/V with escort.

2. Proceed on surface on day of arrival at your discretion,
 bombing restrictions arranged accordingly.

3. All times zone 1.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1602A/11 to P.217, (R) S/Ms on Patrol,
 S.8, Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.)

CASABIANCA. French S/M CASABIANCA sailed from Algiers 1930/
 Patrol. 11th routed through position (A) 038° 00' N.
See p. 385 003° 10' E. thence position (B) 039° 28' N. 006°
 04' E. thence 030° to point (C) 042° 04' N. 008° 02' E.
 CASABIANCA will proceed diving by day speed 2½ knots and on
 surface by night speed 11½ knots, returning by reverse of
 outward route. You will be informed by N.C.X.F. of expected
 date of return. CASABIANCA will time her passage to arrive 30
 miles (? north) of Algiers at 0730A and proceed thence on surface
 flying large (? French) ensign at masthead. Bombing restrictions
 are being enforced accordingly. Submerged identifying grenade
 red smoke will be used only in event of contact with own surface
 vessels by day. Night (? identifying) by flashing F B C B.

(N.C.X.F., 1622A/11 to S. & A. in Area G, (R) Eastern Air
 Command, A.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Friendly F.S. CASABIANCA left Algiers 1930 today Friday
 proceeding diving by day through 038° 01' 003° 10' E., 039° 28'
 006° 04' thence 030° patrol vicinity 042° 04' 008° 02' surface
 speed 11½ knots. Submerged identification red smoke candle by
 day and flash F B C B by night.

(Capt. S.8, 2228A/11 to 8 S.F.)

P. 44. P.44 sailed 1300A/11th for patrol in vicinity of
See p. 386 037° 32' 010° 38'. P.46 may pass through her
 area as required to for making landfall.
 (Capt. S.10, 1709A/11 to Subs. on Patrol, (R)
 N.C.X.F., Capt. S.8, C.S.15, ORION.)

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE,
VOLENDAM.LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and VOLENDAM sailed 1400/11.
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE has embarked (numbers). Also
19 tons of baggage for Algiers.
(D.S.T.O. Bone, 1710A/11 to D.S.T.)Navarino
R/C.P.M. R/C Navarino, only one medium merchant ship
and small craft present.
(V.A. Malta, 1731A/11 to Cdre. Algiers, C.S.12,
C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S., (R) S.O. Force
H, V.A. Gibraltar, Admty.)

Movements.

11th Dec., Port Said, arrivals PAKENHAM, Greek
Destroyer*BASILISSA OLGA, TETCOTT, PETARD,
ANTWERP. Departures GLOXINIA, PAKENHAM, ANTWERP
M.L. 348.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1740B/11 to Admty., etc.)
**Also QUEEN OLGA - See p.362.*VELOX,
expected
E/B attack.E-Boat attack on Bone is expected tonight.
Delay your advance to arrive off Philippeville
dawn Bone 1300A/12th. Fighter protection between
Philippeville and Bone arranged. N.C.X.F. pass
to A.O.C. Eastern Air Command.
(N.O.I.C. Bone, 1758A/11 to VELOX, (R) N.C.X.F.,
N.O.I.C. Philippeville, Cdre. Algiers, A.O.C.
Eastern Air Command.)Malta
Supplies.The unloading of convoys M.W. 13 and 14 has now
been completed. Following is estimated stock
position:-

- (a) Flour - mid May.
- (b) Benzine and kerosene - mid April. This allows for extra
consumption of benzine for unloading convoys, extra R.A.F.
requirements, and some increase in current consumption for
essential works and training which have had recently to be
drastically curtailed.
- (c) Coal - about end February, but difficult to estimate in
view of the poor quality received in last two convoys.
- (d) Foodstuffs other than flour - end March or later, except in
case of preserved meat (early March) and milk (mid March).
- (e) Fodder - mid April.
2. Stocks of fuel on 8th Dec. were:-
- (a) Furnace oil - Admiralty grade 8000 tons. Commercial grade
3000 tons.
- (b) Diesel - Admiralty grade 1768 tons. Commercial grade 3683
(or 3653)? tons.
- (c) Aviation spirit - Approximately 7000 tons. No estimate
given, as expenditure will depend on increasing scale of R.N.
and R.A.F. operations.
3. In view of improved position, I have made some essential small
increases in present scale of siege rations, and the above
approximate dates take account of these increases. The increases
so far made are a first step, and I am hoping to be in a position
to make certain further ration increases shortly.
4. I will report again when "Quadrangle" is unloaded.
(Govr. Malta, T.O.O. 1800Z/11 to Chiefs of Staff etc.)

/Your ...

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - cont'd.

Malta
Supplies.
(Contd.) Your 1737/10.
(1) (A) OZARDA and AMERICAN PACKER arrived Malta 11th. CLAN MACINDOE and ERINNA due on 14th. OCEAN VOYAGER, FORT TADOUSSAC, DANIEL H. LONSDALE and YORBA LINDA are loaded and waiting to sail Egyptian ports.
(C. in C. Med., 1801B/11 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A.M., P.S.T.O.P.G.)

P.247,
P.212. At 2000A/11th proceed course 250° with all despatch, orders follow.
(Capt. S.10, 1805/11 to P.247, P.212, (R) S/M on Patrol.)

Marittimo
- Cavoli
Patrol. A.O. Commanding intends to withdraw Marittimo - Cavoli dawn to dusk patrol for the present, as it has been compromised, and the enemy has standing fighter patrols in the area.
(V.A. Malta, 1836A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers, F.O. 12th C.S.)

Air R/C. Intended R/C Saturday Dec. 12th a.m. and p.m. P.R.U. Naples, Taranto, Messina.
(V.A. Malta, 1845A/11 to N.C.X.F.)

Movements,
Algiers. Algiers arrival *SIRIUS, *DIDO, *ASHANTI, *TARTAR, Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE also French trawler GOELAND. Departure Thursday, ANTELOPE, BOREAS, ** ? ARMERIA, M/V to Bougie. Friday. (? BRIXHAM), POLRUAN, ACUTE to Oran. French Trawler GOELAND to Cape Temez. French S/M CASABIANCA on operations. (Cdre. Algiers, 1924A/11 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S.)
*** Sup p. 420 ARMERIA in S.A. S/W. * Sup p. 380 1381*

PARTHIAN Regret forced to abandon patrol due to water in defect. telemotor system, Y Kingston valve suspected. Expect me off searched channel at daylight 12th Dec.
(PARTHIAN, 1939A/11 to Capt. S.10, V.A. Malta, (R) S/Ms on Patrol.)

Your 1939/11th acknowledged. Do not approach within 20 miles of Malta before 0400A/12th when sanctuary is in force. R/V with sweeper at end of searched channel at 1048A/12th keeping South of line 230° from end of searched channel, P.37 making same R/V will keep north of this line.
(Capt. S.10, 2319A/11 to PARTHIAN, (R) V.A. Malta, S/Ms on Patrol.)

P.228. Your onward route through 038° 30' 009° 40', further orders follow.
See pp 374, 381
1382
also next page
(Capt. S.10, 1945A/11 to P.228, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Capt. S.8, N.C.X.F., S/Ms on Patrol.)

/Orders ...

386

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Orders
to S/Ms.

Following movements are to take place at times given.

At 2100A/11th P.222 to 40.20, 14.01. P.247,
*P.212 through 39.18, 12.20 to 37.17, 10.33 and
37.27, 10.42 respectively.

*P.228 as routed then through 37.58, 11.26 to 37.39, 10.49.

sup. 383 P.44 as routed to 37.09, 10.33. At 2200A/12th TIGRIS to Algiers routed as in my 1357/10th to P.217, position 3 at 0105A/15th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. RORQUAL direct to patrol vicinity 040° 38' 013° 49'. P.46 direct to 037° 00' 010° 27'. It is important that the 5 submarines in the approaches to Tunis shall be in position at dawn 13th and *P.212, *P.228 and *P.247 are to proceed on the surface by day at C.O.'s discretion in order to achieve this if found possible.

(Capt. S.10, 1950A/11 to S/Ms on Patrol, (R) N.C.X.F., C.S.12, Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8.) * *See previous page** *See pp 374, 381, 382.*

Tunis

J.S.M. 552 11th Dec. 1942.

Situation.

Following in text of telegram No. 1467 (NAF 38) from Algiers. From Freedom Algiers. To Abfor, London, Agwar. (Begins). The attack on

Bizerta and Tunis has had to be postponed temporarily because recent fighting has hindered the build-up of resources as explained in Review No. 23.

Review No. 24. (NAF 38). From Eisenhower to C.C.S. Clark left by car this morning to visit Anderson. On his return will send you full report. During the course of the next few days Giraud proposes to move French forces forward to occupy high ground Maknasny - Faïd - Pichon - Du Mansour (15 miles S.W. Points du Fahs) in order to control the exits from the coastal plain in Sfax Sousse areas. (Ends).

(J.S.M., 2005Z/11 to War Cabinet Offices.)

URSULA,

intelligence. URSULA coast crawled with impunity from Levant to Savona stirring up trouble at Alassio, Maurizio and Lorenzo. Shipping passes ½ mile off coast.

Coast watch very inefficient innocuous A/S patrol of 2 schooners and an armed tug is in operation daily between San Remo and Savona. Battery at Cape Berta now awake but inaccurate.

(Capt. S.8, 2030A/11 to P. 54.)

Patrol
area.

Patrol area W N from midnight until dawn December 12th.

(V.A. Malta, 2101A/11 to N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S., C.S.12, Cdre. Algiers.)

/Malta ...

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta Air
Report.A.I.168, 11th Dec. C.S.R.
Night 10th/11th.

No enemy air activity locally. 1 Beaufighter carried out intruder patrol over south-east Sicily to cover arrival of convoy but saw no enemy aircraft.

Day 11th Dec. 15 Beaufighter sorties and 14 Spitfire sorties have been flown on offensive sweeps against enemy transit aircraft and shipping. 32 Ju.52s with escort of Me.110s and Ju.88s on northerly course in position 180° Lampione 35 miles Spitfires destroyed 4 Me.110s, 1 Ju.88 and 2 Ju.52s probably destroyed 1 Ju.52 and damaged 2 Ju.52s. Beaufighters destroyed 6 Ju.52s and damaged 3 Ju.52s. 1 Beaufighter later attacked 30 southbound Ju.52s in position 180° Lampedusa 20 miles and damaged 1 of them. 1 Beaufighter is missing. 1040 4 Spitfire bombers with 4 Spitfires as close escort despatched to attack Comiso Aerodrome dropped 8 250 lb. bombs from 17000 feet scoring hits on landing field, 2 Spitfires provided high cover for returning bombers. 25 Spitfires carried out protective patrols over shipping.

10th December. 7 Spitfire photo reccos. 9 Baltimore reccos. photos aerodromes Naples Capodichino 11 Cant. Z.1007s., 14 SM.79s or 84s., 9 CA.310s or 311s., 50 REFB, 2 Ju.52s., 3 Me.323s., 1 Ju.86, 5 SM.81s., 1 CA.133, 3 FI.156s., 9 Breda 88s., 5 unidentified twin engined 33 monoplane aircraft, 17 unclassified aircraft. Acerra 1 He.111, 2 Ju.88, 13 Ju.52, 2 Me.110, 13 medium unclassified aircraft. Harbours. Taranto no change. Messina since 9th December 8-inch cruisers. Trieste and Gorizia 4 D/Rs, 2 T/Bs have departed since 8th December. 1 M/V 3/4000 tons, 1 M/V 1/2000 tons flying a balloon, 1 M/V 4/5000 tons have departed. 1 M/V 4/5000 tons, 1 M/V 4000 tons, 1 M/V 1000 tons have arrived. 1 6-inch C/R has changed her berth. Naples photos show that funnel of 1 6-inch C/R has been removed as result of damage received in Liberator raid 4th December, much activity is visible on the quays where 7 M/Vs are being loaded another M/V 6/7000 tons with deck cargo of M/T is seen flying a balloon and ready to sail. 4 Siebel ferries also carry deck cargo and more of these craft are being assembled alongside a quay in the eastern part of the harbour. Since 9th December 4 D/Rs, 1 M/V 5000, 1 M/V 4/5000 tons have arrived Palermo, much activity visible on quays. 1 M/V 4/5000 tons, 1 M/V 3/4000, 1 M/V 2/3000 loading. 1 M/V 4000 and 2 M/V 1/2000 already carry deck cargo of M/T and 2 Siebel ferries are loaded with M/T. Since 6th Dec. 1 liner 5000, 1 M/V 4000, 1 M/V 1/2000, 2 Garigliano landing craft, 1 D/R have departed 1 T/B 4 Freddie boats, 2 Siebel ferries, 1 M/V 4/5000, 1 M/V 3/4000, 1 M/V 2/3000 have arrived. Visuals only Taranto airplane base thirty seaplane present. Tunis El Aouina Aerodrome 12 Ju.88 and 15 smaller aircraft seen harbours Sousse 1 small M/V. Tunis 2 M/V 1000. La Goulette 3 M/V 2/3000. Visuals shipping at sea. 1321 270° Reggio 2 miles 1 M/V 4000, 1 small escort vessel passing through Straits of Messina on a southerly course. 1326 270° Capo di Milazzo 3 miles 1 M/V 3000, 1 small escort vessel course 090° speed 5 knots. 1418 340° Procida 2 miles 1 M/V 5000 course 290° speed 5 knots.

Night 10th/11th Dec. 1 special Wellington on shipping R/C patrolled from Cavoli to Marittimo. Wellington sighted at 2245 150° Carbonara 50 miles 4 D/Rs course 230° speed 22 knots.

/Three ...

388

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.Malta Air
Report.
(Contd.) /

Three special Wellington 8s., one carrying flares, and two carrying torpedoes, despatched to attack enemy shipping north of Palermo found at 0050 353° Cape San Vito 56 miles one M/V 3/4000 and two D/Rs course 180° speed 12 knots, one Wellington attacked M/V with torpedo contact only depth setting nine feet dropped from 60 feet, range 300 yards. Results were not observed but M/V was no longer visible 50 minutes after attack although D/Rs could still be seen. Second torpedo carrying Wellington therefore brought torpedo back. 15 Wellingtons were despatched to bomb Tunis docks. From 1910 - 2235 seven Wellingtons dropped 24 500 lb. G.P. bombs and 32 250 lb. G.P. bombs from 900 - 6000 feet, scoring hits across the canal entrance and near a D/R and possible light cruiser. The D/R was seen to emit white smoke after the attack. Other bombs started fire on Island at entrance to canal. Remaining eight Wellingtons were unable to locate target owing to very adverse weather conditions and much low cloud. Some light flak was encountered and night fighters showing amber nose lights were again observed over target area.

1620 one Swordfish and one Albacore patrolled Malta Channel to locate any E-Boats attempting to attack convoy arriving from East but made no sightings.

Naval activity. Night 9th/10th December. One of our submarines sank an enemy southbound transport 200 tons off Hammamet. Night 10th/11th December convoy of two M/Vs escorted by one C/R and four D/Rs arrived safely from Eastern Mediterranean at 1800 hours. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2119/11.)

Situation Report No. 302. Western Desert. Benghazi. Total discharge of cargo on 10th Dec. was over 2000 tons. Enemy air activity slight. To relieve road transport stores will be landed through Gulf of Sirte beaches if weather permits. Advanced M.T.B. base at Benghazi 9th December.

2. Submarines. *P.35 reports 1930/2nd Dec. in position 35° 28' N. 11° 21' E. gunned and sank Italian SS. SACRO CUORE, taking 10 German prisoners. *See pp 380+389
3. P.45 at 0930/3rd Dec. in position 37° 09' N. 10° 29' E. gunned 75 ton schooner but action broken off due patrols.
4. Malta. Night 8th/9th Dec. JERVIS, KELVIN and NUBIAN carried out sweep off Gulf of Gabes but met nothing. Unloading of "Portcullis" merchant ships completed 2359/10th Nov. (? Dec. intended). 28,500 (28,700) tons. "Quadrangle A" AMERICAN PACKER and OZARDA arrived 2230/10th December without incident.
5. Greek submarines. My 1654/2nd Dec. first paragraph. Information received (reliability unknown) that 32 survivors from TRITON are in solitary confinement at Piraeus including C.O. 24 missing. (Confirmed, C. Chet. 2035B/29 Jan 1943)
6. Operation M.H. 2. 8 empty merchant ships and tanker YORBA LINDA have arrived Port Said and Alexandria respectively. Air attack slight and no damage to convoy or escort but one Officer killed in DULVERTON. (DULVERTON's 1232/10th Dec. refers). (C. in C. Med., 2135B/11 to Admty.)

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.W. 15. Total unloaded to 1700/11th 1885 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 2227A/11 to C. in C. Med.)

P. 35. My 1309/6th (N.T. in W.R.) Be in ordered
~~See pp 380 9388~~ position at dawn tomorrow 12th. Southbound
coastal traffic more important than sailings.
Withdraw after dark. Do not approach within three miles of
entrance, aircraft minelaying tonight.
(Capt. S.10, 2314A/11 to P.35, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Enemy A/C. Following received. Enemy aircraft dropped
flares position 274 37.14 N. 5.753 E. 2342A/11.
(Malpaque, 2357/11.)

MOST SECRET

hex.
389A

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 2230Z/10 Dec.

CVT

Date - 10.12.42

From - Air Ministry.

CYPHER

To - Commanders in Chief, Middle East.

M.N.B.D.O. 2

OZ. 2134 10th December 1942.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No (M.E) 336
Reference C.O.S.(M.E) 329.

1. M.N.B.D.O.2 will be included in W.S.26.
2. W.S.26 is only opportunity in sight in which despatch M.N.B.D.O.2 would interfere least seriously with requirements overseas theatres. Capacity taken up will be borne proportionately between all three Services, out of total capacity of convoy. Within this, Middle East must bear appropriate quota as impossible to make special additional provision of shipping.
3. Intention is to spread shipment of M.N.B.D.O. vehicles and equipment over period of about two months, but this will depend upon degree of priority allotted by you. You will be informed of full details, equipment and vehicles in order to obtain your agreement to best method of arranging spread-over which will cause least interference with your minimum monthly stores shipment programme.
4. If M.N.B.D.O. is required for operations before all its vehicles have arrived, deficiencies should be made up from Middle East stocks and replaced by M.N.B.D.O. vehicles as they arrive.
5. Seventh R.M. Battalion is allotted to M.N.B.D.O.2 Eleventh R.M. battalion will accompany M.N.B.D.O. One concentrating in Indian Ocean. Admiralty will keep these two battalions up to strength.
6. No additional R.M. battalions can be provided for offensive operations. You should, therefore, find personnel from your own resources for any striking force you may wish to form.

2230Z/10

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)

2nd S.L.

D.F.S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S.(W)

P.A.S(S)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H) (2)

D.O.D.(F) (2)

Recd. in War Reg. 09.35/11
Air Ministry Circulation

Brig. Jacob

A.M.C.S(C)

C.6 Tols W/O

War Reg. Admin

Foreign Secretary C.C.O.

D.N.I. (4)

D. of P (2)

Duty Capt.

D.D.I.C. (2)

D. of P (Q)

Hd. of M (2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

Ad. Blake

D. of L.D.

A.G.R.M.

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

BENGAL Admiralty 1347A/9 (War Reg. signal requesting repetition of 1350Z/20 Nov. previously received undecypherable).
 identity of raiders Following is a repetition of my 1350Z/20th Nov. (begins). F.O. Ceylon (R) A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty. from C. in C. E.F. BENGAL's 1413/18 and Cdre. Western Australia's 0345/18th. Consider that these ships may well have been 2 of
 11 Nov. AIKOKU^{MARU}, HOKOKU^{MARU}, or SEICHO MARU believed by C. in C. (?U.S.) Pacific to be operating in Indies area or (?Indian Ocean).
 T.O.O. 1350Z/20th Nov. (ends).
 (C. in C. E.F., 0612Z/11).

Raider situation No. 20. (1) Raider number 28. considered to be "H" REYNOLDS overdue Delhi since 20th Nov. from Capetown considered U-boat victim. No further information of raider "E" "J" or Japanese.
 (2) As PIETRO ORSEOLO departed Biscay about 2nd Oct. considered more probable proceeded Japan and not Europe from Batavia. ANTARKTIS superstructure identified at Ferrol 7th. KOTA NOPAN outbound could by now be in Indian Ocean or Pacific Ocean. My 1706/10 should be 39 C.
 (C. in C. E.F., 0732Z/11 to S. and A. E.I. Stn. F.L.O. Delhi).

H.M.S. IRONCLAD. Immediately on receipt of this signal you are to re-christen IRONCLAD as GENERAL FOCH.
 2. The name IRONCLAD is to be given to any other craft which may even be a motor boat.
 3. Report action taken.
 (C. in C. E.F., 0806Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez (R) N.O.I.C., E.A., Admty).

DAUNTLESS *See next page* DAUNTLESS sailed^{for} Durban a.m. Friday 11th Dec. routed through A 010° S., 041° 45' E. B. 015° 25' 041° 30' C. 026° 38' 033° 30'.
 Estimated S. of A. 15 knots E.T.A. 0500Z/16.
 2. Request she be sailed onward for Simonstown so as to arrive 18th Dec.
 3. Her endurance is much reduced. She burns 160 tons a day at 16 knots.
 (C. in C. E.F., 0814Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Durban (R) C. in C. S.A.S. DAUNTLESS, Capt. Supt. Simonstown).

S.U.5 Convoy sailing telegram. Escort KANIMBLA. *See next page*
 (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 1115Z/11 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F. etc).

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

Air Report. (A) Dec. 10 1500 FG? hours, Chittagong raided. First wave 6 plus Army 97 HB low level, second wave 6 at 2,000 feet, third 12 plus at 12,000 feet. Umbrella cover by twenty Army O1 S/E fighters. 24 bombs slightly damaged railway siding and docks. Third wave intercepted by Hurricanes. Losses enemy 3, ours 3, 2 pilots ?safe. 1 wounded Jap pilot captured alive.
(A.H.Q. India, 1152Z/11).
Part 2 of my INT 201 11 Dec. U.S.A.A.F. report. Oil ship sunk U.S.A. Haiphong raid Nov. 22 was TENGHAI 10,000 tons proceeding Saigon cargo cement.
(A.H.Q., India, 1303Z/11).

MAURITIUS Arrived a.m. left p.m.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 1200Z/11 to Admty etc).

DAUNTLESS *Kilindini*
Departure 11th Dec.
See previous page (F.O.E.A., 1217/11 to Admty).

DURBAN My 1755/8 and 0128/9. Outer ?bottom has been examined throughout length by divers. Minor corrugations and a number of rivets missing and loose are reported between 55 and 115 stations inside bilge keels and 1 split maximum opening 4 inches from 87 to 89 stations near Garboard Strake. Propellers rudder and Asdic undamaged, general structural strength (?apparently) unimpaired.
(2) Oil fuel tanks 3 4 and 6 starboard and no 5 centre line flooded and under pressure.
(3) Split in ship's bottom will be wedged by divers and rivet holes plugged, but ship must be docked to make good damage in oil fuel tanks and reserve feed tanks.
(4) Intend to sail DURBAN for docking and repairs at Bombay leaving Kilindini about 18th Dec.
(5) Will D.S.R. confirm she can be accepted, earliest date of arrival 29th Dec.
(C. in C. E.F., 1320Z/11 to Admty. (R) D.S.R. Bombay, C.S.4, Com R.I.N.)

Movements Colombo departure 11th Dec. 0545Z. *KANIMBLA 0930Z, ASTER 0945Z, GAMBIA.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 1420Z/11 to Admty etc).

Transport of S. African Troops. Your 1020/10. Para. 2. approved. G.H.Q. Middle East pass to M.O.V. 80 Area.
(C. in C. E.F., 1507Z/11 to P.S.T.O. Middle East, (R) F.O.R.S.F., G.H.Q. Middle East, Admty. C. in C. S.A. M.O.V. 80, Area D.S.T.O. Suez).
**See previous page (S.O.5)*

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

MODASA
U/B attack.

Following has been read: SSSS 14.15 N., 80.28 E.
MODASA torpedo missed.
(Colombo W/T, 1710Z/11).
MODASA missed by torpedo in 014° 15' N., 080° 28'
E. at approx. 1700Z/11th.
(C. in C. E.F., 1756Z/11 to S. and A. E.I.Stn.
(R) Admty).

War Diary.

11.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Dispositions. My 1715Z/10th. Section S.W. Amend 1 U.S. destroyer with S.51, S.56, 2 U.S. destroyers, with S.55, S.54 to read U.S. Ship ^{BIBB} U.S. Destroyer SIMPSON U.S. Destroyer MACLEISH vicinity 41.15 N. 65.01 W. patrolling, R/V not affected.
(C.O.A.C. 0205Z/11 G.B.7.A.) *See p. 395B*

Amendment of "Chop." Pass to Admiralty for information Your 1003Z/9th "Chop" was established as the predicted time of passage of boundary line separating the areas of operational control. This was for purpose reducing confusion and excess communications attendant to method wherein "Chop" was based on actual passage this boundary. Consider that amending of "Chop" to conform to convoys exact advance would serve no worthwhile purpose since all appropriate authorities are now informed in advance of an exact date and time of shift of operational control.
(C.T.F. 0211Z/11 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.).

NEWCASTLE. Bermuda arrival NEWCASTLE and sailed in accordance with my 1649Z/10th Dec. Latest QZ. Message held H.974, L.52, S.388, X.885, Y.366. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 0219Z/11 to Admty (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, V.A.Gib. C. in C. W.A. S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, C. in C. Plymouth, A.D. Washington, N.S.H.Q.)

1. Leave Bermuda at 2200Z/10th. December passing through following positions:-

- l.034. 10.N. 051. 40.W.
- m.034. 55.N.039. 40.W.
- n.044. 10.N.034. 35.W.
- o.051. 30.N.029. 20.W.
- p.051. 10.N.017. 05.W.
- q.049. 45.N.006. 28.W.

2. Speed on passage 18 knots en route from (l)? adjusted to pass through position (q) at 1100Z/18th December.

3. E.T.A. Plymouth 1600Z/18th December.

4. Communications as for 2 line ships in area E.(?are not) stabilised until 1800Z/13th thereafter as for 2 lines ships in area B.

(S.B.N.O.W.A. 1649Z/10 to NEWCASTLE, (R) F.O.C.Gib.Force. Admty, C. in C.W.A. F.O.S. B.A.D. Connav, N.S.H.Q., N.O.B Bermuda, C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.). SO.(I) Kingston).

CYPRESS. Departure Vieuxfort 10th U.S.Coastguard cutter CYPRESS.
(B.R.O. St.Lucia 0914Q/11 to Admty).

Movement Summary. 1800 G.M.T. 11th December.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
ENTERPRISE.	40° N.40.W.	Searching	Blank.
S/M K.14.	38½° N, 74½° W.	308°	9.
Tanker	} 09½° S, 33½° W.	} 273°	} 9½.
Convoy			
MILFORD.)			

See next page p. 395
See p. 395

394

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements Summary Contd.	Ship.	Position.	Course,	Speed.
	CORINTHIAN.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° S, 34 $\frac{1}{8}$ ° W.	244°	11 $\frac{1}{2}$.
	A.T.30.	40° N. 35° W.	054°	26 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(D.O.D.(F) 1005Z/11 to Opnav (R) Comnavu).

U/B. Positions. S/M Estimate December 11th and U.S.S/M Notice. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 1515/11, 1516/11, 1549/11, 1550/11, 1551/11).

CORNWALLIS, Barbados. Expected date of completion repair of CORNWALLIS British Ship 15th December. Request escort be sent. Commandant N.O.B.Trinidad is requested to furnish routing instructions for vessels proceeding Jamaica except U.S. Salvage Steamer KILLERIG. (Harbour Master Barbados 1531/11 to Navy Dept. Washington C.S.F.San Juan (R) Admty S.B.N.O.W.A.British S.B.O.Trinidad for N.O.B. Trinidad S.O.(I) Jamaica).

T.A.G.28. Departure U.S.Destroyer LEA ?U.S.Dest.UPSHUR, U.S.Ships P.C.469,495,575, escorting T. A. G.28 (slow) (N.O.I.C.Trinidad (P. of S.) 15420/11 to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty, S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica)

ENTERPRISE. My 2216/10. If necessary to proceed to the (search for U.K. your route is through. CERAMIC etc). 45° N. 28, W. 50° N. 25° W. 54° N. 13° W. *See previous page* thence as routed by C. in C.W.A. to Clyde. *(Movement Summary)* (D.O.D.(H) 1639A/11 to ENTERPRISE). *p.392* Ref.Admty 2216A/10th, (?Abandoned) search in 040.35 N. 056.10 E. Portuguese Destroyer DAO forced to return before reaching area. (?Full) gale. (?Am) hove to. Will proceed Greenock when weather permits. Uncoded weather report. (ENTERPRISE 1702Z/11 to Admty (R) V.A.Gib. F.O.N.F., C. in C.W.A.).

Tanker Convoy for "Torch" Area. My 2201/9. As an alternative suggestion if destroyers are required to return to U.K.direct could they escort a portion of ships mentioned in W.O. Q.(M) 2 number 85529 of 10th December? WITCH should complete her refit about that time and might be added.
2. U.S.Navy have no escorts available for this proposed movement.
3. B.A.S. request you pass to Movements, War Office.
(B.A. D. 1707Z/11 to Admty).

/U.G.F.3..

395

11.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.G.F.3. Sailing telegram part 1.
 1. 12.6. knots.
 2. 2200Z/13th.
 3. None.
 4. C.T.F.35. U.S.Cruiser PHILADELPHIA,
 U.S.Battleship NEW YORK, D/Ds PARKER, MERVINE, QUICK, BEATTY,
 COWIE, KNIGHT, DORAN, EARLE.
 5. SUSAN B. ANTHONY. (?21) ships.
 C.E.S.F. pass to C.O.A.C. Delivered by hand to C.T.F.35.
 (Port Director New York 1710/11 to Connav, (R) Admty, Cominch,
 Cinclant etc).

Troops and Cargo Vessels for India. In order to hasten work on road construction before start of rainy season U.S. authorities are contemplating sending about 6 cargo vessels via Pacific and Australia to India sailing from here independently throughout January.
 2. In view of difficulties of rail transport of necessary material across India they would prefer ships' destination to be Calcutta rather than Bombay. Is this practicable and would ships be in convoy from Ceylon onwards?
 3. U.S. War Dept. state success of operation depends on early arrival of this valuable material.
 4. U.S.S. MONTICELLO carrying 6,000 troops for this operation will leave San Francisco about 15th January for India. Length 652 feet draught 27 feet speed 18 knots endurance 8300 miles. Could she also be accepted in Hoogli River.
 (B.A.D. 1711Z/11 to C. in C.E.F. (R) D.C. in C.E.F. Admty, N.B. Wellington, N.B. Melbourne).

Sailing of "Queens." My 1745/19th November. Your 1747/3 para.2. to Cominch C. and R. and 2040/10 to C.O.A.C. Cominch C. & R. promulgates routes of "Queens" three days before sailing. To avoid subsequent alterations, they request you signal exact position and time of R/V four days before ships are due to sail.
 (B.A.D. 1747Z/11 to Admty).

U/B. ENTERPRISE. *See pp 393 394* By D/F on 11,068 K/Cs at 1243/11 G.M.T. U/Boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 38.00 N, 41.30 W.
 (D.D.I.C. 1753A/11 to ENTERPRISE, (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.).

U/B. MILFORD. *See p. 393* U/Boat estimated in your vicinity made sighting report of convoy or important unit at 1858Z/11th. 12260.
 (Cominch 1915/11 to MILFORD).

Fast Convoy from N. Africa. Admiralty 2105A/10th. Onward route from position
 (l). 35° N. 40° W. to
 (m). 36.58 N. 50.20 W.
 (n). 38.01 N. 62.02 W.
 (o). 38.01 N. 70.05 W.
 thence to destination. Stragglers route as above lettered W. to Z.
 (Connav, 1934/11 to S.N.O. Casablanca, Cinclant, C.E.S.F. Admty N.O.B. Bermuda).
 /Tunis....

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.

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

1720Z/11th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date 12.12.42.

Recd. 0125.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY CABLE

Addressed G.B.7A.

IMMEDIATE

Section South West O N 149 Western Local Escort
T.U.24.18.1 39 50 68 20 270 degs. 9

O N 148 Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.7 (E) 41 37 64
47 224 degs. 7 altering to 270 degs. in 67 00 West

Halifax portion O N 148 Western Local Escort T.U.24.18.4
vicinity of 43 16 63 38 en route for Halifax speed 7.5

F.H.21, NIPIGON, departing St. John N.B. 1900Z/11th speed 7

MEADOWSWEET, 42 24 69 40 en route for Halifax 14

Cape Cod convoy, HEPATICA, 44 00 63 54 226 degs. 9
altering to 260 degs. in 65 37 West

LORD KELVIN screened by BUTTERMERE

WASTWATER repairing cable in 44 49 59 50

One U.S. Destroyer escorting U.S.S.R. S/Ms S 51 and S 56
on the surface 42 57 64 10 021 degs. 12 en route for Halifax

2 U.S. Destroyers escorting U.S.S.R. submarines S 54 and
S 55 on surface 42 23 64 27 021 degs. 12 en route Halifax

U.S. COASTGUARD, ^{Vessel} 3070 adrift and disabled vicinity 41 38
North 61 00 West.

ARCLIGHT, Panamanian, 43 00 67 00 249 degs. 6

FELLOWCRAFT, U.S., 44 00 68 20 236 degs. 5 knots

PASADENA, British, 44 32 62 36 coastwise to Gloucester
(Mass.) speed 8.

1720Z/11

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

A.C.N.S. (T).
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 Capt. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A/S.W.
Hd. of M.
W.D.

I.P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
D.N.I. (4)
D.M.S.
D.T.D. (3)
Sec. to W/T Board
D.T.D. (C)

D.S.D.
U.S.N.

*amended
see
1938/11
next page*

MOST SECRET

3958

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 Messages shown as having been sent on a One-Time Pad: IN
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) 1938Z/11th December

From C.O.A.C. Halifax. Date 12.12.42.
Time 0430

Naval Cypher 3(3) by Cable.

Addressed Admiralty

IMPORTANT

U.S.S. ^{cc. 102} BIBB, MACLEISH, SIMPSON, escorting U.S.S.R. S/Ms
S. 51 and S. 56 on surface 042 deg 11' 064 deg 50' 024 deg
11 on route Halifax. *See p. 393.*

Delete reference to U.S.S.R. S/Ms S54 and S.55.

1938Z/11.

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

A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt Pim.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.D.O.D.(M)
Duty Capt (2)
D. of Plans (2)
D.A/S.W.
Hd of M.
W.D.
I.P.(2)
D.T.D.(M)
D.N.I. (4)
D.M.S.
D.T.D.(3)
Sec. to W/T Board.
D.T.D.(C)
D.S.D.
U.S.N.
D.D.I.C.(2)

maf.

396

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Tunis
Situation.

J.S.M. 552, 2005Z/11 See Mediterranean.

U.G.S.
Convoys.

JSM.555 11th December.

Following is text of telegram 1456 from Algiers (begins) to Agwar from Freedom Algiers.

Patton's request for delays in sailing of U.G.S. convoys by three days not considered advisable. Request U.G.S. 3. sail 11th December as scheduled. Signed Eisenhower(Ends) (J.S.M. 2009Z/11 to War Cabinet, Offices, London).

S/M attack
and
sighting
summary.

Para.D. Shore Watchers sight suspected S/M alongside SS. MARQUES DE COMILLAS 22.58 N. 85.26 W. 1610Z to 1740Z/9. (Cominch 2115/11 to Admtly (R) N.S.H.Q.).

Convoy.
Dates.

Cominch(C and R.) 1451/22 Nov. B.R.N. 5 sails Rio 19 December. Recife to Trinidad convoy sails 15th December. (B.A.D. 2115Z/11 to Admtly).

ATTACKER.

Your 2255Z/30th Nov. Intend shifting to Balboa F broadcast at 1200Z/18th December. (ATTACKER, 2125Z/11 to B.A.D.Washington (R) Admtly, S.B.N.O.W.A., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, Comwestseafron, Companamaseafron.)

U/B.
Assessment.

Your 2124A/8/11. All reports of attacks on U/Bs. received in N.S.H.Q. from R.C.A.F. provisional assessment committee subsequently to your 1810Z/1/8 have been forwarded to Cominch whose assessments have not yet been received. In future reports will be forwarded by A.F.H.S. direct to A.M.C.S. for Cominch, copies being sent to N.S.H.Q. and Admtly for information. (N.S.H.Q. 2130Z/11 to Admtly).

W.L.E.F.
Strength.N.S.H.Q. 1636/10 has resulted in following reaction in Navy Dept. Whilst they have always desired to release the 6 Canadian Corvettes to do so now would result in weakening E.S.F. escorts to such an extent that it would not be possible to continue with GN-NG convoys. These, unlike the Western Local Convoys, are run mainly outside routine air coverage. They cannot be reinforced quickly by surface escorts whereas destroyers now withdrawn from Western Locals could be returned at short notice.
2.If you concur request you will emphasise the necessity of continuance of GN-NG convoys. (B.A.D.2147Z/11 to Admtly).

IDAHO.(Tan Rm)

/ N.T. 21.3.
My 2215/29th. Sept. IDAHO left New York 10th Dec. similar route. (B.A.D.2203Z/11 to Admtly (R)S.N.O.Persian Gulf, N.S.H.Q, A.C.N.B, N.Z.N.B., C. in C.E.F. D.C. in C.E.F.).
/G.U.....

397

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.G.U.
Convoys.

To reduce communications and because convoys may be later (?diverted) as circumstances recommend S.N.O.C.A. or Admiralty route G.U. Convoys from route 10° W. onward with last route position about 70° W. between latitude 35° and 38° N. Admiralty pass to N.C.X.F. and (Spare group). (Signification not known in W/R) (Connav.2205/11 to Admtly (R) (Spare group)*; N.C.X.F. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet).

*Passing action being taken by W.R. for N.C.X.F. only, other addresses being verified.

Dakar
Mission.

JSM.555. 11th December.

Glassford's Mission leaves here tonight for Natal, Brazil, where they will wait clearance from Dakar. If they are held up for long at Natal they may proceed to Accra.

(J.S.M. 2307Z/11 to War Cabinet Offices, London).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation.

Report indicates 13 Destroyers, 1 Sloop, 3 S/MS, 3 Tankers including 1 burning 5 other Merchant Vessels Buin Shortlands area afternoon 10th.

2. Several enemy pillboxes captured along East Bank Buna Creek December 9th following mortar bombardment. Forward troops advancing and consolidating while artillery continues to harass enemy positions. Several hits on A.A. positions. Enemy counter-attacks unsuccessful. Offensive Allied patrols continuing in other areas.

3. 12 Kittyhawks attacked Sanananda Sopula track and 6 Bostons attacked Bina*area without observing results.

4. 9 enemy bombers with 18 fighters dropped approximately 125 packages in Buna area afternoon 10th.

(A.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 0500Z/11 to Admtly etc).*(?Buna)

Routes for
India.

Your 2035/8th. (Re Routeing ships from Coast of U.S. to India for Persian Gulf) no objection. Comwestseafon pass Comsoutheastpacific. (N.Z.N.B. 1045M/11 to Connav, (R) C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B. Admtly, Com S.W.Pac. Force, Com So.Pac. Comwestseafon, Comsoutheastpacific).

Cincpac's 0217/11 addressed to Connav and repeated Alusnas Wellington and Melbourne, A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B., Comsopac, Comsowestpac, Comweseafon, Comsoeastpacfor, and Comnav to pass to Admtly, informs as follows:-

Refer to Connav's 2035/8. Unable to guarantee patrol of that part of Fremantle-Panama route which falls within my jurisdiction because of current cruiser shortage. It is estimated only chance surface raiders threaten Rodle therefore maximum practicable

/gun...

398

War Diary.11.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.Routes for
India.
Contd.

gun power should be carried by all ships assigned to this run and immediately after departing Panama target practice should be conducted.
(Comnaveu 1959/11 to Admty).

U.S.18.
ACHILLES,
ADELAIDE.

Departure Wellington, ACHILLES escorting H.M.T. AQUITANIA (U.S.18) to R/V in 041.13 S. 159.05 E. at 2300Z/15th with relief escort ADELAIDE. ACHILLES then proceeds Melbourne E.T.A. 1900Z/16 U.S.18, E.T.A. Fremantle 2300Z/19th.
(N.Z.N.B. 1930Z/11 to Admty Comsupac, C. in C. E.F., F.O.Ceylon, A.C.N.B.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/Ms Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1308A/11, 1332A/11).

S/Ms Attacked.Use of
Hedgehog.

For Hedgehog fitted A/S Escorts and Authorities concerned.

1. It is vital that more U/Bs should be destroyed as opposed to damaged.
2. Hedgehog fuse trials have shown that explosion of projectiles on arming does sometimes occur due to oversensitiveness of the fuse.
3. Two modifications coming into service by Christmas will cure this defect. Details will be published by A.F.O. very shortly.
4. Meanwhile, present ammunition should give 50% probability of killing per attack and ammunition with modified fuse will restore probability to 60%, compared with a maximum of 18% for full 14 depth-charge pattern.
5. When a contact classified as "S/M" is obtained the Hedgehog should be used from the start by ships so fitted unless a counter-attack is necessary or severe weather conditions render its use impossible.
6. When forwarding form S.1203 if Hedgehog is not used reason is to be stated in the narrative section.
(D.A/S.W. Approved A.C.N.S.W. 1347A/11 to A.G.M.Home, A.G.M.W.Med A.G.M.Atlantic, A.G.M.W.Africa).

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.*Op. "Valuable."*

Two merchant vessels with four escorts were reported proceeding southward off Cape Alprech at 1830/11 and six destroyers, led by WHITSHED proceeded to attack. WHITSHED was damaged and her speed reduced to 20 knots in a southerly gale. She turned over the command to WORCESTER at 2309A. During the ensuing action about 9 miles N.N.E. of Dieppe one of the merchant ships was sunk and the second probably sunk, and BROCKLESBY reports sinking a large enemy trawler. ALBRIGHTON sank by torpedo one of 4 enemy vessels, possibly engaged in rescue work. ESKDALE was hit and damaged about 0150A and the force withdrew shortly afterwards. BROCKLESBY, WORCESTER and VESPER received minor damage, and our total casualties were 7 killed and 48 wounded, including the C.O. of VESPER.

E/Boat
Attack on
F.N889.

(38 ships)
Convoy F.N889 was attacked by E/Boats at 2035 today, about 20 miles N.E. of Lowestoft. The convoy is said to have been badly straggled out. Five ships are reported to have been torpedoed and sunk, viz SS.AVONWOOD, LINDISFARNE, GLEN TILT, MARIANNE and KNITSLEY. MEYNELL and MENDIP on patrol both engaged groups of E/Boats; the former claims numerous hits.

The ports of Tees and Hartlepool were closed at 0615 on account of suspected enemy minelaying and will now be open to traffic daily from noon to sunset only when vessels will be swept in and out.

The port of Seaham was closed from 1350 till 1800 today owing to a suspected unexploded bomb in the channel.

Photographs taken at Gdynia today showed GNEISENAU, PRINZ EUGEN and EMDEN all alongside and SCHARNHORST exercising in Puck Bay (N.N.W. of Danzig). But GRAF ZEPPELIN and NURNBERG have left the port since 11th November, and the latter is believed to be now in Norwegian waters.

One magnetic Mine was exploded by Sweepers off the Needles today; and 2 Mines and a conical cutter were destroyed in the Dover Area.

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Force "X".

N.C.X.F. today issued revised orders for dealing with French ships and aircraft, on the lines of his proposal of 4th instant.

North Atlantic.

CHARYBDIS sailed from Gibraltar for U.K. with Rear Adm. Burrough early this morning.

A very severe storm last night damaged the fuel pipe line on the breakwater at Ponta Delgada. Until repairs are effected only one berth with room for 2 vessels at a time is available for fuelling, and nothing larger than destroyers can be accommodated.

South Atlantic.

Ascension.

U.S. Chiefs of Staff have put forward proposals for certain changes in the draft Ascension Island agreement. It appears doubtful to J.S.M Washington if our naval requirements are adequately covered in this agreement, and have asked the War Cabinet in London for their comments.

Dutch SS. OMBILIN was torpedoed at 1845 G.M.T. in 7.25 N. 39.19 W. (about 800 miles North of Natal, Brazil)

SS. EMPIRE GULL was torpedoed and sunk at 2055 G.M.T. today in 12.26 S. 35° E., about 140 miles East of Lourenço Marques. It appears that her diversion signal was never transmitted.

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean

British Liberators bombed Naples again last night, but no damage is reported in the port area. Owing to impossible weather ~~over~~ Tunisia Malta Wellingtons last night bombed Palermo Docks; many hits are reported in the harbour area, with large explosions and fires. Wellingtons mined the approaches to Tripoli harbour. 17 B.17s escorted by 9 P.38s attacked docks and marshalling yards at Tunis today.

S/M RORQUAL reported at 2120A that she had been attacked by an enemy S/M in 39.49 N, 11.42.E.

At 1017 a Hudson on A/S sweep sighted in 37.16 N. 6.40 E. the burning wreckage of an unidentified vessel with 5 P.38s circling.

An attack, thought to have been by two man S/MS, was made on ships in Algiers Bay from 0130 today onwards. SS.BERTO was sunk and SS.HARMATTAN, EMPIRE CENTAUR, (beached, salvage undertaken 16th December) and OCEAN VANQUISHER were damaged. 16 Italian prisoners were taken.

Force Q.

AURORA, ARGONAUT, ESKIMO and QUALITY arrived off Bone early this morning but remained at sea until the channel was swept, as aircraft minelaying was suspected.

The French estimate that a total of 35 transports and supply ships reached Bizerta up to 30th Nov. A total of 1320 JU.52s landed at Sidi Ahmed up to 2nd December

Shortage of Escort Forces.

On 15th October C. in C.Med. reported a serious shortage of small A/S vessels in the Eastern Mediterranean, involving grave risks in our operations in support of the 8th Army. Today, he again stressed the dangerous situation now developing with regard to escort forces. 8th Army supplies absorb almost all his escorts, which cannot continue to run at the present rate for much longer. The Levant coast traffic, including valuable tankers to and from Haifa, is virtually unescorted. Important Army and Air Force moves to and from Cyprus have had to be cancelled for lack of escort. He considers there is every prospect of the U/Boat threat in the Eastern Mediterranean increasing and he states that he needs an additional 16 escort vessels.

There was an air raid on Tobruk today but no bombs fell on the harbour.

402

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Sixteen Blenheims escorted by 22 Hurricanes bombed the railway yards and station at Mandalay today.

America & West Indies.

U.S.S.R. S/Ms S.51 and S.56 arrived at Halifax today.

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

Ships at Scapa. Home Fleet Ships at Scapa 0600/12. Names. (A.C.O.S., 0601/12 to Admty).

P.615 (1) P.615 pass through position (O) 042° 59' 013° 50' at 0200/19 thence on the surface as routed by you for Freetown. Estimated speed of advance 8½ knots.
See p. 404 A
(F.O.S., 1009A/12 to V.A. Gibraltar).
Capt. (S) 3 1049/7. Request you sail P.615 to leave position (X) 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 1800/13, thence submerged by day through (Y) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles and route Blue (F.S.A. 6 refers) Estimated S.O.A. 135 miles per 24 hours.
(F.O.S., 1011A/12 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth).
→ Intend sailing BEN URIE, LORRAINE at 0500/13 to R/V P.615 at 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 0800/13th escorting same to Falmouth, subsequently escorting P.615 from Falmouth to be in 180° Lizard Head 10 miles at 1800/13.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1146A/12 to Capt. S.3).

P.223 F.O.S's 1859/7. Intend to sail P.223 escorted by PRESTON NORTH END 1600/12 to Lerwick, routed west of Orkneys and north Fair Isle Channel.
See p. 404 A
E.T.A. Lerwick 0830/13.
(A.C.O.S., 1044A/12).
My 1044A/12. Sailed.
(A.C.O.S., 1612A/12).

QUICKMATCH, Report your P.C.S.
REDOUBT. (C. in C. W.A. 1145A/12 to QUICKMATCH).
Your 1145/12. My P.C.S. 050° 55' N., 013° 48' W. 028° 18. QUICKMATCH in company.
(REDOUBT, 1330A/12 to C. in C. W.A.)

THRASHER. → Intend to sail BEN URIE (S.O.) and LORRAINE
P.221. at 0500/14th to R/V THRASHER in 180° Lizard Head
See p. 404 A 12 miles at 0830/14, escorting same to Falmouth
Subsequently escorting THRASHER to be at D 1 buoy at 1030/15 to R/V P.221 and escort thence return to Falmouth.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1152A/12 to Capt. S.4).
Capt. (S) 5's 1145A/11 and N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1152/12.
(2) N.O.I.C. Portland is requested to sail UNST to R/V P.221 in 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 0830/15th Speed 10 knots.
Escort orders for onward passage from Portland have been issued UNST. Routed D.C.I. route E and A.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1912A/12).

OBDURATE R.A.(D)'s 2000/11. Intend to sail OBDURATE passing Hvalfjord boom 2230N/12th to Scapa direct.
(NORFOLK, 1346A/12 to R.A.D.)

/ICARUS...

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

ICARUS Sailed ICARUS to Hvalfiord, E.T.A. 1300/14.
(R.A.D., 1503A/12 to A.C.I.C., NORFOLK)

S/M At 0800/13. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S., 1719A/12) See Lion Copy

ADVENTURE Intend sailing ADVENTURE 1230A/15 to Gibraltar
routed through
(a) 180° The Lizard 3. (b) 180° Runnelstone 4.
(c) 270° 4. (d) 050° 15' N., 005° 50' W.
(e) 050° 30' N., 008° 01' W.
(f) 050° 30' N., 013° 30' W. (g) 045° 01' N., 014° 40' W.
(h) 042° 58' N., 013° 20' W.
F.O.C.N.A. is requested to signal onward route from G.
(?C. in C. W.A., 1727A/12 to V.A. Gibraltar).

TUNA. Intend sailing LORD HAILSHAM at 1030/13 to R/V
See p. 404A TUNA in 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 1900/13 and
escort to Plymouth.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1758A/12).

LEEDS. Admty. 1815/15 Nov. ^{H.T. 21-2} Intend to sail LEEDS to
Liverpool for refit a.m./26th.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2129A/12 to Admty).

Operations.

Operation "Valuable" Have been unable to regain contact. Am retiring
to the westward. ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON in
One enemy company.
M/V and one (WORCESTER, 0007A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Trawler sunk. Your 0007A/12. Use every endeavour to locate
and attack enemy.
One enemy (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0025A/12 to WORCESTER).
M/V damaged. Main target attacked. Estimate one hit with
torpedo. Target left burning fore and aft
fiercely. Am returning via passage 2, VESPER,
WORCESTER, BROCKLESBY, ESKDALE ALBRIGHTON in company. ALBRIGHTON reports
sinking one trawler.
ALBRIGHTON damaged. (WHITSHED, 0025/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
1 Merchant Ship definitely sunk. 1 Merchant
ship probably sunk. Am sweeping area for further
targets and WHITSHED.
(WORCESTER, 0047A/12).
My 0025. For ALBRIGHTON read BROCKLESBY.
(WHITSHED, 0130A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
Your 0047A is good news. Force A should withdraw when
you consider nothing further can be accomplished and to pass
E.A.5 buoy at approx. 0730/12.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0130A/12 to WORCESTER).
Have been hit and am out of control.
(ESKDALE, 0150A/12 to ALBRIGHTON).

SECRET

404A.

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.)

1719A/12 December.

SECRET.

MESSAGE.

IN.

From F.O.S.

Date: 12.12.42.

Recd: 1833.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed Admiralty.

287. Positions of S/Ms at 0800/13th December and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) P223, escorted by PRESTON NORTH END, due Lerwick 0900 13th from Scapa. *See p.403*

(B) P339, and SOKOL, escorted by WHITE BEAR, leave Campbeltown 1630/13th through Minches and West of Orkneys to Lerwick speed 10 knots expected time of arrival 1200 15th.

(C) P615, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE, due 180 degs. Lizard Head 5 miles at 0800 13th from westward for escort to Falmouth. After fuelling sails with escort to be in position 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles at 1800 13th thence unescorted dived by day through 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles. 50 degs. 10 mins. North 09 degs. 01 mins. West and 50 degs. 10 mins North 12 degs. 40 mins. West. *See p.403.*

(D) THRASHER, 49 degs. 50 mins. North 09 degs. 20 mins. West dived by day through 49 degs. 50 mins. North 09 degs. 01 mins West and 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles to R/V with escort in 180 degs Lizard Head 12 miles at 0830 14th for passage to Falmouth. *See p.403*

(E) P221, 49 degs. 23 mins. North 13 degs. 08 mins. West dived by day through 49 degs. 50 mins. North 12 degs. 34 mins. West and 49 degs. 50 mins. North 09 degs. 01 mins West. *See p.403*

(F) TUNA, 49 degs. 08 mins. North 05 degs. 40 mins. West dived by day until within 40 miles Lizard Head due R/V in 130 degs. Lizard Head 12 miles at 1400 13th for escort to Plymouth. *See p.404*

(G) U.S.S. GURNARD, in zone K505.

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)

(FOS. 1719A/12, 0511A/13, 1202A/13,
Advance copy sent Duty Capt. 1511A/13)
D.O.D. (H) D.D.I.C.
Duty Capt. (2) HD. Of M.
D.D.I.C. (2) W.D.
D. of Plans. (2) I.P. (2)
D.A/S.W. D.T.D. (M)

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - con/9.

Operation "Valuable" No means of navigation. Get in touch with me. (ESKDALE, 0152/12 to ALBRIGHTON).
 One enemy M/V and one Trawler sunk. Have made further attack on escort, but no sign of merchant ship. (WORCESTER, 0155A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
 One enemy M/V damaged. Am retiring. ESKDALE, ALBRIGHTON in company. (WORCESTER, 0207A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
 WORCESTER, WHITSHEDED slightly damaged. After boiler room side-plating holed on waterline forward and after(?) tank (71?) station bulkhead holed.
 VESPER, Number 2 boiler casing damaged. Can make 20 knots. BROCKLESBY minor superficial and electrical damage. T S out of action. VESPER minor damage. Main W/T transmitter and Type 286 out of action. Part 2 of my 0345 follows. (WHITSHEDED, 0243A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
 BROCKLESBY, Report P.C.S. and state of ESKDALE.
 ESKDALE, (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0304A/12 to WORCESTER).
 ALBRIGHTON damaged.
 Contd.

Your 0304. My P.C.S. 050° 06' N., 000° 31' E. 322° 22 knots. ESKDALE steering from aft, otherwise not severely damaged.

(WORCESTER, 0322A/12).

Your estimated position at 0347, 229° Beachy Head 8 miles.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0405A/12 to WHITSHEDED).

Final attack was made at 0140 in 050° 02½' N. 001° 10' E. on 4 enemy vessels, possibly escort employed on rescue work. Ships were heavily engaged at close range. ALBRIGHTON sank 1 vessel by torpedo.

(WORCESTER, 0407A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Your estimated position at 0427, 196° Beachy Head 21.

Fighter protection, codeword "Advent 2".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0434A/12 to WORCESTER).

Operation "Valuable".

From discussion with C.Os. of Destroyers attack on enemy Merchant ships in convoy was carried out resolutely from starboard quarter, and enemy appear to have been surprised. Destroyers at High speed ran in among the screening vessels and principal Merchant ship of about 4,000 tons was torpedoed and undoubtedly sunk. During this engagement and a subsequent attack by three destroyers one other torpedo hit was made on another vessel. One trawler was sunk by gunfire in the first encounter, and other escort craft probably damaged in the general melee. State of sea was such that enemy convoy was not held back for this reason. Enemy Merchant ship used three guns and fire was not what might be expected from a drilled armed raider. Enemy convoy appeared to be making for Dieppe.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1407A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operation "Valuable". After discussion with C. in C. Plymouth it was decided that on existing intelligence and in the circumstances destroyers should remain in harbour tonight. More detailed signal regarding damage to destroyers will follow but intended disposition is WHITSHEDED proceed for repair at Chatham, and as escort to C.E. Convoy sailing tomorrow. WORCESTER, VESPER ready for service tomorrow. BROCKLESBY proceeding today for repairs at Plymouth and as escort to P.W. convoy with ST. ALBANS and EASTON as additional escorts.

/ALBRIGHTON...

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - con/3.

Operation →
"Valuable"
One enemy
M/V and one
Trawler Sunk.
One enemy
M/V damaged.
WORCESTER,
VESPER,
BROCKLESBY,
ESKDALE,
ALBRIGHTON
damaged.
Contd.

ALBRIGHTON, PYTCHLEY, TYNEDALE ready for service. ESKDALE in dockyard hands. LIMBOURNE arriving from Plymouth today. SLAZAK arriving from Plymouth with W.P. convoy tomorrow. Force "B" proceed to Newhaven.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1417A/12 to Admty).
My 1407/12. Following is destroyer state:
WHITSHED holed on waterline in after boiler room. 10 wounded.
WORCESTER two holes in hull, director damaged. Two killed, 23 wounded.
VESPER damage to mast, main W/T, and R.D.F. Four wounded including C.O.
BROCKLESBY T S damaged. One killed, three wounded
ESKDALE wheel house and director damaged. Four killed, 13 wounded.
ALBRIGHTON four holes in hull. Five wounded.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1525A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Amend my 1417A/12. WHITSHED will be made seaworthy and sail to repair yard about 16th. WORCESTER will be operationally available p.m./15th. *PYTCHLEY and VESPER will be sailed as escort for C.E. 136 tomorrow.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 2137A/12 to Admty). *See p. 412.

Prospective
S/M Patrols.

My 1859/7. O.14 will also be required, if ready, to leave Lerwick 23rd December for patrol.
(F.O.S., 1502A/12 to Capt. S.3).

Biscay S/M
patrols.
BARB,
HERRING,
SHAD,
BLACKFISH.

Your 2044/3. Request you sail BARB and HERRING on 16th December and BLACKFISH and SHAD on 20th December for patrol in Bay of Biscay in accordance with F.S.L. one.
(F.O.S., 1504A/12 to Consubron 50).
S/MS patrolling in Bay of Biscay. In view of probable track taken by CORTELAZZO propose northern limit of S/M patrol zone K.501 to K.503 inclusive be extended to parallel 045° N. My memorandum F.S.L. one appendix one refers.
(F.O.S., 1507A/12).

Patrols.

Tonight 12/13.

1. PYTCHLEY and TYNEDALE anchor at St. Helens at immediate notice. Codeword "Advent".
2. M.G.B. 611 (S.O.) 608 proceed to Yarmouth before dark and to patrol if weather permits on line 245° St. Catherines 15' to 245° St. Catherines 30', passing Needles 1745 and 0815. Codeword "Device". *See next page.*
3. CHASSEUR 41 (S.O.) and 14 patrolling south of E A 5 buoy.
4. Movements affecting patrols are as follows. Details.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1532/12 to Capt. D.l., HORNET).
Patrols tonight. (1) 2 M.G.Bs. Z 23, leaving 54 D Buoy 1800. (2) 2 M.G.Bs. each Z 20 and Z 17.
(C. in C. Nore, 1549A/12).

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - 20/12/42Patrols.
Contd.

M.G.Bs. 611, 608 on patrol south of Anvil Point passing Needles 1745/12 and 0815/13. *See previous page*
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1631A/12 to Admty).
M.Ls. 143, and 138 Patrolling Rye to Fairlight Buoys. M.T.Bs. 38, 35 and M.G.Bs. 110, 109, 108, 329, 331 leave Dover at 2200 proceeding via "D" Buoy to patrol vicinity of Berck Buoy.
E.T.R. 0700.
(V.A. Dover, 1751A/12).

Interception
of E-boats.
(See Enemy
Intelligence).*next page*

M.G.Bs. 75, 79, 81, 55 proceed from X
(Spare Geographical Group 21) to Z.9.
(C. in C. Nore, 2123A/12 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Allied Air Activity.Attack on
Enemy Ships.

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 0900/11 - 0900/12.
Track E 6 D. Two medium and four small from Boulogne at 1725. Westbound at 7 - 8 knots. Faded off Etaples 1902. Of two Albatrosses of 841 Squadron despatched to report and attack, one sighted enemy convoy at 1900, seven miles south of Boulogne. Results of attack with bombs could not be observed.
(V.A. Dover, 1001A/12).

Enemy Air Activity.

Seaham

Port of Seaham closed owing suspected unexploded bomb in channel.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1350/12).
My 1350/12. Port is now open.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1800/12).

Mining.Tees and
Hartlepool.

Ports of Tees and Hartlepool closed until further notice owing to suspected enemy minelaying.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 0615/12).
My 0615/12. Ports will be opened to traffic from about noon to sunset daily, vessels being swept in and out. Ships bound for these ports should be instructed to anchor outside 20 fathom line and await instructions. Weather permitting escort trawler will be station at T.B.4 Buoy.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 1145/12 to Admty).

Iceland.

Your 1409A/7 complied with. Negative result.
(M/S 15 1610Z/12 to A.C.I.C.)

/M/S...

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

M/S Trawler groups 148 and 106. On return of M/S Trawler Group 148 to Hartlepool on 13th December M/S Trawler Group 106 is to continue to operate from that base until further orders.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1616A/12).

Needles One magnetic mine red detonated by L L in approx. 208° 5.6 miles from Needles Light. Details.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1736/12 and 1050A/13).

Dover Area. Clearance of Q.Z.X. 866 had to be abandoned today as weather unsuitable for destruction of mines swept. One Mine, probably still moored, destroyed in 287° "S" buoy 2.9 miles. One mine, probably drifting sunk in 087° South Falls Buoy 7 cables. One conical cutter destroyed in 075° south Falls Buoy 2 miles.
(M/S 9 1825/12 to V.A. Dover).

Enemy Intelligence.

Tanker and Escorts. Air/Int/549. 12 Dec. Supplementary to Air/Int/547 11 Dec. Ref. C.C. Photo 36/BUL 1/405 of 9/Dec. 1942. Further examination shows at least six of the seven escorting units to be T/Bs or Elbing class D/Rs not M-class minesweepers.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 0415A/12 to Admty).

E-boats off Lowestoft. *See previous page -* D/F positions reported.
(C. in C. Nore, 2033A/12, 2034A/12, 2036A/12, 2042A/12, 2059/12, 2102/12, 2107/12, 2115A/12, 2119/12, 2125A/12, 2126/12, 2134A/12, 2146A/12, 2154A/12, 2207/12, 2209/12, 2210/12, 2240A/12, 2258A/12, 2301A/12, 2302A/12, 2316A/12, 2326A/12.)

GNEISENAU, PRINZ EUGEN, EMDEN, SCHARNHORST, GRAF ZEPPELIN, NÜRNBERG. Photographic R/C of Gdynia 12th. Decembere shows GNEISENAU, PRINZ EUGEN, and EMDEN all alongside. SCHARNHORST exercising in Puck Bay. GRAF ZEPPELIN and NÜRNBERG have left the port since 11th Nov. The former is believed to be still incomplete and the latter is probably in Norwegian Waters.
(D.D.I.C., 2200A/12).

U-boats.

U-boats reported. Am over enemy S/M in 56° 53' N., 20° 37' W. (A/C of 206 Sqdn. 1112Z/12 to 15 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in (?latitude) 20° 17' W. (A/C W 6 R A 1230A/12 to 15 Group).
Am over enemy S/M in 55° 50' N., 23° 11' W. (A/C NIOF 1420/12 to 15 Group).

/U-boats...

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats - Contd.U-boats
attacked.
HASTINGS.
FAME.

W A G O 00201.
 A. 055° 30' N., 006° 54' W.
 B. 1146A/12. 2 attacks. C. 1230A/12th. No
 visible evidence. Lost contact. No consort in
 contact. Considered probable.
 (HASTINGS, 1305A/12 to LONDONDERRY).
 My warm congratulations to you and the ships
 of your group on the splendid way you have fought
 a very strong and pertinacious U-boat pack over
 many days.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1651A/12 to FAME).

Casualties & Defects.

CANTON.

Cancel my 1844A/11. Sailing of CANTON postponed
 about 3 days owing to engine defects.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0034A/12).

ROSA.

Drifter ROSA arrived with defective boiler and
 requires extensive repairs which cannot be taken
 in hand at Oban. Vessel will require towing to
 refit base.
 (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1211A/12).

NEWFOUNDLAND.

My 1205/4. No alteration will be made in
 completion date.
 (W.P.S. N.E. Area, 1250/12 to Admty).

RUNDOY

Norwegian motor fishing vessel RUNDOY delayed
 Inverness with engine defects.
 (R.N.O. Inverness, 1300/12).
 Departure tugs KROOMAN, DIVERSION escorted by
 M.L. 337, 451, to assist casualty in vicinity number
 6 buoy.
 (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2215A/12).

Shipping & Convoys.A.T. 30
(QUEEN MARY).

My 1843/3. Convoy A.T. 30 not now due until p.m.
 14 Dec.
 2. Personnel will disembark 15 Dec.
 3. Arrangements detailed in my para. 3 still
 stand.
 (D.S.T. 0355A/12).

A.T. 31
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH)

My 0423/11. Convoy A.T. 31 not now due until
 p.m./18 Dec.
 2. Personnel will disembark 19 Dec.
 3. Approximately 500 personnel will embark p.m.
 19 Dec. and remainder 20 Dec.
 4. Convoy should now be ready to sail p.m. 21
 Dec.

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

K.M.F.5

Sailing Clyde Portion Convoy and escort as ordered in A.M.2000A/1st. LIGHTNING complying with C. in C. W.A.1746A/11th. Commodore Dennison in STIFFHALLEN. Rear Commodore of Convoy and Commodore (N) portion (Bone) Master of CAMERONIA. * ? STRATHALLAN *see below.*
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0536A/12 to A.I.G.190).

K.M.F.5 the following sailed at 0534/12. STRATHALLAN, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, ARUNDEL CASTLE, CAMERONIA, MANCHESTER TRADER, CIRCASSIA.

(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0609/12).

From Oversay R/V steer for position (C) 55.40 N., 10.02 W. thence (H).

(C. in C. W.A., 1059A/12 to Escorts K.M.F.5).

NT. W. D. C. in C. W.A. 1746A/11. Sailed DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, escort LIGHTNING.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1238A/12).

K.M.S.5

Sailed BIDEFORD for K.M.S.5.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0615A/12).

My 1908A/11. CALGARY returned with A/S defects. Requires docking.

2. CAMROSE sailed with degaussing out of action. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1108A/12 to A.I.G.190).

K.M.S.5. Following vessels did not sail for reason stated. BLENHEIM (U.S.) auxiliary engine defect. FORT BATTLE RIVER, windlass defect. KAFIRISTAN unfit for speed test for convoy. CLAN MACBRAYNE defective steering gear. STAD HAARLEM, (Dutch) underwater damage. BELNOR (Norway) collision damage. FORT CONFIDENCE windlass defect.

(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1215A/12 to Admty).

Following from N.O.I.C. Greenock to Admty. only begins:-

K.M.S.5. Following ships sailed with degaussing switched off: PORT ST. JOHN, FORT A LA CORNE, EMPIRE SUNBEAM, STAD MAASLUIS, DIRECTOR, OCEAN COURIER, CONTRACTOR, CLAN MACINNES, HARPALYCE, NORELS.

2. Ships carry cased petrol and have degaussing coil passing through hold. My number 3901/476 of 26th Nov. 1942 refers.

3. Ports of destination not informed. Ends.

(D.O.D. H., 1302A/12 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

My 1908A/11. Further defects developed in MOOSEJAW.

Ship unable sail to overtake convoy.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1724A/12).

→ My 1108A/12. Sailed CALGARY to overtake.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2148A/12).

S.C.111

By D/F at 0355Z/12 U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 60 miles of 56° 30' N., 20° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 0705A/12 to Escorts S.C.111)

Prepare to detach at 0700Z/13 ships for Mersey escorted by 2 Corvettes that estimate they can arrive 004° W., by 1300A/15.

(C. in C. W.A., 1339Z/12 to Escorts S.C.111)

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDSShipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- M.K.F.4 Sailed FISHGUARD and TEST in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2209A/11.
(Care. Londonderry, 0911A/12).
- H.X.217 Escort of B Portion VERVAIN. ROSE detached at 0900Z/12th direct to Liverpool.
(C.T.U.24.1.4 0912Z/12).
Provided D.L. HARPER ^{you not} requires assistance detach on crossing 008° W., and proceed Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 1013A/12 to POTENTILLA).
- F.S.983 F.S.983 anchored between 62 G Buoy and 17 Buoy in thick fog.
(VALOROUS, 0950A/12).
- O.N.153 Inform Commodore that six ships named did not sail.
Add: MARQUESA for Montevideo/Buenos Aires. Amend following destinations.
(C. in C. W.A., 1223A/12 to Escorts O.N.153).
- LADY OF MANN Meet LADY OF MANN at seaward end of Liverpool swept channel at 1800A/12th and escort to Belfast.
(C. in C. W.A., 1225A/12 to WOLVERINE).
LADY OF MANN arrived 2120A/12 WOLVERINE proceeding Londonderry.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 2215A/12).
- AMSTERDAM. *(Transcript.)* Intend sailing AMSTERDAM from Cromarty 2331/15th speed 17 knots, routed Q.Z.S.150, 352 to 35 Buoy thence 3 miles east of Fair Island. E.T.A. Lerwick 1031/16. Request fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1235A/12 to C. in C. Rosyth)
- JEFFERSON MYERS. My 1308A/12 para. 2. Sailed to Hull for onward routing to Murmansk JEFFERSON MYERS (U.S.A.)
(Southend 1307A/12 to C. in C. Nore).
- H.X.217 Following from rescue ship PERTH.
EMPIRE SPENCER. Arriving boom 2000 G.M.T. 69 survivors SS. EMPIRE SPENCER and CHARLES L.D. including (?) Dutch, 9 Free French, 1 Czecho-Slovak. 6 cot cases.
(Port Patrick W/T, 1330/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
CHARLES L.D. (sunk 8th December)
(sunk 9th December)
survivors.

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

J.W.51, Admiralty 2005A/10. Not entirely (corrupt group)
*J.W.51 A, about petrol tanker but presume she should be
J.W.51 B. included for White Sea discharge as considered
*See next page for reason given in S.N.O. Archangel 0936A/11
desirous.

(2) Have proposed to Russians that subject to no losses in convoy following ships should be discharged Molotovsk GATEWAY CITY, *OREMARRED, RICHARD BLAND, RICHARD BASSETT, SAN CIPRIANO. *OREMAR 2/12/42.

(3) If losses occur then vessels should be sent to Murmansk in order named in para. 2 starting with GATEWAY CITY.

(4) Have asked for 3000 tons outward cargo at Molotovnex for each dry-cargo ship discharging there. Estimated turn-round there for dry-cargo ships about 16 days, tankers 4 days. (Dalglish, 1415A/12 to Admty).

J.W.51 A. The following order of priority has been finally agreed between the respective shipping representatives.

2. 16 ships are to be accepted and will be available from the 22 given below in order of priority stated. Names of ships.

3. All ships are capable of 9 knots or over.

(D.T.D., 1555A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

C.E.138 Your 1314/12. Request I may be informed why C.E. 138 has been postponed further 24 hours. *PYTCHLEY is urgently required. (C. in C. Nore, 1514A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

TJALDUR, My 1622/11. Sailing route through Fair Isle
ST. MARYS. Channel.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1604A/12).

K.M.S.6 PETUNIA will be required to sail with K.M.S.6 on December 24th. (C. in C. W.A., 1734A/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

NIEUW Dutch SS. NIEUW HOLLAND is expected to arrive
HOLLAND. Mersey 18th for disembarkation of 471 Service details 93 survivors, and 39 miscellaneous passengers.

2. Ship should then be sailed for Milford Haven where she should arrive 20th.

3. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange if possible for special escort from Milford Haven to Falmouth where ship is to refit.

(D.T.D., 1928A/12).

/J.W.51 A...

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

J.W.51 A. ,
*See previous
page*

Following for Roullard and Dalgliesh from Harriman and M.W.T. My 2005/10 para. 5. W.S.A. has approved 5 American ships ex J.W.51 A proceeding Molotovsk with instructions that if in your judgment ice conditions at time of their arrival are such that there is danger of their immobilization you discharge them at Murmansk. (D.S.T. 2152A/12 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

F.N889

F.N889 is to proceed from 62 B to H H thence to 62 E.
(C. in C. Nore, 2236A/12 to WALLACE, QUANTOCK).

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

French
Ships
and A/C.

Following revised orders are to come into force forthwith as regards dealing with French Ships and A/C.

2. All French Warships. Merchant ships and A/C should 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 sunk unless they can be diverted to ports under our control.

(b) French warships or Merchant Ships encountered North of latitude 040° N.

(N.C.X.F. 1204A/12 to All British Ships and Authorities concerned in Operation "Torch", V.A. Malta (excluding ships refitting in U.K. (K.213), (R) Admty, C. in C. Med).

French
Shipping.

Cancel my 1001/4th. Under terms of agreement with French administration in North Africa the movement of French shipping is only allowed with the permission of the Allied C. in C. Authority

to permit these movements has been (?allotted) to N.C.X.F. Officers addressed are to make proposals for such movements to N.C.X.F. (R) to the port of destination N.C.X.F. will obtain through the North Africa, Shipping Board the concurrence of the French controller of merchant ships and with then authorize approved ships to be included in the next appropriate convoy.

If port of destination cannot accept the ships the F.O.I.C. or N.O.I.C. should inform N.C.X.F.

(N.C.X.F. 1540A/12 to S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville V.A. Gib. (R) S.O.I.S., Admty).

Mindiv
19.

Re retention in "Torch" Area (J.S.M. 1613Z/12)
See America & West Indies.

Harbour
Craft.

At urgent request of Gen. Eisenhower two 70 foot high speed yachts and two high speed Chris-craft motor boats are being embarked in K.M.S.6. As a result it is regretted that only 11 instead of 12 HD/ML can be sent to you in this convoy.
(Hd. of M. Approved 1st S.L. 2251A/12 to N.C.X.F.
Reply:- 1308/14.

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- M.K.S.3(Y) Proceed through the Straits with all ships not
See p. 417B detailed for Gibraltar.
(V.A. Gibraltar 0045A/12 to VETCH. Escorts
Convoy M.K.S.)
- Arrival VETCH, CONVULVULUS, NASTURTIUM, LUNENBURG, LORD
NUFFIELD, LORD HOTHAM escorting 5 Merchant ships ex M.K.S.3(Y).
(V.A. Gib. 0430A/12 to N.C.X.F. F.O. Algiers. F.O. Oran.
(R) Admty.)
Following is a repetition of my 2224/11 addressed Admty.
C. in C. W.A. N.C.X.F. Escorts of convoy M.K.S.3(Y) (Begins)
- Sailed O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, LAUDERDALE,
AZALEA, PALOMARES with Gibraltar portion M.K.S.3(Y). Q.Z.H. 977
L 52 S 388 X 885 Y 366 T.O.O. 2224/11 (Ends).
(V.A. Gib. 1108A/12 to VETCH.)
M.K.S.3(Y) (G) Following ships sail to join in 035° 56' N
006° 24' W at 0800/12 - Merchant ship COWRIE, SS. PRINCE DE LIEGE,
SS. BRISK, Trawler PORT PATRICK.
Stragglers route as convoy route with instructions to keep 30 miles
to starboard.
Destinations unknown SS. BARON FORBES, MACBRE, FLAMINIAN joining
from Lisbon in 036° 23' N 010° 31' W at 0800 B.S.T. 13th.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1245A/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. N.C.X.F.
Escort M.K.S. (Y) for Cdre.)
Following is a repetition of PALOMARES' 1022/12 addressed
V.A.C.N.A. (Begins) Escort report they have not sufficient fuel
to proceed by route given in your 1845/11. In view of advance of
Oran Section it is also doubtful if PALOMARES has sufficient fuel
remaining for allowance for bad weather. T.O.O. 1022/12.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1610A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)
- *p. 374* My 2224/11. KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, LAUDERDALE, MELBREAK
arrived fuelled and sailed 1600 to rejoin M.K.S.3(Y). PALOMARES
sailed (?in) M.K.S.3(Y).
(V.A. Gib. 1708/12 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.C.X.F.)
Request relief as follows. Escorts are to return to
Gibraltar at best speed.
- 2. NASTURTIUM and LUNENBURG on relief by LAUDERDALE, THRASHER, (2/m)
BLEASDALE.
- 4. VETCH on relief by KRAKOWIAK.
(V.A. Gib. 1815A/12 to Escorts convoy M.K.S.3(Y) (R) N.C.X.F.)

WISHART. Your 0030A/12 (N.T. in W.R.) Return to Gibraltar
See p. 418 at best speed. Report E.T.A. and number of cot
431 cases. *See p. 375 BLEAN*
(V.A. Gib. 0257A/12 to WISHART.)

CEFALU Following from GEPD. BPRF. (CEFALU) Rudder broken
distress down, require assistance 39.45 N 29.25 W.
(Burnham Radio 0300 G.M.T./12 to Admty. C. in C.
W.A.)

CHARYBDIS My 1652A/11. Sailed R.A. Burrough in CHARYBDIS.
See p. 417B & 419 Q Z H 978, missing 975, L 52, S 388, K L Y 366.
(V.A. Gib. 0504A/12 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R)
N.C.X.F. C.S.12. S.O. Force H. C. in C. Plymouth)

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

PRIAM Following received from PRIAM. C 4 U, No. 2 hold
distress full of water. Hatches gone. Ship down by head.
Please send immediate escort.
See 13.421 (Burnham Radio 0520/12 to Admiral, Liverpool.)
Following has been read from PRIAM, addressed St. Helena.
My 0520/12, advise port of refuge.
(Simonstown W/T 0625 G.M.T./12 to Admty.)
W.D. Note: SS. PRIAM first reported marine casualty 10th
Dec. further signals 12th Dec. in Home Commands.
Your 0520/12. Proceed to nearest shelter in the Azores.
(D.T.D. 1005Z/12 to B.A.M.S. PRIAM (Br.) (R) V.A. Gib.
C. in C. W.A.)
Following received. Addressed C. in C. W.A.
Send escort position serious.
(PRIAM 1005 G.M.T./12 to Admty.)
Following from PRIAM 037° 44' N 030° 06' W. Steering 115°
7 knots, send vessel to stand by, fore deck now awash.
(Burnham Radio 1032 G.M.T./12 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty.
for information.)
PRIAM estimated in 38° 21' N 30° 21' W at 0520/12 reports
No. 2 hold full of water, hatches gone, ship down by head.
Requests immediate assistance. No British ship in vicinity.
(D.O.D. F. 1040A/12 to N.A. Lisbon. (R) V.A. Gib.)
Your 1032/12 Dec. Check and repeat position.
(V.A. Gib. 1345A/12 to PRIAM.)
Proceed to stand by PRIAM in distress at 1032Z/12 in 37.44
N 30.06 W course 115° speed 7 knots.
(D.T.D. 1519Z/12 to B.A.M.S. PRIAM (Br.) (R) V.A. Gib.
C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1040/12 and my 1540/12 (N.T. in W.D.) Exceptionally
severe gale now blowing Azores area and no ships at sea near
position indicated. Portuguese destroyer DAO now returned to
Horta will sail if weather moderates sufficiently to permit her
to do so.
(N.A. Lisbon 1810/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
Following from PRIAM 1900 G.M.T. 126° 145 miles
Proceeding St. Michael. Cancel escort. Condition improved.
Cancel my message 1032/12.
(PRIAM via Burnham Radio 1900 G.M.T./12 to Admty. C. in C.
W.A.)
Following is a repetition of my 1448/12 (Begins) Addressed
R.O. Horta. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) N.A. Lisbon. from V.A.C.N.A.
SS. PRIAM reported damaged in 37° 44' N 030° 06' W steering 090°
7 knots. Request assistance be sent. T.O.O. 1448/12 (Ends)
(V.A.C.N.A. 1930A/12 to Admty.)
1. Your 1721 not to Admty. Very grateful if destroyer can
be sent to assist PRIAM.
(V.A. Gib. 2243A/12 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) Admty.
B.N.A. Madrid.)
Portuguese destroyer DOURO sails dawn 13th to assist
unofficially.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 2245/12 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty.)

Air report. Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 11 Dec.
U-Boat sightings and attacks. Wellington T/179 on
CLA A/S patrol E at 0330 hrs. S?ll in LBJB 1036
picked up and illuminated fully surfaced U-Boat but lost it
immediately when next sighted U-Boat it was beneath port wing and
submerging, not attacked. No E/A sightings or combats, no
casualties.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar 0930Z/12 to Air Min.)

417

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

SOUTHERN PRIDE Request you will sail SOUTHERN PRIDE for Freetown on 14 Dec. give my route as far as 20° N thence as ordered by F.O.C.W.A.
(V.A. Gib. 1044A/12 to S.N.O. Casablanca. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.A.)

SOUTHERN PRIDE requires 3 days for repairs, will sail for Freetown as soon as possible.

(S.N.O.C.A. 1758Z/12 to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements. Arrivals at 0800 SPEY, SENNEN, ROTHER, departures at 1100 BULOLO, *EXE, *CLARE, *SENNEN. * *See p. 417B*
(V.A. Gib. 1115A/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. N.C.X.F. Cdre. Londonderry.)

Portuguese Defence Schemes. Your 1500/29th. Brigadier Court Treat returns U.K. today and will report to Admty. with proposed defence scheme for Lourenço Marques, Beira and Nacala. He has chart of latter port but Ministry of Marine states these were supplied to Admty. some years ago.
(N.A. Lisbon 1245/12 to Admty.)

Ponta Delgada weather damage. Very severe storm during the night Dec. 11th carried away part of fuel pipe line to oiling berth near end of breakwater. Until repairs are effected only one berth with room for 2 vessels at one time is available for fuelling and nothing larger than destroyers can be accommodated.

Lighter (?) with fixed light (Red) recently moved to end of breakwater has also been washed away and disappeared.

(Consul, Ponta Delgada 1311/12 to D.N.I. (R) S.O.I. Gib.)

During heavy gale last night 120 metres of oil pipe line on outer breakwater carried away into harbour. Hope to commence recovery operations 14th, expect repairs will take 2 weeks. Can continue delivery from inner harbour pipe line where quay depth of water 24 ft. Portuguese Naval Authorities refuse to fuel vessels of cruiser size until further notice.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1540C/12 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Gib.)

P.54. Following safe conduct ships may be encountered.
See next page
p. 426A
(1) From Gibraltar by approved route, Swiss BULA sailed 1830/11 7½ knots. Portuguese MARIA JOANNA sailed 1730/11 4 knots.
(2) From Genoa, Spanish NORTE sailed 11th Dec. 10 miles south Levant Island off San Sebastian thence coast wise to Gibraltar. (Capt. S.8. 1346A/12 to P.54.)

U/B attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 36.45 N 00.00. When first sighted was on surface, course and speed unknown, and was subsequently observed to submerge.
(A/C C/S 52 P/R 1411A/12 to Gib. M/F D/F.)

Following has been read by Gibraltar. Have attacked enemy with depth charges (number of hits omitted)

(A/C NIUF 1425N/12 to Call sign VZ1.)

My 1441. Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges, estimate nil hits.

(A/C C/S 52 P/R 1445A/12 to Gib. M/F D/F.)

/Estimated...

487A

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.

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1150A/12th December. IN
FROM: V.A. Gibraltar DATE: 12.12.42.
RECD: 1458
NAVAL CYPHER S BY W/T AND T/P

ADDRESSED: A.I.G. 262

IMPORTANT.

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000 A/12th.

(1) French submarine CASABLANCA, 038 deg 51' North 004 deg 50' East through 039 deg 28' North 006 deg 04' East thence 030 deg 11½ knots. *See p. 426A*

(2) P 217, 038 deg 41' North 008 deg (56'?) East through 038 deg 40' North 007 deg 59' East thence 254 deg 11 knots both above submarines diving by day 2½ knots surface speed as stated. *See p. 419 + 426A*

(3) P. 54, 039 deg 21' North 001 deg 18' East course 40 degs on surface on 13th at C.O.'s discretion 8 knots speed when diving 2½ knots. *See previous page + p. 426A*

1150A/12

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

A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.I.
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)
D.N.I. (4)
Ad. Blake.

H.

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

417B

From V. A. Gibraltar

Date 12.12.42.

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must 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:
Addressed O.T.P. A.S. excepted from this rule.)
IMPORTANT

Situation report for Area X.
Situation 2005A/12th.

(1) H.M.S. *MATCHLESS, leaving Funchal 12th arrive Lisbon 10. *No - in Home Waters.*

(2) H.M.S. WOODRUFF, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. IMPERIALIST, 3 merchant ships, 37 38 09 49 to rendezvous M K S 3 (Y) in estimated position 36 09 09 53 at approximately 1230A/13th thence escort return to Gibraltar 10.

(3) M K S 3 (X), TAY, WEAR, *LURCH, H.M.S. ARDROSSAN, H.M.S. WORTHING, H.M.S. COREOPSIS, H.M.S. JONQUIL, H.M.S. DUNBAR, 043 degs 05 min 014 degs 53 min 001 degs 8. **LYME REGIS in Home Waters - See p. 336A*

(4) M K S 3 (Y), H.M.S. KRAKOWIAK, H.M.S. PALOMARES, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, H.M.S. AZALEA, H.M.S. LAUDERDALE, 35 59 07 18 through 36 10 10 01 thence 300 degs 7½ *See p. 415*

(5) M K F 4, H.M.S. EGRET, BANFF, TANATSIDE, SWALE, *EXE, *CLARE, *SENNEN, 35 51 07 30 through 36 01 10 01 thence 300 degs 12½. ** See p. 417*

(6) K X 6 (A), NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, 44 27 13 43 173 degs 5.

(7) Two U.S. Destroyers, one merchant ship, sailed from Safi then to arrive Casablanca 0900A/13th.

(8) H.M.S. CHARYBDIS, 37 14 11 11 through 41 01 15 30 thence 000 degs 20. *See pp 415, 417*

(9) U.S. Convoy IRVING, 33 11 10 39 through 33 01 12 01 and 31 01 17 01 thence 285 degs 13½.

(10) U.S. (?corrupt group) ROW 26 23 15 14 to Casablanca 15 (11). French Minesweeper TAPAGEUSE, CHASSEUR H, P. C. 482, 2 French merchant ships, sailing 0900A/13th coastwise to Gibraltar 7.

1350A/12

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

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.T.D.
W.D. D.O.D. (F)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (C)
D. of P. (Q)
Ad. Blake (2)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D.M.S.

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Estimated German activity slight no major change. Patrolling
U/B U-Boat transmitted at 2010Z/11 and was fixed by
Dispositions. D/F within 60 miles of 36° N 2° W possibly
reporting sinking of BLE(AN)?. Italian activity
normal, little change in patrol but some activity
believed to be now east of Malta.

Atlantic. German activity on station slight but no feint D/F
fixes obtained. About 5 U-Boats west of Gibraltar to 11 west
about 8 between 034°- 039° N 012° - 019° W. 3 bound south or
south-west within 120 miles of 32 north 22 west 3 bound south
west within 120 miles of 41 north 14.30 west. Italian, 1 between
Canary Islands and Azores.

(V.A. Gib. 1421/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Force H.)

BLEAN Arrival 1200 WISHART ex K.M.F.4 with survivors from
survivors. BLEAN. *see pp 415-4431*
(V.A. Gib. 1434/12 to N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers.
(R) Admty.)

U/B Am over enemy submarine in 36.22 N 01.42 W.
S/M is visible below surface making course 270°.
(A/C C/S TK7D 1535A/12 to Gibraltar M/F D/F.)

Search for My 1832/10. Portuguese destroyer DAO was unable to
CERAMIC reach position indicated for search ? because of
survivors. bad weather conditions and is returning to harbour
with loss of both masts.

Ministry of Marine would be grateful any further
information as to present possible position of survivors as they
are considering air R/C if weather moderates.
(N.A. Lisbon 1540/12 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib.)

VERITY Arrival VERITY ex M.K.F.4.
(V.A. Gib. 1636A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

ROBERTS C.S. Gibraltar's 1930/4 Dec. and N.C.X.F.'s 1220/10
Dec.
ROBERTS will be taken in hand for permanent repairs
by Cammell Laird, Birkenhead.
(D.O.D. (F). 1638A/12 to V.A. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

K.M.S.5. Following Admty. cargoes sailed in K.M.S.5.
destination Gibraltar.(list)
(Director of Stores 1723A/12 to N.C.X.F.)

U/B Am over enemy S/M in position 35.55 N 01.06 W
sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When
first sighted was on course 300° estimated speed
10 knots.
(A/C C/S UM9 Duty C. 1920A/12 to Gib. M/F D/F.)

M.K.F.4(Y) 2. PUCKERIDGE will R/V M.K.F.4(Y) in position
13° north, 1600A/13 to relieve one destroyer of
Force H. (F.O.C. Gib. 1921A/12 to Escort convoy
M.K.F.4(Y) (R) Admty. PUCKERIDGE. BLYSKAWICA.
N.C.X.F.) /P.217...

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

P.217.

See p. 417A

My 1602A/11. Comply with Capt. S.8's 1522A/11.
(V.A. Gib. 1925A/12 to P.217. (R) N.C.X.F.
S.O.I.S. Capt. S.10. Capt. S.8. Subs on patrol.
Cdre. Algiers.)

PORPOISE

(1) Intend to sail PORPOISE p.m. 14th for U.K.
(2) PORPOISE will pass 043° N in $012^{\circ} 26'$ W at
2300/17 shifting W/T watch at that time and thence
as ordered by F.O.S.
(3) W/T watch on N.A. Station S 1/42 Section N.A. Table 2 (1)
line 5. On home station S 2/42 Table 2 (iii).
(4) PORPOISE is painted dark blue.
(5) F.O.S. 1149/8 Jan. 1942. (a) 4 Mark VIII. (b) $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(c) Yes, 100% fuel. (d) Lieut. Melsom, Lieut. Lawrence, and
5 ratings.
(V.A. Gib. 1931A/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.S. etc.)

M.K.F.4.

Alter course from new position H, 36.28 N 11.01 W
to new J. 40.30 N 14.40 W new K. 46.01 N 15.48 W
thence to F. Amend stragglers route to conform,
lettered O.P.Q.W.
(D.O.D. (H). 1937A/12 to Escorts convoy M.K.F.4. (R) N.C.X.F.
V.A. Gibraltar. C. in C. W.A.)
From War Registry. Admty. 1937A/12 has been passed for
information to H.Q.C.C. at the request of D.T.D.

U/B
attacked

Am over enemy submarine in 36.12 N 03.18 W.
Enemy was on surface. Have attacked enemy.
(A/C Call sign UM9 Duty D 2055/12 to Gib. M/F D/F.)

L.C.I.(L)s.

Your 1944/10 Dec. para 4 (Intend to sail tug
EMINENT and seven L.C.Is to U.K. 12th Dec.)
L.C.I.(L)s should not be sailed, pending further
instructions.
(V.C.N.S. 2129A/12 to V.A. Gib. (R) N.C.X.F.
C. in C. W.A. B.A.D. S.B.N.O. W.A.)

U/B
* CHARYBDIS** See pp 415 & 417^B*

S/M fixed by D/F bearing within 80 miles $038^{\circ} 30'$
N ($?018^{\circ}$) $00'$ W at 1937 G.M.T. on 4540 K/cs.
(V.A. Gib. 2315A/12 to CHARYBDIS (R) Admty.)

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/B By D/F on 15,880 K/cs at 1532Z/11, German U-Boat estimated as being anywhere within 100 miles of 23° 00' S 37° 00' E.
(D.D.I.C. 0011A/12 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)

CAP TOURANE Your 1236/8 not to D.S.T.O. Durban. Could CAP TOURANE be filled to capacity with Middle East personnel ex transit camp and be sailed in convoy C.M.36 in view of delay to this convoy? If so request you arrange accordingly.
(D.S.T. 0350A/12 to P.S.T.O. Capetown. (R) D.S.T.O. Durban.)
Your 0350/12. Impracticable to get CAP TOURANE to Durban in time for C.M.36. Intend therefore to allocate her to C.M.37 with personnel for India and to send her from Capetown to Durban with 900 India personnel ex transit camp when escort is available.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1229C/12 to D of S.T. (R) D.S.T.O. Durban)

U/B By D/F on 5,650 K/cs at 0045/12 G.M.T. U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 7° 30' N 33° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0650A/12 to Escort of F.T.T.4. (R) Cominch. N.S.H.Q. F.O.C. W.A.)
By D/F on 8520 K/cs at 0241/12 G.M.T. Italian U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 8° 30' N 37° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0857A/12 to Escorts of F.T.T.4. (R) F.O.C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. Cominch.)

Repatriations. Italian repatriation ships VULCANIA and SATURNIA sailed for St. Vincent routed as per C. in C. S.A. reference 1137C/1 and F.O.I.C. W.A. 1044Z/5 speed 18 knots. E.T.A. a.m. 24th Dec.
(N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth 1013Z/12 to Admty.)

Destroyers from Eastern Fleet. Your 1017 Nov. Estimate 2 U-Boats still operating between Durban and Beira. It is considered that these have access to a supply ship. My 1511/3 Dec. refers. There is one Italian in Cape area.
(2) First group of trawlers expected to arrive about 21st Dec. and remainder by first week in Jan.
(3) Expected to sail NIZAM a.m. 28th Dec. and CATTERICK either mid January (see para 2) or earlier if corvettes from Eastern Fleet can be spared as relief vide your 1017/11 para 5.
(4) I should like to retain FORTUNE, FOXHOUND, EXPRESS and INCONSTANT (?if) situation remains as at present. It is suggested 3 of these destroyers should meet S A division convoy M.C.2 in vicinity Diego Suarez and escort to Durban.
(C. in C. S.A. 1111C/12 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

DUNEDIN STAR (beached) My 1804/7. Master of DUNEDIN STAR remaining at Walvis for the present. Surf boat has got ashore but not possible at present to take off castaways. Land rescue convoys not yet arrived at wreck but expected shortly. Survivors have four days rations and water has been dropped successfully.
2. Agents here have been told Admty. will keep owners informed.
(C. in C. S.A. 1123C/12 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET

420A

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From F.O.C.W.Af.

0957Z/12/December.

Date 12.12.42.

Naval Cypher M by W/T

Time 1347.

Addressed A.I.G.149

IMPORTANT

H.M.S.*MILFORD, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, YESTOR,
with F T T 4,09 40 37 01 272 9½ at 2003Z 12th.* *b.436*
PORTSCDOWN, escorting, 10 35 16 50 to Bathurst 9½.
COMMANDANT DETROYAT, SOUTHERN GEM, escorting, 15 30 19 22
001 degs 9. *b.420*
6. *COMMANDANT* BIRDLIP, escorting, 17 30 18 50 to R/V with DETROYAT
H.M.S. ILEX, about 19 19 40 Wellington R/V with
DUNKERY and convoy 15.
181 8. DUNKERY, DUNTON, BUTSER, with **convoy.* "SAMPSON", 22 55 17 58

0957Z/12.

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F) (2)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt Pim
D.O.D.(H) (2)
D.O.D.(F) (2)
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.of P.(2)
Ad. Blake

SECRET

4208

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 1053C/12 December, IN

From C. in C. S.A.

Date 12.12.42.
Recd. 1017.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T AND T/P.

Addressed: A.I.C. 125.

I M P O R T A N T.

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, 037 degs. 722' S. 025 degs. 10' E. to
Simonstown 13. GENISTA, H.M.S. JASMINE, 051 degs. (? 15' or 06')
S. 035 degs. 45' E. to the East 9. EMILE BAUDOT, leaves
Capetown p.m. 12th December for (group omitted).

See next page.

1053C/12.

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

Advance Copies Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim

Ops. (3)

O.D. (5)

O.D. 8.

O.I.C.

M. (2)

D.P.S.

Mails.

Movts.

D.A/S.W.

W.D.

D.T.D. (M)

I.P. (3)

D.M.S.

D.M.S. Citadel.

D.S.D. (2) and for W/T Board.

SECRET

420c

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: IN
SECRET "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

1113C/12 December.

From C. in C. South Atlantic Station.

Date 13.12.42.

Recd. 0204

NAVAL CYpher (D) BY W/T

Addressed C. in C. Eastern Fleet 187, F.O.I.C. West Africa,
Deputy C. in C. Eastern Fleet, V.A. Gibraltar,
F.L.O. Delhi, S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.

Weekly State South Atlantic Station 12th December

Area Q.

Cape area. H.M.S. ROCKROSE. *see previous page*
 Durban area. H.M.S. GENISTA, H.M.S. JASMINE. *see previous page*
 Simonstown. O.19, O.21, H.M.S. NIZAM, H.M.S. FOXHOUND,
 H.M.S. FORTUNE, H.M.S. ALCANTARA, H.M.S. THYME,
 H.M. S/m. P.552, M/L's 380, 381, 382, 383.
 Capetown. H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, COMMANDANT-DUBCC, EMILE
 BAUDOT, MEAD. ** see previous page*
 Durban. H.M.S. EREBUS, H.M.S. MANCHESTER CITY, H.M.S. CHITRAL,
 H.M.S. RESOURCE, H.M.S. ALBATROSS, H.M.S. HAWKINS,
 H.M.S. ROTHERHAM, H.M.S. NEPAL, H.M.S. NORMAN,
 H.M.S. CAPETOWN, H.M.S. NAPIER, H.M.S. EXPRESS,
 H.M.S. INCONSTANT, H.M.S. CATTERICK, SONDRAL.
 Port Elizabeth. H.M.S. ATHENE, KHETI, STORMWRACK.
 East London. COLOMBIA, SARKA, SATSA, CECILE MAPLESON.
 Saldanha Bay. H.M.S. FERNSMOOR, H.M.S. SPINDRIFT,
 BARGROSS.

1113C/12

Advance copy Ops. and Q.D.

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

D.M.S.
 D.M.S. Citadel.
 P.N.L.O.
 D.D.O.D. (M)
 D.B.D. (2)
 E.T.M.
 D. of L.D. (2)
 D. of S.T. (2)
 D.A.C.D.
 D.D.O.D. (C) (2)
 R.A.C.F. by courier.
 D.A.M. (2)

SECRET

420D

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:
S E C R E T "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

IN

1153Z/12 December,

From F.C. West Africa,

Date 2.12.42,

Recd. 2201

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, N.C.X.F.,
B.A.D. Washington, V.A. Gibraltar,
COMSOLICFOR 112, S.B.N.O. Western Atlantic.

447. Weekly state 12th December.

Cape Verde area,

H.M.S. ILEX, F.S. *COMMANDANT DESTROYAT, H.M.S. *SOUTHERN GEM. ^{# in p. A} 420A
Freetown, H.M.S. PHILOCTETES, H.M.S. EDINBURGH CASTLE,
H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. BURDOCK, H.M.S. HYDRANGEA
H.M.S. ARMERIA, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, HOLCOMBE, H.M.S. M.P. 614.
Freetown area, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES. ^{line 10.422}

On patrol Freetown-St. Pauls Rocks area, H.M.S. DESPATCH,
H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN.

On passage in, H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, H.M.S. TAMARISK.

Detached, H.M.S. VINDICTIVE, H.M.S. CORINTHIAN, 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. AUBRETTIA, H.M.S. SNOWDROP, H.M.S. VIOLET,
H.M.S. ROCKROSE, H.M.S. SOUTHERN PRIDE, (corrupt) COWSLIP,
BELEWORT, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.

1153Z/12

Advance copy Ops. and O.D.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
D.S.D. 9 (2)
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.S.D. (2)
D.D.O.D. (M)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
Mails.
Movts.
O.D. 8.
U.S.N.

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

S.T.46. My 1527Z/9. Cancel reference WILLIAM TILG^HMAN.
(F.O.C. W.A. 1146Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi^H (R)
R.N.O. Lagos. Admty.)

PRIAM. Following received from PRIAM. T.O.O. 0520/12.
(quoted)
See p. 416
(F.O.W.A. 1213Z/12 to V.A. Gib. N.C.S.O. Ponta
Delgada) See North Atlantic.

Ascension. J.S.M. 558. 12th Dec. 1942. Ref. J.S.M. 493.
U.S. Chiefs of Staff have put forward paper
proposing certain changes to draft Ascension
Island agreement set out in C.C.S.121. These changes, which
are additional to those recommended by Chief of Staff U.S. Army
and Judge Advocate General, are as follows (details)
7. It appears doubtful to us if our naval requirements are
adequately covered in this agreement.
8. Draft is being referred by U.S. Chiefs of Staff to State
Department for comment. We explained that it would have to be
carefully studied by all London Departments concerned.
Your comments awaited.
(J.S.M. T.O.O. 1523Z/12 to War Cabinet Offices, London.)

Area P. Request following may be promulgated. From 1st.
January 1943 area P will be subdivided into areas
P.1, P.2, P.3 and P.4.
2. The new areas will be bounded by the present limits of area
P and as follows. Area P.1. On the south by 12° N. Area P.2.
On the north by 12° N. On the south east by a line joining Cape
Palmas to Ascension. Area P.3. On the west by a line joining
Cape Palmas to Ascension. On the east by the Meridian of 5° E.
Area P.4. On the west by the Meridian 5° E.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1704Z/12 to Admty.)

OMBILIN Received 1917 G.M.T. 8290 K/cs band, de EMPIRE
torpedoed. ALMOND. SSSS de OMBILIN 7.25 N 39.19 W. OMBILIN
torpedo at 1845 G.M.T. Message not rebroadcast.
(Portishead Radio No T.O.O./12 to Admty. C. in C.
W.A.)

CAP Ref. KHYBER's 1216/9 not to D.S.T.O. West Africa.
PADARAN Request report (a) of damage sustained by CAP
See next page PADARAN. (b) of estimated time required for
repairs and (c) whether repairs can be taken in
hand at Takoradi.
(D.S.T. 2006A/12 to S.T.O. Takoradi. (R) D.S.T.O.
West Africa.)

TJILEBOET Your 1806A/11. CITY OF DERBY intercepted message
(U/B 28th from TJILEBOET reports sighting submarine 1130Z/28
Nov.) in 005° 37' N 024° 56' W.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2109Z/12 to Admty.)

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements.

Arrival 12th Dec. Free French ^{X COMMANDANT} D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES,
M.L.302, 209 with *CAP PADARAN.
(S.O.(I), Freetown 2117Z/12 to Admty. N.O.I.C.
Takoradi.) * *See previous page. * See p.420*

TENNESSEE.

U.S. Tanker TENNESSEE overdue Bahia but U.S.
Naval Observer has been informed ship will not
call.
(S.O.(I), Montevideo 2144Z/12 to Admty.)

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

EMPIRE
CENTAUR
torpedoed. Following received from EMPIRE CENTAUR,
torpedoed Algiers Bay.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0158/12 to Admty.)
Following received from Port Patrick Radio (begins)
Intercept at 0458 G.M.T. SSSS de EMPIRE CENTAUR
explosion, sinking, remainder unread, 0454/12.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0558/12 to Admty.)
(C. in C. Plymouth 0600/12 to Admty.)

SCYLLA,
enemy A/C. Following received addressed Algiers from SCYLLA.
Convoy "Pink" is being shadowed by 2 aircraft in
position 37.08 N. 5.02 E. Course and speed of
convoy 265° 13 knots. (Ends)
(Nore W/T 0215/12 to Whitehall W/T.)

Enemy M/Vs Aircraft reports at 0600 2 merchant ships 2000
*P.35. and 500 tons. 36.05 N. 10.35 E. course 180°
* *See p 420* speed 7 knots. Targets justify heavy torpedo
expenditure.
(Capt. S.10 0710A/12 to P.35.)
Cancel my 0710/12th. Be within 12 miles of Sousse at
0600/13th.
(Capt. S. 10 1620A/12 to P.35.)

*Force Q. Your (group missed) 11th not received until
AURORA 0116A/12th. Force Q stood to North West during
defect. night considerable air activity round us at dusk
* *See p 426* but no attack developed.
(2) Aircraft minelaying off Bone suspected, am
remaining at sea until channel is swept.
(3) Training motor for AURORA type 281 defective. Request spare
may be forwarded by air as quickly as possible ex DELHI, as I do
not like operating in these waters without efficient W.A. set.
(C.S. 12 0749A/12 to N.C.X.F.)

Midget U/B Limpet attack took place on ships in Algiers
attack, Bay from 0130 onward this morning. 1 M/V sunk
Algiers. and 3 M/Vs damaged. Further details follow.
(N.C.X.F. 0800A/12 to S.O. Force H. Admty.)
My 0800/12th. Attack thought to be by two-man submarine,
not Limpets, as charges must have been of the order of 300 pounds.
SS BERTO sunk SS HERMATTAN flooded in engine room, stokehold and
No.3 hold and beached. Towage will be attempted after ~~lightening~~
SS EMPIRE CENTAUR No.2 and 3 holds flooded. Local salvage firm
investigating damage. SS OCEAN VANQUISHER moving into harbour
and aground, engine room and boiler room flooded. Will be dis-
charged but may break back. 16 Italian prisoners have been taken
and are still under interrogation. No positive information
obtained from them as to method of attack nor has any apparatus
been picked up beyond diving suits in which prisoners were captured.
(N.C.X.F. 2230A/12 to Admty., Force H.) (*See W.D. p. 194*)

/PETARD ...

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.PETARD,
QUEEN OLGA.
(M.W. 16.)

PETARD, QUEEN OLGA proceed to Tobruk at best speed and complete with fuel. Report E.T.A. Further orders follow.

(C. in C. Med. 0908B/12 to PETARD (R) QUEEN OLGA, A.I.G. 72, R.A.(D) Med. Creek C. in C., C.C.F. N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (D) 12, Capt. (D) 14.)

My 0908/12th. Sail PETARD, Greek Destroyer BASSILISSA OLGA for Benghazi to arrive in daylight 13th Dec. (C. in C. Med. 1716B/12 to Tobruk C.C.O. (R) V.A. Malta, PETARD, F.O.C. 15th C.S. Capt. (D) 14th, D.F. Capt. (D) 12th D.F. BASSILISSA OLGA.)

E.T.A. 0900/15th Dec. PETARD, QUEEN OLGA.

(N.O.I.C. Port Said 0911B/12 to S.O. Subs, Malta., N.O.I.C. Malta (R) C. in C. Med., Greek C. in C., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Capt. (D) 12, Capt. (D) 14, 15th C.S., A.O.C. Med. PETARD, QUEEN OLGA.)

My 1245/11th December correct time of passing through (corrupt group) rain to read 1900/13th.

(C. in C. Med. 1220B/12 to N.O.I.C. Port Said, PETARD (R) QUEEN OLGA, Greek C. in C., R.N. Gn.Hdqs., A.I.G. No.72, N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O. 15th C.S., A.O.C. Med., Capt. (D) 12, Capt. (D) 15, F.O.C. Red Sea Force, C.C.F.A., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, R.A. (D) Med.)

Movements.

Arrivals 11th December PAKENHAM, SEAHAM, SOUTHERN MAID, CUMBRAE, PROTEA. Departure 11th December DULVERTON, DELPHINIUM, SEAHAM, CUMBRAE, PINDOS, SOUTHERN SEA.

(S.O.(I). Alexandria 0914B/12 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

11th December arrival AETOS (G.S.) departure H/L 1012. (S.O.(I). Beirut 0922B/12 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Air R/C.

A.M. Visuals December 12th. Naples, 3 cruisers. Ferrol, 3 cruisers.

(V.A. Malta 0947A/12 to Cmdre. Algiers, F.O.C.S.12 C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., F.O. Inshore Squadron, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H.)

Add to my 0947/12. Taranto, no sightings owing to bad visibility.

(V.A. Malta 1056A/12.)

M.K.F.4 (Y)

Cmdre. Algiers is requested to sail convoy M.K.F.4 (Y) at 1730A/12th routed through positions 100, 89, 17, 109, 13, 83, 57, lettered A to G stragglers route as convoy route.

- See p 431*
(Movements Algiers)
- (2) S. PoP A. 13 knots.
 - (3) Algiers section DELHI, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, VOLENDAM, TEGELBERG.
 - (4) Escorts BLYSKAWICA, ANTELOPE, BOREAS.
 - (5) Oran section, OTRANTO, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, R/V position 109 at 0930A/13th.
 - (6) Escort. S.O. Force H. as requested to detail one destroyer to escort as far as position 13. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to sail one destroyer to R/V convoy in position 13 at 1600A/13th to relieve Force H destroyers.
 - (7) Destination of all ships Gibraltar.

425

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Lon. 19.M.K.F.4 (Y)
(contd.)

(8) 1st 2 letters convoy call sign K.Q.
 (9) Fighter protection priority 2. Codeword "Soda".
 (N.C.X.F. 1005A/12, 1105A/12 to Cmdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C..Oran, V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H. (R) Capt. (S) 8th S.F., Capt. F., H.Q. Eastern Air Command, C.G. 12th A.F., A.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Shortage of Escorts.

A. I must again stress the dangerous situation now developing in Eastern Mediterranean with regard to escort forces.
 B. Prior to "Lightfoot" and "Torch", 3 escort groups each of about 8 ships of which 5 serviceable at a time, were available for escort from Alexandria to the Levant and Iskenderun. These were reinforced by Hunt Class Destroyers from time to time. This force was barely adequate against scale of U-boat threat prior to "Torch".
 C. Coastal Convoy traffic has now increased out of all proportion and has extended as far as Benghazi and will later go further.
 D. 8th Army supplies being at present paramount absorb almost all my escorts which cannot continue running at the present rate for much longer. The Levant coast traffic including valuable tankers to and from Haifa is virtually unescorted. Important Army and Air Force moves to and from Cyprus have had to be cancelled for lack of escort.
 E. Malta convoys and increased Fleet commitments largely prevent destroyers assisting coastal traffic.
 F. I do not foresee any reduction in present demands and there is every probability of the U-boat threat increasing.
 G. If therefore heavy losses in Eastern Mediterranean are to be prevented it is essential that I should receive additional escort vessels. The situation will not be satisfactory until I have an additional 16.
 (C. in C. Med. 1036B/12 to Admty.)

[No trace of a reply]

GRETE,
TOM.

GRETE (Danish under German control) will sail tonight 12th for Marseilles. Arrival 12th TOM Marseilles in ballast.
 (Valencia T.H.I. 1052/12 to Admty.)

Enemy
M/Vs.

Following received from A/C T. Squadron.
 Position of enemy 3 coasters 36.56 N. 21.42 E.
 (Malta 1135/12.)

BERTO
sunk.

Coaster BERTO sunk enemy action 0620/12 in Algiers Bay, all crew saved.
 (D.S.T. Algiers 1215A/12 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.X.F)

/Black Sea ...

426

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

Black Sea. (1) Black Sea Naval Staff has now transferred to Poti, in consequence no operational reports have been received from there yet. Intention is for me to move there, when accommodation can be found.

(2) No change on Novorossisk front.

(3) Russians report that (not graded) (a) Germans are mounting heavy guns on Bulgarian Aegean Sea Coast and Dalmatian coast. (b) 1720 railway waggons containing ammunition guns and motor transport from Roumania arrived Salonica during period Nov. 1st Nov. 20th, some artillery has been transferred Crete. (N.L.O. Black Sea 1215C/12.)

*Force Q. Following received on 385 k/cs. From S.O.
Enemy Force Q. Emergency Air Attack. 1 SHAD CAPRON
A/C. 320 GAR 22 100 18.
(Plymouth W/T 1220A/12 to Admty.)

* See p. 423

Orders to My 1950/11th, proceed dive by day, be in
S/Ms. position ordered by 2358A/13th.
(Capt. S. 10 1230A/12 to P.212, P.247, P.228 (R)
N.C.X.F., F.O.12th C.S., Capt.(S) 8, Submarines
on Patrol.)

Genoa P.R.U. Genoa 11/12. Only active naval units are
R/C. two submarines. A/C ROMA now berthed at Eastern
wall of Ponte Eritrea. Her previous berth at
Guardiano Mole now occupied by hull of Regolo
class cruiser. Dismantling of *AUGUSTUS is
continuing. *not dismantled?
(D.D.I.C. 1254A/12 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F. etc.)

*PARTHIAN, Arrivals.
P.37. (V.A. Malta 1312A/12 to Admty. etc.)

* See p. 430.

Bi-weekly Night 9/10 December. A Wellington laid 2 mines
Opsum No.81. at entrance to Tripoli Harbour 3 x 250 lb. H.E.
bombs dropped on harbour to cover operation
results unobserved.

11th December. 4 Beaufighters on offensive sweep off coast of
Tripolitania attacked a coastal vessel about 400 tons off Tripoli,
ship left severely damaged possibly in sinking condition.
26 American B.24s despatched to make afternoon attack on shipping
and harbour installations at Naples. 8 B.24s returned owing to
technical troubles, of remainder 9 bombed harbour claiming one
merchant vessel alongside Mole hit. Many fires and explosions
caused on 3 of main harbour Moles and along whole length of
quays. 2 B.24s hit by A.A. fire. Reports from remaining 9
aircraft not yet available.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1331Z/12.)

/HURWORTH ...

MOST SECRET

426.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.)

1330A/12th Dec.
MOST SECRET M E S S A G E IN
From Capt (S) 8th Date 12-12-42
Recd 2155

NAVAL CODE (L1) BY W/T

Addressed B and A Area G.

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000/
12th.

(1) P54, 39 24 North 01 12 East course 40 degrees on
surface 8 knots. *See pp 417 & 417A*

(2) P 217, 38 34 08 49 diving by day 2½. Surface by
night 11 knots through 38 30 08 32 38 40 08 00 38
08 03 16 thence on surface to Algiers. *See p. 417A*

(3) French submarine (reported Casablanca 38 48 04 33
through 39 28 06 04 thence 030 degs diving by day 2½
on surface by night 11½ knots. *See p. 417A*

1330A/12

Advance copy Duty Capt.
D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

? CASABIANCA

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 P.(2)
D.A/S.W
D.T.D.(M)
Head of M.
W.D —
I.D.(2)
D of P.(Q)
Ad.Ramsey (4)

427

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

- HURWORTH sailing Benghazi 1400 through position (K?) (could be 'B') to rejoin "Outwit". S. of A. 22 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 1340B/12 to PALADIN (R)
N.O.I.C. Malta, S.O. Force I, C. in C. Med.)
- MAURO GROCE Arrival 12th a.m.
(Italian) (Barcelona 1351/12 to M.W.T.)
- Cositrep Air. Night 10/11 Dec. Malta Wellingtons
No. 621. attacked Tunis docks, bombs bursting near a destroyer and suspected cruiser and at canal entrance. Destroyer seen smoking after bombing. Fire started on Island near Harbour entrance. Bad weather prevented further aircraft from locating harbour. A torpedo Wellington from Malta attacked a southbound M/V of 3000 tons about 60 miles north of Trapani. Results were unobserved but ship could not be relocated after attack. American B.24s bombed shipping and harbour installations at Naples, claiming one M/V hit. Many fires and explosions caused on main harbour Moles and along quayside. Interrogation of crews not yet complete.
(C. in C. M.E. No T.O.O. Recd.1505/12.)
- M.W.16. Sail 4 hunts to meet M.W.16 at daylight 13th Dec.
(C. in C. Med. 1544B/12 to N.O.I.C. Malta (R)
PALADIN, HURWORTH, 247 Wing.)
Leave convoy after dark today Saturday and proceed at best speed to Malta. *See p. 432 - also p. 429*
(C. in C. Med. 1548B/12 to PALADIN (R) N.O.I.C. Malta,
A.O.C. Med., 247 Wing, HURWORTH, EXMOOR.)
- POZARICA. Sail POZARICA for Algiers with destroyer escort to refuel and return to Bougie. Cmdre. Algiers is requested to detail escort. POZARICA reports fuel remaining for 3 days.
(F.O.I.S. 1609A/12 to N.O.I.C. Bougie, (R)
Cmdre. Algiers, POZARICA.)
- Shipping Following vessels sailing unconvoyed 1700A/12th.
Bone. MANCHESTER CITIZEN, AKAHBARA, ALPERA, POLO, ~~██████~~. NARVA, AUDUN. MANCHESTER CITIZEN has U.K. Mail and in addition is carrying two Officers, 7 other ranks, one prisoner of war for Algiers. ALPERA "Torch" mail (?ship) for Algiers. Following vessels arrived in harbour 1330/12th: CITY OF PERTH, DELANE, OCEAN FREEDOM, OCEAN TRAVELLER, OCEAN SEAMAN, TURKISTAN, PROMETHEUS.
(D.S.T.O. Bone 1630A/12 to D.S.T.)

/Adm. Godfroy ...

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Adm.
Godfroy.

A final meeting between Barthe, Gandin and Godfroy held in my presence 11th December.

B. Godfroy refused to come over now for following reasons.

1. His squadron belongs to France and he cannot give it away without knowing that the so called legitimate Government of France would agree. He accepts the fact that the armistice is terminated and that he cannot expect to hear the true views of Petain, but feels that if he were to join the dissidents, it would bring further trouble to France.
2. He would accept the orders of a stable government in North Africa representing all Frenchmen outside France, but will not accept that Darlan is such a head. He points out the difficulty between U.S.A. and ourselves over Darlan, and fears that a Gaullist will appear as head in North Africa. He could not accept this possibility.
3. He suggests Pietri (friend of Petain) Vichy Ambassador in Madrid, candidate for Presidency and Minister of Marine, as a possible head in North Africa who could rally all Frenchmen. Barthe did not comment.
4. Until we have taken Tunisia we have not justified our claims to be able to liberate France. If we should fail, he considers we will have done great wrong to France for no real gain.
- C. We used every possible argument and Godfroy will come no further until the situation stabilises, then he will gladly come over.
- D. He will not stand in the way of officers or men who wish to resume the fight, but will not give permission to do so, as when he does come over he will be left with totally inadequate crews. Thirty-one have come over to fighting French so far this month, owing to Godfroy wavering, many more will do so now that he has refused to enter fight.
- E. I very strongly recommend to leave the situation as it is and not to attempt to starve him out or capture him. Such action would only lead to scuttling or a battle in the harbour which will do infinite harm to our vital interests. Object is to get what is left of Force X and the ships. Patience, success in Tunisia and the solution of the Darlan problem are essential.
- F. A possible solution when circumstances are appropriate would be for Darlan with what authority he may have to give Godfroy a direct order and warn him that unless he obeys it will be held responsible for his failure.
- G. Barthe and Gandin return Algiers by next opportunity, their Fortress is at present broken down.

(C. in C. Med. 1630B/12 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

T.E.9.

FINTRA, HILDUR ~~III~~, BRINKBURN, EDENCRAIG, LEWIS,
LUCKENBACH, EMPIRE DACE, and French ships
SCHIAFFINO, NANCEEN, ~~FORT~~ DOUAMONT for Oran.FORT PITT, ANTONIA (T) SELVIK, EMPIRE LASS, EMPIRE GAWAIN.
H.M.S. TRITON, TRANSVAAL, LAPAGERIA, QUERCIA, YTHAN BRAES,
ACHROITE, ARNOLD BENNETT, GREGORY, TERVANI, SS HAMPTON LODGE, for
Algiers.

(V.A.C.N.A. 1650A/12 to Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran (R) N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Lm/51.

C.S.12. Request you will sail with Force Q p.m. tomorrow 13th to pass through approx. 038° 05' N. 010° 40' E. at 0001/14th thence to sweep in the direction of about 105° for about 2 hours returning on completion to Bone.

2. Object to intercept traffic between Italy and Tunisia.

3. Long range fighter cover being arranged to meet you in approx. 37.45 N. 09.15 E. at 0700/14th. Details later.

Fighter cover to continue until arrival at Bone.

4. Would you like a reinforcement?

5. V.A. Malta is requested to arrange daylight and night R/C 13th/14th communicating details direct to you.

(N.C.X.F. 1655A/12, 2200A/12 to C.S.12 (R) A.O.C. Eastern Air Command, V.A. Malta.)

Your 1655/12th para. 4. No.

(F.O. 12 C.S. 2248A/12 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Malta.)

Enemy
Units.

P.R.U. report at 1500 2 merchant ships (8 - 10,000 tons) 2 destroyers and 4 escort vessels North of Capri steering 160° and 1 merchant ship (6,000 tons) and 1 destroyer just leaving Naples. (V.A. Malta 1702A/12 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., C.S.15, S.O.I.S., C.S.12, Cmdre. Algiers, S/MS on Patrol, S.O. Force H, (R) Admty., V.A. Gib.)

Operation
M.H.2.

Operation M.H.2. My 1251/3 and my 2135/11 para.6 refer. Scale of air attack. 7th Dec. 1755 to 1825 Force unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo bombers. DULVERTON one officer killed,

4 ratings wounded by gunfire from convoy. A Spitfire and PETARD each claim one aircraft shot down.

8th December 0940 to 1019 2 Shads destroyed by aircraft.

1336 5 Junkers 88 dive bombed convoy no damage. 1 destroyed by

gunfire from convoy and escort and seen to crash, 1800 1 Shad

destroyed by aircraft, 1900 ORION and 5 Hunts parted company.

December 9th 1744 single Junker 88 dropped bombs on convoy,

1800 single Junker driven off by blind R.D.F. fire.

December 11th 0700 Me.111 arrived less tanker who had to enter Alexandria for lack of fuel.

(C. in C. Med. 1738B/12.)

Air R/C.

P.M. Visuals 12th December. Naples, 3 cruisers (one damaged), 5 destroyers, 6 merchant ships, (3-4000 tons) 5 merchant ships (2000 tons).

Messina. 3 cruisers, 2 destroyers, 3 merchant ships, (3000 tons) stopped outside harbour.

Taranto, 3 battleships, one destroyer. Brindisi.

3 or 4 merchant ships.

(V.A. Malta 1740A/12 to *PALADIN, C. in C. Med.

N.C.X.F., Cmdre. Algiers. S.O. Force H, F.O.(15)

C.S., F.O.(12) C.S., EXMOOR, F.O. Inshore

Squadron, (R) Admty. V.A. Gib.)

* See pp 427-432

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

FORMIDABLE. FORMIDABLE is to proceed out of harbour tomorrow Sunday morning after OTRANTO and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD have left.

(2) N.O.I.C. Mers-El-Kebir is requested to inform H.M.S. FORMIDABLE intended times of sailing of (GFKV) OTRANTO and DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.

(3) Capt. (D) 3 detail 4 destroyers to meet and screen FORMIDABLE off entrance.

(4) FORMIDABLE inform Capt. (D) 3 time of sailing.

(5) After flying off 6 fighters to La Senia FORMIDABLE and screen return to harbour, FORMIDABLE to 5 berth.

(S.O. Force H. 1801A/12 to FORMIDABLE, Capt. (D) 3, (R) LOOKOUT, METEOR, F.O. Oran, N.O.I.C. Mers-El-Kebir.)

ALGERINE. A.F.O. 3700/40 and my 1142 of the 17th November. Not proposed to hold Board of Inquiry into loss of ALGERINE as considered no useful purpose would be served. Written report follows by air mail.
(N.C.X.F. 1815A/12 to Admty.)

UNA,
*P.35.

*See p. 423

UNA has sailed for patrol in area between 035° 00' and latitude Kuriat West of 012° 00' E. your area is changed to the Gulf of Hammamet West of 011° 08' E. *PARTHIAN has returned to harbour with defects. You are to leave patrol after dark Monday 14th December and return to Malta.
(Capt. S. 10 1840A/12 to P.35 (R) N.C.X.F. etc.)

*See p. 426

P.46. My 1950/11th amend your position to read 037° 32' 010° 30'.
(Capt. S. 10 1918A/12 to P.46 (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, Subs on Patrol.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 169 12th Dec. C.S.R. Night 11/12 December. No enemy activity locally. Day 12th December. Today a total of 20 Beau-fighters and 20 long range Spitfires have carried out offensive sweeps in the Lampedusa - Pantellaria - Trapani Areas against Axis Transport aircraft and shipping. 12 Spitfires have been airborne for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

4 Spitfire photo reccos, 3 Baltimore Reccos. Photos. Naples Capodichino Aerodrome 4 Me.323, 54 Ju.52, 5 Sm.81, 2 Fw.58, 4 FI.156 or 155 (corrupt) 1 Ca.133, 12 Cant Z1007, 11 Sm.79, 1 Sm.79, Bis.1 Sm.84, 13 Ca.310, 1 Me.111, 1 Ju.88, 21 Greda 88, 30 small Fighters, 1 medium, 3 small unidentified aircraft. Harbours. Taranto partially obscured by cloud. One M/V 7000 tons has arrived and is loading. Messina since 10 December 1 T/B arrived, one M/V 4000 tons departed from Roads. One M/V 2000 tons with one T/B approaching from North. Naples since 10th December 1 M/V 6/7000 tons with deck cargo of M/T, one M/V 4000 tons, 1 D/R, one T/B 4 Siebel Ferries departed. 4 of M/Vs present are taking on deck cargo of M/T. Sousse 1 M/V 2000

/tons ...

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - *cont. 18.*

Malta tons present. Photos show bomb damage to
Air Report warehouse on South-East Quay. Navarino
(contd.) partail cover 1 repair ship, 1 water carrier
present. Shipping at sea. Visuals only.
0818 hours 260° Point Faro 2 miles, 1 M/V 3000,
1 M/V 1000 tons course 090° speed 5 knots, 1 M/V 3000 tons
course 270° speed 6 knots.
Night 11/12 December. 3 Special Wellingtons, 2 carrying
torpedoes on R/C for enemy shipping North of Sicily and from
Cavoli to Marittimo made no sightings. As weather conditions
made it impossible to continue our bombing offensive against
Tunisia Wellingtons made 11 successful sorties to bomb Palermo
Docks where many Axis supply ships were known to be taking on
cargo. From 0145 to 0224 hours Wellingtons dropped bombs from
1000 ft. scoring hits all over the Harbour area. 1 4000 lb.
bomb burst near the customs house and 1 other 4000 lb. bomb
burst on or very near the Naval Quay. Some accurate heavy
flak was encountered. A smoke screen made observation of
results difficult. At 0155 hours a Special Wellington shipping
R/C saw 6 deep red fires and many explosions at Palermo visible
52 miles away.
(A.H.Q. Malta 2030Z/12.)

Movements, Algiers arrivals, PRINSES BEATRIX, BICESTER,
Algiers. WILTON, WHEATLAND, LAMERTON, SCYLLA, with 3 M/Vs
from Bone. ANTELOPE, BOREAS, with one M/V,
also ALBERNI, SUMMERSIDE with 2 M/Vs from Bougie.
Departure, OXFORDSHIRE to Oran. DELHI, ANTELOPE,
BOREAS, BLYSKAWICA with M.K.F.4 (Y). *See p. 424 (M.K.F.)*
(Cdre. Algiers 2041A/12 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., 42)
F.O. Inshore Squadron.)

RORQUAL, Have been attacked by enemy submarine position
U/B. 39.49 11.42.
(RORQUAL 2120A/12 to Captain S.10 (R) N.C.X.F.)

Situation (1) French ship MASCOT with cargo of coal from
Report No.33. Algiers sunk by aircraft off Cap Carbon at 2000
9th December. Crew rescued.
(2) BLEAN torpedoed and sunk 60 miles West of
Oran at 1630 11th December, while escorting M.K.F.4. WISHART
has 8 officers and 86 ratings survivors. *See p. 415. 4418.*
(3) Algiers. Limpet attack and possibly human torpedo attack
took place on ships in bay, at 0130 today Saturday. BERTO sunk,
HARMATTAN, EMPIRE CENTAUR and OCEAN VANQUISHER damaged. 16
Italian prisoners captured. *(bank later)*
(4) 6 destroyers of Force H are carrying out A/S sweep in
Western Mediterranean.
(N.C.X.F. 2138A/12 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta,
V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D., Allied Force H.Q. London.)

/Movements ...

432

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Movements,
Malta.

Sailed EXMOOR, ALDENHAM, CROOME, HURSLEY.
(V.A. Malta 2212A/12 to Admty., C. in C. Med.,
N.C.X.F.)

Air R/C,
M.K.F.4 (Y)

*See pp 422-9
431.*

N.C.X.F.'s 1055A/12th (1005A intended?)
P.R.U. Cagliari and daylight patrol Bon Cape -
Valencia - Ustica Isle arranged. Owing to
commitments S.I. connection with Naval Operation
in Central Mediterranean yesterday further R/C
of this area can (cannot intended?) be undertaken
by day. Night patrol Marittimo - Cavoli will
be carried out weather permitting.
(V.A. Malta 2222A/12 to F.O.C. 12th C.S. (R)
N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med., A.O.C. Naval Air
Command.)

PALADIN,
P.51.

PALADIN arriving from South East probably soon
after dawn 13th. *See p. 427 9429*
2. P.51 arriving from West and after entering
Sanctuary is to remain dived within 2 miles of
035° 40' N. 014° 09' E. until 0815A/13th and
is then to approach the searched channels on
the surface.
(V.A. Malta 2324A/12 to P.51, PALADIN, (R)
HYTHE.)
E.T.A. 0615/13th.
(PALADIN 2359A/12 to V.A. Malta.)

SECRET

432^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 2352B/12th December IN

From C. in C. Mediterranean. Date 19.12.42
Recd. 0530

NAVAL CYPHER XD BY W/T

Addressed: G.H.Q.M.E.F., H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., Governor
Malta, V.A.Malta. Repeated Admiralty.

680. Admiralty have drawn my attention to the fact that the Middle East Joint War Communique of 5th December 1942 (Mideast PR/80324) did not specify that torpedo aircraft were Fleet Air Arm aircraft nor was that specifically reported in Mideast Cositrep No. 614 or Governor Malta's HE/5477 which described aircraft as Albacores. Admiralty request naval identity of aircraft be mentioned in future communiqes and situation reports when Fleet Air Arm aircraft are employed. Whether to mention their names or types to depend on R.A.F. practice in force at the time.

V.A.Malta pass to Governor Malta.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
Naval Sec.
N.A.1st S.L.
O.D.(5)
C.C.L.S.
O.I.C.(3)
Ops.(3)
D. of P.(3)
M.(2)
I.P.(3)
D.P.D.
W.D.
D.N.I.(5)
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
Admiral Blake

2352B/12

NMB

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.M.34. B.M.34, Sail 0200Z/12th. Speed route etc. Ships.
B.A.35. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0212Z/12, 0216Z/12).
Departure 01 (?15)Z SOEMBA with B.M.34.
0120Z WORCESTERSHIRE, GERALDTON with B.A.35.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0446Z/12).
List and contents of B.A.35 (P.S.T.O. India 1021Z/12).

MARGUERITE Arrival 0445Z/12th. December. (?MARGUERITE)
MATIANA. escorting MATIANA. (see 9/12-p. 312A)
(Addu Atoll C.C.O. 0449Z/12 to Admty).
Departure 1015Z/12. December, MARGUERITE.
(N.A. Addu Atoll, 1017Z/12 to Admty, (R)
S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I)
Kilindini, S.O.(I) Aden).

CARTHAGE. Departure 11th December.
(F.O.E.A. 0458Z/12 to Admty).

Suspicious At about 1620Z, yesterday Friday station using
Signal. signal letter GFYP established communication
with Mombasa Radio, exchanged operation signal
and gave V.A. sign. Strength 2/3. No bearings
obtained.

2. According to records available these signal letters are allocated to TOWERFIELD unknown in Indian Ocean and marked a casualty in U.K. last May.
3. Endeavours have been made during night to establish communication and confirm identity if ship in code with no result.
4. Have letters GFYP been allocated to any other ship?
5. Authorities (?repeated) are to report repeated Admiralty if this ship was heard by 500 K/Cs, W/T station under control with any remarks. Blank reports not required.
(C. in C.E.F. 0656Z/12 to Admty (R) Comdre. Aden, Com. R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Seychelles, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez)

H.M.S. Your 2354A/9th December. Vessel has been
IRONCLAD. renamed GENERAL FOCH and M.L.C.117 has been
named IRONCLAD.
(C. in C.E.F. 0731Z/12 to Admty).

M.C.2. Request you will give convoy M.C.2. the best
anti-submarine escort available until well
clear of the Gulf of Aden.
(C. in C.E.F. 0914Z/12 to Com. Aden. (R) Admty,
C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.R.S.F.).

Route for convoy M.C.2. from Aden.

- (a) 011.37 N. 046.14 E.
 - (b) 012.45 N. 051.18 E.
 - (c) 011.01 N. 052.39 E.
 - (d) 001.45 S. 049.15 E.
 - (e) 010.42 S. 049.40 E.
 - (f) 013.15 S. 051.43 E.
 - (g) 026.12 S. 048.17 E.
 - (h) 032.17 S. 037.24 E. thence as required by C. in C.S.A.
2. Request you will pass to Compac. (C. in C.E.F. 1242Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Aden. (R) F.O.C.R.S.F. N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C.S.A. Admty)

MOST SECRET

433A

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.) 0846Z/12th December

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: F.O.C.R.I.N.

DATE: 14.12.42.

RECD: 0930

Naval Cypher (A.3) by W/T. RECIRCULATION.

ADDRESSED: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Repeated
Admiralty, F.L.O. Delhi, Army
H.Q. India, Cmdre N.A.S. Ceylon,
R.A. N.A.S. Indian Ocean.

329.

Your 1334Z 17th November Army H.Q. India confirm that requirements for defence of Port F and F A A requirement can be met by the one aerodrome at Khambaliya. The aerodrome at Chela is being developed for use as an R.A.F. aerodrome including torpedo training school. This aerodrome can also be made available in an emergency as a "satellite" or provide additional facilities for shore - based fleet air arm aircraft.

0846Z/12

1st Lord	D.T.D.(3)	D.A.S.(L)
1st S.L.(2)	D.B.D.	W.G.F.
D.F.S.L.	D.A/S.W.	Hd. of C.W.
2nd S.L.	D.M.S.	Hd. of N.
3rd S.L.	D.T.M.	D.T.S.D.
Vice Controller	D.C.(2)	Ad.Bellairs
4th S.L.	I.P.(2)	Dep.Contr)
C.N.A.S.	W.D.	C.E.in C.)
Civil Lord	Hd. of Air	D. of D.) Bath
V.C.N.S.	A.C.N.A.S.	E. in C.) by
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)	D.N.A.D.	E. in C.) Courier
A.C.N.S.(UT)	D.N.I.(4)	(FMB))
A.C.N.S.(W)	D.A.M.	RINLO(2))
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.A.M.R.	Hd.S.W.R.)
Sec.	D.of P.(2)	D.A.S.)
Nav. Sec.	Hd. of M.(30) and for	
N.A. to A.C.N.A.(UT)	India Office (Mr.Clausen)	
N.A.1st S.L.	War Office	
N.A.2nd S.L.(2)	Air Ministry	
N.A.2nd S.L.(Air)	W.C.O.	
P.A.S.(O)	Treasury (Mr. Fleet)	
P.A.S.(S)	D. of N.	
A.S.(C.L.)	Hydrog.	
D. of L.D.	D.P.S.	
D.O.D.(H)(2)	M.D.G.	
D.O.D.(F)(2)	C.E. in C.	

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

TALAMBA. D. of S.T. 0211/5th. Your 0752/8th. ARMINDIA requires TALAMBA to sail from Bombay 29th December and will have about 500 patients. Will any naval ratings be embarking in this ship (P.S.T.O. India 1015Z/12).

MULBERA U/B. Following has been read:-
SSSS Intercept 1102 G.M.T./12. MULBERA 18.59 N. and 85.45 E. Periscope sighted.
(Colombo W/T 1045 G.M.T./12, Kilindini W/T 1045 G.M.T./12)
C. in C.1145Z/12 to S and A. E.I.).

ATHENE UNICORN. Your 1001/5 December.
ATHENE is to proceed in accordance with A.M. 1726/24 November.
2. UNICORN should join Eastern Fleet in March or April.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1106A/12 to C. in C.E.F.(R) R.A.N.A.S. India Ocean).

PETRONELLA. Ref.P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1208/11th December not to Admty, C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. Cdre. R.I.N.
PETRONELLA has at present 1860 tons furnace oil and 440 tons high speed diesel oil which propose transferring Bombay stock. Vessel is armed and degaussed and suggest she proceed Abadan for cleaning and fuelling full cargo petrol. Request immediate instructions.
(P.S.T.O.India 1137Z/12 to D. of S.T.(R) Admty, F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C.E.F., P.S.T.O.Egypt, Cdre.R.I.N.).
Reply D.S.T. 1608A/14.

Passage of Seamen to India. Admty 1300A/5 December.
1. The rules in force for ships of under 12 kts in Indian Ocean proposed in my 0506/19 Sept and approved by Admty in their 1702/27 Sept are as follows:-

- A. No limitations on ships in escorted troop convoys.
 - B. The numbers of personnel laid down in E.F. War Orders, No.17 may travel in unescorted merchant ships of less than 12 kts.C.in
 - C. E.F. being informed on each occasion.
 - C.No limitations other than that imposed by passenger certificate to be placed on numbers in the Indian coastal traffic and on Pilgrim traffic in Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea.
 - D.(Remainder corrupt. Repetition being obtained).
- (C. in C.E.F. 1208Z/12 to C. in C.S.A.(R) Admty).

Persia Shipping Tonnage. JSM.557.
1.Procedure for allocation of tonnage for Persia, has been raised here and after considerable argument C.M.T.C. agreed to recommend following arrangements:-

(a) C. in C. P.A.I.C. should send a message each month to Combined Chiefs of Staff Washington and British Chiefs of Staff reporting.

1.Estimated capacity of Persian Gulf ports and inland

/transportation...

SECRET

H34A

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(*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

1210Z/12th December

From C. in C. Eastern Fleet Date 14.12.42

Recd. 0559

Naval Code (X) by T/P & W/T RECIRCULATION

Addressed C in C. S.A. Repeated Admiralty

17. Admiralty's 1300A/5th December

(1) The rules in force for ships of under 12 knots in the Indian Ocean proposed in my 0506/19th September and approved by Admiralty in their 1702/27th September are as follows:-

(A) no limitations on ships in escorted troop convoys.

(B) The numbers of personnel laid down in Eastern Fleet war orders No. 17 may travel in unescorted merchant ships of less than twelve knots C. in C. Eastern Fleet being informed on each occasion.

(C) No limitations other than that imposed by passenger certificate to be placed on numbers in the Indian Coastal Traffic and on pilgrim traffic in Red Sea, Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.

(D) In special cases other categories of passengers not exceeding numbers allowed by passenger certificate may travel in unescorted ships of less than twelve knots but the approval of the C. in C. Eastern Fleet must be asked on each occasion.

(E) In all other cases the ruling given in Admiralty 2320/18th July is to stand

(2) Should you decide to adopt this procedure on the S.A. Station request I may be informed when approval is given under (B) and (D) above for ships proceeding into the East Indies Station.

1210Z/12

Note. Part one only of this message previously circulated, with portion corrupt at end.

	Advance Copy OPS.	O.D. Trade
A.C.N.S. (F)	D. of S. 2A	U.S.N. (3)
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.D. (H)	D. of P (3)
N. . . 1st S.L.	D.T.D. (C)	M (10)
Capt. Pim	D. of S.T. (2)	
Cps (3)	I.P. (3)	
O.D. (5)	D.A/S.	
O.I.C. (2)	W.D.	

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Persia, transportation agencies four months in advance.
Shipping 2. British Forces requirements
Tonnage. 3. Essential Civil needs (including aid for the
Contd. Poles).
4. British quota for Russian supplies.

(b) Upon receipt of this report it will be possible to determine in Washington balance available for U.S. transportation requirements and U.S. Russian supplies.

(2) Figures in (1) (a) 4, would have been agreed between C. in C. P.A.I.C. and London beforehand. Object of telegraphing information in above form is to keep U.S. Authorities in picture as to how available tonnage is split up. You will note however that all our requirements are not subject to query in Washington except on protest by U.S. Commander as provided for by JSM 397. Essential that C. in C.P.A.I.C. should be instructed to state in his monthly telegram agreement or otherwise with U.S. Commander.

3. We propose to concur unless otherwise instructed by you immediately.

(JSM. T.O.O. 1517Z/12 to War Cabinet, London).

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ENTERPRISE,
U/B.

By D/F on 10510 k/cs at 1707Z/11, U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 100 miles of 43° 30' N. 33° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 0740A/12 to ENTERPRISE.)

Movements
Summary.

1800 G.M.T. 12th Dec.
Ship Position Course Speed
→ ENTERPRISE 40½ N. 36 W. at Hove to Blank
1700/11.
Tanker)
convoy) 09½ N. 36½ W. 273 9½
Sup. 420 MILFORD)
CORINTHIAN 21½ S. 38½ W. 243 11½
NEWCASTLE 34½ N. 49 W. 086 18
A.T. 30 49 N. 27 W. 020 26½
(D.O.D.(F), 1018Z/12 to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)

Trinidad escorts. B.R.L.O. has been informed by U.S. Port Director that definite instructions have been given that escorts available are to be used solely for T.A.G and Trinidad convoys and are not to be used for subsidiary work. This means that in future no escorts will be available for inter-island ships. Some valuable British ships are affected mostly in connection with food supply to islands. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1021Q/12 to S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty., B.A.D.)

Trinidad - Brazil Convoys. Connav's 1522/11th informs as follows:-
Use the following symbols for Trinidad and Brazilian Coastal Convoys:
1. T.J. and J.T. Trinidad - Rio de Janeiro.
2. T.P. and P.T. Trinidad - Paramaribo.
3. T.R. and R.T. Trinidad - Recife.
4. T.E. Trinidad East to dispersal point.
5. T.F. and F.T. Trinidad - Freetown.
6. J.R. and R.J. Rio de Janeiro - Recife.
(Comnav, 1026/12 to Admty.)

U.G.F. 3, U.G.S. 3. Following is Cinclant 0145/12 giving Atlantic Fleet location sheet 38 addressed for action to Admiralty and to Cominch and Comnav for information.

Task Force 35: PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, 9 destroyers escorting U.G.F.3 leave New York Dec. 12th. *See 11/12 - p. 395*
Task Force 33: 6 destroyers escorting U.G.S.3 leave New York Dec. 11th.
MASSACHUSETTS, TUSCALOOSA - Casco Bay.
(Comnav, 1041/12 to Admty.)

O.N.151, O.N.\$150. T.U. 24.18.3 MONTGOMERY (S.O.), NEW WESTMINSTER, TRAIL, MELVILLE, RIMOUSKI designated Western Local Escort North O.N.151.
T.U. 24.18.5 NIAGARA, MATAPEDIA, MONCTON, GRANDBY designated Western Local Escort North O.N.\$150.
(F.O.N.F., 1104Z/12 to C.T. 24.)

/Dakar ...

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Dakar negotiations. Your 2223/9. The full text is being passed to N.C.X.F. and to F.O.C. West Africa, who will pass also to A.O.C. in C. (M. Branch, 1131A/12 to B.A.D.)

ATTACKER. San Francisco departure, 11th, Gulf of San Eufimia, ATTACKER. (N.S.H.Q., 1245Z/12 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.A.)

A.T. 32, Your 1947/11th. SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH sailing
A.T. 33, New York 4th January had already been designated
A.T. 34. by Cominch as A.T.32. See cable from British Army Staff Washington, number Q/239 of 23rd Nov. Since sailing date of 3 fast independent ships will be very close together, they will be designated as follows, irrespective of actual dates of departure. ANDES A.T.32, EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND A.T.33, QUEEN ELIZABETH A.T.34. F.O.I.C. Greenock pass to N.C.S.O. Clyde. (B.A.D., 1535Z/12 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., etc.)

U/B S/M Estimate 12th Dec. and U.S. Submarine Notice.
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1613/12.)

Mindiv 19, J.S.M. 560, 12th Dec. Following is text of
"Torch" Area. telegram No. 1600 from Algiers. Begins. To Agwar. From Freedom Algiers. Retention Mindiv 19 in this area considered most essential in view high intensity submarine activity and shortage escorts. Ref. S.N.O.C.A. 1610Z/8 pass to Cinclant and Cominch signed Eisenhower. Desire retain them if at all possible. (Ends). (J.S.M., 1613Z/12 to War Cabinet.)

Routeing of B.R.L.O. Philadelphia reports. British D.S.A.
Portuguese Lisbon is routeing Portuguese ships to this port,
Ships. and Baltimore, not in accordance with U.S. Naval instructions also there have been cases of Portuguese vessels bound for Gloucester, New Jersey, being routed to Gloucester Mass. some 400 miles north. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1705Z/12.)

H/F position Your 1535/1st Dec. We are prepared to give a
reports from trial to these proposals.
M/Vs. 2. Ref. para. 2, consider passing instructions from ships in Atlantic should be "Pass to Admty. and Connav" and from ships in Indian Ocean "Pass to Admiralty". Admiralty wishes to receive all reports and furthermore the W/T Station contacted does not necessarily indicate whether ship is in British or U.S. Zone.

War Diary.12.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West IndiesH/F position
reports from
M/Vs.
(Contd.)3. Ref. para. 3.
(a) To facilitate handling at W/T Stations, consider that if four letter call sign is used, it must always be followed by an arbitrary numeral (excluding nought). During busy periods, Whitehall W/T is frequently in communication

with 3 ships simultaneously.

(b) For sake of brevity therefore, Admiralty would much prefer to use the twelve two-letter call signs (GA - GM omitting GB). If Cominch is unable to agree however, Admiralty is prepared to use four-letter one figure call signs.

(c) To avoid having two different systems for transmitting messages from merchant ships, consider that system of general call signs should be used for all coded messages from merchant ships.

(d) Concur with restrictions on maximum time to be spent in calling shore stations.

4. Upon receipt of your reply to points raised above, a revised version of M.A.R.I. Section II para. 11 will be proposed to Connav.

(D.T.D., 1840A/12 to B.A.D.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.Para. A. → NIGERIAN torpedoed sunk 08.32 N.
57.54 W. 1110Z/8.Para. C. Brazilian Army Authorities sight
submerging sub. area 03.45 S. 32.20 W. 11th
December.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2015/12 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

PIERRE
LOTI
aground.Following from PIERRE LOTI. Aground ?000° 47'
N. ? 009° 19' E. off Corisco Island. Urgently
request redirect powerful vessel to assist tow.
Inform Elder Dempster, Lagos, despatch tug advise
Blue Funnel Line Liverpool ?. Passengers ? and
crew safe. Evans.(Halifax, 2015 G.M.T./12 to N.O.I.C. Freetown,
(R) Admty. for Information.)→ NIGERIAN
(sunk 8th
December)Trinidad reports arrival Master 3 passengers 23
crew British NIGERIAN torpedoed sunk 1110 G.M.T./
8th in 008.32 N. 057.54 W. Taken prisoner by
U-Boat, Major Kirk, Capt. Harrison, British Army,
Flying Officer L. Hall R.A.F., also possibly
prisoner Major Borrett, British Army. Two other
boats adrift.

(S.O.I. Jamaica, 2124R/12 to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

Bunkers,
Australia.Connav's 2335/7 and 2035/8 neither to B.A.D.
Washington. Following for B.M.S.M. for M.O.W.T.
We suggest that consideration should be given to
dividing between Fremantle and Sydney additional
oil bunker off-take in Australia of U.S. flagships both outward
and homeward on this route to avoid overloading Fremantle.
Furthermore, we request early estimate of Fremantle additional

/requirements ...

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - *W.I.*

Bunkers,
Australia.
(Contd.)

requirements observing that present acute shortage of tanker tonnage will make it extremely difficult to provide tankers to lay down additional supplies.
(D.T.D., 2124Z/12 to B.A.D.)

Pacific
Shipping
Routes.

Your 2035/8 request that no British controlled ships be so routed whilst matter is under consideration.
(D.T.D., 2127A/12 to Connav, (R) B.A.D.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation.

Digest Serial number 324, Dec. 11th.
Photos portion Rabaul Harbour morning 11th show one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, 8 destroyers 4 torpedo boats, 3 patrol craft, one possible submarine, one seaplane tender, 2 small tankers, 24 merchant vessels 2-8000 tons totalling approx. 106,000 tons, 2 unidentified vessels, numerous small harbour craft, 2 flying boats, 3 float-planes, also activity on water front including new jetty and new wharf under construction. Aircraft reported sighting total 59 vessels including one leaving harbour.
2. No material change reported Buna area, where activity limited to patrol and artillery encounters. Several enemy counter attacks Sanananda Soputa track repelled with heavy enemy casualties. Enemy this area reported well clothed, good physical conditions. 638 Japanese buried Gona area since occupation. 16 prisoners taken including ten wounded, many documents captured, ample food and ammunition located in area.
3. 27 Zeros over Dobodura area at 0250/11 and 12 over (? Buna) at 0445Z/11.
4. 6 B.25s and 7 Marauders attacked Lae aerodrome afternoon 11th. Many small fires possibly aircraft both sides runway. One aircraft seen explode, also possible hit A.A. position. Photos show 5 damaged medium bombers, one damaged dive bomber, 36 damaged fighters, 2 possibly serviceable fighters. Many of the aircraft badly damaged others burnt out completely.
5. Nine Marauders attacked Buna area morning 11th causing large fires. 6 Wirraways attacked stores Cape Killerton area, destroying huts.
6. R/C Darwin area morning 11th by one twin engine monoplane at 27,000 feet.
7. Enemy reported using two runways Dilli. Approx. 13 fighters operating, five of which depart on patrol early each morning other depart westward irregular times. Single engine dive bombers also observed operating.
8. (??) 10 large merchant vessels from Dilli reported passing Lifuica morning 8th with fighter escort. Enemy ground patrols remain active Dilli Bauc ?U same area.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0645Z/12 to Admty., etc.)

/U.S.18 ...

War Diary.

12.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

U.S. 18.
(AQUITANIA.)

Sailing telegram. ^(11/12 - 3.398) Escort ACHILLES to O.K. 041°
13' S. 139° 05' E. ADELAIDE from O.K. to
Fremantle.
(N.C.S.O. Wellington, 0829M/12 to Admty.)

CHEVREUIL.

Following from F.S. CHEVREUIL. (Begins). F.S.
CHEVREUIL left 8 a.m. Friday 11th for Marquesas
Is. Group. Absent approx. 8 days.
(N.O. Wellington, 2204M/12 to Admty. (for N.F.L.)
British Consul, Noumea for High Commissioner,
Pacific Noumea; A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1431A/12, 1435A/12.)

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

CUMBERLAND left Hvalfjord this evening for patrol "White". C. in C. H.F. has also asked for air patrols "Fox", "Polar" and "White" to be carried out. (This was modified on 14th December).

H.M.Y. WHITE BEAR (S/M escort ship) reports casualties in a boiler explosion which has caused major damage.

Convoy K.M.S.5, about 100 miles West of Tory Island is reported to be widely dispersed, with some of the ships hove to. SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN reports her bridge carried away.

Convoy W.P.263 is cancelled on account of the weather.

The distribution of the German naval, air and land forces in Norway is given in an Admiralty signal today.

North Atlantic.

A distress message was broadcast from SS. CEFALU (Honduran) in 39.18 N. 28.26 W. at midnight last night.

SS. HORORATA reported that she was torpedoed at 1754 G.M.T. in 42° 9' N. 34° 31' W. (various positions are given, all about 200 miles N.W. of Flores, Azores) and is badly damaged. The ship arrived at Santa Cruz a.m./14.

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.Sweep by
Force K.

Force K (CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, ORION, JERVIS, KELVIN, NUBIAN and PALADIN) sailed from Malta at 1740A to carry out a sweep south of Malta. The sweep was abortive and the force returned to Malta (in two groups) on 14th Dec. As a result, however, of the Force being shadowed and illuminated within 2½ hours of leaving Malta, the target which had been making for Tripoli turned back.

S/M TRAVELLER is reported overdue and must be considered lost.

Albacores mined the entrance to Sousse harbour last night covered by diversionary bombing by Wellingtons. Owing to bad weather over Tunisia 4 Wellingtons bombed Palermo docks.

There was an air raid last night on Bone harbour but no serious damage or casualties were caused. Night fighters shot down 5 of the enemy.

No naval damage was caused in an air raid on Tobruk last night, and 2 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

In a raid on Benghazi this afternoon one heavy bomb caused structural damage to 2 M/Vs, entailing delay in cargo discharge. Repairs to the Outer Mole at Benghazi are making good progress.

U/B
believed
sunk.

CORALLO sunk
(U.S.A.)

ENCHANTRESS rammed a U-Boat which had made two unsuccessful attacks on a convoy in 36° 58' N. 5° 7' E. and subsequently attacked with depth charges. N.C.X.F. considers the U-Boat to have been probably sunk. (No date is given for the above attack, which is believed to have taken place on 13th Dec. vide ENCHANTRESS 0610A/13.) (p. 458)

At 2210 Naval aircraft sent to attack a convoy seen forming up off Trapani blew up a large heavily escorted southbound merchant ship in 37° 42' N. 11° 53' E. (about 50 miles north of Pantellaria.)

At 2135A P.35 reported that she had torpedoed a 3000 ton merchant ship heavily laden with motor transport and that the ship had stranded in 35° 53' N. 10° 37' E.: P.35 was unable to carry out a second attack on account of destroyer patrol.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Norwegian tanker BELITA (Abadan for Mombasa) is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk on 3rd Dec. in 10° N. 55° E. (about 240 miles E.S.E. of Cape Guardafui).

America and West Indies.

It has now become imperative to replace as rapidly as possible the U.K. oil stocks which were drawn upon for supplies to Operation "Torch". The Admiralty propose that on release of B.5 group a group under HAVELOCK should be sailed to Trinidad to escort up to 10 tankers direct to U.K. WARWICK's group should proceed direct to U.K. as additional escort to an H.X. or S.C. Convoy. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet agreed and on 14th Dec. he gave orders that HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL and SAXIFRAGE were to be sailed when ready to Trinidad to escort a special tanker convoy from Trinidad to U.K., but it was subsequently arranged to sail this convoy of 9 tankers direct to Gibraltar (for North African area) from Trinidad about 26th Dec.

It is reported that M.V. BESHOLT was sunk 600 miles off shore en route from Trinidad to Boca Grande on 2nd Dec.

Australia and New Zealand.

A force of 2 light cruisers, 3 destroyers, sighted by air R/C in 3.50 S. 145.40 E., was shadowed and attacked in the vicinity of Vitiaz Straits this afternoon and evening by Fortresses, 1 probable direct hit was scored on the stern of 1 destroyer, also one near miss.

At about 1700Z, 53 vessels were reported off the mouth of the Mambare, N.E. New Guinea, where a landing is being effected from barges.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDSPolicy.

Flag of R.A.A. Your 1715/9. Approved.
H.F. (C. in C.H.F. 0952A/13 to R.A.A.).
My flag is to be transferred to
INDOMITABLE at 0900/15th. December.
(R.A.A.H.F.1301A/13 to VICTORIOUS).

Harwich Admiralty's 2020/16/9 and 1839/18/9. Whilst
Shortage of E.N.W.N. Convoys continue.
A/S Tr (A) To run to Loch Ewe.
(B) In an 8-day cycle.
two A/S Trawlers could be spared from the
Rosyth Command.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1147A/13 to Admty).
C. in C. Rosyth's 1147/13. Request consideration may be
given to allocating these 2 A/S Trawlers to Harwich to replace
POLKA and VALSE recently surrendered to Rosyth without
relief.
(C. in C. Nore 1954A/13 to Admty).

Movements.

P.221. Am hove to in approx. 047.02, 013.07. Will be
See p.445, 24 hours late at R/V.
(P.221 0107A/13 to F.O.(S)).
My 1719/12. para.(E). Amend to read P.221
probably hove to in 47.02 N. 13.07 W. proceeding when weather
moderates through 49.10 N.12.54 W, 49.30 N. 12.25 W. and
49.30 N. 09.01W.
(F.O.S.0511A/13 to Admty),

P.615. Local escort unable to sail owing to weather
Continue escorting P.615 to Falmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0639/13 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).
Arrival H.M. S. P.615.
(N.O.I.C.Falmouth 1114A/13).
My 1011/12 December. Request you will retain P.615, until
weather moderates.
(F.O.S. 1428A/13 to N.O.I.C.Falmouth).

P.223. Your 1044/12. Arrived.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick 0805A/13 to A.C.O.S.).

CHARYBDIS. F.O.C.N.A. 1652/11. Destination Barrow, Onward
route from (U) 45.01 N. 15.30 W. (V) 52.01 N.
13.30 W. (W) 55.20 N. 10.20 W. (X) 55.35, N.
08.00 W. Thence destination.
(C. in C.W.A. 0958A/13 to CHARYBDIS).

W.A. Situation at 2000A/13. Details.
Command. (C. in C.W.A. 1355A/13). See Lion Copy.

ADVENTURE. My 1727/12. Amend position G.049.10 N. 014.30.W.
H. to 042.58 N. 014.30 W. Request onward route
from H.
(C. in C.Plymouth 1201A/13 to V.A.C.Gibraltar,
F.O.S., N.O.I.C.Falmouth, (R) Admty, Capt.S.3.
ADVENTURE.).

MOST SECRET

LNHA

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1355A/13th December. IN
FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Section N.E. Situation at 2000A/13/12

EN 72	SALTARELLO SPURS GREAT ADMIRAL GREENFLY PARREBORO	58 43 03 47	To Loch Ewe	6½
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Section S.E. Situation at 2000A/13/42

JAMAICA		54 30 05 08	To Scapa	20
SOKUL P.339	WHITE BEAR	55 20 05 55	To Lerwick	10
BB.43	KINGSTON BERYL HELIER II	54 34 05 20	Southbound	8
STEWARD	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN	52 50 04 55	Northbound	8
HX.217(B)	KIRKELLA	54 29 05 18	To Liverpool	6
RU.52	NORTHERN SPRAY	56 30 07 20	Southbound	7

Section N.W. Situation at 2000A/13/12

ICARUS		61 45 16 18	To Hvalfiord	15
OB DURATE		61 53 16 42	To Scapa	12
ONS.152 C.T.U. 24.1.13	BURNHAM SKEENA GALT AGASSIZ SACKVILLE WETASKIWIN	58 12 17 10	To 58 35 24 30	4½
ONSJ.152 C.T.U. 24.6.4.	U.S.S. INGHAM U.S.S. LEARY U.S.S. BABBITT	58 24 20 04	To 58 20 20 01 thence to R/V with ONS.152	7
DS.35	LANCASTER WELLS	57 30 10 35	To 59 29 15 05 thence 62 12 21 30	15½

/Section S.W.

444⁷³-

Situation at 2000/13/12

Section S.W.

Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND	52 22 12 20	To 55 00 10 00` 13 thence 55 35 08 00
NORTHERN SUN VASCANA CAPE PORTLAND	56 22 19 50	To 57 01 21 59 5 to 6
ENTERPRISE	Have to in 40 35 36 10	When weather moderates to 45 00 28 00 thence 50 00 23 00
CHARYBDIS	43 37 15 30	To 45 01 15 30 18 thence 52 01 13 30
TEST FISHGUARD	51 14 12 10	To approximately 43 00 15 10 10
MKS. 3X TAY 3 Corvettes 4 Minesweepers	45 25 14 22	To 49 00 14 45 8
KX. 6A NORTHERN GIFT NORTHERN FOAM	42 29 13 23	To 40 00 13 00 5
KMS. 5 LONDONDERRY 4 Sloops 6 Corvettes BALUCHISTAN CARNATIC	53 48 12 32	To 49 00 16 30 7
KMF. 5 Fleet Unit LAFOREY 4 Sloops 1 Cutter 1 Corvette	53 07 14 38	To 49 00 18 01 12
1 M/V LIGHTNING	51 08 12 00	To R/V with 12½ KMF.5 in 51 01 16 26
ON.153 C.T.U. 24.1.5 FIREDRAKE CHESTERFIELD SUNFLOWER ALISMA PINK SNOWFLAKE	55 40 15 10	To 55 35 16 01 9 thence 53 10 24 38
AT.30 Unescorted	56 40 13 05	To 56 18 08 30 26½ thence Clyde

C
4444

MOST SECRET

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- 3 -

Situation at 2000A/13/12

Section S.W. (continued)

SC.111	U.S.S. SPINER	56 22 13 28	To 56 31 08 29	7
C.T.U.	U.S.S. BADGER			
24.1.3	2 Corvettes			
SC.111	2 Corvettes	56 23 12 30	To 56 31 08 29	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Past			thence North Channel	

1355A/13

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

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

15.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

P.539. Sailed P.539, SOKOL, TORBAY, escorted by CAPE
SOKOL PALLISER.
TORBAY. (N.O.I.C.Greenock 1358A/13). *See next page p.450*

THRASHER Ref. F.O.(S) 0529/13, and my 1152/12. Movement
P.221. *See p.444* postponed 24 hours.
next page (N.O.I.C.Falmouth 1402A/13).
My 1719/12. Para.D. Amend to read
THRASHER move to in approx. 49.50 N. 12.34 W, probably
proceeding to eastward when weather moderates.
(F.O.S. 1511A/13 to Admty).

JAMAICA. My 1620/11. JAMAICA delayed sailing 24 hours
on account of gale.
(N.O.I.C.Barrow 1606A/13 to C. in C.H.F.).

S/Ms At 0800A/14. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S.1721A/13).
See Lion Copy.

TUNA. Arrived TUNA.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1807/13).

OBDURATE. Your 1242/13. P.C. and S. at 1800Z, 061.09 N.
014.52 W. 122°, 14 knots.
(OBDURATE 1901A/13 to Admty).

OPPORTUNE. *U.T. in V.D.*
My 2311A/12. Return to harbour.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1933A/13 to OPPORTUNE).

OXLIP. Sailed OXLIP, to Loch Ewe, E.T.A, 2200A/14. C.in
C. W.A. 1638A/3/12, refers.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock 2218A/13).

ENTERPRISE. My P.C.and S. at 2300A/13 050° N. 023° W,
See p.467 057°, 22 knots.
(ENTERPRISE 2351A/13 to C. in C.W.A.).

Operations.

Patrol. Arrivals M.G.B.s 75, 79, 81.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 0955A/13).

Destroyers for A.M.1350/11th. Owing to action damage to 3 "Vee"
North Russian Class destroyers and repeated delay in completion
Convoy of VIVACIOUS name of destroyers cannot be given
Operation. for a few days.
2.To meet this commitment it will be necessary to
postpone refit of CAMPBELL and in view of para
one the forces so far in this command for escorting and
protecting trade will be reduced to dangerous degree.
(C. in C.Nore 1048A/13 to Admty).

/Denmark....

13.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd

Denmark Straits, Patrol. CUMBERLAND. Establish patrol "White" with one cruiser now. Object as in H.W.O.60, para.12. (C. in C.H.F. 1207A/13 to NORFOLK). C. in C.H.F. 1207/13. CUMBERLAND detailed. Report when ready to proceed. (NORFOLK 1418A/13 to CUMBERLAND). CUMBERLAND on patrol Denmark Straits. (A.C.I.C. 1600A/13 to Ships).

You may intercept messages in confidential code being passed to A.C.I.C. by Adalvik W/T Station, originated by Saebol reporting ships movements north west of Iceland. 2. The majority of these reports are of coastwise traffic which can be identified and report should not be acted on unless circumstances appear suspicious. 3. A.C.I.C. will inform you if ship reported cannot be identified.

(A.C.I.C. 1801A/13 to CUMBERLAND).
NORFOLK's 1418/13. Sailed.
(A.C.I.C. 2035/13 to C. in C.H.F.).

Chase of CORTELLAZZO. Analysis of Patrol Reports of SEALION, GRAPH, and CLYDE from 29th November to 1st December 1942. Detailed account of operations. (F.O.S. 1439A/13 to Admty) See Lion Copy.

S/M Patrol Zones. K.501 to K.503. inclusive. Your 1507A/12. Should prefer northern limit to remain as at present laid down. Limit could be temporarily extended as suggested should special circumstances so require. (C. in C. Plymouth 1921A/13 to F.O.S.).

Allied Air Activity.

Patrols. My 1207/13. Request Air patrols in order of Priority, POLAR, FOX, BEAR, be arranged with available aircraft from daylight tomorrow. (C. in C.H.F. 1303A/13 to A.C.I.C.).

Mining.

Sweep by 4th M/S Flotilla. Your 1749A/11. Intend sailing 4th M/S.F. at 0400/15, sweeping on passage to Plymouth, E.T.A. 0915/16. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1059/13 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Iceland. Proceed in FRASERBURGH on 15th December, and following days with BOOTLE and BEAUMARIS to carry out 25% search along a line joining (K) MALARIFF 201° 17 miles (L) BJARTANGAR 270°. 7 miles (M) GOLTUR 346°, 10 miles. Arrange programme to make most use of daylight, anchoring as convenient during dark hours. (N.O.I.C. Reykjavik, 1501A/13 to 15th M/S).

SECRET

246A.

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M E S S A G E 1439A/13th December IN

From: F.O.(S)

Date: 13.12.42.

Recd: 1845

ofc

Chase of CORTELAZZO.

Addressed: Admiralty, repeated: Commander in Chief,
Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.

296. The following is a brief preliminary analysis of patrol reports received from SEALION, GRAPH and CLMDE in connection with the chase of CORTELAZZO 29th November to 1st December, 1942. The analysis is a result of cursory survey of reports which have just been received. Full analysis will be made later.

(2) The first intimation of any enemy movement was in "H" of 405 Squadron's 1445/29. This was in very garbled form and until clarification was made was not passed to submarines. On advice of H.Q.C.C. and O.I.C. was corrected to read "Two unidentified enemy units escorted by destroyers or torpedo boats in position 43 degs. 43 mins. N., 03 degs. 09 min. W.", which was passed to submarines under F.O.(S) T.O.C. 1941/29. GRAPH proceeded to the vicinity of 44 degs. 43 mins. N, 08 degs. 28 mins. W., estimating this as the furthest on of CORTELAZZO at moonrise. GRAPH dived on an easterly course between 0026/30 and 0301/30 hoping to hear the enemy on the hydrophone. CORTELAZZO, however, appears to have passed earlier for at 0430/30 SEALION in position 44 degs. 52 min. N, 10 degs. 52 mins. W., sighted a red flare or very light and promptly dived. Almost immediately hydrophone effect of westbound diesel engine ship, doing 82 revolutions, was heard. Echo range was obtained at 3,000 yards. SEALION surfaced at 0458 and attempted to close but again dived at 0507 on sighting another very light or flare. Hydrophone effect was again heard. SEALION surfaced at 0551 and gave chase for an hour but failed to establish contact. SEALION resumed her homeward course 0655/30 owing to lack of fuel. The Commanding Officer subsequently considers the very lights may have been distant flares dropped by aircraft. From quick analysis it appears that SEALION could have been attacked by ASDIC. SEALION's incident was known to F.O.(S) at 0810/30.

(3) In the meantime GRAPH, in position 44 degs. 43 mins. N, 08 degs. 12 mins. W intercepted "E" of 10 Squadron's 0400/1 made on H.F. and at once proceeded to the South-west to overtake an enemy believed to be steering 230 degs.

/GRAPH.....

- 2 -

GRAPH reported her action at 0423/30 stating that she intended to continue the chase until 1400/30.

GRAPH received many more aircraft reports on H.F. direct but at no time did she hear the aircraft make any attempt to use the homing procedure laid down in Operation "BUSBY" and A.F.O.S.2. GRAPH communicated direct with the aircraft in an attempt to implement the procedure.

(4) At 1025 Commander in Chief, Plymouth's estimation of CORTELAZZO's position at 0850 was received by F.O.(S) and passed to submarines. GRAPH, whose estimated position at 1100 was 44 degs. 02 mins. N, 10 degs. 28 mins. W., and CLYDE, who was in estimated position 45 degs. 40 mins. N, 13 degs. 20 mins. W., at 1100 proceeding, diving by day, to U.K., were ordered to intercept the enemy.

(5) CLYDE surfaced and set course to intercept proceeding at 13 knots, which was her best speed of advance with a zig-zag, allowing for fuel carried, state of bottom and engines. It is observed that CLYDE was returning to U.K. to carry out a long overdue refit.

Commander in Chief, Plymouth's estimation of enemy's position 1415 was also passed to submarines.

(6) At 1715 CLYDE reached position 44 degs. 41 mins. N, 14 degs. 08 mins. W., and altered course to 250 degs., to continue search until dark.

At 1900/30 CLYDE broke off the chase and returned to U.K. Her 1725/30 reporting her intentions and fuel shortage reached F.O.(S) 1945/30.

(7) At 1832/30 F.O.(S) ordered CLYDE and GRAPH, if they were not in contact with the enemy, to proceed towards position 44 degs. 01 mins. N., 18 degs. 40 mins. W., and 43 degs. 35 mins. N., 18 degs. 40 mins. W., respectively; they were informed that the furthest on longitude of the enemy at dawn was estimated as 18 degs. 45 mins. W.

Subsequent analysis based on the report of the sighting of CORTELAZZO by HCRET at 1427/1st December, shows that CLYDE's ordered patrol position was on the probable track of the enemy and that she could have reached an attacking position in good time had she had sufficient fuel.

It also appears that CLYDE was incorrect in turning westward at 1725, though the Commanding Officer appreciated that CORTELAZZO was probably already past her.

/This.....

SECRET

C
HH68

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- 3 -

This westward course was ineffective as CLYDE's speed was the same as that estimated for the enemy. A sweep to the eastward back along CORTELAZZO's track would have been preferable, from subsequent analysis probably effective.

(8) It is considered that GRAPH's failure to intercept the enemy was in great measure due to the confusion of enemy reports received from aircraft. This confusion would, undoubtedly, been minimised had the aircraft carried out the homing procedure.

(9) The fact that CLYDE left Gibraltar not fully complete with fuel is most regrettable; her condition was not known by P.O.(8) until CLYDE's 1725/30 was received. She had recently been carrying petrol in her external fuel tanks while store carrying to Malta. These tanks had not been cleaned out to receive fuel before leaving Gibraltar. Steps have been taken to avoid a recurrence of this mistake.

1439A/13.

1st Lord,
1st S.L.(2)
4th S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(T)
A.C.N.S.(W)
Parl. Sec.
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
Cps.(3)
O.D.(5)
D.N.I.(4)
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
O.I.C.(4)
D. of P.(3)
D.A/S.W.(2)
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D.(2)
M.(2)
U.S.N.(3)
Admiral Blake (2)
Admiral Ramsay (4)

D.A.C.D.
C.C.L.S.
D.D.O.D.(M)
D.N.A.D.
A.C.N.A.S.

447

13.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Forces in Northern Waters. Appreciation. Your 1615A/10, para.2.
 1. Surface Craft:-
Altenfiord: HIPPER, KÖLN and 4 Destroyers. North-ern Norway: NURNBERG and 2-3 Destroyers.
Trondheim: TIRPITZ. One or two of main units now in Baltic may be moving to Norway at any time.

2. Submarines.

Including Bergen - about 25 U/Boats, of which 9 or 10 based on Narvik and 4 or 5 on Trondheim.

3. Air Force:

Approximately 30 Bombers JU.88s 30 Dive Bombers, JU 87s, 80 Fighters ME 109s. 25 Coastal BV.138s and HE 115s.

4. Land Forces:-

Finland - 7 divisions distributed Petsamo 3, Salla 2, Lake Popozero 2.

North Norway - 3 divisions, Narvik 1, other 2 between Narvik and Kirkenes.

Para.3. Consider this report referred to NURNBERG, not PRINZ EUGEN. *See p. 329.*

(D.N.I. 1722A/13 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

U/Boats.

D/F. Two or three U/Boats estimated within 90 miles of 58.30 N. 22.30 W. at 0900/13.
 (D.D.I.C. 0915A/13 to Escorts O.N.J.152).

U/Boat use of German S.B.T. Admiralty Message 27A of 22nd July, 1942. and Admiralty Message 384A of 23rd September, 1942. Further information suggests that U/Bs eject a series of German S.B.T. to form a screen while steering a zigzag course, and may do this when sighted or detected and while diving deep to

avoid depth-charge attack.

2. It is also reported that a new form of (German) S.B.T. will persist for 30 minutes or more before fading away and that an S.B. T. that makes a noise like escaping air or a U/Boat's motors is also available.

3. It is possible for small quantities of oil, cap ribbons, gloves etc, to be ejected with the same apparatus.

(D.A/S.W. 1959A/13).

Casualties & Defects.

Vessel Ashore. Pt. Patrick life boat launched on service to vessel ashore Luce Bay Wigtownshire.
 (C.G. Port Patrick 0708/13).

WORCESTER. Your 2137/12. Request confirmation that WORCESTER will be fit to operate with C. in C. H.F. by 20th December if required.
 (C. in C. Nore 1052A/13 to C. in C. Portsmouth).
 Your 1052/13. Confirmed.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 1710A/13 to C. in C. Nore).

13.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.HUDDERSFIELD
TOWN.Arrived with defects.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1113A/13).

WHITE BEAR.

A boiler explosion has occurred in the starboard main boiler outer furnace in WHITE BEAR resulting in following major damage. Details. One rating was killed and five injured. (Capt.S.3. 1131A/13 to F.O.S.).

TIRADE.

TIRADE delayed, minor engine defect.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1645/13).

BERWICK.

Intend sailing BERWICK p.m./15th for Rosyth to change port outer propeller.
(C. in C.H.F. 1705A/13).Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy F.N889. Report position any ship known to have been hit attacked by E-Boats. (C. in C.Nore 0003/13 to QUANTOCK, WALLACE).
One ship sunk in approx. 025^h 4 buoy 2 miles. Tugs searching in the vicinity. (Chatham C.C.O. 0113A/13 to Ships).
Arrival M.G.Bs. 478, and 456, tug ST. MELLONS from convoy escort.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0143A/13).
Arrival Tug DIVERSION. My 2215/12 refers.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0425A/13). *See p 409*
Am remaining in patrol area only after

daylight to search the vicinity 4 Buoy.

(MEYNELL 0703A/13 to C. in C.Nore).

Search carried out in vicinity 4 Buoy for survivors with no results. Returning to harbour. E.T.A. Sheerness 1500.
Weather. 4882, 7957.

(MEYNELL 1012A/13).

There is evidence that F.N889 was badly straggled out when attacked by E/Boats at No.4. Buoy on the night of 12/13th December. N.C.S.Os are to impress upon masters again that no convoy can be protected adequately under these conditions.

(C. in C.Nore 1202A/13).

THEMSTON Ex.F.N889 put into Humber with survivors at 1125/13.

(N.C.S.O. Humber 1337/13).

Preliminary report of E-Boat activity last night.

1 Y raw material first received at 2033 from Winterton bearing 090° from Gorleston. At same time Y report received from 16 Group that F.N889 had been reported by enemy A/C when off Harwich some 5 hours earlier.

2. About 2035 centre of F.N889 attacked close North of 4 Buoy. Following ships sunk by torpedo. Norwegian MARIANNE 1915 tons British LINDISFARNE 999 tons AVONWOOD 1056 tons GLENTILT 871 tons KNITSLEY 2272 tons.

Attack appears mainly from landward side. At same time MEYNELL on patrol 6 engaged what was probably second group N.E. of 4 Buoy and drove them eastwards. Subsequently MEYNELL had further engagements and claims numerous hits.

449

13.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- Convoy F.N889, 3. About 2100 WALLACE S.O. of convoy escort attacked by E-Boats. sighted 2 E-Boats near 6 Buoy. MEYNELL also in action 8 miles 055° from 4 Buoy.
- MARIANNE, 4. At 2115 D.21 in MENDIP on patrol 5 engaged
LINDISFARNE, E-Boats near 56 A Buoy and again at 2258 4 miles
AVON WOOD, W. of Smiths Knoll Bell Buoy dodging several
GLENTILT, torpedoes during second action.
KNITSLEY, 5. After 2300 weather deteriorated E-Boats being
Sunk last heard at 2322 ordering course East.
Contd. 6. Coastal forces augmented by M.G.B(S) from
MANTIS and BEEHIVE did not make contact and were
recalled when weather deteriorated.
7. At least 15 E-Boats present. It is thought one large group attacked convoy. Those engaged by MEYNELL were possibly another group and those mentioned in para.4. were probably one group that attacked twice. Minelaying not suspected.
8. Survivors from KNITSLEY landed at Grimsby. Six from MARIANNE and six from AVONWOOD still on board ETHYLENE with F.N889. Remainder landed at Yarmouth.
(C. in. C.Nore 1916A/13 to Admty).
- W.S.26.P. Convoy W.S.26 P. advanced 24 hours.
2. Following is proposed embarkation programme.
4. This supersedes D.S.T.O. Glasgow's 1101/11.
(D.S.T. 0241A/13).
- S.C.111. My 1339/12 and your 1910/12. Detach forthwith all ships for Mersey Ports capable of reaching 04° W. by 1300A/15 escorted by 2 corvettes. BODO will meet and escort ships for Clyde and Belfast and those for Mersey which have not been detached. Ships for Loch Ewe are to be escorted to 57° N, thence independently.
(C. in C.W.A. 0531Z/13 to Escorts S.C.111).
- QUEEN MARY. Arriving R/V 0800 G.M.T./14th.
(A.T.30, 0800Z/13 to C. in C.W.A.)
- P.W.262. Proceed to Dartmouth.
see next page (C. in C. Plymouth 0801A/13 to Escorts P.W.262).
- W.P.B.263. My 0735A/13. W.P.B.263 cancelled.
see next page (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1105A/13 to C. in C. Plymouth).
- EROS. Greek Relief. Following was position at 2200/12th westbound. EROS. 34.17 N, 22.57 E.
(N.A. Stockholm 1132/13).
- W.S.25. My 1502/12 para.(5). HAYDON, is to proceed to Londonderry after conference at Liverpool.
(C. in C.W.A. 1147A/13).

/J.W.51A...

450

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- J.W.51.A. Intend following alterations to F.O.S.1512A/11.
 J.W.51.B. F.O.S.Concurs.
 R.A.51. Para.(7), add TORBAY, cancel para.(8).
 R.A.52. TORBAY sailing with P.539 and SOKOL from Clyde
 p.m./13th for Lerwick. *Sailed - see p.445.*
 (Capt.S.3. 1151A/13).
- K.M.S.5. 240° 2-Class distress (SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN).
 SALVAGE (Port Patrick Radio 1358 G.M.T./13 to N.O.I.C.
 CHIEFTAIN Greenock).
 damaged. Am in company with Cmdre of convoy.
 Remainder of convoy widely dispersed, some hove
 to. SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN reports bridge carried away.
 LULWORTH proceeding to her assistance. Request following R/V
 may be broadcast 1200A/14th, 198° position B.85 miles,
 1200A/15, 028° position C. 180 miles. My P.C. and S. at 1600,
 from C. 054.48 N. 011.05 W, 208° 4 knots. Weather 3842, 5958.
 (LONDONDERRY 1643A/13 to C. in C.W.A.).
 A distress signal has been received from SALVAGE
 CHIEFTAIN. Bridge carried away.
 (C. in C.W.A. 1746A/13 to Escorts K.M.S.5).
- *W.P.263, W.P.263 is cancelled owing to weather.
 *P.W.262, 2. P.W. 262 is to sail from Dartmouth a.m.tomorrow
 *P.W.F. 262. to R/V Plymouth portion escorted by WHALSAY,
 P.W. 263, KINGSTON, ANDALUSITE, FIR, at Eadystone at 1500
 P.W. 264. 3. N.O.I.C.Falmouth is requested to sail P.W.F.
 * *see previous* 262 to R/V P.W.262 before dark.
page 4.Portsmouth portion of P.W. 263 will not sail.
 C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail P.W. 264 from
 Portsmouth on 16th December escorted by PEARL, LA NANTAISE,
 DANIEL CLOWDEN, ENSAY and 3 M.Ls. Escort to continue to Bristol
 Channel except M.Ls to Dartmouth.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 1631A/13).
- S.C.110. Arrived off Oversay. 1500Z/5 BLAIRATHOLL foundered-
 BLAIRATHOLL, ed after collision with JOHN BAKKE, BARBERRYS
 Foundered on damaged by gale night of 25th November and SSSS
 5th December. message received from her 1822Z/26, since then no
 BARBERRYS further news. Remainder arrived.
 missing. (D.T.D. 1709A/13 to Connav).
- O.N.S.152. Situation at 2000. My 1330/13. O.N.S.152 C.T.U.
 24.1.13 amended position and speed 58.22, 20.15.S.
 (C. in C.W.A. 1749A/13 to Ships).
- F.S.84. On overtaking F.S.84 in the vicinity of 54 D Buoy
 about 0200/14th remain in company until daylight,
 thence proceed independently to Sheerness.
 (C. in C.Nore 1842A/13 to WRESTLER).

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Search for
CERAMIC
survivors.

Your 1540/12 regret no further information. Probable that boats endeavoured to make Azores from area indicated in A.M. 1934/8 and would in any case be to leeward of that area now. Request you will convey to M. of M., Admiralty's grateful appreciation of action taken and consideration of air R/C and their regret that DAO has suffered damage. (D.T.D., 0100A/13 to N.A. Lisbon, (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

→CEFALU.

Following has been read by Freetown W/T. Position 0000 G.M.T. 39° 18' N. 28° 26' W. Require assistance. (CEFALU, No T.O.O., T.O.R. 0420/13 to Gibraltar W/T.)

PRIAM
distress,
→CEFALU.

Your 2245/12. PRIAM reports not now requiring assistance. SS. CEFALU reports rudder lost and requiring assistance position at 0001/13 39° 18' N. 28° 26' W. steering approx. E.S.E. (D.T.D., 1022A/13 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) N.A. Lisbon, V.A. Gibraltar.)

Following from SS. PRIAM (GBLL) S.W. gale proceeding shelter north of Island, Ponta Delgada impossible. 23 feet water in hold. Endeavouring to clear pump, to secure hatches and heavy lift. Consider escort advisable until vessel in safety. Estimate draught about 40 feet. Windlass, winches out of (? commission).

(Burnham Radio, 1035 G.M.T./13 to Admty.)

Your 1022/13th. M. of M. hopes to send ship? to assistance as soon as weather moderates.

(N.A. Lisbon, 1925/13 to Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Your 1022/13th. Greek merchant ship NEREUS leaving Ponta Delgada midnight 13th bound U.S. will attempt contact and assist SS. CEFALU. Portuguese Naval Authority will send seaplane weather permitting to search daylight 14th.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 2250C/13 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon.)

GRETE.

German controlled SS. GRETE sailed from Valencia p.m. 12th for Marseilles. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 0439/13 to S.O.(I) Malta, S.O.(I) N.C.X.F.)

U/B.

Following received. From Niton Radio. 0427 G.M.T. 500 k/cs from NAV Unread. War Warning periscope sighted 1505 G.M.T./12 5 miles North St. Vincent. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0527/13 to Admty.)

/Air ...

452

13.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Air Report, U-Boat sightings and attacks. Catalina D/210 attacks on U/Bs. at 1510/12 in OBJB or LBJB? 2218 sighted U/B below surface heading 270° almost stationary. A/C lost height spirally but lost sight of U/B nothing further seen. Wellington O/179 at 1919/12 homed on to contact and illuminated U/B 35° 55' N. 1° 6' W. Co. 350° 10 or 15? knots. A/C dropped 4 torpex D/Cs which caused large explosion (corrupt group) to starboard. Rear-gunner fired 100 rounds at stern and C/T at U/B which was in the act of diving. Wellington D/179 at 3050 or 3055? homed on to S E contact and illuminated a U/B fully surfaced course 270° 6 knots. A/C attacked and dropped four torpex D/Cs 3 were seen to explode. 1 D/C on starboard side and 2 on port side across C/T flash of explosion illuminated U/B and C/T to bows, rear-gunner fired 2 short bursts. Nothing further seen. No E/A sightings or combats. No casualties. (2) No enemy activity over Rock no operational sorties. (H.Q.R.A.F. Gibraltar, 0735Z/13 to Air Min.)

PUCKERIDGE, Sailed 0800 PUCKERIDGE to R/V M.K.F. 4(Y) as M.K.F. 4Y. additional escort to Gibraltar. (V.A. Gibraltar, 0948A/13 to Admty., N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H, Escorts of Convoy M.K.F. (?4)(Y).)

See next page.

WOODRUFF. CROCUS, IMPERIALIST not met. My P.C. and S. are *see p. 453 B* at 1030A 036° 24' N. 010° 43' W. grade B 120° 7½.

X(WOODRUFF, 1030A/13 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., KRAKOWIAK.)
Met. R/V with us 180° Tarifa 2 miles at 1130A/14.
(WOODRUFF, 1910A/13 to CROCUS.)
→ My 1030A, met. Convoy position at 1800A 036° 16' N. 009° 49' W. 265° (7½). E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300(?A)/14.
(WOODRUFF, 2010A/13 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.S. 3Y. M.K.S. 3Y. Has convoy been re-routed in accordance with N.C.X.F. 1525/11.
(D.D.O.D.(H), 1146A/13 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1146/13. Yes.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2317A/13 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated German activity still slight. 2 U-Boats in U/B vicinity Alboran 5 or 6 in area Oran - Cape de Dispositions. Gata - Cape Palos and Cape Tenez of which one fixed by D/F within 30 miles 037° N. 001° 31' at 2328/11 and one sighted in 035° 55' N. 001° 06' W. at (?08 or 19)20Z/11. Italian: Activity mainly between Cagliari - Cape Bon and Trapani. About 15 U-Boats at sea of which 4 are probably between Algiers and Bizerta not North of 038° N. 5 or 6 between 037° N. and 039° N. 010° E. and 013° E.

/Additional ...

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - con 17.Estimated
U/B
Dispositions.
(Contd.)

Additional German no further information of U-Boats between 011° W. and Gibraltar. 2 outward bound within 120 miles of 35° N. 20° W. 3 bound South or South-west within 120 miles of 038° 30' N. 015° W. Italian one U-Boat on patrol within 120 miles of 030° N. 025° W. (V.A. Gib., 1230A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.O. Force H.)

→ PUCKERIDGE,
→ T.E. 9.

See previous page
My 1726/13 (as received). PUCKERIDGE proceeding. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1303A/13 to N.C.X.F., Escorts of Convoy T.E. No.9, S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty.)

When convoy has passed 270° Europa Point proceed to overtake and act as additional escort to convoy T.E.9 to Oran.

(2) T.E.9 routed through 57, 72, 109, 34, 100, Oran section parting company in 109.

(3) Escort T.E.9 PENTSTEMON (S.O.), PENN and 2 corvettes. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1726A/13 to PUCKERIDGE, (R) N.C.X.F., E. of C. T.E.9, S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Oran.)

M.K.F. 4(Y).

M.K.F. 4(Y). TEGELBERG requires docking. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE requires fresh water. Convoy should remain at Gibraltar until these are completed unless undue delay will result.

See previous page
Sail M.K.F. 4(Y) when ready escorted by ROTHER, SPEY. 1 additional escort from Gibraltar to P.L.E. (N.C.X.F., 1601A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.)

M.F.Vs.
2013,
2017.

Intend to sail M.F.V. 2013 and 2017 for Algiers p.m./14 routed through (a) 35° 35' N. 04° 01' W. (b) 35° 37' N. 02° 59' W. (c) 36° 01' N. 00° 23' W. thence 6 miles from coast to (d) 36° 49' N. 03° 04' E. thence Algiers. Estimated S. of A. 5½ knots. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1645A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., S.8, Cdre. Algiers.)

NASTURTIUM,
PENN,
→ PUCKERIDGE.

Your 1542/12 para. 3 not to S.O. Force H. NASTURTIUM defective intend taking in hand for boiler cleaning. (2) PENN, PUCKERIDGE being sailed as additional escort to Oran. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1701A/13 to N.C.X.F., (R) S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers.)

→ T.E. 9.

See p. 45973

T.E. 9. sailed PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, LUNENBURG with Algiers portion, PENN with Oran portion. B.A.11, less PENTSTEMON.

2. H.M.T. ARCTIC RANGER detaching with PENDEEN to Melilla thence to R/V TINTERN ABBEY from Algeria and escort to Gibraltar. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1737A/13 to Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty., N.C.X.F., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/HORORATA ...

MOST SECRET

453A

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 MESSAGE 1322A/13th December IN
FROM: V.A.Gibraltar. DATE: 19.12.42.
RECD: 2015

NAVAL CYpher (S) BY T/P.

Addressed: A.I.G. 65.

IMPORTANT

Situation 1956/13th.

(1) COMMANDANT DENOYAT, one merchant ship, one tug,
019° degs 11' 019° degs 22' 000° degs 9.

(2) SOUTHERN GEM, one merchant ship, 019° degs 03' 019° degs 22'
000° degs.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1322A/13 to A.I.G. 65)

~~Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.~~

VIC.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F) (2)
A.C.N.S.(T)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pin.
D.O.D.(H) (2)
D.O.D.(F) (2)
Duty Capt. (2)
U.S.N.
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.F. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(C)
C.C.R.F.
D. of P. (2)
Admiral Blake (2)
Admiral Ramsey (4)

MAG.

tuition

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.

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.

IN

MOST SECRET

1324A/13th December

From F.O.G. Gibraltar.

Date 13/12/42
Recd. 2050

Naval Cypher S by W/T and T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 63.

REPORT

Situation 2002A/13th.

1. H.M.S. PORPOISE, sails 1200/14th through 36 01 06 12 at 1700/14th thence 36 40 07 30 at 0001/15th on surface 11½.
2. Portuguese Sloop ^{GONCALO} ~~GONCALO~~ VELHO, left Funchal (Madeira) 12th for Lisbon 10.
3. KX (?6). A, NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, 42 30 13 (?23) 173 5.
4. G(?U)F. 2, delayed section 31 34 15 38 through 31 01 (?17) 01 thence 285 13½. *See next page*
5. U.S. (?MINROW) 31 05 10 58 to Casablanca 15.
6. MKS 3 (Y), KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, H.M.S. AZALEA, H.M.S. LAUDERDALE, PALOMARES, (E) 36 22 10 (?30) 300 7½.
7. MKF 4. H.M.S. EGRET, H.M.S. BULOLO, BANFF, TANATSIDE, SWALE, EXE, CLARE, SENNEN, (E) 37 26 13 10 through 39 12 17 01 00 357 12½.
8. H.M.S. CROCUS, WOODRUFF, IMPERIALIST, 36 03 08 21 to Gibraltar 10.
9. PC 482, 2 French escorts, 3 French merchant ships, 34 24 06 46 coastwise to Gibraltar.

1324A/13.

Advance copies D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

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

MOST SECRET

453C

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:

of "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

1332A/13 December

From V.A. Gibraltar

Date 14.12.42.

Recd. 0030

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T

Addressed A.I.G. 64

IMPORTANT.

Situation 1959 A 13th.

(1) G U F 2 delayed section. 031 deg 34' 015 deg 38' through
031 deg 01' 017 deg 01' thence 285 deg 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ *See previous page.*

1332A/13

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. 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)
C.C.O. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Ad. Blake. (2).
Ad. Ramsey (4).

IH.

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

HORORATA, Bearing of HORORATA distress.
torpedoed. (Port Patrick Radio, 1754 G.M.T./13.)
Intercepted 1754 G.M.T. SSSS HORORATA position
42° 09' 34° 31' W. torpedoed.
(Burnham Radio via Portishead Radio T.H.I. 1854/13 to Admty.)
Following received from Lands End Radio. Important
intercept. 1755 G.M.T. HORORATA position 42.03 N. 34.33 W.
torpedoed. Controlling station GLD.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1855/13 to Admty.)
Following received Lands End Radio at 1829 G.M.T. 500 k/cs
from BDRR. (HORORATA). SSSS H R position 42.15 N. 34.29 W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1929/13.)
Your 2243/12, to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. Please make
similar arrangement regarding HORORATA reported torpedoed
position 42° 03' N. 34° 33' W. at 1855Z/13.
(D.T.D. Approved C.N.S., 2307A/13 to V.A. Gibraltar,
(R) C.S. Ponta Delgada, N.A. Lisbon.)

STURGEON, S.8 1846A/11.
TRIBUNE. (1) STURGEON anticipate completion of repairs to
Y piece 16th ready to sail 17th for Algiers.
Lieut. Langridge not yet arrived suspect weather.
(2) TRIBUNE expected to complete p.m. 20th. Then 2 days
exercising with new C.O. sailing for patrol 23rd. Suggest Lieut.
Coe relieves S.O. S/Ms Gibraltar until Lieut.-Comdr. Selby Hall
arrives. No answer to F.O.C.N.A. 2242A/11 not to all addressees.
(3) F.O.S. 1204A/8 para. 2 intend Lieut. Beckley return U.K.
forthwith on relief.
(S.O. S/Ms Gibraltar, 1810A/13 to S.8.)

SOUTHERN Intend using SOUTHERN PRIDE as additional
PRIDE, escort to southbound ships of K.M.S. 5.
K.M.S. 5. (2) S.N.O. Casablanca is requested to sail
(SOUTHERN PRIDE SOUTHERN PRIDE to arrive Gibraltar 15th Dec.
refitting in type) Cancel my 1044/12 all addresses.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1828A/13 to N.C.X.F., S.N.O.
Casablanca, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty., F.O.I.C.
W.A.)

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ALMANZORA,
JOHAN VAN
OLDEN-
BARNEVELDT.

C. in C. S.A. 1042/10 Total numbers embarked on ALMANZORA and JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDT should not exceed passenger certificate viz 1263 and 853 respectively. A.M. 1744/16/41 refers.
2. 500 P.O.W. and guard should be embarked on each as first priority numbers of other passengers being limited accordingly. Priority amongst other passengers should be given to those embarked in India.
3. Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 0150A/13 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Movements.

Capetown departures 1415Z/12 EMILE BAUDOT for Durban S. of A. 8 knots E.T.A. 1500Z/16. *See p. 455B*
(C. in C. S.A. 0928C/13 to Admty. Cdre. Durban, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. E. London.

Admiral
Glassford.

Your 1221/12 not to B.A.D.
There is no mention of Admiral Glassford visiting British West Africa en route to Dakar. Very much hope it can still be arranged for him to meet me before arriving Dakar.
(F.O.C. W. Af. 0931Z/13 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)
Note:- Admty. 1221/12 is a repetition of J.S.M. 548 (1507Z) from J.S.M. Washington to W.C.O. London.

W.S. 24A &
C M 36.

*Supp. 455B
465A*

See p. 493
Sail 1000Z/(?13th) 11 knots. Route, Escort CAPETOWN and CHITRAL. A/S escort*CHURCHILL, NORMAN and NEPAL. ARONDA, ASCANIUS, (?G)LAUCUS, ARAWA, FELIX ROUSSEL to Aden, EKMA to Kilindini.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 1023Z/13.) * *On A.W.I. Sta.!*

EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND.

My 1239/9 Amend figures for U.S. Merchant Navy to read. (1) Repratriated 2 Officers 18 ratings.
(2) 345 survivors 26 Officers 55 ratings.
(D.S.T.O. ? Durban, 1139C/13. to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D. P.S.T.O. Capetown, Comnav, Cinclant. B.M.W.T. New York, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. S.A.

Trawlers
allocation.

Observing that Trawlers from West Africa are sometimes required to operate across the Atlantic, it is requested that some larger and better equipped vessels may be allocated to this Command when available. Should this be impracticable it is requested that the decision contained in A.M. 2114/26/11 may be reconsidered, as the provision of H/F transmission is most important under these conditions.
(F.O.C.W. Af. 1201Z/13 to Admty. (R) D.E.E.F.) *Reply: Admty 2201B/24*

Magnetic
Mine
Sweepers.

Present situation in South Africa is that there are 4 Mark III and 4 Mark V LL Sweepers available; magnetic mining threat is not great in these areas except from Type "T" moored magnetic mines and

/these

455A.

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 to be communicated to persons outside the British or Allied Government Services.

MO. IT. HIGRETT IN

(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One Line Pad are excepted from this rule.)

Naval Cypher M By W/T.

Addressed. Ships in Area P of S.A.Stn. South of 8° North
Admiralty C. in C. South Atlantic.
N.O.I.C. Takoradi. R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. VIVIANA, H.M.S. NORTHERN ISLES, escorting,
07 35 14 25 120 10.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, on patrol between
00 28 South 21 57 and 01 17 18 21 12.5.

H.M.S. DESPATCH, on patrol between 04 41 South 20 59
and 03 08 South 17 46 17.

Allied naval unit from North West (?to) search area
04 to 06 South 18 to 23 West.

H.M.S. ARCTIC EXPLORER, H.M.S. CAPE WARWICK, H.M.S.
THE TIGER, H.M.S. INDIAN STAR, with (?outward) "T" 46 03
40 04 10 to Takoradi 8.5 at 2003Z 13th, Twofold Bay 3.

Motor launch, escorting, (?31) 03 25 05 45 to 02 58
08 01 10.

H.M.S. ST. LORENZO, H.M.S. *CHANCE, H.M.S. **CASTLENAU,
KHYBER, escorting 04 10 South 10 45 East to Pointe Noire
9.5.

*not identified **in Home Waters

H.M.S. STELLA POLARIS, H.M.S. NORWICH CITY escorting
03 20 South 10 01 East to Pointe Noire 10.

0933Z/13, 15272/13

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

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

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

From C. in C. South Atlantic. Date 13.12.42.
 Time 1516

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T

Addressed A.I.G.125

IMPORTANT:

H.M.S. ROCKROSE, off Cape Agulhas to Simonstown
 13. EMILE BAUDOT, 034° 34' South 021° 50' East to Durban
 8. See p. 455

BELLWORT leaves Capetown P.M. 13th for
 Pointe Noire. M.L.*935 and 383 with C.A.4, 034° 58' South
 020° 08' East to 036° 46' South 023° 50' East 10
 *See S.M.L. No.

H.M.S. NORTHERN DAWN, H.M.S. NORTHERN DUKE,
 H.M.S. MAGNOLIA, H.M.S. ST. ZENO, BARWATERAKE,
 015° 30' South 010° 40' East to the South. H.M.S.
 NIGELLA, H.M.S. FREESIA, 029° 30' South 032° East
 to Lourenço Marques, H.M.S. CAPETOWN, H.M.S. CHITRAL, H.M.S.
 NORMAN, NEPAL, INCONSTANT, ROTHERHAM, with WS 24 A and
 CM 36, 030° 30' South 032° 20' East to the East 9. Supp. 4559

10370/13

465A

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. Pim.
 D.C.(2)
 D.O.D.(H)(2)
 D.O.D.(F)(2)
 D.A/S.W.
 Hd of M.
 U.S.N.
 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.S.D.
 Sec to W/T Board.

maf.

456

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - con/3.Magnetic
Mine
Sweepers.
(Contd.)

these can be dealt with by Oropesa sweeps.
(2) Consider if a request was received from Admty. 2 Mark III LL Sweepers together with technical personnel could be spared now by S.A.N.F. for service in the Med. and possibly 2 more later.
(C. in C. S.A. 1213C/13 to Admty.)

Reply: 1506A/19.

PETUNIA,
BELNOR,
SVEND FOYN.

A.M. 1647/22 Nov. and 2211/8 Dec. Intended to sail PETUNIA, BELNOR and SVEND FOYN in K.M.S. 6 on 25th Dec. to be detached in vicinity of Azores and proceed to Freetown with corvette mentioned in F.O.C.W. Africa's 1121/9.
(D.O.D. (F) 1214A/13 to F.O.C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A. N.C.X.F.)

SAWOKLA
(U.S.)

SAWOKLA. From Colombo 18th Nov. for Capetown due 8th Dec. not arrived.
(C.I.N. C.S.A. 1244C/13 to Admty.)

PHOEBE.

See p. 467

My 1247/11 and Comsolantfor's 1100/12.
(1) Necessary arrangements to sail PHOEBE for Pernambuco at 1730Z/14 escorted by BRIDGEWATER and ARMERIA. (2) Route (a) 002° 30' S. 020° 00' W. (b) 006° 13' S. 030° 00' W. thence Pernambuco. E.S. of A. 10.8 knots. E.T.A. Pernambuco a.m. 21st Dec. (4) Comsolantfor is requested to sail PHOEBE and escort to Trinidad. (5) In view of PHOEBE's condition shall be grateful for any air cover you can provide.
(F.O.C.W. Af. 1355Z/13 to Comsolantfor (R) Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet PHOEBE B.A.D. S.B.N.O. W.A. N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

U/B.

Pilot of Sabina A/C reports sighting S/M off River Benin about 1320Z/13.
(F.O.C.W. Af. 1701Z/13 to R.N.O. Lagos (Nigeria), B.N.L.O. W.A. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

O.N. Convoys
routes.

Your 1415/11 full routes of ships bound South America from O.N. convoys are repeated to you in B.A.M.S. dispersal instructions. O.N. 149 A.M. 1816/3 illustrates. 2. On dispersal identical information translated into latitudes and longitudes, together with destinations, convoy call sign and outcon table, is addressed by Admty. to Connav, Repeated S.O. (I) Montevideo. 3. Latter can therefore keep U.S. Authorities Recife (Pernambuco) informed of movements of these ships without necessity of overloading your daily shipping signal.
(D.T.D. 1750A/13 to F.O.C.W. Af. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Shipping
routing in
Atlantic.

A.M. 1945/11 Temporary amendments to routing in Atlantic. Following instructions are to be brought into force forthwith: (A) Coal-burners of 12 knots and over, and all oil-burners bound West Atlantic

/Ports

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - W.N.F.

Shipping
routeing
in Atlantic.
Contd.

Ports North of Cape Orange (Brazil), or to U.K. are to be sent Capetown for onward routeing. (B) Coal-burners under 12 knots and ship allocated to load Bauxite are to be routed in accordance with previous instructions keeping south of 002° N till W. of 038° W. (C. in C. S.A., 1750C/13 to N.C.S.O. Durban, N.C.S.O. Port Elizabeth, N.C.S.O. East London, (R) N.C.S.O. Capetown, Admty. R.A.W.Af).

T.S. 27

Departure 13th, RUMBA, M.L.s 278, 244, 296 with T.S. 27. RUMBA and M.L. 278 leaving convoy 1900Z/15 and returning Takoradi, M.Ls. 244, 296, Freetown 18th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1915Z/13 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Routeing
ships from
South Africa.

R.A. Message 1945/11 para. (2) (A) and (B) ships sailing from Takoradi and Ports to the Eastwards are to be diversely routed between Cape Palmas and Equator 010° W., para. (2) (C) ships are to be diversely routed between 002° N., and 003° S., before reaching 020° W. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1931Z/13 to N.C.S.O. Takoradi, Lagos, Duala (R) Admty. Connav, Washington, C. in C. S.A.)

PORTSDOWN.

E.T.A. Bathurst 1000(?Z)/14. (PORTSDOWN, 2200Z/13 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) N.O.I.C. Freetown).

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy report. One Merchant vessel one destroyer one unknown vessel in 35° 55' N., 16° 35' E. (A/C C/S FB G/W 0153/13).

SONTAY As SONTAY is proceeding independently numbers to embark must be limited in accordance with A.M.1744/16/7/41.
2. Admiralty agree boatage may be governing factor in this case instead of passenger certificate subject to concurrence of C. in C. E.F. (M.W.T., 0242A/13).

Enemy cruisers. Following is a repetition of my 2010B/12th begins C.S.15 from C. in C. Med., your 1447/11. No evidence to show Italian Units gone to Aegean. Ports are being covered by P.R.U. There was an A.S.V. block off Messina on night 8 inch cruisers disappeared so I think it is unlikely they have come south. Suggest to use our one time pad for appreciations. Please inform V.A. Malta ends. (C. in C. Med., 0325B/13 to C.S.15).

Attack on U/B by ENCHANTRESS. My 0505A/13 (N.T. in W.R.) 4 patterns dropped on bubble subsequent to ramming. Bubble ceased after 45 minutes am remaining in area for time being. Salvo of 3 torpedoes was fired toward convoy and 2 from stern tubes 30 seconds before ramming. (Convoy E.T.5)
It was CORALLO sunk
(ENCHANTRESS 0610A/13 to N.C.X.F.)
See C. in C. Med., 2200A/14.

A/C shot down by ARGONAUT 11 Dec. A.F.O. 2343/41. One enemy aircraft destroyed:
(1) 037° 15' N., 007° 30' E. 0724/11th B C - (?) good.
(2) Ju.88 - Aircraft seen burning on water, no prisoners.
(3) No.
(4) Not applicable.
(5) Torpedo bomber and low level bombing attack had been made by enemy aircraft but this one had not yet attacked and was passing down the port side - several salvos were fired and when smoke had cleared the plane was seen burning on the sea.
(6) Not applicable.
(ARGONAUT, 0856/13).

PETARD, QUEEN OLGA. Sailed PETARD, QUEEN OLGA at 0645/13 for Benghazi. (Tobruk C.C.O., 0653B/13).

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PALADIN Arrived.
See p. 461 (V.A. Malta, 0700A/13).

M.W.16 Aircraft estimate position of convoy at 0800A
034° 18' N., 016° 28' E.
(V.A. Malta, 0807A/13 to EXMOOR, (R) HURWORTH)

R/C My 2241A/12. Shipping R/C Marittimo Ustica and
Northward will not now take place.
(V.A. 0915A/13 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C.
Med., F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers C.S.12).

Operation Your 2301/12th. Yes. M.E.12 is included in
"Quadrangle C" operation "Quadrangle C" which was postponed
C". by my 1115/11th.
(C. in C. Med., 0915B/13 to V.A. Malta).

Visuals. 1st visuals Dec. 13th.
1. Messina 3 cruisers. 4 destroyers.
2. Taranto 3 battleships.
(V.A. Malta, 0936A/13).
Visuals Dec. 13th.
(1) Naples 1145. 2 cruisers plus one cruiser unserviceable.
(2) Messina 1235. 3 Cruisers.
(3) Cagliari 1010 (?9) Submarines one Merchant Ship 5,000
tons, 2 Merchant ships 4,000 tons.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1418A/13).
Visuals December 13th: 1345 Empedocle - 10 small craft.
1405 (Trapani?) - 4 destroyers. ?1500 Palermo - 3 medium
merchant ships (?trawlers). 1530 Augusta - 1 destroyer
exercising in Bay. Messina not covered last light owing to
engine failure.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1804A/13).

Hospital P.R.U. reports at 0805 Hospital Ship 20 miles
Ship. East of Catania course 120° speed 15 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 0946A/13 to C. in C. Med., F.O. 15th
C.S.201 Group, 247 Wing, 235 Wing. (R) Admty).

M.W.15 Total unloaded to 1700/12th 3861 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 1047A/13).

Force Q. Your 1655/12th. (A) Intend leaving Bone at dusk
See next page to pass through 038° 05' N., 010° 40' E. at
2330 thence course 105°.
(B) 0700A/14th position will be 037° 50' N., 009°
15' E.
(C) To assist R/C aircraft to close and pass bearing and
distance of enemy by V/S one ship will D.I.F.F. type 251 switch
on continuously from 2300.
(D) V.A. Malta pass to Capt. (S) 10.
(E) N.C.X.F. pass to A.O.C. E.A.C.
(C.S.12 1051A/13 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, A.O.C.E.A.C.)

/DUCHESS...

MOST SECRET

459A

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.)

1044A/13th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From N.C.X.F.

Date 13.12.42.

Recd. 1603.

NAVAL CODE (K.1) BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities in area "G" Repeated A.O.C. Eastern Air Command.

IMPORTANT

Brief situation 1959A/13th Western Mediterranean S/M excepted

(1) M K F 4 (Y).O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA, 2 Escort, H.M.S. DELHI, in company 035 degs. 32' North 003 degs. 26' West through 83, 57 to Gibraltar 13.

(2) E T 5, H.M.S. ENCHANTRESS, H.M.C.S. BADDECK, in approximate position 035 degs. 48' North 000 degs. 36' West bound Algiers 7.

(3) E T 6, H.M.S. FLEETWOOD, 4 Escorts, 037 degs. 02' North 004 degs. 16' East coastwise to Algiers 7.

(4) Force Q sailing Bone p.m. 13th eastbound returning Bone a.m. 14th. *See previous page.*

(5) ACUTE, H.M.S. POLRUAN, H.M.S. BRIXHAM, in approximate position 036 degs. 39' North 001 degs. 27' East coastwise to Algiers 7.

(6) H.M.S. VENOMOUS, escorting H.M.S. POZARICA, in approximate position 036 degs. 55' North 004 degs. 53' East coastwise to Algiers. *See pp 461 & 462*

(7) Following safe conduct ships on approved route between Gibraltar and Genoa may be encountered: Portuguese SANTA IRENE, Swiss CABO ORTEGAL, Swiss chartered Spanish NORTE, Swiss ALBULA, Portuguese MARIA JOANNA.

1044A/13

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

V.C.N.S.

Head of M.

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

D.A/S.W.

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

D.D.I.C.(2).

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

I.P.(2).

N.A. 1st S.L.

W.D.

Captain Pim.

D.T.D.(M).

D.O.D.(H) (2).

D.T.D.(3).

D.O.D.(F) (2).

D.M.S.

Duty Captain (2).

P.N.L.O.

Admiral Ramsay (4).

U.S.N.

D.E.W.D.(3).

Admiral Blake (2).

D. of L.D.

459B

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.

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE 1505A/13th December IN

From N.C.X.F.

Date 13.12.42.
Time 2322

Naval Code K.1 by T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 262 repeated H.Q. E.A.C.

IMPORTANT.

My 1054/13th add para 8. T.E.9 H.M.3. NASTURTIUM
and 3 other escorts sailed Gibraltar 1900 13th through
57 72 109 34 A to Algiers. Delete paragraph 2.

1505A/14.
? 1044 intended 772 H.3. but keep 453
/ Situation report.

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

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

af.

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD,
OTRANTO.Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Oran, 1100A/13).

3 Coasters.

P.C.S. of 3 Coasters 36°56' N., 21° 42' E.
(A/C FAH/T 1135/13).

5 destroyers

P.C.S. of 5 enemy destroyers or large warships
37.12 N., 12.15 E. 200° 20 knots.
(CYCH 1135/13 to 9 NG).Mines laid
at Sousse.Night 12/13th Dec. 5 magnetic mines laid about
900 yards east of Sousse harbour entrance.
Sterilization 6 days.
(V.A. Malta, 1146A/13 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.
Cdre. Algiers, (R) S.O.I.S.)Submarine
Situation
2000A/13.5 in approaches to Bizerta and Tunis south of
latitude 037° 40' two off Naples.
TIGRIS, 038° 46' 011° 46' course 264° speed 12
knots. *see p 461.*
Submarines in area G east of 009° E. are informed
that they will not be attacked or hunted by our
surface forces.
(Capt. S.10., 1154A/13 to C.S.12).

Patrol

Dusk to dawn patrol Marittimo - Cavoli intended
for nights 13/14th Dec.
(V.A. Malta, 1158A/13 to N.C.X.F. (R)
C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S., F.O.12th C.S. Cdre.
Algiers.)M.T.Bs. for
Bone.Intend sailing M.T.Bs. 266, 307, 315 for Bone at
1600A today 13th. Route north of Pantellaria
close inshore off Cape Guardia thence direct.
E.T.A. 0730A/14.
(V.A. Malta, 1204A/13).My 1204A/13 not to Admty. Sail Motor Torpedo Boats 266,
307, 315 for Bone.(V.A. Malta, 1545A/13 to N.O.I.C. Bone, F.O.I.S. S.O. Escort
Group V.A.12th C.S. (R) Naval Cdr. X.F., F.O.C.F.,
C. in C. M.F., Admty).
Fighter protection etc.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1206A/13).

P.51

Arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 1232A/13).

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.

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1225B/13th December IN

From C. in C. Middle East.

Date 13.12.42.
Time 1620

CYPHER

To: The War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE

298474 0/83619 cipher 13 December MOST SECRET

COSITREP No. 622.

Reuk all informed.

1. 30 Corps. 51 Div. patrols night 11/12 December penetrated varying distances but none encountered opposition. 153 Bde. made Recco. in force towards Es Suera during morning 12 December leading troops reached edge of enemy posns. and were counter attacked by Germans and withdrew slightly to dig in approx. 3000 yards west of original F.D.Ls. 153 Bde now under command. 7 Armd. Div. owing to difficulty of communication with 51 Div. Although our patrols active 154 Bde. reported little reaction by enemy in north during day. 3 R Tanks engaged approx. fifteen enemy tanks at long range in southern sector in evening claiming one. 1 Greek Bde now in area six miles south west Agedabia.
2. 10 Corps N.T.R.
3. Air. Reference Cositrep 621/4 para 8. Remaining B.24's bombing Naples harbour 11 December scored hits on quays, warehouses, marshalling yards and a fuel tank. Three fires in docks with smoke rising to great height. Two enemy fighters probably destroyed. One B.24 missing, believed shot down by A.A. fire. British Liberators attacking Naples during following night started three large fires near power station, railway sidings and airframe factory. Other bombs burst near railway station and in town. Low cloud prevented observation of damage.
4. Night 11/12 December Marauders attacking Gabes at dusk scored hits on railway station and other buildings. Wellingtons mined approaches to Tripoli harbour. Since bad weather prevented operations against Tunisia, Malta Wellingtons attacked enemy supply port of Palermo, scoring many hits on docks. Smoke screen prevented observation of damage, but fires and explosions were seen in the harbour by another Wellington on reconnaissance for shipping north of Sicily.
5. 12 December. Bad weather restricted operations in desert to one fighter bomber attack on enemy M.T. Fighter cover was provided for shipping off Cyrenaica.

460^B-

2.

6. Marauders bombed W/T station at Tripoli and machine gunned M.T. and troops in vicinity.

7. One JU,88 shot down by A.A. fire at Belandah.

All informed.

12253/13

Received in War Registry 1945/13

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

/ No. T.O.O./12.

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

Circulation.
 S. of S.
 C.I.G.S.
 V.C.I.G.S.
 D.M.O.
 D.F.(2)
 D.D.M.O.(O)(H)
 M.O.1. 5. 6. 8
 D.M.I.
 D.D.M.I.(I)(F)
 M.I.2.(1 copy) 3 3b,14 17a.
 D.A.F.V.
 D.D.I.P.
 Duty Capt.(Admiralty)
 Duty Officer (Upper Admiralty War Room)
 Hd of War Registry Admiralty
 A.M.C.S. Air Ministry (6)
 Brig. E.I.C.Jacob (15)
 Cabinet War Room.
 S. of S. Foreign Office.

maf.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

PORT ARTHUR, ROUSAY. *See p. 463^A*
 PORT ARTHUR towing ROUSAY arrived off Philippeville 1100/13th, as instructed by S.O. of Escort Convoy E.T.6 No Tug being available here tow is proceeding Algiers in accordance with your 1047A 6th to N.O.I.C. Bone.
 Departure Philippeville 1230/13th estimated S. of A. 7 knots. Request Fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1326A/13 to F.O.I.S.)
 Fighter protection Dec. 14th. PORT ARTHUR towing ROUSAY in approx. (2090°) 03' N., 004° 13' E., at 0800A/14th proceeding to Algiers 7 knots. Codeword "Eager". Priority 2. (N.C.X.F., 2201A/13)

Merchant Ships. Convoy from Eastward E.T.A. Algiers 0800/14th. VENOMOUS and ~~*1 Merchant ship~~ leaving Bougie 1830/13th for Algiers. (Capt. S.8., 1334A/13 to N.C.S.O. Oran, H.M. S.M. P.217). **POZARILIA - See p. 459^A 9 p. 462 (aux. A/A Ship)*

Enemy convoy. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers and 2 large merchant vessels 190 10 38° 12' N., 12° 32' E. (A/C G G L E 1420/13). Shadow enemy estimated to be in position C Z X J 1232 (incorrect, 38° 12' N., 12° 32' E. evidently intended at 1420. (A.I.C., 9NG 1457/13).

TIGRIS *See p. 460*
 Onward route through 038° 40' 008° 00' E. at 0105/15th 038° 01' 003° 18' E. at 0500/16th thence on the surface at your discretion to R/V escort in 037° 01' 003° 18' E. at 1000/16th for onward escort to Algiers. Total bombing restrictions arranged from daylight 16th. (Capt. (S) 8., 1440A/13 to TIGRIS (R) N.C.X.F., Cmdre. Algiers, S.O.I.S., Capt. (S) 10).

Balloon Squadron for Algiers. Understand Balloon Squadron arriving Algiers near future. Am investigating possibility of obtaining suitable marine craft for about 6 water-borne sites. (H.Q.E.A.C., 1535A/13).

Force K. Force K will be in approx. 034° 35' N., 014° 30' E., at 2230A tonight 13th.
 2. Subsequent movements depend on intelligence. whole force may operate between Tripoli (Libya) and North of Kerkenah or in an area centre of 034° 35' N., 017° 20' E.
 3. Possibly forces may divide into Force A, CLEOPATRA, ORION, PALADIN, KELVIN, operating to Eastward and Force B, JERVIS, NUBIAN, EURYALUS operating to West.

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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) 1351Z/14th December.
IN.

MOST SECRET.

From Algiers.

Date 15.12.42.

Time 1745Z

Incoming Message Etousa

Addressed Usfor London.

Ref. No. 1968 14th December, 1942.

Edited Literal Text.

Interior Addresses: To USFOR
From FREEDOM ALGIERS.
From C. in C. AF.
For H.M. Ambassador Madrid (Passed
by Etousa via American Embassy, Madrid).
Minister of State Middle East
(Passed by Air Ministry Special Signals
Office).
Resident Minister Achimot
(Passed by Colonial Office)

Summary of Operations 5 to 12 December, Liaison Report 7.

1. Estimated about 19,500 German and 11,250 Italian combatant troops in Tunisia with approximately 2,500 German Air Force and 5,000 service troops. Total about 38,500. Fighting value of German armour is high. Morale of remainder ground forces is not high.
2. Enemy has advantage of operating from good airfields close to his forward troops. He has open (?) operating aggressively.
3. Enemy defending by local attacks with armoured forces supported by infantry the northern Tunisian bridge-head generally along line west of Mateur-Tebourba-Mohamedia. In central Tunisia he is protecting the coastal railway and road by defensive positions and patrols west of Zaghuan and west of Kairouankjd in southern Tunisia he is protecting defensive positions close to Gabes with outposts at Djebel Krechem 60 miles west of Sfax and Kebili 50 miles west of Gabes. Southern flank is protected by detachments motorized cavalry at Medenine and 4 (?) Tatahouine.
4. Early in December bitter fighting took place in the area of Tebourba. Since then enemy attacks have been reduced in scale and have been repulsed with losses about equal on both sides. As lines of communication had been greatly

elongated/.....

2.

elongated during rapid Allied advance decision made to withdraw to more easily defended area while bringing up reinforcements and establishing reserves of supplies. Accordingly on night 10-11 December withdrawal was made to general line Medjaz El Bab-Djebel Abiod. This position insures use of road north from Boja and protect communications centre of Medjaz El Bab. In the meantime reinforcements are arriving daily. Supplies are being replenished and reserve stocks built up. French forces are actively protecting the south flank of the Allied Army and cooperating wholeheartedly. Considerable French Forces have been transferred to Tunisia from Oran and Casablanca.

5. Local authorities are giving cooperative help. Internal order well maintained by them.

1351Z/14

Received in Admiralty a.m./18.

Circulation:

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels., War Office.
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
4th S.L.
C.N.A.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A. 1st S.L.
A.C.N.A.S.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
Duty Capt. (2)

Hd. of M.
D.N.I. (4)
I.P. (2)
D.P.D.
~~W.D.~~
Ad. Blake.
D.N.A.D.
D.A.C.D.
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D. of P. (Q)

MOST SECRET

4618

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 MESSAGE 1431Z/13th Dec. IN

FROM: J.S.M. Washington, DATE: 13.12.42.
RECD: 1903.

C Y P H E R.

Addressed: War Cabinet Offices London.

IZ. 2611.

Attitude of Admiral Darlan.

J.S.M. 563 13th December, 1942.

Following is text of telegram No. 1804 from Algiers:-

BEGINS. From:- Freedom Algiers.
To:- Agwar.

From Eisenhower to General Marshall.

I have had a very frank and direct talk with Darlan reference your No. 56. I made it perfectly clear to him that anything that could be interpreted as political manoeuvring on his part to extend the scope of his influence outside French North and West Africa would react definitely against him in his contacts with the American Army and Government. He stated unequivocally the following:-

That he has no intention of trying to extend his political influence in other countries, so that hereafter any message intended for any former French or official personnel outside of French North and West Africa will be first presented to this Headquarters for despatch to Washington where determination can be made as to whether it conforms exactly to United States policy. Darlan presented the following problem that he is confronted with daily. Many of the former Vichy Diplomatic Missions now find themselves at loose ends because that Government has really ceased to exist. They are therefore forced to seek some official connection and send him messages offering support and asking for advice because he took the burden here of defying Axis. According to him most of these people are definitely anti-Axis, but their present situation is that of imminent starvation with no hope of relief, consequently (~~corrupt group~~) from the other side. Darlan says that if through any agency available to the United States trustworthy and able men could be selected from

/these

this will make them easy victims to approaches (J.S.M. 14012/14)

461^D

-2-

these groups, they could be of the utmost usefulness in their present stations with nothing provided for them except decent livelihood. Darlan gave me this story to show that the problem is not a simple one. He feels that everything possible should be done to align these people against the Axis and in agreement with your radiogram stated any future messages of his will be limited to this purpose. He would like to be able to advise these people to get in touch with United States Diplomatic personnel. Darlan admitted that certain unwise messages to Peyrouton and others had gone out. He made no attempt to evade responsibility but did say that he was persuaded by a very ambitious subordinate on the local commission to do this against his better judgement at a time when complete confusion existed as to proper status intended for him and as to what would be a proper connection for all of these diplomatic missions. His thought was to keep them in line until definite policies could be established agreeable to United Nations. Darlan again promised complete cooperation in the local military effort and in any other way that the United States might deem appropriate he reiterated his many pronouncements that only a free French people can select their future leaders. ENDS.

14312/13.

Received in War Registry 0145/14.

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

MAG.

Distribution:-

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.6. Telegrams, War Office
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con't.Force K.
Contd.

4. Unless in contact with enemy, all units will be within 80 miles of Malta by 1030/14th.
5. Codeword Force K "Tarmac" Force A "Cutter" Force B "Camel".
6. It is intended that surface strike should take place after 0400/14th.
(V.A. Malta, 1538A/13 to C. in C. Med., 201 Wing. 247 Wing. 235 Wing. (R) Admty N.C.X.F. R.A.15 C.S.)

My 1538/13th. Approx. position of Force K. at 0400A/14 034° 40' N., 015° 40' E. Request 201 Group A.S.V. aircraft may co-operate with Force from that time. Assume homing procedure will be on 320 k/cs.

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1732A/13 to C. in C. Med., 201 Wing 247 Wing, 235 Wing. (R) Admty. N.C.X.F., R.A.15 C.S.)

Departure CLEOPATRA, EURYALUS, JERVIS, KELVIN, NUBIAN, PALADIN, ORION.

(V.A. Malta, 1740A/13).

Force K, 3. cruisers and 4 destroyers will be operating southward of Malta tonight 13th/14th returning to within 80 miles of Malta by 1030/14.

(N.C.X.F., 1830A/13 to 12th C.S.)

POZARICA,
VENOMOUS.

See pp. 459-461

Intend to sail POZARICA escorted by VENOMOUS at 2300 E.T.A. Algiers 0700 tomorrow Monday S. of A. 12 knots. Codeword "Eager".
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1625A/13).

P.228

Be accurately in position given in my 1950/11th by dawn tomorrow 14th.
(Capt. (S) 8., 1745A/13 to P.228).

P.211

Intend to sail P.211 p.m./15th for patrol in Gulf of Hammamet.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1801A/13 to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 8 N.C.X.F.)

Ships to
load for
Malta.

My 2100/8 and your 0041/10 Washington have approved loading of PIERRE S. DUPONT, O. HENRY, and TOSARI. Intend take up GREYSTONE CASTLE on completion discharge inward cargo.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1903B/13 to Admty).

EMPIRE
WOODLARK.

My 1815. In view of C. in C. E.F. 0928/9th EMPIRE WOODLARK ex Suez about 20th Dec. allocated to embark 500 Greek refugees for Kilindini and R.N.50 Army 250 R.A.F. 250 for Durban subject to C. in C. E.F. concurrence.

(2) ARAWA ex Suez end of December to embark South Africans originally allocated EMPIRE WOODLARK.

(3) Agreed. Kilindini pass to E.A. Command.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1910B/13).

/BELITA...

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

BELITA
(Norwegian
tanker).

BELITA torpedoed in 10° N., 55° E., on Dec. 3rd. One lifeboat landed Banda Alula p.m./9th with 15 men, a second lifeboat last seen on 5th heading for The Brothers A/C from Aden searching for second boat tomorrow Monday.
(Cdre. Aden, 1935Z/13 to C. in C. E.F., (R)
C. in C. Med., F.O.R.S.C.A. from Commodore Aden).

Use of
S.B.T. by
U.559.

Your 2323/7th December. Similar reports have been received from other sources and will be promulgated by General Message.
(D.A/S.W., 1955A/13 to C. in C. Med).

P.217

HUSSAR will be your escort.
(Capt. (S) 8., 1956A/13 to P.217).

Malta air
report.

Al.172 13. Part 1. Night 12/13th Dec. No enemy air activity locally.
Day 13th Dec. Following action was taken to protect convoy approaching from the East. At 0600 hours 4 Beaufighters located convoy 146 miles South East of Malta and maintained protective patrol until 0832 hours when they were relieved by 4 more Beaufighters. From 10 hours continuous patrol was maintained over convoy by 32 long range and 4 short range Spitfires. By (1620 or 1220 corrupt) hours convoy had been escorted safely to within 40 miles of Malta. 3 Beauforts carried out A/S patrols ahead of convoy throughout the day. First Beaufort met friendly D/Rs from Malta and by request led them to the convoy at 0735 hours 8 Spitfires carried out offensive reconnaissances south west and south east of Malta. At 1630 hours 1 Spitfire damaged a Ju.88 60 miles south east of Lampedusa. 8 Spitfires have been airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
Night 12th/13th Dec. 5 Albacores despatched to mine entrance to Sousse Harbour laid 5 x 1500 lb. magnetic mines 900 yards from Harbour entrance. 3 Wellingtons which carried out diversion bombing of Sousse Harbour to cover minelaying operation encountered very bad weather conditions but dropped 8 x 500 lb. and (14 or 18?) x 250 lb. GP bombs from 5000 - 13000 feet scoring hits in Harbour Area. Owing to bad weather over Tunisia 4 Wellingtons bombed Palermo docks dropping 1 4000 lb. 18 500 lb and 27 250 lb. bombs. The 4000 lb. bomb burst near gasometer south of docks and other burst were seen across quays and in town.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 2007Z/13).

/Situation...

463A

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.

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
2104/13 December

From N.Cdrc. X.F. Date 14.12.42.

Recd. 0330
NAVAL CODE L.(1) BY W/T

Addressed A.I.G.262 Repeated H.Q. Eastern Air
Command.

IMPORTANT. *See p.461*

My 10/14 13th add paragraph 9
PORT ARTHUR with ROUSAY in tow in approx.
position 037 deg 02' North 005 deg 58' East coast
wise bound Algiers 7.

2104/13

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

Re:-
Brief situation 1959/13 W. Med.
S/M excepted.

- 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.
- Hd. of M.
- D.A/S.W.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D.(M)
- D.T.D.(3)
- D.M.S.
- P.N.L.O.
- D.E.W.D.(3)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Ad. Blako.(2)
- D.of L.D.

IH.

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation Report. Western Desert. 3,000 tons of cargo discharged 11th Dec. for Benghazi and Tobruk and 100 tons of ammunition unloaded El Zuetina. Air raid Tobruk p.m./12th Dec., about 12 aircraft no bombs on harbour.

2. Submarines. TRAVELLER overdue and must be considered lost (My 2228/12*to Admty and V.A.M. only refers).

3. Red Sea. H.M. South African Salvage Vessel GAMTOOS has joined Mediterranean Station.

4. Safe Conduct. Swedish Ship EROS left Kalamata for Piraeus 0900/12.

(C. in C. Med., 2115B/13) *(Hush M/S Distribution).

Ship torpedoed by P.35 3000 tons Merchant ship heavily laden with Motor Transport hit by torpedo and stranded 035° 53' 010° 37' Destroyer patrol rendered 2nd attack ineffective one torpedo remains returning to base E.T.A. 1025/15th. (P.35, 2135A/13).

E.A.C. Algiers 12th. Hudson sighted at 1017 hours in 37.16 N., air report. 6.40 E. the burning wreckage of unidentified vessel with five P.38s circling. Another aircraft sighted a fully surfaced U-boat from a distance of 19 miles at 1411 hours in 36.45 N., 0° E.

U-boat had been fully submerged for two minutes before aircraft reached position. The aircraft dropped 1 D/C 150 yards ahead of swirl but no results seen.

17 B.17 attacked docks and marshalling yards at Tunis 7 x 1000 bombs and 30 x 500 G.P. bombs dropped all bombs observed in target area and large fires started all the aircraft which were escorted by 9 P.38s returned safely. Heavy and concentrated shipping reported at Ferryville and Lake Bizerta 9 B.26s with fighter escort were despatched to Sousse but adverse weather with icing at 10000 feet was experienced on leaving base 2 A/C crashed and the remaining 7 were forced to return to base. (E.A.C. Algiers, 2240/13).

A.S.V. Search. A.S.V. has covered 034° 30' N., to about 36° N., from 13° E., to coast and found nothing. Still working north. (V.A. Malta, 2310A/13 to Force K).

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Trooping trip. Project is under examination which would require for Trooping ships of not more than (a) 18 feet draught and (b) 21 feet draught and speed about 13 knots.

2. Voyage would be say three days duration in each direction.
3. Request early report of what ships might be made available for this service detailing their Troop capacity for three days voyage.

(D. of S.T., 0243A/13 to P.S.T.O. India.)

Suspicious signal. Your 0656/12 Bombay radio reports call sign GYTW was heard at 1620 and 1621 11th making Q R K. Nothing further heard afterwards.
(Com. R.I.N., 0341Z/13 to C. in C. E.F.)

GEORGIC. Arrived 13th Dec.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0832Z/13.)

CARADOC. ^{N.T. 213.} Your 0326/10 (request for report stating intentions regarding permanent repairs and temporary repairs locally). Detailed information not yet received. On relief from Persian Gulf intend to sail CARADOC for Bombay arriving early January possibility of dressing up teeth to enable both shafts to be used to be investigated at Bombay.
(C. in C. E.F., 0944Z/13 to Admty.)

India Air Report. Summary No. 273 for Dec. 13th. Part 1 Dec. 12th. (A) 16 Blenheims escort 22 Hurricanes bombed railway yards station Mandalay 11,000 feet hits station buildings permanent way sidings and among rolling stock.
(A.H.Q. India, 1155/13.)

FROBISHER. Arrived a.m. left.
See next page. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1230Z/13.)

Convoys with South African troops. A.M. 2155/10. I will make special arrangements for both surface and air A/S escorts of these convoys.
(C. in C. E.F., 1407Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

FRITILLARY, NIZAM, CATTERICK, RELIANT. Your 1111/12. I hope to sail FRITILLARY to arrive Durban towards the end of December. *See next page*
2. Was completion date of NIZAM delayed as the last date known here was Dec. 13th Superintendent Simonstown's 1603/26th Oct. (? 1630/26/10 intended re taking in hand of NIZAM and FOXHOUND.)

MOST SECRET

465A

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: C. in C. Eastern Fleet. DATE: 15.12.42.
*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a Code Title:

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T.

Addressed: E.F. (167 Y) Admiralty C. in C. South
Atlantic 404 N.O.I.C. Durban F.O. Red Sea
Canal Area.

IMPORTANT.

33 Movement Summary number 28 December

(H) (i) H.M.S. DAUNTLESS left Kilindini 11th December due
(?Durban) 16th December thence Simonstown 18th December

(ii) H.M.S. FROBISHER arrived Seychelles 13th
December due Aden 17th December. *See previous page.*

(iii) H.M.S. MAURITIUS relieving (?H.M.S. FROBISHER)
12th December as escort to convoy W S 24 B due (?Bombay)
17th December.

(iv) H.M.S. GLENROY and H.M.S. JANUS left Diego
Suarez 10th December due (?Durban) (?17th) December
routed west of Madagascar.

(v) H.M.S. CESSNOCK left* (?S.W. Cape) 12th December
due Kilindini about 16th December. **Seychelles (13th Dec) (14th Dec) (15th Dec)*

(vi) H.M.S. TOOWOomba left (?Kilindini) 8th December
due Diego Suarez 14th December. *H.M.S. 21/12/42*

(vii) H.M.S. CARTHAGE left Kilindini 11th December
escorting convoy M J One 2 (?ships) due Bombay 22nd
December speed of advance 10 knots.

(viii) H.M.S. BLACKMORE left Kilindini 13th December
due Diego Suarez 15th December.

(ix) H.M.S. CAPETOWN, H.M.S. CHITRAL, H.M.S. NORMAN,
H.M.S. NEPAL, H.M.S. (?ROT) HERMAN, leave Durban 13th December
escorting combined convoys W S 24 A and C M 36 routed
Mozambique Channel *See pp 455 & 456.*

(x) The following Y messages are wanted number 113
Y of 8th September 1942 118 Y 20th September 120 Y 21st
September 122 Y 27th September 129 Y 5th October 130 Y
6th October 135 Y 13th October 136 Y 14th October 141 Y
20th October 142 Y 3rd November 146 Y 11th November 147 Y
12th November 149 Y 15th November 151 Y 24th November 153
Y 26th November 158 Y 1st December (all dates 1942).

0749Z/13.

Advance Copy 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)

Duty Capt. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A./S.W.

Head 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.

MAG.

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. *un/2*

FRITILLARY,
NIZAM,
CATTERICK,
RELIANT.
(Contd.)

3. Could CATTERICK escort RELIANT leaving Durban about 19th December.

4. Your para. 4 concur but it may not be necessary to send the destroyers so far.

(C. in C. E.F., 1414Z/13 to C. in C. S.A.)

FRITILLARY left p.m. 13th, E.T.A. Kilindini 0300Z/17.

(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 1430Z/13.)

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B. U-Boat estimated to be in position 044° N.
30° W. at 1400/12th.
(D.O.D. (H) 0040A/13 to ENTERPRISE (R) Connav,
C. in C. W.A.)

PHOEBE. Following is a repetition of Comsolant's 1100/12.
p. 456 Your 1247/11 affirmative to Trinidad approx. wait
of 10 days at Recife may be necessary. Request
PHOEBE make E.T.A. direct to Comsolant at least 12 hours before
arrival Recife. T.O.O. 1100/12th ends. R.A.W. Af pass to
PHOEBE.

(B.A.D. Washington 0255Z/13.)

F.O.C.W.A. 1247Z/11th and Comsolant 1100/12th. Include
PHOEBE in trade convoys Trinidad to New York unless special
escort available for her routine movement.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1550/13 to Cdr. Caribbean Sea
Frontier, Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier.)

Your 1247/11. PHOEBE can be placed in trade convoys from
Recife to New York. Cominch pass to action addressee.
(Cinclant 2145Z/13 to ? F.O.C.W.A.F.)

S.C.113. Departs Point Z Santiago end swept channel at
approx. 2130Z/12th correct paragraphs 2 3 5 8
accordingly. (Names etc.)
(Port Director, New York 0330Z/13.)

Local escort arrangements.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1541Z/13.)

NIGERIAN. Torpedoed and sunk 8th December 08.32 N.
57.54 W.
(Commaveu 0908/13.)

SS NIGERIAN torpedoed 2305 G.M.T. 8th December 009° 20' N.
058° 50' W. Master's books thrown overboard in metal container
wireless books thought to have been thrown overboard depth 350
fathoms. Ship not boarded. No special bag on board.
(B.R.O. Georgetown 2145/13) Note different time and
position.

ATTACKER. ATTACKER departed San Francisco area for Balboa
about 2200Z/12. S. of A. 15 knots. (route)
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1025/13.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary at	NEWCASTLE.	35° N. 39½° W.	023°	18
1800 G.M.T. 13 Dec.	* ENTERPRISE.	40½° N. 36½° W. at 1700/11.	Hove to	Blank
	Tanker Convoy }			
	MILFORD.	10° N. 41½° W.	273°	9½
	CORINTHIAN.	Arriving Rio de Janeiro.	Blank	11½
	(D.O.D. (F) 1030Z/13.)			

* See p. 44 up to

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

LAPWING.

^{VIEWPORT}
Arrival ~~VIEWPORT~~ 12th U.S. Aircraft Tender
LAPWING.
(N.R.O. St. Lucia 1049Q/13.)

U.S.S.R. S/Ms
S.51, S.56.

54 55.
Contacted two (?U.S.S.R) Submarines at 1030Z/13th
at (?041°) 15' N. 064° 47' W. ^{BIBB} (?U.S.
Destroyer *CRANE) U.S. Destroyer MACLEISH escorting
(corrupt group) course 020° speed 8 E.T.A.
1200Z/14th.
See next page
(GEORGE M. BIBB 1110Z/13.) *BIMPSON intended. *See next page*

Y.A.G.20.

Arrival 12th, U.S. P.V. YAG 20.
(R.N.O. Nassau 1151/13.)

A.T.31.

Sailed as my 1455/11th.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1301Z/13.)

O.N.S.150.

Western Local Escort Task Units 24.18.5 NIAGARA
(S.O.) MATAPEDIA, MONCTON, GRANBY sail St. Johns
1030Z/14 to relieve you in 43.39 N. 48.24 W. at
1600Z/15.
(C.C.N.F. 1337Z/13 to Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit
24.1.18 (R) Western Local Escort Task Units
24.18.5.)

Summaries
of A/S
Attacks.

N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1645Z/26th Aug. 1942 (requesting
N.S.H.Q. be included in address of any signalled
summaries of A/S attacks.) Request confirmation
that this request has been concurred in by you.
Cominch's 2125/8 was not received at N.S.H.Q.
until passed by N.M.C.J.S., Washington.
(N.S.H.Q. 1443Z/13 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (R)
Admty., N.M.C.J.S. Washington.)

A.T.31 N.K.

A.T.31 N.K. amend route as follows.
(Connav 1520/13 to A.T.31, H.M.S. (sic) QUEEN
ELIZABETH (R) F.O.N.F. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet,
C.T.24 C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.6, N.S.H.Q. Admty.,
C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.218.

Transmission at 1708Z/13th on 10510 k/cs indicates
U-Boat shadowing you.
(N.S.H.Q. 1520Z/13 to Escorts, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

H.X.218,
S.C.112.

D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 1408 suggest either
H.X.218 or S.C.112 may have been reported.
(D.D.I.C. 1550A/13 to Escorts.)

MOST SECRET

468A

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.

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

IN

MOST SECRET

1530Z/13th December

Date 13/12/42

From C.O.A.C.

Recd. 2120

Naval Cypher 3S by W/T and T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

IMPORTANT

Section South West.

HF 21, GODERICH, NORANDA, 044 degs. 02' 063 degs. 49' 223 degs. 7' alter to 239 degs. in 065 degs. 22' and to 353 degs. in 066 degs. 30' West.

FH 21, NIPIGON, 043 degs. 30' 065 degs. 00'.

U.S.S. WOODBINE, GENTIAN, MARITA, CLOVER, CARLITA, CASINGHEAD, 044 degs. 06' 063 degs. 58' coastwise to position 043 degs. 49' North 066 degs. 40' thence 250 degs. speed 6.

^{GEORGE W.} U.S.S. CAMPBELL, SATURN, 43 46 64 10 coastal to 45 59 59 30 thence to Argentia speed 15. **not identified*

AT 31, 42 44 60 09 126 degs. 26.2 altering to 101 degs. in 41' 10 57 15.

U.S.S.R. S/MS S.54, and S.55, on surface escorted by U.S.S. ^{WOLFE} BLISS, MACLEISH, SIMPSON, 42 26 64 15 020 degs. 8. Estimated time of arrival Sambro Light Vessel 1100/14th. *see previous page*

LORD KELVIN, BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, carrying cable repairs 046 degs. 00' North 059 degs. 26' West. *see p. 468D*

* (?LESSER) * PROCHER, PROVIDENCE, 5 merchant ships, FORT WILLIAM, 045 degs. 01' North 060 degs. 50' West en route Halifax speed 7.5. **not identified*

U.S. CGR 3070, disabled and adrift vicinity 041 degs. 38' North 061 degs. 00' West.

THUNDER, on patrol vicinity 43 10 67 00 West.

JAMAICA PRODUCER, 43 22 64 48 227 degs. 15 alter 261

/degs.

468^B

- 2 -

degs. in 65 36 West.

AFRICAN STAR (U.S.) 40 22 70 01 261 degs. 15.

(?CITY) LIGHTNING (U.S.) 40 11 66 09 269 degs. 14.5

1530Z/13.

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)
Duty Captain (2)
U.S.N.
D.A./S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.O. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.N.I. (4)
Admiral Blake
D. of P. (2)

GMM

MOST SECRET

4688

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 MESSAGE 2102Z/13th December IN

From C.O...C. Halifax, Date 14.12.42.
Time 0350

Naval Cypher S by T/P

Addressed Admiralty

IMPORTANT

Section South West my 1530Z 13th amend
AT 31 altering in 042° 10' North to 090° and in 049° 50'
West to 064°

2102Z/13

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

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

ma.

4680

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.

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET MESSAGE. 0147Z/14th Dec. IN

From: - C.O.A.C. Halifax.

Date. 14/12/42.

Recd. 0924.

NAVAL CYPHER 3S BY CABLE.

Addressee - Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

p. 468A
My 1530/13th section south west add

H.M.C.S. MILLTOWN expected time of arrival Halifax 1130

Z/14th from Gut of Canso. Delete LORD KELVIN, BUTTERMERE,

WASTWATER. *See p. 470*

0147Z/14.

Advance Copy. Ops. O.D. Trade.

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

War Diary.13.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - contd.

A.F.C.S. Your 2130/11. / For A.M.C.S. read A.F.C.S. which is air member Canadian Joint Staff Washington. A.F.H.Q. is Air Force Headquarters Ottawa.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1550Z/13 to Admty.)
/ (N.S.H.Q.'s 2130/11 intended? re reports of R.C.A.F. attacks on U/Bs will be forwarded by A.F.H.Q. direct to A.M.C.S. for Cominch.)

S/M estimates & notices. December 13th.
(Cominch 1558/12, 1559/13, 1604/13, 1605/13, 1606/13.)

ALASKAN (U.S.) Overdue Paramaribo.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1612R/13.)

H.X.216 OCEAN CRUSADER. H.X.216. Speed 8.8 knots arrived off Oversay 1500Z/3 north westerly gale 25th - 28th November. Convoy partly scattered. No further news OCEAN CRUSADER since SSSS message 1555Z/26. Remainder arrived.
(D.T.D. 1708A/13.)

U/B. U.S. Naval planes from Mukallafield investigating S/M which submerged on being sighted on 2143Z/13th in 017° 30' N. 077° 15' W.
(S.O. (I) Kingston Jamaica 1724R/13.)
My 1724/13th planes returned nothing located. B.A.D. by safe hand.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 2038R/13.)

MERAX. Departed Kingston 11th.
MERAX *2038R/13*. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica 1804R/13.)

Tanker Convoy for U.K. Your 1715/1 and 1617/3. The adverse effect on the U.K. oil stocks as a result of drawing upon them for supplies to "Torch" area was not fully realized when the release of B.5 group was originally asked for.
It has now become imperative to replace oil stocks as rapidly as possible and it is proposed that upon release HAVELOCK group should be sailed to Trinidad to escort up to 10 tankers direct to U.K., WARWICK group to proceed direct to U.K. as additional escort to an H.X. or S.C. convoy.
Request the concurrence of Cominch may be sought and a very early reply sent in order that the tankers may be assembled.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1917A/13 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
Reply: B.A.D. 1425Z/14.

/Break in ...

War Diary.

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Break in
Halifax -
Harbour
Grace cable.

Admiralty reports: Cancel my 1802/11th.
Reported break has now been identified as old
fault and company does not wish to risk disturbing
it. 1508A/13th ends. Escort LORD KELVIN to
Halifax keeping to seaward at a line joining
positions.
(A) 45.50 59.31. (B) 45.00 60.59. (C) 44.30 62.27
Report E.T.A.
(C.O. At. Coast 1947Z/13 to BUTTERMERE.)

Tanker
convoy for
Torch area.

Your 2201Z/9 and 1707Z/11. As these destroyers
are not required to return to U.K. but are wanted
in Torch area as soon as possible, suggestion
contained in your 2201Z/9 is viewed most
favourably. Question is being urgently discussed
with M.W.T. and further signal will be made.
(D.T.D. 1953A/13 to B.A.D.)
Reply. B.A.D. 2109/14.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

Para. A. BESHOLT sunk 600 miles off shore on
route Trinidad to Boca Grande 2 December.
Para. C. Tug sights periscope 13.28 N. 61.11 W.
1505Z/12.
Planes sights subs. one area 46.30 N. 5.0 W.
1330Z/12, 1 02.55 S. 32.55 W. 1327Z/13.
(Cominch 2040/13.)

U.G.S.3.

B.R.L.O. New York reports. Following ships
left New York December 12th in convoy U.G.S.3.
ARTHUR MIDDLETON, BENJAMIN HARRISON, BRET HARTE,
DANIEL HUGER, GEORGE WEEMS, JOHN C. CALHOUN, JOHN G. WHITTIER,
JOHN JAY, OLIVER H. PERRY, SAMUEL CHASE, ZACHARY TAYLOR, ALCOA
VOYAGER, ALGIC, ANTHONY WAYNE, ATLANTA CITY, BENJAMIN BOURN,
COLUMBIAN, HEGIRA, ILLINOIAN, JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS, JULIA
LUCKENBACH, LANCASTER, LENA LUCKENBACH, MOKIHANA, MOUNT EVANS,
NEW ORLEANS, PAUL HAMILTON, PETER MINUIT, STEEL TRAVELLER, THOMAS
SIM LEE, WEST NILUS, WILD WOOD, GULFPORT, ESSO BAYWAY, RHODE
ISLAND, WEST MADAKET, GULFDISC, all U.S. ALAN-A-DALE Pan,
MICHIGAN Pan. CJBARDULL, ESSO CHARLESTON.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2214Z/13, 2217Z/13.)

Admiral
Sir Percy
Noble.

And staff, arrived Washington p.m. 12th.
(B.A.D. 2249Z/13.)

13.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Routeing of
shipping.

Com. S.W. Pacific Force's 0803/12th. Except for Monster vessel and few ships with very special cargo requiring escort, all ships westbound from Wellington proceed direct to destination.

2. Suggest (A) To save time and also congestion in Cooks Strait, Eastbound vessels requiring fuel or water call at Hobart. (B) Consideration be given to Monster vessel on passage to call at Hobart in lieu of Wellington, in view of difficulty of entering latter harbour except in perfect weather.
3. Next known requirement for Fremantle, 4,500 tons about 3rd January.
4. Connav pass to Com. Western Sea Frontier and Comsouespac. (N.Z.N.B. 1102M/13.) / N.T. in W.R. Repetition has been requested.

U.S. ship
movements.

U.S. transport BOSPHORUS arrived Townsville 9th December. Hospital ship MANUNDA arrived Brisbane 11th. U.S. transport MAETSUYCKER departed Port Moresby 11th due Townsville 13th. VSIS. MERKUR departed Brisbane 11th due Townsville 14th. U.S. Fleet oiler VICTORIA departed Townsville 12th for Dunk Island. (?U.S.) transport ANHUI departed Mourilyan Harbour 12th for Bowen. (A.C.N.B. 11312/13.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

U-Boat estimates at 1200/13.
(D.D.I.C. 1421A/13.)

SECRET

111
NYIA

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

0840Z/13th December.

FROM: G. H. Q. S. W. P. A.

Date: 14.12.42.
Recd: 0840

Int. Sec. (X) by Cable.

ADDRESSED: Admiralty, B.A.D. Washington, C. in C. Eastern Fleet, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (For Chief of Staff Committee Ottawa) Concentric Colombo F.O.C.R. I.N. C.O. I.S. E. F. OPNAV. C. in C. East Indies, N.Z.N.B. Repeated Consouwespac A.C.N.B.

IMPORTANT.

DIGEST Serial Number 325 December 12.

One light cruiser with deck cargo arrived Buka Passage early morning 12th and departed to Northwest after unloading. Another unidentified medium sized vessel reported in Passage later in morning four medium bombers twelve fighters on aerodrome.

2. Reports indicate enemy shipping Buin Shortlands area afternoon 12th included 12 destroyers one sloop 2 submarines 4 merchant ships 3 tankers 54 engined flying boats, 5 medium bombers 12 fighters on Buin airfield.
3. Recco. Kavieng morning same day reported one 7,000 ton merchant vessel two other unidentified ships.
4. Seven Zeros attempting intercept Fortress on recco. over Buin employed new form attack four climbing to one thousand feet above Fortress and simultaneously dropping four objects which exploded same level as Fortress but astern causing streamers to fall. Other three aircraft meanwhile flying on port side but later repeated same operation with original four aircraft.....

4713

-2-

aircraft on starboard side. One probably two Zeros destroyed one other damaged without damage to Fortress.

5. Six Bostons and five Beaufighters bombed and strafed enemy positions Buna and mouth Kumusi River destroying barges and damaging buildings. 3 Bostons strafed barges Sanananda Point during afternoon leaving majority unseaworthy.

6. Seven Fortresses bombed Lao aerodrome buildings and dispersal areas night 11th causing fires while three Fortresses bombed dispersal areas Salamua. Estimated 200 Japanese still in Kunism? Delta area where our forward patrols active.

7. Australians destroyed enemy detachment Amboga River area capturing mortars and L.M.Gs. No change reported Buna area where our forces reorganising.

8. 16 Zeros two medium bombers reported Dilli aerodrome daylight 11th.

9. Reconnaissance aircraft reported over D'Entrecasteaux Lousiades groups morning 12th.

0840Z/13.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

C.15,
1st Lord.
1st S.I. (2)
4th S.I.
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.H.S. (H)
A.C.H.S. (F)
A.C.H.S. (T)
A.C.H.S. (W)
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.N.L.D.
M. (27)

Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
D.N.I. (7) & for D.N.L.O. (2)
O.I.C. (3)
D. of P. (3)
D. of P. (Q)
D.A/S.W.
I.P. (3)
W.D.
D.P.D.
D.S.D. (2)
Admiral Bollairs.
Admiral Blako.
U.S.M. (3)
D.A.C.D.
C.W.R.

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)

SECRET

4718^c

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(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

SECRET

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)
MESSAGE 2358/13 December

IN

FROM: G.H.Q., S.W.P....

DATE: 14.12.42

RECD: 1010

INTER-SERVICE GENERAL (X) BY CABLE

ADDRESSED: For Chief of Staff Committee Ottawa,
Concentric Colombo, F.O.C.R.I.N., C.O.I.S.
Eastern Fleet, OTHAV, C. in C. East
Indies, N.S.N.B., Repeated Comsowespac
A.C.N.B.

IMPORTANT

Z47 13/12 following is correct version of T.O.O.
0645Z/12 daily Digest from Horesby groups 1 to 146
begins. To Admiralty B.I.D. Washington C. in C.
Eastern Fleet, N.S.N.B. Ottawa photos portion Rabaul
Harbour morning 11 show one heavy cruiser one light
cruiser eight destroyers four torpedo boats three
patrol craft one possible submarine one seaplane,
tender two small tenders 25 merchant vessels (2 - 8,000
tons) totalling approximately 106,000 tons two
unidentified vessels numerous small harbour craft two
flying boats three float planes. Ends.

2358/13

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

- 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. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- A.C.N.S. (T)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- Nav. Sec.
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt Pin.
- D.H.A.D.
- H. (27)
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- D.N.I. (7) (& for D.N.L.O. (2))
- O.I.C. (3)
- D. of P. (3)
- D. of P. (0)
- D A/S W
- I.P. (3)
- V.D.
- D.P.D.
- D.S.D. (2)
- Ad. Bellairs
- Ad. Blake
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.A.C.D.
- C.W.R.

ght

472

14.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoys.

The sloop WELLINGTON is returning from Convoy K.M.F.5 with serious weather damage. Her position at 0800Z was 53° 36' N. 13° 52' W. Four of the ships are not in company with the escort.

SS EMPIRE BUCKLER in Convoy M.K.S.3 X has lost her propeller in 46° 50' N. 14° 45' W. The remainder of the convoy is scattered in a severe gale.

Convoy K.M.S.5 and escort is also scattered and hove to. SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN (see 13 Dec.) has not been located. Two ships are returning to the Clyde. At 1040 today BARON KINNAIRD about 30 miles astern sighted a tanker apparently broken in half and abandoned. REGINA (corvette) parted company at 2230 with defects.

C.T.U. 24.1.3 escorting S.C.111 was ordered at 1722Z to detach his remaining corvette to investigate position 55° 36' N. 10° 49' W. where an unknown vessel, possibly a tanker was reported at 1015Z today stopped and down by the head.

Two U-boats were sighted and attacked last night by the escorts of H.X.218 and a Liberator aircraft escorting the convoy attacked a U-boat today. Cancellation and delay to coastal convoys has been necessitated.

Recent E-boat tactics render reinforcement of convoy escorts in the Nore Command essential, and in view of the shortage of destroyers this must be done at the expense of patrols. A message from C. in C. Nore today gives details of the new arrangements.

The Tyne was closed at 2125 on account of suspected minelaying.

Three more Russian merchant ships left Archangel VETLUGA at 0100C/14, KUSBASS at 1200C/14 and OB at 0001C/15 for Iceland, independently routed.

A B.3 report says that GRAF ZEPPELIN was seen at anchor off Friedrichsort, Kiel on 3 December.

473

14.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.North Atlantic.

608 Squadron (Hudsons) which has been operating from Gibraltar has been called forward to Algiers. The loss of this squadron will greatly reduce the A/S effort which can be exercised from Gibraltar. No 48 Hudson Squadron has been ordered to proceed to Gibraltar and expects to leave U.K. about 21 December.

Mediterranean.

M.W.16.

Convoy M.W.16 arrived at Malta at 0342A today escorted by EXMOOR, CROOME, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, and BELVOIR.

ARGONAUT
torpedoed by
It. S/M MOLENISSO.
(FD.S./X 301/49)

Force Q (ARGONAUT, AURORA, ESKIMO and QUALITY), which sailed from Bone yesterday evening to carry out a sweep through the Bizerta Marittimo channel was attacked ~~by enemy aircraft~~ about 0600A today in 50° Cap de Garde 32 miles, and ARGONAUT was hit twice, ~~probably~~ by torpedoes, but was able to steam at 8 knots for Algiers. The two destroyers are standing by her. The sweep drew blank.

M.T.B.
sweep.

M.T.Bs 260 and 266 sailed from Bone at 1630A to carry out a sweep to the eastward as far as Capo Bono. The operation was uneventful.

PENTSTEMON escorting Convoy T.E.9 reported SS EDENCRAE torpedoed and sunk at 2242A in 35° 49' N. 1° 25' W. (about 40 miles west of Oran). Some survivors believed the ship struck a mine, but Commodore suspects the explosion was due to sabotage while unloading.

At dawn today 6 Swordfish attacked with torpedoes two French merchant ships in Axis hands at Ferryville, Bizerta. One ship (presumed to be a tanker) was hit twice and blown up, the other is believed to have been hit by 2 torpedoes. Wellingtons last night made two very successful bombing attacks on Tunis and La Goulette docks, setting fuel tanks on fire and obtaining near misses on two ships, one of which was still burning when Tunis was attacked next night.

/Salvage ...

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Salvage
Craft.

War Dept. Washington, has ordered the immediate withdrawal of all available salvage craft from Massawa for service under Gen. Eisenhower. C. in C. Med. considers it impossible to forecast at this stage when passage through Mediterranean will be possible. Passage via the Cape would take at least 9 weeks, and via Suez 18 days. If the latter is chosen there is important salvage work waiting to be done in Tobruk and Malta or possibly Benghazi to occupy vessels during the waiting period.

East Indies.

G.O.C. in C. East Africa, reports details of an agreement reached with Bayardelle re co-operation of French Somaliland. Working of the port of Jibuti is to remain under French control, but in agreement with Commodore, Aden, a British naval officer will be appointed for British naval and shipping interests.

Australia and New Zealand.

Strong forces of Liberators and Fortresses attacked an enemy convoy with 2 light cruisers and 3 destroyers off the mouth of the Mambare River (N.E. coast of New Guinea) early this morning, but only near misses are reported. Allied aircraft carried out continuous attacks today against enemy barges landing troops and stores in the Mambrae - Kunnusi areas, causing much damage and many casualties.

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Use of Liberator A/C. Proposed use of all available Liberator A/C over Bay of Biscay from U.K. bases to protect "Torch" Convoys. Reasons. (Chiefs of Staff, London, 1635Z/14 to General Eisenhower.) See Lion Copy.

Target Vessel for 7th S/M Flotilla. BREDA commences refit 16th December and Z.5 will probably have to be laid up for boiler drill test and partial re-tubing leaving no target vessel for Commanding Officers' Training Course. Sea training of next course commences 28th December. Two target vessels are normally required. Request therefore that a suitable vessel be loaned to Seventh Flotilla for period 28th December to 6th January, or longer should Z.5 be taken in hand for boilers. (F.O.S., 1901A/14 to Admty.)

Movements.

THRASHER. My 0950/13. Cancel para. (1). Your 1134/13 and your 1503/13. E.T.A. R/V 1601/14, running on the surface during daylight 14th. My P.C.S. 049° 40', 009° 45', 080°, 12. (THRASHER, 0030A/14 to F.O.S.) Intend sailing FINESSE and WILLIAM MANNELL at 1130/14, to R/V THRASHER off 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 1600/14 and escort S/M to Falmouth. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1044A/14.)

NEWCASTLE. To avoid U-Boat area alter course forthwith to pass through new positions (X) 44° 10' N. 26° 30' W. (Y) 51° 10' N. 22° 00' W. thence to (p), omitting (n) and (o) (D.O.D.(H), 0111A/14 to NEWCASTLE.) S.B.N.O.W.A's 1649Z/10. Cancel position Q. From P 051° 10' N. 017° 05' W. proceed through (R) 050° 25' N. 008° 55' W. (S) 180° Bishop 7. (T) 180° The Lizard 3, then by Q.Z.S.278 to Plymouth. Adjust speed to pass position (S) at 0800A/18. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1533A/14 to NEWCASTLE.)

ENTERPRISE. A.M. 1639/11. Onward route from 54.00 N. 13.00 W. to (A) 55.30 N. 09.59 W. (B) 55.35 N. 07.00 W., thence to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 0526A/14 to ENTERPRISE.)

SHEFFIELD. Scapa departures at 0600 R.A.(D) H.F. in SHEFFIELD with FAULKNER, BLANKNEY, CHIDDINGFOLD, and LEDBURY. E.T.A. 1245/14. (A.C.O.S., 0821/14 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

/ANSON ...

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET MESSAGE OUT

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.

To:- General Eisenhower. ^{1635Z/14/December.} Date 14.12.42.

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

From London
PRIORITY
No. 558

U.S. Liberators for Bay of Biscay

EDITED LITERAL TEXT

Interior Address: To Eisenhower
From Chiefs of Staff

1. In Mid-Atlantic we are suffering heavy losses from U-Boats.
2. To combat this we have been forced to concentrate all our available Liberators in this area.
3. This has left the outer reaches of the Bay of Biscay insufficiently covered. It is within this area that TORCH convoys are most vulnerable.
4. To avoid denuding further Bomber Command the Prime Minister asked the President to allocate 30 Liberators equipped with Centimetre A.S.V. to cover this area.
5. Mr. Hopkins has replied that 21 U.S. Liberators are being sent to Europe and that no others are available. He suggested that they should be used "in the manner best suited to further our common interests."
6. Taking into consideration the present disposition of German U-Boat and the threat to TORCH convoys, strongly recommend that all available Liberators fitted with Centimetre A.S.V. be operated over the Bay of Biscay from the United Kingdom Bases. Subsequent disposition of Liberators will be settled in collaboration with you and U-Boat movements will be carefully watched.

1635Z/14
 Recd. in W.R. 1240/15 Dec.
 Circulation. C.6. Tels War Office
 Brigadier Jacob A.M.C.S.(C)
 Foreign Secretary C.C.O.
 First Sea Lord.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.D.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- C.N.A.S.
- N.A.1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)

- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.of P.(2)
- D.C.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.of P.(Q)
- Hd. of M.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake.
- D.N.A.D.
- C.C.L.S.
- D.A./S.W.
- Ad. Ramsey (4)

EM

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

ANSON. Request you will sail in ANSON with ORWELL, RAIDER and QUADRANT p.m. today for Hvalfjord. (ii) RAIDER, QUADRANT subsequently to return to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 0929A/14 to V.A.2.)
Intend leaving Scapa at 1600/14 in ANSON with QUADRANT, ORWELL and RAIDER and proceed Hvalfjord passing through 000° Butt of Lewis 10 miles and Reykjanes Passage. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 1000N/16. Request A/S air escort.
(V.A.2, 1342A/14 to A.C.I.C.)
Expect to arrive Hvalfjord in ANSON on 16th December.
(V.A.2, 1346A/14 to NORFOLK.)
Scapa departure 1604 ANSON with ORWELL, RAIDER, QUADRANT.
(A.C.O.S., 1632/14 to A.C.I.C.)
NORFOLK sail ICARUS and IMPULSIVE to R/V with V.A.2 in 150° Reykjanes 10 miles at 0700N/16.
2. When destroyers from Hvalfjord have joined, V.A.2 is requested to detach RAIDER and QUADRANT to return to Scapa.
3. If R/V is not made, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE return to Hvalfjord.
(C. in C. H.F., 2244A/14 to NORFOLK.)

GLENEARN. *HT. 24.3*
Your 1554/13. Request you detail AMAZON for this duty, returning to Greenock on completion.
(C. in C. W.A., 1013A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BERWICK. Your 1705/13. Request BERWICK may be sailed to pass Beamer Rock at 0900Z/16.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1020A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)
My 1705/13. Sail from Scapa for Rosyth to pass Beamer Rock at 0900A/16.
(C. in C. H.F., 1446A/14 to BERWICK.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Area Iceland (C) - CUMBERLAND, NORFOLK, 2 destroyers.
Area Scapa - KING GEORGE V, ANSON, *MALAYA, HOWE, BERMUDA, BERWICK, KENT, *LONDON, *SHEFFIELD, 9 destroyers. **See next page **imp. 475*
Area Clyde - 2 destroyers.
Passage to U.K. - CHARYBDIS, ENTERPRISE.
Passage to Gibraltar - ADVENTURE.
Area Gibraltar - NELSON, RENOWN, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FURIOUS, AURORA, DELHI, SCYLLA, SIRIUS, 9 destroyers.
(D.O.D.(H), 1130Z/14 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

P. 221. *imp. 477*
After dark tonight report your P.C.S. and E.T.A. in R/V to F.O.(S), C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, and Capt. (S) 5.)
(F.O.S., 1204A/14 to P.221.)
Your 1204. My P.C.S. 049° 50', 011° 43', 090°, 10. E.T.A. R/V 0830A/16.
(P.221, 2301A/14 to F.O.S.)

/LONDON ...

477

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

LONDON. A.M. 2350/30th Nov. Sail from Scapa to arrive Tyne Pier Heads at 1200A/16.
(C. in C. H.F., 1226A/14 to LONDON.)

W.A. Command. Situation at 2002A/14. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1357A/14.)
See Lion Copy.

CHARYBDIS. To avoid K.M.S.5 keep to starboard of route during dark hours.
(C. in C. W.A., 1528/14 to CHARYBDIS.)
Your 1528A/14. My P.C.S. are 051° 10', 014° 45', 350°, 20. Intend keeping to West of K.M.S.5. Cannot steer more easterly course yet owing to weather. Admiral Burroughs on board. Request onward route and destination. Weather 2461 5457.
(CHARYBDIS, 1600A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

WORCESTER. A.M. 1350/11 directed certain force to be sailed to join C. in C. H.F. on 22nd December.
(2) Owing to casualties it is necessary to detail

WORCESTER.
(3) In view of considerable casualties incurred in this ship it is considered very desirable that she should have a few days work up and drill before sailing.
(4) Request therefore that she may be sailed for Harwich as soon as she is fit for sea.
(C. in C. Nore, 1546A/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

S/M Positions. At 0800A/15. Details.
(F.O.S., 1723A/14.)
See Lion Copy.

MALAYA. Rosyth departure MALAYA escorted by ONSLOW, GOATHLAND and WENSLEYDALE. E.T.A. Scapa 1230/15 approx. on completion of gun trials.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1701A/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

H. 32. Your 1031A/6. Intend sailing H.32 at 1030/15 escorted by SCALBY WYKE by searched channel, Minches, and North channel to Rothesay. E.T.A. 0830/17.
(A.C.O.S., 1831A/14 to Capt. S.7.)

FISHGUARD. Hove to in 050° 44' N. 013° 04' W. Weather 2752 6550.
(FISHGUARD, 1900A/14 to Admty.)

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.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent 1557A/14 (Time Pad :
MOST SECRET "O.T.P." are exempted from this rule.)

IN

Date 14 12.42
Recd. 2125

From C. in C. Western Approaches

P/L

Addressed Admiralty

Situation at 2002A/14/12/42.

Section N.E.

BEAGLE							
BOARDICEA		58 50 05 50	to	Seidisfjord		12	
P.339	CAPE PALLISER					10	
TORBAY							
SOKOL		58 06 05 50	to	Lerwick		10	
W.N.72	SALTARELLO	Sails Loch Ewe	to	Methil			
	SPURS	2045A/14					7½

Section S.E.

Hospital ship	NEWFOUNDLAND	Vicinity	to	Belfast		13	
		Rathlin Island					
JAMAICA		54 32 05 10	to	Scapa		20	
1 auxiliary craft		53 48 04 45	to	Loch Ewe		9	
ECHO		55 12 05 20	to	Loch Ewe		15	
1 M/V	DIAMPHUS	55 39 07 02	to	Liverpool		10½	
B.B.43	ROSEMARY	52 16 05 27	to	Bristol Channel		8	
	HELLIER II						
	KINGSTON BERYL						
Convoy	SOUTHERN SPRAY	52 59 04 54		Dispersing in		9	
				vicinity of Skerries			
1 M/V	1 M/L	Sails Douglas	to	Fleetwood		17	
		2000A/14					
S.C.111	U.S.S. SPENCER	56 22 11 14	to	56 31 08 29		7	
C.T.U.	U.S.S. BADGER			thence			
24.1.3	TRILLIUM			North Channel			
	ROSTERN						
	DAUPHIN						
WELLINGTON		55 05 10 40	to	Londonderry		12	

Section N.W.

NORTHERN SUN							
CAPE PORTLAND							
VASEAMA		57 50 26 10	to	North West		8	
C.T.U.24.6.4.							
U.S.S. INGHAM							
U.S.S. LEARY							
U.S.S. BABBIT		57 45 27 14	to	South West		15	
D.S.35	LANCASTER						
	WELLS	60 40 17 52	to	62 12 21 30 thence			
				Reykjavik		12	

Section N.W. Contd.

C.N.S.152	BURNHAM	57 34 24 49	to 54 00 28 00	8
C.T.U.	SKEENA			
24.1.13.	GALT			
	AGASSIZ			
	SACKVILLE			
	WELASKIWIN			

Section S.W.

CHARYBDIS		51 05 13 50	to 52 01 13 30	13
			thence	
			55 20 10 20	

NEWCASTLE		39 40 33 42	to 44 10 26 30	18
ENTERPRISE		54 20 12 20	to 55 30 09 59	22
			thence	
			Clyde	

FISHGUARD		52 10 11 42	to South West	2
TEST		50 36 12 38	to South West	4
C.T.U.24.6.4		57 45 27 14	to South West	15.

U.S.S. INGHAM				
U.S.S. LEARY				
U.S.S. BABBITT				
O.N.153	FIRE Drake	54 14 21 03	to 53 10 24 58	9
C.T.U.24.1.5.	CHESTERFIELD			
	SUNFLOWER			
	ALISMA			
	PINK			
	SNOWFLAKE			

K.M.S.5 (E)	LONDONDERRY 3 Sloops 6 Corvettes BALUCHISTAN CARNATIC	52 59 12 58	to 49 00 16 30	6 6
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K.M.F.5	Fleet Unit LAFORRY 4 Sloops 1 Cutter 1 Corvette	50 25 16 47	to 49 00 18 01	9
			thence	
			39 20 17 40	

M.K.F.4	EGRET BANFF TANATSIDE CLARE EKE SWALE SENNEN	42 35 15 06	to 46 01 15 48	13
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M.K.S.3x	TAY 2 Corvettes 4 Minesweepers	49 42 14 16	to 55 00 10 00	8
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MOST SECRET

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-3-

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8

<u>Section S.W. Contd.</u>			
S.C.111	U.S.S. SPENCER	56 22 11 14	to 56 31 08 29 7
C.T.U.24.1.3.	U.S.S. BADGER		thence
	TRILLIUM		North Channel
	ROSTERN		
	DAUPHIN		

10

1 M/V	LIGHTNING	Hove to in 50 30 14 50 proceeding when weather moderates to join K.M.F.5.
-------	-----------	--

1 M/V	WEAR	standing by in 46 50 14 45
-------	------	----------------------------

18
22

WELLINGTON	55 05 10 40 to Londonderry	12
------------	----------------------------	----

1357A/14

2
4
15.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F)
- N.A.1st S.J.
- Captain Pin
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.D.O.D. (H)
- Duty Capt. (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.T.D. (M)
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)
- D.T.D. (C)
- U.S.N. (3)
- Admiral Blake (2)
- Admiral Ramsey (4)
- D.M.S.
- D.O.D. (F) (2)

AFP

13

MOST SECRET

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

1723A/14th December.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
Date. 14,12,42.
From. F.O.(3) Recd. 1815.
P/L BY T/P.

Addressed, Admiralty.

308. Positions of submarines at 0800A/15th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) U.S.S. GURNARD in zone K.505.

(B) P.221 approximate position 49 degs. 50' North 10 degs. 30' West probably dived by day through 49 degs. 50' North 09 degs. 01' West, 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles and 180 degs. Lizard Head 10 miles. *See p. 476*

(C) P.52 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Barrow for Clyde speed 9 1/2 knots E.T.A. 0900/16th.

(D) P.339, SOKOL and TORBAY escorted by CAPE PALLISER vicinity 10 miles North of Fair Isle due Lerwick 1200 16th. Thence:- *See next page*

(1) SOKOL leaves at 2100 15th through (A) 090 degs. out Skerries 5 miles. (B) 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles thence to 71 degs. 08' North 15 degs. 57' East.

(2) P.223 leaves at 0400/16th through (A) and (B) to 71 degs. 18' North 15 degs. 22' East. *See next page*

(3) P.339 leaves at 0800 16th through (A) and (B) to Northeastward. These submarines will be proceeding probably on the surface.

1723A/14, ~~14A~~ 0001A/15, 0336A/15

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 P.(2)
- D.A/S.W.
- D.T.D.(M)
- Hd. of M.
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

North F.O.(S) 1512/11. S.O.(S) Lerwick is requested
 Russian to sail S/MS as follows.
 Convoy (i) SOKOL 2100/15 through (a) 090° Out Skerries
 S/M Patrol. 5 miles. (b) 090° Muckle Flugga Light 10 miles,
see previous page. thence by route Black to 071° 08' N. 015° 57' E.
 and to patrol position 071° 02' N. 022° 56' E.
 (ii) P.223 0400/16 through (a) and (b), thence by route Pink
 to 071° 18' N. 015° 22' E. and to patrol position 071° 10' N.
 023° 44' E.
 (iii) P.339 at 0800/16th through (a) and (b), thence by route
 Grey to 071° 36' N. 015° 01' E. and to patrol position 071° 14'
 N. 024° 27' E.
 (iv) TORBAY 1900/16 through (a) and (b), thence by route Orange
 to 070° 54' N. 016° 38' E. and to patrol position 070° 53' N.
 022° 05' E.
 (v) Proceed on surface at C.O.'s discretion until cross meridian
 017° E. thence diving by day.
 (Capt. S.9, 1101A/14.)

BARB, Comsubron 50's 1535/13. *See p. 483*
 HERRING. Request you sail SARDONYX to arrive Roseneath
 (Biscay 0930A/16 to escort BARB and HERRING to Bishop
 S/M Patrol) Rock, S.O.A. 15 knots.
 (C. in C. W.A., 1107A/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
 Intend sailing BARB and HERRING escorted by
 SARDONYX at 1200A/16 for 180° Bishop Rock 12 miles, E.T.A.
 1800A/17, S.O.A. 15 knots.
 Thence BARB and HERRING proceed diving by day as ordered in
 F.O.(S)'s 1508A/13.
 (Comsubron, 50, 1515A/14 to F.O.S.)

Patrols. Before dark tonight GLAISDALE is to proceed to
 St. Helens Roads and anchor at immediate notice
 returning to harbour after daylight.
 (2) CHASSEURS 10 (S.O.) and 13 will patrol to southward of
 E.A5 if weather permits.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1300/14 to D.1.)
 2 CHASSEURS south of E.A5 Buoy. Weather permitting.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1514A/14 to Admty.)
 Dover dispositions for night 14th/15th.
 No patrols.
 (V.A. Dover, 1711A/14.)

Denmark Estimated position at 2159 tonight.
 Straits * CUMBERLAND patrolling "White".
 Patrol. (A.C.I.C., 1505A/14.) * *see next page.*

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Air My 0117/14.
Patrols. 1. Patrol "Fox" by 1 Hudson aircraft from 1130 until 1745.
2. Patrol "Bear" by 3 sorties of Hudsons. Catapult aircraft from 1130 until 1330/14. 2nd from 1330 until 1530/14. 3rd from 1530 until 1730/14.
3. Patrol "Polar" by 1 American Catalina from 1030 until 1430/14.
(A.C.I.C., 0308A/14 to *CUMBERLAND.) * *See previous page*
My 1303/13th. Patrols will probably be required for 7 days or more. To economise A/C I shall be satisfied if only one of these patrols is maintained in order of preference "Polar", "Fox", "Bear".
(C. in C. H.F., 1256A/14 to A.C.I.C.)
My 0117/14. "Polar", "Fox", and "Bear" were flown. All negative reports.
(A.C.I.C., 1900A/14 to C. in C. H.F., CUMBERLAND.)

Enemy Position of enemy (type unknown) is 46° 45' N.
attacked. 06° 05' W., 90°, 15 knots. Bombed.
(A/S M6D Duty 'E', 1316/14 to 19 Group.)

Mining.

Tees and My 1145/12. It is anticipated that ports will
Hartlepool. be open 1000 daily after initial sweeping until sunset. Vessels arriving after sunset should anchor in vicinity T.B.5 and enter behind sweepers in morning. Weather permitting escort trawler will be stationed at T.B.4 from sunset to 1000 to assist in these arrangements.
(N.O.I.C. Tees, 1231/14 to Admt.)

4th M/S My 1059/13. Postponed 24 hours.
Flotilla. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1459A/14.)

Possible At 2020 a half-opened parachute dropped in 345°
Mine. 20 R 1½. Possibly a mine.
(WHADDON, 2025A/14 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Tyne. Port closed owing to suspected minelaying.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2125/14.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian D.N.I. 1558A/14.
Closed Areas. See Lion Copy.

/GRAF ...

479A

M E S S A G E

OUT

1558A/14 December.

To: F.O.(S) 15.
A.C.O.S. 93.

Date 14.12.42.

P/L BY T/P

From Admiralty D.N.I.

My 1659/23. According to the Norwegian Press the Haugesund ~~Masstrafjord~~ closed area is bounded by a line joining Kvalen, Sørhaugøy and Osnesgavlen Lights in the North and the parallel of latitude 59 degs. 16.1' N. in the South.

2. The earlier instructions closing Talgø Fjord and Mastra Fjord are superseded by the following :-

Between 2200 and 0600 hours it is prohibited :-

(a) For vessels entering Stavanger to cross a line between the signal station Tungenes and Fjøløy light;

(b) For vessels leaving Stavanger to cross a line running from Hammaren to Skaraberg (59 degs. 01.9' N., 5 degs. 42.6' E.);

(c) For vessels coming from East and West to cross the Western entrance to Mastrafjord;

(d) For both arriving and departing vessels to enter Brimsøfjord, bounded by the line joining Hanasandholmen and Flatneset (59 degs. 06.6' N., 5 degs. 48.7' E.) and the line joining Talgje light and Marshove light.

3. Most of the coast from Luensire (58 degs. 17' N., 6 degs. 24' E.) to Hisøen (58 degs. 26' N. 8 degs. 47' E.) is closed between one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise. Details will be promulgated by letter.

4. As usual, the notices include a warning that vessels disobeying the instructions are liable to be fired upon.

1558A/14.

N.I.D.1 for D.N.I.(307)

- D.D.O.D.(M)
- D. of P.(3)
- Hydrog.
- Staff Charts. (2)
- O.I.C.(2)
- D.N.I.(5)
- W.D.
- Ops.(3)
- O.D.(5)
- C.G.O.(2)
- M.(2)
- D. of N.
- D.M.S.
- D.M.S.Citadel.

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

GRAF ZEPPELIN. German A/C carrier, probably GRAF ZEPPELIN, sighted at anchor off Friedrichs Ort Kiel December 3rd. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1647/14.)

O.I.C. Comment: GRAF ZEPPELIN was not seen by P.R.U. at Gdynia 12th December. It is considered above report is probably correct.

Dunkirk. Ostend. P.R.Us sortie C/698 at 1230/14 shows Dunkirk eight E/R Boats still present in port but one changed berth since 12th December. Clear photographs confirm identification of M/V 330 ft. as M.54 which remains in Bassin No. 5. No change of any note in other shipping since 12th December. Ostend four auxiliaries present port and no other shipping of note seen. Thirty-three small fishing craft seen proceeding in a westerly direction about 100 yards off shore between Ostend and Dunkirk. (P.R.U. Benson, 1735/14.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 62° 37' N. 00° 56' W. (Gib. A/C (Trid), 0205A/14 to Gib. A/C.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Fired on - and returning to base.

(A/C C/S (Trid), 0206/14, 0207/14 to Gibraltar M/F D/F.)

Am over enemy submarine in 55° 16' N. 37° 51' W.

(A/C N1U Duty 'H', 1200/14 to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

(A/C N1U Duty 'H', 1205N/14 to 15 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 55° 28' N. 38° 13' W.

A/C N1U, 1307/14 to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

(A/C N1U Duty 'H', 1330N/14 to 15 Group.)

U-Boats reported. D/F bearings at 0354Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 47° 30' N. 15° W.

(D.D.I.C., 0808A/14 to Escorts M.K.S. 3X.)

Indefinite D/F bearings indicate 3 U-Boats probably between latitudes 58° and 59° N. and longitude 20° and 26° W.

(D.D.I.C., 1217A/14 to Escorts O.N.152, O.N.J. 152.)

By D/F at 1902Z, U-Boat within 45 miles of 44° N. 6° 40' W. probably outward bound.

(D.D.I.C., 2101A/14 to S/Ms.)

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.

S/M Fuel stowage. My 0008/1st. CLYDE on arrival Portsmouth had only 8 tons of fuel remaining and, had adverse weather been experienced, might have had difficulty in reaching Falmouth. The extra distance steamed during short diversion to intercept blockade runners was less than 200 miles.
(2) Request in future that all submarines proceeding U.K. should carry their full stowage of fuel if fit for patrol and that in any event they should have sufficient for 2500 miles, dive by day. (F.O.S., 1709A/14 to Capt. S.8.)

Casualties and Defects.

WELLINGTON. See Shipping. *next page*

Unknown Ship. Following from POTARO. Vessel fired (White rocket?) is stopped and appears in distress. My position is 055° 36' N. 010° 30' W. approx. I am steering east.
(Burnham Radio, 0930/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
Following from POTARO. Vessel possibly oil tanker down head made no (? reply) (? my) lamp signal. Position (?09)15, 055° 36' N. 010° 49' (? W.)
(Port Patrick Radio, 1430/14.)

L.C.T. 398. L.C.T. 398 is ashore on S.E. corner of Goat Island in Stornoway Harbour. Dragged anchor during heavy gale at 2330/13. Vessel waterlogged. Request service of Salvage Officer.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1126A/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

C.T. 08. C.T. 08 arrived here with broken exhaust pipe.
(N.O.I.C. Stranraer, 1223A/14.)

TYPHOON. Following from Tيرة Radio second class 143° distress TYPHOON.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1312 G.M.T./14.)

COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON. Following has been read from COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON 3930 7330 collision ship settling 1434 G.M.T.
(Portishead Radio, No T.O.O. to Admty.)

OLVINA. OLVINA delayed at Barry by engine defect.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 1558A/14.)

CILICIA. Admty. 1328A/15. ¹³CILICIA unable to sail in W.S.25 owing to generator defects. Probable date of completion Dec. 20th. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1614/14)

EMPIRE BUCKLER. *see next page*
Position 2000Z/14 047° 08' N. 014° 00' W. Standing by EMPIRE BUCKLER who states he has half propeller blade left and may be able to proceed at slow speed when weather moderates but requests tug.
(WEAR, 2100Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

482

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.F.4. Convoy M.K.F.4 is due U.K. 17/12, troopship composition and final port allocation being as follows. Details.
(D.S.T. 0121A/14.)

H.X.217. We have followed the progress of convoy H.X.217 with some anxiety and relief. We congratulate you and your Escort Group on a fine performance. (1st S.L. 0214A/14 to FAME.)
See p. 484

Preliminary report of H.X.217 escorted by B.6 S.O. in FAME. Convoy sighted and reported by U-boat soon after leaving Westomp. From then on at least 4 U-boats constantly in touch. 33 encounters reported during 4 successive nights of attacks. U-boat's tactics appeared to be to attack in pairs possibly stage managed by U-boat astern. S.O. Escorts plan was to keep his ships close in to flanks of convoy, using H/F D/F to plot positions of U-boats working up into attacking positions and reinforcing the threatened sector as necessary. These tactics so successful that only two ships were lost, 1 of them a large petrol tanker in a wing column. U-boats showed little inclination to press home attacks, a few rounds of star shell and Oerlikon causing them to retire. Notable feature was frequent detection of H.E. outside R.D.F. range by escort with "Y" oscillator. Several promising counter attacks were made, and aircraft in vicinity of convoy claimed destruction of 2 U-boats.
(Capt. D. Liverpool 1315/14.)

K.M.F.5. (1) Returning to Londonderry, my P.C.S. at 0800Z/14 053° 36' N. 013° 52' W., 048° 12. Have sustained following damage in gale. Details.
(2) K.M.F.5. P.C.S. at 2000Z/13, 053° 18' N. 014° 27' W. 208°, 8. (WELLINGTON 0800Z/14.)
K.M.F.5. P.C.S. 0800Z/14, 051° 53' N. 015° 24' W. 207°, 9 knots. WELLINGTON returning damaged. Ships not in company EXIRIA, IRENE DUPONT, ZOELLA LYKES, EMPIRE PRIDE.
(Capt. D.19 0928Z/14.)
Am hove to in 050° 30' N. 014° 50' W.
(LIGHTNING 1200A/14.)

/see previous page
M.K.S.3 X EMPIRE BUCKLER has lost her propeller in 046° 50' N. 014° 45' W. Request tug. LYME REGIS is standing by until relieved by WEAR who has plenty of fuel remaining. Remainder of convoy scattered in severe gale. Am in company with Cmdre. and about 15 ships. My P.C.S. 047° 16' N. 014° 40' W., 352°, 8 knots.
(30 E. Group 0801Z/14.)
Your 1427/14 and my 0801/14. Am in company with Cdre. and about 34 ships. P.C.S. 048° 09' N. 014° 20' W. 010° 7 knots. WEAR is standing by EMPIRE BUCKLER awaiting tugs. Remaining escorts are still hove to but should rejoin shortly. Cdre. already promulgated new straggler route in latitude and longitude to conform to new convoy route. Noon R/V for 15th and 16th 50° 20', 13° 44' and 52° 50', 11° 50'. ALRESFORD and NORTH DEVON dropped astern on 12th December in gale. Anticipate rounding up remainder by 16th.
(30th Escort Group 1901A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

/P.S.14 ...

483

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- P.S. 14, My 1720A/13. P.S. 14 and S.P.14 cancelled.
S.P. 14. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0930A/14.)
- P.W. 262, My 1631A/13. Owing to weather Plymouth and
P.W.D.263, Falmouth portions of P.W. 262 are cancelled.
P.W.F.263. 2. P.W.D.263 and P.W.F.263 will sail tomorrow
15th December.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1107A/14.)
- S.D. 35. Route.
(R) 062° 25' N. 022° 01' W. (S) 060° 01' N.
016° 59' W. (T) 057° 15' N. 010° 01' W. thence
via Route (K) to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1136A/14 to A.C.I.C.)
- M.K.S. 3Y. SARDONYX, SHIKARI and SCIMITAR will be required
to relieve destroyers in approx. 051° N. 013° W.
on Dec. 19th. *SARDONYX will sail Falmouth.
My 1107/14 refers. * *see p. 476*
(C. in C. W.A., 1138A/14 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
- O.N.153, FIRE Drake should detach SNOWFLAKE as necessary to
H.X.220. arrive St. Johns December 22nd. F.O.N.F. is
requested to sail SNOWFLAKE with B.4 escorting
H.X.220.
(C. in C. W.A., 1159Z/14 to FIRE Drake.)
- AMSTERDAM. Intend to sail transport AMSTERDAM and escort at
0300/17, speed 17 knots, for Invergordon. E.T.A.
1400/17, routed 5 miles east of (? Sumburgh Head)
35 buoy, A.M. Q.Z.S. 352, 150.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1220A/14 to A.C.O.S.)
N.O.I.C. Invergordon's 1235/12. Surface escort OAKLEY.
(A.C.O.S., 1733A/14 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)
- P.W. 262. Convoy and all escorts to enter Plymouth for the
night.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1257A/14 to Escorts P.W.262.)
- H.X. 218. Ship P.C.S. 1400Z, 055° 35' N. 038° 45' W. 052°
see pp 486, 506 knots.
508 2 U-Boats sighted and attacked during the night
with no visible result.
Aircraft attacked U-Boat (? astern) (? of) convoy a.m. today.
To shake off shadows and make better progress in north-
easterly weather propose altering course to 090° at 1800Z today
and to 055° at 1000Z tomorrow.
LINCOLN has water in fuel and should return to harbour forthwith.
Have detached GEORGETOWN to escort her to St. Johns N.F.
*(HARVESTER, 1430Z/14 to Connav.)
* *see p. 510*

/H.X. 217 ...

14.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- M.X.217. Heartiest congratulations on bringing your
See p.482 convoy through with the loss of only two ships
 in the face of such heavy attacks.
 (C. in C. W.A. 1458A/14 to Vice-Admiral Sir R.
 Fitzmaurice.)
- A.T.30. A.T.30 arrived 1525/14.
(QUEEN MARY) (D.S.T.O. Greenock 1550/14.)
- F.N.889. Following received from WALLACE begins:-
(Attacked Reference Capt.(D) Rosyth's 1058/27.
by E-Boats (1) At the time of attack convoy of 38 ships
on Night with WALLACE 6 cables 030° from Commodore extended
12/13.) 5 miles with QUANTOCK astern. First indication
 at 2032/12 WALLACE in position 4 miles North of
 No.4 buoy in Q Z S 287, headache "ready to fire".
Followed by H.E. of torpedo on easterly course and two explosions
in convoy.
(2) Same time MEYNELL seen engaging enemy on bearing 030° over
5000 yards distant. WALLACE turned down seaward side of convoy
searching with starshell to seaward from 340° to 160°. Nothing
seen.
(3) At 2045 one torpedo crossed bows on easterly course and
another ditto westerly. Two explosions heard in convoy. 2047
ship sinking in position 358° No.4 buoy 2.8 miles. WALLACE
turned N.E. 2054 H.E. bearing 010°. Three E-boats in position
025° No.4 buoy 6 miles engaged on easterly course until 2104
when WALLACE turned N.E.
(4) 2105 Two E-Boats 050° No.4 buoy 7.5 miles engaged by MEYNELL
and WALLACE on easterly course until 2109 when WALLACE turned
back, made sure survivors were being rescued and returned to
Head of convoy, at 2212 at No.7 buoy.
(5) Number of different headache call signs head - 13.
T.O.O 1319A/14. Ends. WALLACE's 272 and 286 P.Q. were out of
action.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1552A/14 to Admty.)
- K.M.S.5. Cdre. of convoy hove to heading south 251 in
See p.487 position (C) 053° 38' N. 012° 35' W. Request
 broadcast on B.A.Ms and B.N.
See p.459. 1643A (LONDONDERRY 1630A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
My 1543A/13 and my 1630/14. SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN not located.
CLAN MACBEAN and RALLUS returning to Clyde. BARON KINNAIRD about
30 miles astern reported sighting tanker apparently broken in half
and abandoned at 1040/14th. Weather too bad for investigation.
Remainder of convoy widely spread and hove to. Do not know where
KITCHENER and CARNATIC are.
(LONDONDERRY 1640A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)
Sailed KITCHENER to overtake K.M.S.5.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1840A/14.)
Your 1741A/14. Search for ~~BRITISH~~ CHIEFTAIN was abandoned
at nightfall on 13th. No trace of ship had been found, no
(group missing) in (group missing) convoy had seen her and she
made no answer to my W/T (group missing). E.G. 40 informed me

/that ...

485

14.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - 20/15:K.M.S.5.
(Contd.)

that Port Patrick radio had been in touch with her and ordered me to return to convoy with any stragglers. Am hove to in vicinity 10 ships of K.M.S.5 in (group missing) 053° 54' N. 012° 16' W.

(LULWORTH 2030A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 1630/14. Has been broadcast to stragglers. You are to signal now R/Vs when weather moderates.
(C. in C. W.A. 2246A/14 to LONDONDERRY.)

Humber to
Flamborough
Route.

My 1224/6 Nov. and Admiralty 1113/27 Nov. Following from F.O.I.C. Humber begins. Request that inshore route proposed in my 1839/4 Nov. and your 1224/6 Nov. to Admiralty may now be promulgated.

2. Request you will inform all concerned that this route is to be brought into force on receipt of I.N.6 now being printed.

(C. in C. Nore 1644A/14 to N.C.S.O. Thames.)

S.C.111.

Detach remaining corvette to arrive at daylight in 55° 36' N. 10° 49' W. where unknown vessel possibly tanker was reported stopped and down by the head at 1015Z/14.

(C. in C. W.A. 1722Z/14 to C.T.U. 24.1.3.)

JOHN
WALKER.

JOHN WALKER escorted by GLEANER proceeded at 1300A today. S.O.A. 10 knots, E.T.A. Kola 0500A/16th. Mr. Dalgliesh on board GLEANER.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1726A/14.)

B.B.44.

Convoy is to be held until weather moderates.

(C. in C. W.A. 1732A/14 to F.O.I.C. N.I.)

My 1455A/14. Sailing delayed owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2109A/14.)

Coastal
Convoy
Escorts.

Recent E-boat tactics make reinforcement of Convoy escorts essential and in view of shortage of destroyers this must be done at the expense of patrols.

2. Commencing with N.No.92 and S.No.85 two destroyers will form additional escort for each N.No. and S.No. Convoy unless weather conditions are such as to render E-Boat operations impracticable when additional escort may be cancelled by C. in C. Nore.

3. Corvettes are to cease patrol duty and resume escort of N.Nos. and concentrate on Convoys being (corrupt group) in accordance with Nore operational memorandum 44.

4. N.O.I.C. Harwich is to detail anti-S/M trawlers and rescue tugs for each F.N. and F.S. Convoys according to the number of these vessels available at Harwich. At least one rescue tug or anti-S/M trawler is to be with each Convoy.

486

14.12.1942.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - con 15.Coastal
Convoy
Escorts
(Contd.)

5. 2 destroyers are to be detailed for patrol daily and 4 on nights when there are either no F.N. or no F.S. Convoys. The patrol positions they are to occupy will be signalled daily by C. in C.

6. Captains should endeavour to arrange that additional escorts for F.N. Convoys proceed to Humber on completion for one night before sailing to form additional escorts for F.S.

7. If circumstances permit on certain nights when heavy attacks appear probable all available destroyers and corvettes in harbour may be ordered to occupy patrols one to 8 in addition to requirements of para. 2. My 1208/9th November is cancelled. (C. in C. Nore 1854A/14.)

H.X.218.

*See App. 483, 506
4508*

Your 1602A/14. Unable to join convoy before dark tomorrow. Expect to join day of 16th. P.C.S. at 2000Z, 57° 53', 25° 58', 000°. seven. (NORTHERN SUN 1930Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

IRISH LARCH.

Following from Ottawa begins: "Request received from Furness Withy St. John N.B. acting on cabled advice of owners that SS IRISH LARCH be diverted to Dublin." Ends.

2. Ship is due Cork on 16th December from St. John N.B.

3. As it is essential to avoid appearance of Admiralty control request you will arrange for this diversion to be broadcast from an Eire Station.

(D.T.D. 2025A/14 to N.A. Dublin.)

A.N.D.
Ships.

My 1146/6th June para. 2. Amendment No.3, add:- FORT BRULE, FORT CONCORD, FORT LONGUEUIL, PORT ROYAL PARK, EMPIRE KINSMAN and TOWER HILL. (D.T.D. 2201A/14.)

14.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

Harbour
Craft.

Your 2231/12th. I have gone into this matter. There is no need to give particular priority to these craft. Unauthorised pressure was exerted by a junior member of General Eisenhower's Staff. (N.C.X.F. 1308A/14 to Admty.)

L.S.Ts.

Your 2001A/9. Is it confirmed that you require the first 16 L.S.T. (2) from United States for immediate use in Mediterranean? This information is required as Admiralty are now considering final destination of initial deliveries. (D.N.C.X.F. 1917A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty., C.C.O.)

Admiral
Darlan.

Text of declaration in support of United Nations. (Agwar, Washington, 1949/14, to Freedom, Algiers.) See Lion Copy. W.D. Note. This declaration was issued by H.Q. European Theatre of Operations, U.S. Army, p.m. 16/12, and published in the Press 17/12.

Navigation.

Navigation lights are not normally to be exhibited in B.A.M.S. area 3A. C.A.M.S.I. 155/42 will be amended. (D.T.D. 1720Z/14 to A.I.G. 11, British B.A.M.S. lettered message JV) Paraphrased version made to A.I.G. 12 under T.O.O. 1710/14.

North Atlantic.

* K.M.S.5.
SOUTHERN
PRIDE..

See p 484

Your 1828A/13. Captain SOUTHERN PRIDE reports unable sail before 1400A/16 due urgent repairs. Will sail when ready subject your orders. (C.S.F.W.T.F. 0142Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A., Admty., F.O.I.C. W.A.)

V.A. Gibraltar 1828A/13. SOUTHERN PRIDE sails from Casablanca for Gibraltar at 1900Z/14 route coastal, E.T.A. four miles south of Tarifa 1300Z/15. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1335Z/14 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C. W.A., Admty.)

LADY DENISON
PENDER.

LADY DENISON PENDER delayed ^{/Casablanca} bad weather. Will advise sailing time. (S.N.O.C.A. 0820Z/14 to V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F., Admty.) *See p. 488A*

/HORORATA ...

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.

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

1949/14th December

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

FROM: AGWAR Washington DATE: 15.12.42.
 RECD: 0315Z

TO: FREEDOM Algiers.

Declaration by Admiral Darlan.

URGENT.

No.172. Edited Literal Text

Interior Addresses: To : Eisenhower, FREEDOM Algiers.
 From: Marshall

Reference: Your 15874, 10 December.

The President suggests that Admiral Darlan make the following statement:

1. "French Africa with the Allies must make the maximum military effort for the defeat of Germany and Italy. This will be accomplished by the union of all citizens, regardless of their political or religious opinions, in an orderly and cohesive fashion.
2. At last liberated from German and Italian restrictions the French authorities in Africa will adjust the situation which has existed in accordance with French national traditions. Once France and the French Empires free from the Axis yoke, the French people themselves will decide freely the form of government and national policy they desire.
3. In actual accomplishment the High Commissioner has already granted full and complete amnesty to those against whom any action had been taken because of sympathy to the Allies. Certain of these have been given important posts in the High Commissariat. He has restored to their proper ranks and emoluments all army officers who had been suspended from office because of rendering aid to the Allies. He is now organizing a body of representative private citizens to work with him in an advisory and consultative capacity in carrying on official business. Prisoners and internees of the United Nations were promptly released and their travel to seaboard expedited.

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.

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

2.

4. The High Commissioner has begun the restoration of citizenship and property rights to those persons from whom these had previously been taken because of race or nationality. Measures have been taken to stop immediately whatever persecution of the Jews may have resulted from the laws passed in France under German pressure. His announced purpose is to give just treatment to all elements making up the complex North African population to the end that all can dwell and work together under law insuring mutual tolerance and respect for rights.

5. There is little industrial development in North Africa and Vichy laws prejudicial to labour unions had little or no application and all reports show no serious problem here. Censorship of the press and radio in which Allied authorities participate is only that which is necessary for the security of military operation.

6. On the practical military side, General Giraud has conducted the most active participation of the Armed Forces of North and West Africa in the Allied War effort. Units of substantial size under the leadership of General Giraud are fighting side by side with the United Nations in Tunisia against the Germans and Italians. All port and airfield facilities including the services of officials and technicians have been made freely available for use by the Allies. North African shipping is already entering the services of the Allied Nations. Railroads, motor trucks, communications, public and private buildings and everything that North Africa has to give have been freely offered to the Allied Forces, wherever a military need exists.

7. I have stated emphatically and repeatedly to the Commander-in-Chief, General Eisenhower, that in leading North and West Africa against Germany and Italy and into the ranks of the United Nations, I seek no assistance or support for any personal ambitions. I have announced that my sole purpose is to save French Africa, help free France and then retire to private life with a hope that the future leaders of France may be selected by the French people themselves and by no one else."

8. Upon receipt of information that this statement has been made by Admiral Darlan the President will on the next day give it to the American press with the following introduction.

9. Since November 8th the people of North Africa have accomplished much in support of the war effort of the United Nations and in doing so have definitely allied themselves on the side of liberalism against all for which the Axis stands in government. I am informed in this connection by General Eisenhower that Darlan has made the following declaration."

Relayed to Algiers.

1949/14

✗ Not received in EFOUSA

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.
Naval Sec.
N.A.1st S.L.
P.A.S.(S)
D.N.I.(5)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
Ed. of M.
D. of P.(2)
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Admiral Blake

Circulation:-
Brigadier Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.S. Fels, W.C.
A.M.C.S.(C)
C.C.C.

Received in Admiralty
0855/16.

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

HORORATA. Your 2307/13. Portuguese Destroyer DAO sailing a.m. 14th from Horta to assist HORORATA. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0845/14 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon.)

See p. 491 & 493
My 2307/13 HORORATA reports position 0010Z/14 41.18 N. 33.18 W. badly damaged.

(D.T.D. 1023A/14 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.A. Lisbon, C.S.A. Ponta Delgada.)

HORORATA arrived Santa Cruz Flores in damaged condition morning 14th. Understand Master is in communication with London by short wave wireless telegraphy.

(B.V.C. Fayal 1155/14 to Admty. (for D. of N.I.) (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar and N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Following has been read. Addressed New Zealand Shipping Co. London. Position off Santa Cruz numbers 4 and 5 Holds and Tween Deck flooded condition critical owing progressing loss of stability require urgent assistance of pumps and craft capable of handling shelter deck cargo. Lloyds Agent Fayal doesn't understand position, all crew safe, please take action. Master. Ship requests call at each hour indicating QTC OR QRU.

(Portishead W/T T.O.D 1426, Gib. W/T, No T.O.O. to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

Cancel my 0845/14 Portuguese Destroyer DAO did not sail due to heavy weather conditions. At 1535 G.M.T. HORORATA anchored Santa Cruz Flores. Crew landing. Unable to give more details yet.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1501/14 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib. N.A. Lisbon.)

My 1155/14. Captain Port Horta says has been informed by Flores that ship anchored. Sea and weather condition improving. He suggests tug and escort should be sent. Master says no steam but expect to keep afloat for some time under present conditions and requests assistance.

(B.V.C. Fayal 1643C/14 to Admty. for D. of N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Your 2307/13 and 1023/14 M. of M. report HORORATA has anchored off Flores Island in danger of sinking unable to land through heavy weather. Destroyer will be sent if weather moderates sufficiently to permit her sailing.

(N.A. Lisbon 1710/14 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Movements. Arrivals DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, OTRANTO, TEGELBERG, VOLENDAM 0630/14. (S.T.O. I/C Gibraltar 0915/14 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. X.F.)

Arrival WOODRUFF, CROCUS, IMPERIALIST ex M.K.S. 3 Y. (V.A. Gibraltar 1808A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

LUGANO. Swiss LUGANO left Gibraltar 1830/13 8 knots for Genoa by approved route. (Capt. S.8 0941A/14 to P.54.)

M.K.F.4 (Y) Arrival DELHI, ANTELOPE, BOREAS, O R P BLYSKAWICA with M.K.F. 4 (Y). (F.O.C. Gibraltar 0946A/14 to Admty., N.C.X.F. (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.H.)

/Ponta ...

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 ~~1330Z/14th December~~.

~~NO ST SECRET.~~ MESSAGE. IN
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: IN
Date. 14.12.42.
From. V.A. Gibraltar. "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

Recd. 1935.

Naval Cypher 3 3 By W/T.

Addressed. Situation report for Area X of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Position 2000Z/14th.

1. H.M.S. ~~PRA~~POISE sailed Gibraltar 1200Z/14th for U.K. on surface 11½ knots until dawn 15th thence diving by day 2½ surface by night 11½ 036 degs. 18' 006 degs. 49' thence through 036 degs. 40' 007 degs. 30' at 0001A 15th to 225 degs. Cape St. Vincent 10 at 0700A 15th thence 038 degs. 01' 009 degs. 59' at (723)59A 15th. *See p.491*

2. M.K.S. 3 Y. KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, H.M.S. ~~37~~ REVENGE, H.M.S. LAUDERDALE, *PALOMARES, (c) 37 43 13 23 through 38 28 15 01 thence 322 degs. 7½. *X See p.491*
**AZALEA intended - REVENGE on E.I. Sta. -*

3. H.K.F.4. H.M.S. MEGRET, H.M.S. BULOLO, BANEF, TANATSIDE, SWALE, EXE, CLARE, SENNEN, (A) 41 03 17 10 H.M.S.*WILD SWAN 14. ** See R 7/42*

4. ~~(2PIN) SOLINT~~ *LADY DENISON* PENDER escorted by one patrol craft one (?minesweeper) sail 1100Z/15th from Casablanca coastwise to Gibraltar 9 knots. *See p.487.*

5. K.K.6.A. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, 040 degs. 28' 013 degs. 05' through 040 degs. 01' 013 degs. 01' thence 142 degs. 5.

6. H.M.S. NENE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, one tug, off Tarifa through 035 degs. 50' 006 degs. 01' and 035 degs. 01' 008 degs. 01' thence 226 degs. 11. *See p.490*

1330Z/14.

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

- Hd.of M.
- W.D.
- I.P.(2)
- D.M.S.
- D.T.D.(4)
- D.T.D.(C)
- Ad.Ramsey (4)
- Ad.Blake (2)
- U.S.N.(3)
- P.N.L.O.
- D.N.I.(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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this 1332A/14th December.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN
Date. 14.12.42.
From. V.A. Gibraltar. Recd. 1625.
Naval Cypher (3) 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 latitudes of 42 degs. North and 27 degs. North.

Situation 2001A/14th.

G.U.F.2. (Delayed section) MINDIV/9 032° degs. 01' 021° degs. 29' through 033° degs. 01' 026° degs. 01' thence 282° degs. 13¹/₂.

*G.U.F. 2
(Delayed section)
route*

(J. A. Gibraltar 1332A/14.

~~Advanced copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H) D.T.D.~~

- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.E.
- A.C.N.B. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.B. (T)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- Hd. of M. (10)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- Duty Capt. (2)
- Ad. Blake
- U.S.N. (2)
- Ad. Ramsay (4)
- Ad. Blake (2)

AJA.

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

1517A/14th December

From. V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 14.12.42.

Naval Code (KI) By W/T

Recd. 1714

Addressed: Ships and Authorities Area.Y

+
My 1332 14th. For MINDIV/9 read MINDIV/19 repeat 19.

1517A/14

1st Sea Lord (2)

V.C.N.S.

+ Most Secret.

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

A.C.N.S.(T)

N.A.1st Sea Lord.

Ops. (3)

O.D.(5)

MSP

D.T.D.(4)

D.T.D.(M)

M (2)

C.I.C.(3)

D. of P. (3)

I.P. (3)

W.D.

Admiral Blake (2)

U.S.N. (3)

Admiral Ramsey (4)

489

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.

Ponta Delgada oiling. M. of M. reports oil wharf of Ponta Delgada damaged by heavy weather and that no ships larger than destroyers can oil there at present. (N.A. Lisbon 1200/14 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gib.)

MIRROR (Cables ship) My 1804/10. Sailing postponed owing to weather. (V.A. Gibraltar 1214A/14 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

U/B, Ferrol. Fishing boat reports midnight 12/12 a S/M was seen outside entrance to Ferrol. (Corunna 1215/14 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar and B.N.A. Madrid.)

QUIBERON. Intend to sail QUIBERON for Mers-el-Kebir at 1830/14 routed through 78 68 2 109. (V.A. Gibraltar 1246A/14 to N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H. (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. D.6.)
Sailed 1810/(?13) QUIBERON for Mers-el-Kebir. E.T.A. 0800/15. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1849A/14 to Admty., N.C.X.F., S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

U/B Sweeps, use of A.S.V. Albacore A/C. It is required to use A.S.V. Albacore aircraft for night U-boat sweeps from shore base during period when carriers (?are) in harbour.
2. Request V.A. Gib. (as received) will report accommodation for carrier aircraft now available Gib. and arrange accordingly with V.A. Gib. (as received).
3. V.A. Gib. is requested to investigate with C.G. 12th Air Force and F.O.I.C. Oran whether arrangements could be made to operate Fleet Air Arm squadrons from La Siena aerodrome.
4. Full complement of aircraft is always to be re-embarked when carriers proceed to sea.
(N.C.X.F. 1259A/14 to S.O. Force H., V.A. Gibraltar (R) FORMIDABLE, A.O.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.E.A.C., F.O.I.C. Oran, C.G. 12th Air Force.)

PUCKERIDGE, T.E.9. My 1726/13th PUCKERIDGE proceeding. (V.A. Gibraltar 1303A/14 to N.C.X.F. Escorts of Convoy T.E. No.9, S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Oran (R) Admty.)

Oil Patch. Following have been read by Gib. My 1254 large oil patch OZPY 20 20 300 18 (indecipherable). (A/C C/S TB5 Duty Y 1305/14 to Gibraltar M/F, D/F.)

/MASTERFUL ...

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

*MASTERFUL, Intend to sail tug MASTERFUL for Freetown for
 *ERNE, onward routeing Aden at 1830/14 escorted by ERNE,
 *SANDWICH. SANDWICH routed through
 ORDUNA. (A) 35° 50' 06° 01'.
 * *See p. 488A* (B) 35° 01' 08° 01'.
 (C) 28° 10' 16° 05'.
 (D) 20° 01' 18° 30' S. of A. 11 knots.

2. Request ORDUNA be sailed so as to R/V in (D) at 1200/19.
 ERNE and SANDWICH will escort ORDUNA to Gibraltar for inclusion
 in M.K.F. convoy.

3. Request ILEX may escort MASTERFUL to Freetown and that you
 signal onward route from position (D).
 (F.O.C. Gibraltar 1307A/14 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.,
 S.N.O. Casablanca, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)
 My 1307/14 sailed ERNE, SANDWICH escorting Tug MASTERFUL.
 (V.A. Gibraltar 2228A/14 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., S.N.O.
 Casablanca, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.A.)

Estimated Med. Section German: There is no apparent change
 U/B in general state of Patrol. About 6 in area Cape
 dispositions. De Gata - Cape Tres Forcas, Cape Palos - Cape
 Tenez. 2 North of Algiers. 10 believed to be
 operating in Western Med. West of Sardinia.

Italian: No change. Force Q may have been sighted by (?2) at
 0040 G.M.T.

Atlantic. German: (2 groups missed) of (5 groups missed) 3
 believed to be in this area. (?2) roughly fixed in 039° 00' N.
 010° 00' W. Probably 6 in area 035° 00' N. - 039° 00' N. 011° 00' W.
 018° 00' W. 2 outward near 039° 00' N. 014° 00' W. one homeward
 near 041° 00' N. 012° 00' W. one inward 040° 00' N. 020° 00' W.
 At least 2 believed to be North West of Flores. 2 near 041°
 00' N. 021° 00' W. probably outward bound. 2 bound south or south
 west in vicinity Canary Is.

Italian: One still on patrol Madeira to Azores.
 (V.A. Gibraltar 1440A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) S.O. Force H.)

PRIAM My 1055/13. No further information of PRIAM.
 distress Now cruising East of Island apparently awaiting
 *CEFALU. better weather conditions before entering harbour.
 * *see next page* (2) My 2150/13 (2250/13 intended) No further
 information of CEFALU. Seaplane unable to leave
 due to bad flying conditions.
 (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1535/14 to Admty. (R)
 V.A. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon.)

PRIAM, Following from PRIAM. Pump now working well but
 distress. without effect. Stowage in number 2 hold,
 (?debris) wrecked tank etc., may have holed plating
 cannot do more at sea to restow same. Deck cargo
 secured and hatch refitted single tarpaulin.
 Sheltering south of St. Miguel Island. Awaiting
 your instructions.
 (Burnham Radio, 1540 G.M.T./14 to C. in C. W.A.
 (R) Admty.)

Proceed to Ponta Delgada.
 (D.T.D. 2216Z/14 to PRIAM.)

491

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - contd.G.U. and
U.E.C.
Convoys.

My 2003/9. Convoy programme for G.U. and U.E.C. convoys approved by C. in C. A.F. Request convoys be sailed accordingly. (N.C.X.F. 1551A/14 to S.N.O.C.A. Cominch (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Cinclant, Admty.)

PORPOISE.

see p. 488A

My 1931/12. Sailed 1220 PORPOISE. QZH 981, S 388, X 886, Y 366, L 52. (F.O.C.N.A. 1656/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S. Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., 3rd S/M Flotilla, 5th S/M Flotilla, 8th S/M Flotilla.)

A/S A/C
Gibraltar.

A.O.C. has just informed me that 608 Squadron which has been operating from Gibraltar has been called forward to Algiers.

2. The loss of this Squadron will greatly reduce the A/S effort which can be exercised over the approaches to Gibraltar I therefore hope that the squadron at present in the U.K. which is earmarked for Gibraltar will be sent out at the earliest possible moment.

(V.A. Gibraltar 1704A/14 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)
Reply: Admty 1823/16.

COMMANDANT
DETROYAT.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 1621/42. My P.C. and S. 020° 06' N. 019° 20' W. "A" 000° (?7)½ knots at 1312/14. Weather report. (COMMANDANT DETROYAT 1737Z/14 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

PALOMARES.

see p. 488A

V.A. Gibraltar 1610/12. Request you will re-route if necessary. (N.C.X.F. 1747A/14 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

* CEFALU,
** HORORATA.** see previous page
** see p. 488 & 493*

My 1501 and my 1535/14 both addressed Admty. Have arranged Portuguese CARVALHO ARAUJO to endeavour to contact CEFALU, if successful to tow to conveniently safe port.

(2) CARVALHO ARAUJO and CORVO willing to attempt salvage of HORORATA and tow into Horta outside anchorage. Request reply if you agree to this.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 2134/14 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon, R.O. Fayal.)

EDENCRAG
torpedoed.

One ship torpedoed, SAMPHIRE attacking contact. My position 035° 49' N. 001° 25' W. *(PENTSTEMON 2242A/14 to V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran (R) N.C.X.F.) * *see p. 498*

My 2243A/14 (?2242A/14 intended) EDENCRAG torpedoed and sunk. Survivors have been picked up and they believe ship struck a mine.

(V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Oran, N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Algiers.)

/A/S forces ...

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

A/S Forces. Cinclant 1700/12 passed to C. in C. A.F. for Info. Cominch H S for Info. (Begins) To C.T.G. 26.7 (R) Cominch from Cinclant. Please specify wherein the 16 submarine chasers and 2 squadrons of patrol planes now available to you are inadequate for combatting submarine activity your frontier. What assistance are you receiving from Army airplanes in anti-submarine patrol? What escort obligations have been imposed on you other than escort of convoys in and out of Bandbox and between ports your frontier? Escorts for such movements are available to you in the escort of Unit G F and Unit G S convoys while temporarily in your frontier waters. Action addressee pass to C. in C. A.F. (Ends) 121700.
(S.N.O.C.A. 2350Z/14 to C. in C. A.F.)

493

14.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/B Report. A.F.018° 30' S. 011° 00' E.
(C. in C. S.A. 0241G.M.T./14 to B.A.M.S. Area 3B and 3A.)

BELLWORT. Capetown departure 1330Z/13 BELLWORT for Pointe Noire. Routed (A) 027° 00'S. 014° 00' E. (B) 018° 00' S. 011° 00' E. S. of A. 11 knots E.T.A. p.m. 20th Dec. Shift to W/T Organization for Area P at 1900Z/18.
(C. in C. S.A. 0948C/14 to Admty. F.O.C. W.A. BN.L.O W.A.)

HORORATA torpedoes. *See pp 468 & 491*
Following received from Kilindini W/T: "SSSS de BDRR HORORATA. Position 042° 09' 034° 31' torpedoes". Please confirm ship is in North Atlantic.
(C. in C. S.A. 1106C/14 to Admty.)

C.M. 36, W.S. 24. C.M. 36 and W.S. 24 sailed for Aden 13th Dec. E.T.A. 27th Dec. personnel on board FELIX ROUSSEL for Aden R.N. 4, B.S.A. Police, 11 civilians, one man, three women for Mid East R.N. three, 77 Maritime A.A, 18 W.R.NS, 26 civilians, 22 men, 30 women, 7 children, R.F.W.A. 3, Army 948, R.A.F. 534, American Field Service 3, F.F.F. 14 and 3 women 2 children service families, 4 women, 4 children. ARAWA for mid east Army 1661, R.A.F. civilians 1. ARONDA for Mid East R.N. 1, R.M. 723, Army 724 and 1 woman, R.A.F. 2, civilians 15 men, 17 women. ASCANIUS for Mid East Army 47 men, 2 Palestine Police, 37 civilians, 12 men, 11 women, 5 children, Army non, Europeans 1424. ARAWA R.A.F. 3.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1142C/14 to D.S.T.O. Aden (R) S.S.T.O. Suez P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. Capetown. F.O.R.S., D.O.S.T., C. in C.E.F)

DESPATCH. *See next page* Your 1101Z/14 Left patrol. My P.C. and S. 003° 40'S. 019° 00' W. 024° 18½ knots. E.T.A. 0700Z/16
(DESPATCH, 1144Z/14 to F.O.C.W.Af.)
My 1057/14. Correct position of DESPATCH 001° 32' S. 018° 01' W. 024° 18½.
(F.O.W.Af. 1547Z/14 to Ships in area "P" of S.A. Station South of 8° N., Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.)
My 1249z/11 DESPATCH left patrol at 1244Z/14 returning to Freetown from position 003° 40' S., 019° 00' W. Speed 18½ knots.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 2225Z/14 to Admty. (R) DESPATCH, Cominch, ASTURIAS, CYCLAMEN, Comsolantfor, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)

ALMANZORA, JOHAN VAN OLDEN-BARNEVELDT. Your 0250/13 para. 2. In view of large numbers service personnel and passengers now waiting passage to U.K. It is urgently requested that in case of these two ships total numbers to be embarked should exclude prisoners of war. Agreed.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1145C/14 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
Reply, not agreed. (D.S.T. 0308A/16.)

/HIGHLAND ...

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~~ ^{1057Z/14th Dec.}

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

From F.O.C.W.A.F

Date 14-12-42

Recd 1346

NAVAL CYPHER (M) BY W/T

Addressed Ships in area P of S.A Station south of
8 degs North, Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Takoradi,
C-in-C S.A R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

Situation Report.

see next page
H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. ARMERIA, off
Freetown 21.1 degs. 10.8. ? (VIVIANA escorting 05 30
10 55 to 03 39 07 45 thence 081 degs. 10. ARRAN
patrolling between 07 01 14 10 and 04 59 14 11.
H.M.S. RUMBA, three M.L's, with T.S. 27 02 30 04 45 262 degs.
8. H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, H.M.S. ASTURIAS on patrol 00 30
South 21 59 to 01 19 18 23 12½. Allied naval unit
searching 04 to 06 South 18 to 23 West. H.M.S. DESPATCH
about 08 North 19 West to Freetown. *see previous page*

1057Z/14

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
Duty Captain (2)
U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.M.S.
D.D.O.D. (C)
R.A.C.F. by courier.

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

14.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

HIGHLAND BRIGADE. Your 0155/3. 1. G.O.C. W.A. forecasts in W.S.25 HIGHLAND BRIGADE has 332 Army, 109, R.A.F. and H.M.S. has 89, total 530 for Lagos. 2. In view of large number suggest HIGHLAND BRIGADE proceeds Lagos. F.O.C. W.A. has no objection and can provide escort. 3. Assume vessel is to load place on completion West Coast run. 4. Request draft on arrival Freetown and dead weight cargo for Takoradi.
(D.S.T.O. W.A., 1151Z/14 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) F.O.C. W.A., G.O.C. W.A.)

Movements. Arrival Pointe Noire a.m. 14th Dec. SPHENE, *see next page*
* STARLIGHT, ST. LOMAN, KHYBER, escorting tugs BOLD, INTEGRITY and EMPIRE WARLOCK, steamships BRITISH UNITY and BANFF (?PARK). Simonstown pass to C. in C. (B.N.L.O. W.A. 1155C/14 to R.A.W.Af.)* *not identified.*
CORINTHIAN arrived.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1841Z/14 to Admty. (R) R.A. W.A. C. in C. Simonstown.)
Departure 12th Dec. British Cable Ship CAMBRIA, Arrival 12th, departure 13th, U.S. *Destroyer BELKNAP, U.S. Destroyer MOFFETT, Arrival 13th U.S. Sloop *HUMBOLDT. ** Seaplane Tug -*
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1925Z/14 to Admty.)
Departure 14th PHOEBE, BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA, Q.L.A.142, Q.J.B.98, Q.J.A.172.
(S.O.(I). Freetown, 2010Z/14 to Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D., Comsolantfor, R.O. Pernambuco.)

McKEESPORT. Your 1546/5 not to S.O.(I) Montevideo. U.S. McKEESPORT sailed 13th December for Valparaiso via Magellan Straits. Unable to load sufficient fuel for voyage direct Balboa without overloading her winter mark.
(N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1203Z/14 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) S.O.I. Montevideo.)

German Mine, Morgan's Bay. German mine type V Star washed ashore at Morgan's Bay 38° 42' S. 28° 20' E. 12th Dec. Destroyed by counter-mining. Further details will be signalled when available.
(C. in C. S.A., 1211C/14 to Admty.)

NOVA SCOTIA U.D.F. other ranks in NOVA SCOTIA rescued from torpedoed raft state:
28th Nov. (a) Vessel hit by 1 torpedo at 0420Z/28/11 and sank in 3 minutes.
(b) U-Boats apparently German large type 2 guns no net cutter similar to Odin Class painted Grey with U.13 or U.14 on conning tower.
(2) Survivor intelligent type but in extremely nervous state and his report may not be entirely reliable.
(S.O.(I). Capetown, 1216C/14 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - contd.U/B
sighted.

^{? Sabina}
Pilot of SABINA A/C reports sighted submarine
005° 46' N. 004° 36' E. at 0630Z/14.
(F.O.C. W.Af 1223Z/14 to R.N.O. Lagos, B.N.L.O.
W.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) Admty.)

*KHYBER
defects.

**See previous
page.*

^{? 12162/9 4/5/14 - See p. 313 -}
My 1730Z/7th December addressed to F.O.C.R.I.N.
Sea experience after collision indicates that
indirect underwater damage may have been suffered
by port (? fan) bracket causing unmanageable
leakage of (? lubricating oil). Consider
docking necessary without delay. Ship unfit
for operation duties until repairs effected.
(KHYBER 1547C/14 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N. (R)
R.A.W.A., C. in C. S.A., Foreign Office,
S.S.T.O. Takoradi.)

ATHEL-
VICTOR
accident.

Your 2324/11 December civil enquiry will probably
open on Monday 21st December.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 1650Z/14 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.F.)

Shipping,
routing in
Atlantic.

Your 1750/13, para. A. call at Capetown is
undesirable on account of waste of ship time
involved. Suggest ports East of Capetown
should through route ships to destination.
(D.T.D. 1659A/14 to C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

U/B descrip-
tion,
LLANDAFF
CASTLE.

Following is description of U-boat from Master
of LLANDAFF CASTLE.
(A) Between 1,000/1500 tons length 300 feet.
(B) Conning tower occurred exactly amidships
narrow in comparison with beam, elliptical shape,
shield high forward and cut away aft, erection for
crew, 2 periscopes showing 15 feet above conning
tower.
(C) Cut away bow and whole back stern hull very
dirty.
(D) One 4-inch or 4.7-inch forward and similar gun
aft also 2 smaller guns aft.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 2020/14 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

EMPIRE GULL
(British)
torpedoed.

EMPIRE GULL torpedoed and sunk at 2055Z/12 026° S.
035° E. 44 survivors rescued, 2 missing.
(C. in C. S.A. 2346C/14 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.
(R) Cdre. I.C. Durban, C.S.A. Lourenco Marques,
S.O.(I) Aden.)

496

14.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

- Enemy M/V destroyed. A.M. 2205/13th (Originated by D.D.I.C. and given a very limited distribution). At 2210/13 a large south going Merchant Ship heavily escorted was blown up by Fleet Air Arm in 057° 42' N. 011° 55' E.
(V.A.Malta 0050A/14 to Admty F.O.15 C.S. F.O 12th C.S.(R) C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F.).
In case ship sunk, see my 0050/14th was not that referred to in A.M. 2205/13th, F.A.A. search and strike is leaving now (V.A.Malta 0122A/14 to F.O.15th C.S.(R) C. in C.Med Admty)
- M.W.16. Arrival Convoy M.W.16, EXMOOR, CROOME, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, BELVOIR.
(V.A.Malta 0342A/14 to Admty, C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F. N.O.I.C.Alexandria).
- P.35. P.35. without key memoranda is returning to base from Gulf of Hammameh arrive 0801A/15.
See p.501 (Capt.S.10.0540A/14 to C.S.15, Capt.(D) 14).
- Force Q. enemy A/C. Following received on 385 K/Cs. Bone C.C.O. from S.O. Force Q, Help "Crescent" 050° Gar 32-230° - 20.
(Plymouth C.C.O. 0608/14th to Admty).
Am being attacked by enemy A/C "Crescent" 050° Gar 32' 230° 20.
(S.O. Force Q. 0608/14, to Bone W/T Station).
- ARGONAUT. ARGONAUT torpedoed in position 50° Gar 32 at 0605.
Torpedoed by I.E. 8/M MOLENIKO. (R.D.S./X.301/49) See p.504.
(S.O. Force Q. 0615/14 to Gib W/T).
Regret drew blank. As A/C first located any target in excellent visibility did not stay long in area. ARGONAUT hit by bomb or torpedo at 0600A in position 050° Gar, 32, apparently now making 8 knots. ESKIMO and QUALITY standing by.
(C.S.12. 0756A/14 to N.C.X.F.).
Your 0752 (Not received in War Reg.) approved. Will arrange fighter cover. Destroyers remain in company.
(S.O. Force Q. 0818A/14, to ARGONAUT (R) N.C.X.F.).
Ship hit right forward and right aft. Probably torpedoed. No.19 bulkhead forward intact. Stern and steering gear gone. Flooding is under control. All armaments undamaged. Proceeding 8 knots on port outer shaft.
(ARGONAUT 0951A/14 to C.S.12 (R) Admty, N.C.X.F.).
Your 1246/14th (Requesting report of situation regarding ARGONAUT:- N.T. in W.D.). She is proceeding to Algiers in company with ESKIMO and QUALITY in accordance with her 0752/14th which I approved.
(C. S.12, 1333A/14 to N.C.X.F.).

/Proceed.

497

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

ARGONAUT. Proceed to join ARGONAUT and escort her to port, ~~Contd.~~
 torpedoed by U.S.M. ARGONAUT is damaged, speed 8 knots estimated
MOCE 160 - cont: position 37.10 N. 07.40 E. course 270° at
 1200/14th. ESKIMO QUALITY in company. You may
 encounter AURORA who leaves Bone p.m./14th E.T.A. Algiers
 0400/15. *See next page -*
 (N.C.X.F. 1539A/14 to ASHANTI, TARTAR (R) C.S.12. ARGONAUT,
 Capt.(D) 6. Cmdre F., S.O.I.S.S. Cmdre Algiers).
 My 1015A/14th. Add new para (7) ARGONAUT escorted by
 ESKIMO, QUALITY 37.(710)N. 06.13 E. westbound at 8 knots.
 ASHANTI and TARTAR leave Algiers 1730A/14th as additional escort.
 (N.C.X.F. 1727A/14 to S. & A. Area G.).

Movements 13th December Port Said arrivals HYACINTH,
 Port Said. PRIMULA, R.F.A. BADAPUR, Departures F.S.LA
See p. 501 MOQUEUSE, *R.F.A. MACOMAZ C.PS. 68 and 126.
 (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0735B/14, to Admty, C. in C.
 Med.(R) F.O.C.R.S.F., R.A. Alexandria)
**not given in Navy List as such.*

Enemy Nothing heard since A/C W's 0405/B* 201 Group
 Units. ordered by A.O.C. Med. to continue search and
 attack when found.
 (V.A. Malta 0751A/14 to C. in C. Med) *No trace
 in W.R. - presumably refers to report of 1 enemy
 merchant vessel, 1 destroyer and 1 unknown vessel
 reported in A/C C/S RBG/W's 0153/14.

S/Ms. Position given in my 1950/11th. Should be
 maintained during the day as accurately as
 possible
 (Capt.S.10. 0806A/14 to P.228, P.212., P.247.P.44)

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. *266, 307, 315 arrived.
 Bone. (N.O.I.C. Bone 0855A/14 to V.A. Malta, (R) S.O.I.S.
 C. in C. Med). * *See p. 500.*

A/S Intend A/S sweep by MILNE, METEOR, PARTRIDGE,
 Sweep. PANTHER leaving position 109 at 1800A/14th Dec.
See p. 500 routed through position 86, reverse course to
 position 34, thence through 39 12, 56, 109,
 S.O.A. 15 knots.
 (2) V.A. Gibraltar is requested to arrange air
 co-operation.
 (S.O. Force H. 0907A/14 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib,
 Escorts T.E.9, Escorts T.E.6, (R) Capt.(D) 3,
 Capt.(S) 8, F.O. Oran Cdre. Algiers).

Movements Arrivals 13th Dec. DULVERTON, TETCOTT, HEDGEHOG,
 Alexandria. *ARMADILLO, Greek destroyer PINDOS,
See p. 501 Departures 13th Dec. M.Ls. 11, 58, Z.(?6)
 Z.12. Greek S. PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, Yugoslav T.B.
 DURMITOR, Yugo-Slav T.B. KAJMAKALAN.
 (S.O.(I) Alex. 0924/14 to Admty, C. in C. Med.).
**not identified.*

/Adm....

498

14.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Adm. Godfroy. C. in C.Med's 1614/12th (N.T. in W.D.) and 1630/12th. I fully concur with his view (?therein expressed). (N.C.X.F. 0928/14 to Admty).

C.S.12. AURORA. Intend to sail in AURORA p.m./today for Algiers E.T.A. 0400A/14th. *See previous page - 4/3.500* (F.O.12th C.S. 0958A/14 to N.C.X. F.(R) F.O.I.S. Cmdre Algiers, N.O.I.C.Bone, ARGONAUT).

Situation. Brief Situation report 1959A/14, S/M expected. 1.E.T.5. VENOMOUS, and 3 other escorts, 036.55 N. 002.32 W. through 7 89 17 109 93 72 to Gib - 7½. 2. T.E.9, PENTSTEMON, 5 other escorts, 035. 45 N. 002.12 W. through 109 where Oran section leave thence 34 100 to Algiers - 6½. *See p. 491.* 3. T.E.8. (corrupt group) and 2 other escorts 036.54 N. 003.27 W. to Bone - .7. 4. Following safe conduct ships on approved route from Gibraltar to Genoa may be encountered: Portuguese SANTA IRENE Swiss CABO ORTEGAL Swiss chartered Spanish NORTE Swiss ARBULA Portuguese CLERKIA JOANNA Swiss LUMANS. (N.C.X.F. 1015A/14 to Area G.).

Air R/C. Visuals December 14th - 0745 Naples 3 Cruisers. 0800 Taranto 3 Battleships. 0830 Palermo 1 (one) cruiser U.S.Messina no sightings 10/10 cloud. (V.A.Malta, 1054A/14 to C. in C.Med, Cdre Algiers, N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S. F.O.C.(12) C.S.(R) Admty, V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H.)

UNA. Convoy was sunk before reaching you. Suggest you move towards Ras Mahedia where there is greater depth of water. You have freedom of action in your area. (Capt.S.10. 1058A/14 to UNA).

RORQUAL P.222. Route local point allotted to you and considered most fruitful. You have freedom of action RORQUAL to North P.222 to South of line from Mount Vesuvius radius 40 miles. (Capt.S.10. 1102A/14 to RORQUAL, P.222, (R) N.C.X.F. Capt. S.1.).

PETARD. QUEEN OLGA. Sail PETARD, Greek Dest.BASILISSA OLGA, for Malta p.m./today 14th to reach Seaward end of searched Channel 0730B/5. (C. in C.Med. 1116B/14 to N.O.I.C.Benghazi, (R) A.O.C.Med, PETARD, BASILISSA OLGA, S.O. Force I 201 N.C.Group V.A.Malta, Advance Air H.Q. etc). *See over*

/C. in C....

499

14.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.PETARD
QUEEN OLGA,
Contd.

C. in C.Med. 1116B/14th PETARD. G.D.BASILISSA
OLGA sailed 1400/14th direct route to Malta S.O.A.
27 knots.
(N.O.I.C.Benghazi 1407B/14 to V.A.Malta, N.L.O.
212 Group 247 Wing (R) A.O.C.Med, Advanced Air
H.Q.W.D. etc).

Air R/C
of Axis
ports.

AX.804, 14th December. Reference your A/511 of
13th December(Not circulated to Admty) - Have
arranged to cover Spezia - Leghorn - Genoa - Toulon
from U.K. Triesto cover not required at present
by Admty. Remaining Italian ports can be covered
by your P.R.Spitfires.
(Air Ministry 1135Z/14 to A.H.Q.Malta (R) Admty
H.Q.C.C.).

SONTAY.

Your 1705/11th December.
In view of D.of S.T.'s 0242/13th. December
following will embark SONTAY.
2.Vessel has boatage for 1023 and crew number
153.
3.Vessel is ready to sail. Request concurrence.
4. Agreed G.H.Q. M.E.
(P.S. T.O.E. 1150/14 to Admty, C. in C.E.F.(R)
F.O. Red Sea and Canal Area,etc)

PENN
PUCKERIDGE.

When Oran Section of T.E.9 has entered harbour
proceed to Mers El Kebir and berth on BRITISH
CHIVALRY in G. outlet.
(S.O. Force H. 1228A/14 to PENN, PUCKERIDGE (R)
Capt.(D) 3, N.O.I.C.Mers El Kebir, F.O. Oran,
CALPE, (?FARNDALE).

Salvage
Craft ex
Massawa.

War Dept.Washington has ordered immediate
withdrawal of all available salvage forces
and vessels from Massawa for service under
General Eisenhower and instructions have been
issued accordingly.

2.Impossible at this stage to forecast when passage through
Mediterranean will be possible, but long passage of a least
9 weeks via the Cape would appear to warrant examination
of this alternative. Passage via Suez would take 18 days.
Important salvage work waiting to be done in Tobruk and Malta
or possibly Benghazi to occupy forces and vessels during waiting
period.

3. General Maxwell has seen this signal and is communicating
in the same sense to Washington.
(C. in C.Med. 1230B/14 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F.).

U/B
Attacks.

Am over enemy S/M in position 37.25 N. 00.40 E.
was on surface, first sighted on course 360°
estimated speed 9 knots. Have attacked enemy
with depth charges. S/M has dived.
(A/C C/S TV5 Duty Y, 1246A/14, 1254/14 to Gib.
M/F D/F).

SECRET

499A

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

1200B/14 Dec.

From: C. in C. Middle East.

DATE: 14th Dec. 1942.
RECD: 1615.

IN

CYPHER.

Addressed: The War Office.

MCST IMMEDIATE.

298695 O/S4001 Cypher 14 Dec.

Cositrep No. 623.

Ronuk all informed.

First. 30 Corps. Day 13/12. Enemy withdrew this morning from Marsa Brega (repeat Marsa Brega) and neighbouring positions and later for Es Suera (repeat Suera) 154 Bde. following up along road reached approx. B.50 easting grid but progress hindered by mines including A.P. Pursuit Force comprising 152 Bde. with supporting arms passed through 1530 hrs. 153 Bde. occupied Es Suera locality. Eighth Armd. Bde. moved round southern flank reaching area B.3560 with patrols 11 Hussars on approx. B.35 easting grid directed on Agheila and Giofer.

Second. Air recco. reported considerable M.T. movement west on Road Agheila to Nofilia throughout day but generally quiet.

Third. 10 Corps N.T.R.

Air.

Fourth. Night 12/13 Dec. Aircraft from Malta mined and bombed Sousse Harbour. Palermo Docks also bombed. Bad weather hampered observation of damage.

Fifth. 13/12. Throughout day unescorted fighter bombers operated continuously against enemy M.T. withdrawing from Mersa Brega and Agheila positions and South of Agheila.

Record.....

Record figure of nearly three hundred sorties flown on bombing and machine-gun attacks against fair but dispersed targets. Many vehicles destroyed and damaged numerous fires started. Enemy air opposition was on small scale only six formations of M.E.109s. being encountered during day. Six M.E.109's shot down four more damaged. Our losses all causes were four fighters.

Sixth. Single Ju. 88s. operated over Cyrenaica and destroyed three Wellingtons on ground at Bahaira.

1200E/14.

Received from War Office 1945/14.

War Office Circulation:-

<p>1st Lord. 1st S.L.(2). 4th S.L. C.N.A.S. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(F). Naval Sec. N.A.1st S.L. O.D.(3). C.C.I.S. C.I.C.(3). Ops.(3). D. of P.(3). M.(2). I.P.(3). D.P.D. W.D. D.N.I.(5). A.C.N.A.S. D.N.A.D. D.A.C.D. Ad.Blake. Ad.Ramsey (4).</p>	<p>Internal: S. of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S., D.M.O., D.P.(2), D. D.M.O.(O)(H), M.O.1,5,6,8.(1),D.W.I., D.D.M.I.(1)(F),M.I.2(1) 3,3b,14,17(a),D.A.F.V., D.D.I.P.</p> <p>External: Duty Capt.(Admiralty). Duty Officers (Upper Admiralty War Room). Hd. of War Registry, Admiralty. A.M.C.S.(Air Ministry)(6). Brig.E.Y.C.Jacob (15). Cabinet War Room. S. of S.Foreign Office.</p>
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4998c

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1332A/14th December IN

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :

From Capt. "OSI.B." are excepted from this rule.) Date 14.12.42.
Recd. 1921.

NAVAL CODE 'L.I.' (SECRET) BY W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities in Area G.

IMPORTANT

Submarine situation in Western Mediterranean at 2000A/ 14th.

1. H.M.S. TIGRIS 38 36 North 09 13 East through (corrupt group
38 30 North 8 30 East 38 40 North 08 00 East 38
19 North 03 18 East to Algiers diving by day 2½
knots surfacing by night 12 knots.
2. P.54 off South coast of France.
3. French Submarine CASABLANCA on patrol in 42
04 North 08 02 East.

1332A/14.

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

- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. 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.
- D.T.D. (M)
- Head of M.
- W.D.
- I.P. (2)
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- Adm. Blake (2)
- U.S.N. (3).

EML.

500

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.Movements,
Malta.

Arrival 1115A/14th GLEOPATRA, *ORION, KELVIN,
PALADIN.
1310A/14th EURYALUS, JERVIS, NUBIAN.
(V.A. Malta 1340A/14 to Admty., C. in C. Med.
N.C.X.F.) ** See p. 503,*

*AURORA,
**MILNE.

** See pp 497 & 498*
*** See p. 497*

My 1015A/14th. Add new para. (5) F.O.C. 12th
C.S. in AURORA sailing Bone p.m. 14th E.T.A.
Algiers 0400A/15th. (6) MILNE 3 destroyers
035° 51' N. 001° 13' W. on Anti-Submarine sweep
through 86, 34, 39, 12, 56, 109, at 15 knots.
(N.C.X.F. 1448A/14 to S. & A. Area G.)

Air
R/C.

Visuals. Messina - 1240 3 cruisers. Forenoon
photographs confirm 3 battleships and 6 destroyers
at Taranto and 2 large merchant ships loading.
No major naval units present at Corfu or
Argostoli.
(V.A. Malta 1453A/14 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

M.T.B.
sweep.

See p. 497
M.T.Bs 260, 266 sailed from Bone 1630A/14th
for sweep off to eastward as far as Cape Bone
proceeding by inshore route. Returning north
of Keith Reef so as to be west of Galita by
0700A/15th.

If torpedoes are expended M.T.Bs will proceed direct to Malta
to replenish. Approx. E.T.A. 0800A/15th. W/T watch constant
150 k/cs. No submarines will be attacked.
(S.O.I.S. 1455A/14 to V.A. Malta, N.C.X.F., A.O.C. E.A.C.,
A.O.C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 8.)

TAKU.

You may have been sighted at 1258B.
(Capt. S.1 1521B/14 to TAKU.)

Air R/C.

Your 1214/14th (N.T. in W.D.) 2 P.R.U. searches
of Messina and east of (?) Sicilian coast carried
out today. First blank, second not yet returned.

A.S.V. tonight until midnight in area south of Messina and
covering east coast of Sicily.

A.O.C. Med. feels he cannot do more in view of the recent very
high pressure on his limited number of R/C aircraft. Am
holding 1 cruiser and 2 "Fleets" at 1 hour's notice.

(V.A. Malta 1528A/14 to C. in C. Med.)

No daylight R/C intended "Torch" area December 15th.

(V.A. Malta 1622A/14 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med.,
F.O.I.S., Cdre. Algiers, C.S.12.)

/E.A.C. ...

MOST SECRET

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the ~~code~~ must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services. 1526B/14 December.

(*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One Time Pad: FROM. C. in C. Mediterranean. DATE. 17.12.42. O.T.P. are excepted from this rule.)

RECD. 2240.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY W/T.

ADDRESSED. Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Eastern Fleet, First M.N.B., D.C.O., G.H.Q. M.E.F., S.N.O.L.A., Armindia, F.O.C.R.I.N., R.A.T.E., A.G.R.M.

BASEGRAM.

Ref. concentration of M.N.B.D.O. 1 in India. in accordance with C.O.S.(M.E.) 329 and 336.+ After transfer to India first R.M. Group will probably be fully trained and able to operate about June 1943.

2. Naval Staff. (A) Since Crete, S.N.O. and Staff who left U.K. with 1st R.M. Group have been dispersed and absorbed in Eastern Mediterranean to provide staffs for Syrian and Western Desert ports. In particular Captain Morse has been relieved by Captain Brooke as S.N.O.L.A.

(B) Naval staff cannot, therefore be reassembled from station resources and sent to India.

(C) Presume staff would not be required until M.N.B. is required operationally and would then be provided by Admiralty or Eastern theatre.

3. Boats. On leaving Eastern Mediterranean, 1st R.M. Group will be deficient on establishment of two 16 ft. motor boats, one 45 ft. motor boat, one 50 ft. motor boat, one 35 ft. motor pinnace. I cannot provide these from station resources.

4. Landing craft. 1st R.M. Group will also require 10 L.C.M. when employed operationally. Admiralty pass to A.G.R.M. F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to Armindia and 17/5 M.N.B.

1526B/14.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

2nd. S.L.

D.F.S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

A.C.N.S.(W)

P.A.S.(S)

N.I.

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.N.I.(4)

D. of P.(2)

D.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D. of P.(Q)

Hd. of M.(2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

Admiral Blake.

D. of L.D.

A.G.R.M.

+ 2230/10 : re use of
convoy. W.S.26 to
despatch M.N.B.D.O.2

See also 11128/33/43.

501

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

E.A.C. A. 162 December 14. W.X. 4002.
Daily In future daily operational summary will take
Summary. following form (B) number of sorties by types of
aircraft (A) general resume of operations (G)
details of attacks on enemy shipping (E) service-
ability of types of aircraft (C) aircraft casualties own and
enemy by types (F) U.S.A.A.C. activities showing changes in
location of units and serviceability of aircraft (D) changes in
location of unit. Addendum to (B) fighter bomber sorties will
be shown as gun attacks or bomb attacks.
(E.A.C. 1530/14 to 1st Army Adv. H.Q. etc.)

Malta 2000A/13 to 2000A/14.
Intelligence Naval. *P.35 torpedoed an inward bound enemy M/V
Summary. heavily laden with M.T. off Sousse. Vessel was
seen to be beached. Force K. sailed 1730/13
December to intercept shipping previously reported
by aircraft. Force was, however, shadowed and illuminated within
2½ hours of leaving Malta and as a result of Force being dis-
covered the target which had been making for Tripoli turned back.
2. Negligible enemy activity. * *see p. 496*
3. Strikes. Night 13/14 December Wellingtons dropped 49 tons
bombs on Tunis and La Goulette docks and two tons on Bizerta docks.
Tunis attacks very successful. Large fire with intermittent
explosions on 6000 tons M/V in entrance to canal at La Goulette
other fires on large ship in La Goulette basin on small vessel
south of canal entrance on La Goulette Island and in area south of
Tunis main docks. Large fire probably oil on south shore at La
Goulette started 1900 hours still visible at 0001 hours with smoke
to 8000 feet. Many other bursts in docks area and among shipping.
2110 hours Albacores made torpedo attack on M/V 5000 tons escorted
by three D/Rs and three M.T.Bs in position 195° Marittimo 14 miles
course 180° scoring hit on stern of M/V which was left enveloped
in flames and leaving trail of wreckage. [*see AHQ. Malta 2058/14*]
(Govr. Malta 1915Z/14 to Air Min. for Gen. Eisenhower.)

EROS. Greek relief. German authorities agree to EROS
proceeding from Piraeus to Salonica by following
route.
2. Sailing from Piraeus provisionally fixed for
0900 December 19th. Please inform me urgently whether you agree
to EROS proceeding to Salonica for purpose already stated and to
route and time of sailing as above.
(Mallet, Stockholm, 1915/14 to M.E.W.)

Movements 14th Dec. Port Said arrivals: Yugoslav T.B.
Port Said. DURMITOR, ASTER, Yugoslav T.B. KAJMAKALAN, PAUL
CONDOURIOTIS (G.S.). BURGONET. Departures.
see p. 497 Yugoslav T.B. DURMITOR, Yugoslav T.B. KAJMAKALAN,
HYACINTH, PRIMULA, 2 lighters 31 and 35 BURGONET.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1931B/14 to Admty. etc.)

/E.A.C. ...

502

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - contd.

E.A.C. Part 3 of my A. 164 14th December.
Air Report. F. 15 B.17s attacked Tunis Harbour and Docks.
1 ship stated to have been hit and sunk.
11 B.17s were despatched to attack Bizerta Docks,
1 A/C returned early and 10 A/C dropped bombs. Results believed
successful. 19 B.24s also attacked the docks at Bizerta, hits
being observed on the docks area. Intense and accurate flak
encountered over target and formation attacked by Me.109s.
2 A/C badly shot up, 1 forced landed near Maison Blanche.
These aircraft flew from Western Theatre of operations. 6 B.25s
with fighter escort of P.38s attacked the harbour at Sousse.
Hits observed on large M/V in the harbour, large M/V made fast
at dockside. Storage sheds S.E. of Harbour storage sheds N.
of Harbour stated to be destroyed. 1 aircraft is missing.
(E.A.C. 1930A/14.)

Malta Air A.I.173 14 December C.S.R.
Report. Night 13/14 December. No enemy activity locally.
14th December. 24 Spitfire sorties have been
made to protect Naval Units returning to Malta
and 16 Spitfires were airborne on R/C for enemy shipping and
aircraft north of Malta. 0530 hours, 12 enemy aircraft approached
Malta on a search. 6 Spitfires and 1 Beaufighter were airborne
but enemy aircraft turned back before reaching the island.
1124 hours 4 Beaufighters 2 carrying bombs escorted by 4 long
range Spitfires were despatched to attack an M/V 2000 tons
reported stationary $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Sousse, no sightings were
made. 1321 hours 10 plus enemy fighters approached the Island
at great height, 8 Spitfires intercepted north of Malta and
although enemy fighters had height advantage they refused combat
and returned to Sicily.

Night 13/14. 2 Wellingtons on shipping R/C patrolled
Straits of Messina area and from Cavoli to Marittimo. 1
Wellington co-operated with our Naval Forces off East Tunisian
coast. 2 special Albatrosses and 5 torpedo carrying Albatrosses
were despatched to attack the convoy seen forming up outside
Trapani.

At 2050 hours Albatrosses found 195° Marittimo 14 miles 1 M/V
over 5000 tons with 3 D/Rs and 3 M.T.Bs course (180 or 184
corrupt) degrees, speed 13 knots. 2 torpedoes contact only
depth setting 9 feet released from 30 feet range 500 yards but
ran astern of M/V. At 2110 hours third Albatross attacked with
torpedo contact only depth setting 9 feet dropped from 50 feet
range 800 yards causing violent explosion on stern of M/V.
Whole ship was soon enveloped in flames which were visible 80
miles away. 7 Albatrosses despatched to locate and attack enemy
shipping in the Lampedusa Pantellaria area made no important
sightings. Wellingtons made two very successful bombing attacks
on Tunis and La Goulette Docks. In first attack at 1815 to
1955 hours 13 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 6000 feet scoring
hit on large ship in La Goulette Basin and started a fire on
board. Second fire started on small vessel on south side of
entrance to Canal. Another large fire with intermittent
explosions on M/V 6/7000 tons in entrance to Canal at La
Goulette, other fires at La Goulette Island and in area south of
Tunis main docks. 1 large fire thought to be burning oil on
South shore of La Goulette was visible 100 miles away with smoke
rising to 8000 ft. at 0001 when second attack was made.

/1 Wellington ...

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. Contd. 1 Wellington which found target obscured by cloud attacked Bizerta Docks dropping bombs from 8,000 ft, on the docks area. Owing to evasive action being taken from heavy and accurate flak results could not be observed. In second attack on

Tunis and La Goulette Docks. 0009-0240 12 Wellingtons dropped bombs from 8000 ft. scoring hits on fuel tanks south of entrance to cannal opposite La Goulette which caused a big explosion and started large fire. Second fire started on Island at La Goulette many other bursts seen in dock area and near misses on 2 large ships in La Goulette Basin. Smoke rising from fires started in first raid made further observation of results difficult. Flak from several heavy guns had ceased before the end of the attack. (A.H.Q. Malta 2058/14, 2117/14).

M.W.17. (Op "Quadrangle C") My 1115/11th December. Operation "Quadrangle C". Intend M.W.17 to leave Alexandria 1700/17th Dec and M.E.12 to sail p.m./17th Dec. Details follow. Cancel my 2124/10th.

(C. in C.Med. 2146B/14 to V.A.Malta etc).

Operation "Quadrangle C" D.Day 17th

December time zone minus 2. R.A.Alex. is requested to sail convoy M.W.17 (FORT TADOUSSAC, OCEAN VOYAGER, ANTWERP, PRINCESS KATHLEEN) for Malta at 1700 D-day escorted by PAKENHAM, *DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, *TETCOTT, *PINDOS, routed through "Home", "Rum" "Bar". 5 miles north of "Bend" through "Sand" "Chop" to 30, 10 miles North of "Pork" at 1900 D plus two, thence through. **p.497*
PP. 034. 00 N. 016.30 E.
QQ. 034. 30 N. 015.00 E.
RR. 035. 22 N. 014.05 E.

2. Anticipated S. of A. $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots until 1900 D plus two, then 10 knots or better.

3. V. A. Malta is requested to sail convoy M.E.12 (4 empty ships) for Port Said after dark D days escorted by *ORION, 6 "Hunts", routed through:-

RR.SS. 035.00 N, 014.30 E.

TT. 033.15 N. 018.00 E.

VV. 032.55 N. 020.00 E.

To pass 10 miles North of "Pork" at 0700 D plus two, thence, through "Chop" three miles North of "Drain" through "Tin" "Gamma" "Frost" 10 miles North of "Rum" repetition "Rum" 10 miles north of "Aboard" repetition "Aboard" through "Home" thence by inshore route to Port Said to arrive a.m. D plus four;

4. Anticipated S. of A. 13 knots.

5. When convoys meet, ORION 2 "Hunts" are to leave M.E.12 and join M.W.17.

6. PRINCESS KATHLEEN, ANTWERP, and 2 "Hunts" are to part company at 0200 D plus three and proceed to Benghazi through "Mist" to arrive 0700 D plus three.

7. Force K is to be at one hour's notice for sea as required by V.A.Malta to cover the arrival of the convoy.

8. Air Authorities are requested to arrange necessary fighter and anti-submarine protection R/C and striking forces to cover the operation.

/Fighter...

504

14.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.W.17
(Op.
"Quadrangle
C").
Contd.

9. Fighter protection Codewords M.K.17 "Survey"
PRINCESS KATHLEEN, convoy "Nation", M.E.12
"Poker".
10. N.L.Os will not be embarked in merchant
ships.
11. Cancel my 2124/10.
(C. in C.Med. 2254B/14 to V.A.Malta, H.Q. R.A.F.
M.E., F.O.R.S.C.A., C.C.F., Capt.(D) 1, Capt.(S)
10, R.A.15th C.S. EURYALUS, ORION, Capt.(D) 12,
Capt.(D) 14, DULVERTON, R.A.(D) Med, N.O.I.C.
Port Said, A.O.C. Med, BEAUFORT, R.N.G.H.Q.M.E.)

Situation
Report No.34.

1. Six Swordfish attacked two French merchant
ships in Axis hands with torpedoes at Ferryville
Bizerta at dawn 14th December. Two hits obtained
on one ship which blew up. Possible hit on
second ship. All A/C returned to Bone.
2. ENCHANTRESS overhauled and rammed U-Boat which had made two
unsuccessful attacks on Convoy in 36.58 N. 05.07 E. Subse-
quently four patterns dropped on bubbles which ceased after
45 minutes. Consider probably sunk. *CORALLO sunk R.A. 14/12 p.458*
3. Force Q. from Bone carried out sweep through Bizerta
Marittimo channel night 13th/14th. ARGONAUT torpedoed *by Mole E/140* at 0600A/14
in position 050°. Cap De Garde 32 miles now proceeding to
Algiers. Ship was hit right forward and right aft, armament
undamaged. *See 10.496 & 497*
4. Bone. Air raid on harbour night 12th/13th no serious damage
or casualties. Night fighters shot down five.
5. Algiers. DEPTFORD refloated 14th December and will be
docked.
6. Oran. PORCUPINE to be docked today Monday.
(N.C.X.F. 2200A/14 to Admty).

M.W.15.
M.W.16.

Total unloaded to 1700/14th M.W.15, 9554 tons,
M.W.16, 608 tons plus 3149 tons furnace fuel.
(V.A.Malta, 2545A/14th to C. in C.Med).

War Diary.14.12.42.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- M.C.2 Request you will sail FROBISHER as ocean escort for convoy M.C.2.
(C. in C.EF. 0607Z/14 to N.O.I.C. Aden. (R) C. in C. S.A.S. FROBISHER, F.O.C. Red Sea Force, Admty.C.S.4)
- BELITA. ^{*not given as much in Navy List*} Tanker message. R.F.A. BELITA overdue from Dec.9th.
see 13/12. p.443 (S.O. (I) Kilindini 0621Z/14 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Basra, C.O.I.S. Eastern Fleet.)
- MARGUERITE. Colombo arrival 14th Dec. 1400Z MARGUERITE.
(S.O.(I) Colombo 1605Z/14 to Admty. S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I). Aden.)
- PETRONELLA. Your 1137/12. As PETRONELLA is urgently required Suez vide P.S.T.O. Egypt's 1208/11 we suggest she be despatched direct to Suez unless you are ordered to the contrary by P.S.T.O. Egypt.
(D. of S.T. 1608A/14. to P.S.T.O. India.)
- Cocos,
A/C. Cdre. Western Australia 0358/14 (?Following from) O.C. Troops Cocos, (begins) twin engine R/C machine over Cocos Is. for 25 minutes from 0235 hours G.M.T. today. Approximate height 12050. T. of O. 0500Z/14.
(Ends.)
(F.O. Ceylon 1805Z/14. to C. in C.E.F.)

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 shown as having been sent in 40 One Time Pad IN
 (Messages having been sent in 40 One Time Pad
 "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From: G.O.C. in C. East Africa Date: 15.12.42
 Rec'd 0500

CYPHER

Addressed: 12 Div. Repeated: The War Office, Ministry of
 State Cairo.

IMMEDIATE

088638. 70849 ciphor 14 December.

From Gen. Platt.

1. Have had further conversation and most co-operative agreement with Bayardelle this evening. Points as follows.

2. He agrees that although the administration of French Somaliland remains a French responsibility under the rights of French Sovereignty the Colony should strategically for the defeat of the Axis be incorporated as a part of the East Africa Command under me with the normal rights of a superior Commander for defence for the duration of the War.

3. He agrees to the principle that I should have the right for defence purposes to move troops in or out of the Colony according to military necessity for the common purpose of defeat of the Axis.

4. I have agreed with him that the Command of the forces in the colony shall be vested in a senior French officer whether such forces be French or British.

5. He agrees that French forces that may for military reasons be moved out of the colony for defence purposes for example to repel an attack against Berbera shall come under the British Commander for that purpose.

6. I have agreed that the working of the port of Jibouti shall remain under French control. To this he agrees that a British Naval Officer shall be appointed to Jibouti for British Naval and shipping interests. This agrees with view expressed to me by Commodore Aden.

7. He agrees that we shall have all facilities available and required for both military and civil aircraft use of installations meteorological services etc.

8. He considers that Naval and Air agreements should be on the same lines as for Madagascar of which I have not got the text but his views are as in the two preceding paragraphs.

- 2 -

9. He agrees that the Jibouti-Addis Ababa railway shall for the present be run by the French in the colony and by the British in Ethiopia the principles concerned arranging technical details for through running. The subsequent running of the railway shall be the subject of future arrangement. On this subject I shall require instructions from London as there are so many interests involved but on the above it will not become of immediate urgency.

10. He agrees that on the basis of paragraph 1 for the purposes of common defence and for the duration of military necessity there must necessarily be British personnel as well as French personnel employed in the colony for the purposes of security and censorship including postal censorship. In other words he accepts combined office for security and censorship. On this subject he stated that if I had not raised the problem he would have done so himself.

11. A separate discussion is to take place as to replenishment of provisions stores etc.

12. I was much impressed by his practical outlook determination and spirit of co-operation towards common object.

2200C/14

Rec'd in War Reg. at 1955/15
War Office Circulation.

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
2nd S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Contr.
4th S.L.
V.C.F.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (T)
C.N.A.S.
A.C.N.A.S.
Secretary
Nav. Sec.
N.A. 1st S.
P.A.S. (3)
P.A.S. (0)
D.R.I. (5)
D.C. (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
Hd. of M. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
L.T.D. (3)

S. of S., P.U.S., P.S. (F),
C.I.G.S., V.C.I.C.S., D.M.O.,
D.B.M.O. (0), M.O. 1, 5, 11., D.M.I.,
D.D.M.I. (1), M.I. 3, 17a, D.F. (a),
F.5, Foreign Secretary (2),
Foreign Office (Mr. Stirling) (2)
Admiralty (Head of War Registry)
A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry),
Brig. Jacob (Cabinet Offices),
Major Morton, 10 Downing St.,
20 M.M. (Lt. Col. Archdale)
C.O. (Lt. Col. Rolleston)

D.N.A.D.
D. of L.D.
D.A.C.D.
D.S.D.
D.P.S.
I.S. (5)
W.D.
Ad. Blake
N.A. 2nd S.L.

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

H.X.218, Destroyer engaged one U-boat convoy H.X.218, *see p.210*
U/B 54 ships, P.C. and S. 054° 37' 040° 45' 048°
see pp.4839 9 knots. Message also repeated to A.C.I.C.
508 Weather report.
(HARVESTER, 0230Z/14 to A.I.G.301).

Derelict. Following received from Valencia Radio.
Intercept De WSL Amagansett Radio. From Leins
to all ships. At 2100/13 G.M.T. in 37.27 N.,
64.14 W. IRISH ELM passed what appears to be
derelict schooner with two masts, unable approach owing weather
wind west, current north east three miles, T.O.R. 0429 (ends).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0439/14 to Admty).
(Connav 1400/14 to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary.	Tanker Convoy)	10° N.	273°	9½
	MILFORD	44½° W.		
	<i>see p.475</i> NEWCASTLE	39½° N.	051°	18
		34° W.		
	A.T.31	43° N.	065°	26½
		48° W.		
	(D.O.D. (F) 1033Z/14 to Opanav (R) Comnavau).			

U/B D/F bearings on 5562 k/cs, new U-boat frequency
at 0901Z/ indicate U-boat within 120 miles of
54° N., 40° W.
(D.D.I.C., 1111A/14 to Escorts H.X.218,
Escorts S.C.112).

Movements Arrivals December 13th U.S.S. BRECKENRIDGE,
Trinidad. SURPRISE, P.C.565, P.C.573, P.C.609 escorting
G.A.T.27, U.S.S.*ASTERION, MEMPHIS.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1132Q/14 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
**not identified. ? 22 ASTORIA.*

BINTANG Following survivors landed her from Dutch ship
survivors. BINTANG torpedoed 21st Nov. All suffering from
exposure.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 1158/14 to Admty S.O.(I)
Kingston Jamaica).

SS. QUEEN 1245Z/14 at J. Am retaining original S. of A.
ELIZABETH. (A.T.31, 1246Z/14 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet
(C. and R) (R) C. in C. Atlantic. C. in C.
W.A., Admty etc).

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy Escorts. Your 1636/10 to Cominch. Whilst appreciating your difficulties shortage of escorts generally presents one of our most difficult problems.
2. Although the threat in Western Atlantic has temporarily diminished it may increase at any time

The N.G. - G.N. convoys provide a valuable link for tankers between the D.W.I. and New York, and in view of the shortage of tankers to meet the ever-growing demands for oil we consider it is most undesirable to withdraw the escorts for these convoys. (D.T.D., *1342A/14 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D.) *Approved A.C.N.S.(T)

S.C.113 Amend my 0330/13th sailing telegram part one S.C.113. Departed point Z seaward end of swept channel at approx. 1130Z Dec 13th. C.E.S.F. pass to C.O.A.C.
(Port Director New York, 1408Z/14 to Admty).

M.T.Bs. British ships M.T.B. 334, 336, 337, 342 departed Charleston S.C. at 0900Q for Norfolk via M.A.C.R.I. providing weather is favourable otherwise will stop Morehead City. Speed 20.
M.T.B. 337 is solitary and maintaining continuous radio guard 2716 k/cs on voice or M.C.W. Call sign for M.T.B. 337 is 3 Y G V Mersigs only code available. Request 8,000 gallons 100 octane aviation gasoline 2 drums S.A.E. 40 Lub. Oil 15 gallons distilled water at Norfolk.
(6th U.S. Nav. Dist. Charleston, 1423/14 to Com 5).

Tanker Convoy for U.K. Your 1917/13 (Proposal that HAVELOCK group should be sailed Trinidad to escort up to 10 tankers direct to U.K.) Cominch agrees and HAVELOCK Group are being sailed to Trinidad now.
2. If tankers are not ready by the time HAVELOCK arrives group can be most usefully employed in Trinidad area.
(B.A.D. 1425Z/14 to Admty).

Modify my 1617/10. Sail HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE when ready New York to Trinidad. Available as escort en route provided not depreciated unduly thereby. Ships will be used as escort for special tanker convoy Trinidad to U.K.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1625/14 to C.E.S.F.)

R.C.N. Frigates. Attention is called to the fact that R.C.N. twin screw corvettes are called Frigates. When referring to this type of ship no other term is to be used.
(C.N.S. Canada, 1501Z/14 to all R.C.N.)

*Admiralty prefer "Corvette" see 0237/10/1/1943.
Canadian seamen for "Frigate" see 1650/23/1/1943*

/U/B...

War Diary.

14.12.1942.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B S/M situation 14th Dec. and U.S. Submarine notice.
Positions. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1520/14, 1521/14, 1600/14, 1601/14, 1602/14).

U/B S.C.112 Inconclusive D/F on 11155 k/cs new U-boat frequency at 1347Z indicates U-boat in vicinity of convoy S.C.112. (D.D.I.C., 1546A/14 to Escorts of S.C.112).

H.X. 219 1. Western local escort, North Western local escort T.U. 24.18.6. ST. CLAIR (S.O.) BRANTFORD, EDMUNDSTON, DUNDAS, TRURO, LAVENDER, 2. ST. CLAIR, NIPIGON, escort H.H.X. 219, 10 ships sail 1900Z/15th arriving 000° 8 miles from H.O.M.P. at 1500Z/16th 3. When ST. CLAIR joins at H.O.M.P., Group becomes Western local escort Task Unit 24.18.6. and will continue to Westomp. 4. NIPIGON will provide Escort to Halifax from H.O.M.P. for ships for Canadian Port. (C.O.A.C., 1614Z/14).

U/B Submarine sighted 055° 28' N., 039° 12' W.
GEORGETOWN. (GEORGETOWN, 1635Z/14 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A. etc).
See p. 483 My 1635Z/14. Searched area thoroughly until dark without results. Now proceeding St. Johns N.F. with (?LINCOLN) in company owing to fuel situation. My P.C. and S. 55.26 39.18 226° 14, following 2 groups uncyphered weather report 6371 9416. (GEORGETOWN, 1901Z/14 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A. etc).

Dakar F.O.C.W.Af's 0931/13.
Mission. Glassfurd's Mission left 11th Dec. for Natal, Brazil to await clearance from Dakar but if they are held up for long they may proceed to Accra. Adm. Glassfurd has several times expressed his firm intention of getting in touch with F.O.C.W.Af. as soon as possible after his arrival at Dakar. (2) In the meantime I am confident he will look out for British interests equally with those of U.S.A. (3) I am sure he would be glad to receive a letter from R.A.W.Af. (B.A.D., 1659Z/14 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af).

* H.X. 218 D/F on 11,155 k/cs at 1544Z indicate U-boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.
U/B (D.D.I.C., 1731A/14 to Escorts of H.X. 218).
** See p. 483*
506

U.G.S. 3 My 2214/13, ^{M/V} NEW ORLEANS returned to new York 13th Dec. (N.S.H.Q., 1754Z/14 to Admty).
See p. 570

509

17.12.1942.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- U/Bs S/M sighted 55.28 N., 38.13 W., at 1407 G.C.T./14.
S/M sighted 55.16 N., 37.51 W., at 1300 G.C.T./14.
(Cominch, 1804/14 to Admty).
- O.N.S.150 Ref. 1400/14 from C.T.U.24.1.18 (N.T. in W.D.)
It is hoped southbound ships may be able to
disperse on or near 55° W. Admiralty will
recommend to Connav when executive appears
propitious.
2. Propose for your concurrence Admiralty pass first
dispersal position direct to Commodore as formerly and full
routes to you en dispersal.
3. Further recommendations will be made regarding ships with
doubtful bunkers.
(D.T.D., 1831Z/14 to Connav) Concur. (Connav 2103/15).
- BLACK/BEAR Sail BLACK/BEAR to Trinidad via (A) 018° 35' 063°
37'. (B) 011° 50' 062° 15'. Advise sailing
time and S. of A.
(Connav, 1916/14 to N.O.B. Bermuda (R)
Cinclant, C.C.S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q. N.O.B. Trinidad)
- Oilers Your 0055/11. All oilers intimated as
available for oiling escorts will have buoyant
hose unless otherwise stated.
(Director of Stores 1945A/14 to B.A.D.)
- Release of Canadian Corvettes. Personal for 1st S.L.
Ref. B.A.D.'s 2147Z/11. It is considered that
signals of this kind should be repeated to
U.S.N. and R.C.N. Authorities concerned so that
all such authorities are completely in the
picture when such decisions are being made.
2. Request if you agree that you will instruct B.A.D.
accordingly.
(C.N.S. Canada, 2028Z/14 to Admty).
- Trooping Programme. Can it be assumed that ships listed in D. of S.T.
0025/10 are those referred to in my 2050/27 Nov.
Movement control report BANFORA and ATLANTIS
not in programme received from British Army Staff,
Washington, and request early confirmation
that accommodation in these vessels will be available for
Canadian Service Personnel vide your 1929/12 Nov.
(2) Request that para. 2 of my 1540/5 be complied with as
present system of arranging programmes for troopships other
than "Queens" which will carry Canadian Personnel is not
proving satisfactory to N.S.H.Q. or Canadian Army Authorities.
(N.S.H.Q., 2041Z/14 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T., C.O.A.C., B.A.D.)
- U/B Submarine sighted 55.28 N., 39.12 W. at 1630
G.C.T./14.
(Cominch, 2042/14 to Admty).

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U.G.S.3 Sailing telegram.
see p.508 (Port Director, New York 2056/14th to Connav (R)
Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet etc).

COAMO Request any information of COAMO, overdue New
York.
(Connav, 2057/14 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q. Com. E.S.F)

Shipping Connav serial 13 and 14.
Casualties. BESHIMT (?) reported sunk 2nd Dec. 600 miles off
South America en route Lobito to Trinidad.
No further information. ALASKAN overdue
Paramaribo since 7th Dec. from Capetown.
(Connav, 2104/14 to Connaveu (R) N.S.H.Q.,
etc).

Tanker Your 1953/13th.
Convoy for 1. Fast Tankers can be made available.
"Torch" 2. Cinclant is being asked if he can arrange
area. their return passage to U.S. after discharge in
"Torch" area.
(B.A.D., 2109Z/14 to Admty).

Floating Cancel my 2235/9. Navy Department now revert to
Dock. dates shown in my 1805/24.
(B.A.D., 2111Z/14 to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. (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.G.F.3 Sailing telegram.
(Port Director New York, 2150/14 to Connav,
Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, etc).

S/M Attack a. HARVESTER attacks sub 54.37 N., 40.45 W.
and sighting approx. 0200Z/14. *see pp 463, 506, 7508*
Summary. b. Sub sighted submerging 55.28 N., 38.13 W.
approx. 1407Z/14. Sub. sighted submerging 55.16
N., 37.51 W., approximately 1200Z/14. V.P.83
plane attacks sub. 02.36 S., 32.12 W. 1910Z/13.

D. C.G.R. 1004 sights Sub. 42.44 N., 70.24 W. 0925Z/14. P.B.M.
sights two Subs. course 030 submerging 17.30 N., 77.15 W. 1939Z/
13.
(Cominch, 2150/14 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/SS. MEXICO, ...

511

War Diary.14.12.1942.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.SS. MEXICO,
TARBELL.

SS. MEXICO speed 18 carrying about 1200 Army personnel expected ready to sail Charleston Dec. 20 for Trinidad.

C.C.S.F. make U.S. Destroyer TARBELL available C.E.S.F. as escort for this vessel to Guantanamo for onward routing by C.C.S.F. to Trinidad. When ready for sea sailing of U.S. Destroyer TARBELL is not to be delayed for purposes of escorting MEXICO. After arrival Trinidad MEXICO carrying 260 troops sails unescorted with all practicable air coverage for Ascension Island and Takoradi. B.A.D. informed. (Cominch, 2151/14 to C.E.S.F. C.C.S.F., (R) Cinclant, Admty. N.O.B. Trinidad etc).

Salvage
Vessels.

Lorsa 6266. Your 2059/11, last para. replying to Lorsa 6163 not understood. What are wanted are the latest forecast dates of completions of Salvage Vessels building in U.K. Would you please signal as soon as possible. (B.A.D., 2229Z/14 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand..

SOLACE

Arrival Auckland U.S. ^(Hops: 1) Ship SOLACE.
(S.O.(I) Wellington 0105Z/14 to Admty).

Cocos Island,
A/C.

Following from manager - James, (begins):
Please code following for Navcharge Colombo.
9 twin engined enemy planes passed over at 0220Z.
1 detached and remained overhead 50 minutes.
Approached from S.E. direction flying at about
3,000 feet. T.O.R. 0355Z/14th (ends).
(Cdre. W. Australia 0358Z/14 to F.O. Ceylon,
(R) A.C.N.B., etc).

Movements

Arrival at Milne Bay 11th Dec. WARREGO, COLAC,
Port Moresby 12th, SWAN, Brisbane 12th, U.S.
Destroyer GRAYSON, HOPKINS. Departure Milne Bay
12th, WARREGO for Townsville, Port Moresby 13th, SWAN
for Milne Bay, Cairns 12th, U.S. Destroyer
SELFRIDGE on patrol.
(N.B. Melbourne, 0737Z/14 to A.I.G. 115).

/Situation...

14.12.1942.

Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Situation Digest Serial No. 326 Dec. 13.
Two light Cruisers, three Destroyers in two columns line astern formation sighted by Air R/C 3° 50' S., 145° 40' E., shortly after noon 13th. course 160° Force shadowed and attacked vicinity Vitiaz Straits by Fortresses afternoon and evening scoring 1 probable direct hit stern one destroyer, also one near bow. Interception by 8 Zeros, five of which armed with 2 bombs each unsuccessfully attempted same tactics my serial number 325 para. 4. R/C Liberator also unsuccessfully attacked by five Zeros, one medium bomber later shot down. At approx. 1700Z/13 53 vessels reported off mouth Mambare River where landing being effected from barges.

2. 2 runs made over Moresby area night 13/14 by probably one enemy bomber bombs dropped vicinity aerodromes without effect.

3. Now ascertained three Companies enemy Troops landed between Kumusi and Amboga River from four destroyers night Dec. 1/2 and now in position mouth Amboga (1) 101 casualties inflicted on this force by air attacks to Dec.11.

4. American Troops occupied Buna village morning 14th. Pressure continues enemy positions Buna - Endaiadere area with support motor and arillery fire.

5. Beaufighters attacked enemy barges Kumusi Delta area morning 13th while Bostons bombed and strafed Cape Killerton area. Strong forces airocobras patrolled Buna area during day.

6. 300 enemy Troops from Maobisse entered same (Timor) night 9/10 and Alasni Dec. 11th. Same enemy force reported attacking Fatucuac and Butano 12th. Large enemy motor convoy consisting 55 trucks with field gun and motor cycles reported passing Hera (7 miles) E.N.E. Dilli) to Eastward morning 12th. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0745Z/14 to Admty).

14.12.1942.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1300/14 estimates.
(D.D.I.C., 1505A/14, 1506A/14).

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 1059/22nd July.

Convoy H.X.217 fought its way through large U-boat concentration without loss save for two ships. On Dec. 7th a Liberator flew 800 miles to convoy and was in company for 6 hours. That night one ship was sunk. Losses would probably have been much heavier if aircraft had not kept U-boats down. Next day another Liberator reached the convoy at 1030Z and remained for about 8 hours carrying out 7 attacks, 2 with depth charges, 5 with cannon. After first of these attacks aircraft reported that a corvette had found human remains. Two more Liberators carried out offensive sweeps in front of convoy and were in company for 2 hours. Early on the 9th one ship was torpedoed. There was no air escort that day. During the night of 9/10 surface escorts beat off about 14 unsuccessful attacks by U-boats and made several promising counter attacks. At 1403Z/10 American P.B.Y. aircraft from Iceland 350' S. of Reykjanes attacked a U-boat with 1 650 lb. U.S.N. depth bomb. Much oil and debris and one dead man seen. Later 2 more corpses, wearing escape apparatus, came to surface. Convoy arrived without further loss.

2. On Dec. 4th CADMUS, 150' East of Algiers attacked a U-boat. She overrode the hull and dropped a shallow pattern. U-boat surfaced and was again attacked with shallow pattern on re-submerging. Considered very promising.
(D.A./S.W., Approved A.C.N.S. (T) 1705Z/14 to Cominch etc).

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The German tanker GERMANIA was intercepted this afternoon in 45° 2' N., 15° 28' W. (300 miles west of Finisterre) by the escorts of Convoy M.K.F.4~~3~~ and scuttled herself. She was torpedoed and shelled but was last seen afloat and on fire.

Convoy J.W.51 A (16 ships) sailed from Loch Ewe at 1545 today for North Russia. (For escort arrangements see 11 Dec).

Liberators from Iceland attacked 2 U-boats today whilst escorting Convoy H.X.218, in one attack at 1731A in 55° 27' N., 34° 50' W. several black objects were thrown into the air by the explosion.

Force X.

On the arrival in Mediterranean of Capt. D.19 in LAFOREY and LIGHTNING, Capt. D.3 in MILNE and METEOR is to rejoin Home Fleet. LOYAL is expected to join Force X leaving U.K. with K.M.F.6 and will relieve MARNE, which will sail for U.K. as soon as repairs are completed.

South Atlantic.

SS. EMPIRE MARIOTT, Bombay and Karachi to Trinidad, New York and Philadelphia made a S/M distress report about 1425 G.M.T. in 04.47 S. 35.20 W.

SS. ALCOA RAMBLER is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0100Z today in 3° 51' S. 33° 8' W.

/SS. BENLOMOND...

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SS. BENLOMOND is presumed to have been torpedoed and sunk on 24th Nov. in 0° 30' N., 38° 45' W. and CITY OF BOMBAY on 13 Dec. in the area 3° S., 30° W.

Mediterranean.

La Calle

N.O.I.C. La Calle was installed today.

U/B
UARSCIEK
Sunk.

PETARD and QUEEN OLGA (on passage from Benghazi to Malta) Captured the Italian S/M UARSCIEK shortly after 0400A today in 35° 0' N. 14° 45' E., and endeavoured to bring her to Malta but without success, the U/B sinking about noon in 35° 18' N., 14° 25' E. PETARD's bow was set back 4 ft. by collision with the U-boat after the latter was abandoned. PALADIN and KELVIN were sent to assist her. PETARD and QUEEN OLGA arrived Malta at 1517A with 32 prisoners and UARSCIEK's confidential books.

Balloons.

Admty. propose to operate a balloon shuttle service with 4 shore servicing stations to provide balloon cover for H.M. and merchant vessels along North African Coast. No. 985 Balloon Sqdn. of 45 I.E. Mark VI balloons, including 3 silicol plants, is being sent to Algiers and Bone in K.M.6.

M.T.Bs.

N.C.X.F. states that Bone is excellently situated for M.T.B. operations and has adequate slips and berthing facilities to form a coastal forces unit. C. in C. Med. is asked if he can send personnel and equipment there in WELSHMAN, to be followed by remainder of 10th Flotilla. N.C.X.F. realises that this will temporarily denude Eastern Mediterranean of effective M.T.Bs. but says that the need for them off Tunisia is urgent.

Six Liberators bombed harbour installations at Naples last night, Malta Wellingtons dropped 49 tons of bombs on La Goulette and Tunis docks last night and obtained a number of hits on 3 ships. Naval Albacores obtained a torpedo hit on a 2,000 ton merchant vessel beached 1½ miles north of Sousse, 1 mile from shore.

/Ten...

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Ten aircraft attacked Benghazi last night SS.
HANNAH MOLLER was hit by a bomb and sunk; salvage
will be a lengthy process.

East Indies.

There were two more air attacks on Chittagong
today, the target being the aerodrome. Damage
caused was negligible.

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.GLASGOW,
Visit to
Clyde.

Your 1515A/6 and my 2255A/11. No objection is seen to attendance of local Press representatives provided that all photographs and stories are submitted to Admty where they will be censored and held until security permits release.
(D.P.D., 1518A/15 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

15th M/S
Flotilla.

It is hoped that the fifteenth M.S.F. will remain under the operational control of C. in C. H.F. Under these circumstances it appears advantageous that they should no longer be administered by C. in C. Rosyth. Request your remarks.
(D.M.S., 1738A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

Target
Vessel for
7th S/M
Flotilla.

Detail one trawler to act as target vessel for 7th submarine flotilla from December 28th to January 15th.
(C. in C. W.A., 2343A/15 to Capt. D. Greenock).

Movements.

P.615

My 1009/12th Dec. sailing is delayed. Further signal will be made.
(F.O.S., 0136A/15 to V.A. Gib).

INGLEFIELD,
FURY,
ECLIPSE.

Sailed INGLEFIELD, FURY, ECLIPSE for Seidisfjord E.T.A. 1200A/16.
(R.A.D. H.F., 0407A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

Rosyth
Command.

Principal ships present at 0900/15.
Details.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0901A/15).

*P.221,
THRASHER.

*See p.518A

Your 2301/14. Trawler UNST will meet you at R/V. (Capt. S.5., 0920A/15 to P.221).

(1) Intend sailing UNST to R/V P.221 in 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 0830/16, thence D one buoy to R/V THRASHER.

(2) THRASHER escorted by CONWAY CASTLE and FLUSH will sail from Falmouth to R/V as in para.1.

(3) After R/V at D (one), UNST with P.221 THRASHER in company proceed as in Capt. (S) 5th S.F.1746/9. *N.T.W.D.*
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1200A/15).

H.32

See p.518A

Scapa departure H.32, SCALBY WYKE.
(A.C.O.S., 1102A/15)

518

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

PORPOISE *2- p. 528A* 1. From position M 043° 01', 012° 26' W. proceeding diving by day through
L. 044° 02' 013° 22' W. 049° 10' 013° 22'
I. 049° 50' 012° 34' H. 049° 50' 009° 00'.
B. 180° Bishops Rock 10 miles to R/V in 180°
Lizard Head 12 miles a.m. on 22nd December for onward passage to Portsmouth as ordered by Capt. (S) 5.
2. Proceed on the surface when within 40 miles of Lizard Head.
3. Estimate your advance 150 miles per 24 hours.
(F.O.S., 1138A/15 to S.O. S/M Malta, PORPOISE).

NEWARK *H.T.N.D. H.T.N.D.* My 1310/12 and 1800A/14. Sailed S.O.A. now 17 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1140/15).

LEAMINGTON Intend sailing LEAMINGTON from Lough Foyle at 1900Z/16 speed 20 knots, arriving Hvalfiord 1100 Z/18 for fuel. Request she may be sailed at best speed to join Western Local force, fuelling at St. Johns N.F.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1154Z/15 to A.C.I.C.)

MALAYA. Scapa arrivals MALAYA with ONSLOW, GOATLAND, WENSLEYDALE.
(A.C.O.S., 1444/15).

ADVENTURE My 1727/12 and 1201/13. Sailed ADVENTURE routed only as far as position.
(H) 042° 58' N., 014° 30' W.
(2) E.T.A. Gibraltar 1700A/19. S.O.A. 16 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1529A/15).

JAMAICA, SHEFFIELD. JAMAICA take OPPORTUNE and MATCHLESS under her orders and proceed passing Hoxa boom at 1230A/16 to R/V with R.A.(D) H.F. in SHEFFIELD in 310° Cape Wrath 12 miles at 1700A/16.
(C. in C. H.F., 1601A/15 to JAMAICA).

S/M Positions. At 0800/16. Details.
(F.O.S., 1652A/15) See Lion Copy.

FIDELITY Admty. 2000A/29 October. Subject to satisfactory trials, intend to sail FIDELITY in O.N.S.154 for Freetown for onward passage to the Cape and Eastern Fleet in accordance with above message.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1718A/15).

/MACKAY...

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.

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

IN

MOST SECRET

1652A/15th December

From F.O.S.

Date 15/12/42
Recd. 1711

P/L by T/P (Secret)

Addressed Admiralty.

318.

Positions of submarines at 0800/16th December and movements for following 24 hours.

- leaves Lerwick about 1100 - see next page.*
- (a) SOKOL, ~~61~~ degs. 05' North 00 degs. 30' West probably on surface through 69 degs. North 10 degs. 00' 10' East. *Transit through 69°N 10°E. See next page - p. 519*
- (b) P.223, 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles probably on surface through 62 degs. 00' North 00 degs. 38' West and 69 degs. 00' North 08 degs. 52' East.
- about 1100*
- (c) P.339 leaves Lerwick ~~0800~~/16th probably on surface through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles 62 degs. 01' North 01 degs. 27' West and 69 degs. 02' North 07 degs. 48' East. *See p. 519 ✓*
- (d) TORBAY leaves Lerwick 1900/16th probably on surface through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles 62 degs. 01' North 01 degs. 00' East and 69 degs. 02' North 11 degs. 00' East.
- (e) H.32 escorted by SCALBY WYKE vicinity Little Minch due Rothesay 0830/17th. *See p. 519*
- (f) P.52 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE due Clyde 0900/16th from Barrow. *See p. 519*
- (g) P.221 arriving R/V in 180 degs. Lizard Head 12 ⁰⁸³⁰ miles for escort to Falmouth, *unreported on surface. See p. 519*
- (h) U.S.S. GURNARD in Zone K.505.
- (j) U.S.S. BARB and U.S.S. HERRING escorted by SARDONYX leave Clyde 1200/16th due 250 degs. Trevose Head 10 miles at 1200/17th speed 15 knots.

/(k)

- 2 -

~~(k) UREDD escorted by M.L. 454 from Dundee exercising
vicinity 244 buoy from 1500 - 1500/16th.~~

My 1723/14th paragraph (d) amend estimated time
of arrival at Lorwick to read 0001/16th and time of
SOKOL's departure to read 0300/16th.

1.652A/15, 1934A/15. 0552A
0242A

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

A.C.N.S. (H)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Captain Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.D.O.B. (M)
Duty Captain (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D.A./S.W.
D.T.D. (M)
Head of M.
W.D.
I.P. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
U.S.N. (3)

GMM

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

MACKAY,
MONTROSE,
WORCESTER,
WINDSOR,
VIVACIOUS.

A.M. 1350/11. ^{p. 365} Intend to sail MACKAY (Capt. (D) 16) MONTROSE, WORCESTER, and WALPOLE for Scapa on 21st December. MACKAY to be relieved by WINDSOR about 25th December and MONTROSE to be relieved by VIVACIOUS when latter completes working up about end December.
(C. in C. Nore, 1726A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

PETERHEAD.

PETERHEAD is to rejoin 15th M.S.F. now operating in Iceland when ready. Request you will sail her accordingly.
(D.M.S. 1740A/15 to C. in C. Nore).

P.52.
LA CAPRIEUSE.

My 1310/13. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1741A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

CANTON

A.M. 1554A/12th November and my 0034A/12th. Intend to sail CANTON escorted by SLAZAK and TYNEDALE from Needles 0900/17 for Clyde. Route E.T.A. Greenock, 0900/19th.
(2) TYNEDALE will part company after dark on 17th and proceed Plymouth. SLAZAK will part company to enter Milford Haven, E.T.A. 0500/18th.
(3) Air escort has been arranged for daylight hours on 17th.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1858A/15).

BERWICK

Scapa departure BERWICK.
(A.C.O.S., 1929/15).

W.A. Command

Situation at 1957A/15. Details.
(C. in C. W.A., 1355A/15) See Lion Copy.

BARWIND

My 2054/2. Request BARWIND be sailed for Freetown as convenient on completion of working up.
(D.B.D., 2124A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

LONDON.

Scapa departure LONDON.
(A.C.O.S., 2242A/15 to N.O.I.C. Newcastle).

SOKOL
P.339.

S.3's 1643/11 and 1047/13. Arrived.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 2256A/15).

See pp 578 & 578^A

MOST SECRET

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

Situation at 1957A/15th December, 1942.

From C. in C. Western Approaches. 15/12/42.
Section N.E.

H.32	SCALBY WYKE	58 48 05 13	To Rothesay	8
S.C.U.111	U.S.S. BADGER TRILLIUM	56 32 08 01	To Loch Ewe	6
J.W.51A	BLANKNEY 3 Destroyers 2 Corvettes 2 Trawlers	58 30 05 42	to 59 01 05 20 thence 61 02 04 40	8
LOYAL		58 47 05 09	To Greenock	15
<u>Section S.E.</u>				
CHARYBDIS			Off Chickens To Barrow	20
KENOGAMI SHEDIAC		53 59 04 55	To Lough Foyle	11
P.52	LA CAPRICIEUSE	54 20 03 51	To Clyde	9½
H.M.82	LEEDS UNITED	53 01 05 03	Southbound	8
STEWART	SOUTHERN SPRAY	52 47 04 55	Northbound	8
1 M/V	Unescorted		Sails Belfast To Liverpool 0130/16th	16
S.C.111 F	DIANTHUS	54 05 05 10	To Liverpool	7
S.C.111 C.T.U. 24.1.3.	U.S.S. SPENCER	56 14 08 05	North Channel & Irish Sea	5
B.B.44	AQUAMARINE	53 35 05 01	To Bristol Channel	8
<u>Section N.W.</u>				
FLEET UNIT	ORWELL RAIDER QUADRANT	62 17 17 49	to 180 degs Reykjavik 10'	18
BEAGLE BOADICEA		62 57 12 55	To Seidisfiord	12
NORTHERN SUN CAPE PORTLAND VASCAR		57 23 30 52	To Westward to rendezvous H.X.218	7
H.X.218 C.T.U. 24.1.17	HARVESTER GARLAND ORCHIS NARCISSUS LOBELIA ACONIT ROSELYS	56 23 33 45	Steering 055 degs	6

/Section S.W.

MOST SECRET

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

2.

Section S.W.

DAUPHIN ROSTHERN		Searching vicinity 55 36 10 49	
FISHGUARD		Moved to in position 50 44 13 04 Proceeding to rendezvous M.K.F.4 when weather moderates	
TEST		49 13 13 24 To rendezvous M.K.F.4	4
NEWCASTLE		44 13 26 27 To 51 10 23 00 thence 51 10 17 05	18
WALKER		54 02 27 47 To Londonderry	14
O.N.S.152 C.T.U. 24.1.13	BURNHAM SKEENA GALT AGASSIZ SACKVILLE WETASKIWIN	55 25 28 30 to 54 01 32 59	7½
C.T.U. 24.6.4.	{ U.S.S. INGHAM U.S.S. LEARY U.S.S. BABBITT		
O.N.153 C.T.U. 24.1.5.	FIREDRAKE CHESTERFIELD SUNFLOWER ALISM. PINK SNOWFLAKE	52 56 23 39 to 50 30 25 01	9
H.X.218 C.T.U. 24.1.17	HARVESTER GARLAND ORCHIS NARCISSUS LOBELIA ACONIT ROSELYS	56 23 33 45 Steering 055 degs	6
A.T.31	Unescorted	49 38 35 16 to 51 59 31 50	26.2
K.M.S.5	LONDONDERRY 5 Sloops 6 Corvettes BALUCHISTAN	Moved to in position 53 38 12 35 at 2135/14	
K.M.F.5	FLEET UNIT LAFREY LIGHTNING 3 Sloops 1 Cutter 1 Corvette	47 34,17 58 to 39 20 17 40	8½

MOST SECRET

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3.

Section S.W. Contd.

M.K.S. 5 X	TAX	51 03 13 16 to 55 00 10 00	7
	2 Corvettes		
	4 Minesweepers		
M.K.S. 3 Y	KRAKOWIAK	40 40 15 07 to 42 20 14 35	7½
	PRIMARIS		
	3 Destroyers		
	2 Corvettes		
M.K.F. 4	EGRETT	46 16 15 48 to 54 05 13 37	11
	2 Sloops		
	1 Destroyer		
	2 Cutters		
	TANATSIDE		
1 M/V	WEAR	Have to in position	
		47 08 14 00 at 2100A/14	

1355A/15

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

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

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols. Chasseurs 11 (S.O.) and 13 patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1216A/15 to D.1)
My 1216/15.

ALBRIGHTON is to anchor at St. Helens before dark? at immediate notice, returning to harbour after daylight 16th.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1610A/15 to Capt. D.1)

Attack on Enemy Convoy on night 11th/12th. Enemy survivors. Following the rescue at 1700 yesterday by a Walrus A/C of three German seamen out of party of six found on a raft in Mid Chamel, another three were detected at 0445 today in the Western entrance Dover and were rescued from the wire defences to which they were clinging. Shortly afterwards a third party of two were located in metal float near the Eastern entrance and were brought ashore, one of them being dead. Yet another dinghy containing one dead German was washed ashore to the West of Dover at 0915 and two more were rescued alive by HSLs 127 and 149 about two miles off the North Foreland at 0945. An empty German rubber dinghy was also found in the Downs this forenoon and brought ashore by local fishermen. All these men are believed to be survivors from the attack on enemy convoy off Dieppe by destroyers on the night of 11/12 December.
(V.A. Dover, 1311A/15 to Admty).

?GERMANIA

See p. 514

EGRET's 1302 (^{/next page} [redacted]) ship has scuttled.
(TANATSIDE, 1358A/15 to Admty. (R) EGRET)

Search operation.

*See S.L. III. Sec
p. 524.*

Return to base at darkness/15th unless anything has been sighted.
(C. in C. W.A., 1556Z/15 to DAUPHIN, ROSETHERN).

Operation J.H.A.

My 2122/15. Conditions permitting request operation JHA be carried out by M.G.B. 317 and 312 on 17th /18th December craft returning to Portsmouth instead of Dartmouth routed from Casquets to 180° Portland Bill 3 miles, thence by searched channels, craft refuelling at Portland if necessary.
2. If operation JHA is not carried out request M.G.B. 317 and 312 be sailed for Portsmouth 18th.
(S.O. Force J 2127A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth)

521

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Air Patrols. C. in C. H.F.1256/14. "Polar" is not very effective owing to lack of daylight in that latitude and can only be carried out by Catalina aircraft which are urgently needed for convoy protection.

Intend to maintain either "Fox" or "Bear" with Hudsons during daylight according to availability of aircraft, observing that "Bear" is the more economical in aircraft.
(A.C.I.C. 1232A/15 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2 NORFOLK, H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. One A/C plotted by R.D.F. at 1120 37 miles, and at 1140 90 miles, East of Vattarnes 064° 56' N. 013° 14' W.
(A.C.I.C., 1235A/15 to Admty).

Mining.

Sweep by 4th M/S Flotilla. My 1059/13 and my 1459/14. Postponed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1305A/15).

Tyne re-opened. Cancel my 2125/14.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2245/15).

Enemy Intelligence.

GRAF ZEPPELIN. My 2200/12. Report graded B.2 states GRAF ZEPPELIN seen at anchor off Friedrichsort, Kiel, December 3rd.
(D.D.I.C., 0024A/15).

Lighted Ship. Following from THOMAS STONE. Observed fully lighted ship 50° 30' N., 14° 30' W. at 0745, steering East, challenged by S/M.
(Lands End Radio, 1200Z/15 to Admiral, Plymouth).

Tanker. *See previous page* One unidentified tanker bearing ^{GERMANIA} 345° distance 7 miles, approx. course 345° sighted on course 180°. TANATSIDE investigating. My position 45° 02' N., 15° 28' W.
(EGRET, 1302A/15 to Admty).

Enemy M/V Position of one M/V, 4 unknown, 47° 16' N., 05' 19' W.
(A/C 2314/15 to 19 Group).

522

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

U-boats reported. Inconclusive D/F bearings at 0030Z suggest U-boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C., 0410A/15 to Escorts O.N.153).
A.M.0410A/15. Additional bearings indicate U-boat considerably further west than estimated.
(D.D.I.C., 0910A/15 to Escorts O.N.153).
Am investigating possible conning tower in 49° 00' N., 06° 25' W., at 1026.
(A/C 1105/15 to 19 Group).
D/F bearings indicate U/B within 60 miles of convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 1155A/15 to K.M.F.5)
Am over enemy S/M in 56° 46' N., 33° 38' W.
(A/C 1244/15 to 15 Group).
This is a repetition of my 1543/15 to QUEEN ELIZABETH for information from Connav begins: U-boat position by D/F at 1336Z/15 within 100 miles 050° 30' N., 039° W. Ends.
(Cominch, 1550/15 to B.A.M.S. Area 1A).
D/F bearings at 1410Z/15 indicate U-boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 1602A/15 to O.N.153).
My 1812A/15. Additional bearings at 1810Z/15 indicate U-boat is shadowing you.
(D.D.I.C., 2004A/15 to Escorts H.X.218).

U-boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 55° 28' N., 34° 50' W.
(A/C N1U Duty B 1532/15 to 15 Group).
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges.
(A/C N1U Duty B 1632/15).

Navigational.

Wick Port closed owing to weather.
(R.N.O. Wick 1140A/15).

Casualties & Defects.

DANUBE V My 1513A/11. DANUBE V delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0927A/15).

VALESCA My 1220. ^{HTM 113} Returned with defective dome.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1402A/15).

DISCOVERY II. Cancel my 1010/15. ^{HTM 113} Vessel delayed by defects.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 1615A/15).

EMPIRE BUCKLER My 1649/15. As soon as weather permits RESOLVE escorted by WHALSAY is to be sailed to assist EMPIRE BUCKLER broken down in 047° 08' N., 014° 00' W. at 2000/14.
See next page

2. EMPIRE BUCKLER escorted by WEAR may be able to proceed three knots when weather moderates and is routed to Cardiff passing through positions (B) 050° 30' N., 012° 01' W. (C) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles, thence by Q.Z.L.18.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1827A/15 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth).

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- K.M.S.5 Your 1640/14. CARNATIC is returning to harbour. (C. in C. W.A., 0110A/15 to LONDONDERRY). Parted Company K.M.S.5 at 2230/14. Returning for new dome and oscillator. E.T.A. Londonderry 1600/15. Following Convoy Route. (REGINA, 0205Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
K.M.S.5. R/V 1600/15, 052° 18' N., 014° 20' W. R/V 1200/16, 050° 22' N., 015° 32' W. Request broadcast. My P.C.S. are 052° 49' N., 013° 52' W., 203° 6. (LONDONDERRY, 1030A/15 to C. in C. W.A.)
K.M.S.5. Your 1030/15. Following R/V have been broadcast. 1600A/15th, 052° 18' N., 014° 20' W. 1200A/16, 050° 22' N., 015° 32' W.
Following ships are returning to U.K. CLAN MCBEAN, RALLUS, EXILONA, SALTWICK, EMPIRE SUNBEAM. (C. in C. W.A., 1604A/15 to LONDONDERRY).
- K.M.F.5 Sailed from U.K. 11th December. Ships and destinations. (D.S.T. 0425A/15) See Lion Copy.
- S.D.35 Cancel my 1136/14. S.D.35 route (C) 63.11 N., 21.58 W. (D) 62.02 N., 12.00 W. thence Faeroes in accordance with A.M.1325/22nd November para. 4. C. in C. H.F. is requested to signal onward route from position (D). (C. in C. W.A., 0432A/15 to A.C.I.C.)
C. in C. Western Approaches 0432/15th. Onward route from position (D) direct to Faeroes. From Faeroes through (E) to 59° N., 05° 11' W., (F) 59° 01', 05° 20'. Thence via Minches to Clyde. (C. in C. H.F., 0801A/15 to A.C.I.C.)
- S.C.B.111 Request BODO be sailed to 000° Altacarry 3 miles to meet S.C.B.111. E.T.A. position A 2000Z/15. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0930Z/15 to Cdre. Londonderry) Cancel my 0930Z/15. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1451/15).
- M.K.S.3 X. *not a transport.*
Following from THOMAS STONE. We separated from convoy M.K.S.3 X through damaged steering gear and weather. P.C.S. 51° 15', 14° 13' 037° 12. (Lands End Radio, 1200Z/15).
Destination EMPIRE BUCKLER has been altered to Cardiff.
(2) Provide escort through (b) 050° 30' N., 012° 01' W.
(c) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles, and thence by Q.Z.L.18.
(3) Tug is being sailed from Plymouth weather permitting.
(C. in C. W.A., 1234A/15 to WEAR). *See previous page*
- VETLUGA,
KUSBASS
OB. Sailed Archangel in accordance with my 1030/10th Russian merchant ship BETLOGA at 0100C/14 KUSBASS at 1200C/14 OB at 0001C/15. Speed all 8 knots. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1226A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

/Spanish...

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0425A/15th Dec. OUT

To: P.S.T.O. X.F. Date 15.12.42.

Repeated: D.S.T.O. Algiers.
D.S.T.O. Oran
D.S.T.O. Bone
S.T.O. Gibraltar.
F.C.C.N.A.
N.C.X.F.

Naval Cypher (A. Cy.O.)

From D of S.T.

Convoy K.M.F.5. sailed from United Kingdom 11.12.

Comprised following troopships.

Code No.	Ship.	No of Personnel on board.	Destination.
P.7.	CAMERONIA	3849	Bone
P.9	EMPRESS OF CANADA	3929	Oran
P.15	STRATHALLAN	4632	Algiers.
P.25	DUCHESS OF RICHMOND	4112	Oran
P.30	ARUNDEL CASTLE	2753	Algiers
P.31	CIRCASSIA	2434	Bone
P.32	DUNNOTTAR CASTLE	2703	Bone
P.42	DUCHESS OF YORK	4208	Oran
P.55	EMPIRE PRIDE	2155	Bone.

2. Following M.T. Ships also included.

Code No.	Ship	Contents.	Destination
H.87	MANCHESTER TRADER	M.T. Stores, ammunition, 1 launch	Algiers.
K 90	ZOELLA LYKES	M.T. Stores	Oran
K.96	EXIRIA	Coal, M.T. Stores.	Oran
K.97	IRENE DU PONT	Coal. M.T. Stores	Oran

3. Particulars of vessels proceeding to Algiers and Bone are as follows: -

Ship	Length Overall	Estimated Arrival Draught.
CAMERONIA	575'	26'6"
STRATHALLAN	665'	28'
ARUNDEL CASTLE	687'	29'
CIRCASSIA	510'	25'
DUNNOTTAR CASTLE	560'	25'6"
EMPIRE PRIDE	495'	25'
MANCHESTER TRADER	447'	22'

0425A/15.
D of S.T. Extn. 2187.

A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (S) (1)
N.A.D. 1st (S) (1)
D.O.D. (CH) (2)
D.O.D. (CH) (2)
D.T.D. (M) (1)
Hd of M (10)

D.D.I.C. (2)
D of P (2)
D of S.T. (2)
I.P. (2)

W.D.
Duty Capt (2)
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Ramsey (4)

C.C.O. (2)
D of L.D.
Mr. C. S. (M Books)
D of P (Q)

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- Spanish Vessel. P.C.S. of Spanish vessel 43° 50' N., 06° 20' W., 190° 6 knots. (A/C 1220/15 to 19 Group).
- M.K.S. 3 Y *See p. 528A* C. in C. W.A. 1138/14. If necessary on account of fuel, PALOMARES is to leave convoy, when Esses join, and proceed to Milford Haven, or as ordered by C. in C. W.A., escorted by Hunts. (D.O.D. (H.), 1247A/15 to Escorts M.K.S. 3 Y).
- R.U. 53 Sailed R.U. 53 GAVOTTE (S.O.) STAFNES, REIGHTON WYKE. 7½ knots. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 19th December. (N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1251A/15).
- TERICHO, P.C.S. of 2 merchant vessels 43° 25' N. (?longitude) 260° 4 knots. Ships are Spanish:-
ELSHTURINO. TERICHO and ELSHTURINO.
(A/C 1330/15 to 19 Group).
- S.C. 111 Your 1722Z/14. In company ROSTHERN and aircraft have searched area without success. Found only *CALLOGRY bound Clyde but not disabled. Instructions are requested. (DAUPHIN, 1350A/15 to C. in C. W.A.) *See p. 520*
**not identified*
- K.M.S. 6 Your 1050A/13. FORT MCLAUGHLIN arrived Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1508A/15 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff).
See next page
- SOTON. Position course and speed of Spanish vessel SOTON (1,500 tons) 43° 40' N., 08° 20' W., 090° 8 knots. (A/C 1515/15 to 19 Group)
- S.D. 35 Intend sailing LEINSTER escorted by LANCASTER and WELLS for Faeroes, thence Greenock, at 1055/16 routed as in C. in C. W.A's 0432/15 and C. in C. H.F.'s 0801. (A.C.I.C., 1620A/15).
- W.S. 25 Intend to sail ROCKWOOD escorting ESPERANCE BAY, ORION, RANGITIKI, CITY OF LINCOLN, TARIFA 1630Z/17 for R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles. In accordance with A.M. 1329A/5 and 1616A/8 and 2035A/10. E.T.A. R/V 0900Z/18. S.O.A. 12 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1642A/15).

/K.M.S. 6...

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

K.M.S.6 (1) STARWORT is to arrive Barry Roads before dark 17th to escort Bristol Channel portion of K.M.S.6 to Clyde a.m./18th. (C. in C. W.A., 1743A/15 to Cdre. Londonderry).
See previous page.

M.K.S.3 X. M.K.S. 3 X. 35 ships and all escorts now present. Admty. 1211A/13 passed to them. OCEAN COAST did not sail. DAHOMIAN 20 miles astern making 6½ knots. Wherabouts of *NORTH VON, ALRESFORD, MAPLEWOOD, THOMAS STONE and FRANCIS SCOTT/KEY not known. Reference signal communicating position of unknown Irish Ship sighted in 050° 47' N., 013° 07' W. at 1800. (Corrupt group) Request instruction. My P.C.S. 051° 07' N., 013° 02' W. 026° 7½ knots. Cdre. reports incorrect call sign was used in Broadcast message to Stragglers.

X (?POZARICA, 2002A/15 to C. in C. W.A.) *? NORTH DEVON OR NORTH HAVEN 2 1/2 knots.
X *SEN in N. Atlantic area.*

W.N.72. My 1445/15. Amend to read W.N.72 58° 07' N., 02° 15' W., at 2203. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2138A/15).

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.Capital
Ships,
RENOWN.

The future disposition of capital ships is under discussion. It is understood that defects in the boilers of RENOWN may necessitate her being taken in hand for refit at an early date. Request a report.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved V.C.N.S. 1332A/15 to F.O. Force H. N.C.X.F., (R) C. in C. H.F.)

U.S. Med
Amphibious
Force.

My 1930/30 (see page 1243 W.D.)
Personal to 1st S.L.
I understand that the Americans are now going ahead with this project. Request I may be informed whether this intention has been approved by Chiefs of Staff. It is to be noted that this force is to be placed under an American Flag Officer and appears to be under the orders of neither the Allied C. in C. nor N.C.X.F. (N.C.X.F. 1820A/15 to Admty).

Disposal of
Liberators.

Please see message number 58 Usfor to Allied Force H.Q. in which latter is asked if A/S Liberators can be used in Bay of Biscay rather than "Torch" area. General Eisenhower has consulted me and I have replied agreeing to proposal, but I have not sufficient information to weigh up the conflicting requirements. In particular I doubt statement in para. 3 of signal quoted that "Torch" convoys are at their most vulnerable in Bay of Biscay.
2. I think signals of this nature are for prior discussion with Admty. before being sent out here, suggest this point be emphasised to Usfor.
(N.C.X.F., 1900A/15 to Admty. D.N.C.X.F.)

Destroyers.

On arrival in Mediterranean of Capt. D.19 in LAFOREY and LIGHTNING request you will sail Capt. D.3. in MILNE and METEOR to rejoin Home Fleet. These ships may be used as convoy escorts during passage to U.K. provided no undue delay is entailed.
2. LOYAL is expected to join your Command leaving U.K. with K.M.F.6 and will relieve MARNE whom it is requested you will sail for U.K. as soon as repairs are completed, reporting anticipated date as soon as this is known.
(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 1945A/15 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., etc).

A.S.V.
Aircraft.

Ref. No. 2097 15th Dec. Re. your 558 dated 14th Dec. (re allocation of Liberators to outer reaches of Bay of Biscay) Concur in assigning all A.S.V. equipped B.24s to United Kingdom Bases. (Algiers, 2007Z/15 to Usfor, London).

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

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

From AGWAR Washington

Date 15.12.42.

Recd. 0715Z

INCOMING MESSAGE ETOUSA

Addressed Freedom Algiers.

No.178. 15th December 1942.

PRIORITYEDITED LITERAL TEXT

Interior Addresses: From Secretary Hull and General Marshall

Signed: Somervell

To:- Eisenhower and Murphy

References: Your radio 1558, Dec. 9 ✕
 " " 1643, Dec.10
 " " 1654, Dec.10 ✕

1. Reference the above radios on imports for civilian needs. Understanding here is that the total tonnage of equipment and supplies, both military and civilian, which can enter Northwest Africa is fixed by the capacity of the ports of that area. Further understood here that your maximum port capacity is now being used and is insufficient to handle the full organizational equipment of the troops now being moved into the theater. In view of the above, the size of present convoys and the acquisition of additional shipping can have no effect on the total tonnage which can be imported into Northwest Africa.

2. 3,000 tons of cargo were returned on partially unloaded ships of UGS-2 due apparently to lack of facilities to unload convoy in the time available. It appears here that the volume of goods imported for the civilian population must depend upon a command decision by Eisenhower as to the tonnage which he will divert from Military to civilian service. If this understanding is incorrect and additional ships can be accommodated in North African Ports, or when and if the maximum capacity of the ports is increased, provision of additional limited cargo shipping and escorts for same will be taken up for consideration. In this case,

/however

SECRET

-2-

however, a command decision will still be necessary to determine whether additional military equipment is to be shipped therein or whether and to what degree civilian needs are to be served thereby.

3. Your report on the present utilization of North African port capacity is requested. You may be sure that the vital importance of shipping civilian supplies to North Africa is fully understood here and that we are making every effort on this side to provide some solution.

4. The civilian supplies which have already been shipped and those which subject to your recommendation are believed here to be future requirements if shipping, convoys and port facilities are available are listed in an accompanying telegram.

No.T.O.O./15.

Recd. in W.R.1205/18 Dec.

Circulation.

Brigadier Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C.6 Tels. War Office.
A.M.C.S.(C).
C.C.O.
Lord. Strathallan.

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)

A.C.N.S.(W)

Sec.

Nav.Sec.

N.A.1st S.L.

P.A.S.(S)

P.A.S.(O)

IH D.of P.(Q)

Ad. Blake.(2).

Ad. Ramsey (4)

Hd. of M.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.N.I.(4)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D.S.D

D.of S.

I.P.(2).

W.D.

D.T.D.(3)

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C)

D.of S.T.

D.of L.D.(2).

D.E.W.D.(3)

D.A./S.W.

D.C.(2)

D.T.S.D.

D.of P.(2)

X 1832/9.

X 2016/10.

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.

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1831A/15 Dec. IN
Date - 1512.42
From - Naval Commander X.F. Recd. 2137
Naval Code (L.1) by W.T.

Addressed - S. & A. in Area G. Repeated H.Q. E.A.C.

IMPORTANT

My 1023 15th paragraph (2) amend position to read
036 degs. 38' North 001 degs. 35' East.

1831A/15

Advance copy Cps. O.D. Trade.

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.T.D (M)
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. of P (Q)
Ad. Ramsey (4)
D.E.W.D (3)

527

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

CEFALU
Distress. Following from CEFALU. Rudder stern post damaged beyond repair. Please arrange for assistance. 20 miles North Graciosa Island. Azores.
See next page
(Burnham Radio 0100 G.M.T./15 to C. in C.W.A.(R) Admty).

SOUTHERN
PRIDE. My 1530A/14 (?Add) para.(?7). SOUTHERN R(?RID) E sailed from Casablanca 2000A/14 coastwise to Gibraltar 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(V.A.Gibraltar 0102A/15 to S.and A. N.A.S.).

PRIAM
distress. Following received from PRIAM. Your 2216 14th December. Proceeding Ponta Delgada. Present (?sounding) 26 feet pumping average reducing 1 inch hourly choked bilge action believed responsible. Estimate 600 tons of oil fuel remaining (?much) lost from forward tank (?due to) water down air pipes.
(Burnham Radio 0145 G.M.T./15 to Admty).

Following from PRIAM.
Captain of Ports advises unsafe enter harbour without power to windless, refuse entry. I concur. Heavy sea outside. Have asked Consul to send tarpaulin and to hire pump. Awaiting results.

(Burnham Radio 1221 G.M.T./15 to C. in C.W.A.(R) Admty).

Following received from PRIAM. "Following compartments additional to No.2. hold filled with water through air pipe during gales, forepeak and tank, Nos.1 and 2 tanks. One side of No.5. These pumped out ship better trim. Estimated present trim forward 35 feet, aft 29. Hold sounding 19 feet 10 inches reduced 8" last 24 hours. When weather moderates will try to secure cargo. Expect pumps and tarpaulin A.M.16th December.
(Burnham Radio, 2340/15 to Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

EDENCRAE. My 2355A/14th. Survivor reports explosion not (torpedoed consistent with torpedo attack. Commodore suspects explosion was due to sabotage while 14th December). 15 survivors included engine-man and 3rd Engineer. No report whether contact obtained.
My P.C. and S. are 036.15 N. 000.04 E. 058. 7 knots, thence through D. and E.
(PENTSTEMON. 0900A/15 to F.O.C.Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.in C.Oran).

Local A/C search in vicinity of 035.49 N. 001.25 W. may reveal more survivors of EDENCRAE on rafts.
(PENTSTEMON 1000A/15 to F.O.I.C.Oran,V.A.Gibraltar).

Gibraltar
Air Report. Opsum for 24 hours ended midnight 14th December. U-Boats sightings and attacks. Wellington D/179 on A/S night patrol East at 0206/14 in 36.37 N. 00.59 W. picked up and illuminated fully surfaced U-Boat Co. 195°/2 knots, possible wake of which first sighted visuals Co. 240°/10 knots. U/Boat fired with heavy gun forward and light A/A C/T guns but ceased when Torpex DCS exploded and obscured U/Boat. 3 D/Cs fell on U/Bs starboard bow and 2 on port beam

/short....

528

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Gibraltar short of C/T. Rear gunner fired 2 short
Air bursts, no result seen, no damage to A/C.
Report. Hudson Y/233 on A/S morning sweep to East
Contd. at 1254/14 in XTCP 2540 attacked U/Boat on
surface Co.360/9 kts. no further details. A/C
landed Oran. No E/A sightings no casualties.
(A.H.R.A.F.Gib, 0900A/15).

* CEFALU Your 2134/14th. CEFALU reports rudder post
HORORATA. damaged beyond repair position 29 miles North
Graviosa Island Azores and asks for assistance
* *See previous page* 2. Your para. 2. Concur, provided Master HORORATA
agrees.
(F.O.I.C.Gib, 0940A/15 to Consul, Ponta Delgada,
(R) Admty).

N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada's 1501/14th (Assistance for SS.
HORORATA). Ministry of Marine will not now send Destroyer as
crew are safe.

(N.A.Lisbon 1012/15 to Admty etc).

My 0530/15, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada has arranged Portuguese
merchant ship CARVALHO ARAUJO or Portuguese destroyer to contact
and tow CEFALU to nearest convenient safe port.

(D.T.D. 1719Z/15 to Connav).

Your 2134/14. Agents of HORORATA request you will make
best arrangements possible for salvage in light of your
knowledge of situation and urgency of assistance required.
2. Vice-Consul Fayal's 1643/14 and N.A.Lisbon's 1710/14 indicate
assistance required more urgently by HORORATA than by CEFALU,
but whether (A) destroyer should be sent to CEFALU and ships
referred to in your 2134/14 to HORORATA or (B) vice versa is
left to your discretion. If you decide on (A) Salvage of
HORORATA should be under Lloyd's salvage agreement if possible
and Master is being advised accordingly by owners. CEFALU is
American owned, and Navy Department has been advised of position
(D.T.D. 1744A/15 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

Your 1742A/15th (1744 intended). Regret Ministry of
Marine Lisbon refuse Portuguese assistance for salvaging either
HORORATA or CEFALU. If you agree will despatch CLUNEPARK now
off Port to assist HORORATA, there being no other available
assistance here.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada. 2202C/15 to Admty (R) R.O.Fayal
etc).

My 1744/15 has been repeated to N.A. Lisbon and V.A.Gib.
(D.T.D. 2220A/15 to N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada).

M.F.Vs. My 1645/13th, sailed M.F.V. 2013 and 2017.
(V.A.Gib. 1002A/15 to N.C.X.F.(R) Admty, S.8.
Cdre.Algiers). *See p. 535A*

Movements. Arrival (?1800)A/14th, U.S. ship P.C. 482, French
Escort vessels, Fr. minesweeper, TAPAGEUSE, LA FORT
POLONAISE, French Ships NANCEEN, SHIAFFINO, DOU
DOU, DOUAUMONT.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1035A/15 to S.N.O. Casablanca, N.C.X.F.
(R) N.O.I.C.Oran, Admty).

/MIRROR.....

MOST SECRET

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1322A/15 Dec. IN

From - V.A. Gib.

Date - 15.12.42

Recd. 1912

Naval Cypher (S) by W.T.

Addressed -- N.A. Station.

IMPORTANT

Situation report area X.

(1) H.M.S. PORPOISE, 37 30 09 34 through 38 01 09 59
at 2359/15 thence 340 degs. dived by day $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots
surface by night $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots. *See p. 518*

(2) LOCH OSKALG, escorting MIRROR, sailed 17³²2A/15
277 degs. 8 knots. *See p. 529.*

(3) M K S 3 Y. KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, AZALEA,
PALOMARES, H.M.S. LAUDERDALE, 39 58 16 13 through 40
28 17 02 thence 350 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *See p. 524.*

Situation 2002A 15th.

(4) K X 6 A. NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN FOAM, 38 46 11 46
142 degs. 5.

(5) LADY DENISON PENDER, 1 minesweeper, 1 Submarine chaser,
34 57 06 35 coastwise to Gibraltar 9. *See p. 529*

(6) H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, 1 tug, 33 26 09 34
226 degs. 11. *See p. 529*

(7) COMMANDANT DETROYAT, 1 merchant ship, 1 tug, 25 27
17 16 052 degs. 9. *See next page.*
1322A/15.

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)

N.A. 1st S.L.

Captain Pim

D.O.L. (H) (2)

D.O.L. (F) (2)

D.T.D. (M)

Duty Capt. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A/S.W.

Head of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.D.O.D. (M)

D.N.I. (4)

F.O.S. by Courier

D.T.D.

D.M.S.

G.C.R.T.

DATE

529

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- MIRROR. Your 2350/14. Intend to sail MIRROR escorted by LOCH OSKAIG at 1730 today Tuesday. (V.A.Gib. 1111A/15 to Admty).
My 1111/15th. Sailed 1747 Trawler LOCH OSKAIG escorting Cable Ship MIRROR. (V.A.Gib. 1833A/15.) *See p. 528A*
- G.U.S.2. Request GUS 2 routeing. Scheduled departure 22nd December. (S.N.O. Casablanca 1135Z/15 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. V.A.Gibraltar)
- German Tanker Ferrol. Admiralty please pass to F.O.(S) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. My 1730/30th November. (Damaged German Tanker at Ferrol believed waiting dry dock at Port Taltal, docking Spanish Cruiser CANARIAS). Corunna reports Spanish Cruiser CANARIAS expects to leave dry dock 20th Dec. (N.A.Madrid, 1200/15 to Admty (R) Gibraltar), Passing action being taken by W.R.
- MASTERFUL ERNE. *See p. 528A* At 0900/15 MASTERFUL's Port engine broke down. He now informs me that it is impossible to repair seating of shaft and flexible connection. Maximum speed 5 knots my position 1800A was 034.30 N. 008.49 W. Request instruction. Weather report. (ERNE 1840A/15, to V.A.Gib.)
- Minol in D/Cs. My 1946/17 Nov. (limited number of MK.VII depth charges filled Minol available shortly. In pending sea trials existing types to be used) Cancel para.2. The normal restrictions laid down in O.U. 5485 chap.1. para.13 should be observed. (D.A./S.W. 1924A/15 to V.A.Gib. etc).
- TEGELBERG M.K.F.4(Y). N.C.X.F. 1601/13. Do not intend docking TEGELBERG who will be fit for Ocean passage p.m. 16th.
2. Intend sailing M.K.F.4 (Y) at 1900/16 consisting of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, TEGELBERG, VOLENDAM, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, OTRANTO, HINDUSTAN, escorted by ROTHER and SPEY to U.K. and two destroyers of 13th D.F. to prudent limit of endurance routed
Q. 36.20 10.00.
R. 37.40 13.30.
S. 40.00. 16.15.
T. 49.18. 15.32.
U. 55.00. 10.45.
V. 55.25. 08.30.
S. of A. 12 knots.
(V.A.Gibraltar 1939A/15 to Admty, N.C.X.F.(R) C. in C.W.A.).

/ABBEYDALE....

530

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

ABBEYDALE Examination of underwater damage to No.7
SAN AMADO. port tank and pump room of ABBEYDALE reveals
docking necessary for repairs for 2 or 3 days.
Tank cannot be used until this has been done.
Ship also needs general refit and modernisation of equipment.
2. 100 Octane spirit cannot be completely discharged from
SAN AMADO owing to ABBEYDALE's defective tank and she is
likely to be delayed unless you approve her sailing with
about 500 tons aviation spirit remaining. Your 1120/13
to Admty refers.
3. Suggest SAN AMADO be retained and ABBEYDALE returned
to U.K. SAN AMADO has adequate defensive armament for work
in Western Med.
(C.S.Gib. 2000A/15 to N.C.X.F.(R) Admty, V.A.Gibraltar).
Para.3. approved (N.C.X.F. 1201A/16).

LADY DENISON Following is a repetition of my 0820Z/15
PENDER. addressed V.A.Gibraltar (R) N.C.X.F. Admty
from S.N.O.C.A. LADY DENISON PENDER delayed
Sup. 528A. bad weather. Will advise sailing T.O.O.
0820Z/15.(Ends).
(S.N.O.C.A. 2005Z/15 to V.A.Gibraltar.(R) .
N.C.X.F., Admty).

U.G.F. and Admiralty pass to C. in C.Allied Forces.(Passing
U.G.S. action being taken by W.R.).
Convoys. In order to comply with N.C.X.F. 1551/14th.
and allowing 12 days en route for U.G.F. convoys
and 18 days for U.G.S. convoys, sailing convoys
on following dates:-
U.G.F.4 on January 5th and succeeding U.G.F. convoys at
25 days intervals.
U. G.S.4 on January 6th and succeeding U.G.S. convoys at
25 days intervals. Convoys will be normally allowed 6 and
17 days respectively for unloading Casablanca.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 2055/15 to C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, C.E.S.F.
(R) Commandant 3rd U.S.N.D.New York, Cdr.U.S.N.Forces in
Europe, S.N.O.C.A. N.C.X.F. C. T.29, Admty, B.A.D.Washington,
U. S.Port Director, New York).

531

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- U/B. At 1706Z/14, 1913Z/14 and 1935Z/14 U-Boat transmitted, on Series 4, a message whose T.O.O. was 1726/14. D/F placed U-Boat anywhere within 120 miles of 31° 30' S. 32° 30' E. (D.D.I.C., 0317A/15 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)
- Movements. Arrival Congo River 1500Z/14th, NORWICH CITY, STELLA POLARIS escorting SS. HAI LEE, tanker JENNY in company. STELLA POLARIS, NORWICH CITY, proceeding to Walvis Bay. (B.N.L.O.W.Af., 0835A/15 to R.A.W.Af., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay, N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
- D.N. 7. Expect to sail D.N.7 escorted by INCONSTANT and FREESIA at 1100Z/16 to position 29° 44' S. 39° 04' E. Speed 8 knots consisting of 14 ships (list). (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1122Z/15 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.)
- CAPETOWN
CASTLE. H.M.T. CAPETOWN CASTLE sailed 15th Dec. E.T.A. New York 1st Jan. 1943. Requirements New York. Passengers on board. (S.T.O. Capetown, 1359Z/15 to Admty. for D. of S.T. B.A.D., (R) C. in C. S.A., S.B.N.O.W.A., P.S.T.O. Capetown.)
- EMPIRE
MARIOTT,
"S" Report. Following has been read:- S S S S position 04.47 S. 35.20 W., EMPIRE MARIOTT. Submarine sighted. (Freetown (via Slangkop Radio), 1425 G.M.T./15 to Admty.)
- NIEUW
AMSTERDAM. Your 0307/9 (re sailing date of NIEUW AMSTERDAM), only received today Tuesday via P.S.T.O. Capetown. Date cannot now be advanced as vessel is presently fumigating and will only be gas free 16th Dec. Thereafter three days is required for storing and completion of boiler cleaning. Intended to embark 20th and sail same day. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1616C/15 to D.S.T., (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown.)
- MATHERAN,
(firing
report
7th Dec.) Your 1007Z/12th Dec., not to Admty. Ref. SS. MATHERAN's 1905/7th Dec. (see East Indies, p.242). Master confirms report and states there was heavy exchange of gunfire including trace ammunition between two unknown ships, one of which burned fiercely. Firing ceased at 1700Z and broke out again at 1715Z finally ceasing at 1738Z. (2) No distress message heard but W/T silence was broken 1932Z by unknown station and loud signal noticed on about 8.33 m/cys. using Japanese telegraphic code interspersed with cypher NHQEH,

/continued ...

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1253Z/15 Dec. IN

From - F.O.C. W. Af.

Date - 15.12.42
Recd. 1530

Naval Cypher M by W.T.

Addressed - A.I.G. 1150

IMPORTANT

BREDON, escorting, from Freetown to Marshall 10.

2 Motor Launches, 06 15? 11 40 to 05 42 10 38 thence
148 10.

H.M.S. RUMBA, 3 motor launches, with T S 27, 02 05 07
55 to 01 59 08 18 thence 328 8' at 2001Z 15th

ARRAN, searching about 0601 E. 10 to Freetown 9.

H.M.S. PIRROBE, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S. ARMERIA, 04
35 15 50 211 10.8.

VIVIANA, escorting, 03 40 07 35 081 degs. 10.

H.M.S. DESPATCH 05 10 14 55 to Freetown 18½.

Allied Naval Units searching 04 to 06 South 18 to
23 West.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYOLAMEN, patrol 00 30 South 21
59 to 01 19 18 23 12½

1253Z/15

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.
Captain Pim
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (D) (2)
D.T.D (M)
Duty Captain (2)
U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
D.T.D (3)
D.D.O.D. (C)
R.A.C.F.

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

DAT.

532

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - con't.MATHERAN,
(firing
report
7th Dec.)
(Contd.)

continued until 2020Z, transmitter thought to be close because of "Splash" of side band frequency.
(3) At 1518Z/7 a vessel was sighted opposite course description appears similar to SILVAPLANA but ship then had no armament visible.
(4) SS. MAIHAR due Capetown tomorrow 16th.
(C. in C. S.A., 1630/15 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.)

F.T.T.5.

(1) Intend sailing convoy F.T.T.5 consisting of about 6 M/Vs escorted by BURDOCK and 3 trawlers a.m. 16th Dec.
(2) Convoy should reach position ?R 012° 52' N. 034° 50' W. a.m. 23rd Dec.
(3) Request information whether convoy F.T.T.5 can meet east-bound convoy so interchange of escort may be made.
(F.O.C.W.A., 1633Z/15 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D.)
My 1633Z/15 all times 24 hours late.
(F.O.C.W.A., 2214Z/15.)

ST. LOMAN,
NORTHERN
CHIEF,
M/Vs.

Departure Pointe Noire 1530Z/15th ST. LOMAN, NORTHERN CHIEF escorting steamships BANFF PARK and BRITISH UNITS (?UNITY), H.M. Tug BOLD towing SS. COLUMBINE. Routed through (A) 010° S. 010° E. (B) 020° S. 010° E., E.T.A. Walvis Bay 0700Z (? 16th). Shift to area Q W/T 0100Z/19th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1635/15 to R.A.W.A., (R) N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay., etc.)

Movements.

Arrival 1400Z/15th Dec. ILEX.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1809Z/15 to R.A.W.A., (R) Admty.)

Arrivals 14th INDIAN STAR, ARCTIC EXPLORER, CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGER.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1815Z/?15 to Admty., R.A.W.A.)
Departure Pointe Noire 1600Z/15th SPHENE, KHYBER escorting H.M. tug INTEGRITY towing crane lighter number 3 and tug EMPIRE WARLOCK. Routed through F 010° S. (?011°) E., G 018° S. 010° E. E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1600Z/24th. Shifting to area Q 1800Z/20th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1835/15 to R.A.W.A.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)
Arrival 1930Z/15. H.M. Trawlers DUNKERY, BUTSER, DUNCTON.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 2230/15 to F.O.C.W.A., Admty.)

Lourenco
Marques.

Your 1221/5. Request clarification as to whether suspension of Lourenco Marques traffic to and from the north applies to all shipping or only to that by coastal route. If closure of port is prolonged presume South African Railways are informed so as to avoid forwarding of coal which cannot be loaded. M.O.W.T. has arranged to divert coal vessels from Middle East to load at Calcutta but early resumption at Lourenco Marques is desirable.
(D.T.D., 1943A/15 to C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.F., C.S.A. Lourenco Marques.) Reply: C. in C. S.A. 1139C/16.

/ U.S. ...

533

War Diary.

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U.S.
Movements.

Sloop/Tender
Departure 14th Dec. U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT.
Arrival 15th U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S.
Destroyer DAVIS.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 2035Z/15 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)
Montevideo, Freetown, Rio de Janeiro.)

534

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following has been read. P.C. and S. of enemy (2 destroyers, 2 merchant vessels) are XOZR 5222 200 10 (indecypherable). (A/C using call sign ANVG, 0407/15.)

BELITA (torpedoed 3rd Dec.) My 1935/13. Second boat picked up, all crew safe at Banda Alula. (Cdre. Aden, 0601Z/15 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty.)
See p. 534

PETARD, U/B captured. (J.P. JARSCIEK) Regret my bow set back 4 feet by collision due not realizing U-Boat was going ahead under wheel after abandoned. (PETARD, 0750A/15 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) F.O. 15th C.S., Capt. (D) 14th D.F.)

PETARD and QUEEN OLGA captured U-Boat at about 0400A/15th in 035° 00' N. 014° 45' E. and are endeavouring to bring her to Malta.
(V.A. Malta, 0902A/15 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., N.C.X.F.)
PALADIN and KELVIN are being sent to help you. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0936/15 to PETARD.)
Arrival PETARD and QUEEN OLGA.
(V.A. Malta, 1517A/15 to Admty., R.A.D. Med., C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.) *(See drop. 538)*

ARGONAUT (torpedoed 14th Dec.) I have fuel remaining for 270 miles only. ESKIMO and QUALITY also need fuel. Removal of underwater wreckage should improve (? speed) to 14 knots and give manoeuvrability. E.T.A. Algiers 1430A/15.
See p. 539
(ARGONAUT, 0811A/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) C.S.12, Capt. (D) 6, Cdre. Algiers.)
My 1539/14th (ASHANTI to join ARGONAUT and escort her to port). For Port read Algiers. *See p. 537*
(N.C.X.F., 1006A/15 to ARGONAUT, F.O.C. 12th C.S., Capt. (D) 6th D.F., Cdre. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.S., Capt. F.)

ALARM. Arrived ALARM 0730A/15th with diving equipment and sailed 0845.
See p. 537
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0850A/15 to Cdre. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.S., N.C.X.F.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 15th Dec. ROMEO, Yugoslavian T.Bs DURMITOR, KAJMAKALAN, M.Ls*10,*12, Z.2. Departure 15th Dec. BEAUFORT, DULVERTON, ERICA, SNAPDRAGON, M.L. 348, T.L.C. No.101, SOUTHERN MAID, KLO.
(S.O.(I), Alexandria, 0906B/15 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)
**not in Pink in the list.*

/M.T.B. ...

535

War Diary.

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.B.265. Report state of M.T.B. 265 and expected date of departure for Malta.
(V.10, 0947A/15 to Advanced M.T.B. Base Western Desert, (R) C.C.F., N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Orders to S/Ms. R/C shows success in your area. You are doing splendidly, naturally the enemy like to hunt you with all available forces though these not numerous. Enemy traffic must continue down channel where you are disposed and this is expected in immediate future. You should therefore avoid detection and endeavour to maintain position. Do not read special routines if this jeopardises security, maintain W/T silence under all circumstances. If hard pressed withdraw to north or east by safe route, returning when enemy shaken off.

(Capt. S.10, 1043A/15 to P.44, 46, 212, 228, 247, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8th.)

Move as convenient to be in following position by dawn tomorrow
16th P.44 037° 45' 011° 10'. P.247 037° 42' 011° 16'.

(Capt. S.10, 1122A/15 to P.44, P.247, (R) Subs on Patrol, N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8th S.F.)

Balloon Units. AX.880 15th Dec. Your O.54 13th Dec. No.985 Balloon Squadron of 45 I.E. Mark VI balloons including 3 Silicol plants being sent in K.M.6. All personnel P.O.D. Algiers. Equipment P.O.D.

Bone. Regret inability to load equipment for Algiers due to shipping restrictions. Equipment inabilities including 2 Marine Craft will follow in K.M.7. Admiralty are proposing to operate balloon shuttle service with 4 shore servicing stations to provide balloon cover for H.M. and M/Vs along North African coast. R.A.F. commitment for this is provision of 2 officers 70 airmen, balloons and necessary equipment. Am therefore sending you personnel and equipment for a Mark VI shore servicing station station detachment in K.M.7, P.O.D. Algiers.

(Air Ministry, 1116Z/15 to H.Q. E.A.C. Algiers.)

F.A.A. attack on M/Vs, Bizerta. My 2200A/14 para. 1 (Swordfish attack at Ferryville, Bizerta). Request no publicity that Fleet Air Arm aircraft were used.
(N.C.X.F., 1213A/15 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, A.F.H.Q. London, V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D.)

ALBA JULIA (Roumanian) ALBA JULIA loading. May sail about end of December. Destination Perseus and Trieste. B.3 Route may become known.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1238C/15 to S.O.(I) Med., (R) S.1 Beirut, S.10, Malta D.N.I.)

P. 35. Arrived 1022.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1424A/15 to Admty., etc.)

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 1023A/15th Dec. IN
 (Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad.
 "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)
 From N.C.X.F. Date 15.12.42.

Recd. 1540

Naval Code K(1) by T/P.

Addressed AIG 262 Repeated H.Q. Eastern Area Command.
 IMPORTANT

Brief situation report 2001A 15th
 Western Mediterranean. Submarines excepted.

(1) E.T.5, H.M.S. VENOMOUS, 3 escorts, 35/55 north
 00/46 west through 93 72 to Gibraltar 7½.

(2) T.E.9, H.M.S. PENTSTEMON, 3 escorts, 36 ³⁸ ~~28~~
 north ~~00-27~~ east through 34 100 to Algiers 6½. ^{amended}
 01.35 _{183/15.}

(3) Following safe conduct ships on approved
 route from Gibraltar to Genoa may be encountered
 Portuguese SANTA IRENE, Portuguese MARIA JOANNA,
 Swiss CABO ORTEGAL, Swiss ASUMANO, Swiss ALBULA, Swiss
 chartered Spanish NORTE.

(4) M.F.V.'s 201 ⁹²⁰¹⁷ 3, true bearing 7, 35 44 north
 ? 02 11 west coastwise to Algiers 5½. *See p. 528*

(5) T.E.8, H.M.S. ACUTE, regular escort, 37 08
 north 06 34 east to Phillippeville 7 estimated time
 of arrival 2300A/15th. *See p. 537*

1023A/15

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

535B

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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

MOST SECRET

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) IN
1232A/15 December

From Capt. (S) 8th

Date 15.12.42.

Recd. 1540

NAVAL CODE L.(1) BY T/P

Addressed A.I.G. 302.

IMPORTANT.

Submarine Situation in Western Mediterranean.
at 2000A 15th.

(1) H.M.S. TIGRIS 038 deg 20' North 005 deg 33' East on the surface 12 knots through 038 deg 01' North 003 deg 18' East to rendezvous escort in 037 deg 01' North 003 deg 18' East thence to Algiers.

(2) P.54 off South Guardafui, France.

(3) French Submarine CASABLANCA on patrol in 042 deg 04' North 008 deg 02' East. See p. 537.

1232A/15

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

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(H)

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

N.A.1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.D.C.D.(M)

D.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D.of P.(2)

D.A./S.W.

D.T.D.(M)

Hd. of M.

V.P.(2)

F.O.S. by courier.

Ad. Ramsey (4)

TH.

536

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- EMPIRE
GAWAIN. Propose that EMPIRE GAWAIN should be converted to black oiler as fleet attendant, Algiers, after discharge of present cargo.
(N.C.X.F., 1440A/15 to Admty., (R) Cdre. Algiers, V.A. Gibraltar.)
Concur. (Admty., 1349A/16.)
- MEONIA. Danish ship MEONIA is no longer required as accommodation ship. Request you will sail her to Gibraltar under British Flag in next convenient convoy on understanding that Danish master and crew are willing to co-operate with United Nations.
(N.C.X.F., 1623A/15 to F.O. Oran, (R) Admty., V.A. Malta, Force H.)
- ANTWERP. 15th Dec. Port Said arrival and departure.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1714B/15 to Admty., C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C.R.S.F., N.O.I.C. Alex.)
- M.T.B.
Flotilla,
Bone. Bone is excellently situated for M.T.B. operations and has adequate slips and berthing facilities to form a coastal forces unit.
2. I cannot however maintain M.T.Bs effectively there for any time unless essential equipment and maintenance personnel can be provided. It is understood that little equipment suitable for 10th M.T.B. Flotilla is available in U.K.
3. Could you arrange to send personnel and equipment to Bone in WELSHMAN to be followed by remainder of 10th Flotilla? C.C.F. is returning to Alexandria with detailed proposals.
4. I fully realise that this will temporarily denude Eastern Mediterranean of effective M.T.Bs but the need for them off Tunisia is urgent.
5. Should you require 7th Flotilla spares now in VIENNA at Malta or Alexandria, they might be sent in return trip of WELSHMAN.
6. I hope you will allow C.C.F. to pay frequent visits to Bone to assist in the operation of these craft.
(N.C.X.F., 1727A/15 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)
Reply: C. in C. Med. 2047B/16.)

*M.E.12, C. in C. Med's ? 2234B/14. Intend sailing M.E.12
M.W.17. at 1930A/17th passing through TT at about 1800A/18.
* See next page (2) Ref. para. 5, intend HURWORTH and ALDENHAM
return with M.W.17, EXMOOR, GROOME, HURSLEY and
BELVOIR continuing with M.E.12 throughout. C. in C. Med. Fleet
pass to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. and R.N. Gen. H.Q. M.E.
(V.A. Malta, 1735A/15 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., F.O.C. Coastal Force,
Capt. (S) 1, F.O.C. 15th C.S., ORION, DULVERTON, F.O.C. Dest.
Flot. Med. F., BEAUFORT, A.O.C. Med., Capt. (D) 12th, R.N. Gen.
H.Q. Mid. East, C. in C. Med.)

/E.A.C. ...

537

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

E.A.C. Report. A.172. Operational summary No.34, 1800 hours 13th Dec. 1800 hours 14th Dec.
Day 14th. 7 Swordfish 813 Squadron made torpedo attacks on shipping in Ferryville. 1 ship presumed tanker hit and burst into flames, and another ship thought to be hit by 2 torpedoes. A well timed attack again made on Bone at dawn Spitfires although airborne could not see the enemy aircraft and it was too light for Beaufighters. No damage, (it is hoped to use Hurricanes tomorrow).
(E.A.C., 1850Z/15 amended 0835Z/16.)
MS.5576 part 2. Part 2 my A.172.

12 B.24s operating from Tafaroui attacked docks and shipping at Bizerta. Hits were observed on several M/Vs in Harbour. 12 Me.109 attacked the formation. 3 Me.109s are claimed as destroyed, all B.24s returned safely. Attack was made at 1130 hours.
(E.A.C., 2307/15.)
Part 3 my A.172.

17 B.24s attacked the docks? and shipping at Tunis, details not yet available. 18 D.B.7s attacked the marshalling yards at Sfax. 1 wave of 9 A/C at 1100 hours the other wave of 9 A/C at 1510. Several bursts which started fires seen on the marshalling yards. All aircraft returned safely.
(E.A.C., 2359A/15.)

Movements, Algiers arrival, P.217; from Oran, ACUTE, POLRUAN, Algiers. BRIKHAM, LINNET and Oiler DINGLEDALE; from Bone ALBACORE, VELOX, VILLE DE QUEBEC, FLEETWOOD, PORT ARTHUR, RONSAY*(?ROUSAY); from Bougie

POZARICA, VENOMOUS. *See p.461
Departures XASHANTI, XTARTAR to East. Escorts of T.E.8*ACUTE, WILTON to Bone, also XALARM to Bougie and Bone. Escorts of E.T.5 and Oiler SAN ADOLFO, VENOMOUS, VELOX, HUSSAR, FLEETWOOD.
(Cdre. Algiers, 1913A/15 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., S.O.I.S.)
*See p.534 - also 539 *See p.535A

CASABIANCA. Friendly French Submarine CASABIANCA from 038° 01' 003° 10' E. may be arriving Algiers 0700 tomorrow Wednesday.
(Capt. S.6, 1916A/15 to S.O.(S) Malta, TIGRIS.)
= (S?)

Light. Following has been read by Gibraltar W/T:-
201 Group H.Q. One flashing light 32.08 N. 18.11 E. circling.
(A/C call sign CYP Duty 'A', 1951/15.)

M.E. 12. I have no objection to EURYALUS replacing ORION with M.E.12 should you so desire.
See previous page
(C. in C. Med., 2001A/15 to C.S.15, (R) N.O.I.C. Malta.)

/Malta ...

538

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Malta Air
Report.A.I. 178 15th Dec. C.S.R.
Night 14th/15th Dec. No enemy air activity
locally.

Day 15th Dec. A total of 14 Beaufighters escorted by 17 long range Spitfires have carried out offensive sweeps against enemy transport aircraft and shipping in the Lampedusa area. 1350 hours 2 Beaufighters attacked with cannon 807 tons vessel 250° Lampione 48 miles course 300° speed 5 knots but saw no results. 1420 hours 1 Beaufighter attacked with 2 500 lb. bombs and cannon stationary 3 masted schooner 27 miles north of Sousse starting small fire. 18 Spitfires were airborne to protect friendly naval units approaching Malta. 4 Spitfires on offensive reconnaissance east of Malta made no sightings.

Night 14th/15th Dec. 2 special Wellingtons on shipping R/C patrolled in the Cavoli to Marittimo and Straits of Messina areas. Wellington sighted 0257 hours 258° Marittimo 35 miles 2 M/Vs 6000 tons 2 D/Rs course 200° speed 8 knots. 1 special Albacore and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores were despatched to attack beached M/V 2000 tons 1½ miles north of Sousse. Albacores found target at 1920 hours 1 mile from shore with decks awash and dropped 3 torpedoes impact only depth setting 6 feet scoring 1 hit which caused large column of water and large patch of oil on sea. 1 special Albacore and 2 torpedo carrying Albacores despatched to attack reported enemy M/V between Pantellaria and Cape Granitola did not locate target and returned with torpedoes. Wellingtons made two attacks on Tunis and La Goulette Docks. In first attack 1758 to 1946 hours 13 Wellingtons scored hits on jetties and fuel depot and started large fire in dockside building La Goulette and near electric railway depot and across west edge of main basin at Tunis. Fire started by Wellingtons on ship near fuel depot night 13th Dec. was found still burning. In second attack from 0005 to 0230 hours 12 Wellingtons scored hits across barracks and docks area and starting another fire on La Goulette Island. 3 hits on ships in the harbour are claimed. Fire started in building in first attack was still burning. Increased flak encountered during this attack.

(A.H.Q. Malta, T.O.O. 2139Z/15.)

Situation
Report 304.*Pos: given on p. 515
correct.*

- Malta. Force K carried out sweep south of Island night 13th/14th Dec. No enemy met. Force continuously shadowed and illuminated by flares. (V.A. Malta's 1538/13th Dec. refers).
2. PETARD and QUEEN OLGA on passage Benghazi to Malta captured *U-Boat in 35° 00' N. 14° 45' E. at 0510/15th Dec. (V.A. Malta's 0902 and 1205/15th Dec. to Admty. and N.C.X.F. only refer). U-Boat taken in tow but sank about noon. QUEEN OLGA has 30 and PETARD 5 prisoners. PETARD's bows set back 4 feet due to collision with U-Boat which was going ahead under wheel after abandoning. Further details unknown. Request no publicity at present. *J. JARSCIEK.
3. Three more M.T.Bs have arrived Bone.
4. Western Desert. Air raid Tobruk night 12th/13th Dec. caused no naval damage. Two enemy destroyed.

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - con 15.

Situation Report 304. (Contd.)
5. Benghazi raided by 20 aircraft p.m. 12th Dec. and again p.m. on 13th Dec. (number of aircraft unknown). One heavy bomb caused structural damage to 2 merchant ships entailing delay in cargo discharge. Fighters claim 1 enemy and a possible. Repairs to Outer Mole making good progress.

6. Red. Sea. Norwegian Tanker BELITA torpedoed south of Socotra 3rd Dec. 15 survivors landed Bandar Alula 9th Dec. second lifeboat last seen heading for The Brothers. Aden aircraft searching.
(C. in C. Med., 2143B/15 to Admty.) *See p. 534.*

DERWENTDALE. From D.N.C.X.F. There is a requirement for another L.S.G. to assist in the training of crews of L.C.M.1s. Could DERWENTDALE be spared to come home? If so she could probably be fitted with increased accommodation and quick release gear whilst in England. Request she may bring home as many L.C.M.1s requiring repair as possible. (D.O.D.(H), 2223A/15 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., C.C.O.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrival AURORA, ARGONAUT, ASHANTI, TARTAR, ESKIMO, QUALITY.
(Cdre. Algiers, 2301A/15 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.) *See pp 534 9537*

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Polish Naval Personnel. 250 Polish Naval personnel understood to be at Baghdad are required urgently in U.K. 2. Request arrangements be made for their movements to Bombay in time for embarkation in EMPRESS OF RUSSIA & confirmation that this can be arranged. (D.S.T., 0235A/15 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf.)

Catalina Sqdns. Your 2114R/2/8. Ground personnel for the additional Catalina squadrons are arriving as expected, but supply of these much needed aircraft is not keeping pace.

2. A.H.Q. East Africa is their A.136 T.O.O. 1310B Dec. 13th have represented to Air Ministry that the ground personnel for the Durban and second Kilindini squadrons have arrived but no news has been received of aircraft to equip them,

3. Air Ministry signal 470 T.O.O. 1430Z/26 Nov. states that 2 Catalinas for each of 212 and 270 Squadrons have been detained at Gibraltar.

4. Request Air Ministry be asked for particulars of the Catalina supply programme for Indian Ocean squadrons and also when aircraft of 212 and 270 squadrons now at Gibraltar are likely to be released. (C. in C. E.F., 0256Z/15 to Admty., (R) Air Ministry, A.H.Q. E.A., 222 Group Ceylon, 225 Group Bangalore.) Reply: Admty. 1912A/17.

DURBAN repairs. Your 1320/11th Dec. In view of extreme pressure on repair facilities in Bombay DURBAN cannot be taken in hand unless delay can be accepted on minor defects of KIMBERLEY just commenced and refits of ?(JUMNA) and ?(SUTLEJ). (D.G.S.R.C. Bombay, 0423Z/15 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N.) Reply: C. in C. E.F., 0927Z/16.

Movements. Arrived BLACKMORE. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0506Z/15 to C. in C. E.F.) Departures GERALDTON, PUNJAB with B.P. 63. *See next page* (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0846Z/15 to Admty., etc.)

F.S. LÉOPARD arrived. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 1332Z/15 to Admty., etc.) Departure 15th Dec. BURNIE, BRITTANY. (F.O.E.A., 1444Z/15 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

BRITISH ENERGY. Your 0649/10th (request confirmation that BRITISH ENERGY can be taken in hand on arrival). Regret cannot dock BRITISH ENERGY before early January, my 1141/3rd refers. (Director General Ships Repairs and Construction Bombay, 0744Z/15 to C. in C. E.F.)

541

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

B.P. 63. Personnel ?ship RAJULA and store ships PASHA, JALAVEERA, BURNSIDE and ITAURA sailed from Bombay 15th Dec. for Basra. Details. *See previous page (movements)* (P.S.T.O. India, 0907/15 to D.S.T.O.P.G., (R) D. of S.T.)

PETRONELLA. Your 1608/14th Dec. PETRONELLA will be ready to proceed 0800/17th Dec. with remaining furnace oil and high speed Diesel oil for discharge Aden or Suez. C. in C. E.F. is requested to signal if vessel may proceed without escort. Speed of vessel is 6 knots. (P.S.T.O. Bombay, 1006Z/15 to D.S.T.) Reply: D.S.T. 1607A/16.

Bandar Overseas Port and Transit Committee extremely concerned at lack of progress in development Shahpur. Port Shahpur (P.S.) Detailed report factors hampering development required. If shipment of stores from India not complete Armindia to state what action to expedite is being taken and any clashes of priorities of supply of movement involved. Do you consider that Americans should be requested to give assistance to Braithwaites at Bandar Shahpur (P.G.) on completion Khorramshahr development? (W.O., 1030A/15 to P.A.I.C., (R) Armindia.)

Shipping, My 1408Z/14th (N.T. in W.D.) Following East India consideration affecting delivering of cargo Ports. vessels mentioned in para. 1 B.A.D. Washington reference 1711/11th.
2. Owing to clearance and transportation problems desirable that ships arrive at weekly intervals. This will not delay arrival of cargo at destination as limiting is inland transport capacity.
3. If two ships arrive in any one week it is advisable one only should discharge Calcutta second Vizagapatam.
4. Stores or machinery first required should be loaded on top in vessel arriving first.
(F.L.O. Delhi, 1302Z/15 to Cdr. South Pacific Force (Comsopac), C. in C. E.F., (R) A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., B.A.D., Admty.)

OPHIR. Notwithstanding D. of S.T.'s 0052/2, intend to *(not Lable ship)* sail OPHIR for Addu Atoll as soon as she is ready to undertake her duties there, where she will be a stationaire. (C. in C. E.F., 1459Z/15 to Admty.)

HAWKINS. C.S. Durban 1542/15th. Ship ready for sea noon Wednesday 23rd Dec. (HAWKINS, 1801C/15 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty., Capt. Supt. Durban, C. in C. S.A., C.S.4, N.O.I.C. Durban.)

/Troop ...

SECRET

54A

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: 1420Z/15th December.
MESSAGE: IN:
Date: 15.12.42.
Received: 1525A.
From: Air Ministry
Whitehall.

Cypher.

Addressed: H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East.
Repeated: A.H.Q. India.

AX.890 15 Dec.

To accelerate build up of Squadrons in India following alterations in monthly quotas of Aircraft and Aircrews to be sent from Middle East to India are notified to take effect from December inclusive.

- (A) Wellington 10 raised from 8 to 10 repeat 10.
My AX.154 22 Aug. refers.
- (B) Beaufort quota raised from 4 to 10 repeat 10.
My AX.280 Aug. refers. First 6 Beauforts to have experienced Aircrews of 42 or 217 Squadrons now held in Middle East.
- (C) Other types no change.

All quotas will be reviewed monthly in light of changes in situation.

1420Z/15.
Copies circulated by Air Ministry:-
C.A.S., A.M.P., D.O. Ops.,
D.O.N.C., A.D.O.F., Admiralty,
V.C.A.S., A.C.A.S.(P), D.W.O.,
(Orig) (2 copies), D.D.P.O.,
W.O.5, D. of O., A.M.S.O.,
A.C.A.S.(O), I.D.O.2., W.O.3.

1st Lord,
1st S.L. (2).
D.F.S.L.
C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F).
D.A.M. (2).
D.A.M.R.
Air Branch.
N. 2nd S.L. (Air)
C. (2).
D.P.S. (2).
D. C.D.
M. (2).
O.D. (5).
I.P. (3).
W.D.

Received in War Registry
at 2120/15th December.

542

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Troop Movements. Following movements are required as soon as possible:-

Requirement	From	To	Strength
(a) 154 Heavy A.A. Battery.	Diego Suarez	Bombay	369 personnel
(b) 9 Field Regiment	Tamatave	Bombay	750 personnel
(c) 11 General Hospital.	Diego Suarez	Suez	200 personnel

2. Proposals re EKMA and TAKLIWA.

3. D.S.T.O. Kilindini after consultation with C. in C. E.F. should sail EKMA and TAKLIWA accordingly and S.T.Os Diego Suarez and Tamatave make necessary arrangements for embarkation. (D.S.T., 1909A/15 to S.T.O. Diego Suarez, S.T.O. Tamatave, D.S.T.O. Kilindini, (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., etc.) Proposals for EKMA in D. of S.T's 1909/15 have been approved subject to your concurrence as regards provision of local escort. (D.O.D.(F), 1910A/15 to C. in C. E.F.)

French Somaliland. Draft of Agreement. (W.O., 2130A/15 to G.O.C. in C. E. Africa.) See Lion Copy.)

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET. 2130A/15th December. MESSAGE. OUT

To. G.O.C.in C. East Africa. Date. 15.12.42.
Repeated 12(A) Division
Minstate (pass C.in C. Mediterranean
& A.O.C's-in-C., Mideast).

CYPHER

From The War Office,

French Somaliland agreement.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

M.O.11/B.M./255. 86889 cipher (M.O.11) dated 15 Dec.

Reference W.O. Dec. 15.

Text begins. The G.O.C. in C. East Africa, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, M.Chancel on behalf of the French National Committee, and General Dupont the Governor of French Somaliland:

Desiring to take by mutual agreement the measures necessary to enable French Somaliland to take its place at the side of the United Nations in the war against the Axis Powers:

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1.

French sovereignty over French Somaliland, hereinafter called the Colony, is hereby formally recognised. The Colony remains an integral part of the French Empire and shall be administered under the authority of the French National Committee.

Article 2.

(i) For the period of the present agreement the Colony shall form for military purposes part of the strategic command of the G.O.C.in C., East Africa, for naval purposes part of the strategic command of the C.in C. Mediterranean, and for air purposes part of the strategic command of the A.O.C.in C. Middle East.

(ii) The G.O.C.in C., shall have the right to move Allied forces into the Colony if in his opinion the military situation so requires, and the French authorities in that event shall provide the necessary facilities.

(iii) The French forces serving in the Colony shall be placed at the disposal of the G.O.C.in C., if he so requires, and in that event may be used by him in any way necessary for the defence of the area under his strategic command.

/ (iv).....

(iv) The final decision in all matters of defence or of security within the colony shall rest with the G.O.C. in C.

Article 3.

The French authorities in the Colony shall furnish the G.O.C. in C., with all facilities within the Colony necessary for the prosecution of the war, including the use of ports, air fields, railways and telecommunications.

Article 4.

The chief naval authority in the Colony shall be the naval officer appointed by the Naval authority Commanding-in-Chief in the strategic zone of which the Colony forms a part. The operation of the ports, docks, installations and appliances connected therewith, and the movements and policing of ships and boats throughout the Colony shall be carried out in accordance with his directions.

Article 5.

The chief air authority in the Colony shall be the chief air officer appointed by the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief in the Colony, or the officer or authority Commanding-in-Chief in the strategic zone of which the Colony forms a part. The occupation and operation of air fields, flying-boat bases and landing grounds, and the use of all installations and appliances connected therewith, as well as the operation of any necessary air services, and the control of movements and policing of aircraft shall be carried out in accordance with his directions.

Article 6.

Censorship, propaganda and economic and financial matters within the Colony, in so far as they effect other East African territories, shall be subject to the control of mixed commissions consisting of British and French members. The detailed arrangements required for the operation of all such commissions and for the control of the matters with which they will have to deal, shall be the subject of a further agreement between the British and French authorities.

Article 7.

The British authorities shall extend to the Colony such economic assistance as the exigencies of the situation permit. The inclusion of the Colony in the sterling area and the trade and financial arrangements necessary in this connexion shall form the subject of separate agreements. The treatment accorded to the Colony in economic matters shall be not less favourable than that accorded to British territories in similar circumstances.

/Article (8)

MOST SECRET

Article 8

The pay and pensions of officials and military personnel of the Colony are guaranteed, provided that they agree to serve under the French National Committee.

Article 9

Subject to the approval of the G.O.C.in C., in the case of persons liable to endanger British or Allied military security, all persons who have been imprisoned on account of their political opinions shall be liberated forthwith and if necessary their cases shall be re-examined.

Article 10

Nationals of states which are at war with any of the United Nations shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of International Law. Their personal safety will be respected. The G.O.C.in C., shall, however, have the right to require the removal according to his directions from the Colony of any such persons.

Article 11

The present agreement has been drawn up in two copies, in the English and French languages, and in the case of any disagreement between them, the English text shall be authoritative. It shall enter into force on the date of signature and shall remain in force until the end of the war between the United Kingdom and Fighting France on the one hand, and the last of the enemy powers with whom they are at present at war on the other hand, or until such earlier date as may be agreed upon by the contracting parties. Ends.

2130A/15.

Advance copy D.C.
Received from War Office 1515/16.

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Lord | W.D. | <u>War Office Circulation</u> |
| 1st S.L.(2) | Ad.Blake | S.of S., P.U.S., P.U.S.(F) |
| 4th S.L. | A.C.N.A.S. | C.I.G.S., V.C.I.G.S. |
| C.N.A.S. | D.N.A.D. | D.M.O., D.D.M.O.(0) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.A.C.D. | M.O.1,5,11.(6) D.M.I. |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | N.L. | D.D.M.I.(I) M.I.3,17a. |
| Secretary | D.of L.D. | D.F.(a) F.5(3) |
| N.A.1st S.L. | | Foreign Secretary(2) |
| P.A.S.(S) | | Foreign Office (Mr. |
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| D.D.I.C.(2) | | A.M.C.S.(Air Ministry) |
| D.of P.(2) | | Brig.Jacob,(Cabinet |
| Duty Capt.(2) | | Offices) |
| Hd.of M.(30) | | Major Morton,10 Downing |
| D.N.I.(4) | | St. |
| I.P.(2) | | 20 M.M.(Lt.Col.Archdale) |
| D.P.D. | | C.O.(Lt.Col.Rolleston) |

543

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Information U.S. Managed Shipping. My 0007 /2 and your 2331/2. (Navy Dept. anxious to be supplied with all possible information of U.S. managed Shipping in Eastern N. Atlantic and U.K.). Navy Dept. request that information be extended to Mediterranean area, Master of Agwimonte thought to be at Suez reported. 2. Remainder of information being received satisfactorily. (B.A.D. 0023Z/15 to Admty).

N.G. 329. collision. Nourmahal (Coast Guard)'s 2200/14, informs as follows.

Convoy Commodore, N.G. 329, reports that SS. TIMOTHY PICKERING collided with SS. COLLIS P. HUNTINGTON; both vessels are presumed to have returned New York, at 1000Q. Further details not known. (Comnav 0843/15 to Admty).

Movements Summary.	1800 G.M.T./15th Dec.			
	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	NEWCASTLE	44° N. 26½° W.	024°	18.
	Tanker	10° N. 48° W.	273°	9½.
	Convoy.			
	MILFORD.	49½ N. 35½ W.	042.°	26½.
	A.T. 31.			
	(D.O.D.(F) 0958Z/15 to Opnav (R) Comnav).			

EASTGATE, U/Bs locating ships by H/F. Your 1957/20th November. EASTGATE. Have carried out your instructions but regret my best efforts failed to alter views of Capt. Hill who cited several recent instances of ships being attacked shortly after sending their high frequency position report intercepted by him. He is convinced these signals enable S/MS to locate sender by radio D/F. Through lack of any periodical information regarding developments in this direction I was considerably handicapped in discussion. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal 1035R/15, to Admty for D.T.D.).

O.N. 151. My 1344/15th. (N.T. in W.D.) W.L.E.S. West Local Escort T.U. 24.18.3. BARRIE, SASKATOON, KENORA, escorting H.O.N. 151 sailed 1700/16th, join N.O.M.P. at 1500/17th. (C.O.A. C. 1356Z/15 to C. West Local Escort, T.U. 24.18.3., (R) Admiralty, Connav, N.S.H.Q., C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F., West Local, Escort T.U. 24.18.4., Com. 3. C.E.S.F.).

G.A.T. 28. Arrival U.S. Dest. BIDDLE, H.M.S. CLARKIA, U.S. Ship TURQUOISE, P.C. 563, P.C. 568, escorting G.A.T. 28. (?N.O.I.C. Port of Spain, 1442Q/15, to S.B.N.O. W.A., (R) Admty, S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica).

U/Bs. Guantanamo W/T reports 2 S/MS surfaced 5 miles West Roseau, Dominica, 1515 G.M.T. travelling S. speed 12 knots. (Kingston, Jamaica, 1451R/15 to Admty).

/T.J.1.

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- T.J.1. U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS, U.S. Dests. SOMERS, ELLIS, U.S. Seaplane GEO. E. BADGER, U.S. Seaplane ~~Tan Tan~~ OSMOND INGRAM, Brazilian C.S., 2, escorting T.J.1. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1532Q/15 to S.B.N.O.W.A.).
limited 16/12. Sup. 573.
- U/B. U/B position by D/F at 1536Z/15 within 100 miles 50.30 N. 39° W, 10510 K/Cs type. (Connav, 1543/15 to QUEEN ELIZABETH for information).
- U/B. Positions. S/Ms estimate 15th December and U.S.S/M notice. (Cominch 1551/15, 1627/15).
- SS.MEXICO. Ref. Cominch despatch 2151/14. ^{1/p. 511} Sailing orders will be issued by leader. Comply. (Com.6. 1635/15 to U.S.Ss. TARBELL, EVANS, C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., Cinclant, N.O.B. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.A., Admty, C.T.U.25).
- U/B. Following has been read:- Addressed N.O.I.C. St. Johns, A.I.F., N.S.H.Q., from GRANDMERE, Investigating report of S/M sighted 047.39 N. 053.00 W. steering West. (Halifax W/T 1846Z/15 to Admty, C. in C.W.A. C.T. G.24.7).
- O.N.S.150. ^{/see p. 546} When weather moderates BEVERLEY, CLOVER, ABELIA must proceed to Argentia with damage. WINCHELSEA to St. John's N.F., short of fuel. ANEMONE and ASPHODEL ordered to endeavour to rally, O.N.S. 150 at R/V given in my 1420Z/15th. Convoy widely scattered. My P.C. and S. 044. 31 N. 047.18 W. 275° 2 knots. Following is unrecorded weather report 3662, 0268. (C.T.U. 24.1.18, 1900Z/15, to Connav (R) C.T.F.24, Admty, C. in O.W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C, C.T.G. 24.7, C.T.U. 24.18.5.).
- Sub Attack and sighting summary. Para.A. Surface craft attacked 2 S/Ms area 54. 42. N. 40.40 W. 15/14 December. Plane attacks S/M on surface 05.30 S. 35.44 W. 1630Z/14. Planes attack S/Ms 1 04 52 S 35 24 W. 2040Z/14. 1 Area 55.N. 40 W. 14 December. SS. EMPIRE MARIOT, sight S/M 04.07 S. 35.20 W. 1425Z/15. (Cominch 2016/15 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.).
- Tanker Convoy Trinidad, Gibraltar. S.B.N.O. Trinidad is now forming a tanker convoy and requires early confirmation of position of EMPIRE LYTTON, EMPIRE COLERIDGE, BRITISH VIGILANCE, VANJA, CLIONA which were dispersed from O.N.149. Request N.O.B. Guantanamo may be asked to inform

/Trinidad...

544A

Unparaphrased version of a Secret
Cypher Telegram not One Time Table.

ADMIRALTY DISTRIBUTION

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
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- P.A.S. (S)
- 1st S.L.
- D.D. (F)
- D.N.I. (4)
- D. of P. (2)
- Duty Capt.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- E.P.S.
- Hd. of M.
- I.P. (2)
- W.B.

IZ. 2643.
TOO. 2111Z/15
TOR. 0233Z/16

SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

IMPORTANT

From: J.S.M. Washington.
To: War Cabinet Offices, London.

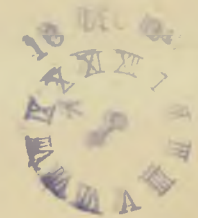
J.S.M. 568. 15th December, 1942. *Radar operating on microwaves*

1. C.C.B. have asked C.C.S. for a ruling on policy to be adopted with regard to use of RDF equipment operating on microwaves.
2. Point at issue is whether permission to use this equipment prior to 1st March, 1943, under conditions involving risk of capture by enemy is reserved to C.C.S. or delegated to local commanders.
3. C.C.B. have prepared alternative draft instructions to theatre commanders.
4. Following is text of Draft A:-

"(i) RDF (RADAR) equipment operating on microwaves (frequencies above 600 megacycles or wavelengths shorter than fifty centimetres) and containing components which are believed to be unknown to the enemy is now approaching production in such quantities as to permit large scale tactical employment. Until this equipment is available in such quantities disclosure to the enemy or compromise would permit development by the enemy of countermeasures and would defeat the element of surprise which adds to the effectiveness of the equipment.

(ii) Until 1st March, 1943, or until such prior date as unrestricted use is announced

/by the



announced/

by the C.C.S. this equipment should not be used over enemy territory or under circumstances involving risk of enemy capture. The foregoing does not place any restriction upon maximum ordinary use of such type of equipment namely reconnaissance and attack upon enemy vessels in open water and defence over friendly territory against enemy striking forces.

(iii) Nothing in the above shall be construed as relieving commanders from the ordinary precautions for the security of confidential equipment including destruction when necessary.

(iv) The British and American authorities should consider themselves free to seek from the C.C.S. permission to use RDF (RADAR) equipment operating on microwaves prior to 1st March, 1943, should circumstances warrant."

5. Following is text of Draft B:-

"(i) Same as para. 1. of Draft A.

(ii) Until March 1st, 1943, or until such prior date as unrestricted use is announced by the C.C.S. this equipment should not be used over heavily defended enemy territory or under other circumstances involving risk of enemy capture unless the tactical or strategical advantage warrants and special precautions are taken for destruction in event of capture. The foregoing does not place any restrictions upon maximum ordinary use of such type of equipment namely reconnaissance and attack upon enemy surface vessels in open water and defence over friendly territory against enemy air striking forces.

(iii) Same as para. 3. of Draft A."

6. We understand from our signal advisors you wish us to insist on Draft A but would like confirmation particularly in view of GREEN 125 from BJCB from which it appears that Air Staff wish to begin use on 1st January of H2S in Pathfinder squadrons

/presumably

squadrons/

presumably over Germany and therefore with considerable risk of capture.

7. You will appreciate our position will be very difficult if we succeed in holding up release of this new equipment till 1st March contrary to U.S. wishes and then immediately have to ask for a certain type of it to be released on 1st January.

8. Request reply in time for C.C.S. Meeting Friday 18th.

T.O.O. 2111Z/15.

(Circulation)

Brigadier Jacob
Foreign Secretary
War Registry, Admiralty
C.6 . Tels. War Office
A.M.C.S. (C)

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Tanker Trinidad of arrival of each of above (tanker
Convoy message) ships and subsequently if any should
Trinidad, fail to sail in G.A.T.30.
Gibraltar. (D.T.D. 2020Z/15 to Connav (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad,
Contd. S.B.N.O. Curacao, B.R.L.O. Aruba).

A special tanker convoy is to be formed at
Trinidad for escort to Gibraltar by HAVELOCK,
GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE. Convoy should be composed as
follows.

2. 6 selected from following. Due Trinidad, MINISTER, WEDEL
and ORWELL 15th, OLTENIA II and NORVIK 19th, VANJA and CLIONA
23rd, Due Curacao, ALBERT L. ELLSWORTH and BRITISH GLORY,
and GULFPOINT 20th. Each of the 6 to load full cargo Admiralty
furnace oil.

3. 3 selected from BRITISH DOMINION and BRITISH VIGILANCE due
Aruba, EMPIRE LYTTON and NORTIND and EMPIRE COLERIDGE due Curacao
all 20th. Each of the 3 to load 100 octane and 80 octane in
approx proportion 5 to 17.

4. You should consult Curacao and Aruba and select 9 of the above
for earliest assembly at Trinidad avoiding if possible inclusion
of ship with inferior declared speed.

5. HAVELOCK will be instructed to detach an escort to bring on
the selected tankers from Curacao and Aruba as soon as loaded.

6. Request report (tanker message) (a) names of selected tankers.
(b) expected sailing date of convoy from Trinidad and E.T.A.
Gibraltar.

(D.T.D. 2222A/15 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, (R) S.B.N.O. Curacao,
B.R.L.O. Aruba, S.B.N.O. W.A. B.A.D.).

Comment by B.A.D. 1259Z/16.

ENTERPRISE, Your 0805A/9. Arrived 090° position of sinkings
Search for 250 miles at daylight 11th December. Searched
CERAMIC. towards position of sinkings at 18 knots zig-zag
number 8 until 1255Z/11 when forced to heave to
head North. Wind veered from S.W. force 7 to N.

force 12 within 15 minutes and in my opinion the resulting
heavy confused seas, of typhoon character, rendered it virtually
impossible for any boat to survive in this area. At 1700Z/11
I decided search must be abandoned and to proceed to Clyde when
weather permitted. Northerly gale continued until 0600Z/12.
After proceeding a capsized white boat with red bottom colour
was passed in 45° 19' N. 33° 33' W. at 1600Z/12. Nothing else
was seen.

(ENTERPRISE, 2021A/15 to Admtly).

Busra. O.N. It is considered that 3rd para. of Section F. in
Convoys, Busra no longer applies in view of the complete
dispersal. assumption of the authority for diversions by
Cominch C. and R. in U.S. Strategic Area.

Therefore requested that vessel broken off from
O.N. convoys beginning with O.N.150 and dispersed to the
South Atlantic be chopped to Connav approx. 36 hours after
dispersal when this point is in U.S. Strategic area and courses
followed do not immediately cut back into British Strategic
Area. This will allow sufficient time for plot to be established
for vessels concerned prior to taking control.

(Connav, 2049/15, to Admtly) Concur (D.T.D. 1446Z/16).

/Shipping...

546

15.12.1942.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 15, COAMO overdue New York since 10th December. HORORATA torpedoed 13th Dec. 42.09 N. 34.31 W. CITY OF KIMBERLY in collision today 40.48 N. 66.09 W. returning to Boston under own power.
(Connav, 2059/15 to Comnav).

Shipping Diversion. Recommend vessels from South African Port or bound for Trinidad or East Coast U.S.A. be diverted individually to pass North and East of 4° North and 27° W. during present apparent sub concentration between St. Pauls rocks and Natal.
(Connav. 2120Z/15 to Admty).

O.N.S.150. Your 1831Z/14th concurred. This is restricted. *imp. 544*
(Connav 2103/15 to Admty (R) C.T.24, C.Mid Ocean Escort, T.U.24.1.18. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.).

H.X.218. My 2004A/15. (N.T. in W.D.). It is expected that U/Bs will use 4000 kcs. for any further shadowing reports during the night.
(D.D.I. C. 2300A/15 to Escorts of H.X.218).

CLOVER. Have suspected defective stern bush which necessitates docking for examination. Am proceeding St. Johns in accordance with Mid-Ocean Escort T.U.24.1.18. instructions. My P. C and S. 044.31' 047.30' 262 5 altering 323 10 knots at 1100. *imp. 544*
(O.N.S.150)
Weather report
(CLOVER 2315Z/15, to C.T.24 (R) F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., etc).

War Diary.15.12.1942.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

- Situation. Digest Serial No. 327. December, 14th.
Unidentified A/C dropped bombs Port Moresby area night 14th without causing damage or casualties.
2. Strong forces Liberators and Fortresses attacked enemy convoy 2 light cruisers 3 destroyers off Mouth Mambare River early morning 14th scoring several near misses. Liberators unsuccessfully attacked by 15 zeros, 2 possibly 3 destroyed. Convoy departed from area before daylight and last reported 6.18 S. 150.44 E. at 0300Z/14 course 65°. Forces Beaufighters Bostons Marauders B.25 and Aircobras carried out continuous attacks against enemy barges troops and stores Mambare Kumusi areas during day. At least 15 barges and 4 whaleboats used during landing also many groups of drums floating towards shore, all thoroughly strafed causing many casualties, destroying several barges and drums and forcing many troops to swim for shore these also strafed. Enemy stores on beach bombed strafed and left smouldering.
 3. 1 35000-ton merchant ship escorted by one destroyer one gunboat arrived Buka Passage afternoon 14th. Destroyer and gunboat later departed to Southwest Considerable air activity reported aerodrome.
 4. Two small vessels observed approaching Gasmata from eastward morning 14th. R/C Liberator attacked by two groups of Zeros two of which probably destroyed.
 5. Enemy R/C craft reported over D'entrecasteaux Louisiades Groups 13th and 14th.
 6. American troops continue pressure remaining enemy positions Buna Endaiadere area. Our forward patrols actively supported by mortar and artillery fire. Australian patrols penetrating enemy positions Amboga area.
 7. Enemy force 300 reported moving towards Betano my serial number 326, para.six reported in Western Betano December 13th. (G.H.Q.S.W. Pacific Area 0830Z/15).

TROMP
MAURETANIA.Arrival Wellington Neth.Cruiser TROMP escorting
H.T.MAURETANIA.
(S.O.(I) Wellington. 2040Z/15 to Admty etc).U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/Ms Reported.U/B situation at 1300/15 confused and estimates uncertain.
(D.D.I.C, 1456A/15, 1513A/15, to A.I.G. 331, 332)

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.

548

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.O.N.153.
attacked.

Convoy O.N.153 was attacked by U/Boats, at 0742 G.M.T. and the tankers REGENT LION and BELLO were torpedoed in about $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $24\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. (about 550 miles West of Cape Clear). The former ship was left derelict but is thought to be capable of being salvaged; BELLO was sunk. At 1911Z the convoy was again attacked and SS. EMILE FRANQUI was torpedoed in $50^{\circ} 58' N. 24^{\circ} 42' W.$ and sank. FIREBRAKE was also sunk at 2210 by U.211 - (63.443)

Force R
& S/MS.

R.A.(D) in SHEFFIELD left Aultbea this afternoon to R/V with JAMAICA off Cape Wrath and provide cover for J.W.51.A. P.223, P.339, TORBAY and SOKOL sailed from Lerwick today for their patrol positions. V.A.2. in ANSON with ⁴ destroyers arrived at Hvalfiord this afternoon from Scapa. 2-4.587

Bad weather has continued to disorganise convoys and the sailing of small vessels. Several ships in Convoy K.M.S.5. have returned to the Clyde with heavy weather damage and only 28 ships and 9 escort vessels were in company at 1215A.

Poole
Bombed.

A single enemy A/C dropped bombs on Poole this afternoon and caused damage ashore. Harbour patrol vessel VIXEN was sunk and ESTRELLITA badly damaged. Combined Operations Base Ship TURTLE was damaged and Accommodation Ship FLORINDA received superficial damage. Four Beach Tow Craft were damaged. There were a few casualties.

North Atlantic.

The French Authorities have agreed to hand over all allied ships in the Casablanca area. These are to be sailed to Gibraltar at the next opportunity. The list of ships is given in a message from N.C.X.F. today.

549

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

Survivors of a ship reported as YARNSHOLT state that the ship was torpedoed in $3^{\circ} 20' N.$ $30^{\circ} 20' W.$ at 2030/2. This is near the position ($3^{\circ} S. 30^{\circ} W$) where STAR OF CAIRO picked up some survivors of CITY OF BOMBAY which is reported to have been sunk on 13th December. SS.LASALLE is overdue at Capetown since 29th October, and is presumed sunk.

Mediterranean.

P.217 reports that at 1515/5 in $40^{\circ} 23' N. 14^{\circ} 1' E$ she obtained 3 hits with torpedoes on two north-bound merchant vessels of 4,000 - 5,000 tons escorted by 3 destroyers. At 1545 only the destroyers were to be seen, circling.

(PORFIDO)

TIGRIS reports sinking an Italian U-Boat of the PERLA Class in $38^{\circ} 10' N. 8^{\circ} 35' E.$ at 0140/6 and taking an officer and 3 ratings prisoners.

Wellingtons from Malta bombed Tunis and La Goulette docks last night for about 8 hours and report two thirds of the Canal entrance blocked with sand and gravel by bombing.

East Indies.

14 enemy A/C bombed the docks at Chittagong at 1536 F.G. today causing slight damage and a few casualties.

550

War Diary.

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

Boston A/C today attacked and sank several barges in the Kumusi - Mambare Area.

551

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Corvettes My 1256/4th.
from 1. Request information whether JONQUIL, COREOPSIS,
"Torch" Area. or AZALEA is intended in exchange for BALSAM,
2. If so may the other be retained for K.M.S.7?
3. If time allows and guns are available intend
fitting corvettes returning to your command with Oerlikons.
(C. in C.W.A. 1524A/16 to V.A. Gibraltar).

Conversion It is most strongly urged that A and B. Class
of W.A. Destroyers attached W.A. Command be converted to
Destroyers. long-leggers by removing a boiler. The
quickest method is to remove No.1 Boiler and
to accept the risk of remaining two boilers
being in one compartment. The extra risk is indeed small
as there are very few instances of a Destroyer being able to
steam after being torpedoed amidships. Propose following
vessels now in hand for refit be converted now. *ANTHONY
completing 18th December, **ACTIVE 23rd January, 1943,
***ARROW 30th January, 1943.

(C. in C.W. A. 2056A/16, 0902A/17 to Admt), *London. **Tyne.
***Midweek.
(Print list)

Defence of the United Kingdom.

Maunsell Subject to weather conditions 5th and 6th
Towers. Towers will be grounded during period 17th to
20th December.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1437A/16).

Movements.

ANSON. Hvalfjord departure ICARUS, IMPULSIVE in
company at 0430A/16th in accordance with
C. in C.H.F.'s 2244/14th.
(A.C.I.C. 0501A/16).

QUADRANT and RAIDER detached to Scapa at 0900A/today
Wednesday in 150° Reykjanes 10 miles.
(V.A.2. 1219A/16).

Hvalfjord 16th December arrival V.A.(2) in ANSON,
ICARUS, IMPULSIVE, and ORWELL in company at 1310.
(A.C.I.C. 1325A/16th).

P.221. From 180° Lizard Head 12 proceed unescorted to
D.1 buoy and into Falmouth. If weather moderate
escort will come out to meet you. Codeword
for help message "Object."
(F.O.S. 0519A/16 to P.221).

*See /p.551 F.
552*

BERWICK. Your 1705/13 arrived.
(C. in C.Rosyth 0832A/16 to C. in C.H.F.).

ADVENTURE. Your 1529/15. Request particulars of route.
(C. in C.W.A. 0957A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/LEAMINGTON....

MOST SECRET

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

1030Z/16th December

OUT

TO: C. in C. U.S. Fleet

DATE: 16.12.42.

Repeated CINAV

C. in C. Atlantic Fleet.

B.A.D. Washington 508

Naval Cypher 3 (H)

FROM: Admiralty.

IMPORTANT.

Disposition of operational units in
North Atlantic:-

Area Iceland (C)

ANSON
JAMAICA
CUMBERLAND
NORFOLK
SHEFFIELD
10 Destroyers.

Area Scapa

KING GEORGE V
HOWE
MALAYA
BERMUDA
KENT
3 Destroyers

Area Clyde

2 Destroyers

Passage to Gibraltar

ADVENTURE
2 Destroyers

Area Gibraltar

NELSON
RENOWN
RODNEY
FORMIDABLE
FURIOUS
AURORA
DELHI
SCYLLA
SIRIUS
9 Destroyers.

1030Z/16

D.O.D. (H).

C.N.A.S.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim.

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.T.D. (M)

Duty Capt. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A./S.W.

Head of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.N.A.D.

D.A.C.D.

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 ^{IN} ~~Secrets~~.

1359A/16th December.

(*Note: Messages by Western Approaches being sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

Section N.E. Situation at 2004A/16/12/42. Secret Code.

SHEFFIELD JAMAICA	OPPORTUNE MATCHLESS	59 37 05 23	To Seidisford	18
W.N.73	VALSE POLKA	Sails Loch Ewe	To Methil	7½
		2230/16.		
U.R.54	BLACK FLY PAYNTER KING SOL LLANDUDNO	58 21 05 38	To 270 degs. Cape Wrath 18' thence	7½
			59 15 08 10	
E.N.73	VALSE POLKA	58 34 05 20	To Loch Ewe	7½

Section S.E. Situation at 2004A/16/12/42.

EASTON			Vicinity Bardsey Island To Tobermory	15
H.32	SCALBYWYKE	56 00 07 16	To Rothesay	8
U.S. S/M BARB U.S. S/M HERRING.	SARDONYX	54 00 05 12	To Vicinity Bishop Rock.	15
LEAMINGTON			Sails Loch Foyle to Hvalfiord. 2000/16.	20.
1 Auxiliary Vessel.		53 46 04 46	To Loch Ewe	9.
S.C.111 B	BODO	55 18 06 04	To Liverpool	6.
			4 Ships breaking off for Belfast.	
Convoy 25. (Bristol Channel JED Section)			Sails Barry To R/V Oversay Roads 0030/17.	11.
Convoy.	FIARAY	52 34 05 03	Northbound	8½.
H.M.82	LEEDS UNITED.	52 54 05 05	Southbound	8.

Section N.W. Situation at 2004A/16/12/42.

RAIDER QUADRANT		62 06 17 13	To Scapa	16.
LEAMINGTON			Sails Loch Foyle To Hvalfiord. 2000/16	20.
R.U.53	GAVOTTE STAFNES REIGHTON WYKE	61 53 19 55	To 60 40 16 01	4.
			S.D.35/.....	

551D

-3-

<u>Section S.W. (Contd.)</u>	<u>Situation at 2004A/16/12/42.</u>	<u>Secret Code.</u>
A.T.31 UNESCORTED	55 15 20 18 To 56 30 15 30 thence 56 20 09 01	26 $\frac{1}{4}$
O.N.153 FIREDRAKE	50 37 24 52 To 50 30 25 01 thence	5
C.T.U. CHESTERFIELD		
24.1.5. SUNFLOWER	43 20 32 56	
(E) ALISMA		
PINK		
SNOWFLAKE.		

1359A/16.

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

MC.

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.

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

1507A/16th December.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. IN

From. F.O.(S) Date. 16.12.42.

Recd. 1531.

P/L BY T/P.

Addressed. Admiralty.

326.

Position of submarines at 0800/17 and movements for following 24 hours. *See p. 553*

(A) P.223 63 degs. 45' North 1 deg. 30' East proceeding probably on surface through 69 degs. 01' North 08 degs. 52' East.

(B) P.339 63 degs. 08' North 00 degs. 08' West proceeding probably on surface through 69 degs. 02' North 7 degs. 48' East.

(C) SOKOL 62 degs. 20' North 00 degs. 30' East proceeding probably on the surface through 69 degs. North 10 degs. East.

(D) TORBAY 62 degs. 18' North 1 deg. 24' East proceeding probably on surface through 69 degs. 02' North 11 degs. 01' East.

(E) U.S.S. BARB, U.S.S. HERRING escorted by JARDONYX 51 degs. 20' North 5 degs. 02' West due 250 degs. Trevose Head 10 miles at 1200A/17th for exercises with aircraft thence due 180 degs. Bishop Rock 12 miles at 1800A/17 thence BARB through 49 degs. 30' North 09 degs. 01' West 49 degs. 30' North 12 degs. 26' West and HERRING through 49 degs. 10' North 09 degs. 02' West and 49 degs. 10' North 12 degs. 26' West both diving by day speed of advance 200 miles in 24 hours and 15 knots during the night of 17th/18th.

(F) H.32 escorted by SCALBY WYKE approaching Clyde from North Channel.

(G) U.S.S. GURNARD in zone K505.

(H) PORPOISE passes position (M) 43 degs. North 12 degs. 26' West at 2300A/17 thence diving by day through (L) 44 degs. 02' North 13 degs. 23' West (J) 49 degs. 10' North 13 degs. 23' West speed of advance 150 miles in 24 hours. *See p. 560A*

1507A/16.

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

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

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.

1737A/16th December.

From F.O.S. (*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule. Date. 16.12.42.
P/L by T/P. Recd. 1745.

Addressed Admiralty.

327. My 1507/16. Add new para. (J) THRASHER and P 221 escorted by UNST leave Falmouth at 1500/17 for Portsmouth expected time of arrival Needles first light 18th December.

1737A/16. 551 & 552

Advance copy Ops. O.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)
- 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).

C.

552

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- LEAMINGTON. My 1154Z/15th. Sailing postponed until the weather moderates.
Sup. 574
(N.O.I.C.Londonderry 1112Z/16).
- THRASHER
P.221.
See pp 551 & 551 F
Cancel my 1200/15th intend sailing UNST escorting THRASHER and P.221 at 1500/17th for Portsmouth E.T.A. Needles 1st light 18th December (communications)
3.Codeword for fighter protection "Object."
(N.O.I.C.Falmouth 1420A/16, 0802A/17).
- S/Ms. Positions & Movements (F.O.S. 1507A/16, 1737A/16.) See Lion Copy.
- CANTON. C. in C.Portsmouth's 1858/15th. Intend sail H.M.S. EASTON as necessary to R/V with CANTON and escort her to Clyde. EASTON being detached to proceed to Tobermory.
2. SLAZAK P.D. with TYNEDALE will part company after dark the 17th and proceed Plymouth.
3.EASTON codeword "Match 2" until joining and on proceeding independently off Clyde. SLAZAK P. D. and TYNEDALE codeword "Match 3" after parting company to return to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1713A/16).
- VICTORIOUS. *18.12.42*
A.M. 1900/8 and 2008/9. *K.T.A.M.D*
C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail VICTORIOUS escorted by RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, and REDOUBT p.m./19th December routed as follows:-
A. 270° Oversay 6 miles, B. 55° 11' N. 12° 02' W.
C. 53° 48' N. 19° 58' W, D. 51° 26' N. 30° 01' W.
E. 47° 52' N. 40° 02' W, F. 42° 45' N. 49° 59' W.
G. 38° 00' N, 57° 04' W, H. 37° 50' N. 66° 08' W.
thence to Hampton Roads.
2.Before sailing VICTORIOUS is to report to Admiralty estimated S. of A. and E.T.A.3.F.O.I.C.Greenock pass to RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT.
(D.O.D.(H) 1754A/16).
- SPENCER. Arrived U.S. S.V. SPENCER. *JOHN C. SPENCER*
(Cdre.Londonderry, 1920A/16). *(Missing Letter)*
- NEWCASTLE. Estimated you may cross track of Stragglers from Outward Bound Convoy between about 16° W. and 14° W.
(C. in C.W.A. 2326A/16 to NEWCASTLE (R) Admty, Escorts K.M.S.5.).

553

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

North Sailed P.223.
Norway (S.O.S/Ms Lerwick 0405A/16).
S/M H.M.S/M P.339 and O.R.P. SOKOL sailed at
Patrol. 1105A/16th and 1320A/16th respectively.
See p. 551 (S.O.S/Ms Lerwick 1323A/16 to S/Ms operating
North of Lat. 51° North. (R) A.C.O.S.).
Sailed TORBAY.
(S.O.S/Ms Lerwick 1855A/16).

GERMANIA. German tanker GERMANIA was intercepted in
45.02 N. 15.28 W. at 1302A/15. Crew abandoned
ship and were picked up after unsuccessful
attempt to scuttle. Ship was torpedoed, shelled and was last
reported burning fore and aft.
She may still be afloat and if encountered should be sunk
if salvage is impracticable.
(D.O.D.(H) 1305A/16 to S. and A. Areas A. and B. and W.A.)

Cover for Scapa departure JAMAICA, MATCHLESS and
J.W.51.A. OPPORTUNE.
(A.C.O.S. 1250/16).
Sailed SHEFFIELD.
(N.O.I.C.Aultbea, 1357A/16).

~~J.W.51.A. Sailed H.M.S. SHEFFIELD.
(N.O.I.C.Aultbea 1357A/16 to A.C.I.C.).~~

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Night 14/15 Dec. 6 A/C of 1 group, 39 of
Command 4 group and 23 of 5 group, took off on
Report. minelaying operations. The 5 group A/C were
recalled owing to adverse weather and of the
remainder 33 were successful.

Day 15th December. A/S patrols were undertaken by 8 Whitleys
of 10 OTU and 4 Halifaxes of 4 group. A Whitley sighted a S/M
which dived before an attack could be made. Night 15/16th Dec.
5 Wellingtons of 1 group laid mines in enemy waters.
(H.Q.B.C. 1245A/16).

Convoy K.M.F.5 was probably reported by enemy A/C
K.M.F.5. today before 1400.
(D.D.I.C. 1656A/16 to ARGUS, Escorts of K.M.F.5)

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk. During raid on Murmansk:- 15th December Russian
Merchant Ship was damaged and a slight amount of
damage was caused in the town and dock area. No
casualties to British ships or personnel.
(N.O.I.C.Murmansk 1010A/16).

Attack on Attack by 1 enemy plane on Poole 1320/16 4 H.E.
Poole. /bombs....

554

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

Attack on bombs dropped causing civilian casualties.
Poole. No known casualties to Naval personnel,
Contd. Further signal will be made.
(N.O.I.C. Poole 1357/16).

At 1520 Air Attack on Poole by one enemy plane H.E. Bombs dropped near Quay by FLORINDA and in Newmans Yard causing damage as follows:-
Harbour Patrol Vessels, VIXEN sunk; ESTRELLITA, badly damaged. TURTLE damaged.
Accommodation vessel FLORINDA superficial damage. Details of Naval damage ashore. Following N.A.T.S. damaged 20,5,21, 32. Casualties 4 slightly injured one seriously injured.
(N.O.I.C. Poole 1540/16).

Eastney. At 1500 during air raid following light damage in Royal Marine Barracks Eastney.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1733/16).

Mining.

Tynemouth. Ground mine exploded by sweepers bearing 086.° 3200 yards from P.W.S.S. Tynemouth.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1040/16).

Magnetic mine detonated 1014/16 in 55.01.03 N. 1.21.24 W. laid night 14/15th December probably.
F.O.I.C. Tyne 1040/16 refers.
(N.O.I.C. North Shields 1740/16).

PETERHEAD. PETERHEAD is restricted to speed of 12½ knots. She should therefore primarily be used for dan laying.
(D.M.S. 1753A/16 to M.S.15).

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ. Photographs of Lofjord at 1445/16th December show TIRPITZ in usual berth with booms closed. A passenger type vessel, and a M/V are also present.
Foettenfiord covered, but no major units were present there.
(D.D.I.C. 1935A/16).

U/Boats.

U/Bs HX218 escorted by W/B 120 from 1547A/15 to 1943A/15. W/120 Capt. S/Ldr. Isted sighted U/B on surface at 1443A/15 in HBAV 4622/205 10 kts at a distance of 2 miles bearing 040° attacked with 6 Mark XI torpex, D/CS MK.XVI pistol from 50 feet SE.25

/feet...

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U/Boats - Contd.

U/Bs attacked Contd. feet spaced 36 ft. 88(80)*feet of stern still visible. DRS CS dropped 50/70 ft ahead of swirl first 3 D/CS straddling track. Usual D/C scum seen. A/C remained vicinity 10 mins nothing further seen. U/B appeared 517 ton type but twers* obscured view. B/120 Capt.(2 corrupt groups) sighted U/B on surface at 1731A/15 in position 55.27 N. 34.50 W. 135 T/5 kts at a distance of 5 miles. Attacked with 6 MK XI Torpex D/CS XVI pistol from 50 ft set 25 ft spaced 36 ft. None of U/B visible Attacked 10 secs. after submerging. D/Cs dropped 30 yds, ahead of swirl 135°. F/Engineer saw through bomb doors several black objects blown into air in first D/C explosions then fell back in sea and disappeared. A/C remained 16 mins, in vicinity nothing further seen but W/120 reported later having seen attack delivered by B/120 and one S/R was later noticed appearing to come from scene of attack. HX218 Comp. 54 M/Vs. 6 EVs left in SLNM 3005/085/6. Operational times 38 hrs. 21 mins. (R.A.F.Iceland 0428A/16).*as received.

A.T.31. Two or three U/Bs estimated in your immediate vicinity.
 (D.D.I.C. 0807A/16 to A.T.31 (QUEEN ELIZABETH)
 (R) C. in C.W.A.,H.Q.C.C.)

?O.N.153. D.E.101, SSSS 91 Torpedoed D.E.101 ends.
 (Valentia Radio 1927/16).

Casualties & Defects.

RALLUS, Returned from K.M.S.5, C.B.26002, CB.22696,
 EXILONA. G.B. 26310. SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN damage and cargo
 SALTWICK, shifting due to heavy weather.
 SALVAGE (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0115/16). *p.557*
 CHIEFTAIN.

CARNATIC. K.M.S.5. CARNATIC returned to Clyde with
 defects.
See p.560 (N.O.I.C.Greenock 0934A/16).

POTARO^o Owing to weather damage M.V.POTARO returned to
 M.L..1156. Gourock 15th December for repairs. Bedding
 M.L..1126. chocks and lashing to M.Ls 1156 and 1126 are
 being reset. Only damage to M.L.1156 five small
 holes about $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter starboard side and small piece of torn
 copper on port bow. Only damage to M.L.1126, was broken
 Oerlikon gun sight. Repairs to M.V. estimated three days.
 (M.L.1156,1142/16).

ITTERSUM. K.M.S.5. 23693 returned Clyde with heavy weather
 damage.
See p.557 (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1446/16).

556

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - *con/5*

- S.B.4106. S.B.4106 grounded Macringans Point Campbeltown Loch approximately 2200/12. Salvage impracticable. (Machrihanish 1458A/16 to R.A.N.A.S.).
- CLAN MACBEAN. K.M.S.5, CB21605 returned Clyde with damaged steering gear. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 1750/16).
- P.L.M.14. Returned K.M.S.5 Clyde - Rothesay anchorage 25538 with weather damage. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 2135/16).

Shipping & Convoys.

- W.P.264. Convoy is not to sail. Forecast wind southern force 7 gusts of 60 - 70 m.p.h. may back S. S.E. veering midday to S.S.W. (C. in C. Plymouth 0819/16).
- O.N.153. O.N.153. Convoy attacked at 0750Z in 051.35 N. 024.13 W. SS. ASBJORN* SS. REGENT LION torpedoed. (C.T.U. 24.1.5. 0829Z/16.)* Should be BELLO. O.N.153. A.C.I.C. Para.5. *p.578*
- REGENT LION & BELLO, EMILE FRANCOU, (A) 051.45 N. 023.50 W. (X) at 0750Z/16th. torpedoed. *4/30* (B) One if required. *FIRE DRAKE by U.211. (6.3.443)* (C) Astern. (D) REGENT LION, probably all crew. BELLO, Master and 5. Not ASBJORN. (E) REGENT LION hit in engine room salvable with tugs. (F) CHESTERFIELD. (H) Weather report 4772, 4656. (C.T.U.24.1.5. 1121Z/16).
- O.N.153. Attacked by U/Bs at 1911Z. Pendant 101* torpedoed position 50.58 N.?(24°) 42.W. (C.T.U. 24.1.5. 1953/16.)* ? Should be 91, SS EMILE FRANCOU.
- Your 1121.CHESTERFIELD should rejoin Convoy if she has not already done so. (C. in C.W.A. 1703A/16 to C.T.U. 24.1.5.(R) CHESTERFIELD.). C.T.U.1121/16 not to A.C.O.S., A.C.O.S. is requested to sail Rescue tug MARAUDER to assist tanker REGENT LION torpedoed but salvable in 51.45 N. 23.50 W. at 0750/16. 2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail trawler escort for MARAUDER and to arrange R/V with her near Skerryvore or other convenient position. (D.T.D. 1843A/16 to C. in C.W.A., A.C.O.S.). Admty, 1843/16. CAPE PALLISER detailed to escort MARAUDER. (C. in C.W.A. 2142A/16).

- P.S.16. My 1735A/15 not to X.D.O.E. PS and S.P.16
S.P.16. postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C.portsmouth 0914A/16).

- P.W.F.263. Sailing postponed owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C.Falmouth 0919A/16).

P.W.264....

557

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - *with*

P.W.264. My 1725A/15. Movement postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 0957A/16).

W.P.B.265. Postponed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C.Cardiff, 1050/16).

M.K.F.4. Not met. P.C. and S. 049. 38 N. 014.43 W.
(B) 009.15.
(FISHGUARD 1100A/16 to C. in C.W.A.(R) EGRET.)

Estimate you may meet 3 M/Vs escorted
by LULWORTH and LANDGUARD at about 2000A/16. Outward bound stragglers from K.M.S.5 may also be met.
(C. in C.W.A. 1824A/16 to EGRET (R) LULWORTH, LANDGUARD, Admty, Escorts M.K.F. 4 Escorts K.M.S.5.)
M.K.F.4. Position 2000A/16th, 051.29 N. 013.43 W. (b) Course 020.° owing to weather 13.5. knots. TANATSIDE detached 1640A/16th in position ~~to~~ 050.48 N. 014.06 W. to Londonderry with prisoners-of-war. TANATSIDE medical officer and 2 prisoners of war are surgical cases. Weather report. (EGRET 1925A/16).

AMSTERDAM. Your 1235/12. "Compound" Arrived.
(Londonderry) (N.O.I.C.Lerwick 1110A/16 to N.O.I.C.Invergordon)
My 1220/14/12. DEPUTY sailing postponed until weather moderates, further signal will be made.
(N.O.I.C.Lerwick 1720A/16).

H.X.220. C.T.24.1.18 1900/15.
If damaged to B.4. group is serious, request you will consider possibility of sailing WARWICK, COLUMBINE, BUTTERCUP to U.K. as additional escort H.X.No.220.
(C. in C.W.A. 1140Z/16 to C.T.Force 24, (R) Admty, Cominch, C. in C.Atlantic Fleet (U.S. B.A.D.Washington, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C., Halifax, Cdr.Eastern Sea Frontier, C.T.U.24.1.18., Cdre. Londonderry).

M.K.S.3.(Y). M.K.S.3 (Y) 40.07 N.16.44 W. (A) 322° present
See 14560A9 S.O.A. 6½ knots. BLEASDALE asdic permanently out of action. Straggler BARON FORBES. Escorts have fuel stocks remaining for 7 days under present conditions weather report (PALOMARES 1207A/16 to Admty, C. in C.W.A.pass to those concerned)

K.M.S.5. K.M.S.5. My P.C. and S. 1200/16th (X) 051.03 N.
See 14555 015.02 W. 205° 4½. R/V 1200/17th 049.40 N. 016.01 W. R/V 1200/18th 047.20 N.(?016°) 35.W. Request broadcast all above. 28 ships and 9 escort vessels in company. LANDGUARD and
LULWORTH 60 miles astern with 3 ships. KITCHENER not met but in vicinity. Weather report 35786447.
(LONDONDERRY 1215A/16).

My 1604/15. ships returning to U.K. add ITTERSUM, SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN, GARSLOGIE, EMPIRE HUNTER.
(C. in C.W.A. 1401A/16).

/O.N.155....

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.155. BURZA is to sail with B6 escorting QN.155 and
S.C.116. SC 116.
(C. in C.W.A. 1242A/16).
- G.U.F.2. My 1300A/16. Further bearings indicate
U/B was not in vicinity of convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 1345A/16 to Escorts G.U.F.2).
- Re-organisa- Owing to weather the following reorganisation of
tion Convoys is to take place.
of 2.W.P.265 and P.W.264 are cancelled.
Convoys. 3.P.W.263(S) Codeword "Nation IV" is to sail from
Plymouth a.m. tomorrow escorted by KINGSTON,
ANDALUSITE, AMBROISE PARE and VARDO to R/V
P.W.F. 263 at D.One Buoy, after R/V Convoy to continue as P.W.
263 escorted by CORNELIAN (S.O), RUBY and ELLESMERE.
4. On relief at D.One Buoy KINGSTON ANDALUSITE, AMBROISE PARE
and VARDO to return to Plymouth codeword "Nation IV".
5. W.P.264 to sail from Barnstaple Bay as soon as weather
permits.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1357A/16).
- T.A.31.A. Convoy T.A.31.A. A.M. 1947/11 and 1845/15.
ANDES will not now be ready to leave Clyde until
p.m./18th December.
2. Amend time of R/V off Oversay to read 0900Z/19.
(D.O.D.(H) 1622A/16).

War Diary.

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

F.A.A.
attack
on M.Vs
Bizerta.

Your 1213/15 will be complied with but it is desired for many reasons to give the utmost publicity to the Fleet Air Arm. Request you will facilitate this whenever possible.
(D.P.D. Approved V.C.N.S. 1424A/16 to N.C.X.F.)

Raiders.

Intelligence. 1. No further reliable information of German or Japanese raiders.
2. BENLOMOND overdue at Paramaribo since 28.11.42 from Cape Town. Cause unknown.
3. Blockade runners. Outward bound tanker GERMANIA intercepted by H.M. Ships at 1300A/15 in 45° 05' N. 15° 30' W. and scuttled herself.
Indefinite D/F bearings at 1105Z314 indicate German merchant ship possibly in Sunda Strait area.
Further information indicates that tanker hitherto referred to as CATARACTE (see A.M. 1704A/8 para. 3) is almost certainly BRAKE. ANTARKTIS left Ferrol 9th Dec. and proceeded to French Port. SPICHERN and MAX ALBRECHT believed still at Ferrol.
4. NANKIN now reported captured by Raider "E" on 10th May and has been seen at Yokahama. May be used for blockade running.
(D.D. I.C. 1012A/16. to A.I.G. 13, etc.,)

North Atlantic.

U/B
attacked.

Following has been read by Gib. Am over enemy S/M in 37.02 N. 00.15 E. sighted on surface. When first sighted was on course 080° speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S TR1 Duty 'T' 0022/16)

Have attacked enemy U/B with depth charges.
(A/C Call sign TR1 Recd. 0235 duty 'T' 0150Z/16.)
Am over enemy submarine in 36.54 N. 00.24 W.
(A/C TR1 Duty 'H' 0431/16 to Gib. M/F, D/F.)

/Salvage ...

560

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

Salvage of HORARATA and CEFALU. Your 2202/15, concur. (D.T.D. 0638A/16 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) N.A. Lisbon, R.O. Fayal, V.A. Gibraltar.) My 1719/15 to Connav only. Ministry of Marine, Lisbon, now refuse assistance and have cancelled arrangements. We have arranged for CLUNEPARK now in vicinity to assist HORARATA torpedoed and in danger of sinking off Flores. No assistance available for CEFALU of which no further information. My 0530/15 refers.

(D.T.D. 1124Z/16 to Connav. (R) V.A. Gibraltar, C.E.S.F.)
Pass to Master of HORORATA.

Following from Owners. Is any power available? Can vessel be towed in present condition? What are your suggestions? Reply through N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada if you have no code.

(2) Report if Master has codes on board.

(D.T.D. 1730A/16 to N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada, (R) British Consul, Horta.

Request you will sail Rescue Tug EMINENT if available to assist HORORATA at Flores, calling at Ponta Delgada for instructions from N.C.S.O. en route.

(D.T.D. 2004A/16 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. W.A.)

CARNATIC.

See p. 555

For C.S.A. My 1916A/11 requesting arrangements to be made to fuel CARNATIC and BALUCHISTAN. CARNATIC has returned to U.K.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0936/16 to B.C. Ponta Delgade)

IRIS
(French S/M).

N.A. Madrid's 1630/9, 1941/10 and 1725/11. (Re French sub. IRIS interned at Barcelona) We see no objection to the move and do not at present see what capital we can make out of Spanish Government's request for our consent since their interest in the welfare of the submarine is slight. If, however, you or H.M. Ambassador can suggest a way to take advantage of the situation we shall be glad to consider it.

2. S/M will be less under your eye at Port Soller but Axis are unlikely to attach much importance to obtaining a French submarine. Are you satisfied as to the purity of Spanish Government's intentions?

(M. Branch Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1141A/16 to N.A. Madrid)

SAN AMADO.

C.S. Gibraltar's 1000/15. (?2000/15 intended, re retention of SAN AMADO) Para. 3 approved. (N.C.X.F. 1201A/16 to V.A. Gib.)

MASTADONTE.

See next page Intend to sail MASTADONTE for U.K. p.m./17th. Routed through (a) 36.01 06.02. (b) 36.50 09.10 (c) 40.01 13.01. (d) 44.01 13.30. (e) 49.01 12.30. (f) 180° Lizard Head 6 Miles thence to Falmouth unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. S. of A. 8 knots. (V.A. Gib., 1325A/16, to Admt. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.C.X.F., C. in C. W.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.

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1346A/16th Dec. IN

FROM: V.A. Gibraltar DATE: 16.12.42.
RECD: 1851

N.V.L. CYPHER (S) BY W/T.

Addressed: A.I.G. 63.

Situation 1956A/16th.

IMPORTANT.

(1) Submarine H.M.S. PORPOISE, 039 degs 52' 010 degs 55' 340 degs diving by day 2½ knots surface by night 11½ knots. *See p. 551 E*

(2) LOCH OSKAIG, H.M.S. MIRROR, 36 24 10 19 277 degs 9½.

(3) M K S 3 (Y), H.M.S. KRAKOWIAK, BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, PALOMARES, H.M.S. AZALEA, H.M.S. LAUDERDALE, 42 23 17 32 through 43 45 17 50 thence 004 degs. 7½. *See p. 557 9 un x p 24*

(4) M K F 4 (Y), SPEY, ROTHER, H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, sailing Gibraltar 1900A/16th through (?36) 20 10 01 thence 299 degs 12. *See p. 562*

(5) K M F 5, fleet units, H.M.S. LAFOREY, H.M.S. LIGHTNING, 3 sloops, 1 cutter, 1 corvette, 44 11 17 49 178 degs 8½.

(6) K X 6 A, H.M.S. NORTHERN GIFT, H.M.S. NORTHERN FOAM, 37 14 10 12 through 36 31 09 30 thence Gibraltar 5.

(7) Tug MASTERFUL, 35 (?06) 07 29 to Gibraltar 5. *See p. 562*

(8) H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, 31 13 12 39 through 28 10 16 05 thence (?144 degs 121 degs 195 degs) 12. *See p. 562*

(9) F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, one merchant ship, one tug, 26 32 15 43 052 degs 7½. *See p. 561 A*

(10) TERROR, U.S. Ship AUK, 1.0 34 37 06 36 coastwise to Gibraltar 9

(11) MASTADONTE sails from Gibraltar 1700A 17th through 36 01 06 02 and 36 50 09 10 8. *See previous page*

1346A/16.

Advance Copy Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F) D.D.I.C.

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

MAG.

War Diary.16.12.1942.
WednesdayFOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. Contd.

E.T.5.

E.T.A. 1945A/16. VELOX, FLEETWOOD, HUSSAR in company.
(VENOMOUS, 1347A/16. to V.A. Gibraltar.)STURGEON,
TRIBUNE.(1) STURGEON now ready for passage Algiers awaiting Lieut. Langridge arrival. Expect spares for STURGEON to arrive Gibraltar about 24th. (2) Unlikely ~~SEIBY HASE~~ will arrive for some time.

Propose Coe relieve S.O. Submarines Gibraltar 19th when Porter assumes command of TRIBUNE. (3) Owing to traffic, am only reading signals addressed to me or those affecting submarine in entering or leaving N.A. Station as far east as Greenwich meridian.

(S.O. S/Ms. Gibraltar, 1440A/16 to Capt. (S) 8 (R) V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.S., N.C.X.E.)

Your 1440. Para. 1. Do not delay STURGEON for arrival of spares.

Para. 2. Approved subject to concurrence of V.A. Gibraltar.

(Capt. (S) 8, 2106A/16 to S.O. (S) Gibraltar.)

PATHFINDER.

Intend sailing PATHFINDER for Mers-el-Kebir at 1830/16 routed through 78, 50, 86, 93, 109.

E.T.A. 0800/17.

(V.A. Gib., 1446A/16 to S.O. Force H, F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) RENOWN, N.C.X.F., Admty.)

Suspicious
Tanker.

French observation post on the southern boundary of YFNI reports unidentified tanker 11 miles distant, course 45 at 1020 G.M.T.

(Comseafon W.T.F., 1601Z/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Movements.

My 1853/15 sailed ROCHESTER, LEITH, tugs NIMBLE, SALVONIA, for Oran. Q.B.83, Q.B.A. 14, Q.B.B.308. (V.A. Gib., 1625A/16 to N.C.X.F. Motor Minesweeper Oran. (R) S.O. Force H. Admty., MANXMAN.)

M.K.S.3Y.

Your 1135/16. (Requesting confirmation of route M.K.S.3Y - N.T. in W.D.) Convoy was routed in accordance with N.C.X.F. 1905/6, not to Admty. and C. in C. W.A. (2) Route is (J) 36.10 10.00, (K) 38.28 15.00, (L) 40.28 17.02, (M) 43.45 17.50, (N.) 51.10 17.11, (O) 54.30 13.45, (P) 55.26 08.31.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1653A/16. to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

My 1653/16. Convoy was sailed with this route owing to an error in signal.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1940/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Ponta
Delgada
weather
damage.

My 1200/14 (Oil wharf at Ponta Delgada damaged by heavy weather) Ministry of Marine report that oiling facilities at Ponta Delgada will again be available for ships larger than destroyers in 3 weeks time.

(N.A. Lisbon, 1702/16 to Admty. (R) F.O.Gib., etc.)

MOST SECRET

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"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET. From F.O.C.N.A. NAVAL CYPHER 3S by W/T.	MESSAGE. 1355A/16th December. Date. 16.12.42. Recd. 1707.	IN. 1355A/16th December. Date. 16.12.42. Recd. 1707.
---	---	--

Addressed A.I.G. 65.

IMPORTANT.

Situation 1955A/16 Area Z.

- (1) G U F 2 (delayed section), 034 degs. 15' 033 degs. 55' 270 degs. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- (2) H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM, GRIFEVALE, 025 degs. 21' 017 degs. 24' 052 degs. 6.
- (3) F.S. COMMANDANT DE FROYAT, one merchant ship, one tug, 026 degs. 32' (7015 degs.) 43' 032 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. *Sup. 560 A*

1355A/16.

F.O.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
 N.A. 1st S.L.
 Capt. Pin
 D.C.D. (H) (2)
 D.C.D. (F) (2)
 D.T.D. (M)
 Duty Captain (2)
 U.S.N.
 D.I./S.W.
 Head of M,
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 I.F. (2)
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (C)
 C.C.R.T.
 P.N.L.O.
 D.N.I. (4)
 Ad. Ramsey (4)
 Ad. Blake (2)

Advance copy Duty Capt. D.C.D. (H) D.T.D.

War Diary.

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - *with*

WYOMING
G.U.S.2.

Request authority to include French vessel WYOMING under charter to U.S. in G.U.S.2. (C.S.F.F.W.T.F. 1753A/16, to N.C.X.F.)

48 Sqdn.

Your 1704A/14. 48 Hudson Squadron has been ordered to proceed to Gibraltar and expects to leave U.K. about 21st Dec. (D.O.D.(H) 1823/16. to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F.)

PATHFINDER.

My 1155/16 (N.T. in W.R.) Sailed PATHFINDER 1850/16. (V.A. Gib., 2020/16 to Admty., S.O. Force H. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, N.C.X.F.) *See p.561*

Interned
Shipping
Casablanca.

1. French authorities have agreed hand over all Allied ships Casablanca area. Request you now take possession on behalf of Allied Governments concerned of all such ships afloat and hoist original flag. Similar action to be taken over other Allied ships

when salved.

2. French crews if on board may be replaced by crew of nationality concerned if available, otherwise any other Allied crew. Report if short of suitable crews. Ships should then be sailed Gibraltar at next opportunity.

3. Following are Allied ships in your area. British TOUSSIKA renamed ST. HUGUES, PENGREEP renamed ST. JAQUELINE, SALMO renamed ST. EMILE, HILIE, BELGIEN, CYRIL, HEBE II, STORAAX, (note that last five are ex Danes, and Danish crews should be used if possible, but they are British prizes and should fly British Flag). Norwegian NYHORN, BATAVIA, Belgian CARLIER, Dutch EXPORT, already dealt with. Instructions on Danish ELSIE will follow if she is salved.

4. Request you report attitude of Belgian crew of CARLIER.

5. Action taken should be reported to Cominch for C.S.A.B. and to Admty. for M.W.T. as well as to N.C.X.F. (N.C.X.F., 2030A/16 to S.N.O. Casablanca, (R) V.A. Gibraltar, Cominch, M.W.T.R. Algiers.)

MASTERFUL.

See p.564

My 2228/14. (Sailing of H.M.T. MASTERFUL escorted by ERNE and SANDWICH) has returned with defects. (F.O.C. Gib., 2221/16, 3151A/17 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., etc.)

M.K.F.4Y.

My 1939/15. Sailed 2000, ROTHER, SPEY, escorting Convoy M.K.F.4Y Q.Z.H. 993 less 979, 988, 991, 992, L 52, S 388, X 891, Y 368. Local escort BOREAS BRILLIANT. (V.A. Gibraltar, 2226A/16 to Admty. N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. W.A.) *See p.560A*

MAURO CROCE
(Italian)

Departed 2000, Valencia. (Barcelona 1841/16 to M.W.T.)

563

War Diary.

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.ALMANZORA,
JOHAN VAN
OLDEN
BARNEVELDT.Your 1145/14. Can not agree. Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 0308A/16 to P.S.T.?. Capetown,
(R) C. in C.S.A.).EMPIRE GULL.
(sunk
12th December)44 survivors ex EMPIRE GULL landed here today
by H.M.Ship. EMPIRE GULL sunk at 2255/12 Dec.
in 26° S. 35° E. by torpedo and gunfire from
U-Boat. All C.Bs dumped over side in weighted
bag by Master and seen to sink. All crew
accounted for except (1) Steward and (1) Fireman.
(N.C.S.O.Durban 0901Z/16 to Admty, C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F.)

S.S. COLUMBINE.

Departure 15th COLUMBINE in tow Walvis Bay
E.T.A./22nd.
(Vice Consul Pointe Noire. 1025/16 to C. in C.S.
S.O.(I) Freetown, N.O.I.C.Lagos, N.O.I.C.
Takoradi, Connav Washington, N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay)Lourenço
Marques.Your 1943 /15th. Port is not closed. All
Shipping is routed via Durban and thence sailed
in groups, between Durban and Lourenço Marques
and vice versa. My 1221/5th and my 1154/10th
refer. 2. Volume of traffic is satisfactory and no undue
congestion or delay has resulted.
(C. in C.S.A. 1139C/16 to Admty, C. in C.E.F. C.S.A.Lourenço
Marques).

D.N.7.

D.N.7 consisting of 12 ships sailed 1200Z/16th
escorted by INCONSTANT and FREESIA speed 8 knots
to dispersal position 029.44 S. 039.04 E.
List etc.
(N.C.S.O. Durban. 1336Z/16).

AEGEUS.

Request any information available of B/S AEGEUS
due Capetown 5th November and not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1426C/16 to Admty (R) F.O.C.W.A)A/S Trawlers
for Cape.Sailed 1400Z/16th. December ARCTIC EXPLORER,
LE TIGER, Walvis Bay, E.T.A. 1300Z/31st December,
through.
(A) 19.01.00 E.(B).10.25 S. 06.50. (C) 20.00.
12.30. S. of A. 10 knots W/T 239 to Q.1300Z/22nd
December.
(N.O.I.C.Takoradi 1430Z/16 to C. in C.S.A.(R)
R.A.W.A.etc). *See p. 563 B*ASTURIAS
CYCLAMEN.ASTURIAS, CYCLAMEN carry out patrol between
position (P) equator 019.07 W. and (Q) 003.03 S.
022.52 W. passing through. (Z) 001.48 S. 020.15 W.
Commencing patrol at position (P) at 0800/17th. S. of A. 12½ kts
(F.O.C.W.A. 1605Z/16 to ASTURIAS, CYCLAMEN, PHOEBE, Admty, Comsolant,
C. in C.U.S.Fleet).

/Shipping....

SECRET

563^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

1313Z/16th December

IN

From: F.O.C., West Africa

Date: 16.12.42

Recd: 1451

Naval Cypher (M) by W/T.

Addressed: Ships in Area "P" of South Atlantic Station
North of 8° N., Admiralty, C.-in-C., South
Atlantic, N.O.I.C., Bathurst.

IMPORTANT.

*HOLCOMBE off Freetown escorting to 010° 10' 016°
45' thence 278° 12½. H.M.S.*ILEX off Bathurst to
rendezvous with HOLCOMBE 15. BIRDLIP 009° 50' 015°
30' to Freetown 11 at 2002/16th. * *5-16.564*

1313Z/16

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

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

D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(C)

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN.
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent from a One Time Pad: 1351Z/16th December.
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

From F.O. Commanding W. Africa.

Date. 16.12.42.
Recd. 1700.

NAVAL CYPHER (M) by W/T.

Addressed A.I.C. 180.

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. HUMBA, 5 Motor Launches, with T S 27
004 degs. (722') 009 degs. 48' to 005 degs. 42' 010 degs. 38'
thence 299 degs. 8,
BREDON, about 006 degs. 20' 011 degs. 55' to Marshall 10.
H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA, 000 degs. 53' 018 degs. 01'
to 002 degs. 30' south 020 degs. 00' thence 249 degs. 10.8.
(?)VIVIANA, escorting 004 degs. 19' 003 degs. 38' 081 degs. 10.
Allied Naval Unit escorting 004 degs. to 006 south 018 degs. to
023 degs. west.
H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, on patrol 000 degs. 28' south
021 degs. 57' to 001 degs. 17' 018 degs. 21' 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. See p. 563
ARCTIC EXPLORER, LE TIGER, off Takoradi to Walvis Bay 9. See p. 563
SARABANDE escorting 001 degs. 34' 006 degs. 43' east 145 degs. 10.
SPHENE, KHYBER, escorting 007 degs. 18' south 011 degs. 25' east
188 degs. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
NORTHERN CHIEF, ST. LOMAN, escorting about 008 degs. 16' south
010 degs. 37' east to 010 degs. south 010 degs. east thence 180 8.

1351Z/16.

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. Pin
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- Duty Captain (2)
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C).

564

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Shipping for Trinidad and U.S.A. Following 2102/15 from Connav (begins) Recommend vessels from South African ports bound for Trinidad or East Coast U.S.A. be diverted individually to pass North and East of 04° N. 27° W. during present apparent U/B concentration between St.Pauls's Rocks and

Natal ends.

2. This proposal is concurred with and it is therefore requested that you will divert ships to comply.
3. Suggest diversion should be restricted to ships now East of 20° West and not requiring bunkers at Recife.
(D.T.D. 1606A/16 to C. in C.S.A., F.O.C.W.A.(R) Connav).

FIDELITY (proceeding to Freetown.) F.O.I.C.Liverpool's 1718/15 December has been repeated to C. in C.S.A. for information. (D.O.D.(F) 1620/16 to C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Liverpool, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.E.A., C. in C. S.A.).

DAUNTLESS. Arrived and sailed DAUNTLESS to Simonstown routed as in my 0604/7th December.
(2) Shifts to group S.L. at 0301C/17th December.
3. S. of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. Simonstown 1400C/18th.
(N.O.I.C.Durban 1655C/16 to Admty, C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. C.S.Simonstown, N.L.O.Capetown, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. East London).

MASTERFUL. Your 1307A/14th para.3.(re sailing Tug MASTERFUL for Freetown).
See p 562
From (D) through (X) 015.00 N. 018.21 W. and (Z) 010.11 N. 016.49 W. to Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1732Z/16 to V.A.Gib).

HOLCOMBE ILEX. 1.Sailed HOLCOMBE at 1600Z/16th December, escorting E.W.SINCLAIR, and ORDUNA. Route (P.010.10 N. 016.45 W. (Q) 011.23 025.01.
See p 563^A
2. Intend ILEX from Bathurst to R/V in position (Z) 010.11 N. 016.49 W. at 1100Z/17th December to take over escort of ORDUNA to North in compliance with V.A. Gib.1307A/14th.
(3) Intend HOLCOMBE to escort E.W.SINCLAIR to about position (Q) where E.W.SINCLAIR will be detached to proceed independently at dusk 18th December.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1837Z/16 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., ILEX, N.O.I.C.Bathurst, Connav, V.A.Gib. HOLCOMBE).

ATHELVICTOR accident. Your 1650/14, Understand ATHELVICTOR has been ordered to Capetown for orders. 2. Can you arrange to obtain an affidavit from the Master for purposes of the enquiry? It is imperative not to delay ship unnecessarily, A.M.2206/26/11 refers.
(D.T.D.2000A/16 to N.O.I.C.Lagos (R) F.O.C.W.A.).

/YARNSHOLT(?)....

565

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

YARNSHOLT(?) Following received from consulate. Para.
 (torpedoed 23 survivors Norwegian ship YARNSHOLT arrived
 2nd December) Parnahyba, in ship's boat. 2nd Officer highest
 ranking survivor reports ship torpedoed in
 (B.R. 1337) 003.20 N. 030.20 W. at 2030/2nd December. S/M
 sighted again 2 days later 20 miles West of sinking and
 proceeding westward. U.S.A. Naval observer informed.
 (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2111Z/16 to Admty, N.S. Ottawa, F.O.C.W.A.
 S.O.(I) Jamaica).
 W.D. Note:- No trace of YARNSHOLT in Lloyds. S.O.(I) Rio's
 1659Z/17 gives name as THATSULT, also no trace in Lloyds.

DESPATCH.

Arrival 16th December.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 2303Z/16, to Admty).

567

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

RORQUAL

Move to be in position 040° 29', 014° 16' by 1700A today if you are now in position to achieve this. Return to present position* 2200A today. (Capt. S.10., 1056A/16 to RORQUAL (R) N.C.X.F., P.222) *W.R. Note Geographical Port Tewfik.

Development of G.C.I.

With advent of A.S.V. in enemy A/C and vital necessity to operate surface forces against Tunisian supply line the fitting of ships efficiently for unit control of night fighters assumes the utmost importance.

(2) Fitting of special ships with G.C.I. and appropriate fighter direction gear regardless of limitation to armament appears a possible solution and such ships should have sufficient speed to operate with forces such as Q and K.

(3) Apart from this, slower ships, specially fitted with G.C.I. would be of incalculable value as escort when time comes to pass convoy through the Mediterranean.

(4) Request developments on these lines may be pressed forward as matter of the highest priority.

(N.C.X.F., 1122A/16 to Admty). *Reply: D.S.D., 1453/9/1/443.*

WELSHMAN

Your 2111/15th. My 1727/15 refers. Request you will sail WELSHMAN as soon as reasonable moon conditions exist.

(2) It would be appreciated if she could bring DIDO's mail.

(N.C.X.F., 1138A/16 to C. in C. Med).

Cositrep No. 625. Part 2.

Air. Night 14/15 Dec. Liberators bombed Harbour installations at Naples starting two fires in the region of the main power station and oil storage depot. Bursts were seen at railway station near Arsenal and Steel Works but haze and low cloud hampered observation of damage. Wellingtons

mined approaches to Tripoli Harbour.

Malta Wellingtons bombed docks at Tunis and La Goulette starting fires on dockside building and on Island at La Goulette. Three hits claimed on ships in Harbour. Other bursts on quay and near Electric Railway Depot at Tunis. One ship hit in previous night's attack was still burning. Naval Albacores from Malta torpedoed a 2,000 M/V beached near Sousse. One hit scored followed by column of water and large patch of oil on surface.

Beaufighters bombed a schooner off Sousse starting a small fire on board and attacked a vessel of 800 tons near Lampion Island with cannon fire.

(C. in C. M.E., 1240B/16).

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 82.

A.675 16th Dec. My Opsum 81.

Remaining 9 B.24s all bombed Naples harbour 11th Dec. scoring direct hits on quays, warehouses, marshalling yards and a fuel storage tank. 3 fires near large building dock area with 1 column of smoke rising to 3,000 feet. 6 Liberators were despatched to attack harbour during following night. 4 aircraft bombed target starting 3 large fires near power station,

/1 M A M ...

16.12.1942,
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - con/5.

Bi-weekly
Opsum.
No. 82.
Contd.

1 M A M airframe works and railway sidings respectively. Other bombs burst in town and near railway station. 1 Liberator bombed coastal ridge between Naples and Bangoli 4 miles to S.W. Low cloud hampered observation of damage. Remaining Liberator released bombs prematurely near Naples owing to technical failure to bomb

doors.
Night 11/12 Dec. 3 Marauders despatched to make dusk attack on Gabes railway station and aerodrome. On outward journey 1 Marauder bombed a 4,000 ton M/V S.E. of Kerkenah Islands. Vessel subsequently identified as wreck. 3 Wellingtons laid 6 mines off entrance to Tripoli harbour.

12 Dec. 3 Marauders despatched on offensive reconnaissance for enemy coastal shipping off Tripoli found no targets and bombed W/T station with unobserved results.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1241Z/16).

Part 5 of A.675 16 Dec. Night 14/15 Dec. 6 Liberators bombed Harbour installations at Naples. 2 fires started region of main power station and A.G.I.P. oil storage depot respectively. Other bombs burst near railway station and marshalling yards near shipyard near steel works at Basnoli and between arsenal and S.T.A.P. oil storage depot. Low cloud and haze prevented observation of damage.

(H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., 1321Z/16).

6th part my A.675 16th Dec. 5 Wellingtons laid 10 mines in Approaches to Tripoli Harbour. 3 Wellingtons offensive R/C for enemy shipping off Tripoli. No sightings other than 1 hospital ship.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1341Z/16).

UARSCIEK
Sunk.
Situation
report No.
305.

p. 471

My 1248/15 Dec. para. 2.
(2) PETARD at 0405/14 Dec. in 35° 8' N., 14° 22' E. steering 300° speed 33 knots sighted on port bow on same course what was at first thought to be a ship. Then seen to be a submarine and C.O. considering possibility of P.35, made challenge.

(3) At 0410 PETARD reported being over submarine. Three attacks made, the last by QUEEN OLGA causing damage which surfaced her. U-boat fired two torpedoes after first attack. PETARD in collision with U-boat has sustained underwater damage forward and aft necessitating six weeks in dock. Ship reasonably seaworthy can steam 20 knots.

(4) Amend total of prisoners to 32 (includes 4 officers) Her C.O. was killed.

(C. in C. Med., 1258B/16 to Admty. (R) V.A.M., V.A. Gibraltar, C.S.15, R.A. Alexandria, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., N.C.X.F., Commd. (D)) W.R. Note. Portions of this telegram have been deleted. They concern D.N.I. who will arrange for the circulation and comment as necessary.

My 2143/15 Dec. and 1258/16 Dec. U-boat was Italian UARSCIEK and books were captured.

(C. in C. Med., 1300B/16).

[Position, see 113015/18 p641]

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

U.S. Shipping information. My 2331/2nd Dec. Connav now requests similar information regarding U.S. managed shipping in Mediterranean area. Request you will comply. (D.T.D. 1321A/16 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, (R) B.A.D.)

EMPIRE GAWAIN. Your 1440/15 (Proposal that EMPIRE GAWAIN be converted to black oiler as fleet attendant, Algiers.) Concur. (Director of Stores, 1349A/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) Cdre Algiers, V.A. Gibraltar).

P.211 Departure. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1426A/16 to Admty etc).

P.222 Leave patrol at 0001A/17th proceed to Algiers through (1) 038° 58' 012° 18' (2) 038° 25' 008° 40' (3) 038° 36' 008° 00' at 0158A/19, thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. (P.222 (R) Submarines on Patrol N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 8).

Transfer of 3 S/Ms of 10th Fl. to 8th Fl. My 1450/19th Nov. Admty. 1259/8th. It seems to me that the less submarines have to pass through Q.B. the better. In view of present need of concentration on Naples - Tunisia traffic propose this change be effected as convenient to Capt. (S) 10th S.F. and Capt. (S) 8th S.F. Do you concur? (2) Surplus gear could be sent next time WELSHMAN or other ships passing through. (N.C.X.F. 1510A/16 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc) Concur. (C. in C. Med., 1308B/17).

M.T. Bs. 4 M.T. Bs. from Bone will be operating in Cape Bon - Maréttimo Area tonight 16th/17th. (Capt. S.10, 1654A/16 to S/Ms on patrol).

Movements. 16th Dec. Port Said arrivals DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, HYACINTH, PRIMULA, Departures DULVERTON BEAUFORT. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1702B/16 to Admty etc).

LEONIAN My 1130/5th para. 9 (re sailing of LEONIAN and escort) 036° 28' N., 000° 39' E. through 100° 8 knots. (N.C.X.F., 1720A/16 to A.I.G. 262).

ALARM My 1530A/16 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to sail ALARM also for Bone. E.T.A. 0100A/17th. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1730A/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.S. etc).

/Destroyers,...

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Destroyers,
flooding.

F.O. Oran's 1749A/14 (N.T. in W.D.) Concur generally in proposals.

(2) S.O. Force H destroyers have been instructed accordingly and their (?attention is called to) necessity for hatch over plømm^uer block and stern gland compartments being screwed down tight on

all occasions at sea.

(3) It is considered that hatch to plømm^uer block and gland compartments should be trunked to upperdeck in destroyers and to mining (?deck) in MANXMAN class vessel. It is revealed that this proposal has already been raised by R.A.(D) H.F. consequent on similar experience of flood in H.F. destroyers.

(S.O. Force H., 1859A/16 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty).

Malta Air
Report.

AI. 180 16 Dec. C.S.R. Night 15/16 Dec. No enemy activity locally.

Day 16 Dec. Today a total of 15 Beaufighters escorted by 15 long range Spitfires have carried out offensive sweeps against enemy aircraft

and shipping between Cape Passero and Tripoli and in the Lampedusa area. 4 Spitfires have been airborne for several raids which turned back before reaching Malta.

Night 15/16 Dec. 2 Special Wellingtons 1 carrying torpedo and 3 torpedo carrying Beauforts on offensive R/C for enemy shipping from Cavoli to Marittimo and North of Sicily made no important sightings. Wellingtons made 27 sorties to attack Tunis and La Goulette Docks being continuously over the target from 1730 - (0256 or 0206 corrupt) hrs.

Wellingtons dropped from 7,000 feet scoring hits with first bombs on Island at La Goulette, starting many small fires and 3 very large fires with secondary explosions. Other bombs fell on the Oil Storage Depot at La Goulette starting 2 large red fires and on barracks and Railway Marshalling Yards at Tunis causing a series of small explosions. By 2359 hrs., the fires at La Goulette were visible 40 miles away. Later aircraft scored hits on the Basin at La Goulette causing white smoke rising to 500 feet. More fires and explosions started in Buildings and railway marshalling yards. 1 bomb caused very large explosion in centre of Island at La Goulette. 1 Wellington bombed Tunis end of Canal causing violent explosions and on dropping flares to investigate damage found 2 thirds of Canal entrance blocked with sand and gravel. Moderate heavy and some light flak was encountered.

(A.H.Q., Malta, 2004Z/16).

Movements.

Algiers arrival. SAMPHIRE, PENTSTEMON, LUNENBURG, TRITON, TRANSVAAL, LAPHERGERIA, QUERCIA, YTHANØBRAES, ARNOLD BENNETT, GREGORY, TERVANI, ACHROITE, with T.E.9, TIGRIS from patrol. *see next p.*

Departure French ship GOELAND, escorts, French M/V to W. SIRIUS, DIDO, ASHANTI, TARTAR to Bone. BICESTER, ZETLAND, SAMPHIRE, PENTSTEMON, LUNENBURG with T.E.9. ALBACORE, SPEEDWELL to Oran.

(Cdre. Algiers, 2022A/16 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

571

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.T.B. Your 1727/15th para. 3. Yes, certainly.
Flotilla, When may C.C.F. be expected?
Bone. (C. in C. Med., 2047B/16 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty).

PETARD, My 1258/16th Dec. If V.A. Malta considers
QUEEN OLGA, circumstances justify recommendation for
destruction immediate award decorations to C.O's both of
of U/B. PETARD (S.O.) and QUEEN OLGA, request he will
(UARBSEIK. *see* signal views to Admty. and C. in C. Med.
p. 568) 2. An early award to the "Capt. of one of his
Hellenic Majesty's for the destruction of an enemy submarine in
Eastern Mediterranean" would have a very good effect on Greek
Navy here.
3. Recommendation for awarding a decoration to C.O. PETARD
for prominent part in destruction of German U.(Boat?)
on 30th Oct. 1942 is in transit to Admty. under cover Med.
4525/0171 dated 9th Dec.
(C. in C. Med., 2120B/16 to Admty. V.A. Malta (R) F.O.(D)
Med). Reply: V.A. Malta, 1915A/17.

Situation P. 217 reports witnessing night action on
Report 2nd Dec. and found no stragglers. At 1515/5th
No. 35. Dec. in 40.23 N., 14.01 E. fired four torpedoes
at two North bound M/Vs 4,000 - 5,000 tons escorted
by 3 destroyers 3 hits. Counter attack
inaccurate. At 1545 Destroyers only observed

circling.

(RFID) (2)*TIGRIS reports sinking U-boat in position 38° 10' N., 08°
35' E., at 0140/6 Dec. Italian ?(P)ERLA class. One Italian
Officer and three ratings prisoners. * *See previous page (Notes)*
3. La Calle. N.O.I.C. installed 15 Dec.
4. Sweep by two M.T.Bs. from Bone night 14/15 uneventful.
5. A.M.1836/13. EMPIRE CENTAUR has not been reported as
sinking but was damaged and beached. Now being salvaged.
6. Algiers. ARGONAUT arrived 15th Dec.
7. EDENCRAE blew up on 15th Dec. while in convoy T.E.9, 300°
Oran 30 miles.
(N.C.X.F., 2132A/16 to Admty etc).

U.S. Shipping Navy Dept. Washington has requested through B.A.D.
information. to be kept supplied with all possible information
of U.S. Managed Shipping employed in Med. area.
Request you will arrange to pass this information
direct to Connav.
(D.T.D.2136A/16 to C. in C. Med. (R) B.A.D.Connav)

M.W.15 Totals discharged to 1700/16th M.W.15, 10400 tons
M.W.16 M.W.16, 3284 tons.
(V.A. Malta, 2359A/16 to C. in C. Med).

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- B.A.36. My 1137 10th Dec. para. 15 B.A.36 and my 0325 15th Dec. neither to Cdre. Aden. Revised date of sailing is now from Bombay 28th Dec. From Karachi 26th Dec.
(P.S.T.O. India, 0405Z/16.)
- TROMP. Departure Wellington Neth. Cr. TROMP for Melbourne E.T.A. 2000Z 20th Dec. (a) 040° 26' S. 165° 29' E. (b) 040° 36' 156° 28'. (c) 040° 43' 149° 06' and via Banks Strait S. of A. 14 knots.
(Dep. C. in C. E.F. 0630Z/16 to Admty, Comsopac, A.C.N.B., Comsowestpac Unit.)
- DURBAN repairs. (1) Your 0423/15 and my 1320/11. Estimated time for repair in dock is one month. (2) (Ship)'s endurance is reduced to 70% which precludes passage U.K. or U.S.A. Length of passage would anyhow be uneconomic for a month's repair. (3) Docks in South Africa are few and fully occupied. Diego Suarez is not yet ready to undertake this work. (4) Request reconsideration to dock DURBAN in one of the 4 docks which are large enough to take her at Bombay. (5) She will be ready to sail for Bombay on 18th.
(C. in C. E.F., 0927Z/16 to D.G.S.R. Bombay.(R) Admty. F.O.C. R.I.N F.O. Ceylon.)
- M.F.Vs.. Your 0912 26th Oct. (Re M.F.Vs on passage in NAGINA allocated to F.O. Ceylon) No. M.F.Vs. were ever embarked in NAGINA.(2) As these two were taken into account when formulating requirements given in my 0610/17 not to Admty., requesting more M.F.Vs. be allocated Ceylon instead. (3) It is now considered that at least three harbour launches in addition to the two mentioned in my 0658/1/Nov. will be required at Trinco when in use as Fleet Base. These should be capable of towing 60 ton lighters.
(F.O. Ceylon, 0936Z/16 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)
- French Somaliland. Ref. W.O. 86889 Dec. 15th (Re meeting to enable French Somaliland to join the United Nations.) (2130/15). Air Ministry desires following alteration Article 5. (Begins) First sentence should read The Chief Air authority in the Colony shall be the air officer appointed by the air authority Commanding-in-Chief in the strategic zone of which the Colony forms a part. (Ends)
(W.O. 1105A/16 to G.O.C.in C. E.F.)
- PETRONELLA. Your 1006/15. We cannot understand why speed of PETRONELLA is only 6 knots as ship was drydocked in October and she should be capable of minimum 7½ knots. Suggest you invite Glass, Sup. of Burmah Shell Co., Bombay, to investigate with view to increasing speed.
(D.S.T. 1607A/16, to P.S.T.O. Bombay)

572

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.GRANDMERE,
U/B search.Have swept the area without result, am resuming patrol.
(GRANDMERE, 0015Z/16 to F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q.)CLOVER,
BEVERLEY
(O.N.S.150)My 1900Z/15. CLOVER reports shaft trouble may necessitate docking, ordered to proceed St. Johns N.F. BEVERLEY proceeding St. Johns N.F. for fuel.
(C.T.U. 24.1.18, 0040Z/16 to C.T.24. (R) Connav, Admty., etc.)

O.N.S. 150.

For South Atlantic 14, Halifax and St. John N.B. 12, New York portion 13. Straggler since Dec. 10th EMPIRE WATERHEN for Boston, (GUINEAN?) for Takoradi. Admty. 1831Z/14 not passed to Comdre. Rescue Ship DEWSBURY fitted H/F D/F.
(C.T.U. 24.1.18, 0130Z/16 to Connav, (R) C.T.U. 24.18.5, C.T.F. 24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)U.S.
Movements.Bermuda 15th Dec. arrivals U.S.S. BOYLE.
Departures U.S.S. BOYLE and U.S.S. TANKARD.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 0227Z/16 to Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

U/Bs.

Following received:- Addressed Admiral Portsmouth from Niton Radio. Intercepted 0228 G.M.T. 500 k/cs de NAV. C Q Radio Trinidad C K 15 urgent 1515 G.M.T. war warning. Correction my 1515/15 (No trace in W.R.) 2 subs sighted 15.17 N. 61.28 W. at 1515 G.M.T./15 de NAU.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0328/16 to Admty.)O.N.153,
ship
torpedoed.Following has been read:- Addressed Admty. from Liverpool W/T. S S S S RA 102 (Ship in convoy O.N.153) torpedoed.
(Ship using call sign RA 102, T.O.R. 0742 G.M.T./16)

CORNWALLIS.

CORNWALLIS, British ship in tow U.S. Salvage steamer KILLERIG (corrupt group), U.S. warship P.C.567 left for Trinidad 0645Z/16th. *
(? Harbour Master Barbados, 0742/16 to Admty.)
* All U.S. Authorities informed.Routeing
of ships
by Connav
to Persian
Gulf.Following is repetition of 0803/12 begins:
Connav, C. in C. Pac., Comsopac, N.Z.N.B., Admty., A.C.N.B., Comweseafron, Comsouespac, from Comsowespac. Comsowespac and A.C.N.B. concur in following contained in your 2035A/8. Fuel oil tanks capacity 24,000 ready at Hobart about 1st Feb. Recommend Hobart be used partially that date in addition to Fremantle where fuelling

/may ...

War Diary.

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Routing of ships by Connav to Persian Gulf.
(Contd.)

may be slow due to port congestion. Oiling dock accessible Hobart. Request advice estimated off take each port earliest date so that proper provision can be made. 080.
(N.Z.N.B., 0902M/16.)

Convoy T.J. 1.

Sailing telegram. Escorts U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS, U.S.(D) SOMERS, U.S.(D) ELLIS, U.S. Seaplane Tender OSMOND INGRAM, Brazilian C.S.2.
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 0906Q/16.)

List of ships and destinations = Recife, Saldanha Bay, Alexandria, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Santos, Para, Paramaribo.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 0908Q/16.)

Movements.

Departure 15th U.S. Patrol Vessel *SAMANA.
(R.N.O. Nassau, 0952/16 to Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

**not in L.B. 1515.*

O.N.152, U/B.

D/F bearings on 7856 k/cs at 1009Z/16 indicate U-Boat may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C., 1150A/16 to Escorts of O.N.152.)

O.N.153, U/B.

D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 1017Z/16 indicate U-Boat has probably reported you.
(D.D.I.C., 1151A/16 to Escorts of O.N.153.)

L.15.

My 1931/10th Dec. Completion date U.S.S.R. Submarine L.15 advanced to Dec. 24th.
(C.O.A.C., 1215Z/16 to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty., N.M.C.J.S. Washington, F.O.N.F., Capt. D. Newfoundland, D. Halifax.)

Tanker Convoy Trinidad - Gibraltar.

Your 2222/15 not understood in view of your 1917/13, which indicated slow tanker convoy was to proceed to U.K. and not to Gibraltar.
2. Can "Torch" area accept this slow convoy and the fast convoy mentioned in your 1953/13?

See next page (Unit B.3.)
3. HAVELOCK group E.T.A. Trinidad 27th Dec. (B.A.D., 1259Z/16 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.A.) My 1917/13 and your 1425/14. Owing to further difficulty (tanker message) in maintaining oil supplies to North Africa Area HAVELOCK group will escort a convoy of 9 tankers direct to Gibraltar in order to avoid necessity for drawing on U.K. stocks for an equivalent amount.
It is hoped to sail convoy from Trinidad about 26th December. (D.T.D., 1851A/16 to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.X.F.)

/Your ...

574

War Diary.

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - *concur*

- Tanker Convoy. Trinidad - Gibraltar. (Contd.) Your 1259/16 para. 2. Yes. 2. My 1851/16 gave reason for change of destination and expected sailing date from Trinidad was based on your 1425/14. 3. Request confirmation E.T.A. HAVELOCK group Trinidad is 27th Dec. (D.T.D., 2205A/16 to B.A.D.)
- H.X.218, O.N. 152, U/B. *mission page 4 p. 572* D/F bearings on 11155 k/cs at 1108Z indicate U-Boat has reported either H.X.218 or O.N. 152. (D.D.I.C., 1301A/16 to Escorts H.X.218, O.N. 152.)
- * LEAMINGTON, WANDERER. *con p. 552* Cdre. Londonderry's 1154/15. On arrival St. Johns N.F. about 22nd Dec. LEAMINGTON will join Western Support Force relieving WANDERER who will be sailed for U.K. in accordance with Admty. 1721/27th November. (F.O.N.F., 1335Z/16 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.T.24, (R) C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., Cdre. Londonderry, LEAMINGTON, A.C.I.C., B.A.D.)
- H.X.218, defects. *on* SS. NASSA, two after bombs and gear lost with exception of chains, nets slightly damaged. SS. FORT GIBRALTAR, after booms and nets carried away. Both vessels sailed in H.X. 218. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1418Z/16 to Chairman A.N.D. Committee Admty.)
- S.C.112, U/B. U-Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made a sighting report of convoy or important unit (? at) 1333/16th, 11155 k/cs. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1423/16 to Mid-Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.14.)
- Unit B.5. *See previous page* At 0600Q Dec. 17th you will leave New York and proceed Trinidad as escort for special convoy *(Tanker convoy)* of 3 M/Vs. Routing and details of convoy will be furnished by Port Director New York. Upon arrival Trinidad report N.O.B. for duty. For communications guard 4155 k/cs. Use 3000 k/cs voice with aircraft in local action. C.T.U. 90.9. 11 consists of HAVELOCK, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, SAXIFRAGE. By hand to HAVELOCK. Upon leaving this command appreciation is expressed for duty well done. (C.E.S.F., 1434/16 to HAVELOCK, (R) C.T.G. 90.5 (?), N.O.B. Trinidad, C.C.S.F., C.T.G. 90.3., S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, C.T.24, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A.)
- Busra, O.N. Convoys. Your 2049/15 concur. (D.T.D., 1446Z/16 to Connav.)

/Convoy ...

575

War Diary.16.12.1942.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy Escorts. Admty. 1342A/14th is being passed to the first four addressees.
(2) Ref. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1636Z/10th. It was never our intention that the six R.C.N. Corvettes at present under the orders of Commr. E.S. Frontier should be withdrawn if this would jeopardize the escort of N.G. - G.N. convoys.
(3) Our purpose in making the signal was to (? find) out when these corvettes could be relieved by U.S. escort vessels so that arrangements could be made for Canadian escort commitments in Spring of 1943.
(N.S.H.Q., 1536Z/16 to Cominch, (R) N.M.C.J.S. Washington, C.E.S.F., C.O.A.C., Admty., B.A.D.)

U/B Positions. S/M estimate 16th Dec. and U.S. S/M Notice.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1540/16, 1541/16, 1611/16, 1612/16, 1613/16.)

H.X.218, O.N.152, O.N.153, U/Bs. Between 1100Z and 1400Z there have been 9 transmissions on 11155 k/cs from vicinity of H.X. 218 and/or O.N.152, and 7 transmissions on 10510 k/cs from vicinity of O.N.153.
pp 572754
next page
(D.D.I.C., 1605A/16 to Escorts H.X.218, O.N.152, O.N.153, etc.)

Routeing of G.U. Convoys. Your 2203/11. Concur.
2. Admiralty will issue routes when requested.
3. F.O.C.N.A., N.C.X.F. and S.N.O.C.A. have been informed.
(D.O.D.(H), 1616Z/16 to Connav, (R) Cinclant.)

U.S. Movements. Arrival Port Castries 16th U.S. Army Transport EL LIBERTADOR escorted by U.S.C.G. YEATON.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1631Q/16, 1106Q/17 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

MALTRAN. MALTRAN (U.S.) straggler G.S.15 not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1826Z/16 to Admty.)

San Pedro de Macoris. Your 2012/9. A/T net has been laid at San Pedro de Macoris, vide Q.J.B. 908.
2. C. in C. A.W.I. 1902/5th June. Request in future all sugar ships bound for San Domingo be routed to San Pedro de Macoris irrespective of draught. As much loading as possible will however be done inside. Reference positions should continue to be given for Ciudad Torquillo, Barahona, and Kingston Jamaica to facilitate diversion.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1842Q/16 to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Jamaica, B.A.D.)

/H.X. 218 ...

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

H.X.218,
O.N.152,
U/Bs. *pp 573-574*
575
U/B W/T traffic on 11155 k/cs persists from your area. It is estimated that at least 12 U-Boats are in this area but it is impossible to state how many are shadowing each convoy. (D.D.I.C., 1927A/16 to Escorts of H.X.218, O.N.152.)

O.N.153,
U/Bs. *pp 573-575*
U/B W/T traffic on 10510 k/cs persists from your area. It is estimated that at least six and possibly more U-Boats are in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1937A/16 to Escorts of O.N.153.)

U.S.S.R.
S/Ms. Your 1826A/15th (W.R. Message). Following is recyphered version of my 2203Z/10th. (Begins). C.O.A.C., (R) Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.S.H.Q. From Naval Members C.J.S. Washington. Your 1525/9th to C. in C. U.S. Fleet has been passed to me for necessary action. Information required is as follows:
(A) Destination of submarines as received from Captain I. Yegorichev, U.S.S.R. Naval Attache, were passed in my 1423/9th addressed to N.S.H.Q., (R) C.O.A.C. Only.
(B) U.S.S.R. Naval Attache advises that whether sailed singly in pairs, or in company, will depend on availability of escorts and he requests this may be arranged direct with U.S.S.R. Comdre. i/c of submarines and Assistant Naval Attache now in Halifax. C. and R escort and routeing from Halifax onwards will be arranged by Admiralty in accordance with para. 5 of Admiralty's Hush Most Secret signal, timed 1435A/21st Oct. addressed to A.C.I.C. and N.S.H.Q. but not repeated to C.O.A.C. 2203Z/10th. (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q., 1952Z/16 to Admty.)

AMAKURA,
speed,
bunkers. Master of SS. AMAKURA torpedoed on 25th August 1942 ex W.A.T.15 reports speed of convoy was so excessive that he had to proceed at full speed (9 knots) the whole time resulting in excessive coal consumption and even so he dropped 7 miles

astera.

2. He received no reply to his signal to Commodore Van Horn requesting permission to leave convoy and proceed Jamaica for bunkers and he finally proceeded without orders and was torpedoed.
3. Points which emerge are:- (a) Alleged speed of convoy was 8 knots which was consistently exceeded.
(b) Need for supply of bunkers at Guantanamo if these are not already available.
(D.T.D., 2005A/16 to B.A.D.)

Issue of "Q" Messages to U.S.R.Os. Your 1132/14th Nov. Concur with para. 3. This will be arranged.
2. Para. 4. Under this proposal a large increase of signals, many of which would be in cypher or secret code, would be incurred. This increase cannot be accepted.
3. There is no objection to the proposal in para. 5 which has in

/fact ...

577

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - con/f.

Issue of "Q" Messages to U.S.R.Os. (Contd.) fact been implemented in some Commands.
4. A new C.B. containing instructions as to approaches to U.K. ports, state of lights, etc. which should be of considerable assistance, is in preparation for issue to Routeing Officers.
5. In view of above it is not considered necessary to reconsider the new "Q" system which it is hoped to bring into force in the very near future.
(D.T.D., 2033A/16 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)

O.N.Convoys, Navigation information. B.R.L.O. New York, after consultation with C.E.S.F. requests that all ships in O.N. convoy be supplied, before leaving U.K. with information contained in Q.J.A. No.669, 671, 655, necessary to enter New York via Block and Long Island Sounds in addition to purport of Q.J.A. 670. This information and purport of Q.J.A. 666, 668, should also be given to ships bound for Boston and Portland (Maine). Emphasize that position (Z) in Q.J.A.670 is marked by Buoy "A".
2. Montauk Point and Ambrose D/F Stations normally operate 2 hours before E.T.A. of convoys, steps are being taken to lengthen this period to 6 hours.
3. All Cmdres. of O.N. convoys should be informed that after passing 67° W. any signals re entry into New York etc. should be made to C.E.S.F. and that entry into New York after nightfall is permitted.
(N.S.H.Q., 2102Z/16 to Admty., (R) B.R.L.O. New York, S.C.N.O. Halifax N.S., B.A.D.)

Connav Serial 16. STAR OF CAIRO picked up Master and survivors of CITY OF BOMBAY 15th Dec. 03 S. 30 W. Three additional boats in vicinity. No position estimate. Ship sunk 13th Dec. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa please confirm sinking of BLAIRATHOLL Serial 27. LASALLE overdue Capetown since 29th Oct. presumed lost. OCEAN CRUSADER sent SSS 26th Nov. approx. position 53 N. 43 W. convoy H.X.216. Unreported since that date. Following ships overdue since dates shown. BENLOMOND,*PATH 28th Nov. NURMAHAL,*CHARLESTON 20th Nov.
(Connav, 2114/16.)
** not in file*

BLACK BEAR. Leave Bermuda at 1900Z/17th Dec. for Trinidad passing through position (a) 018° 35' N. 063° 37' W. and (B) 011° 50' N. 062° 15' W. S. of A. 9½ knots. E.T.A. 2000Z/23rd Dec. Reference position (P) 027° 10' N. 063° 40' W. (Q) St. Thomas. Communication B.A.M.S. Area 2B (corrupt group) 500 k/cs. Signal letters GKZZ. S.P. 02272(22) and S.P. 02383(16). N.O.I.C. Trinidad pass to U.S. N.O.B. Bermuda.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 2119Z/16 to BLACK BEAR, (R) C.C.S.F., U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, N.O.I.C. Bermuda, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S., Admty., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., Connav, S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica.)

578

16.12.1942.

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

A.T.32, Modify my 1932/21st. ANDES Dec. 29th
 A.T.33, designated A.T.32. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND exact
 A.T.34. date unknown but estimated about Dec. 31st
 designated A.T.33. QUEEN ELIZABETH Jan. 4th
 designated A.T.34. Ships will retain these
 designations even though order of departure is changed.
 (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2147/16 to C.E.S.F., (R) C. in C. Atlantic
 Fleet, C.T.24, Comdant. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York,
 Canadian Joint Staff Washington, B.A.D., Admty.)

CITY OF Request you seek approval U.S. Naval Authorities
 EXETER. for CITY OF EXETER sailing U.K. about 24th Dec.
 for Colombo via Panama Canal to convey up to
 200 passengers probably including 50 women and/or
 children and also 200 Lascar seamen for repatriation. Route of
 ship, i.e. whether via Cape Horn or Pacific, will be decided
 later.
 (D. of S.T., 2210A/16 to B.A.D.)

Sub attack Para. A. ASBJORN and REGENT LION torpedoed
 and sighting 51.35 N. 24.13 W. 16th Decemmer. (W.D. Note:-
 summary. Should be BELLO, see C.T.U. 24.1.5 1121Z/16.)
 Para. B. Contact reported 03.13 S. 34.14 W.
 1030Z/15. *See p. 556.*

Para. C. Sub sighted course West 47.39 N. 53° W. 15th December.
 Para. D. Fisherman sights sub area 41° N. 67° W. 1658Z/16.
 Pan-American plane sights slick 21.30 N. 76.20 W. 1300Z/16.
 SS. ROMANITA sights sub about 18.10 N. 69.10 W. course South-
 east 1015Z/15.
 (Cominch, 2220/16 to Admty. for O.I.C.)

SIBONEY U.S.S. SIBONEY with troops damaged by collision
 damaged. in dangerous state and requires repairs arriving
 Halifax 0700Z/17th.
 (NIPIGON, 2240Z/16 to N.C.S.O. Halifax, (R)
 Capt. (D) Halifax.)

579

War Diary.

16.12.1942.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Situation. Digest Serial No.328, Dec. 15th.
Two medium bombers made two runs over Port Moresby area night 15th dropping H/E, incendiary and D/A bombs, no damage, some casualties.
2. Enemy R/C A/C sighted over Louisiades and Trobriands area.
3. No further change reported Buna Endiadere area. Our artillery fire causing enemy casualties Sanananda Sopot track. Australians continue forward movement against enemy troops Amboga River area.
4. Enemy patrol aircraft reported active nightly Buna area.
5. Further reports from Liberators and B.25s engaged attacking enemy shipping Vitiaz Strait 14th indicates additional seven intercepting Zeros shot down, four others damaged, all our aircraft returned. My serial number 327 para. 2 refers.
6. Bostons over Mambare Kumusi area morning 15th report sighting only six barges all unserviceable.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0400Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

DEVONSHIRE, N.Z.N.B. Wellington 1455M/15th (Personnel embarked
AQUITANIA. in AQUITANIA for Colombo). Intend to route
DEVONSHIRE and AQUITANIA direct from Fremantle
to Aden on great circle track.
(A.C.N.B., 0621Z/16 to C. in C. E.F., (R)
DEVONSHIRE.)

Movements. Arrival 14th Dec., Townsville, U.S. transport*VAN
HEUENCON, 15th, Townsville, U.S. transport BONTEOE,
CREMER, hired transport DUNTROON. Brisbane, U.S.
transport TASMAN. (Corrupt) store ship WANAKA departed Thursday
Is. 15th, due Townsville 18th. Hired transport TAROONA departed
Fall River 15th, due Townsville 17th.
(A.C.N.B., 1101Z/16 to Admty., (R) Connav.) #? VAN HEUTSZ

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimates at 1300/16.
(D.D.I.C., 1302A/16, 1326A/16.)

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Provision of landing craft repair equipment and spare gear for Operation "Torch" reduced resources in U.K. to the barest margin and further supplies are very hard to obtain. Most of the 400 or more landing craft are, however, being returned to the U.K. for repair and subsequent maintenance. C.C.O. reports that the serious consequential shortage of spares and repair equipment may lead to inability to provide enough craft for the next operation by the overseas assault force mounted in the U.K.

Bad weather is again disorganising the movements of small ships and merchant vessels.

O.N.153
FIREDRAKE
torpedoed by
U.211. (6.3.443)

O.N.153 was attacked again and the destroyer FIREDRAKE was torpedoed and sunk 50° 50' N., 25° 15' W. at 0010Z today, only 26 survivors being found. *Note. FIREDRAKE was actually sunk on the morning of 16th. See p. 548*

At 0715 today H.M.T. BERBERIS anchored with D.G. on near Harwich was damaged by an underwater explosion which it is suspected was caused by an old time bomb deeply embedded in mud. The ship was towed to Ipswich.

NORFOLK sailed from Hvalfjord late this evening to relieve CUMBERLAND on patrol "White".

The Russian Naval Staff report that there is reason to suppose that major enemy units left Alten Fjord today.

Until further notice the Tyne will be closed daily from 1830 until about 1030 the following morning.

North Atlantic.

Provisional arrangements have now been made at Ponta Delgada for oiling ships larger than destroyers. (See 12th December).

It is reported that the French trawler POITOU was torpedoed by a German U-boat at 2015A/17 whilst anchored in 33° 23' N., 8° 30' W.

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

SS. CAPE BRETON (Tyne to Buenos Aires) reports that she has picked up 31 survivors of SS. EMPIRE HAWK (New York to Table Bay and Alexandria) and is taking them to Pernambuco.

The Swedish M.V. SCANIA (Montevideo for Philadelphia) is reported to have been sunk on 13th December in 1° 20' N., 32° 20' W. (another report gives position 1° 36' N., 32° 22' W) by a time bomb placed by U-boat boarding party.

SS. ALASKAN is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk on 28th November in 3° 58' N., 26° 19' W.

Survivors have landed at Durban from Dutch SS. SAWAHLOENTO reported torpedoed and sunk in 31° 2' S., 34° E. (about 180 miles east of Durban) on 14th December by a U-boat reported to be about 1,000 tons.

Mediterranean.

3 Littorio
battleships.

The three Littorio battleships which were reported as having left Naples on the morning of 7th are still unlocated. N.C.X.F. considers that a systematic search for them should be undertaken. He thinks they are probably at Spezia, which cannot be reached by Malta P.R.U. On 17th December the German radio reported that the 3 Littorios have gone to Toulon, but P.R.U. from North Africa on 19th December failed on account of the weather. The weather has prevented any aircraft leaving the U.K. for Gibraltar or Italy for the past 5 days. The Air Ministry undertook to be responsible for R/C of this port and Spezia, Leghorn and Genoa and if necessary North Adriatic ports for the time being. The supply of suitable aircraft for Malta and North Africa is under active consideration by the Air Ministry.

Four M.T.Bs. arrived at Malta from Bone today having carried out a sweep in the area Cape Bon - Marittimo. Nothing was sighted.

582

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.46 returned from patrol in the Gulf of Tunis today, having sunk one and obtained 2 hits on another medium sized merchant ship southbound for Tunisia. P.35 sank a 2,000 ton southbound merchant ship at 1030/9 in 36° 14' N., 10° 32' E. and at 1542/13 in 35° 54' N., 10° 39' E. she torpedoed a 1,000 ton southbound merchant ship which settled a mile from shore.

Operation
"Quadrangle
C" Convoys
M.W.17 and
M.E.12.

SS. OCEAN VOYAGER and FORT TADOUSSAC for Malta and PRINCESS KATHLEEN for Benghazi sailed from Alexandria today. The escort arranged for them was PAKENHAM, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT and PINDOS. Two of the Hunts are to part company at 0200 D + 3 with the ships for Benghazi. The remainder of the escort is to meet and exchange convoys with the escort of convoy M.E.12 (4 empty ships from Malta for Alexandria) which sailed from Malta at 1930 today, escorted by ORION, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, EXMOOR, CROOME, BELVOIR, HURSLEY, HURWORTH and ALDENHAM.

Italian
destroyer
sunk.

(AVIERE. ~~Sunk~~
16/12 - 1640.)

It is reported that it was today confirmed that P.228 on patrol north of Bizerta obtained a hit on a southbound merchant ship on 14th December. P.228 obtained 2 probable hits on a merchant ship today and sank a destroyer with 2 torpedoes.

A U.S. Marauder attacked 9 northbound barges off Tripoli and damaged 2 of them.

America & West Indies.

The following are presumed to have been torpedoed and sunk:- SS. NURMAHAL in 14° 45' N., 55° 45' W. on 11th November. SS. OCEAN CRUSADER in area 53° N., 43° W. about 1555Z/26 Nov.

U/B
reported
sunk.

C.T.U.24.1.14 reports that U.S. ~~destroyer~~ ^{SMUEL D.} INGHAM, one of the escorts of S.C.112, attacked a U-boat at 2330Z today in 54° 55' N., 35° 10' W. and that the C.O. considers the U-boat sunk.

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Conversion
of W.A.
destroyers.Amendment to his 2056/16.
(C. in C. W.A., 0902A/17.)Corvettes
from "Torch"
Area.C. in C. W.A. 1524/16. These ships were sailed
for U.K. in place of Canadian Corvettes retained
on this station on account of superior A.A. arma-
ment and because of wish of Canadian Govt. that
their ships should have opportunities for action.2. It is intended to employ Canadian Corvettes as 62nd escort
group changing them round with other Canadians who arrive with
K.M. convoys from time to time.3. JONQUIL, COREOPSIS, AZALEA, COLTSFOOT, GERANIUM, SPIREA are
consequently at disposal of Admiralty or C. in C. W.A. until
such time as it is desired to withdraw Canadians from Mediterran-
ean.

(N.C.X.F., 1540A/17 to C. in C. W.A., Admty., (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Movements.

CANTON.

My 1858A/15 postponed 24 hours due to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0712A/17.)U.S.S.
BADGER.Arrived.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1025A/17.)

BERWICK.

A.S. Rosyth 1850/16th. Request you will sail
BERWICK for Scapa when ready.
(C. in C. H.F., 1151A/17 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

CILICIA.

Your 1614/14th Dec. and F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 2121/14.
CILICIA unable to sail with W.S.25 owing to defects
will be required to leave U.K. with W.S.26 about
15th January 1943.2. Leave may be granted to each watch.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 1252A/17.)Situation
reports.In Western Approaches.
(C. in C. W.A., 1356A/17, 1725A/17.)
In Icelandic Waters.
(A.C.I.C., 1603A/17.)In Orkneys and Shetlands.
(A.C.O.S., 1609/17.)In Plymouth Command.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1623A/17.)
See Lion Copy.

5 Trawlers.

5 Trawlers leaving Dover westward at 0400 tomorrow
Friday.
(V.A. Dover, 1655A/17.)

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.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule) 1356A/17th December

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
Date 17.12.42
Recd. 2050

From C.in C. Western Approaches

P/L

Addressed Admiralty

Situation at 1956A/17/12/42

SECTION N.E.

QUADRANT		Off Butt of Lewis to Scapa	16
RAIDER			
E.N.74	VELETA	58 41 05 13 to Loch Ewe	9
	COTILLION		
W.N.73	VALSE	Sails Loch Ewe to Methil	7½
	POLKA	2300A/17	
U.R.54	KING SOL	59 10 07 51 to 59 15 08 10	5
	BLACKFLY	thence	
	LLANDUDNO	61 30 15 20	
	PAYNTER		

SECTION S.E.

KINGCUP		Off Chicken to Loch Foyle Rock	10½
WALKER		55 15 09 18 to Londonderry	15
ARDROSSAN		Vicinity of	
LYME REGIS		Mull of Kintyre to Clyde	10
WORTHING			
MKS 3 X.	JONQUIL	55 30 06 40 to Liverpool	8
	COREOPSIS		

CLYDE SECTION BREAKING OFF UNESCORTED.

Convoy	Unescorted	52 27 05 08	Northbound	9
W.S.25	ROCKWOOD	53 39 03 56	270 degs Oversay 6 miles thence 55 15 12 10	12
W.S.25.C.	QUILLIAM	Sails Clyde	270 degs Oversay	14
	CHESHIRE	0200A/18	6 miles	
	CARNARVON CASTLE			
H.M.82	BERN	52 58 05 04	to Milford Haven	8
	LEEDS UNITED			
B.B.45	MAZURKA	53 46 05 05	Southbound	8
1 M/V	BRADFORD	55 27 06 33	to Liverpool	10
ONSM.154	KINGSTON BERYL	52 25 05 08	to Belfast	7½
	HELLIER II			
W.S.25.M.	JED	53 37 04 52	270 degs Oversay 6 miles	11
M.K.F.4	EGRET	55 27 08 40	to 55 28 08 30 thence Liverpool	13½
	2 Sloops			
	1 Destroyer			
	3 Cutters			
	TEST			
S.C.111 (B)	BODO	ANCHORED IN MOELFRE BAY	to Liverpool	

SECTION N.W./...

SECTION N.W.

R.U.53	GAVOTTE	60 58 17 03	To 60 40 16 01	4
	STAFNES		thence	
	REIGHTON WYKE		59 05 11 09	
H.X.218	HARVESTER	57 47 20 59	To 57 01 15 02	9
C.T.U.	GARLAND			
24.1.17	ORCHIS			
	NARCISSUS			
	LOBELIA			
	ACONIT			
	ROSELYS			
NORTHERN SUN			Supporting Group to H.X.218	
CAPE PORTLAND				
VASCAMA				
<u>SECTION S.W.</u>				
S.C.112 (E)	CHURCHILL	54 13 35 45	To 59 25 30 21	4½
C.T.U.	RESTIGOUCHE			
24.1.14	BRANDON			
	AMMERST			
	SHERBROOKE			
	CELANDINE			
	U. S. S. INGHAM			
	U. S. S. LEARY			
	U. S. S. BABBITT			
O.N.153 (E)	CHESTERFIELD	50 11 27 41	To 43 45 50 50	5
C.T.U.	SUNFLOWER			
24.1.5.	ALISMA			
	PINK			
	SNOWFLAKE			
MKS.3.Y.	KRAKOWIAK	43 12 16 26	To 51 01 13 02	6½
	PALOMARES			
	3 Destroyers			
	2 Corvettes			
K.M.S.5.	LONDONDERRY	49 00 16 30	To 39 50 17 01	4
	2 Sloops			
	6 Corvettes			
	BALUCHISTAN			
3 M/V's	LULWORTH	49 36 16 02	To 49 00 16 30	5
	LAN GUARD		thence	
			39 50 17 01	
1 M/V	WEAR	50 18 12 05	To 50 30 12 01	3
			thence	
			180° Fastnet	
			10 miles.	
PORPOISE		42 28 12 10	To 43 01 12 26	11½
			thence	
			44 02 13 22	
NEWCASTLE		50 40 11 38	To 50 25 08 35	17½
			thence 180°	
			Bishop Rock 7'	

V.C.N.S.

1356A/17, 1725A/17

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)

Duty Capt. (2)

U.S.N.

D.A/S.W.

Head of M.

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D.

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (C)

D.D.O.D. (M)

D. of P. (2)

D.M.S.

D.N.I. (4)

P.N.L.O.

Admiral Ramsey (4)

Admiral 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~~.

1603A/17th December.
Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: IN
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule. Date. 17.12.42.

From. A.C.I.C.

Recd. 1721.

Naval Cypher M By W/T.

Addressed. Ships and Authorities in Icelandic Waters.

IMPORTANT.

Force position at 2203 tonight Thursday.

H.M.S. CUMBERLAND, patrol WHITE.

S.D. 35, LANCASTER, WELLS, 062 degs. 00' North 010 degs. 35' West to East. *See next page*

R.U. 53, GAVOTTE, STAINES, REIGHTON WYKE, ELM, 060 degs. 30' 015 degs. 35' to South East.

H.M. Ships SHEPFIELD, JAMAICA, OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS, 065 degs. 44' 011 degs. 20' to North West. *See next page*

H.M.S. SHARPHOOTER, Reykjanes to South East.

1603A/17.

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.(M)
- D.T.D.(3)

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1609/17th December
Date 17.12.42 IN
Recd. 1825
From A.C.O.S.

Naval Code L.1 Secret by T/P

Addressed Ships and Authorities Orkneys and Shetlands,
Air Ministry, H.Q.C.C.

IMPORTANT

Estimated positions 2000 tonight Thursday.
All following positions are N. and W. unless indicated.

J.W. 51 A. H.M.S. BLANKNEY, H.M.S. CHIDDINGFOLD,
H.M.S. LEDBURY, 2 corvettes, 2 trawlers, one minesweeper,
64 12 07 04 to northwards.

H.M.S. SHEFFIELD, H.M.S. JAMAICA, H.M.S. OPPORTUNE, H.M.S.
MATCHLESS, 65 10 10 40 to Seidisfjord. *See previous page*

H.M.S. LANCASTER, H.M.S. WELLS, one troop carrier,
approaching Skopenfiord from West.

H.M.S. RAIDER, H.M.S. QUADRANT, vicinity Cape Wrath to
Scapa.

E.N.74. 58 24 05 26.

H.M.S. KINGSTON AGATE, one merchant ship, 60 20 04 22
to Faroes.

H.M.S. LEICESTER CITY, leaves Scapa 0230/18th to southward.

H.M.S. OAKLEY, one ^{*}troop carrier, 59 08 02 00 to Invergordon.
** AMSTERDAM*

H.M.S. CAPE PALLISER, H.M.S. MARAUDER, ~~SCAPAFIELD POINT~~ ^{See This Point}, bound
Minchos. *See p. 588*

1609/17
Advance copy to Duty Capt. D.O.D.(H) D.T.D.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| V.C.N.S. | Duty Capt.(2) |
| A.C.N.S.(H) | I.P.(2) |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | Hd. of M. |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | W.D. |
| N.A.1st S.L. | U.S.N. |
| Capt.Pim | D.T.D.(M) |
| D.O.D.(H)(2) | D.T.D.(3) |
| D.O.D.(F)(2) | B.N.I.(4) |
| D.A/S.W. | D.M.S. |
| D.D.I.C.(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.

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

1623A/17th December

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

Date 17.12.42

Recd. 1946

From C. in C. Plymouth

Naval Code I.(1) Secret by W/T

Addressed Admiralty, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, Ships maintaining W/T Watch on Broadcast H D and Port Wave in Plymouth Command, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, Cmdr. Auxiliary Patrol 10 Group, Capt.(S) 3, Capt. (S) 5.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2002.

H.M.S. THRASHER, H.M. Sub. P.221, H.M.S. UNST, 255 Start Point 12 bound for Needles 9. *See pp. 584^A*

BARB, HERRING, H.M.S. SARDONYX, 260 Trevoze Head 12 bound for Bishop Rock 12 thence H.M.S. SARDONYX to Falmouth submarines to westward. *See pp 584^A & 585*

H.M.S. RESOLVE, WHALSBY, 100 Bishop Rock ~~9~~ 17' North westbound 8 to meet ~~WESSEX~~ and merchant ship. *EMPIRE*
**WEAR intended See p. 588. BUCKLER*

One merchant ship ~~WESSEX~~ 049 degs 50' North 011 degs 10' West bound for Fastnet Rock 5.

H.M.S. NEWCASTLE, 050 degs 35' North 011 degs 10' West bound for Plymouth 18.

1623A/17

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

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| A.C.N.S. (H) | W.D. |
| A.C.N.S. (T) | I.P. (2) |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.T.D. (3) |
| Capt. Pim | D.T.D. (C) |
| 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. | |
| D.T.D. (M) | |
| Hd. of M. | |

AFP

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

Submarines. Positions at 0800A/18 and movements.
(F.O.S., 1754A/17.)
See Lion copy.

Escort of VICTORIOUS. Your 1754/16th. Endurance of destroyers is 3200 at 16 knots and 2900 at 18 knots. Suggest ships call at Halifax for fuel.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1758A/17 to Admty.)

Operations.

GERMANIA prisoners. E.T.A. Londonderry 1430A/17th. Have 71 prisoners on board including 2 cot-cases also 1 British cot-case.
(TANATSIDE, 0920A/17.)
Arrived TANATSIDE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 1450A/17.)

Channel Patrols. SLAZAK and TYNEDALE are to be at immediate notice in West Solent during dark hours tonight 17th/18th Dec. Constant W/T watch on broadcast C N and 2450 k/cs.

2. CHASSEURS 10 (S.O.) and 14 will patrol weather permitting south of E.A5 buoy.

3. Destroyers acknowledge by V/S.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1107A/17 to D.1, (R) X.D.O.E., X.D.O.W. TYNEDALE, SLAZAK, Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, R.A.F. Tangmere, Thorney Island.)

Add to my 1107/17th Dec. para. 4.

M.L.347 (S.O.) and 297 patrolling weather permitting between positions St. Catherines Point 50° 20' N. 1° 35' W. 50° 20' N. 2° 20' W. and Kimmeridge Bay. Constant watch on 2450 k/cs. Collective call sign 3KEL. Codeword "Device".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1453A/17.)

Patrol "White". Intend to pass Hvalfjord boom 1500N Friday 18th Dec. to relieve CUMBERLAND on patrol "White". CUMBERLAND R/V position 067° 25' N. 022° 25' W. at 0900N/19th. If not met by 1000N CUMBERLAND leaves

R/V for Hvalfjord.

(NORFOLK, 1157A/17 to A.C.I.C., V.A.2, CUMBERLAND, (R) C. in C. H.F., C.S.1.)

NORFOLK is to proceed passing Hvalfjord boom at 2300N today Thursday to R/V with CUMBERLAND at 1600N/18th in 067° 25' N. 022° 25' W.

If not met CUMBERLAND leave R/V at 1700N/18 and return to Hvalfjord at best speed to fuel.

(V.A.2, 2058A/17 to NORFOLK, CUMBERLAND, (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C., R.A.(D) H.F., Admty., C.S.1, Capt. (D) 8.)

Force R. Intend to proceed with destroyers at 2100A today, Thursday to be position C at 0800A/18th, thence sweeping southwards.
(Capt. (D) 8, 1204A/17.)

/ S/M ...

MOST SECRET

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1754A/17th December

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: F.O.S.

DATE: 17.12.42.

RECD: 1826

P/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

336.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/18th December and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) P.223 66 degs. 58' north 05 degs. 45' east speed about 9 knots through 69 degs. 00' North 08 degs. 52' east and 71 degs. 18' north 15 degs. 22' east.

(B) P.339 66 degs. 48' north 04 degs. 30' east speed about 10 knots through 69 degs. 02' north 07 degs. 48' east and 71 degs. 36' north 15 degs. 01' east.

(C) TORBAY 65 degs. 50' north 06 degs. 05' east speed about 10 knots through 69 degs. 01' north 11 degs. 00' east and 70 degs. 54' north 16 degs. 38' east.

(D) SOKOL 65 degs. 36' north 04 degs. 30' east speed about 8 knots through 69 degs. 00' north 09 degs. 56' east and 71 degs. 08' north 22 degs. 56' east.

Submarines in (A) to (D) inclusive are proceeding probably on the surface.

(E) THRASHER and P.221 escorted by UNST arriving Spithead from westward. ~~Leaving for Sheerness at 1500/18th E.T.A. Sandhead Buoy 0700/19th and Sheerness 1200/19th. See pp. 583^E~~

(F) BARB 49 degs. 32' north 08 degs. 45' west dived by day through 49 degs. 30' north 09 degs. 00' west 49 degs. 30' north 12 degs. 26' west 49 degs. 10' north 12 degs. 54' west thence to southward speed of advance 200 miles in 24 hours.

See pp 583^E + 585
/(G) HERRING ...

2.

(G) HERRING 49 degs. 15' north 08 degs. 40' west
 dived by day through 49 degs. 10' north 09 degs.
 00' west 49 degs. 10' north 12 degs. 26' west thence
 to southward speed of advance 200 miles in 24
 hours. *Sum pp 583 E 70/2/12-16.*

(H) GURNARD in Zone K.505.

(J) PCRPOISE 44 degs. 20' north 13 degs. 22' west
 dived by day through 49 degs. 10' north 13 degs.
 22' west advance 150 miles in 24 hours. *Sum pp 597 A*

1754A/17, 1341 A/18

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

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

LAM

585

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M My 1504/12th Dec. S/Ms are to proceed to patrol
Patrols. as follows. U.S.S. HERRING off Ferrol in zone
K.505.
See pp 583E4
584A 13 U.S.S. BARB off Vigo in vicinity of 042° 30' N.
009° 15' W.
U.S.S. BLACKFISH in zone K.501.
U.S.S. SHAD in zone K.502.
Detailed instructions to S/Ms concerned will be signalled.
(F.O.S., 1239A/17 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty., Capt. (S) 3,
C. in C. W.A., S/Ms operating south of lat. 51° N., Comdr. U.S.
S/M Squad. 50, Comnavu, V.A. Gib., H.Q.C.C.)

Allied Air Operations.

Minelaying. Night 16th/17th Dec. 11 aircraft successfully
laid mines, the remainder were unable to complete
their mission owing to bad visibility which made
it impossible to obtain pin-points.
(H.Q.B.C., 1600A/17.)

Break-out Your 1256/14th and my 1232/15th. Patrols "Fox"
Patrols. and "Bear" are not very effective for detecting
a break through which would probably be attempted
by night. If south-east were used flares would
be necessary to investigate every contact and consequently
continual expenditure would take place on iceberg and fishing
craft thus disclosing aircraft activity.
To maintain "Polar" regularly each day would call for a greater
allocation of long range aircraft than is possible with existing
resources and the lack of light even at midday detracting from
its effectiveness.
After discussion with F.O. 2nd i/c. H.F. and A.O.C. it is
suggested a patrol to South of the minefields offers best solution
with available aircraft. This patrol would be carried out by
Hudsons in area between West and North-west from Skagi to
Greenland coast.
Intend substitute to this patrol for "Fox" or "Bear" tomorrow
Friday 18th December.
(A.C.I.C., 2115A/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S.
QUEEN One Dornier 217 in 55.55 N. 07.50 W. at 1105Z.
ELIZABETH. (Q.E., 1155Z/17, 1209Z/17 to C. in C. W.A., (R)
Admty., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.)
The following has been received 1143 G.M.T. 500
k/cs de QUEEN ELIZABETH A A A A 55.55 N. 7.50 W. hostile
aircraft overhead = 1115/17.
A A A A de QUEEN ELIZABETH please cancel AAAA = 1140 G.M.T./17.
Bearing from Burnham 328 unreliable. Note to C. in C. W.A.
not rebroadcast.

/Humber ...

586

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Humber area. Three to six hostile aircraft apparently on intruder patrol came in with returning friendlies and crossed coast vicinity Flamborough between 2140 and 2230. Only incidents reported in Humber area were three sticks of explosive incendiaries in Bridlington area. Minelaying not suspected. (F.O. Humber, 2315A/17.)

Mining.

Sheerness. Magnetic mine detonated at 1055/17 by M.M.S. 44, 244° E. Barrow Bn. 3.8 miles, course 024°. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1615/17.)

Sweep. Five trawlers sweeping back from C.1 to A Buoy E.T.A. 0400/18. (V.A. Dover, 1731A/17.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Main units. Russian Naval Staff report there is reason to suppose major enemy units left Alten Fiord today. Reliable B. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1842A/17.)

U-Boats.

U/B reports. Am over enemy S/M in 49° 50' N. 25° 48' W. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on the surface and observed to submerge when first sighted was on course 310°, speed 5 knots.

(A/C C/S 8LUF, 1115Z/17.)
Estimated that U-Boat will be in your immediate vicinity at 1300A/17.

(D.D.I.C., 1226A/17 to ADVENTURE.)
Am over enemy S/M in 50° 30' N. 24° 42' W. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 250°, speed 6 knots. (A/C 120 F, 1330Z/17.)

Navigational.

Tyne. Until further notice Port of Tyne will be closed daily from 1830 until approximately 1030 the following morning. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1149/17.)

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- TAY,
*DUNBAR.
see p. 59
lifeboat.
On Dec. 8th TAY and DUNBAR were in collision during submarine hunt. Slight damage caused to both ships.
(S.O. 30th Escort Group, 0645A/17.)
- SS.
FLOWERGATE. Following has been received by Port Patrick Radio. Addressed C. in C. W.A. from SS. FLOWERGATE.
Cannot make R/V all lifeboats and rafts gone badly smashed up advise which port return.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0730/17.)
- ARABISTAN,
REYNOLDS. Has Admiralty presumed lost the ARABISTAN and REYNOLDS. Both vessels long overdue.
(Comnavu, 0828/17 to Admty.)
- VIXEN. Harbour patrol VIXEN sunk during raid Dec. 16th lying in 18 feet of water in Fairway off Newmans Yard, Hamworthy. Request arrangements for salvage may be made as soon as possible.
(N.O.I.C. Poole, 1005/17 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)
- BERBERIS. At 0715/17 H.M.T. BERBERIS anchored with D.G. on in 090° Guard Buoy 4½ cables Harwich Harbour in company with group was damaged by underwater explosion distant 10 yards on port quarter. Slight disturbance of surface only. Explosions suspected caused by old time bomb deeply embedded in mud.
Ship towed to Ipswich extent of damage will be reported later no casualties.
(O.I.C. Harwich, 1023A/17.)
- DUKE OF
YORK. Consequent on refitting conference it is evident that if DUKE OF YORK is to be brought reasonably up to date as regards watertight sub-division, damage control and other important A and A.s affecting fighting and seagoing efficiency the period in hand will be about three months. The extent of the work is largely due to the fact that DUKE OF YORK had few of these important items carried out prior to commissioning whereas later ships of the class were well advanced in this respect. If refitting period is restricted to two months the actual work on many important items would, in order to permit of subsequent air testing (C.A.F.O. 2422/42) of the numerous compartments affected, have to be so curtailed that the resultant gain to the safety and efficiency of the ship would not be commensurate with the period the ship will have been out of service. Request immediate confirmation that ship can be spared for three months.
(A.S. Rosyth, 1040A/17 to Admty.)

/LAVATERA ...

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- TAY, M.K.S. 3(X). E.T.A. 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W.
 *DUNBAR. 1600A/17th. Ref. W.A.C.I. part 110 WORTHING
 and DUNBAR detailed. E.T.A. RUBY at Loch
 *See p. 59 Ewe 1000A/19th. RUBY reports loss of port
 lifeboat.
 On Dec. 8th TAY and DUNBAR were in collision during submarine
 hunt. Slight damage caused to both ships.
 (S.O. 30th Escort Group, 0645A/17.)
- SS. Following has been received by Port Patrick
 FLOWERGATE. Radio. Addressed C. in C. W.A. from SS.
 FLOWERGATE.
 Cannot make R/V all lifeboats and rafts gone
 badly smashed up advise which port return.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0730/17.)
- ARABISTAN, Has Admiralty presumed lost the ARABISTAN and
 REYNOLDS. Both vessels long overdue.
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 lying in 18 feet of water in Fairway off Newmans
 Yard, Hamworthy. Request arrangements for
 salvage may be made as soon as possible.
 (N.O.I.C. Poole, 1005/17 to F.O.I.C. Portland.)
- BERBERIS. At 0715/17 H.M.T. BERBERIS anchored with D.G.
 on in 090° Guard Buoy 4½ cables Harwich Harbour
 in company with group was damaged by underwater
 explosion distant 10 yards on port quarter. Slight disturbance
 of surface only. Explosions suspected caused by old time bomb
 deeply embedded in mud.
 Ship towed to Ipswich extent of damage will be reported later
 no casualties.
 (O.I.C. Harwich, 1023A/17.)
- DUKE OF Consequent on refitting conference it is evident
 YORK. that if DUKE OF YORK is to be brought reasonably
 up to date as regards watertight sub-division,
 damage control and other important A and A.s
 affecting fighting and seagoing efficiency the period in hand
 will be about three months. The extent of the work is largely
 due to the fact that DUKE OF YORK had few of these important
 items carried out prior to commissioning whereas later ships of
 the class were well advanced in this respect. If refitting
 period is restricted to two months the actual work on many
 important items would, in order to permit of subsequent air
 testing (C.A.F.O. 2422/42) of the numerous compartments affected,
 have to be so curtailed that the resultant gain to the safety
 and efficiency of the ship would not be commensurate with the
 period the ship will have been out of service. Request immediate
 confirmation that ship can be spared for three months.
 (A.S. Rosyth, 1040A/17 to Admty.)

/LAVATERA ...

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- LAVATERA. N.C.S. Steam Drifter LAVATERA was in collision with the old dock Fairway jetty, Methil Docks, at 1645/13. No damage to vessel but planking of jetty displaced.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1108/17.)
- Steam N.O.I.C. Stornoway's 1204A/17. Sailed tug drifter. EMPIRE IMP to assist steam drifter in difficulties northern end of Jura.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1250A/17.)
- My 1250. Arrived EMPIRE IMP from Corrievreckan area. Searched for drifter in distress. Nothing to report.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1950A/17.)
- REGENT Your 1843A/16th not to all addressees. Intend LION. sailing rescue tugs MARAUDER escorted by CAPE PALLISER 1615/17th routed through Minches position 327° Skerryvore 14 miles to approx. position 051° 45' N. 023° 50' W. Codeword "Pulley".
(A.C.O.S., 1334A/17.)
My 1334A/17 sailed.
(A.C.O.S., 1627/17.)
E.T.A. 327° Skerryvore 14 miles 1600A/18.
(CAPE PALLISER, 2300A/17 to C. in C. W.A.) *p. 583²*
- D.S. O.10. Reference C.B.04068 para. 27 Petty Sabotage has been discovered in D.S. O.10 during completion trials after refit today 17th Dec.
(Capt. (S) 6, 1600A/17 to N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne.)
- EMPIRE Following received from WEAR with EMPIRE BUCKLER BUCKLER. in tow position at 1200/17th 049° 36' N. 011° 23' W. *p. 583^E*
course 350. speed 6 knots. Weather forecast wind south-westerly force 4 to 5 tending moderate very slow. Gusty shower. Sea rather rough moderate slow. WEAR pass to RESOLVE.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1731A/17 to WHALSAY, RESOLVE, (R) N.O.I.C. Falmouth, NEWCASTLE.)
EMPIRE BUCKLER in tow, P.C. and S. at 2000Z/17th 050° 17' N. 011° 21' W. 350° 6 knots to 050° 39' N. 011° 27' W. thence to (C) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles.
(WEAR, 2025Z/17 to C. in C. W.A., (R) S.O. 30th Escort Group.)
- BONAVENTURE. P.S.O. Scotts' 1211/17. *117. 11. 2.* In view of importance of keeping to date of completion these omissions can be accepted for first operation.
(F.O.S., 1733A/17 to Admty.)

/FIDELITY ...

589

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- FIDELITY.** FIDELITY carried out satisfactory steam trials and considered fit for sea. Ship will sail in accordance with my 1718A/15th. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1736A/17.)
- ELSWICK PARK.** Now proceeding to Loch Ewe unable to make Clyde owing to weather condition require bunkering and repairs Quadrant. Master. (ELSWICK PARK, 1800 G.M.T./17.)
- Search for aircraft crews.** Have seen pyrotechnic distress signals in 46° 53' N. 8° 9' W. (Aircraft engaged on Air/Sea Rescue (deep search) 55, 2010/17.)
Pyrotechnics and flashing light sighted in 049° 43' N. 006° 43' W. at 2134. Possibly aircraft dinghy investigate after parting company with submarine. Aircraft circling. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2237A/17 to *SARDONYX.) **See p. 583E*
Proceed as soon as ready to search for crew of Whitley aircraft located in 46° 53' N. 08° 09' W. at 2010/17. Pass through position (A) 49° 22' N. 07° 18' W. escort of Beaufighters and Halifaxes will escort you from position (A) from 0900 expect aircraft to be circling dinghy. *See p. 591*
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2259A/17 to CLEVELAND, BROCKLESBY, (R) Capt. D. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., Admty., F.O.I.C. Falmouth) CLEVELAND and BROCKLESBY sailing Plymouth 0200/18th through 180° Lizard Head 5 miles to 049° 22' N. 007° 18' W. Speed 15 knots. SARDONYX searching 049° 43' N. 006° 43' W. for aircraft dinghy. Whitley aircraft co-operating.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2321A/17 to NEWCASTLE, (R) SARDONYX, CLEVELAND, F.O.S., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, MANGROVE.) My 2321/17 and 2237/17 latter not to NEWCASTLE. 2 M/Ls being sailed from Scilly Isles now to assist in search.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2345A/17 to SARDONYX, (R) NEWCASTLE, N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)
Note. This was cancelled by C. in C. Plymouth 0025A/18.
- IRENÉE DU PONT.** K.M.F.5. C.B.23610 returned to Clyde with weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2045/17.) *See next page.*
- KINGSBOROUGH.** K.M.S.5 - C.B.24058 returned Clyde with weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2305/17.)

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

O.N. 153, FIREDRAKE sunk. *22/10/16 by U.S. (6-3-443)* O.N.153. FIREDRAKE torpedoed in 050° 50' N. 025° 15' W. (D) at *0010Z/17th. Have approx. 25 survivors aboard. Am remaining in vicinity until daylight. ALISMA S.O. until I rejoin. Following have been torpedoed. REGENT LION No.83, left derelict with engine room flooded in 051° 30' N. 024° 00' W. (A) 12 officers and 30 men survivors. EMILE FRANCQUI No.91 sunk, 17 survivors. BELLO number 104 sunk. Further signal will be made re survivors. *22/10/16
Weather report 3471 7777.

(SUNFLOWER, 0545Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 0544Z/17th. Have abandoned search and am rejoining convoy. Have following survivors from FIREDRAKE on board:- Officers 6, ratings 20. One A.B. died on board. Remainder missing presumed drowned or killed. Weather report 5042 2454 4571 8368.

(SUNFLOWER, 1000Z/17.)

If SNOWFLAKE has not already been detached to St. Johns retain her with convoy.

(C. in C. W.A., 1407Z/17 to C.T.U. 24.1.5.)

My 1700A/17. BALUCHISTAN's asdic is broken down.

(LONDONDERRY, 1845A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.S. & S.P. Groups. My 1800/16. P.S. and S.P. Groups postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 0739A/17.)

K.M.F. 5. IRENEE DU PONT is returning to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 0742A/17.) *See previous page*

S.C. 112. Report in accordance with W.A.G.M. 365 N. whether you consider convoy is being shadowed.
2. Report number of days of fuel remaining in

T.U. 24.6.4.

3. Circumstances permitting it is intended to divert convoy a.m. 18th direct North Channel.

(C. in C. W.A., 1037Z/17 to Ships escorting S.C.112, (R)

Admty., A.C.I.C., C.T.G. 24.6, C.T.U. 24.6.4.

S.C.112 position at 1500Z/17th, 054° 13' N. 036° 30' W.

(C) course 070° alter at 1900Z to 030°. Speed 5 knots. 49 ships in company. S.S. EMPIRE MAGPIE and 1 other are additional stragglers. Your 1037Z/17th no bearings obtained. 2. ^{SAVING} INGHAM 14, U.S. destroyer LEARY 6, U.S. destroyer BABBITT 4½ days at 15 knots. Weather report 3562 9366.

(C. Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.14, 1600Z/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.M.25
HAYDON

*See next page
p. 592* Your 1053/30/11 not to all addresses. Type 86 has been fitted in HAYDON by using spare parts kept for Liverpool Escort Force. When stores for HAYDON are available, request they may be sent to me.

(Capt. D. Liverpool, 1046/17 to R.A.D.H.F.)

Sailed H.M.S. HAYDON in accordance with my 1654A/15th. *N.T. N.W.2.*
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1130A/17.)

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- P.W.263(S), My 1357/16.
P.W.F.263, Owing to weather conditions P.W.263(S) is
W.P. 266. cancelled and P.W.F.263 is to sail from Falmouth
a.m. tomorrow Friday to Bristol Channel Ports.
(2) W.P.266 is to sail according to schedule a.m.
19th.
(3) F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven are requested to
provide local escort to W.P.266 until P.W.263 is met. Escorts
then to exchange convoys.
(4) Pass to N.C.S.Os.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1155/17.)
Pass to N.C.S.Os concerned. P.W.F.263. Cancel my 1531A/16.
Weather permitting intend sailing convoy at 0830/18 as in my
2019A/15 less PRIMA. *CLEVELAND additional escort from D.1 buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1217A/17 to C. in C. Plymouth, (R)
Admty., F.Os. I.C. Milford Haven, Cardiff.) *see p 587
- see p. 567*
K.M.S. 7. DUNBAR, LYME REGIS, ARDROSSAN and WORTHING will
be available as part escort for K.M.S.7. Request
leave may be arranged for ships' companies
accordingly.
(D.M.S., 1331A/17, 1119A/18.)
- W.S.M.25, (1) Estimate W.S.M.25 escorted by H.M.S. HAYDON
W.S. 25. may meet following southbound convoys.
see previous page
p. 582 (a) B.B.45 escorted by MAZURKA about 2030A/17th.
(b) M.K.S.3X escorted by 2 corvettes about
0500A/18th. (c) One M/ship escorted by BRADFORD about 0200A/
18th. (d) M.K.F4 escorted by 1 sloop at about 0400A/18th.
(2) Estimate W.S.25 escorted by ROCKWOOD will meet (a) M.K.S.3X
about 0345A/18th. (b) 1 merchant ship and BRADFORD about
0245A/18th. (c) M.K.F.4 about 0430A/18th.
(3) Subject to red warnings all convoys concerned are to burn
dimmed navigation lights.
(C. in C. W.A., 1552A/17, 1752A/17 to JED, ROCKWOOD, (R) N.O.I.C.
Liverpool, MAZURKA, BRADFORD, Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.3A, M.K.F.4,
N.O.I.C. Belfast.)
- M.K.F. 4. Detail one escort vessel to escort Clyde portion
as far as Ailsa Craig returning to Londonderry on
completion. Report name of vessel detailed.
Liverpool ships are to proceed independently.
Signal their E.T.A.
(C. in C. W.A., 1616A/17 to EGRET.)
- Tyne ships. Port of Tyne closed 1830 to 1030 daily. Tyne
leavers between these hours will anchor off.
Tyne joiners will be sailed before 1830 and anchor
off till convoy passes.
(Capt. (D) Rosyth Escort Force, 1647A/17 to
Rosyth Escort Force.)

592

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

K.M.S. 5. My P.C. and S. 1200A/17th 049° 41' N. 015P 38' W. 205°, 4½. Amended R/V 1200/18th 048° 05' N. 016° 40' W. R/V 1200/19th 045° 48' N. 016° 40' W. ASHANTIAN and EMPIRE STANDARD returning U.K. 36 ships now more or less in company. Six ships unaccounted for. In view of absence of H.M.S. PETUNIA request further instructions re detaching EMPIRE ELAINE, weather report 2571 8256, correction delete EMPIRE STANDARD.
(LONDONDERRY, 1700A/17 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, Ships escorting K.M.S. 5.)
Inform Commodore P.L.M.14 and FLOWERGATE returning Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1737A/17 to Escorts K.M.S.5.)
Escorts of convoy K.M.S. No.5. Your 1700/17th R/Vs for 1200/18th and 19th have been broadcast to stragglers. (C. in C. W.A., 2338A/17 to LONDONDERRY.)

²⁵
W.S. 13. My 1642/15th. Sailed H.M.S. ROCKWOOD escorting Liverpool section at 1730A. Codeword "Redbreast One". (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1744A/17.)
See pp 590 & 591

Convoy Arrived Clyde. Codeword "Gosling".
A.T. 31. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1814A/17.)

O.N.155. Escorts for O.N.155. FAME S.O. Escort, BURZA, EGLANTINE, VERVAIN, ACANTHUS, KINGCUP. FAME fitted H.F/D.F.
(Capt. D. Liverpool, 1838A/17.)

J.W. 51. Amendments to 2005/10.
(D. of S.T., 2356A/17.)

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

D.E.M.S. To relieve the heavy strain imposed on the D.E.M.S. organisation. organisation by "Torch" it is proposed that ships in K.M.F. and K.M.S. convoys should in future carry only a normal complement of D.E.M.S. ratings.

2. In order to enable additional ratings to be embarked for passages to ports east of Algiers where possibility of constant air attack is more likely it is proposed to institute a pool of D.E.M.S. ratings at Algiers to operate a shuttle service between this port and ports to the eastward.

3. Request your remarks and size of pool required.
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (T) 0923A/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Algiers.)

HOLCOMBE, Admtys. 2155/27 and 2215/27. Request information
HAYDON, when anticipated these ships will join.
ROCKWOOD. (N.C.X.F., 1202A/17 to Admty.) *See p. 596*

Corvettes. C. in C.W.A. 1524/16. These ships were sailed for U.K. in place of Canadian Corvettes retained on this station on account of superior anti aircraft armament and because of wish of Canadian Government that their ships should have opportunities for action.

2. It is intended to employ Canadian Corvettes as 62nd escort group changing them round with other Canadians who arrive with K.M. Convoys from time to time.

3. JONQUIL, COREOPSIS, AZALEA, COLTSFOOT, GERANIUM, SPIREA are consequently at disposal of Admty. or C. in C.W.A. until such times as it is desired to withdraw Canadians from Mediterranean.
(N.C.X.F., 1540A/17 to C. in C. W.A., Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

Return of Landing Craft spare gear. A large amount of craft repair equipment and practically all spare gear in U.K. was provided for "Torch" which reduced remaining C.O. resources to barest margin. Further supplies are very hard to obtain, and forces to be serviced are meanwhile expanding.

2. The above gear provided on liberal basis for repairing over 400 craft and maintaining them for some six months in the operational theatre. Most of these craft have or are now being instead returned to U.K. for repair and subsequent maintenance here, but without spares and repair equipment in proportion.

3. Serious consequential shortage of spares and repair equipment in U.K. may lead to inability to provide enough craft for next operation of overseas assault force mounted in U.K. and will also cut down amount of interim running of craft possible for operational training of that force. Basic training of new entry craft crews and combined training at C.T.C. is already suffering severely from unserviceability of craft which will also react on future operations.

4. Request urgent action therefore to return to U.K. from North Africa all "Torch" craft spare gear and repair equipment other than four months quantities (as from now) for minor landing craft which N.C.X.F. intends to retain permanently in Western Med.
(C.C.O. 1603A/17 to D.N.C.X.F. (R) Admty.)

/Negotiations ...

17.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X. Contd.

Negotiations with French Authorities. Negotiations with French Authorities are being conducted by Allied C. in C. who has delegated powers to negotiate on his behalf to N.A.S.B. Instructions to the negotiations must be from Allied C. in C. who in turn acts on a directive from C.S.A.B. Unilateral instructions from M.W.T. not agreed with Washington are unacceptable. (N.C.X.F., 1715A/17 to D.S.T.)

Allied ships in French hands. 1. Allied vessels Casablanca Area are being taken over at once. Any which are seaworthy will be sailed for Gibraltar under original flag first opportunity. Expected CARLIER will be only vessel ready immediately. S.N.O. Casablanca will report action taken direct to Admty.
2. Danish MEONIA at Oran and GEIR at Casablanca likely to sail shortly for Gibraltar under British Flag. 6 both vessels believed to have been released French Prize court. Recommend both vessels should be seized in Prize Gibraltar. Please advise Gibraltar what action to take. (M.W.T.R. Algiers, 1821A/17 to D.S.T. (R) V.A. Gibraltar.)

594^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 1745Z/17th December. IN
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
FROM: J.S.M. Washington (omitted from this rule.) DATE: 17.12.42.
RECD: 2155Z

CYIPHER

ADDRESSED: War Cabinet Offices, London. *Ships & Equipment for French*
IMPORTANT
IZ.2667 J.S.M. 579. 17th December, 1942.

Following is text of telegram No. 2138 from Algiers:-

BEGINS. General Giraud is planning to bring approximately 50,000 French Negro troops from Dakar to North Africa using French passenger ships now en route or proposed for Dakar for dry docking. Under current conditions these troops would be nothing but additional burden on the already overtaxed maintenance and transportation facilities in North Africa since French troops already present cannot be properly equipped for combat. It may be necessary for me to come out in flat opposition to Giraud's plan, but vastly prefer a more amicable solution because of our hope that Giraud will eventually develop an army here of some one hundred fifty thousand that will operate in firm support of Allied troops. If I could show the French that a reasonable quantity of badly needed equipment such as light anti aircraft, anti tank weapons, machine guns, light mortars and similar weapons could be shipped at an early date as a quid pro quo for the immediate release of these vessels for Allied shipping, I believe that they can be dissuaded from their present intent without the necessity of arbitrary action on my part. The inclusion of any appreciable amount of weapons equipment and ammunition in the present convoy limitation appears impracticable and we cannot afford to displace supplies and equipment set up for our own forces. In the present situation, if the addition of two or three ships to the present size of

/U.S.?

594⁷³

-2-

U.S.? convoys can be accepted by the Navy I believe that these French vessels could be sent to the US, possibly direct from Dakar, and could be loaded with personnel replacements for our forces with military equipment for the French and with commodities needed so badly by the civil population here. Such an arrangement would markedly ease the situation here, and I would appreciate greatly the co-operation of the Navy in making it possible. Our port capacity is adequate now to handle this additional load, as the condition referred to in Somervell's Number 178, was due to the military necessity of clearing convoys to prevent destruction of shipping. Please inform me what can be done in this connection as the first French passenger ships are arriving Dakar to-day and their initial use must be determined promptly. ENDS.

1745Z/17

Recd: in War Reg. 1105/18th December.

Circulation: Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
C.G. Tels W/O.
A.M.C.S. (C)
C.C.O.

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

LTC
M. Blake.
D.T.D. (2)

595

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.T
E.R.5.
escorts.T
Arrival convoy E.R.5. escorted by VELOX,
VENOMOUS, FLEETWOOD, HUSSAR,
(F.O.C.Gib. 0155A/17 to N.C.X.F.(R) Cdre.
Algiers. F.O.I.C.Oran, Admty).Air Report
Gibraltar.Operational Summary for 24 hours ended Midnight
16th December,1. A/S Escort 1 Catalina to KX 6 dawn to dusk
cancelled due weather.

1. Catalina dawn to dusk and 1 Hudson dawn to (corrupt group) followed by a further Hudson during afternoon were detailed to escort ET5 and 3 Sorties were cancelled due to weather. A/S Patrols, 2 Catalinas on A/S search East dawn to dusk were cancelled due weather. 2 Catalinas on A/S sweep west first to last light cancelled due to weather. 2 Hudsons on morning and 2 Hudsons on afternoon patrol east cancelled due to weather. Balance of flying time 4 Wellingtons. Night 15/16th 23 hrs. 25 mins Wellington R/179 was diverted to Oran see under transit (?S/V) U/B sightings and attacks Wellington R/179 on C/S night patrol east at 0040/16th in 37.5 N. 0.12 E. made contact 4½ miles starboard and at 0042 in 37.2 N. 0.15 E. sighted U/B on surface CO.080 10 knots. Attacked with 4 D/Cs. Which probably straddled U/B stick fell midway between C/T and bow but no explosion seen on port side. Rear Gunner saw U/B diving after attack with only bows and C/T visible. Flash of explosion illuminated C/T and bow and accentuated the lift of bow effect. Nothing further seen when water subsided Wellington R/179 on A/E night patrol east at 0428/16th. In 36.53 N. 0.28 W. made contact 12 miles 20° to starboard and at 0431 hrs. In XPA (?5436) illuminated U/B in act of diving 001 145 (? degs) speed unknown A/C attacked from astern with 4 D/Cs only swirl being visible D/Cs exploded in line between swirl and A/O obscuring the swirl nothing further seen reference attack by Hudson Y/233 on 14th December mentioned in our A1228 15th December, A/S sighted.
(A.H.Q.Gib.0817Z/17 to Air.Min)

Part 2 of my A.I.232 17th December.

Fully surfaced U/B at 1240 hours in XWLFY 2322 (undecypherable) CO.360° 9-12 kts, and attacked with 4 D/Cs, U/B remaining on surface and 3 D/Cs unexploded under U/B ahead of C/T, 4 D/Cs fell dead ahead of bow. During run in pilot machine gunned C/T as one member of crew appeared to be on C/T rear gunner and W/Op also fired. The D/C explosions completely enveloped U/B in spray. U/B dived and a bluish patch of oil 100 yards diameter appeared shortly after.
(A.H.Q.?Gib. 0830Z/17).

Safe
Conducts.

My 1821/8th. ALGER JOAO, JOSE I, ANFITRITE I, expected to leave Savona today/17th/December for Gib by reverse route, not to be interfered with this voyage.
(V.A.Gib.0944A/17 to S. and A.Area G,V.A.Malta,
Capt.(S) 1.Capt.(S) 8, Capt.(S) 10. N.C.X.F.
(R) Admty).

/Swedish.....

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Safe Swedish EMBLA 1053 G.T. national colours, red
Conducts. cross and C international painted on sides,
Contd. speed 7 knots sailed 1340/17. Routed coast-
wise to Cape San Sebastian thence direct
Marseilles. Not to be interfered with this
voyage.
(V.A.Gibraltar 1503A/17 to S. and As. in Area
G. N.C.X.F. V.A.Malta, Capt.(S) 8, Capt.(S) 10
(R) Admty).

Movements. Arrival U.S.Ships P.C.472, AUK, escorting LADY
DENISON PENDER.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1111A/17 to S.N.O. Casablanca
Area (R) N.C.X.F., Admty).
Sailed WISHART, VANOC for A/S sweep thence to R/V MANXMAN
as additional escort to Gibraltar.
(V.A.Gibraltar 1842A/17 to Admty, N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C.Oran
MANXMAN).

MASTADONTE. My 1325/16. MASTADONTE holds Mersigs.and SPs.
See p.597A (V.A. Gib. 1114A/17 to Admty).

PRIAM. Following from G.B.L.L.(PRIAM) Entry into
See p.599 Ponta Delgada refused. All cargo number 2
hold destroyed or damaged.
Recommend discharge earliest possible. Please advise next port
and route. Consider hazardous to proceed high latitude. Water
number 2 hold now 12 feet.
(Burnham Radio 1140 G.M.T./17 to C. in C.W.A.Admty).
Your 0911/15 (repetition of 1305/14). (A) PRIAM off port
awaiting improved weather conditions. Pump No.2.holds by ship
pump water slowly reduced. Will use shore portable pump when
weather moderate.
(B) Dock damaged slightly. Under deck damaged cannot be
ascertained at present. Windlass motor and (?individual) motor
saturated and completely earthed.
(C) Ship can be made seaworthy to continue voyage.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1748? to Admty (R) F.O.I.C.Gib, N.A.
Lisbon).
PRIAM has been given route and instructed to sail for
Freetown when holds are dry and ship in all respects seaworthy
for ocean voyage and able to maintain normal speed.
(D.T.D. 1939A/17 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada)

HOLCOMBE, Admiralty's 2155/27 and 2215/27. Request
HAYDON, information when anticipated these ships will
& ROCKWOOD. join.
(N.C.X.F.1202A/17 to Admty (R) C. in C.W.A.
V.A.Gib.) *See p.593*

/SS....

597

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

SS. Your 2004/16 not to all addressees. Intend
→ HORORATA. to sail H.M. Rescue Tug *EMINENT at 1500A/17.
to assistance of SS. HORORATA off Flores.
(2) EMINENT will call at Ponta Delgada en route
for instructions from N.C.S.O.
(3) Keeping B.A.M.S. routines.
(V.A.Gibraltar 1225A/17 to Admty). * see next page.

Ponta Delgada My 1702/16th M. of M. now states that
weather provisional arrangements have been made for
damage. oiling facilities for larger ships.
(N.A.Lisbon 1302/17 to Admty (R) V.A.Gib.
N.C.S.O., Ponta Delgada).

→ HORORATA My 1725/17 () CLUNEPARK left
distress. Ponta Delgada 1500 G.M.T. 17th E.T.A.Flores
2300/18th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1430/17 to Admty (R)
V.A.Gib.N.A.Lisbon, R.O.Fayal).
My 2202/15 CLUNEPARK discharging deck cargo and general.
Hope to sail Flores noon/17th. * 528
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1725/17 to Admty (R) F.O.I.C.Gib,
N.A.Lisbon, R.O.Fayal).

IMPERIALIST. E.T.A.Divine 2400A/17. Request IMPERIALIST
may proceed to Dockyard Berth for repairs to
depth charge rails.
(IMPERIALIST 1745A/17 to V.A.Gib. (R) C.S. C.D.
Capt.(D) Gib. S.O.T.).

Italian Body of Italian Officer, dressed in shallow
Corpse. water diving suit fitted with breathing apparatus,
recovered from harbour near Northern Boom at
1900 hours 16th December. Post mortem being
held. Equipment from body handed over to V.A. Gib
(Govr.Gib, 1815A/17, to W.O.)

M.K.F.4.(Y). M.K.F.4.Y. Following one-ship pads held.(Details)
Stragglers have instructions to keep 50 miles
to port of convoy route.
(F.O.C.Gib. 1845A/17 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F. C.in.
C. W.A.). Codeword "Soda" w/T Call signs.

K.X.6.A. K.X.6.A. Arrival 1132, NORTHERN FOAM, 1821
NORTHERN GIFT, escorting cable ship AQUILLA.
(F.O.C.Gib. 1859A/17 to Admty, N.C.X.F., C. in C.
W.A.).

LLANGIBBY Ref.F.O.C.Gib.1808/5/12 LLANGIBBY CASTLE
CASTLE. docked 10th December for temporary bow repairs
(details)
(C.S.Gib. 2040A/17 to Admty, N.C.X.F. V.A.Gib.
M.W.T.R.Gib.).

MOST SECRET

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

From: *V.A. Gibraltar* Date: *12/17/42*
Note: Messages shown as having been sent on a D.P. Pad: 2350.
 "O.T.P." are excepted from the rule.

NAVAL CYPHER 'S' BY W/T

Addressed Situation report for area X of North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT

1. H.M.S. PORPOISE, 042 degs. 27' 012 degs. 11' dived by day 2½ surfaced by night 11½ through 043 degs. 01' 012 degs. 26' at 2300 17th thence through 044 degs. 02' 013 degs. 32' thence 000 degs. *p. 584B*
2. H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG, H.M.S. MIRROR, 036 degs. 50' 014 degs. 20' 277 degs. 8.
3. M.K.F. 4 (Y). SPEY, ROTHER, H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, 036 degs. 48' 011 degs. 17' through 037 degs. 40' 013 degs. 30' thence 318 degs. 12.
5. K M F 5, Fleet Units, H.M.S. LAFOREY, H.M.S. LIGHTNING, 3 sloops, one cutter, one corvette, 040 degs. 01' 017 degs. 43' through 039 degs. 20' 017 degs. 40' thence 133 degs. 10.
6. H.M.S. MASTADONTE, 035 degs. 59' 005 degs. 46' through 036 degs. 01' 006 degs. 02' and 036 degs. 50' 009 degs. 10' thence 316 degs. 8. *p. 596*
7. H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, 027 degs. 42' 016 degs. 15' 195 degs. 12.
8. ~~H.M.S.~~ COMMANDANT DETROYAT, one merchant ship, one tug, 028 degs. 20' 013 degs. 01' through 028 degs. 38' 012 degs. 40' thence 029 degs. 7½.
9. H.M.S. SOUTHERN* PRIDE, GRYFEVALE, 026 degs. 50' 015 degs. 15' 052 degs. 6. **? GEM in index - see 16/12 - p. 561 218/12 - p. 633*
10. H.M.S. ADVENTURE, 042 degs. 20' 014 degs. 16' through 038 degs. 01' 013 degs. 01' thence 115 degs. 16.
11. EMINENT, 036 degs. 01' (014 degs.) 15' 276 degs. 10½. *See previous page*
12. T.F.4.P.C.482, French escorts ~~LA~~ TAPAGEUSE, LA SERVANNAISE, sails 0800A 18th through 035 degs. 52' 006 degs. 01' and 035' degs. 40' 006 degs. 30' thence 210 degs. 7½.
13. K X 6 A.H.M.S. NORTHERN GIFT 036 degs. 15' 007 degs. 43' to Gibraltar *G. and see previous page*

1254A/17.

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

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| V.C.N.S. | D.O.D.(H)(2) | D.A/S.W. | Sec. W/T Board |
| A.C.N.S. (H) | D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(M) | D.T.D.(3) Ad. Ramsey(4) |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | D.D.O.D.(M) | Hd. of M. | D.T.D.(0) Ad. Blake(2) |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | Duty Capt.(2) | W.B. | C.C.R.T. F.O.S. by |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.D.I.C.(2) | I.P.(2) | D.N.I.(4) Courier. |
| Capt. Pim, | D. of P.(2) | D.S.D. | U.S.N. |

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.)

IN

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 17.12.42
Recd. 2031

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed Situation Report for Area "Y" of North Atlantic Station
i.e. that area bounded by the longitudes of 20° W. and 30° W., and the latitudes of 43° N. and 27° N.

IMPORTANT

Situation 1956i. 17th.

There are no H.M. Ships in this area.

1256./17

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D.

- N.A.1st S.L.
- Capt. Fin. Admiralty, Hse.
- Ops. (3)
- O.D. (5)
- O.S.8
- O.I.O.
- M. (2)
- D.P.S.
- Mails
- Movts.

/GMP

- D.A./S.W.
- W.D.
- ~~D.P.S. (M)~~
- I.P. (3)

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.TEESBANK
survivors.

Following from BESSEMOR 41 British survivors from SS. TEESBANK rescued latitude 302° 57' S. 037° 45' W 14th Dec.
(Burnham Radio 0100/17 to Admiral Liverpool, (R) Admty.)

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Your 1122/12. To avoid delay to ship in view of her future employment (vide my 0307/9 not to all addressees) W.O. agree that 2650 U.D.F. European troops be embarked as first priority and balance of accommodation used for personnel ex EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. 2. Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 0513A/17 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) P.S.T.O.M.E., C. in C.M.E., D.S.T.O. Durban, Impecon Durban, Derchief Pretoria.)

GLENROY,
JANUS.

Arrived GLENROY and JANUS.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0521Z/17.)

HIGHLAND
BRIGADE,
Lagos
personnel.

Your 1151/14. In present circumstances it is essential to avoid any delay to W.S. troopships particularly refrigerated ships.
2. Request therefore that you endeavour to arrange on-carriage of personnel for Lagos ex HIGHLAND BRIGADE. It is appreciated that only two of the three ships referred to in G.O.C. in C. W.A.'s QM/45221 of 3rd Dec. are available.
3. After leaving W.A. HIGHLAND BRIGADE is to proceed to Plate to load for U.K.
4. My 2128/14 not to last addressee refers regarding cargo for discharge at Takoradi.
5. Anticipated arrival draft at Freetown is 24 feet 3 inches.
(D. of S.T. 0519A/17 to D.S.T.O.W.A., F.O.C.W.A., G.O.C. in C.W.A.)
Your 0519/17. Owing to delay to CAP PADERAN in Freetown for condenser defects this vessel will now be available for on carriage of Lagos personnel.
(D.S.T.O.W.A., 1827Z/17 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) F.O.C. W.A., G.O.C. W.A.)

SS.
SAWAHLOENTO.

Nineteen survivors landed here from Dutch ship SAWAHLOENTO torpedoed and sunk in 31° 02' S, 34° E H.T. 1330/14 by U Boat about 300 feet long and about 1000 tons. C.Bs thought to have sunk with ship which went down in four minutes. Names of survivors follow.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 0821Z/17.)

DESPATCH.

Sailed DESPATCH for Lagos at 0700Z/17 to carry out naval enquiry into fire and explosions on 5th Dec. *See p. 599^A*
Route. (a) 007° 38' N, 014° 10' W, (b) 003° 38' N 007° 42' W, (c) 004° 26' N 000° 18' W, (d) 005° 58' 003° 24' E. thence Lagos speed of advance 21.5 knots E.T.A. Lagos 1700Z/19.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 0923Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Lagos. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, DESPATCH.)
Departure 17th Dec. DESPATCH.
(S.O.I.). Freetown, 2111Z/17 to Admty. N.O.I.C., Lagos)

599

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.

→ ALMANZORA,
JOHAN VAN
OLDEN-
BARNEVELDT.

Your 0308/16 is being complied with and total personnel on board these two ships including P.O.W. will not exceed passenger certificate numbers, in view however, of large number of prospective passengers for U.K. now accumulating it is recommended that despatch of P.O.W. to U.K. should be suspended for the present or alternatively that 500 P.O.W. should be embarked in each ship in addition to numbers allowed by passenger certificate.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1035C/17 to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

LADY ELSA,
WELLARD,
escort of
PINZON and
GLENOGLE.

(1) Intend sailing trawlers LADY ELSA, WELLARD for Takoradi at 1730Z/17 escorting PINZON and GLENOGLE. Brown route slow about 8 knots E.T.A. Takoradi p.m. 22nd Dec.
(2) 3 Officers and 13 ratings embarked trawler for Meratorat Boma.
(3) After coaling trawlers to be sailed Walvis Bay calling at Boma en route to discharge personnel embarked.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1041Z/17.) *See next page*

PRIAM.

See p. 596

PRIAMs 0625/12, request further news if any.
(C. in C. S.A., 1046C/17 to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

→ ALCAANTARA,
ALMANZORA,
JOHAN VAN
OLDEN-
BARNEVELDT.

My 1042/10. Ships mentioned with addition of STRAATSOENDA will now sail 19th Dec.
2. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDT will not enter Freetown.
3. Convoy is being routed through 180° Cape Palmas twenty miles to 07° 36' N. 14° 10' W, thence as ordered by you.
(C. in C.S.A. 1103C/17, to F.O.C.W.Af.,)

F.T.T.5.

Your 1633/15. We have no knowledge of any east-bound convoy.
(D.T.D., 1147A/17 to F.O.C.W.A, (R) Connnav, B.A.D. N.O.I.C. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.A.)

(1) Sailed BURDOCK, INKPEN, ARRAN and ST. WINSTAN at 1600Z/17 escorting convoy F.T.T.5 consisting of DEIDO, BARON RAMSEY, MEMPHIS CITY, TOMBOCTOU, ANGLO (?INDIAN) SHEAFHOLME, CATALAMET.
(2) Route P. 010° 10' N. 016° 45' W., Q. 011° 23' N. 025° 01' W. R. 012° 52' N. 034° 59' W. S. of A. 8 knots.
(3) After dispersal escort available to escort Eastbound shipping. Orders for dispersal will be passed later
(F.O.W.A. 1601Z/17 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, S.B.N.O. W.A.T., Comsolant, BURDOCK, Gambia.)

Movements.

Departure 15th Dec. U.S. Destroyer DAVIS.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 1201Z/17 to Admty.)
Departure 17th Dec. M.Ls 302, 287 escorting NEWCHWANG.
(S.O.(I), Freetown, 2113Z/17 to Admty. NOI.C. Bathurst)

/ILEX ...

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.

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

1053Z/17th December

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: F.O.C. West Africa. DATE: 17.12.42.
RECD: 1335

Naval Cypher "N" by W/T

ADDRESSED: Ships in Area "P" of South Atlantic
Station, South of 8 degs. North,
Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic,
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos.

IMPORTANT

H.M. Ships LADY ELSA, WELLARD, escorting off
Freetown to 07 38 14 20 thence 180 7.5. *See previous page*

H.M.S. RUMBA, 5 motor launches, with
T.S. 27, 06 30 (?17) 05 to Freetown through 07 (?17)
14 10 8.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN, on patrol
between Equator 19 07 and 03 03 South 22 52 12.5.

Allied Naval Units, searching 04 to 06
south 18 to 23 west.

H.M.S. PHOEBE, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, H.M.S.
ARMERIA, 02 37 south 20 15 249 10.8.

H.M.S. PICT, escorting from Marshall to
Takoradi 8.

H.M.S. DESPATCH, 05 50 11 20 to 03 36
07 42 thence 084 degs. 21.5. *See p. 598.*

H.M.S. ARCTIC EXPLORER, H.M.S. LE TIGER,
00 30 00 45 east to equator 01 01 east thence
151 10 at 1958Z 17th.

H.M.S. SARABANDE, escorting 01 40 south
09 08 146 10.

H.M.S. SPHENE, KHYBER, escorting 09 05
south 11 15 east 187 5.5.

1053Z/17

Advance copy Duty Capt., D.O.D.(F),

V.C.N.S.

D.O.D.(F)(2)

D.T.D.

A.C.N.S.(H)

D.T.D.(M)

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

Duty Capt.(2)

A.C.N.S.(T)

U.S.N.

I.P.(2)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.A/S.W.

W.D.

Capt. Pim.

Head of M.

D.T.D.(3)

D.O.D.(H)(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D.T.D.(C)

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.ILEX,
ORDUNA.

Your 2221Z/16 not to ILEX and my 1837Z/16 not to S.N.O. Casablanca.

(1) Request escort may relieve ILEX as early as possible and that R/V may be signalled.

(2) Intend ILEX to escort ORDUNA from position (D) toward, (E) 025° N. 016° W., S. of A. 12½ knots. E.T.A. (E) 1430Z/20. Fuel will not permit ILEX proceeding beyond position (E).

(F.O.C.W.Af. 1353Z/17 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, Admty. N.C.X.F. ILEX.

Your 1353/17, not understood. R/V. is already fixed for position D at 1200/19 vide para. 2 of 1307/14.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 2341A/17 to R.A.W.A., (R) ILEX, S.N.O. Casablanca Area, Admty. N.X.C.F.

EMPIRE HAWK
survivors.

Following received from G.L.X.G. (CAPE BRETON) Picked up 31 survivors. (Following is secret call sign) EMPIRE HAWK at 1500 G.M.T. Captain's boat with 21 men still adrift. Proceed now Pernambuco. (Burnham Radio 1530G.M.T./17 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty.)

U/Bs
sighted by
A/C.

U.S. aircraft report sighting 2 submarines in 003° 25' N. 002° 20' W. at 1330Z/17. Southerly course. Speed 10 knots.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1532/17 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos (Portugal) (R) Admty. DESPATCH.)

My 1532Z/17.

Report now considered doubtful.

(F.O.C.W.A., 2118Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty., DESPATCH, R.N.O. Lagos.)

Lifeboat.

THEMISTOCLES on 12th Dec. in 020° 30' S. 011' E. passed lifeboat containing corpses. Lifeboat was unidentified and is still drifting. Suggest it was from LLANDILO or ALDINGTON COURT.
(S.O. (I) Capetown, 1616C/17)THATSULT (?)
(torpedoed
2nd Dec.)*BESHOLT in 1943
See p. 565.*

R.O. Para. reports Norwegian ship THATSULT torpedoed at 2030/2 in 003° 20' N. 030° 20' W. 23 survivors including second officer landed Parnahyba from ship's boat. S/M sighted again 4th Dec. 20 miles westward position of sinking proceeded westward. Further details follow.

(S.O. (I) Rio de Janeiro, 1659Z/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

British ship
survivors.

Captain Port Natal has advised V.C. there of arrival at Areia Branca of 29 survivors from a British ship torpedoed 5 days ago. One life boat with 12 men is missing. No further information available.

(R.O. Pernambuco, 1940Z/17 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo, S.O. (I) Rio de Janeiro.)

/Tankers ...

War Diary.

17.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

Tankers Your 1715/28/11. In order that consideration may be given to the inclusion of tankers for Gib. in returning eastbound convoy, probably sailing Trinidad about 24th Dec., request following information together with your remarks : (Tanker message) -
(a) Whether onward escort to Gibraltar could be provided.
(b) What numbers of tankers could be taken.
(c) Approx. E.T.A. Gibraltar.
(D.T.D. 2102A/17 to F.O.C. W.A., V.A. Gibraltar.)

U/B.

Important intercepted 2240 G.M.T. De V.P.U. B.A.M. S. 3A. Emergency. From C. in C. Submarines sighted 06° 36' S. 33° 40' W. at 1625 G.M.T./17 1839/17.
(Niton Radio, 2340/17 to Admt. Portsmouth.)

602

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.247. Proceed with all despatch north and west
P.228. around Q.B.A.11 to assume following positions
by 0800A/17th:-
sup p. 605. P.247, 037.40, 009.748. P.228, 037.52, 010.08.
(Capt.S.10. 0035A/17 to P.247, P.228 (R) N.C.X.F.,
Capt.(S) 8.).

→ P.44. Move to be in position 037. 24, 010.51 by
0759/17th.
(Capt.S.10. 0105A/17 to P.44 (R) N.C.X.F. S/Ms
on patrol).

→ P.44. Adjust positions by 1158A/17th as follows:-
P.212. P.44. 37.31, 10.59, P.212 37.36, 10.42.
sup p. 605 (Capt.S.10, 0720A/17 to P.44, P.212 (R)
N.C.X.F., S/Ms on patrol).

P.46. E.T.A. usual place 1002A/ to-day 17th
sup p. 603 & 604 proceeding on the surface during daylight. All
torpedoes expended. One ship sunk, 2 hits on
another.
(P.46 0332A/17 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) N.C.X.F.).
Well done. Your 0332/17th acknowledged. Channel will
have been swept already, proceed into Harbour unescorted.
(Capt.S.10. 0640A/17, to P.46).

→ Enemy At 0752 A/C report merchant ship 2 destroyers
Units. in 038.20, 010.42 course 230° speed 13 knots.
(Capt.S.10. 0910/17 to P.228, P.247).
At 0718A A/C sighted 1 M/S, 2 destroyers
in 038.02. 011.43. course 245° speed 15 knots.
(Capt.S.10. 0932A/17 to P.212, P.44)
At 0950A/17th A/C report one M/S 2 destroyers 038.17,
012.28. 235 15 knots.
(Capt.S.10. 1019A/17 to P.44, P.212).

Air R/C. Visuals A.M. December 17th. 0735, Taranto, 3,
Battleships, 0825, Messina 3 Cruisers, 0815,
Naples (Napoli) 3 Cruisers (one unserviceable)
(V.A. Malta 1127A/17 to C, in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers,
N.C.X.F. F.O.I.S. C.S.12. (R) Admty, V.A. Gib.
S.O. Force H.).

ALYNBANK, Intend to sail ALYNBANK for U.K. in next con-
POZARICA. venient convoy, retaining POZARICA for work with
convoy east of Algiers.
(N.C.X.F. 1156A/17 to Admty (R) S.O.I.S. Cdre.
Algiers. ALYNBANK, (?POZARICA).

/Location...

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday,FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Location of Italian Battleships. It is now 10 days since the modern Italian battleships left Naples and they are still unlocated. It appears desirable that systematic search should be undertaken. I understand that Malta P.R.U. cannot reach Spezia which is the most likely bolt hole. Suggest Admiralty arrange a co-ordinated programme to ensure running these ships to earth. (N.C.X.F. 1157A/17 to Admty, (R) C. in C.Med).

My 1158B/16th (N.T. in W.D. or W.R.) and Admty 0215A/17th (N.T. in W.D.) I have now been awaiting information by P.R.U. by P.R.U. since 8th December (vide A.M. 1826A/8th) and presume this is due to inability of P.R.U. from U.K. to operate. Would it be possible for one Mosquito to be sent to Malta whence vital information I require could be obtained? Malta's present resources are inadequate to cover areas outside those now allotted her. I imagine N.C.X.F. is also interested.

(C. in C.Med. 1327B/17 to Admty (R) V.A.Malta, N.C.X.F.).

P.46.

Arrival.

See next page
p. 606
(V.A. Malta 1222A/17 to Admty, C. in C.Med. Capt. (S) 1).

Transfer of 3 S/Ms of 10th Fl. to 8th Fl.

Your 1510/16th. Concur.

(C. in C.Med 1308B/17 to N.C.X.F. (R) Admty, V.A.Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10).

P.222.

Adjust speed to pass 038° 36' N. 005.04 E. at 2230A/20th and R/V escort for Algiers in 037.00 N. 005.04 E. at 0800A/21st.

Proceed on surface at discretion on 21st and do not arrive R/V more than $\frac{1}{2}$ hour early.

(Capt. S.8. 1350A/17 to P.222, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 10, Cmdre. Algiers. S.O.I.S.).

MANXMAN Escorts.

Sail Mers-El-Kebir 0800/18th in tow NIMBLE, SALVONIA, Escorts PATHFINDER, PUCKERIDGE, AVON VALE, LOOKOUT, FARNDAL. Proceed Gibraltar passing through following positions:-

(A) 360° (corrupt group) Island 2.

(B) 180° Habibas Island 2.

(C) 360° Nemours 10.

(D) 360° Cape Tres Forcas 4.

(E) thence direct.

(2) Detach PATHFINDER, PUCKERIDGE to Mers-El-Kebir when relieved by escort from Gibraltar.

(3) Fighter protection codeword "(?)Pussy."

(A) Day 18th U.S. (?zone).

(B) Night 18th, 19th (Corrupt group) base at La Senia.

(4) MANXMAN constant watch Gibraltar broadcast and arrange guard on port and fleet wave.

(5) MANXMAN has only naval code 2 with dangerous waters R/TS.

(F.O.I.C. Oran 1610A/17 to MANXMAN (R) N.C.X.F. F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H. FORMIDABLE, MILNE, Admty NIMBLE, SALVONIA).

/Marseilles...

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.- Contd.

Marseilles R/C of Marseilles December 12th. Since 7th December two tankers arrived from Etang de Berre. M/V "Arizona" type and three M/Vs 350/400' departed.

Some arrivals and departures among vessels under 350 feet and some internal movement amongst other vessels.
(D.D.I.C. 1619A/17 to N.C.X.F., V.A.Gibraltar etc).

Movements. 17th Port Said. Arrival Auxiliary Minesweeper 1, M.L.1046. Departure, PRIMULA, HYACINTH, R.F.A.BADAPUR.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1702B/17 to Admty, C. in C. Med, (R) F.O.R.S.and Canal Area. R.A.Alex.)

MAURO CROCE, MAURO CROCE will sail tonight 17th 2100 Genoa
BARTILO, BARTOLO will sail tomorrow 18th noon Savona
GRETE. GRETE E.T.A. 18th.
(Valencia ?T.H.I. 1724).

Convoy M.W.17. Departures 17th December. OCEAN VOYAGER,
FORT TADOUSAC for Malta, PRINCESS KATHLEEN for
Benghazi.
(R.A.Alex. 1726B/17 to Admty (R) V.A.Malta).

Air R/C. Visuals December 17th.
1450 Naples, 3 Cruisers, 8 destroyers, 1400
Messina 3 cruisers. Taranto not covered. Latest
known E/Boat dispositions 13th December, Augusta 10,
EMPEDOCLE, 2, TRAPANI 7.
(V.A.Malta 1734A/17 to C. in C.Med, N.C.X.F. Cdre. Algiers.
C.S.15, ORION, F.O.I.S., C.S.12.(R) Admty, V.A. Gibraltar, S.O.
Force H).

Troopships for Your 0245/13/12. Only troopship available is
short trip. CAIRO CITY which is under 21 ft. draught but
speed only 11½ knots. Troop capacity for 3
day voyage 650.
(P.S.T.O. M.E. 1801B/17).

Malta 2000A/16 to 2000A/17.
Intelligence Naval. 4 M.T.Bs. arrived from Bone a.m./today
Summary. having carried out offensive sweep area
Cape Bon-Marittimo. Nothing sighted. H.M.S/M
* P.46 returned from successful patrol having
sunk 2 medium sized M/Vs southbound for Tunisia. Convoy ME12
sailed after dark escorted by ORION 2 fleet D/Rs. and 6 "Hunts"
(Govr.Malta. 1830Z/17). See next page

* Supp. 603 1606

/PETARD....

605

17.12.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

PETARD, C. in C.Med 2120/16th. Strongly recommend an immediate award to the C.O.'s of both PETARD and QUEEN OLGA for their combined and determined attack on Italian U/B early morning 16th Dec which resulted in certain sinking of the U/B. It is probable that QUEEN OLGA's attack was decisive one. C. in C.Med pass to Cdre.(D). (V.A.Malta 1915A/17 to Admty (R) C. in C.Med. Cdre (D))

P.44. Establish patrol in following areas P.212
P.212. North of Sicily bounded by longitudes 014.30 and 015.20 and latitude 038.30. P.44 between longitude 012.03 and 012.53 and latitudes 038.00, 038.25. (Capt.S.10. 1920A/17 to P.44, H.M.S/M.P.212 (R) N.C.X.F. Capt.(S) 8, S/Ms on patrol).

See p.602

Operation "Quadrangle C" Convoy. Sailed convoy M.E.12. ORION, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, EXMOOR, CROOME, BELVOIR, MURSLEY, HURWORTH, ALDENHAM. (V.A.Malta 1930/17 to Admty, C. in C.Med, F.O.R.S.C.A., N.C.X.F., R.A. Alexandria).

See previous page.

E.A.C. Report. F. 3. P.38s attacked 5 vessels escorted by ME.110 and 1 JU.88 20 miles east of Cani Island. 1 JU.88 destroyed. 1 ship bombed - results unobserved. (E.A.C. 1954A/17).

Malta Air Report. A.I. 183 17 December. C.S. R. Night 16/17th. No enemy air activity locally. Day 17th. A total of 13 Beaufighters and 12 Spitfires have carried out offensive sweeps East and Northwest of Malta. (A.H.Q.Malta. 1955/17)

P.247. At 2100A/17th establish patrol in sector between the following lines 322° and 020° from Ras Al Keran position 037.20, 009.41 keeping between 6 and 16 miles from that point Great care must be taken to avoid Q.B.A.11. (Capt.S.10. 2005A/17 to P.247.(R) N.C.X.F., Capt.(S) 8th, S/Ms on patrol).

See p.602

WELSHMAN. Suggest following programme (C. in C.Med, 2019B/17 to N.C.X.F.). See Lion Copy.

P.228. At 2100A/17th proceed to establish patrol off Cagliari in area bounded by latitude 038.53, 039.20 and longitude 009.50. You will be ordered to leave patrol for Algiers evening 22nd and report is required on swept channel and movements of sweepers and patrols. Opportunity to attack U/B off Cagliari probable. If anything interesting already occurred make short report tonight.

See p.602

(Capt.S.10.2130A/17 to P.228 (R) N.C.X.F. Capt.(S) 8.S/Ms on Patrol)

/Situation..

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.

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

2019B/17th December

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

DATE: 18.12.42.
RECD: 0202
FROM: C. in C. Mediterranean.

Naval Cypher O.T.P. by W/T

ADDRESSED: N.C.X.F. Repeated H.M.S. WELSHMAN,
V.A. Malta 556, N.O.I.C. Palestinian
Ports, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (S) 8.,
Capt. Coastal Forces.

IMPORTANT

Suggest following programme for H.M.S. WELSHMAN which is based on most suitable date for night passage of Sicilian channel and minelaying.

2. Read in 4 columns

<u>1. Place.</u>	<u>2. Arrives</u>	<u>3. Sails</u>	<u>4. Remarks.</u>
Alexandria	-	P.M. 19th Dec.	-
Haifa	A.M. 20th Dec.	P.M. 23rd Dec.	Carries out dummy laying and loading of mines.
Alexandria	A.M. 24th Dec.	P.M. 25th Dec.	Fuelling and loading MTB spares.
Malta	A.M. 27th Dec.	P.M. 29th Dec.	Unloading mines. Loading S/M spares.
Bone	A.M. 30th Dec.	P.M. 30th Dec.	Unloading M.T.B. spares.
Algiers	A.M. 31st Dec.	P.M. 31st Dec.	Unloading S/M spares loading Voper M.T.B. spares from (?Bona).
Malta	A.M. 2nd Jan.	P.M. 5th Jan.	Carrying out lay night 4th/5th.

/Alexandria ...

605^B

2.

<u>1. Place</u>	<u>2. Arrives</u>	<u>3. Sails</u>	<u>4. Remarks.</u>
Alexandria	A.M. 7th Jan.	P.M. 7th Jan.	Fuel.
Haifa	A.M. 8th Jan.	(?evening) 8th Jan.	Load mines.
Alexandria	A.M. 9th Jan.	P.M. 9th Jan.	Fuel
Malta	A.M. 11th Jan.	-	Carrying out lay night 11th/ 12th.
Alexandria	-	P.M. 20th	-

2019B/17

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

V.C.N.S
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.T.D.(M)
Duty Capt.(2)
U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.B.
D.D.O.D.(M)
Admiral Ramsey (4)

LAM

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Western Desert Night 14/15th December
 Report No. 306. Benghazi raided by ten A/C. HANNAH MOLLER
 P.46 hit by bomb in engine room and sunk by the
 P.35 stern. Salvage a lengthy process.
 2. S/Ms. S/M.P. 46 reports one ship sunk and two hits on
 another during patrol in Gulf of Tunis. *See pp 603 & 604*
 3. My 2135/11 December para. 2. S/M.P. 35 landed for
 prisoners 2nd December and returned to Gulf of Hammamet.
 4. At 1030/9th December in 36.14 N. 10.32 E. sank 2000 ton
 southbound merchant ship. At 1542/13 December in 35.54 N.
 10.39 E. torpedoed 1000 ton southbound merchant ship which
 settled stern well in one mile from shore.
 5. V.A.M. pass to C.S. 15.
 (C. in C. Med 2237B/17).

607

War Diary.17.12.1942.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.W.S.24.B.
MAURITIUS.Arrival MAURITIUS with W.S.24 B.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 0352Z/17).DURBAN
repairs
JUMNA
refit.C. in C.E. F. 0927/16 and D.G.S.R. and C.Bombay
0425/15.

It was not intended that JUMNA should be taken in hand for refit until completion of VAN DER ZAAAN about end February. As far as is known here if urgent present dockings and boiler cleaning there is no reason why JUMNA's refit should not be delayed to meet C. in C. E.F.'s requirements for DURBAN. The same applies to SUTLEJ which although overdue for refit has recently docked and has no major defects.

(F.O.Ceylon 0607Z/17 to F.O.C.R.I.N.(R) C. in C.E.F. Admty, D.G.S.R. and C.Bombay).

Your 0927/16th. DURBAN will be taken in hand Bombay but delay to other ships must be accepted. Standard limit factor is labour.

(D.S.R. Bombay 0741Z/17 to C. in C.E.F.(R) Admty, F.O.C.R.I.N F.O.I.C. Ceylon).

Movements.

Arrival 0717Z/17th. December. SONAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll. 0721Z/17 to Admty).

*Arrival 17th December, GAMBIA, FRITILLARY,

Departure KIRRIEMOOR. **Kilindini*

(N.O.I.C.E. Africa 1207Z/17).

Arrived BARFOAM. *(N.O.I.C. Africa)*

(F.O.E.A. 1601Z/17 to C. in C.E.F.).

EMPIRE GULL,
diversion
signal
failure.

Ref. sinking of SS. EMPIRE GULL on December 13th*
Regret to have to report that owing to a communication error at N.H.Q. Kilindini signal ordering diversion of this ship which should have been sent on 5th Dec. was in fact never transmitted although the repetition of same

signal was transmitted to C. in C. S.A. Reason for this serious failure is subject of Board Enquiry.

(C. in C.E. F. 0802Z/17 to Admty (R) C. in C.S.A.)* W.D. Note:-
Ship was reported sunk at 2055G.M.T./12 in S.A. Station.STIRLING
CASTLE.
ATHLONE
CASTLE.

Intend sailing STIRLING CASTLE and ATHLONE
CASTLE 23rd December for Cape and New York with
approx 200 cabins for families and service
personnel and 400 troopdeck each ship.
(P.S.T.O. India 1204Z/17).

U.S. Forces.

My 1024/4. Following changes in disposition of
U.S. Forces in the Pacific:- CLEVELAND, SAN GABON,SUWANEE, WICHITA, At Sea from Balboa, CONCORD, On passage to
Balboa, ST. LOUIS, NEW MEXICO, MISSISSIPPI, S. Pacific Area.

COPAHUE, At Pearl Harbour, PHOENIX, At Sydney, TRENTON, on patrol.

SAN FRANCISCO, At Mare Island.

(D. O.D.(F) 1709A/17 to C. in C.E.F.). *See p. 609A*

/Catalina...

607A

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.

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

MOST SECRET	MESSAGE	1500FG/17th December.	IN
FROM: C. in C. India.		DATE: 17.12.42.	
		RE: 1500	
	CIPHER		

ADDRESSED: The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

299224 31872/C cipher 17 Dec.

Personal for C.I.G.S. from Genl. Wavell. AW3.

First fortnight December.

1. Operations in North Arakan again hampered by heavy rain which rendered roads impassable for some days. 14 Division has now two Brigade Groups established close up to Japanese position in area Buthidaung Maungdaw and attack will be made shortly. Japanese estimated at two or three Battalions with about 8 guns continue defensive preparations.

2. No change Chin Hills or Hukawng Valley but Japanese preparations for advance towards Chin Hills continue.

3. In spite of some bad weather we have continued air attacks by day and night on enemy aerodromes and communications with some success

4. Enemy has attacked Chittagong three times during period using some thirty aircraft on each occasion. Damage done and casualties caused military or civil have been slight and enemy has lost about dozen machines. Civilian morale has been surprisingly steady during these raids up to last raid which seems to be causing considerable evacuation. Enemy aircraft have also attacked Cocos Island.

5. Over 20000 Chinese troops have now been flown into India. Stilwell has arrived Delhi and I am meeting him today.

6. Internal situation continues to improve. There are now only about four Battalions of Field Army deployed on internal security or railway protection. Isolated sabotage incidents mainly against railways continue.

7. I have just returned from four day exercise in Madras area designed to test defence scheme for Southern India and training of troops. Exercise brought out many points of interest especially as regards Army and Air co-operation. Training of troops up to fair standard but polish still required.

8. I paid short visit to Ceylon where all seems to be going well.

1500FG/17

Recd: in War Reg. at 1105/18th Dec.

/ over...

607^B

- 2 -

War Office Circulation:

S. of S.
C.I.G.S.
V.C.H.G.S.
D.M.O.
D.D.M.O. (0)
D. Plans. (2 copies)
M.O.1. 2a. 12.
D.M.I.
D.D.M.I. (I)
M.I.2a. 2c. 17(a)
Q.M.G.
First Sea Lord (Admiralty)
C.A.S. (Air Ministry)
Brigadier Jacob.
India Office. (Brig. McCoy)
India Office (Copy for H.H. The Jam
Saheb).

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

MFG

608

17.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Catalina Your 0256Z/15.
Sqdns. A/C for 212 Squadron have been released from
 Gibraltar.
 2. It is hoped that squadrons will have 6 I.E.A/C
by following dates:-
212 Squadron - End of December,
259 Squadron - End of January,
262 Squadron - Mid February.
3. Delivery of Catalinas is behind schedule and these dates may
have to be delayed if priority is required in West Africa.
(D.A.C.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1912A/17 to C. in C.E.F.).

609

17.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.J.1 This is re-encipherment of C.T.F. 23 1809/16 to Cominch, Cinclant T.F.23 and Admty. for Info.
"T.G.23. 1 MEMPHIS, SOMERS detached as escort for T.J.1 convoy daylight Dec. 18th and proceed to R/V with MILWAUKEE 0800Z/24 or same hour following days in 03° S., 22° W. Conduct search for my*1821/16. Proceed to Recife as required for fuel. Suggest if possible fuelling SOMERS prior to leaving convoy". * N.Z. W.D.
(Cominch, 0030/17 to Admty).

This is a repetition of C.T.F. 23 despatch 1300/16 action N.O.B. Rio (R) Connav, N.O.B. Trinidad, Minister Marine Rio. (R) to F.O.C.W.A. for information by Connav. (Begins) - Delay sailing J.T.1. convoy until Dec. 23rd. Do not expect escorts available from Recife to Trinidad until 30th. (ends). Admiralty pass to F.O.C.W.A. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) (Connav 0835/17 to Admty).

SIBONEY P.C. and S. 044° 25' N., 062° 33' W. 265° 10, (collision damage). no assistance required. (NIPIGON, 0200Z/17 to C.O.A.C. (R) N.S.H.Q., Capt. (D) Halifax). H.X.219 arrived Halifax 17th Dec. (U.S.) SIBONEY collision damage. Escort pass to Commodore. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1328Z/17 to Admty).

U/B S/M sighted by fisherman 041° N., 067° W., at 1258Z/16th. (C.O.A.C., 0431Z/17 to G.B.7 A).

U/B D/F bearings on 4,000 k/cs at 0528Z indicate S.C.112, U-boat has reported either S.C.112 or O.N.152. O.N.152. (D.D.I.C., 0717A/17 to Escorts S.C.112 O.N.152, C. in C. W.A. etc).

U/B Miami W/T reports submarine contact 28° 31' N., 93° 32' W., at 2038 G.C.T./16. (S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 0926R/17 to Admty).

U/B O.N.153 D/F bearings on 4796 k/cs at 0437Z indicate U-boat in vicinity of convoy and may have reported it. (D.D.I.C., 0940A/17 to Escorts O.N.153 C. in C. W.A. etc).

Atlantic Following is a repetition of my 2319Z/16. convoy escorts Begins. Addressed Admty. 459 (R) C. in C. W.A. from B.A.D. Washington. Personal for First Sea Lord. I do not think the moment is ripe to press for a conference on escort and convoy system generally as I hope to achieve objects by other means. 2. Before Cominch would agree to the ten group system it will be necessary to have Com. Task 24 on our side. They leave such matters very much to the man on the spot.

609A

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 1016/17 Dec. IN

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)
From COMNAVEU Date 17/12/42.

P/L BY D/R

Addressed Admiralty.

COMINCH's 2116/16 addressed for action to Admiralty (to be passed by COMNAVEU) informs as follows:

Serial 51. Amending my 2140/2.

See p. 607

- PHILADELPHIA)
- NEW YORK) At Sea
- BOGUE)
- RICHMOND)

- CLEVELAND)
- SANGAMON) At Sea
- SUWANEE) from Balboa
- WICHITA)

- CONCORD En route Balboa

- ST. LOUIS)
- NEW MEXICO) In South Pacific.
- MISSISSIPPI)

- COPAHEE At Pearl Harbour
- PHOENIX At Sydney
- TRENTON On Patrol.
- SAN FRANCISCO At Mare Island
- MASSACHUSETTS At Casco Bay
- CINCINNATI In Rio de Janeiro
- MILWAUKEE Recife

- SOUTH DAKOTA)
- OMAHA)
- ARKANSAS) At New York
- AUGUSTA)
- SAVANNAH)

- MONTPELIER)
- DENVER) In Norfolk

1016/17

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

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1st Lord. | | |
| 1st S.L.(2) | D.O.D.(H)(2) | D.T.D.(M) |
| 4th S.L. | D.O.D.(F)(2) | D.T.D.(C) |
| V.C.N.S. | D.C.(2) | D.M.S. File |
| A.C.N.S.(F)(2) | D.D.I.C.(2) | D.N.A.D. (2116/16) |
| A.C.N.S.(T) | D. of P.(2) | D.A.C.D. |
| N.A.1st S.L. | D.N.I.(4) | D.S.D. |
| C.N.A.S. | D.A./S.W. | Admiral Blake. |
| A.C.N.S. | Hd. of M.(2) | I.P.(2) |
| Capt. Pim. | D.T.D.(3) | W.D. |

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Atlantic
convoy
escorts.
Contd.

3. Normally if C. in C. W.A. and C.T.24 can reach agreement by communicating direct with each other before referring to higher authorities proposals are likely to be approved. I am writing privately to C.T.24 and I hope this will pave the way for the future. Also I hope to visit Ottawa and Argentia in the near future.

4. In my opinion the question of the ten group system should not be raised until I have prepared the ground further. T.O.O. 2319Z/16. Ends.
(B.A.D. Washington, 1151Z/17).

Tanker
Convoy,
Trinidad -
Gibraltar.

Your 2222/15 Dec. para. 6.
(A) BRITISH VIGILANCE, EMPIRE LYTTON, EMPIRE COLERIDGE ALBERT L. ELLSWORTH, OLTENIA II, NORVIK, VANJA, CLIONA, MINISTER WEDEL.
(B) Dec. 30th E.T.A. Gibraltar at 9 knots 16th January.

(2) Propose GULF DISC due Trinidad Dec. 23rd be included vice MINISTER WEDEL if convoy speed can be raised thereby.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1242Q/17 to Admty (R) B.A.D. etc).

F.T.T.
convoys.

Request sailing dispatches future F.T.T. convoys. Past information too meagre to maintain accurate plot.
(Cominch C. and R. 1308/17 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. West Africa).

Tanker
Escort.

Escort (Tanker Message) will be available for 6 Lake Tankers to Puerto La Cruz on or about Dec. 24th.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1420QR/17 to Admty).

Troop
Convoy.

My 1848/14th. Army now intend to embark on 28th December completing p.m. of that day.
(N.S.H.Q., 1448Z/17 to Admty).
In view of Admty. 1622/16 amend embarkation date in my 1448/17 to read 29th Dec.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1931Z/17).

BLACK BEAR.

My 2119/16th. Departure delayed 17 hours. In consequence of urgent requirement which has arisen for BLACK BEAR to visit Barbados she has been given alternative route as follows which will be put into effect only with your approval. Positions (F) 025° 40' N., 062° 45' W. (G) 019° 45' N., 060° 15' W. Thence to Barbados E.T.A. 1800Z/23rd Dec. Reference Positions (X) 023° 50' N., 063° 10' W. (Y) St. Millport, Antigua. S. of A. and communications as in my 2119Z/16. Request your concurrence.
(S.B.N.O.W.A., 1519Z/17 to Connnav, (R) N.O.B. Bermuda, N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Kingston, N.O.I.C. Bermuda, C.C.S.F., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, Cinclant, B.A.D. Washington, Admty. BLACK BEAR).

611

17.12.1942.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.U/B
Positions.S/M estimate Dec. 17th. and U.S. Submarine notice.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1540/17, 1541/17, 1622/17, 1623/17, 1624/17, 1930/17).CAIRO,
Floating
dock for
Freetown.

My 1805/24 para. 2. (B) M.S.M. now report that CAIRO cannot be ready to leave New Orleans before end February.

Para. 2. (?) Suggest (A) We still aim at sailing Dock on 1st Feb. towed by ZWARTE ZEE, ROODE ZEE and ORIANA.

(B) CAIRO be towed to Freetown when ready joining if convenient a tanker convoy from Trinidad. It is estimates she can be towed at 7 to 8 knots.

Para. 3. Since DESTINY will now join second flight of L.C.I(L)s (See Admiralty's 1525/5 not to all addressees) which should arrive Gibraltar about 8th January could ORIANA be reallocated to Freetown instead of DESTINY and DESTINY retained in Torch Area until first through convoy to Suez.

Para. 4. Latest estimate of dates of completion are, ADVANTAGE 15th February, ASPIRANT first March, DIRECTOR 1st April, Intend to arrange for one of these to tow CAIRO according to her date and the other two to relieve Dutch tugs until their return. (B.A.D. Washington, 1555Z/17).

O.N.153
U/BsTen transmissions on 10,510 k/cs between 1136Z/17 and 1431Z indicate probably 5 or 6 U-boats in your immediate vicinity which may be reporting you.
(D.D.I.C., 1630A/17 to Escorts of O.N.153).

U/B

Puerto Rico W/T reports S/M sighted 1638 G.M.T. in 11.25 N., 61.41 W.
(S.O.(I) Kingston Jamaica, 1742R/17 to Admty).

U/B

Paramaribo passes report from unknown W/T source of U-boat sighted a.m. today in 005° 21' N., 052° 55' W. U.S. Air Force informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston (Jam). 1759R/17 to Admty.
S.O.(I) Montevideo).CITY OF
EXETER.Your 2210/16. U.S. Naval Authorities concur.
(B.A.D., 1815Z/17 to Admty).

B.5 Unit.

Your 2205/16. (re E.T.A. HAVELOCK group Trinidad) E.T.A. Trinidad confirmed and is based on Com. E.S.F's 1434/16.
(B.A.D., 1817Z/17 to Admty).

Authority granted to modify my 1617/10 as necessary to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1140Z/16.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2040/17 to C.E.S.F., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (R) C.T.24., Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D., F.O.I.C. Londonderry).

/A.M.C. 72...

612

17.12.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

A.M.C. 72 Dept. 17th Dec. U.S. Minesweeper A.M.C. 72 St. Lucia 18th Dec. (H.M. Barbados, 1812/17).

O.N. \$152, U/Bs. D/F bearings between 1452Z/17 and 1632 on 11155 k/cs indicate 8 or 9 U-boats in your immediate vicinity. Some positions appear West of O.N. \$152. (D.D.I.C., 1830A/17 to Escorts of O.N. \$152).

U/B B.A.M.S., 3 A from Cominch GR 12 Urgent. S/M sighted 06.36 S., 33.40 W., at 1625 G.C.T./17. (Connav, Washington, 1839/17 to Admty).

ALASKAN Sunk. Connav 17. ALASKAN Serial 13 sunk by torpedo 28th Nov. 03.58 N., 26.19 W. (Connav, 2015/17).

VICTORIOUS Admty pass to VICTORIOUS (Passing action being taken by W.R.) A.M. 1754/16. Request E.T.A. at Point H in order to arrange approach route to R/V with U.S. Destroyers, which will be detailed to lead ships into Chesapeake, and aircraft flying off programme before harbour. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2027/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Western Approaches, Cinclant, Cdre. Eastern Sea Frontier).

U/B S/M sighted 0636 S., 33.40 W. at 1625 G.C.T./17 (Connav, Washington, 2106/17 to Admty).

ASBJORN Cominch 2229/16 (re ASBJORN and REGENT LION torpedoed, 2220/16 intended) Have you further confirmation ASBJORN torpedoed? (N.S.H.Q., 2129Z/17 to Admty. (R) N.C.S.O. Montreal).

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Para. (A) ALASKAN two torpedoes shell sunk 03.58 N., 26.19 W. 0750Z/28th Nov. My 1622/20 BELLO not ASBJORN torpedoed sunk 51.35 N., 24.13 W., 0750Z/16. EMILE FRANQUI sunk area 50.50 N., 25.15 W. 17th December. SCANIA sunk 01.20 N., 32.20 W. 13th Dec. ALCOA RAMBLER torpedoed sunk 03.51 S., 33.08 W. 0100Z/15. R.A.F. Plane attacks sub. 55.28 N., 34.50 W., 1532Z/15. Para. (B). Following presumed torpedoed and sunk. NURMAHAL 14.45 N., 55.45 W., 11th November. BENYLOMOND 00.30 N., 38.45 W., 24th November.

/OCEAN...

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 Command Services.

MOIST ~~SECRET~~ MESSAGE. Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad. IN
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule. Date, 17.12.42.

From. Comnavou.

Recd. 2240.

P/L BY D/R.

Addressed. Admiralty.

Comnav's 1339/17th addressed to all commands concerned with convoy movements between 25 and 40 North and West of 26 West, less Sea Frontiers, informs as follows:

Estimated position, course and speed 2000Z/17th December:

UGS 3 (E)	31 53	56 47	080	9
UGF 3	34 55	45 18	089	12.6
GUF 2A	35 10	40 50	284	13

1937/17.

- 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.T.D.(3)
- D.T.D.(M)
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- D.C.(2)
- Ad. Blake
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- W.R. File T.O.O. 1339/17.

NOTE

War Diary.

17.12.1942.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Sub. attack and sighting summary. Contd. OCEAN CRUSADER area 53.43 W., about 1555Z/26 November, CITY OF BOMBAY area 03. S., 30 W. 13th December. Unidentified* torpedoed 50.58 N., 24.42 W., 1911 Z/16. Subs sighted 11.25 N., 61.41 W., 1638Z/17. and 01.38 S., 32.11 W., about 1630Z/17. Sub. sighted 05.21 N., 52.5 W., 1400Z/17 Sub. correction. (Cominch, 2135/17 to Admty for O.I.C.) *EMILE FRANQUI in O.N.153.

BANFORA Request early reply to para. (1) of my 2041/14. BANFORA due New York 27 Dec. from Trinidad. (N.S.H.Q., 2135Z/17 to Admty (R) D.S.T., C.O.A.C. B.A.D.)

L.S.T.'s etc. for Mediterranean. Ref. No. 237. References: Our 150 Dec. 12. Your 2028 Dec. 14. 17 ships mentioned were L.S.Ts. scheduled to sail Dec. 20 now scheduled about middle January. Adverting to your convoy message number 2028 Dec. 14. refer our 150 Dec. 12th. 12 or 14 L.S.Ts. (316 footers) and 23

L.C.I. Ls. (135 footers) now set up for this convoy for inside to carry cargo for C.T.F. None scheduled for W.T.F. 6 to 8 L.S.Ts. are British and 6 are U.S. plus 8 U.S. and 15 British L.C.I. Ls. U.S. ships for Mediterranean Amphibious Force. In our 150 priorities of cargo were requested. Loading proposed as follows: Deck cargo: 6 ships L.C.T. fives for Navy, 6 to 8 ships for Air Force to carry sea rescue boats (104 footers) and or P.38s. Below deck cargo: wheeled vehicles and crated planes P.39, 40 or P.51s. These will displace some vehicles. Below deck space adapted for all vehicles including tanks. If any change desired advise immediately as cradles and supports must be prepared for deck cargo. This convoy should arrive between U.G.S.4 and 5. (Agwar Washington 172139Z to Algiers).

W.B.17 weather delay. W.B.(?17) unable to form up due to dense snow storm, Wabana portion not met. Have now pendants 21, 11, 12 with me. (GRANDMERE, 2215Z/17 to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U.G.S.2. My 1714/15 Nov. Information now received that following ships also sailed in U.G.S.2. ALCOA LEADER, ALCOA MASTER, AMERICAN ROBIN, AQUARIUS, ARIZDOAN, ARIZPA, BENJAMIN HAWKINS, BENJAMIN RUSH, BENJAMIN WILLIAMS, CHILBAR, DANIEL HIESTER, FISTER, MES FLUOR, SPAR, GEORGE BANCROFT, HENRY ST. GEORGE TUCKER, JAMES CALDWELL, JOHN A. SUTTER, JOHN C. FREMONT, JOHN MITCHELL, JOSIAH BARTLETT, KEYSTONE, MARYMAR, MERIWETHER, LEWIS, MICHAEL J. STONE. O.M. BERNUTH, PAN ROYAL, PHILIP SCHUYLER, TEXAS, THOMAS MCDONOUGH, THOMAS PAYNE, VIRGINIA SINCLAIR, WASHINGTON, IRVING, WILLIAM B. TRAVIS, all U.S. ARTIGAS CAPULIN and MANUEL (Pan). (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2304Z/17).

614

17.12.1942.

Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Situation. Digest serial 329 16th Dec. One destroyer
2 cargo vessels 2 tankers observed 6° 35' S.,
153° 50' E. morning 16th course 300°.

2. 2 hospital ships sighted by air R/C off
south coast New Hanover morning 16th, one heading north-west
one south-east.

3. Our patrols continue penetration Buna - Endaiadere area
supported by artillery, and mortar fire. Little change reported
other areas. R/C Mambare area afternoon 16th reported some
evidence activity, small shelters visible, approx. 250 Japanese
now reported alive in this area.

4. Two groups of Bostons bombed and strafed possible enemy
positions and barges Kumusi - Mambare area 16th. Several
small fires observed, majority barges sunk or unserviceable.
Beaughters and Marauders attacked Buna Aomangro Island area
afternoon same day.

5. Late report force Liberators attacking enemy convoy
returning from Mambare area 14th states interception by 8
Zeros, 4 of which reported destroyed, one other probable.

6. 72 trucks reported departing Vila De Manatuto (Timor) to
eastward 13th and 34 small boats departed same place towards
Dilli previous day many later returning. Unknown number
Japanese and natives entered Miquelo 15th and proceeded Fania
after burning building. Now reported 100 Japanese 300 natives
moved Betano December 12th now moving inland same area armed
with mortars machine guns.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0430Z/17 to Admty etc).

Movements. Arrivals Melbourne, 16th Dec. ACHILLES,
Departures Darwin, 15th Dec, KALGOORLIE for
Thursday Island. Sydney, 16th, DELORAINIE, MILDURA,
on escort duty, ROCKHAMPTON and TOWNSVILLE for
Brisbane, BUNGAREE for Barrier Reef.
(N.B. Melbourne, 0618Z/17 to Admty etc).

Movements Arrival 16th Dec. Melbourne U.S. transport
WEST POINT, R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK departed
Brisbane 15th Dec. due Townsville 18th.
U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Townsville
16th due Brisbane 18th. U.S. Transport CREMER departed
Townsville 16th due Gladstone 19th.
U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Townsville 16th Dec. arrived
Bowen 16th.
(A.C.N.B., 1117Z/17).

MAURETANIA Your 2249/15th para. (2) (Port of call for
MAURETANIA) Wellington.
(N.O. Wellington, 1654M/17 to B.A.D.)

17.12.1942.
Thursday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1343A/17, 1438A/17).

Submarines Attacked.

U/Bs
attacked.

Summary of attacks on submarines for week
ending 6 Dec. 1330/5 Z.V.P. 73 plane dropped
six charges on submerging sub. 34.14 N., 10.04 W.
No indication damage. For week ending 13th none.
(C.S.F.F.W.T.F., 1812Z/17).

016

18.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

K.M.S.5.

PETUNIA and 7 ships did not sail. 14 ships returned to U.K. The Norwegian tanker VARDEFJELL from the convoy was reported by A/C at noon today derelict with 30 persons on board in 58.46 N, 12.41 W. (about 240 miles west of the Hebrides) and LEAMINGTON and 3 Trawlers were ordered to proceed to the position.

M.K.S.3Y.

SS BRETWALDA in Convoy M.K.S.3Y was torpedoed at 0830A today in 44.35 N. 16.28 W. when about 10 miles astern of the convoy and again at 1030. The ship sank at 1418.

It is reported that Norwegian*HERTFINIS (1365 tons) and*HARDUS DE HUDE (German) were torpedoed and beached off Askevold a.m./27 Nov. M.T.Bs 620 and 623 attacked two ships at Askevold early on 27th November and reported them sinking. *This is the case in Lloyd's.

It is reported that M.T.B.30, whilst engaged with 3 other M.T.Bs in an attempt to intercept an enemy convoy was sunk by what is presumed to have been a floating mine at 2025 in about 52.0 N. 3.7.E.

Torch "Area."

An agreement on French Shipping was signed today which provides that ships on List A (260,000 tons) are on charter to the Allies C. in C., and those on List B. (210,000 tons) are operated by the French for the economic needs of North and West Africa as approved by Allied C. in C.

North Atlantic.

The French*naval trawler POITOU was torpedoed by a German U/Boat at 20005 today in 33.23 N. 08.22 W. There were 2 survivors of her crew of 22. *not in L.B. 1215

617

18.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

C. in C.S.A. reports that he has taken over control of the dockyard at Diego Suarez. He states: " I am appalled at the waste of time which has occurred, in getting the dockyard into operation since it was captured over 7 months ago."

Connav reports SS RIPLEY torpedoed and sunk on 12th December in about 2°S, 35° W.

Mediterranean.

P.212 reports that she sank one or possibly two southbound ships p.m./14.

PARTRIDGE
Sunk. by U.565.
(6.3.443)

The destroyer PARTRIDGE was torpedoed and sunk at 0817 today whilst operating with Force H, in 35.50 N. 01.35 W. Six officers and 167 ratings were recovered by PENN.

Wellingtons made two attacks on Tunis and La Goulette docks last night in very bad weather. Hits were seen in the area and explosions and large fires were caused at the fuel storage depot at La Goulette.

25 Bisleys last night dropped bombs on Bizerta Docks and leaflets on Bizerta, Tunis, Sfax, and Gabes.

America & West Indies.

CALDWELL, destroyer, returning to St. Johns from Convoy S.C.112, reported at 1730, whilst hove to in a W.N.W. gale about 250 miles E.N.E. of St. Johns, she was struck by a heavy sea which caused considerable damage and she was forced to run before the gale.

618

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

A Convoy consisting of 2 large merchant vessels with troops on deck, escorted by one or two light cruisers and 4 or 5 destroyers was sighted this morning between Hermit and Admiralty Islands, heading south. It was twice attacked, and in the second attack during the evening off Karkar Island by strong forces of Liberators several direct hits were made on the light cruiser which caused explosions, probably of the magazines, and the ship was last seen in a sinking condition with a destroyer standing by.

* (NW islands of
Sirmasch
atolipelago)

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- OURAGAN Your 1758A/28 Nov. S.F.N.O. Portsmouth has no instructions from French Naval Headquarters about turning over of OURAGAN to British. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1803A/18 to Admty).
- O.A. Force Arrangements for forming. (C.C.O.1830A/18) See Lion Copy.
- 15th M.S.F. Your 1738/15. Subject to his concurrence propose A.C.O.S. should administer 15th Minesweeping Flotilla. (C. in C. H.F., 1927A/18 to Admty).

Movements.

- D.8. Sailed from Seidisfjord 2100/17 Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNOR, ECHO, ECLIPSE, BEAGLE, BOADICEA, INGLEFIELD, FURY. (A.C.I.C., 0101A/18).
- CANTON My 1858A/15 and 0717/17 (0712/17 intended) sailed 0925. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0956A/18).
My 1713/16. Pass gate at 1415/18th and proceed to R/V with H.M.S. CANTON at 1530/18th in 50.01 N., 04.00 W., and escort her to Clyde L.V. proceeding thence to Tobermory. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1049A/18 to EASTON, (R) N.O.I.C. Greenock, CANTON, SLAZAK, TYNE DALE, Capt. (D) Plymouth).
Communication orders. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1210A/18).
Sailed 1418 EASTON to R/V with CANTON. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1713A/18).
- THRASHER My 1546/17th. Amendment to para. 2 (re W/T watch) P.221. (S.5., 0959A/18).
See p.621A My 1546/17. Postpone all times 24 hours. For UNST read KINGSTON TOPAZ. (S.5., 1255A/18).
- VICTORIOUS Your 0236/17th and R.A.N.A.S.'s 1301/17th. Should ship be delayed for embarkation of aircraft. (VICTORIOUS 1015/18 to Admty).
Your 1015/18. Yes. (D.O.D. (H), 1937A/18 to VICTORIOUS).

/Cancel...

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 G S C E~~ 1830/18 December.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One Time Pad: From. Chief of Combined Operations. DATE, 18.12.42. RECD. 1880.

ADDRESSED. R.A.C.O., S.O.A.S.C., repeated S.N.O. C.O.H., F.O.I.C. Glasgow, F.O.I.C. Greenock, F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C. Cardiff, C. in C. W.A., Admiralty, D.N.C.X.F.

Admiralty's 1149/2/12 not to all addressees. A programme of forming landing craft crews and Beach Commandos for the Assault Force for overseas operations is in preparation at C.O.H.Q. C.O. personnel ex TORCH are at R.A.C.O.'s present disposal, but C.C.O. will draft additions as necessary to complete Flotillas etc. and form new ones as nominated under above programme.

2. Subject to Admiralty approval Rosneath Base is in prospect for accommodating personnel and part craft of O.A. Force, but not until early February.

3. Meanwhile GLENGYLE, KEREN, and ULSTER MONARCH with their Flotillas complete are to be considered allotted to O.A. Force as from a date to be mutually agreed between R.A.C.O., S.O.A.S.C. and R.A.L.B., R.A.C.O. informing C.C.O. (C.C.O.'s 1732 /15 not to all addressees refers). R.A.C.O. will then assume command of these ships, but S.O.A.S.C. will continue to carry out his normal administrative duties in respect of their A. and As. defects and routine storing matters.

4. Temporary accommodation ships are being sought until Rosneath available, but if unprocurable remaining personnel must continue to be held at Westcliff and Foliot, less certain minimum maintenance personnel for which S.O.A.S.C. must arrange local accommodation to look after craft in his operational pool.

5. S.O.A.S.C. is to report to C.C.O. by signal number of maintenance personnel required for operational craft on Clyde Mersey etc. C.C.O. will detail these on behalf of R.A.C.O. ex TORCH personnel. They will then be under S.O.A.S.C.'s orders until returned to the O.A. Force.

6. Craft earmarked for O.A. Force will continue to be allotted initially to operational pool under S.O.A.S.C., ex returns from TORCH and new production, but numbers will be controlled by C.C.O. according to berthing resources available to S.O.A.S.C. until Rosneath is ready. C.C.O. will make subsequent allotment of these craft from the operational pool to the O.A. Force.

7. S.O.A.S.C. remains responsible direct to C.C.O. for all craft in operational pool, and for personnel as in (5) above. R.A.C.O. will be responsible to C.C.O. for ships and craft in (3) above from the date taken under his command, and for others as and when added to his Force, and similarly for personnel.

8. If and when Admiralty allots Rosneath Base to C.O. Command, C.C.O. intends its Commanding Officer to be responsible to him through S.O.A.S.C. instead of through S.N.O.C.O.W. This applies to operational and training functions of Command, and to the C.O. Administrative functions as defined in A.L. M.051446/42 of 23rd. October. (For discipline and local administration Commanding Officer will be responsible to F.O.I.C. Greenock unless otherwise directed by C. in C. W.A.)

9. S.O.A.S.C. is to be responsible to R.A.C.O. for craft and personnel of O.A. Force which are held disembarked at Rosneath Base or at other places controlled by S.O.A.S.C. except the personnel in (5) above. Attention is drawn to the distinction between this and paragraph 7 above.

10. If and when O.A. Force is placed under the orders of a Naval Force Commander, R.A.C.O.'s responsibilities, as Senior Officer of that Force become transferred thereby from C.C.O. to the Naval Force Commander, as do those responsibilities of S.O.A.S.C. which are defined in paragraph 9 above. S.O.A.S.C.'s other responsibilities however remain as they are. C.C.O. will continue certain C.O. administrative functions on behalf of the Naval Force Commander in respect of the O.A. Force, such as C.O. ledger duties and drafting, and administrative duties in connection with C.O. Assault ships' A. and As. and defects, through the normal machinery of the C.O. Command.

1830A/18.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)	A.C.N.S. (W)	D.T.S.D.	D.N.E. (C.O.)
D.F.S.L.	Sec.	D. of P. (2)	D. of D.
2nd S.L.	Nav. Sec.	D. of P. (Q)	D.A/S.W.
Controller.	P.A.S. (O)	D.N.I. (4)	I.P. (2)
Vice Controller.		D.P.S.	W.D.
4th S.L.	D.O.D. (H) (2)	Hd. of M. (3)	(M. 052209/42)
V.C.N.S.	D.O.D. (F) (2)	C.C.O. (2)	Dep. Contr.)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.C. (2)	D. of S.	D. of D.) BATH.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.D.I.C. (2)	Admiral Ramsey.	(4) Hd. of
A.C.N.S. (T)	D.T.S.D.	Admiral Blake. (2)	S.W.R. BATH.

620

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - 18/12.

VICTORIOUS
Contd.

Cancel my 1754/16. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail VICTORIOUS escorted by RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT p.m./19 routed as follows.
A. 270° Oversay 6 miles. B. 55° 27' N. 9° 58' W. C. 49° 58' N., 21° 01' W.
D. 45° 59' N., 29° 58' W. E. 44° 58' N., 37° 02' W.
F. 40° 01' N., 38° 59' W. thence to Bermuda.

2. After destroyers have fuelled S.B.N.O.W.A. is requested to route these to Hampton Roads.
3. Before sailing VICTORIOUS is to report estimated S. of A. and E.T.A. at Hampton Roads.
4. F.O.I.C. Greenock pass to RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT.
5. Destroyers are to report fuel consumption and endurance figures after arrival (at Bermuda). (A.C.N.S. (H), 2137A/18).

→ DRANGEY,
HAARLEM.

A/S Trawlers DRANGEY and HAARLEM are to sail from Milford Haven on 23rd Dec.

2. They will proceed at best speed to Ponta Delgada for coal subsequently rendezvousing with K.M.S.6 in order to provide additional escort for 6 ships in convoy who will part company and proceed to Freetown.
3. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange R/V with K.M.S.6 as requisite after fuelling.
4. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail HAARLEM to Milford Haven on 20th Dec.
5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide route south of Ireland.
6. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ships and make fuelling arrangements in accordance with C.A.F.O.1924/42.
7. After arrival at Freetown F.O.C. W.Af. is requested to sail DRANGEY for Capetown and HAARLEM for Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1459A/18).

MORAY,
EMPIRE TITAN,
EMPIRE CHUB,
EMPIRE ROACH,
EMPIRE NED.

1. Water boat MORAY returned from K.X.6 A with tug EMPIRE NED.
2. Endurance of MORAY is such that she must be towed for part of the voyage.
3. The weather at this time of year is unsuitable for sailing these small ships if it can be avoided and EMPIRE TITAN, EMPIRE CHUB, and EMPIRE ROACH are not to be resailed at present.
4. MORAY is urgently required at Gibraltar, V.A.C.N.A.'s 2030/2 refers and is to be sailed independently with EMPIRE NED when weather forecast is propitious.
5. EMPIRE NED is to tow MORAY until it is considered that her endurance will permit of her making Gibraltar.
6. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange onward sailing of EMPIRE NED destination Capetown
- 7. Further instructions concerning DRANGEY will be communicated A.M.1720/27 refers. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1507A/18).

/BARB...

OR

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H.

BATH.

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

BARB, My 1504/12.
HERRING. 1. Request you will sail BARB and HERRING so
GURNARD. as to part company with escort in position
See next page X O O°. Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1800/
17th thence S/Ms. diving by day as follows:-
A. BARB on route Green to position (S) 44° 01' N., 12° 54'
thence to patrol vicinity position QQ 42° 30' 09° 14' (R)
42° 30' 09° 14'.
B. HERRING on route Red to latitude 45° N., thence to patrol
Zone K.505 off Ferrol. HERRING is not (R) not to proceed South
of 44° N., until after 0200/21.
2. Estimate S. of A. 200 miles per 24 hours diving by day.
15 knots during the night 17/18th Dec.
3. F.O.S. will order GURNARD to leave patrol off Ferrol at
0001/21 so as to pass through 45° 01' N., 12° 26' W., at 0001/
22 thence via route Red to R/V with an escort in position Z
180° Bishops Rock 10 miles at 0800/24.
4. F.O.S. will arrange bombing restrictions.
(F.O.(S) 1508A/12 to Comsubron 50 (R) C. in C. Plymouth,
C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Falmouth, S.3., H.Q.C.C.)

P.615 Intend sailing P.615 escorted by M/S Trawlers
See next page LORRAINE and BEN URIE at 1700/19th to
position 180° Lizard Head 10 miles, P.615
p.403 then parts company and proceeds as in F.O.S's
1011/12th and *1014/12 (dates not applied) M/S
trawlers return to Falmouth. Re communications.
Codeword for fighter protection "Limited".
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1630A/18). *N.T. in W.D.

S/Ms Positions and movements.
(F.O.S., 1751A/18) see Lion Copy.

GLENEARN, F.O. in C. Londonderry's 1149/18th and F.O. in C.
WALKER, Greenock's 1614/17 F.O. in C. Londonderry is
AMAZON. requested to sail WALKER as soon as ready to
relieve AMAZON escorting GLENEARN to Sheerness.
Estimated position AMAZON and GLENEARN at 0800A/
19th 057° 30' N., 006° 50' W. speed 11 knots
to Noss Head then 14 knots. AMAZON to return to Greenock on
relief.
(C. in C. W.A., 1756A/18).
Cancel my 1149A/18. C. in C. W.A's 1756A/18 not to
Commodore Sheerness refers.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 2204A/18).

SARDONYX Sailed SARDONYX in accordance with your * 1148/18th
See p.626 Codeword for fighter protection "Obstacle".
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1818A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)
(Extract for A/C *N.T. in W.D.
comms.)

621A

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. 1751A/18th Dec 1918 IN

MOST SECRET MESSAGE
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
FROM: "P.O.B." are excepted from this rule.) DATE: 18.12.42.
RECD: 1818

P/L BY SECRET T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty

340.

Positions of submarines at 0800A/19th December and movements for following 24 hours

(A) P.339 70 degs. 12' north 11 degs. 00' east speed about 10 knots through 71 degs. 36' north 15 degs. 01' east to patrol vicinity 71 degs. 14' north 24 degs. 27' east.

(B) P.223 69 degs. 58' north 11 degs. 20' east speed about 9 knots through 71 degs. 18' north 15 degs 22' east to patrol vicinity 71 degs 10' north 23 degs 44' east.

(C) TORBAY 69 degs 18' north 11 degs 50' east speed about 10 knots through 70 degs 54' north 16 degs 38' east to patrol vicinity 70 degs 53' north 22 degs 05' east.

17/ (D) SOKOL 68 degs 21' north 08 degs 50' east speed about 8 knots through 69 degs 02' north 09 degs 56' east and 71 degs 08' north ~~08~~ degs 56' east to patrol vicinity 71 degs 02' north 22 degs 56' east.

(E) THRASHER and P.221 escorted by KINGSTON TOPAZ leave Spithead 1630/19th expected time of arrival Sandhead Buoy 0700 20th and Sheerness 1200 20th. *See p. 619*

(F) U.S.S. BARB 48 degs 42 min north 12 degs 54' west dived by day through 44 degs 01' north 12 degs 55' west. Advance 200 miles in 24 hours. *See previous page*

(G) U.S.S. HERRING 48 degs 18' north 12 degs 26' west dived by day through 45 degs 02' north 12 degs 26' west thence to patrol off Ferrol. Advance 200 miles in 24 hours. *See previous page*

(H) U.S.S. GURNARD in Zone K 505 withdrawing to westward at 0001 20th. *See previous page*

(J) PORPOISE 46 degs 50' north 13 degs 22' west dived by day through 49 degs 10' north 13 degs 22' west and 49 degs 50' north 12 degs 34' west. Advance 150 miles in 24 hours. *See next page*

(K) UREDD escorted by M.L. 454 from Dundee exercising vicinity 24A Buoy from 0945 to 1500/19th. Returning Dundee on completion.

(L) P.615 escorted by LORRAINE and BEN URIL leaves Falmouth 1700 19th to 180 degs Lizard Head 10 miles thence unescorted dived by day through 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles, 50 degs 10' north 09 degs 00' west and 50 degs 10' north 12 degs 40' west. Advance 135 miles in 24 hours. *See previous page*

1751A/18, 1121A/19, 1108A/19
Advance copy 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 P. (2)
D.A/S.W.
D.T.D. (M)
Head of M.

W.D.
I.P. (2)

622

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

AJAX. Ref. A.M. 2047/6th. Intend AJAX to sail Scapa a.m./21st via Minches to arrive Clyde Boom 0930A/22nd.
2. AJAX will be ready to leave Clyde p.m./22nd. (C. in C. H.F.1841A/18).

PORPOISE My position 044° 18' 013° 01' E.T.A. R/V dawn 22nd.
See previous page
(PORPOISE, 1901A/18 to F.O.S. A.O.C. in C. C.C. repeated C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. (S) 5th).

BLACKFISH, SHAD. 1. Intend sailing U.S. S/M BLACKFISH and U.S. S/M SHAD escorted by STARWORT at 1100A/20 for position 000° round Islands of Scilly Isles 7 miles E.T.A. 1800A/21 S. of A. 15 knots.
2. Thence STARWORT as ordered by C. in C. W.A.
3. Thence BLACKFISH and SHAD proceed dived by day as ordered in F.O.S.1744/18.
4. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. Help message on 385 k/cs.
5. W/T watch.

(Comsubron 50, 2115A/18 to Clyde S/M Movements Southabout, (R) Comnavu, H.Q.C.C., Group 19).

My 2115/18th. BLACKFISH, SHAD and escort vessel H.M.S. STARWORT will arrive position (Y) 250° Trevoise Head 10 miles at 1130A/12. Request permission for subs diving in the vicinity followed by battle surface and 10 rounds of gunfire completing this exercise at 1200A. Subs. will be available 1200A for exercises described in F.O.S's 1129B/14th May in the following order: BLACKFISH then SHAD. Also any other exercises Group 19 command may desire. * 20 miles.

(Comsubron 50, 2221A/18 to Clyde Submarine Movements southabout, (R) Comnavu, A.O.C.C.C., Group 19).

Operations.

Channel Patrols. 1. Intend M.G.Bs. 56 (S.O.) and 52 to patrol tonight Friday Nov. (?Dec) 18th on lat. 50° 20' N., between longitudes of Anvil Point and St. Catherines Point. *See next page*
2. Leave Weymouth at 1715 via Q.Z.S. 381 thence to Western end of patrol line. Leave patrol line at dawn and return to base.
3. Object. Anti E-boat patrol.
4. Constant watch on 2300 k/cs W/T usual books will be landed.
5. Codeword "Kettle", request air protection be arranged.
6. M.G.Bs. have orders not to proceed West of 1° 58' W. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1202A/18).

/NORLAND...

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - con/18.

Channel Patrols. Contd. NORDLAND or ADONIS is to accompany M.Ls. of 6th Flotilla on patrol between 3 and 3B buoy tonight Friday.
(C. in C. Nore, 1236A/18 to N.O.I.C. Harwich (R) N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, BEEHIVE S.E.E.C.D. HOLDERNESS).

CHASSEURS 13 (S.O.) and 10 are to patrol 10 miles to southward of convoy route between Meridians of Beachy Head and E.A.5 Buoy to cover passage of C.W.142. CHASSEURS pass E.A.5 Buoy at 1730/18 and 0830/19.
W/T Watch on 1700 k/cs.

ALBRIGHTON proceed to anchor at St. Helens before dark 18th and remain at immediate notice returning to Harbour as convenient after daylight 19th. W/T Watch on broadcast C.N. and 2450 k/cs. M.G.Bs. 56 and 52 carry out Anti E-boat Patrol on 50° 20' N., between Meridians of St. Catherine's and Anvil Points. W/T Watch on 2300 K/cs. *3 - previous page*

M.G.Bs. 616, 615, 611, 608 and M.T.Bs. 243, 85, 86 at immediate notice at Newhaven. W/T watch on 1700 k/cs if ordered to proceed to sea collective call sign 3 Z.B.T.

C.W. 142 Escorted by GARTH passes Beachy Head at 0400/19 and E.A.5 at 0930/19.

P.W.265 Escorted by GLAISDALE and LIMBOURNE leaves Needles 1700/18.

W.P. 264 escorted by ST.ALBANS arrives Needles 0900/19.

Aircraft carrying out anti - E-boat patrol in Plymouth Command south of convoy route.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1256A/18 to D.1. X.D.O.E., (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, ALBRIGHTON X.D.O.W., R.A.F. Tangmere Thorney Island, GARTH, GLAISDALE, LIMBOURNE, ST. ALBANS, HORNET).

GRAPH My 1904/6th October (GRAPH operating on the Home Station).
Request this information may be repromulgated to include northernmost water.
(F.O.S., 1516A/18 to Admty).

Operation to intercept Enemy convoy. Indication from Air reports that there was an enemy southbound convoy of 10 ships in approx. 053° 35' N., 005° 05' E., at 1330/18th weather permitting following M.T.B. units are to be sailed to intercept.

1. 1 unit M.T.B.F. 22 to Ymuiden Buoy and work northward alongside enemy convoy route.

2. 1 unit 4th and 21st M.T.Bs. to vicinity Hook and to work northward as far as Ymuiden, on convoy route. Report M.T.Bs. detailed and E.T.D.

(C. in C. Nore, 1534A/18 to MANTIS, BEEHIVE (R) N.O.I.C. Harwich, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, Capt. (D) 21st Flotilla, Capt. (D) 16th Flotilla, Group.16., H.M.S. MIDGE).

Night dispositions 18/19. Nore. Patrol 3 WALPOLE, patrol 4 MACKAY.
Patrol 5 BLENCATHRA. Patrol 6 HOLDERNESS.
(C. in C. Nore, 1600A/18).

/SLAZAK...

624

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

SLAZAK,
TYNEDALE,
LIMBOURNE.

My 1719/16th not to SLAZAK and TYNEDALE delete reference to Match (3) 2 destroyers detach from Match 1800 - 18th to R/V. Review and escort to V Y 35 65 codeword "Wheel" destroyers thence to patrol between VY 25 43 and V Y 44 43 till 1st light 19th thence SLAZAK to R/V Cloak LIMBOURNE on relief to Plymouth "Wheel" 1. TYNEDALE to Ply. mouth "Wheel" all category (4).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1705A/18 to Group 10, H.Q.F.C. (R) C. in C. Portsmouth, SLAZAK, TYNEDALE).

HERTFINIS,
HARDUS DE
HUDE.

Neither in 11/19/42.

Norwegian HERTFINIS 1365 tons and German HARDUS DE HUDE torpedoed and beached off Askevold a.m. November 27th.

(N.A. Stockholm, 1742/18).

O.I.C. Comment. M.T.Bs. 620 and 623 attacked two ships at Askevold early on 27th November.

Allied Air Operations.

Signals
to friendly
aircraft.

My 1208/18 Nov. concur to promulgate Black Ball procedure in A.M.S.I.

1. Complaints received have been:
 - (A) That Ball was not visible.
 - (B) That procedure is used unnecessarily.
 2. Complaint (A) is being met by instructing escorts to draw 4 foot balls. Complaint (B) is a matter of opinion and experience.
- (C. in C. W.A., 1142A/18)

Re B.24 D's
belonging to
1st A/S
Squadron
and 2nd A/S
Squadron to
be operated
from U.K.
base.

A.P.700/18 Dec. Your A.X./133 17th Dec. Intend to operate second A/S squadron from Chivenor (H.Q.C.C., 1143A/18 to Air Min).
A.P.701 18 Dec. Your A.X.133/17th Dec. and further to my A.P.700/18th Dec. with operation of U.S. first and second A/S Squadrons under this command continued operations by 10 O.T.U. will be unnecessary. Propose to return 10 O.T.U. from St. Eval to Bomber Command when U.S. Squadrons have reached satisfactory operational standard.
(H.Q.C.C., 1144A/18 to Air Min).

Anti E-boat
patrols.

Whitley and Swordfish A/C will carry out two anti E-boat cross over patrols from 1830 today till dawn 19th to cover passage of convoys. Aircraft object is to report attack and shadow E-boats.

2. Eastern patrol between positions:- A. 215 Portland Bill 23 B. 335 Cap de la Hague 14. C. 155 Start Point 41. D. 150 Start Point 19. Western patrol between positions:- C. D.E.180 Eddystone 17 F. 180 Eddystone 37.

625

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Operations - con/18.Anti E-boat
patrols.
Contd.

3. In order to prevent risk of contact between aircraft and our own forces convoy escorts are not repeat not to leave vicinity of convoys unless ordered or unless requested by aircraft to attack damaged enemy.

4. Subject to above conditions aircraft have freedom to attack all contacts south of line joining positions (E) (D) (A) and (G) 160 Portland Bill 18. Part 2 communications follows.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1315A/18 to Escorts W.P. 264, Escorts P.W. 265, (R) 16, 19, 10 Groups, C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, H.Q.C.C., Admt. ST. ALBANS, LIMBOURNE, S.G.B.9 VARDO, DROBAK, NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE, SLAZAK, TYNEDEALE.)

?

Your 1147/18th (N.T. in W.D.) expect sorties by two Whitleys and sections of 2 Beaufighters from 1st to last light 19th. Communication. Whitley (1) W/T 6000 k/cs from 0900A to 1700A, 3215 k/cs from 1700A to 0900A (2) R/T convoy R/T 2410 k/cs. Beaufighter Command guard frequency. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1925A/18 and 0851A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

Mining.

M/S 9.

M.S.9 2340A/19 should evidently be 2340A/18. See 19th Dec.

Enemy Intelligence.Enemy
merchant
ship.

C. in C. Plymouth 1825A/18.
W.D. Note. The above signal was replaced by C. in C. Plymouth 0025A/19 q.v.

U-boats.U-boats.
reported.

Am over enemy submarine in 47.50 N., 14.50 W. enemy submarine previously reported was on surface. When first sighted was on course 270 estimated speed 8.

(A/C 100 T.U.S.9 V 1125/18).

D/F bearings at 1800Z/18 on 7640 k/cs, indicate U-boat still in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 1953A/18 to Escorts of M.K.S. 3-Y. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth).

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Technical.

Non-contact
pistol. C.B. 1815 page 341.
Believed may now be in use. Piston may have reduced efficiency at fine track angle, so avoiding action by combing track may have added advantage. D.G. should be switched on whenever attack is considered likely. Any evidence of this pistol having been used is required.
2. Substance above is to be promulgated verbally to vessel in your group.
(C. in C. W.A., 1529A/18 to S.O. Escort Groups, (R) Capt. (D) Admty. Commodore Londonderry).

R.D.F. in U/Bs. There are indications that U-boats may now be fitting R.D.F. The frequency may be between 350 and 425 m/cs.
2. 2 Receivers covering 240 to 665 m/cs and rough D/F aeriels are available now and others will be available very shortly.
3. Request your proposals for fitting escorts for offensive homing on the assumption that U-boats may use R.D.F. for ranging on their torpedo target.
(Admty. 1956A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

Q and R class des-troyers. Previous experience with W.S convoys indicates that endurance of Q. and R. class is approx. as follows:- 4,000 miles at 16 knots. 3450 miles at 20 knots.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2145A/18).

Casualties & Defects.

Search for aircraft crews. Call sign aircraft co-operating 5 V F V on 385 k/cs. Continue search until daylight.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0041A/18 to *SARDONYX)* *See p. 621*
My 2321/17th. CLEVELAND and BROCKLESBY did not sail Plymouth until 0615/18th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0621A/18 to NEWCASTLE, SARDONYX, MANGROVE, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.(S) (R) CLEVELAND.)
Aircraft have not located rubber dinghy today Friday. If you have sighted nothing by 0400/19th return to harbour.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1715A/18 to CLEVELAND, BROCKLESBY).
My 1715/18th. For 0400/19th read 0001/19th. Return to harbour passing through position 049° 00' N., 008° 20' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1831A/18 to CLEVELAND, BROCKLESBY).

NORELG. *See p. 629* Following from NORELG. Returning to harbour Clyde damaged arriving Boom approx. 1800 G.M.T. (Port Patrick Radio, 0900/18).

VICEROY Have been in collision with H.M.S. LADY PHILOMENA in approx. 1½ miles 290° from 62 (?C) Lowest point of damage 6 feet above waterline, (corrupt group) of stem fractured and pushed back 2 feet fore peak open to weather. Ship is seaworthy. Damage to LADY PHILOMENA appears to consist of small hole on port bow at forecastle deck level only. Weather report 0822 9944 sea 30 sea temperature 48.
(VICEROY, 0942A/18).

/VICEROY...

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE

1301A/18th December

IN

Date 18.12.42.

Recd 1317.

From C.C.O.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty, repeated C.in C. Portsmouth, Northney,

Following received from Northney. Addressed C.in C. Portsmouth. Repeated C.C.O. Comdr. LCB. Combrax Chatham. Begins:-

L.C.S.(L) 204 capsized when entering Chichester Harbour at 1700 on 17th December craft is now beached on Eastoke Point Hayling Island. Regret to report Albert C. Stevens Stoker 2nd Class C/KX 1252868 lost his life, next of kin Mother at 215 Lady Gate Lane, Ruislip, Middlesex. Stoker Stevens' body is trapped under craft. Request assistance of Salvage Officer as soon as possible. T.O.O. 0400/18. Ends.

1301A/18

Advance copy sent Ops., O.D., O.I.C., Salvage.

Controller
Vice Controller
A.C.N.S.(H)
N.A.1st S.L.
M.(2)
Ops.(3)
O.D.(5)
O.D.8
O.I.C.
D.
Hydrog.(2)
D.of Salvage
C.C.R.T.
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
S.Branch
D.N.B.(C.O.)
D.of P.(Q)

C.W.(Cas)Sect.(3)
N.Rm. 123
N.L.
M.D.G.
P.M.(2)
Press Div.
D.P.S.(2)
Dep.Contr.(3)
D.N.A.3
5
8
9
10
D.N.A.(Wills)
D.(4)
S.W.R.

Bath by Courier.

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - *con/51* *see next page*VICEROY
Contd.

VICEROY 0942/18th as "Agent" will not consist of more than 12 ships after 20 R propose detaching VICEROY at dusk to proceed independently to Rosyth.

(LIDDESDALE, 1621A/18 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Your 1621/18th approved if H.M.S. VICEROY is unfit for escort duties. If she is fit intention is to bring you on after daybreak. Signal your decision.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 1914A/18 to LIDDESDALE).

Your 1914A/18 VICEROY unfit for rough weather until stem has been made watertight. My position 62 E buoy. Visibility bad.

(LIDDESDALE, 2201A/18 to C. in C. Rosyth).

VARDEFJELL

Damaged ship in 58° 46' N., 118° 41' W. (sic) only stern afloat ?J.

(A/C C/S D.28 M 1200A/18 to 7 V Y 15 Group)

Proceed at best speed to assistance of derelict ship reported by A/C in 58° 46' N., 12° 41' W., at 1200A/18. Approx. 30 persons on board. A/C will co-operate at dawn weather permitting. Acknowledge.

(C. in C. W.A., 1344Z/18 to LEAMINGTON, NORTHERN SUN, VASCAMA, CAPE PORTLAND, (R) GAVOTTE, Admty. C.T.U.24.1.17).

Your 1344Z/18th. Received. Expect to be at position indicated 0700/19th.

(NORTHERN SUN, 1456Z/18 to C. in C. W.A. (R) LEAMINGTON, 50th Escort Group. Admty. C.T.U.24.1.17, GAVOTTE).

My 1344/18. On arrival in area take NORTHERN SUN, VASCAMA, CAPE PORTLAND under your orders and carry out search allowing drift of about one knot leeward. If derelict is encountered report immediately possibility of salvage.

(C. in C. W.A., 2209A/18 to LEAMINGTON (R) NORTHERN SUN, VASCAMA, CAPE PORTLAND, GAVOTTE, Admty).

BLANKNEY

After leaving convoy BLANKNEY return Scapa for repairs to compass. LEDBURY and CHIDDINGFOLD to Loch Ewe in accordance with my 1202/5th.

(Hush Most Secret distribution).

(C. in C. H.F., 1207A/18 to BLANKNEY).

Tug
ADEPT.

H.M. Tug ADEPT has now rolled over off Paterson Rock and only a small part of her side is visible at low water.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1520A/18).

MALLOW,
STONECROP.

Have both received hull damage in collision. Diver reports under water damage to MALLOW which will necessitate vessel being docked.

Damage to STONECROP appears to be all above waterline. Request P.E.R.O. representatives may be sent to survey. Vessels are now berthed in Gladstone Dock. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1657A/18).

MONTROSE

To be sailed for Chatham for change of starboard propeller, examination of shaft and bracket.

(C. in C. Nore, 1702A/18).

628

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S. 25 Convoy sailed consisting of HIGHLAND BRIGADE, HIGHLAND PRINCESS, MATAROA, ESPERANCE BAY, ORION, RANGITIKI, BRITANNIC, CITY OF LONDON and TARIFA and escorted by CARNARVON CASTLE, CHESHIRE, QUILLIAM, HAYDON, ROCKWOOD, BADSWORTH and WOLVERINE. Routed as in A.M. 2035A/10th. Cdre. is Cdre. A.T. Tillard R.N.R in BRITANNIC. Vice Cdre. Master of ORION. Codeword "Redbreast" (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0224A/18).
- F.N. 894 "Agent" anchored in fog between 62 B and H 4. (LIDDESDALE, 0801A/18). *See previous page*
- M.K.S. 3 X,
M.K.F. 4 Arrived Clyde portion following convoys: M.K.S. 3 X escorted by LYME REGIS, WORTHING, ARDROSSAN. Codeword Cockatoo (1). M.K.F. 4 with BULOLO codeword Manicure (1). (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1034A/18).
- S.C. 112 Your 2200/16. SCIMITAR and SHIKARI are sailing to join. Report if any escorts succeed in refuelling.
(C. in C. W.A., 1035Z/18 to Ships escorting S.C. Convoy No. 112, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Iceland, Comtask 24, Cmdre. Task Group No. 24.6).
- S.C. 112. Your 0924Z/18th affirmative. I am sailing another escort vessel today (?Route) to follow and to augment escort since SEMINOLE and NORTH KING are carrying troops. Request that Iceland section be detached on joining of additional escort.
(24.6., 1112Z/18 to C. in C. Western Approaches, (R) SAMUEL D. INGHAM, C.T.U. 24.1.14 Admty. A.C.I.C.)
- Convoys Intend proceeding to cover J.W. 51 A in KING
J.W. 51 A. GEORGE V with BERWICK escorted by MUSKETEER,
J.W. 51 B. RAIDER and QUADRANT pass Hoxa boom at 1000/19th.
See p. 620
2. Route through Q. Z.S. 15 and thence direct to 70.01 00.02 E. S. of A. 17½ knots.
3. Failing information of enemy the Battle Fleet will keep south and east of lines joining the following positions:- 70.01 00.02 E. and 72.30, 08.02 E. until a.m./22 subsequently returning to Scapa.
4. R.A. (D) H.F. is requested to sail FORESTER to arrive Hvalfjord on 22nd Dec. F.O. Second-in-C. H.F. is requested to sail ORWELL to Seidisfjord as necessary to fuel before joining convoy J.W. 51 B.
5. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail oiler CELEROL to Akureyri to arrive by a.m./23rd Dec.
6. Failing further instruction F.O. 2nd in C. H.F. is requested to sail in ANSON from Hvalfjord with one 8 inch cruiser and screened by FORESTER, ICARUS, and IMPULSIVE to top up destroyers with fuel at Akureyri and subsequently cover J.W. 51 B. while convoy is between approx. longitude of 001° E. and 015° E. On completion F.O. 2nd-in-C. H.F. and his force return to Hvalfjord. (C. in C. H.F., 1147A/18 to Home Fleet, Operational).

/SAKHALIN...

629

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- SAKHALIN Your 1440/10. Tanker belongs to Sovtorgflo and is merchantman.
(Admiral Miles, 1201C/18 to Admty).
- W.N.74 Your 1120/18 (Propose postponing W.N.74 24 hours) Approved.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1248A/18 to N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe).
- T.A.31 Convoy T.A.31 consisting of SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to leave Clyde sailing independently direct to New York on 20th Dec.
2. Maximum air protection both A.A. and A/S should be provided.
3. Route as follows: From position P.270° Oversay Light 10 miles at 0900Z/21 through Q.57° N., 15° W. R. 59.30 N., 21° W. S. 59.30 N., 35° W. T. 55° N., 42° W. U.45° N., 50° W. V. 40° N., 56° W. W. 40° N., 71° W. thence to New York.
4. Fighter protection codeword "Damson".
5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship as requisite and to signal estimated S. of A. and E.T.A. to the appropriate authorities.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 1441A/18).
Please confirm that convoy T.A.31 A should be treated for communication purposes as an independent routed M/V.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1822A/18 to Admty).
- K.M.S.5 ^{/ See p. 626} K.M.S.5. Inform Commodore NORELG and KINGSBOROUGH have return to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 1455A/18 to Escorts).
- Convoy M.K.S.3 BRETWALDA. BRETWALDA torpedoed in 044° 35' N., 016° 28' W. at 0830A/18th about 10 miles astern of convoy and again at 1030. Ship sank at 1418. (?55) survivors picked up. 1 seaman gunner missing, all others saved expect to rejoin Convoy by 2359A/18th.
(KRAKOWIAK. 1525A/18).
- NIEUW HOLLAND, WENSLEYDALE. Admty. 1928/12th.* NIEUW HOLLAND will be ready at Liverpool 1100/20 and requires escort to Falmouth, it would be appreciated if WENSLEYDALE could be sailed to Liverpool in time for this duty.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1555A/18).
* Sailing of NIEUW HOLLAND for refit. *See next page*

/?J.W.51 A...

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

J.W. 51 A

See p. 628

Owing to fog am unable to make Seidisfjord, am proceeding to cover convoy. OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS will enter Seidisfjord as soon as possible, refuelling and rejoining convoy as extra escort.

(R.A.(D) H.F., 1750A/18 to C. in C. H.F., Admty. A.C.I.C., S.B.N.O. North Russia, Capt. (D) 8).

Your 1555/18.* Certainly, ship will be sailed on completion of practices at 1500 tomorrow Saturday.

2. Approx. boiler hours on departure from Scapa 550.
(Cdre. (D) H.F., 2242A/18).

* NIEUW HOLLAND and WENSLEYDALE. *See previous page*

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

Mediterranean Personal from First Sea Lord. Admiral Stark is
 Amphibious arriving in Washington very shortly and I have
 Force U.S. asked him to take up with Admiral King the matter
 Atlantic raised in your 1820/15.
 Fleet. (Admty., 1307A/18 to N.C.X.F.)

K.M.S.5. A.M. 2137/30. K.M.S.5.
 1. The following ships did not sail: CLAN
 MACBRAYNE, STAD HAARLEM, FORT CONFIDENCE, BELNOR,
 KAFIRISTAN, BLENHEIM, FORT BATTLE RIVER.
 2. The following ships have returned or are known to be
 returning to U.K.:— CLAN MACBEAN, EMPIRE SUNBEAM, ITTERSUM,
 CARSLGIE, RALLUS, SALVAGE CHIEFTAIN, KINGSBOROUGH, EXILONA,
 EMPIRE HUNTER, ASHANTIAN, SALTWICK, P.L.M..14, FLOWERGATE,
 CARNATIC.
 (D.O.D.(H), 1531A/18 to N.C.X.F., (R) AF.H.Q. Algiers, V.A.
 Gibraltar, F.O.W.Af.)

A.N.D. Your 0003/11 (N.T. in W.D.) Proposals for
 depot. Gibraltar are concurred in. Importance A.N.D.
 defence is fully appreciated but requirements
 loading berths and lighters at North African
 ports are such that net depot could at present only be established
 at expense of the turn round of shipping.
 (N.C.X.F., 1610A/18 to Admty.)

Air R/Cs 3 Italian battleships and light forces may be in
 proposed. Toulon. P.R.U. from North Africa will be
 arranged a.m. 19th if possible.
 2. Request arrangements for A.S.V. cross over
 patrol between Cape Palamos and Corsica as for "Torch" assault
 period to commence when K.M.F.5 passes Gibraltar and continue
 until situation has clarified.
 3. Request immediate report if weather unsuitable for Catalinas
 at Gibraltar in which case Hudson cross over will be arranged from
 Algiers in area South of Balearic Islands.
 4. If A.O.C. Gibraltar requires to operate Catalinas from Arzeu
 request you will arrange direct with F.O.I.C. Oran.
 (N.C.X.F., 1838A/18 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Hq. E.A.C., F.O.I.C.
 Oran, Admty., S.O. Force H.)

Aircraft N.C.X.F. 1157/17 and C. in C. Med. 1327/17.
 and R/C Owing to weather it has been impossible for any
 of Ports. aircraft to leave U.K. for Gibraltar or Italy for
 the past 5 days. P.R.U. of Spezia, Leghorn,
 Genoa and Toulon will be carried out from U.K. on
 highest priority as soon as possible.
 2. Air Min. will be responsible for R/C of the above ports and if
 necessary North Adriatic ports for the time being.
 3. Maddalena should be covered from Malta.
 4. The supply of suitable aircraft for Malta and North Africa
 is under active consideration by Air Min.
 (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 1911A/18 to N.C.X.F., C. in C.
 Med., (R) V.A. Malta.)

/Policy ...

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X - Contd.Policy
towards
French
Ships.

Your 2105/4.

A. Concur that the time has come to issue revised instructions but:

(i) We have not in the past issued general instructions to ships concerning French aircraft and as the obligation is always upon aircraft to establish their friendly character to ships, it is considered better not to do so now. Air Min. are taking up with General Eisenhower as a matter of urgency, the general question of treatment of aircraft with French markings.

(ii) Your 2A. It is preferred in the Med. to retain simple "sink at sight" instructions within declared areas since all French ships in Metropolitan ports are likely to be under strict enemy control.

(iii) Your 2B. It is preferred in the Atlantic to make the Northern limit correspond with existing instructions for action in the Bay of Biscay, i.e. ships would be treated as under enemy control if encountered North of 42° 15' N. and East of 14° W.

B. Accordingly it is proposed subject to your further views to issue the following A message Home and Abroad:- Begins:

(1) Cancel C.B. 03091/42 and all previous instructions concerning treatment of French merchant ships and warships which are now to be dealt with as follows:-

(2) Atlantic. North of the Equator they are to be treated as friendly unless - (a) they commit hostile acts: (b) they are encountered in the Bay of Biscay area north of 42° 15' N. and east of 14° W., when they are to be treated as under enemy control: (c) they answer the description of a vessel notified as a possible blockade runner from the Far East.

(3) Mediterranean. (a) In sink-at-sight areas they are to be dealt with in accordance with standing instructions for the area. (b) In the free areas in the western basin they are to be treated in accordance with the orders of N.C.X.F.

(4) Other Areas. If not sailing under the control of H.M.G. the U.S.G., or the Free French, they are to be regarded as suspicious and are, if possible, to be sent into the nearest Allied port under armed guard or escort. Ends.

(M. Branch Approved V.C.N.S., 2320A/18 to N.C.X.F.)

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

EXIRIA. EXIRIA reports:- "Separated from convoy K.M.F.5 during heavy weather please instruct when to meet convoy own position 17th Dec. 1600 G.M.T. Y bearing 000° 10 miles ships speed 16 knots over ground heading for position 30 miles south of position Z". Ship is being instructed to steer for position 30 miles south of Z thence to Gibraltar at best speed. Request you will provide escort if possible.
(D.O.D.(H), 0030A/18 to V.A. Gibraltar.)

Movements. Arrival IMPERIALIST escorting EMPIRE GAZELLE. (V.A. Gibraltar, 0225A/18 to Admty., N.C.X.F.) Sailed 1720, LORD HOTHAM escorting SS. FORTY/LAC LA RONGE to Melilla and back. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1837A/18 to Admty., N.C.X.F.)

T.F. 4. Sailed U.S.S. P.C.482, F.F. ship French Minesweeper TAPAGEUSE, LA SERVANNAISE, escorting convoy T.F.4 to Casablanca. (V.A. Gibraltar, 0952/18 to S.N.S.O. Casablanca, Admty., N.C.X.F.) *See next page*

Fuelling H.M. Ships. Cypher for C.S.A. Request arrangements be made to fuel QUILLIAM, HAYDON, ROCKWOOD, BADSWORTH, WOLVERINE. All ships require approx. 300 tons. 2 of above E.T.A. 23rd Dec. and remainder 24th Dec. All ships also require provisions and water. (F.O. Greenock, 0958A/18 to B.C. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty., C. in C. W. Atlantic, V.A. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon.)

HORORATA. HORORATA arrived Horta 1000 G.M.T. under own steam. CLUNEPARK not here. Detailed report follows.
(R.O. Fayal, 1020/18 to Admty., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
My 1225A/17. Sailed H.M. Tug EMINENT at 1545. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1644A/17 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
HORORATA severely damaged between 4 and 5 holds port side. M. of W.T. will be kept informed. Master reports all confidential books sunk in weighted boxes also 2 bags of Admiralty mail ex PAMLICO.

(R.O. Fayal, 1840C/18 to Admty., (R) SO.(I) Gibraltar.)
Your 1720/18th (N.T. in W.D.) CLUNEPARK due Flores tonight. Have Agents been advised to transfer remainder of HORORATA crew to her for passage to Horta. If so on arrival Horta instruct Master proceed to assistance of CEFALU.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1936C/18 to R.O. Fayal, (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Lloyds agent reports (A) HORORATA holed in Nos. 4. and 5 holds which are flooded (B) Ship can steam at 10 knots and has 150

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET

M I N E S W E E P E R

IN

From V.A. Gib. Pages shown as having been sent in a One-Date Page (18-12-42 "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

Recd 1827

NAVAL CYPHER 3S BY T/F.

Addressed North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Report Area X, Situation 2002A. 18th.

(1) ANK, PC 472. 35 55 05 41 through 35 52 06 01 and 35 40 06 30 to 33 55 07 45 thence Casablanca 12.

(2) H.M.S. LOCH OSKAIG escorting H.M.S. MIRROR 37 17 18 19 277 8.

(3) MKP4 (Y), SPY, ROTHER H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, (E) 38 30 14 30 through 40 01 16 15 thence 003 degs 10. H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT expected to part company P.M 19th to return to Gibraltar.

(4) KMF 5. fleet units H.M.S. LAFOREY, H.M.S. LIGHTNING, three sloops, one cutter, one corvette. (E) 38 13 16 08 through 36 12 13 32 thence 101 degs 12. *p. 635*

(5) Tugs H.M.S. MASTADANTE 37 04 09 27 316 degs 8.

* (6) H.M.S. SPANKER, one merchant ship, one tug, 30 53 11 14 through 32 01 10 30 thence 044 degs 7 1/2.

(7) H.M.S. SOUTHERN GEM, GRYFEVALE, 28 16 13 09 through 28 38 12 40 thence 029 degs 6.

(8) H.M.S. ADVENTURE, ^{40 54 13 51} 37 32 14 47 through 36 32 09 15 and 36 30 07 10 thence Gibraltar 16. *See p. 634*

(9) Tug EMINENT, 36 25 11 26 276 10 1/2. *See previous page*

(10) TF 4, P C 482, French escort French Minesweeper TAPAGEUSE, LA SERVANNAISE, 35 16 06 47 to Casablanca 7 1/2. *See previous page*

1320A/18
as amended 1902 A/18
Advance copy Duty Capt.
D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

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

- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (C)
- D.S.D
- D of P. (Q)
- C.C.R.T
- Ad. Ramsey (4)
- D.M.S

* Wrong ship. HMS SPANKER was not completed until 20 8 43 and no other HMS of the name can be traced *16/2/78*

SECRET

633^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. 1324A/18th December.

IN.

From. V.A. Gibraltar.

Date. 18.12.42.

Time. 1551.

Naval Cypher S. by W/T.

Addressed. A.I.G. 65.

IMPORTANT.

Situation 2002; 18th.
(1) H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, 023 degs 04 mins 017 degs 36 mins 12 knots to rendez vous with 1 (one) merchant ship in position 20 01 18 30 at 1200A 19th and escort to Gib 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

p. 636 (ILEX ? ORJUNA)

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F)
A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.I.
Capt Pim
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.S.D. 9. (2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

1324A/18.

Advance Copy Ops. O.D. Trade.

D.S.D. (2)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
M. (2)

JA

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- HORORATA. tons fuel immediately available in bunkers.
(Contd.) (C) Draft 43 ft. aft.
2. Consider ship should not move until escort and tug are available.
3. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada is requested to report whether temporary repairs could be effected at Ponta Delgada or Horta to reduce draft to enable ship to enter Lisbon or Bermuda for repairs sufficient to allow ship to proceed to U.K.
4. V.A. Gibraltar is requested to propose arrangements for escort in accordance with para. (2) above. Consider escort should accompany H.M. Tug EMINENT. My 2004/16 not to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada refers.
(D.T.D., 1938A/18 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.A. Lisbon.)
- ADVENTURE. E.T.A. Gate 1000/20 P.C. and S. at 1300/18 042°
S. p. 433A 44' N. 014° 25' W. 167° 16 knots.
(ADVENTURE, 1309A/18 to V.A. Gib., (R) Admty.)
- Convoy My 1135/15 no reply received my request for
G.U.S.2. routeing G.U.S. 2 convoy.
(S.N.O.C.A., 1400Z/18.)
- K.M.S. 5. LONDONDERRY's 1700/17 K.M.S.5 not to R.A.W.Af.
1. Only ships for Freetown remaining with convoy are EMPIRE ELAINE and BALUCHISTAN.
2. PETUNIA did not sail.
3. Request you will instruct LONDONDERRY where WOODRUFF and CROCUS will join for onward escort in accordance with A.M. 2137/30.
(D.O.D.(H), 1439A/18 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) LONDONDERRY, C. in C. W.A., R.A.W.Af.)
- STURGEON. 1. Intend to sail STURGEON p.m. 20th for Algiers through A. 180° Cape Calbuerras five miles.
B. 180° Cape de Gata five miles. C. 135° Cape Palos five miles at 1000/22, thence as ordered by Captain (S) 8.
2. Communications Gibraltar broadcast shifting to read M.S. routine.
3. S. of A. 120 miles per day.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1455A/18 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) Commdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10.)
- PRIAM. Your 1939/17th PRIAM left vicinity Ponta Delgada p.m. 17th.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1601/18 to V.A. Gibraltar)
- ALBULA ALBULA leaves Genoa 19th for Lisbon via Gibraltar
(Swiss) in ballast.
(D.E.W.D., 1601A/18 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) N.C.X.F.)

635

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

POITOU
(torpedoed
17th Dec.)

French Trawler POITOU torpedoed by U-Boat 2015A/17 while anchored 33° 23', long. 08.30 x 22 in crew X 2. Survivors brought Casablanca by Spanish fishing vessel. Report remainder lost and state S/M had Swastika on conning tower and flew German colours.

(C.S.S.F.W.T.F., 1625/18 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty., Cominch, F.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.C.W.A.)

K.M.F. 5.

See p. 633A

K.M.F.5 P.C.S. at 2000Z/18 037° 14' N. 015° 17' W., 128°, 14 knots. E.T.A. 0700Z/20. R/V noon G.M.T./19th 035° 55' N. 010° 56' W. LAFOREY

armament gyro P sight burning out new required. LIGHTNING Asdic defective and no boats. TOTLAND mild condenseritis, can continue if fresh water valve supplied.

(Capt. (D) 19, 2037A/18 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F., Admty., ARGUS.)

636

18.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.French
West Africa.Economic and shipping questions.
(Admty. 0120A/18.)
See Lion Copy.CAP PADARAN,
HAI LEE,
NEW NORTHLAND.Your Q.M./45221 of 3rd Dec. CAP PADARAN, HAI LEE
and NEW NORTHLAND will remain allocated for service
on West African coast.

2. W.O. Signal 85530 of 9th Dec. to G.O.C. in C.
W.A. only refers regarding numbers for West Africa
in W.S.25. One ship capacity 2600 will be included in W.S.26
sailing U.K. mid-January with personnel for West Africa but
allocation of this accommodation is not yet decided.

3. Agreed.
(D.S.T. 0343A/18 to G.O.C. in C. W.A., D.S.T.O.W.A., (R) F.O.C.W.A
C. in C.S.A.)

INDRAPOERA.

Your 0859/25/11. Dutch Authorities here point out
that INDRAPOERA prior to service as a troop trans-
port was employed between Rotterdam and N.E.I. and
they consider should be capable of being fitted to be employed on
W.S. Service.

2. Intend therefore that she be sailed for U.K. on completion of
repairs in South Africa to be fitted for Service as a W.S. troop
transport.

3. Necessary fitting to enable her to proceed to U.K. should be
carried out concurrently with present repairs.

4. Request report of anticipated date of sailing from South Africa.
(D.S.T. 0539A/18 to D.S.T.O. Durban)

GLENROY,
JANUS.

from Durban
Sailed GLENROY and JANUS to Simonstown routed as in
my 0604C/7 (ii) shift to group S.L. at 2200C 18th
(iii) S. of A. 10 knots (iv) E.T.A. Simonstown
1400C/21.
(Simonstown? 0705C/18 to Admty.) *See 17/12 - p 596*

X ILEX,
*ORDUNA.

My 1355Z/17 not to N.O.I.C. Bathurst. V.A. Gib. has
reported that Tug MASTERFUL only has returned with
defects and that *SANDWICH and *ERNE are proceeding
to R/V with you in D at 1100Z/19. After R/V
return at best speed to Bathurst.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0851Z/18 to ILEX, (R) Admty. S.N.O.
Casablanca, N.O.X.F., V.A. Gib., N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

O.N.S.150.

O.N.S. 150. Request names and routes of Southbound
Ships.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 0857Z/18 to Admty. (R) Connnav.)

Group L.M.D.5
UMBERLEIGH,
CLAN MACAULEY.

The following ships will sail in Group L.M.D.5
from Inhaka Light at 1000C/19 for Durban.
G.N.F.V. UMBERLEIGH, G.Z.C.S. CLAN MACAULEY.
S. of A. 8½ Route Coastwise, E.T.A. 2100/20.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 0911B/18 to Admty., C. in
C.S.A., C. in C. E.F., Cdre. N.C.S.O. Durban.)

/HOLCOMBE ...

636A

SECRET

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MESSAGE 0120A/18th December OUT

To Commodore, Algiers

Date 18.12.42.

Mast 21. NAVAL CYPHER (X)

From Admiralty. (For M.W.T.R. from Ministry of
War Transport) Mast 21.
Your 1850/14th December.

1. View held here by all interested departments is that economic and shipping questions of French West Africa must be closely related to those of British and Allied West Africa rather than North Africa. This view has been largely accepted at Washington. (See FAN.36 from Combined Chiefs of Staff to Eisenhower). In order to cope with new problems of French West Africa, Anglo-American Economic Committee for French West African affairs is to be set up here and will work closely in with existing West African Supplies Committee which deals with exports as well as imports.

2. It does not repeat not seem appropriate therefore for Dakar to come under Nasbo. We are trying to arrange for Donaldson to proceed as soon as possible to Dakar for as long as necessary to get the machine running. He will collaborate with British representatives who are now being sent to handle French West African economic affairs on the spot in co-operation with the American Mission to Dakar for which see FAN.36. We are not appointing M.W.T.R. Dakar on permanent basis till we receive report from Donaldson. Donaldson has of course intimate knowledge of West African organisation both in London and on the coast.

3. As regards chartering negotiations for ships in West Africa refer FAN.36 paragraph 3(a) on which we have telegraphed to Washington quote While we are anxious not in any way to derogate from the general principle that the economic affairs including shipping questions of French West Africa must be related most closely to those of the West African coast as a whole, we think that it should be made plain to proposed mission that it would be most convenient for the short-term arrangements for the use of French ships at Dakar to be made at Algiers where the C.S.A.B. already have fully informed representatives engaged in similar negotiations for use of North African ships. Some ships are moving from North Africa to West Africa and it would be artificial not to regard all French ships both in Dakar and North Africa as forming a single pool, under control of French Administration

In North Africa

in North Africa. It is essential that arrangements for ships in Dakar and North Africa should be identical. Unquote.

01201/18.

for D of S.T.

Ext. 3675

V.C.N.S.	D.T.D.(4)
A.C.N.S.(T)	D.T.D.(C)
A.C.N.S.(H)	D.T.D.(M)
A.C.N.S.(F)	Admiral Blake
P.A.S.(S)	Admiral Ramsey (4)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.E.W.D.(3)
Ops.(3)	
C.D.(5)	
D.N.I.(5)	
D. of F.(3)	
D.I.C.(2)	
D. of S.T.(2)	
M.(10) for	Mr. Stirling Foreign Office
	Mr. Creasey Colonial Office
	Major Morton) War Cabinet
	Lord Strathallan) Offices.

I.F.(3)

W.D.

JAR

637

18.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.

X HOLCOMBE, My 1837Z/16. Alter course at 1200Z/18 towards new
E.W. SINCLAIR, position. (T) 015° N. 027° W. and thence direct to
*ORUNDA. position. (M) 015° N. 040° W. Remain with E.W.
SINCLAIR to limit of prudent endurance then return-
ing to Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0931Z/18 to HOLDOMBE.)

*comp. 636
X comp. 639

SOUTHERN
PRIDE.

SOUTHERN PRIDE is badly in need of refitting
docking and modification. At present, ship spends
50% of her time under repairs. Propose she proceeds
to U.K. from Gibraltar on completion of repairs
about 27th Dec. My 1320Z/16 refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 0959Z/18 to Admty.)

Dispositions. PICT escorting from Marshall to Freetown 8. LADY
ELSA, WELLARD, escorting 06.30 12.50, 126° 7½.
DESPATCH 04.05 03.24 to Lagos 21½ at 2001Z/18.
(?LE/TIGER) ARCTIC EXPLORER 03.05 S. 02.40 E. 151°, 10. SARABANDE
escortng 05.01 S. 11.10 E. to Congo River 10. ASTURIAS, CYCLAMEN,
patrolling between equator 19.07 and 03.03 S. 22.52 12½. Allied
Naval Unit patrolling 04° to 06° S. 18° to 23° W.
(F.O.C.W.A. 1053Z/18.)

Sighting of
suspicious
Tanker,
presumably
Norwegian
SKOTAAS.

Your 1516/18/11. was received for 2nd time to-day
18th Dec. For reply see my 1256Z/27/11.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1154Z/18 to S.O.(I) Capetown
(R) Admty.)
Suspicious tanker sighted 2200Z/8/11 in 041° 23'S.
000° 08' E. course 280° Norway tanker SKOTAAS due
Punta Arenas 24th Nov. may then have been in this
position. Request confirmation from Master.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1516C/18 to S.O.(I) (not stated)
(R) Admty.)

ATHELVICTOR
accident.

Your 2000/16/12. Utmost expedition is being used
direct. Affidavit by Captain useless as question
arises as to (Tanker message) who opened, or left
open certain valves which were stated to be shut.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1200Z/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

KELT.

Your 2340/8/12. after completion of survey of KELT
estimate (A) Ship could be made seaworthy for
towing to Cape in 8 weeks. (B) To steam south
4 to 5 months necessary and dependent on supply of electric wiring
lavatory and mess fittings compasses etc., from Freetown. To clear
dockyard of latter extensive repair suggest (A) be carried out.
(R.N.O. Lagos, 1224Z/18 to F.O.I.C. W.A., (R) Admty. Capt. (D) 3rd
D/R Flot. Comdr. I.C. Freetown.)

/Diego

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. Contd.

Diego Suarez Dockyard. C. in C.S.A. has taken over control of the Dockyard at Diego Suarez and after consulting with Stileman and various dockyard and other officers who have visited the port and reading reports which have been made, I am appalled at the waste of time which has occurred in getting the dockyard into operation since it was captured over 7 months ago. This is largely due to lack of trained dockyard staff in the initial stages. I (?venture) to suggest that (?our) side of combined operations should be fully considered on future occasions. (C. in C.S.A. 1225C/18 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

SARONIKOS (Greek) overdue. (B.L.K.K.) Greek ship SARONIKOS from Aden 21st Nov. for Lourenco Marques due 8th Dec. and diverted to Durban. Not arrived. (C. in C.S.A. 1245C/18 to Admty. S.O.(I) Aden, C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, S.O.(I) Kilindini, (R) N.C.S.O. Durban.)

F.T.T.5 Convoy F.T.T.5, PERIBONKA, PRINC ANDREJ, DURENDA. Unable to sail due to engine defects. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1318Z/18 to Admty.)

Movements. Walvis Bay, arrivals 18th, ST. ZENO, COVENTRY CITY, NORTHERN DUKE, NORTHERN DAWN, MAGNOLIA and BARBRAKE and SS. TUZL(?A). (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1410Z/18)

ANNELIESE ESSBERGER (intercepted 21st Nov.) information from prisoners. Following are extracts from Comsolantfor written report on information received from prisoners taken from ANNELIESE ESSBERGER carrying Nom de Guerre "HERSTEIN" sailed from Bordeaux at 1345/5th Nov. On 6th and 7th subjected to repeated air attacks no damage apart from the jarring of the propellor by a near miss slightly reducing her speed. On 6th Nov. sighted a submarine believed to be British, remainder of voyage uneventful up till her capture and no contact made with any U/B or raider. Aircraft believed commercial clipper sighted day before sinking. Destination believed to be Japan, but it cannot be established that vessel was supply ship in spite of carrying 1200 tons in converted vegetable oil tanks in hold three and additional lengths of oil and water hoses for supply U-Boats. Comment the aircraft sighted could have been a Sunderland on Blockade runner patrol and was in that area on that date. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1611Z/18 to Admty.)

DAUNTLESS. Arrived Simonstown 18th. (C. in C.S.A. 1614C/18 to Admty.)

Exchange of gunfire between two unknown ships. My 1630C/15. MAIHARS position 12020Z/7 (as received) Dec. was 23.41 S. 61.03 E. Master reports nothing seen or heard. (C. in C.S.A. 1656C/18 to C. in C. E.F.)

639

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

CITY OF HANKOW. British Ship CITY OF HANKOW grounded in fog at 0440Z/18 in Danger Bay. Vessel is still aground. (C. in C.S.A. 1726C/18.)

VIVIANA. Sailed 1800Z/18 (not escorting) E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1400Z/27 through (A) Equator 001° E. (B) 010° 25' S. 006° 50' E. (C) 020° S 012° 30' E. S. of A. 10 knots. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1806Z/18.) Arrival 18th Dec. U.S. Destroyer DAVIS. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1831Z/18 to Admty.)

HOLCOMBE, ILEX. Propose HOLCOMBE and ILEX leave West Africa about 29th Dec. escorting ASTURIAS, ALMANZORA, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT and STRAAT SOENDA in convoy to Canary Islands area. In view of numbers embarked and decision taken to escort ORDUNA, request information whether onward escort will be arranged. From Canary Islands area, propose HOLCOMBE and ILEX return West Africa to provide escort to MEXICO to Casablanca then joining N.C.X.F. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1833Z/18)

Unknown Ship, survivors. Information received from Wilson Sons Co. Begins. Agent at Areia Branca reports Captain S.B. Davis and 28 men arrived. Name of ship unknown. U.S.N.O. Santos informed. (B.R.L.O. Santos, 2000Z/18 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, B.R.L.O. Pernambuco.)

SCANIA (1) Yesterday 17th 25 survivors ex Motor ship (Swedish) SCANIA were landed here from Swedish Free Conduct ship NORDSTJERNAN which picked them up 16th. boarded and (2) SCANIA bound from Montevideo to Philadelphia sunk by crew of U/B 13th with cargo hides and wool, was stopped by German submarine at 1500 G.M.T. on 13th in 001° 36' N Dec. 032° 22' W. and ordered to hand over ship's papers. C.O. did so and states that whilst on board Sub.

latter wirelessly Berlin for orders. Sub. Comdr. then gave instructions that ship was to be sunk as she was carrying contraband to U.S.A. Crew abandoned ship 1500 G.M.T. and 3 of Subs. crew boarded SCANIA. 4 Explosions from different parts of ship followed at 1655 and ship sank 1705.

(3) Sub. described as of about 500 tons brand new painted grey with light and dark grey stripe camouflage paint new, fitted with net cutter, raked and rounded bow, carrying 1 (one) 10 centimetre gun forward, 1 (one) smaller gun on after deck and 1 (one) machine gun on after end of conning tower. Comdr. gave his name as Schulz. Photographs of Sub. taken from ship's life boats now in possession of U.S. Naval Authorities here and being developed.

(4) Survivors comprise entire crew. (R.O. Pernambuco, 2015Z/18 to Admty. (R) S.O.I. Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro.)

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

P.228.

Italian destroyer

AVIERE

Sunk.

(Corrupt group) Your 2130A* one probable hit merchant ship a.m. 14th. 2 probable hits on merchant ship, 2 on destroyer a.m. 17th one torpedo left.

(P. ? 0017A/18 to Capt. (S) 10.)

* N.T. in W.R. (See 2130A/17. P.605.)

Your 0017A/18th. Well done, aim at the destroyer next time.

(Capt. (S) 10, 1135/18 to P.228.)

*K.D. Note. - Destroyer was the AVIERE, and was sunk.**P.212,
P.247.** See next page*N.C.X.F.'s 1510/16th ^{N.T. in W.R.} P.212 and P.247 have sufficient personal gear on board to conveniently transfer on completion of present patrol,

remainder and spare gear can be shipped in P.211 on return from patrol. Although sorry to lose them no accommodation at Talbot now T class have arrived.

(Capt. (S) 10, 0020A/18 to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)

Enemy
merchant
ship.

One enemy merchant vessel and two destroyers in 37° 40' N. 10° 30' E. course 200°, speed 10 knots. (A/C BTPR, 0210A/18.)

A/S Craft
for Medn.

Your 1036/12.

Problem is partly provision of A/S craft and partly getting them out to you.

2. There are 2 72-foot H.D.M.Ls now on passage and 2 loaded ready to sail, 21 more building at home and allocated to Eastern Med., Red Sea and Aden.

They will be shipped as opportunity offers or steamed in the Spring to Western Med. for onward passage, if practicable.

3. The six building at Alexandria are allocated to you.

4. Two flotillas of 110 ft. M.Ls, one for West and one for Eastern Med. will be sent out when weather allows in the Spring. Those for Eastern Med. must wait in West till they can get through.

5. Question of reinforcing with A/S trawlers is under consideration but problem is to get them through the Narrows.

6. One "Hunt", ROCKWOOD, is coming out with W.S.25 and two Greek "Hunts" with W.S.26. Final destination of DERWENT,

*HOLCOMBE and HAYDON is still uncertain.

(Admty., 0235A/18 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.C.X.F.)

Amended by 2310A/19, q.v.

** See previous page.*2 enemy
destroyers.

P.C. and S. of two enemy destroyers 37° 55' N. 11° 5' E., 270°, 20 knots. (A/C FFLR, 0400A/18.)

641

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- 1000 ton ship. At 0350A/18th aircraft report one 1000 tons merchant ship one (? destroyer) position 036° 35' 011° 20' course 250° 8 knots. (Capt. (S) 10, 0659A/18 to P.211, (R) UNA, N.C.X.F.)
- Movements. Arrivals 17th Dec. DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, M.T.Bs (corrupt group) 60, 358. Departures 17th Dec. SOUTHERN SEA, PAKENHAM, DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, ANTWERP, H.S.L.25 15, PINDOS, DURMITOR, KAJMAKALAN. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0922/18.)
- Visuals Dec. 18th. 0700 Messina 3 cruisers. 0750 Naples 4 cruisers (one unserviceable). The Taranto P.R.U. was ? shot down. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1005A/18 to C. in C. Med. Fleet.)
- 1100 Naples - 4 cruisers (1 unserviceable, 1 on its side).
1145 Taranto - 3 battleships, usual position. 1200 Messina - 3 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1416A/18.)
1415 Messina - 3 cruisers. 1510 Naples - 3 cruisers (one unserviceable), 7 destroyers. Taranto - 3 battleships. (V.A. Malta, 1821A/18.)
- Sailings with personnel. Expected sailing from Suez week-ending 24th with over 100 personnel. Dec. 18th NEVASSA Aden, Basra. About Dec. 20th EMPIRE WOODLARK Kilindini, Durban. Dec. 23rd H/S ORANJE Durban with 1000 tons war material. About Dec. 23rd ALICE MOLLER, Basra. (F.O.R.S.C.A., 1021B/18.)
- P.212. Return to long. 013° 20'. Orders following. *In previous page.* (Capt. (S) 10, 1127A/18 to P.212.)
- UARSCIEK. My 1300/16. U-Boat was sunk in 35° 18' N. 14° 25' E. (C. in C. Med., 1130B/18.)
- P.212, P. 44. Be in following position at time stated. P.212 038° 16' 013° 11' at 0001A/19th. P.44 038° 20' 011° 53' at dawn 19th. (Capt. (S) 10, 1201A/18 to P.212, P.44, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8.)
- Regret unable to reach position until dawn 19th. Was put down by destroyers 3 times last night and accurately attacked by asdic fitted destroyers at 1530/18th in 038° 21' 011° 58'. One possibly two southbound ships sunk p.m. 14th. Eight torpedoes remaining. (P.212, 1913A/18 to (S) 10.)

642

18.12.1942.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

3 Littorios. Dakar radio yesterday quoting German radio stated 3 Littorio battleships had gone to Toulon. Request P.R.U. (C. in C. Med., 1220B/18 to Admty., (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H.)

MANXMAN. MANXMAN departed 1300A/18th E.T.A. 2000A/19th. (F.O.I.C. Oran, 1427A/18 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) MANXMAN, N.C.X.F., Admty., FORMIDABLE, S.O. Force H.)
See p. 603

PARTRIDGE. PENN has on board following survivors from PARTRIDGE. 6 officers including Commanding Officer and 167 ratings. 4 seriously injured are included in these numbers. (S.O. Force H, 1502A/18.)
Sunk by U.565 (G.S. 443) See p. 617.

Proposed shuttle service of D.E.M.S. ratings. Your 0933/17th paras. 1 and 2. Concur. (2) Request that ships known to be destined for ports East of Algiers may continue to have full D.E.M.S. complements embarked before leaving U.K. (3) Size of the pool required at Algiers for shuttle service 24 ratings. (N.C.X.F., 1605/18 to Admty.)

TURBULENT. TURBULENT leaves Beirut searched channel 1730B today Friday routed through (1) 034° 13', 033° 07' at 0500B/19th. (2) 034° 13', 018° 58' at 2100B/21st thence to Malta as ordered by you. She will be run on the surface in daylight until crossing longitude 020°, daily advance 260 miles dive by day. (Capt. (S) 1, 1724B/18 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med., C.S. 15, Cmdre. (D), Capt. Coastal Forces, Submarines on patrol.)

UNA. Be in position off Mahedia by dawn 19th. (Capt. (S) 10, 1745A/18 to UNA.)

RORQUAL. Leave patrol after dark 19th proceed to position G thence as outward route to R/V with sweeper at 0801A/22nd. (Capt. (S) 10, 1820A/18 to RORQUAL, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 1st Sub. Flot., Subs on Patrol.)

WELSHMAN. R.A. Alexandria has been added to addressees of my 2019/17th. (C. in C. Med., 1834B/18.)

AQUITANIA. Request early advice of destination of AQUITANIA on completion of Suez. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1915/18 to Admty.)

/Malta ...

MOST SECRET

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1235B/18th Dec.

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E IN

From C-in-C Middle East Date 18-12-42

Recd 1830

CIPHER.

Addressed The War Office
Rcmuk all informed.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

0/85706 Cipher 18 Dec. 299449.

Cositrep No, 628.

First. 30 Corps. Leading elements of Fourth Lt. Armd. Bde. reached area immediately East of Nofilia night 16/12 and were joined by Fifth N.Z. Bde. morning 17 Dec. Enemy held Nofilia and surrounding area and were successfully engaged from midday onward. Damage and casualties inflicted and number of p.w.s taken. Fourth Lt. Armd. Bde. still in action south west of village during evening. Fifth N.Z. Bde. advanced to 27435 engaged force believed flank guard covering withdrawal of enemy forces from Nofilia. Last light tactical recce reported considerable M.T. movement on road westwards from cross roads Z83 but parties of enemy north and north west of Nofilia still under our fire. Much M.T. movement westwards between Sirte and Buerat. Seventh Armd. Div. cleared mines road and L.G.S area Marble Arch to Merduma throughout day. Road reported clear up to Marble Arch.

Second. 10 Corps. N.T.R.

Third. Air. Ref. Cositrep No. 627. Night 15/16 Dec. Wellingtons bombed Castel Benito aerodrome and Tamet L.G. Two large fires with explosions started among aircraft at Castel Benito. Tamet obscured by 10/10 cloud but two fires seen.

Fourth. Night 16/17 Dec. Wellingtons repeated attack on Tamet L.G. Three fires started of which one very large with black smoke up to great height. Hurricanes shot down one J.U.88 over Benghasi at dusk. An unidentified aircraft later bombed Benina aerodrome severely damaging two Hurricanes on ground and slightly damaging five Hurricanes and one Spitfire.

Fifth. 17/12. Air activity limited to offensive fighter patrols Nofilia area. Only three enemy aircraft seen during day. No combats. A Marauder on offensive recce bombed nine northbound barges off Tripoli coast claiming two hits and one near miss.

/Malta

MOST SECRET

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-2-

Malta Spitfires bombed and strafed L.G on Lampedusa Island where eight Italian torpedo bombers previously reported by recce. One S.79 destroyed four others probably destroyed one M.E.110 damaged. One Spitfire missing. Fires seen burning fiercely an hour later. Beauffighters and Spitfires from Malta intercepted two torpedo carrying JU.88's and six JU.52's off south east Sicily and between Sicily and Pantellaria Island respectively. Three JU.52's and two JU.88's shot down one JU.52 probably destroyed. One Spitfire missing.

1235B/18

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Lord. | War Office Circulation:- |
| 1st S.L. (2) | C.6 (Telegrams). |
| 4th S.L. | M.O.5 (for action) |
| O.N.A.S | S of S. |
| V.C.N.S | C.I.G.S |
| A.C.N.S. (F) (2) | V.C.I.G.S |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.P. (2) |
| A.C.N.A.S | D.D.M.O. (C) (2) |
| D.O.D. (H) (2) | M.O. 1, 5, 6, 8 |
| D.O.D. (F) (2) | D.M.I. |
| D.B.I.C. (2) | D.D.M.I. (I) (2) |
| D of P. (2) | M.I. 2 (1), 3, 3b, 4, 17a. |
| Duty Capt. (2) | D.A.F.V. |
| Head of M. | D.D.I.P |
| D.N.I. (4) | D.M.O. |
| I.P. (2) | Duty Capt. (Admiralty). |
| D.P.D | Duty Officer (Upper Admy. War Room) |
| W.D | Head of War Rogy. Admy. |
| Admiral Blake. | A.M.C.S. (Air Ministry). (6) |
| D.N.A.D | Brig. Jacob (15 copies) |
| D.A.C.D. | Cabinet War Room. |
| | S of S. Foreign Office. |

Recd. in War Reg. at 2125/18th
Dec.

War Diary.

18.12.1942.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Intelligence Summary 2000A/17 to 2000A/18. Naval. One of our submarines on the 14th Dec. scored a hit on southbound merchant vessel which was confirmed on 17th Dec. Also on 17th Dec. it scored two hits and sunk a destroyer. Air. Strikes. Night 17th/18th Dec. Wellingtons dropped three tons bombs on Tunis docks scoring hits north of main basin and 21 tons bombs on La Goulette docks large explosion and fires started in dockside area and fuel storage depot. One Wellington unable to locate Tunis bombed landing ground at Memzel Temimi no results observed. Beaufighter on intruder patrol over Castelvetrano aerodrome Sicily destroyed two Ju.52s as they were taking off. Attacked Marsala seaplane base with cannon causing fires and explosions. Day 18th Dec. Beaufighters on convoy patrol encountered four S.M.82s northbound 145° Malta and destroyed one damaged remainder. Military - nil. Civil - nil. (Governor Malta, 1915Z/18.)

Malta C.S.R. 18th Dec. A.I.185, 18th Dec. C.S.R. Night 17th/18th Dec. No enemy air activity locally. 1 Beaufighter attacked seaplanes at Marsala scoring numerous hits and causing a red glow and explosions. 2 other Beaufighters carried out intruder patrols over the Tunis area to intercept any enemy night fighters attacking our Wellingtons and patrolled above and below cloud but saw no enemy aircraft. Day 18th Dec. Following action was taken to protect friendly convoy returning from Malta to Egypt. 0528 hours, convoy was first located by 4 Beaufighters 150° Malta 90 miles and thereafter continuous patrol was maintained over convoy by 16 Beaufighters, 8 long range Spitfires and also 2 Beauforts and 1 Sunderland on A/S patrol ahead of convoy. At 0915 hours, 1 Beaufort sighted 1 suspected S/M submerged 147° Malta 128 miles. 4 depth charges with 35 feet spacing were dropped from 300 feet exploding 206 yards ahead of S/M. Night 17th/18th Dec. Wellingtons made 2 attacks on Tunis and La Goulette docks in very bad weather. In first attack from 1803 to 1958 hours 14 Wellingtons dropped bombs on Tunis and La Goulette. At Tunis hits were scored N. of main basin. At La Goulette explosions and large fires were started at fuel storage depot, and other hits seen in docks area, and on Island at entrance to canal. Very accurate heavy flak was encountered from Tunis and 1 Wellington is missing. In second attack from 2343 to 0105 hours, 3 Wellingtons dropped bombs on La Goulette scoring hits in the dockside area. Very bad visibility prevented close observation of results but fire started in previous attack was still burning. (Malta, 2130Z/18.)

M.W. 16. Total unloaded, 1700/17th, M.W.16, 5158 tons; operation completed. (V.A. Malta, 2210A/18.)

644

War Diary.18.12.1942
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

B.M. 35. Departure LISMORE with B.M. 35.
(S.O. (I) Bombay, 0121Z/18)
Route and particulars (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0218Z/18)
List of ships (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0820Z/18)

PETRONELLA. Reference P.S.T.O. Bombays 1006/15 and your 0607/16
H.M. IS LAWRENCE will provide A/S escort through focal
area as far as longitude 067°.
(Odre. R.I.N. 0443Z/18 to C. in C.E.F.)
My 1006/15 to D. of S.T. C. in C.E.F.'s 0607/16.
Intend sailing PETRONELLA 20th Dec.
(P.S.T.O. India, 1201Z/18.)

EMPRESS OF RUSSIA. Your 1752/16. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA sails 23rd Dec.
(P.S.T.O. Bombay, 0537Z/18 to Admty.)

WARTENFELS Sailed for Bombay at 1800C/17. Routed as in
(scuttled at N.C.S.Os 0900Z/17 due Bombay 28th Dec. Ship
Diego Suarez commanded by Lt. Comdr. G.C. Cobham R.N. with Lt.D.T.
during oper.) Hogan, R.N.R. DEVON CITY, Skipper J. Smith R.N.R.
BARFOUNT, 55 Naval Ratings and 6 Netherlands (?Naval)
Personnel as prize crew. Ship loaded 914 scrap iron

2 L.C.Ps. Armed with 2.37 mm. guns on quarter deck, crew will be
forwarded shortly.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 0656Z/18 to C. in C. E.F.)

Movement C. in C.E.F. 0742Z/18.
Summary No.29. See Lion Copy.

Destroyer A.C.N.B. 0726/12 Eastern Fleet figures agree
personnel. substantially with Australian drafting record. The
position regarding these personnel is causing hard-
ship and is liable to create dissatisfaction if not
rectified soon. Until some destroyer reinforcements reach Eastern
Fleet and S/M situation at Cape permits reduction of destroyers now
detached, it is scarcely possible to spare 2 of Australian manned
7th D.F. for period required to exchange their crews or to give
leave to them in Australia. I can offer no early solution to this
acute problem except the return of Dutch destroyers TJERK HIDDES
and VAN GALEN understood to be working in Indian Ocean or
temporary detachment of ARUNTA and WAR~~RAMUNGA~~ RAMUNGA which I understand
are now completing. I am loathe however to propose withdrawing any
Forces from Australian area.
(C. in C.E.F. 0927Z/18 to Admty.)

The following is the text of A.C.N.B. 0728/12 referred to in
my 0927/18 begins according to drafting record there are in N. class
destroyer 151 Coding rates and above and 251 lower ratings over
2 years abroad. Owing to absence of pool to cover lost time on
passage and leave impossible to send reliefs from Australia is for
more than a small number at a time. Could two destroyers be
spared to return to Australia at a time for leave or relief of
personnel.

~~644~~
644^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. 0742Z/18 Dec.

MOST SECRET MESS/GE IN

(Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)
From C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Date 18.12.42.

Received 1645.

Naval Code J. by T/T and W/T

Addressed Eastern Fleet, 168Y. Admiralty, C. in C.
South Atlantic Station, 448. F.O. Red Sea
Force, N.O.I.C. Durban.

IMPORTANT

140. Movement summary number 29 December 18th.
- (1) H.M.S. PROBISHER left Aden 17th December escorting convoy M C 2 - 2 ships - routed west of Seychelles and east of Madagascar.
 - (2) H.M.S. CERES leaves Kilindini 19th December to rendezvous 20th December with combined convoys W S 24A and C M 36 and relieve H.M.S. CAPETOWN thence Aden.
 - (3) H.M.S. GAWLER left Melbourne 14th December escorting U.S. Naval Oiler WENCHOW due Diego Garcia 28th December thence Colombo. *not in C.B. 1815
 - (4) H.M.S. NORMAN due Diego Suarez 20th December.
 - (5) H.M.S. BLACKMORE leaves Diego Suarez 19th Dec. due Kilindini 21st December.
 - (6) H.M.A.S. KANIMBLA left Colombo 11th December escorting convoy S U 5 - 5 ships - speed 8 knots due Fremantle 31st December.
 - (7) H.M.S. TOOWOOMBA leaves Tamatave about 18th December escorting 2 ships to Kilindini.
 - (8) H.M.S. GAMBIA arrived Kilindini 17th December from Colombo.
 - (9) The following Y message is cancelled number 163Y of 7th December.

0742Z/18.

1st S.L.(2).
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F) (2).
A.C.N.S.(T).
Advance copy sent Duty Capt.
D.O.D.(F). D.T.D.

D.T.D.(3).
D.T.D.(M).
Hd. of M.(10).
D.D.I.C.(2).
D. of P.(2).
D. of S.T.
I.P.(2).
W.D.
Duty Capt. (2).
Ad. Blake.

645

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Destroyer
personnel.
-Contd.

(2) Each destroyer before departure to exchange ratings with remainder of flotilla so as many as possible of ratings over two years abroad return T.O.O. 0728/12. ends.
(C. in C.E.F. 0929Z/18.)

AWRIA.

Following from Commander Strawbridge. Reference C.S.D. Bombay, 0434/16th Dec. ≠ if all other items are completed end December AWRIA can be stored, provisioned, fuelled before 24th Jan. completing full stowage on 25th and ready to sail on 26th Jan.
(Com. R.I.N. 1205Z/18.) ≠ Not yet recd. but a message 0434/16 which is undecypherable has been recd. from Bombay. A request for a repetition has been sent.

LÉOPARD.

Your 1911/9. F.S. LÉOPARD has not yet received any orders to proceed to Kilindini.
(2) LÉOPARD is now at Mauritius, intends sail for Reunion Is. on Sunday 20th and reports that her further movements are unknown as she has received no orders from F.N.F.L. London.
(C. in C. E.F. 1321Z/18 to Admty.)

Bay of
Bengal
Traffic.

My 1943/15. M.O.W.T. Diversion of coal vessels from Middle East to load at Calcutta instead of Lourenco Marques will increase Bay of Bengal traffic by about twenty ships monthly. Presume this is acceptable.
(D.T.D. 1913A/18 to C. in C.E.F., F.O.I.C. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., (R) C. in C.S.A., C.S.A. Lourenco Marques.)

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.)

M E S S A G E

III

1620B/18th December.

From: C. in C. Persia/Iraq.

Date. 18.12.42.

Time. 2220.

Cypher

Addressed: The War Office.

IMMEDIATE.

MGA/23930 cipher 18th December. 089374.

Your 86843 (Tn.1).

One. There was serious initial delay in construction Bandar Sharpur docks. Reasons. (A) 3000 tons material awaiting shipment Calcutta in January could not be shipped owing enemy action and had to be railed Bombay for shipment. Result six months delay. (B) Diving suits ordered in November 1941 did not reach Bandar Shapur till November 1942.

Two. All stores are now on site and work proceeding satisfactorily. Estimated completion dates are first berth end January. Second end February. Third end March.

Third. Work cannot be transferred from Braithwaite's to any other local agency. Consider any change of plans or of contractor at this stage can only lead to further delay.

1620B/18

Advance copy O.D.

Received from W.O. 1820/19th.

✓ re lack of progress in development Port Bandar Shapur.
1030/15

War Office circulation:

Q.M.G.
D.Q.M.G.
Q.(Ops)
D.Tn.
D.D.Tn.(O)(D)
Tn.1.2.
M.O.5.

D.Mov.
D.Mov.(S)
Q(M)9a
Admiralty (Capt. Bowen
& M Br.)
Air Ministry (Air Comdre Sims)
Mr. Winthrop Brown, Harriman
Mission, American Embassy.

1st Lord.
1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.H.S.
A.C.H.S.(F)
A.C.H.S.(UT)
Civil Lord.
H.A.1st S.L.
H.A. to A.C.H.S.(UT)

O.D.(5)
D.T.D.(4)
Adml.Blake.
I.P.(3)
W.D.
D. of S.T.(2)
D. of S.(3)
M.(2)
W.G.F.
C.L. in C.

Dep.Contr.(3)
C.E. in C. } Bath.
S.W.R. }

646

18.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Fast
Tankers for
"Torch"
area.

My 2201/9, and my 2109/14 U.S. Authorities wish fast tankers to return in G.U.F. Convoys if vacancies are available and tankers will not be unduly delayed.

2. Failing this they wish to know if British escorts can be provided to escort tankers to a reasonably safe distance from Gib. from which point they would be allowed to return independently to loading ports. (B.A.D. 0145Z/18 to Admty).

BLACK
BEAR.*See p. 648*

S.B.N.O.W. At. deliver to H.M.S. BLACK BEAR. Your 1519Z/17th (re BLACK BEAR's route to Barbados.) concur. (Connav. 0222/18).

U/B
Report.

Following read at 0155 G.M.T. to all ships from San Juan (Porto Rico) Radio. Unread war warning S/M sighted 11.25 N. 61.41 W. at 1638 G.C.T. /17. Lat. doubtful. (Plymouth 0255/18).

O.N.153.

St. Johns N.F. December 17th Departures - WANDERER, ROXBOROUGH to augment escort of O.N.153 (F.O.N.F. 0352Z/18).

D/F bearings at 1105Z/18, 1111Z/18 and 1134Z/18 on 10510 K/Cs indicate that you are being shadowed and that at least three U/Boats are in contact.

(D.D.I.C. 1336A/18 to Escorts of O.N.153, C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., C.T.G.24.7, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Cominch) Am hove to in 47.40, 42.45 (C) Weather report. (WANDERER, 1720Z/18 to C.T.24, (R) MDETU 24.1.5, ROXBOROUGH Connav, Admty, C. in C.W. A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T. G.24.7).

Convoy
N.G. Special
No.1.

New York departures 17th escorting N.G. special number 1. HAVELOCK, SAXIFRAGE, PIMPERNEL, GODETIA. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0721Z/18).

Movements.

Norfolk
~~Norfolk~~ arrived 2100Z/16, LCI. (L) 169 and 245. Arrived 1515Z/17. LST. 362 and 401, departed 1842Z/17 BATTLER. *See p. 650*
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0733Z/18).

O.N.S.150.

Am proceeding to Halifax as soon as weather moderates. Both main generators broken down. Weather report 5751, 0068. (C.W.L.E.U.24.18.5. 0775Z/18 to C.C.N.F. Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty, C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7).

/NIAGARA....

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- NIAGARA. NIAGARA's 0705/18th (N.T. in W.D.) Can you send destroyer to relieve NIAGARA, We have none available here.
(F.O.N.F. 1026Z/18 to C.O.A.C. (R) Ships escorting O.N.Convoy 150, C.T.24, Naval S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C.U.S.Fleet, Admty).
- O.N.152. Indefinite D/F bearings at 0855Z/18 on 5565 K/Cs suggest U/Boat probably still in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1114A/18 to Escorts of O.N.152.
(R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, A.C.I.C. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa H.Q.C.C., C.T.G.24.7).
List of ships (O.N.152). Not arrived.
(Cominch C. & R. 1325Z/18).
- W.B.17. PANOS, ANNA T (GR) and FYLINGDALE returned from W.B.17 due to weather.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1132Z/18).
- Bermuda, working up base. My 1743/11th June.
Now anticipated that Bermuda working-up base should be ready to commence instruction on 15th Feb.1943, and that 65 vessels will arrive between then and 30th Sept.1943.
2. Intended that BAYTUN and COCKBURN should in any case come to U.K. to work-up at Tobermory.
3. Intended that bulk of Algerines, single and twin screw corvettes building Canada and assigned to U.K. should work-up at Bermuda but that first two of each class should work up in U.K.
4. Cdre. Bermuda pass to C.O. A/S Working-up-Base, Bermuda.
(D.A./S.W. 1212A/18 to S.B.N.O.W.A.)
- P.553. My 1826/20th June and A.M.1212/18. Request "P.553" may be sailed to Bermuda so as to be ready on 15th February, 1943 to commence A/S Exercises for ships working up.
2. Com i/c Bermuda pass to C.O.A/S Working up Base, Bermuda.
(D.A/S.W. 1221A/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- O.N.151. Detach Southbound ships my 1725/14th at nightfall 18th. B.A.M.S. being sent for benefit of any of these ships which are stragglers.
(Connav 1225/18 to W.L.E.T.Us.24.18.3.(R)
N.O.B. Bermuda Port Dir, New York, Cdr. Caribbean Sea Frontier. Cdr.E.S.F. Cdr.G.S.F. N.O.B. Guantanamo, Admty, N.S.H.Q, C.O.A.C.)
- ? My 1515/14th December para.(3) (N.T. in W.D.)
Change date to 12th December.
(Comsubron 50, 1245A/18).
- Merchant Ship Plot. To maintain complete worldwide plot of all merchant ships. Request C. in C.U.S.F.(C. and

/R....

648

War Diary.18.12.1942.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.Merchant
Ship Plot.
Contd.

R) be made an addressee for independent and convoy movements in the Med. Sea. In view of shortages of most movements this area C. in C. U.S.F.(C and R) desires part one of route signal and Vescas for (independent?) and part two sailing telegram for all convoys.
(Cominch C. and R. 1518/18 to Admty).

BLACK BEAR.

See p. 646

Departure Bermuda in accordance with my 1519/17 December.
(Connav 1529Z/18).

GEZINA.
(W.S.C.112)

Regret deletion signal of GEZINA from W.S.C.112 was not sent.
(N.C.S.O.St.Johns N.F. 1556Z/18).

U/B
believed
sunk.

S.C.112. C.A.F.O. 834/41.

(A).U.S.S. INGHAM.
(B).2530X/17th.
(C) 054.55 N. 055.10 W.
(D) 11.
(E) In view of weather conditions and C.O's

opinion that U/Boat was sunk, no subsequent hunt carried out.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14. 1420Z/18).

4 U.S. Ships
for North
Russia.

Port Director New York has 4 U.S. Flag ships of speed 11 knots for N.Russia which can not be made ready in time for S.C.114. Could they be included in H.X.220 and one escort arranged from a suitable I.C.O.M.P. to Iceland (C).
(N.S.H. Q. Ottawa 1430Z/18 to Admty).
See Also 0350Z/19.

SEAWOLF.

SEAWOLF expects to be ready to leave New London for Holy Loch (A.M. 1738/7th Nov. not to all addressees on 27th December calling Halifax for*new D/F equipment F.M.4. and also at St.Johns N.F.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 1454Q/18, 2212Z/18)
*calibration of.

LARIAT &
Landing
Craft.*See next page*

Cominch 0819/20. LARIAT and L.C.I.(L) S are still waiting for favourable weather.Further signal will be made when they sail.
(B.A.D. 1537Z/18).

SS.BRILLIANT
(U.S.).

Returned from W.B.17 due to weather.
(C.C.S.O.St.Johns N.F. 1616Z/18).

649

18.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.S/M
estimate
and
notices.

Cominch 1628/18.

→ CALDWELL.

2330Z/17th have to for whole gale. At 1630Z/18th
Struck heavy sea starboard side. Considerable
damage to bridge deck gear and boats. Now
running before gale with (?wind) W.N.W.9. Approx. position 49.
20 N. 46.05 W.
(CALDWELL 1650Z/18 to C. T.24, Connav, (R) F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.
Halifax, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. C.T.24.1.24.Admty).

U/B
sighted.

Badbados W/T reports S/M sighted by Harbour
Patrol Launch 2 miles West Pelican Island
Barbados 5 at 1615Q.
(Kingston, Jamaica 1702R/18).

ASBJORN.
BELLO
(O.N.153).

Your 2129/17th December. ASBJORN wrongly
reported for BELLO former vessel believed safe
BELLO(Nor.) torpedoed and sunk 16th December
C.T.U. 24.1.5. 1121Z/16th refers.
(D.T.D. 1710A/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

H.X.219.

Your 1328Z/18th. Expect to arrive late at
R/V. Further signal will be sent.
(C. Western Local Escort TU.No.24.18.6. 1714Z/18
to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.24, HESPERUS.)

→ ~~CALDWELL.~~

~~Weather damage. (See Situation Report - No
Signal in W.D.).~~

Offer of
Troopships
for Atlantic.

Your 0050/10. War Dept. regret unable use 5
troopships as Navy Dept. state escorts cannot
be provided. Consider advisable you make
similar offer of specific ships in February
though escort situation unlikely to improve.
Agreed.
(British Army Staff Washington 1830Q/18 to W.O).

L.C.I.(L)
LARIAT.*See previous
page*

Request L.C.I.(L) mentioned in your 1920/8
may now be routed to Plymouth via vicinity of
Azores and that LARIAT be released when North
of the Azores to proceed to Gibraltar for
onward routing to Freetown.
(D.O.D.(H) 1905Z/18 to Connav).

Connav
Serial 18.

RIPLEY torpedoed sunk 12th December approx.
002.S. 035° W.
Admiralty presumes ARABISTAN sunk by raider
approx. 18th August 011.30 S. 026.00 W.

/BEN.....

650

18.12.1942.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Connav Serial 18. Contd. BEN LOMOND and NURMAHAL serial 16 both presumed sunk.
CORNWALLIS serial 12 September. Salvaged towed to Trinidad.
BLAIRATHOLL serial 27 sank after collision with JOHN BAKKE.
(Connav 2050/18).

S/M attack and sighting Summary. Para.A4. Planes attack S/M 06.36 S. 33.40 W. 1625Z/17. Sighting 2040Z/14 at 1520/16 changed to 34.24 W.
Para.B. S/M on surface San Miguel 34.06 N. 15. 19 W. 2130Z/14 November "Ler" on conning tower. Glenlea white lion on hull forward of G/T.
Para.C. APALOIDE reported U.45 type Sighting 1400Z/17. 1721/35 cancelled. U.S.S. ready attacks sound contact 20 - 27 N. 73. - 57 W. 0030Z/18.
Para.D. Y - 608 attacks periscope wake 31.01 N. 80.58 W. about 0014Z/18.
(Cominch 2120/18).

ATTACKER Your 1540/18 (BATTLER to land 840 Squadron. N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C.U.S.Fleet 2030/9. ** See p. 646*
(Sail BATTLER to New York to depart with H.X.220)
1. Situation appears to be that ATTACKER who had already a small Swordfish Squadron will be ready to sail about end of December and that thereafter no other ACV.s. will be ready to sail until mid-February.
2. We have stressed to U.S. that H.X.220 will have the benefit of self-contained air escort and C.O. BATTLER has been instructed to attend convoy conference. C. in C.U.S.Fleet 2030/9 was based on this assumption.
3. If 840 Squadron is landed now and remains at a U.S. Airfield for about two months a very unfavourable impression will be made on U.S. Navy which may have repercussions on other important questions such as provision of long range A/C on West side of Atlantic. They are bound to think at any rate temporarily that we ourselves are not doing everything possible to fill the gap.
4. Meantime pending a reply to this signal BATTLER has been warned that 840 Squadron is to be held in readiness for disembarkation.
(B.A.D. 2125Z/18 to Admty).

U/B. Report. Intercept DE VPO Barbados Radio To C.Q. Begins: War warning XXX S/Ms reported 2 miles west Pelican Island, Barbados 1023-G.M.T./18th. Ends. (Valentia Radio 2159/18).

S.C.112. SCHENCK. At 1857Z/18th U.S. Destroyer SCHENCK departed Reykjavik to augment escort of S.C.112. SCHENCK will (?become) S.O. on joining ^{31muE4?} ~~INCHAM~~. pass to U.S. Destroyer LEARY.
(C.T.G. 24.6. 2355Z/18 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav, Admty, C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7. C.T.U. 24.6.4.)

651

18.12.1942.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.U.S.S.
BELLATRIX.Departure Wellington for Auckland E.T.A. 2200Z/19
(D.N.I. Wellington 0415Z/18).Blockade
Runners.

Following information furnished by Norwegian survivors ex RAMSES. RHAKOTIS left Batavia before RAMSES went to Singapore to load cargo from torpedoed REGENSBURG and was due back in Batavia 25rd November to load rubber then sail from Bordeaux. RAMSES routed inshore and shallow waters to avoid American S/MS. Demolition charge placed 2 in engine room one in tunnel time fuse exactly 8 minutes. Grade B.2.

DOGGER BANK report to be sailed from Japan December or January with general cargo another report states DOGGER BANK arrived Kobe 6 days after RAMSES sailed. MADRONO stated to be renamed ROSCHBACH may leave after Christmas for Bordeaux. HERBERG leaving soon with petrol for Bordeaux, has Norwegian prisoners on board. PIETRO ORSEOLO sailed North from Batavia probably Singapore or Yokohama. Graded B.3.
(D.N.I. Melbourne 1204Z/18).

U/ BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

1300/18 positions.
(D.D.I.C. 1337A/18, 1355A/18).

Submarines Attacked.Cominch
Report.

This is Cominch's 2210/17th.
Your 1059B/22/7. Week ending 2400Z/13th 40 attacks reported. With exception of 2 covered in your 1705Z/14th and several off N.African Coast which will be reported later, none of these promising.
(Comnaveu 0926/18 to Admty).

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

Enemy activity may develop in northern waters. Special fleet air reconnaissance has taken precedence over trade protection and the Admiralty have assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping C. in C. Home Fleet informed of further air R/C in connection with Fleet movements.

J.W.51A.

C. in C. Home Fleet sailed from Scapa at 1005 today in KING GEORGE V with BERWICK, MUSKETEER, RAIDER and RODWAY to provide cover for Convoy J.W.51A. His intentions, and also those for covering J.W.51B are given in his 1147A/18.

* QUADRANT *in/1147A/18.*

The barge BANKSIDE was sunk by a mine near Maplin Spit whilst proceeding under sail alone at day-break today.

The Soviet Naval Staff report that the Germans have seized the whole of the Norwegian Fishing Fleet. The crews may not leave their ships which must be in constant readiness.

South Atlantic.

The possibility of running convoys from Freetown to the Cape is under consideration. Air cover is highly important, as escorts will inevitably be weak. A message from the Air Ministry to A.O.C. West Africa today bears on the subject.

Mediterranean.

SS. TRAJANUS (Dutch) was damaged by a near miss in an air raid on Benghazi at 2100, and sank later in 25 feet of water. Salvage is probable.

(20 miles NW of Benghazi) SNAPDRAGON, corvette, was sunk at 2029 in approx. 32.18 N. 19.54 E. from a cause at first considered to have been a mine, but later it was known that she was hit amidships by one bomb and sank in 3 minutes. SNAPDRAGON was escorting a convoy. SEAHAM was near missed.

/An ...

653

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

An air raid on Tobruk at dawn today caused no naval damage.

B.24s bombed harbour installations at Sousse last night, scoring hits on commercial and phosphate quays and in the harbour area. Liberators attacked later. Malta Wellingtons attacked Tunis and La Goulette docks, obtaining hits on the phosphate quay and other objectives.

Middle East Wellingtons mined the approaches to Tripoli Harbour last night.

Beaufighters on offensive R/C damaged 3 F-Boats off Tripoli today.

Marauders mined La Goulette Harbour.

America and West Indies.

CALDWELL, returning yesterday to St. Johns from Convoy S.C.112, at 1730/18 whilst hove to in a W.N. W. gale about 250 miles E.N.E. of St. Johns was struck by a heavy sea which caused considerable damage. CALDWELL was forced to run before the gale. At 2000 today she reported that she had insufficient fuel to reach St. Johns and asked for assistance. Rescue tug TENACITY escorted by WASAGA was sent to assist her.

North
Atlantic
Escorts.

With the presence of seasonal bad weather, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the effectiveness of the North Atlantic Escort Groups. A measure which offers most immediate help is a radical improvement in fuelling at sea. Connav today recommends certain proposals in this direction put forward by C.T.24.

War Diary.

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

A landing was made by the enemy last night at
M) Gadang, New Guinea. Three positions within a
radius of 10 miles of Madang were occupied, (2
small sailing vessels were observed there on the
morning of the 21st.)

SOUTH SEAS, auxiliary minesweeper, New Zealand
Navy, was in collision with an inter-island
ferry in Wellington Harbour today and subsequently
sank.
The main channel is clear.

655

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

15th M.S.F.

C. in C.H.F.1927A/18/12, concur.
(A.C.O.S. 0955/19.)JONQUIL,
COREOPSIS,
AZALEA,
COLTSFOOT,
GERANIUM,
SPIREA, BALSAM,N.C.X.F.'s 1540/17 para.3.
Allocated temporarily to Western Approaches
Command.
(D.O.D.(H) 1657A/19 to C. in C.W.A.).Replacement
of FIREDRAKE
in B.7.Grp.Propose following arrangements for replacement
of FIREDRAKE in B.7.grp.
(a) One destroyer of VICTORIOUS escort to
return with S.C.115 leaving Newfoundland Jan.
2nd.(b) DUNCAN will be allocated to me as permanent relief for
FIREDRAKE and fitted type 271.(2) Intend VIMY to join B.7. temporarily on return of group to
U.K.

(C. in C.W.A. 1914A/19 to Admty).

Defence of the U.K.5th
Mansell
Tower.My 1457A/16. 5th Mansell Tower laid in position
December 18th.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool 1058A/19).Movements.

4th M.S.F.

My 1059/15 sailed 4th M/S Flotilla E.T.A.
Plymouth 0915/20. Codeword "Topaz."
(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 0409A/19).

SOUTHERN WAVE.

Your 2316/18. ^{N.O.I.C.} No escort available at Oban.
(N.O.I.C.Oban 0947A/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

VICTORIOUS.

Your 2157A/18. S. of A. 14 knots to Bermuda
thence 19 knots. E.T.A.Bermuda 1600Z/28.
E.T.A. Hampton Roads 1500Z/30.
(VICTORIOUS 1056A/19 to Admty).My 1201A/17th not to Admiralty. 5 A/C only embarked. 10
A/C weather bound at Speke. Intend returning to Greenock and
sailing A.M. tomorrow Sunday provided A/C to be embarked have
arrived Machrihanish from Speke.

(VICTORIOUS 1458A/19 to Admty).

A.M. 2157/18. and my 1554/18th. Codeword "Princess"
sailing delayed. Further signal will be made.

(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 1554A/19).

656

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

P.312. Intend sailing :-
 *GRAPH, (A) LORD AUSTIN, P.312, GRAPH, at 1300A 21st Dec.
 P.216, and
 SEALION. (B) NORTHERN PRIDE, P.216, SEALION, O.14 at
 O.14. 1305A/21st all from 180° Garrock Head 4
 **see p. 657* miles via Minches and West of Orkneys to
 Lerwick E.T.A. and speed (A) 0900A/23rd 11 knots.
 (B) 1600/23rd 9½ knots.
 (2) Thence S/MS as ordered by S.O.S/MS Lerwick.
 NORTHERN PRIDE to Clyde, LORD AUSTIN to Lough Foyle
 (3) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation.
 Help messages 385 K/Cs for B.1740 K/Cs for A.
 (Capt.(S) 3,1109A/19, 1313A/19).

AJAX. C. in C.H.F. 1841/18. After embarkation of
 stores and personnel C. in C.W.A. is requested to
 sailed AJAX for Gib. on 22nd Dec.
 2.V.A.Gib. is requested to route onwards from 43° North.
 (D.O.D.(H) 1232A/19).

Situation. At 1959A/19 (C. in C.W.A. 1355A/19).
 See Lion Copy.

ABDIEL. Ref. A.L. M/O D.2116/42 dated 17th November, 1942
 ABDIEL will complete repairs p.m./20th.
 2. Unless required for other service. Propose
 to retain vessel temporarily at Plymouth until after the
 approaching full moon period and then to sail her to Milford
 Haven as required to load mines for laying in accordance with
 para.3. of A.L. quoted.
 (C. in C.Plymouth 1527A/19.).

GURNARD. 1. Leave patrol p.m./20th Dec. so as to pass
 BARB. through position (1) 043.45 N. 011.01 W. at
 HERRING. 0300A/21st. Thence dive by day through:-
 (K) 045.00 N. 013.22 W.
 (J) 049.10 N. 013.21 W.
 (I) 049.50 N. 012.34 W.
 (H) 049.50 N. 009.01 W.
 to R/V in G.180° Bishops Rock 10 miles at 0800/24th for escort
 to Clyde as ordered by Capt. (S) 3.
 (2) Anticipate your advance 200 miles per 24 hours.
 (3) At 0800/20th estimated position HERRING 045.00 N. 012.26 W.
 BARB. 045.20 N. 012.54 W.
 HERRING proceed diving by day for patrol off Ferrol has been
 ordered not to proceed South off 044° N. until after 0200/21st
 BARB diving by day through 044.02 N. 012.54 W. thence direct to
 patrol off Vigo.
 (4) Bombing restrictions follow.
 (F.O.S.1547A/19 to GURNARD, (R) Comsubronso, Capt.(S) 3,
 H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A., N.O.I.C.Falmouth,
 Admiralty, S/MS operating South of Latitude 51° N.)

Submarines. Positions & movements (F.O.S. 1706A/19,
 1838/19) See Lion Copy.

/THRASHER.....

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 shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.

From C. in C. Western Approaches.

1355A/12th December.

SITUATION AT 1959A/19/12/42.

SECRET CODE.

Section N.E.

FLOATING DOCK AND TUG.	STOKE CITY	58 47 04 38	To Oban	5
SHARP SHOOTER		59 17 07 18	To Scapa	12
WENSLEYDALE		58 18 06 02	To Liverpool	22
RU.53	GAVOTTE STANNES	58 53 03 28	360 degs. Butt of Lewis 6 miles thence Loch Ewe.	7
SD.35	LANCASTER WELLS	60 42 05 11	59 01 05 20 thence 16 via Minches to Clyde.	16

Section S.E.

SCIMITAR SHIKARI		55 48 09 09	Westbound to SC.112	12
CANTON	EASTON	54 22 05 04	To Clyde	10
VERVAIN EGLANTINE		54 46 05 14	To Loch Foyle	13
CYGNET IN TOW 2 TUGS.		55 40 04 59	To Greenock	5
FAME			Off Chickens To Loch Foyle	12
CONVOY	MAZURKA	52 13 05 18	Northbound	8
2 M/Vs	FAIRAY	53 51 04 56	270 degs. Oversay 6 miles	9½
1 M/V IN TOW	WEAR WALSEY	52 00 06 23	To Swansea	6
ON.155	NARVIK	54 05 04 59	R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles thence 56 15 15 02.	9
ONC.155	Unescorted	Sails Clyde 2000A/19.	R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles.	9
ONM.155	1 M/S Trawler	Sails Belfast 2315A/19	R/V 270° Oversay 6 miles.	9

ONS.154/.....

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.

SITUATION AT 1959A/19/12/42.
(*NOTE: Messages shown in red are sent in a One-Time SECRET CODE. "O.T.R." are excepted from this rule.)

Section S.E. (Contd.):

ONS.154	BATTLEFORD CHILLIWACK SHEDIAC KENOGAMI NAPASCOE	55 33 07 41 To 55 22 10 01 thence 52 28 19 58	4
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HX.218 C.T.U. 24.1.17	HALVESMER ORCHIS NARCISSUS LOBELIA ACONIT ROSELYS.	56 30 08 58 To 56 28 08 40 thence North Channel.	9
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HX.218.F. 2 M/Vs	GARLAND Unescorted	55 43 07 16 To Liverpool 54 12 05 00 To Clyde	12 10
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Section N.W.

LEAMINGTON NORTHERN SUN CAPE PORTLAND VASCANA	Searching Area 58 46 12 41.
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U.S.S. SCHENK	58 27 23 30 To SC.112	15
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TA.31A	Unescorted	57 32 11 42 To 58 01 13 05 thence 59 45 20 02	20
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UR.54	KINGSCL BLACKFLY LLANDUDNO PAYNTER.	62 38 21 11 To Reykjavik	7
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Section S.W.

SARDONYX	49 43 14 42 To 49 45 15 21	15
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MKF.4 Y	SPEY ROTHER	41 58 16 07 To 49 18 15 32	10
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MKS. 3 Y	KRAKOWIAK PALOMARES 3 DESTROYERS 1 CORVETTE	48 43 15 21 To 50 02 15 20 thence 51 00 13 00	7
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KMS. 5	LONDONERRY 4 SLOOPS. 6 CORVETTES. BALUCHISTAN.	44 58 16 45 To 39 50 17 01	6
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-3-

Section S.W. (Contd.) SITUATION AT 1959A/19/12/42. SECRET CODE.

WS.25	QUILLIAM CARNARVON CASTLE CHESHIRE ROCKWOOD BADSWORTH WOLVERINE HAYDON	52 58 16 35 To 51 00 20 00	
SC.112. C.T.U. 24.1.14.	CHURCHILL RESTIGOUCHE SHEREROOKE COLLINGWOOD. U.S.S.INCHAM	56 11 28 44 To 56 26 08 28	7
SCL.112. C.T.U. 24.6.4.	U.S.S. LEARY U.S.S.DABBIT. CELANDINE BRANDON. AMSTERST.	56 28 29 01 To Reykjavik	8

1355A/19.

NOTE. This version has been amended in accordance with C. in C. Western Approaches 1719/19 - not circulated.

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.T.(UT).
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)
D.T.D.(M)
Duty Capt.(2)
U.S.N.
D.A/S.W.
Head of M.
D.D.I.C.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
Adml. Blake.
D. of P.(2)
D.M.S.

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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

1706A/19th December

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

IN

FROM: F.O.S.

DATE: 19.12.42.

RECD: 1738

P/L BY T/P

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

347.

Position of submarines at 0800A/20th December and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) P.339 71 degs 21' North 21 degs 20' East dived in daylight to patrol vicinity 71 degs 14' North 24 degs 27' East.

(B) P.223 71 degs 12' North 20 degs 35' East dived in daylight to patrol vicinity 71 degs 10' North 23 degs 44' East.

(C) TORBAY 70 degs 51' North 21 degs 55' East dived in daylight to patrol vicinity 70 degs 53' North 22 degs 05' East.

(D) SOKOL 70 degs 48' North 15 degs 05' East dived in daylight through 71 degs 08' North 15 degs 56' East to patrol vicinity 71 degs 02' North 22 degs 56' East.

(E) P.615 50 degs 01' North 08 degs 10' West dived by day through 50 degs 10' North 09 degs 01' West and 50 degs 10' North 12 degs 40' West. *See p. 657*

(F) PORPOISE 49 degs 12' North 13 degs 14' West dived by day through 49 degs 50' North 12 degs 34' West and 49 degs 50' North 09 degs 00' West.

(G) BARB 45 degs 20' North 12 degs 54' West dived by day through 44 degs 01' North 12 degs 54' West thence to patrol off Vigo. *See p. 656*

(H) HERRING 45 degs 02' North 12 degs 26' West dived by day to patrol off Ferrol. *See p. 656*

/(J) ...

2.

(J) GURNARD in Zone K.505 leaving patrol dived by day so as to pass through 43 degs 45' North 11 degs 01' West at 0300/21st thence through 45 degs 01' North 13 degs 22' West. *See p. 656-4658.*

(K) SHAD and BLACKFISH escorted by ~~SARDONYX~~ STARW leave Clyde 1100/20th due 250 degs Trevoise Head 10 miles at 1130/21st. *See p. 693*

(L) THRASHER and P.221 escorted by KINGSTON TOPAZ vicinity The Downs E.T.A. Sheerness 1200/20th. *See opposite.*

1706A/19, 1838/19

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

A.C.N.S.(H)
 W.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 P.(2)
 D.A/S.W.
 D.T.D.(M)
 Hd. of M.
 W.D.
 I.P.(2)
 D.N.I.(4)

657

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

→ THRASHER. S/Ms THRASHER and P.221 sailed with KINGSTON
P.221. TOPAZ 1645/19th.
See opposite. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1720A/19).

P.615. My 1009/12th and 0136/15th paras (1) and
See p. 656 (2) of my 1009/12th December for 0200/19th
read 0200/25th December. P.615 sailed from
Falmouth p.m./today.
(F.O.(S) 1859A/19 to V.A. Gibraltar).

WEAR. Proceed forthwith to Londonderry.
See p. 661 (C. in C.W.A. 2220A/19 to WEAR).

Operations.

Channel
Patrols. 1. Tonight 19/20th December ALBRIGHTON is to be
anchored at St. Helens at immediate notice.
2. ~~CHASSEURS~~ 13 (S.O) and 11 are to carry out
patrol extending from normal area south of E.A.5.
to position 50.31 N. 00.35 E. keeping 8 miles to Southward of
Convoy C.E.140. They are to return so as to be in their normal
patrol area by 0400.
3. Convoy C.E.140 (S.O. escort GARTH) leaves Gate 1415 passes
Beachy Head 2359.
→ 4. THRASHER and P.221 escorted by KINGSTON, TOPAZ leave Gate
1630.
5. MGB 317 (S.O) and 312 leave Gate about 1630 pass EA5.1800
thence on a course 116° to patrol clear of all other movements.
They return to C.2. Buoy at 0630 from direction 190° and thence
to Portsmouth by Convoy route. Codeword "Advent."
6. M.L.347 and 9 L.C.P. leave Gate 1900 at about 12 knots through
position E.A.5 and 165° Littlehampton 4 miles thence to
Littlehampton for exercises returning during daylight 20th Dec.
M.L.347 constant W/T Watch on Portsmouth Command Auxiliary
Wave 2450 K/Cs.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1243A/19 to D.L. X.D.O(E) HORNET, (R)
X.C.O.(2) S.O. Force J. GARTH, S.5. Admiralty, C. in C. Plymouth,
V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, R.A.F. Tangmere,
R.A.F. Thorney Island).

GRAPH. Ex German U/B GRAPH will be operated on the Home
See p. 656 Stations. She may be met in Northern Waters
Clyde Area, Irish Sea or Bay of Biscay Area east
of 14° W, North of 42° N. Her movements and position will be
notified in usual way.
GRAPH is painted Khaki Green with no repetition no figure
on the C/T.
Admiralty General Message 111AZ is cancelled.
(D.O.D.(H) 1712A/19 to A.G.M. 222AZ, H and W. Med. 513AK)

3 M.G.Bs. 3 M.G.Bs. returning from eastward to wait
position 8 miles east of 4 Buoy.
(C. in C. Nore 1925A/19)

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Break out patrol. My 2115/17. This patrol cancelled for today/ Saturday on account of weather (A.C.I.C. 1156A/19 to C. in C.H.F. (R) Admty, V.A.H.F. H. Q.C. C.).

Fleet R/C. Enemy activity may develop in Northern Waters. Special Fleet R/C must now take precedence over trade protection. (D.O.D.(H) 1215A/19 to A.O.C. in C.C.C., (R) C. in C.H.F. C. in C.W.A., C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C.Plymouth, A.C.I.C. V.A.2.) Admiralty have assumed responsibility for ordering and keeping C. in C.H.F. informed of further air R/C in connection with Fleet movements. (D.O.D.(H) 1236A/19 to C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Plymouth, A.O.C. in C.C.C., A.C.I.C., V.A.2.).

GURNARD. Submerged bombing restrictions arranged as follows from L to K from 0200/21st to 2359/22nd from K to X. 047.00 N. 013.22 W. from 0800/21st to 2000/22nd, from X through J to Y. 049.30 N. 012.51 West from 0300/22nd to 1200/23rd. from Y through I to H from 2200/22nd to 0400/24th from H to R/V from 1900/23rd to 1200/24th. T.B.R. arranged within radius 40 miles Bishop Rock from first light 24th to 2000/24th. (F.O.(S) 1549A/19 to GURNARD (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Comsubron 50, Capt.S.3. H.Q.C.C.).

Bomber Command. Report. 2 Whitleys investigated a 5,000 tons M/V and 1,000 ton M/V respectively and took photographs*. One of these aircraft later aimed to attack a U/B but the D/Cs hung up.*See C. in C.Plymouth 0025A/19 (Enemy Intelligence).

An additional Whitley of 10. O.T.U. was despatched to search for a dinghy. At 1430 hrs. it was engaged by 3 JU.88s two of them making 4 attacks from various positions the 2nd pilot and the bomb aimer were wounded. In spite of violent evasive action the R/G believed that his counter-fire damaged two of the JUs. At 1550 this Whitley approached two of our destroyers to direct them to a dinghy which however was later realised to be an enemy one. The destroyers were found to be under an attack from 3 FW.190s 2 of which immediately attacked our A/C. Although hit our A/C again replied successfully before escaping into cloud and one of the F.Ws. was seen to hit the sea. Night 18/19th. December. Owing to adverse weather there were no operations. (H.Q.B.C. 1550/19).

659

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

ALERT
attacked. At 1418 today Saturday one of four F.W.190s flying towards Ramsgate attacked T.H.V.ALERT with short burst of machine-gun fire at N.W. Goodwin Buoy. Three men slightly injured and slight damage to Superstructure. Escorting Trawler opened fire but without result. (V.A.Dover 1824A/19).

Mining.

M.T.B.30
Sunk. Regret to report loss of M.T.B. No.30 under the following circumstances. M.T.Bs 241, 34, 30 and 70 sailed about 1700/18th from Harwich with orders to proceed to the vicinity of Hook and to work northwards as far as Ymuiden. M.T.Bs 222, 238, 88 and 230, from Lowestoft were at the same time ordered to operate from vicinity of Ymuiden to the northwards consequent upon an A/C report of an enemy southbound convoy of 10 ships in 53.35 N. 05.05 E. at 1330. At 2025 in approx. 52.00 N. 03.07 E. M.T.B. 30 struck what is presumed to have been a floating mine which destroyed her bows. The after portion remained afloat and was taken in tow by M.T.B. 241 but capsized and sank shortly afterwards in 52.00 N. 03.04 E. BEEHIVE reported that no opportunity occurred to salve C.Bs which sank with the boat beyond possibility of compromise. Casualties and survivors were as reported in BEEHIVE's 0127A/19. In addition motor mechanic Forsyth who returned to M.T.B.30 and remained whilst towing was rescued when she finally sank by M.T.B.241. Weather proved unsuitable for operations and the Lowestoft Group of M.T.Bs also returned to base. The explosion is reported as being not unduly heavy accompanied by moderate yellow flash. (C. in C.Nore 1232A/19).

9th M/S F. My 2340A/18. Swept one lap of QZX.866. Mine destruction Force unable to cope with more. Swept 32 mines and 3 foul in sweeps. Two of these remoored themselves near position 51.23 N. 2.0 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. marked by green flagged dan. Neither mine now watching. Rest of day spent destroying 6 drifting and moored R Mines and one X Mine in various positions. (M/S 9th 1615A/19 and 1853A/22 to V.A.D.). My 1943A/3 (N.T. in W.D.). Swept one lap today Friday. At least nine mines detonated and five sunk. Majority were still moored but number includes one probably drifting near S.Falls Buoy, one near U Buoy and one just outside N.Corner of Q.Z.X.164. Mines which were observed on 8th December about 1.5 miles West of North Corner of Q.Z.X.788 not seen again. (M.S.9th 2340A/19 to V.A.D.) W.D.Note:- Code date should evidently by 18th December.

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

2 M/Vs Cancel my 1825A/18th and substitute A/C report
1 M/V 5,000 tons in 047. 40 N. 014.45 W. at
1230/18th. Course 270°. Split superstructure,
indistinct photograph precludes more detailed interpretation.
2. 1 M/V 1500 tons in 049.23 N. 015.35 W. course 180° at
1330/18th. Island type split superstructure gun on stern
(C. in C.Plymouth 0025A/19).

Norwegian Soviet Naval Staff report Germans have seized
Fishing whole Norwegian Fishing Fleet.
Fleet. Crews may not leave ships which must be in
constant readiness.
(S.N.O. North Russia 1645A/19 to Admty (R) C. in
C., H.F., Admiral Miles).

U/Boats.

M.K.F.4.Y. D/F bearings on 7640 K/Cs at 2054Z indicate
U/Boat may be in vicinity of convoy.
(D. D.I.C. 2231A/19).

Casualties & Defects.

VARDEFJELL. Cancel previous instructions proceed with,
see next page MARAUDER at best speed to VARDEFJELL reported
by A/C in 58.46 N. 12.41 W. at 1200A/18 stern
portion only afloat engines working but unable to steer.
Probably making about 1 knot to eastward. LEAMINGTON,
NORTHERN SUN, CAPE PORTLAND, VASCAMA, searching. Acknowledge.
(C. in C.W.A. 0956A/19 to CAPE PALLISER, (R) LEAMINGTON, NORTHERN
SUN, F.O.I.C.Greenock, A.C.O.S., Admiralty).
Your 0956A/19 acknowledged.
(CAPE PALLISER, 1135A/19 to C. in C.W.A.).
Position at 1730A/19th, 059.08 N. 011.37 W. carried out
square search at (?maximum speed) (?trawlers) NORTHERN SUN,
VASCAMA, in company. CAPE PORTLAND (?leaving) (?now) for
Belfast owing to shortage of fuel. Nothing seen of derelict,
aircraft or other ship. Latest time at which ships must leave
to fuel as follows, LEAMINGTON to Loch Ewe 1800A/21st. NORTHERN
SUN *? 1000A/25th VASCAMA 1600A/22nd.
Weather report 4862, 9556.
(LEAMINGTON 1830A/19). *Could be 1200.

LEDBURY. LEDBURY transmitter 4 T requires new generator
pattern 1789 or (?moving) coil. LEDBURY
therefore returning Scapa Flow with BLANKNEY.
My P.C. and S. 060.05 N.004.18 W. 170.20. E.T.A. 1500A/19th.
Weather report 7481, 9435. A.C.O.S. Acknowledge.
(BLANKNEY 1001A/19 to R.A.(D) H.F.).

Search for My 1831/18 to CLEVELAND and BROCKLESBY only
A/C proceed to Milford Haven, orders follow.
Crews. (C. in C. Plymouth 1037A/19 to CLEVELAND (R)
BROCKLESBY, F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, C. in C.
W.A. F.O.I.C.Greenock, Admiralty, Capt.D.
Plymouth).

see next page
/My.... p. 664

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- Search for Aircraft Crews. Contd. My 1037/19th both destroyers proceed to Milford. (C. in C. Plymouth 1329A/19 to BROCKLESBY, CLEVELAND).
Your 1037/19. Arrived CLEVELAND. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2031A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth. *See previous page p 664*)
- EMPIRE BUCKLER. EMPIRE BUCKLER is to be towed to Swansea. (C. in C. W.A. 1304A/19 to WEAR).
Request EMPIRE BUCKLER be diverted to Swansea. (D.T.D. 1345/19 to C. in C. W.A.).
RESOLVE towing EMPIRE BUCKLER, WALSLEY, escorting, P.C. and S. at 1940A/19 (051°) 58' N. 006° 14' W. 129° 8 knts.
WEAR parting company. *p. 657*
(WEAR 1945A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)
- BROCKLESBY Your 1329. Proceeding to Plymouth with urgent defects reported in my 1230 not to all addressees. (BROCKLESBY 1418A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth).
Your 1418/19th. Approved.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1503A/19 to BROCKLESBY).
- BANKSIDE. Following received from R.N.O. Burnham begins: "N.O.I.C. Southend from R.N.O. Burnham on Crouch. Smack IRIS MARY CK 105 of Tollesbury reported having picked up at sea ½ mile S.W. of Whittaker Beacon some wreckage at about 1345 today 19th December. Also found small skiff water logged near the Ridge Buoy with one person on board sole survivor of the Auxiliary sailing barge BANKSIDE of London which had been mined at day-break near Maplin Spit. Survivor states barge was under sail at time and had no motor running. 1755/19 Ends."
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1827A/19).
- ST. ALBANS Intend to dock ST. ALBANS 21st December in order to change damaged propeller. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1829A/19).
- CYGNET Arrived in tow of EMPIRE PIXIE and DANUBE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1856A/19).
- Shipping & Convoys.
- K.M.S.5. K.M.S. 5 inform Commodore VARDEFJELL will not rejoin convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 0344A/19 to Escorts). *See previous page*
- ANDES My 1853A/18. ANDES sailed at 0332/19, E.T.A. Halifax 25th December, 1942. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0345/19).

/O.N.S. ...

662

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- O.N.S.154. C.MidOcean escort Task Unit 24.1.11 in KENOGAMI plus CHILLIWACK, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, NAPANEE sailed to meet O.N.S.154. H.M.C.S. ST.LAURENT (H.F.D.F.) sails tonight to overtake becoming Task Unit Commander on joining. Latest. QJA 672. (C.T.G.24.7.0900Z/19 to C. in C.W.A.).
- J.W.51.A. MATCHLESS defect is not yet made good. Intend if satisfactory progress has not repetition not been made by 1200A/19th today to sail with MATCHLESS as soon as possible. In this event MATCHLESS will be steaming on one air ejector and her maximum speed will be 24 knots. Request instructions whether she should be detached to Scapa or remain with me. (OPPORTUNE 0901A/19 to C. in C.H.F.(R) S.O. Force R, Cdre.(D)) Your 0901A/19th just received. Unless you have been otherwise instructed MATCHLESS is to remain with you. (Cdre (D) 1707A/19 to OPPORTUNE, (R) S.O. Force R, C. in C. H.F.,C.S.I.). Scapa departure C. in C.H.F. in KING GEORGE V, with BERWICK, MUSKETEER, RAIDER, ~~RODWAY~~ QUADRANT. (A.C.O.S. 1005/19)
- J.W.51 B. Re discharging and ballasting of ships.
J.W.52. (D.T.D. 1735A/19).
- H.X.218. At your discretion detach to base any escorts not considered necessary for control of convoy. Loch Ewe ships to proceed independently from position U. (C. in C.W.A. 1004A/19 to Escorts).
H.X.218 Fast. Ships are to proceed independently from 07.00 W. (C. in C.W.A. 1104A/19 to GARLAND).
- H.X.220. N.S.H.Q.Ottawa 1450Z/18 Escort can be arranged to meet H.X.220 for 4 U.S. flag-ships and also U.S.flag KOFRESI now in St.Johns N.F. if included (C.T.24.6. 1155Z/19 to Admty).
- NIEUW HOLLAND. R.A.(D) H.F.'s 2251A/18th. R/V Bar Light Vessel with NIEUW HOLLAND at 1100A/20th and escort her to Falmouth passing outside The Smalls then by QZL 15 and by swept channel in force. E.T.A. Falmouth 1200A/21st. Speed 15½ knots. On completion escort to proceed as may be directed by C. in C. Plymouth. If necessary to arrive at R/V in time you should proceed by QZS.298 at 20 knots or over. (N.O.I.C.Liverpool. 1218A/19 to WENSLEYDALE).

/Route...

663

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - con. / 8.

Route Pass to F.Os I.C. and N.C.S.Os.
instructions. 1. All ships sailing in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys are to be given the information contained in Q.J.A. Nos. 669, 671 and 655 in case it is necessary to enter New York via Block Island and Long Island Sounds, in addition to the purport of Q.J.A. 670.
2. Ships bound for Boston and Portland Maine should also have the information given in Q.J.A. 666 and 668.
3. It should be emphasized that position Z in Q.J.A. 670 is marked by Buoy A.
4. Montauk Point and Ambrose D/F Stations normally operate 2 hours before E. T.A. or convoys. Steps are being taken to lengthen this period to 6 hours.
5. All Commodores should be informed that after passing 67° West and signals re entry into New York etc., should be made to C.E.S.F. and that entry into New York is permitted after nightfall.
(D.T.D. 1352A/19 to C. in C.W. A.).

Convoy T.A. 31 Your 1822 /18 confirmed.
A. (D.T.D. 1451A/19 to F.O.I.C.C. Greenock).

S.D. 35. My 1817/18th postponed 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1556A/19).

P.W.F. 265. My 1257/18. Cancelled owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1647A/19).

P.W. 265. P.W. 265 entering Falmouth for shelter.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1744A/19 to GLAISDALE (R) TETCOTT).

W.S. 25.W. Convoy W.S. 25.W. comprising SS. QUEEN MARY carrying troops for the Middle East via Freetown and Capetown will be ready to leave Clyde p.m./21st December.
2. She is to proceed independently at best speed.
3. Maximum air protection A/A and A/S is to be provided.
4. Route as follows:- From Position L 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0900Z/22/12. through M. 55.15 N. 12.16 W. N. 51.10 N 20.01 W. O. 44.59 N. 24.00 W. P. 35.05. 23.58 W. Q. 25.12. 23.31.W. R. 17.57 N. 21.04.W. S. 09.02N. 19.01.W. thence to Freetown.
5. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship as requested and signal estimated speed of advance and E.T.A. Freetown.
6. Fighter Protection Code Word "Donkey".
(D.O.D. (H) 1752A/19).

K.X. 7.A. Convoy K.X. 7A. consisting of the following ships for the destinations shown will be ready to Clyde on 20th December.

SS. KAFIRISTAN to Oran.

SS. ITTERSUM, HOUSTON CITY, MANCHESTER MERCHANT to Algiers.

664

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - con/7-

- K.X.7.A.
Contd
2. All Ships will proceed to Gib. in the first place where the first three will disembark A/C.
 3. Speed of slowest ship ten knots.
 4. Admiralty will promulgate route.
 5. Escort will be provided by CLEVELAND and BROCKLESBY sailing from Milford Haven. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to return them to U.K. at the first opportunity. *See pp 660 & 661*
 6. C. in C.W.A. is requested to route ships to the Fastnet and to arrange for escort to R/V before reaching Q.Z.18 Channel.
 7. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships as requisite.
 8. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail escorts to R/V with convoy as requisite p.m./21st December. (D.O.D.(H) 1753A/19).
A.M. 1753/19. Route by Q.Z.L.18.
Through position B.180° Fastnet 20 miles.
C. 50.32 N. 13.01 W. D. 49.10 N, 14.45 W. E. 43.02 N. 14.43 W.
F. 36.40 N. 11.40 W. G. 36.03 N. 08.05 W.
 2. Stragglers route as convoy route lettered P. to U. with instructions to keep 40 miles to starboard of route if straggling.
 3. Fighter protection codeword "Peacock."
(D.O.D.(H) 1927A/19).
- K.M.S.6.
M.K.S.5.
1. CAMELLIA is required to sail with K.M.S.6. and return with M.K.S.5.
 2. Request she may if possible arrive Clyde before dark 23rd.
 3. Failing this CAMELLIA be sailed to Londonderry to fuel and join convoy.
(C. in C.W.A. 1839A/19 to N.O.I.C. Cardiff)

19. ¹² 1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X.

DERWENTDALE. DERWENTDALE is to be able to sail to U.K. in M.K.S.4.
(N.C.X.F. 1106A/19 to V.A. Gibraltar (R) Admty.
D.N.C.X.F. C.C.O.) *p. 734*

K.M.F.5. WELLINGTON and SS. IRENÉE DU PONT have returned to
U.K.
(D.O.D. (H) 1207A/19 to N.C.X.F., (R) A.F.H.Q.
Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran, C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

R/C of Toulon. My 1838A/18PRU from N. Africa failed owing to
weather.
(N.C.X.F. 1235A/19 to Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar,
F.O. Oran, F.O.H.)

French Naval Tankers Casablanca and Dakar. French Naval black Tankers at Casablanca LOT
(14 knots) and ELORN (11½ knots) are to sail in
first convenient convoy U.S.A. Latter reported not
ready to sail until 15th Jan.
p. 669 (2) It has also been agreed French Naval Tanker
NIVOSE (10½ knots) from Dakar shall go in next
suitable convoy. French Authorities at Dakar will communicate
direct with you on this subject.
(3) Request I may be informed of progress made.
(N.C.X.F. 1311A/19 to S.N.O.C. (R) Admty. Cominch, A.F.H.Q. C. in C.
Atlantic Fleet.)

SIRIUS. My 1144/18 (N.T. in W.R.) Weather prevents trial
today. Intend to carry it out a.m. tomorrow.
(SIRIUS 1720A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.S. 12.

Malta shipping at Gibraltar. Presume you are keeping in close touch with A.F.H.Q.
in connection with the disposal of the 13 ships
originally loaded for Malta and now expected to be
discharged at Gibraltar and/or in North Africa. W.O.
telegram to A.F.H.Q. and Governor Gib. 86032 dated

- 11th Dec. and replies from both refer.
2. It is of the utmost importance that these valuable ships should be made available for other service at the earliest date and no effort should be spared to ensure that everything possible is done to achieve this.
 3. We fear that in the present congested state of Gibraltar and the North African ports delays of many weeks will be incurred.
 4. The decision that the ships should be discharged was taken with our agreement and we should naturally be reluctant to see them return to the U.K. with cargoes which are required elsewhere. Nevertheless if the discharge of any of the ships is likely to be unreasonably protracted it might well be desirable even now to reconsider the matter. The essential point is that whatever is done should be done quickly.
 5. You should therefore report as soon as possible (a) the approximate date by which you estimate discharge of each of the 13 ships could be completed and (b) whether you would recommend that

/any

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.

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

IN.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 0249Z/19th Dec.

From: AGWAR, Washington. Date 19.12.42.

Addressed: USFOR.

No.R 4406.

EDITED LITERAL TEXT.

Interior Addresses: For the British Chiefs of Staff.
For Eisenhower, Freedom Algiers.
From the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

Reference. / For Murphy from State Dept.
Our 178 on shipping and convoys
Your 1558 of December 9th and also Paragraph 2 of your 1643 of Dec. 10.

1. Following is recapitulation of shipments made and planned from U.S. sources for French North Africa. See our 178 on shipping and convoys. This message answers your 1558 of December 9th and also paragraph 2 of your 1643 of December 10th.

2. Lend Lease administration shipped following on Convoy No.3 (in tons)

Cotton Piece Goods	127
Used clothing	122
Raw Sugar	1291
Refined Sugar	642
Powdered Milk	99
Evaporated Milk	1342
Tea	167
Laundry and Hand Soap	1059
Matches	92
Copper Sulphate	1927
Tobacco	78

Following were delivered and presumably shipped, but we have NOT yet received definite confirmation

Evaporated Milk 572

Pharmaceuticals/..

- 2 -

Pharmaceuticals and Lactose	13
Tobacco	10½
Newsprint	13
Cotton piece Goods. etc.	37
Fan	43

3. Lend Lease administration plans to ship following by Convoy No.4:

Used Clothing	500
Cotton Piece Goods	5000
Matches	100
Silk	1000
Ready Made Clothing	500
Cotton Knitted Wear & Hosiery	400
Cotton Thread Assorted	200
Shoes (half men and half women)	200,000
Pharmaceutical Products etc.	Unspecified Tonnage
Sugar (part refined)	3000
Green Tea	200
Milk: Powdered	25
Condensed Sweet	315
Condensed Unsweetened	120
Cheese	1000
Wheat Flour	2500
Preserved and Dried Meat	1000

4. U.S. Army has shipped following by Convoy No.3:

(A) Three lots each of five hundred tons miscellaneous consumers goods such as stockings, shoes, tobacco, cigarettes and medical supplies; one lot for Western Force, one for Center Force, one for area of British First Army. The first two lots each contain 2½ tons of medical supplies.

(B) Tea, Sugar, Cotton Cloth, and Rice 252 tons of which are half for Western Force and half for Center Force.

(C) 1255 tons of Powdered and Evaporated Milk and Sugar, four million cans of each. Half for Western Force and half for Center Force.

Above goods shipped by the Army are to be used as Barter Goods in obtaining labor supply and for use in lieu of currency or with currency to obtain labor.

As/....

6658C

MOST SECRET

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

- 3 -

As necessary result, they also furnish relief for civilian population.

5. U.S. Army proposed to ship by Convoy No.4. approximately same goods as on Convoy No.3., also for barter. It is proposed to continue such shipments. Further detailed plans for Army shipments will be notified to you from time to time.

6. British have telegraphed to London inquiring what supplies have been shipped from U.K. and what further supplies it is proposed will be shipped from there. London will reply directly to North Africa, repeating to Washington.

7. Please telegraph your recommendations the light of foregoing information, as to further amounts of goods which should be sent in immediate convoys, giving your priority ratings for such goods, in order to meet critical situation described in your 1558.

8. We are sending you by air mail, which you should receive in about three days, revision of list of estimated North African requirements which Rosenthal took with him. We are here in urgent need of an authoritative list giving your estimates of needs of North Africa for first quarter of 1943 and subsequent quarters. Please despatch first at earliest possible moment list for first quarter 1943 in order to expedite matters. By requirements of North Africa we mean imports from all sources and NOT merely from U.S. and U.K. Please state priorities attached to items on your list, to the extent possible, so as to indicate relative importance and urgency.

(Circulated per 2016/10 from Algiers)

0249Z/19

Relayed to Algiers by Sig.Center.

- P.A.S.(S)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D of P (2)
- Duty Capt.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- D of P (0)
- Hd of M (2)
- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(2)
- 4th S.L.
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)
- N.A. 1st S.L. I.P.(2)

Recd: in War Reg. 2135/20

Circulation
 Brig. Jacob., Foreign Sec.,
 First Sea Lord., C.6. Tels.
 A.M.C.S.(C) C.C.O.
 Mr. Strange Foreign Office.,
 Lord Strathallen.

W.D., Ad. Blake., D.T.D.(3)

6653

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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in ^{One-Time Pad} 1703Z/19 December.
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN
From Algiers. Date 17.12.42.

Addressed USFOR London. WAR.

EDITED LITERAL TEXT

No. 2489.

Interior Addresses: To AGWAR
From. FREEDOM ALGIERS.
From: G-4 Freedom
signed
Eisenhower.

Reference: R.4249 AGWAR (Not received by Air Ministry)

The latest information of actual unloading excluding vehicles, gasoline and coal at ports shows the following dead weight tonnage:

Casablanca: 7415.
Oran, including Arzew and Merselkebir 8545.
Algiers: 5000

Ports east of Algiers vary because of weather and enemy action but average for all is 9000. The capacity of all ports is being increased as additional dock and depot personnel and motor transport become available. These factors, rather than the physical condition of ports appear to be the bottleneck. Believe Casablanca capacity will shortly be increased with organization of Atlantic Base Section. In any case, the addition of extra ships can be handled by adjustments between ports with local escorts. So far as practicable, action being taken to prevent ships returning with cargo aboard.

1703Z/19.

1st Lord.

1st S.L. (2)

D.F.S.L.

4th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

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

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

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

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D.(H) (2).

D.O.D.(F) (2).

D.C.(2).

D.D.I.C.(2).

D.N.I.(4).

D. of P.(2).

D. of P.(Q).

Circulation.

Brig. Jacob.

Foreign Sec.

First Sea Lord.

C.6. Tels. W.O.

A.M.C.S.(C).

C.C.O.

M. of W.T.

Received in War Reg.
2315/21.

D.T.D.(3).

D.T.D.(M)

Hd. of M.

Ad. Blake.

Ad. Ramsey (4).

W.D.

I.P.(2).

BIW

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X - con 151.Malta
shipping at
Gibraltar.
- Contd.

any of them should be brought back to the U.K. fully loaded.

6. In the event of decisions to discharge only part of the cargoes of certain ships you should ensure that proper consideration is given to leaving them in satisfactory trim and with stability (a) for a voyage to a second port in the area and (b) for a subsequent overseas voyage. For example the discharging arrangements proposed by Governor Gibraltar in 17968 dated 13th Dec. are satisfactory only providing (a) that in the case of CITY OF PRETORIA and CITY OF EDINBURGH sufficient additional cargo is discharged or transferred to maintain satisfactory trim and stability and (b) that those two ships and LANARKSHIRE will then either proceed to North African ports to complete in view of danger of straining if brought back from Gibraltar to U.K. or have their cargo re-distributed.

7. It is assumed that arrangements are being made to discharge all surplus oil bunkers from these ships at Gibraltar or North African ports. Request confirmation.

8. Request early reply after consultation with Gibson Graham. (D. of S.T. 1817A/19 to P.S.T.O.X.F. (R) S.T.O. Gibraltar.)

Cargoes of following ships originally intended for Malta may be unloaded in your area. Ships and details of Naval Armament Stores on board.

(D.D.A.S. (L) 2029A/19 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, N.A.S.O. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers for A.A.S.O.)

M.K.F. and
M.K.S. Convoys
Approach
routes.

Pass to N.C.S.O. ships are returning to U.K. without being supplied with information regarding approach routes to U.K. ports. Request this information be supplied to all ships in future homeward convoys. (D.T.D. 1950A/19 to N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Tankers ex-
K.M.S.5.

The two tankers ex K.M.S.5 should be discharged to shore stock at Gibraltar returning to U.K. on completion.

(N.C.X.F. 2155A/19 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Statement
by Adm.
Darlan.

Following is text of telegram 2057 from Algiers (Begins) Reference your 172 (T.O.O. 1949/14) Admiral Darlan agrees and this afternoon at a press conference of American, British and French journalists will make the statement exactly as suggested except that the first sentence of para. 4 of suggested statement has been rewritten to read as follows " the High Commissioner has begun the restoration of rights to those persons from whom these had previously been taken, because of race" The minor change in phraseology was made because of the necessity of avoiding any implications involving the long standing and deep seated difficulties explained in our 1840 Dec. 13th.

(J.S.M. Washington 2159Z/19 to War Cabinet).

War Diary.

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X. Contd.

Movements
of Merchant
Shipping,
signals.

N.C.X.F. 1036/18 not to all addressees. Pass to
F.O. I.C. and N.C.S.Os. Cominch C and R. maintains
world wide plot of all merchant shipping of all
flags. To ensure his receipt of movements in your
areas request originators of all signals relating
thereto include Connav as repeat addressee.
(D.T.D. 2303A/19 to N.C.X.F., C. in C. Med. V.A.
Gibraltar, Connav, B.A.D.)

668

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gibraltar Opsum. for 24 hours ended midnight 18th Dec. Total
Air Report. flying hours 123 hours 06 mins.

1. A/S escorts 1 Catalina airborne 0808 hours to K.M.F.5, one Catalina airborne 0805 hours to M.K.F.5.

4. 30 hours 42 mins. 3 Hudsons airborne 0641-0936 and 1328 to MANXMAN. 1 Hudson airborne 1044 hours to EXIRIA 27 hours 08 mins. A/S patrols 1 Catalina airborne 0805 hours on A/S sweep east 10 hours 10 mins. 1 Catalina airborne 0812 hours on A/S search east 9 hours 58 mins. 2 Hudsons on A/S sweep east in morning 12 hours 55 mins. 2. Hudsons on A/S sweep east in afternoon 13 hours 31 mins. 1 Hudson airborne at 0925 hours carried out U/Boat hunt for U/B sighted by MILNE in 35° 50' N. 01° 35' W. at 0817 hours 18th not found 6 hours 36 mins. 4 Wellingtons on A/S sweep and C.L.A. Patrol east night 18/19 13 hours 26 mins. No U/B sightings or attacks. The Catalina laid on in programme for 18th Dec. to carry out A/S hunt in conjunction with 5 D/Rs was changed to A/S search. No E/A sightings or attacks, no casualties.

2. No enemy activity over Rock, no operational fighter sorties.

3. No photo recce.

4. Transit A/C from U.K. 1 Albermarle, 4 Hudsons, 16 Wellingtons 1 C.53, 6 B.17 one landed Casablanca. From Malta 1 Halifax returned Malta crashed 2 Hudsons. From Oran 2, C.47, from Algiers, 1 C.47, 1 Hudson, from Bathurst 1 Sunderland. To U.K. 1 Wellington, 1 C.87, 4 Catalinas, 1 Hudson, 2 Sunderland, to Casablanca 1 C.53, to Oran 2 C.47, 1 C.53, 1 Hudson, 3 Hurricanes. To Algiers 14 Wellingtons, 3 Hudsons.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 0730/19)

SAN PIETRO, Former Italian merchant ships SAN PIETRO at
FORTUNATA Casablanca and FORTUNATA in Port Lyautey taken as
prizes. prize. Papers secured for delivery to prize court.
SAN PIETRO sunk and of no value and does not
warrant repairs other than salvage to clear port
intend dispose of her accordingly. FORTUNATA hull in good
condition maximum speed less eight knots age 30 years, 2750 tons
coal burner. Of no value this command, of doubtful value in U.S.
Could sail her in company with ALMACK on her return in tow to Home
waters but do not consider ship justifies service prize. End.
(S.N.O.C.A. 0900Z/19 to Cominch (R) C. in C. Lant, N.C.X.F.)

G.U.S.2. S.N.O.C.A. 1135Z/15 not to Connav. G.U.S.2. Route
as follows :-
Position (a) 34.10 N. 10.00 W. (b) 31.30 N. 15.00 W.
(c) 32.59 N. 22.58 W. (d) 33.40 N. 30.00 W. (e) 34.00 N. 39.00 W.
(f) 34.20 N. 47.00 W. (g) 34.50 N. 55.40 W. (h) 34.58 N. 63.58 W.
(j) 35.40 N. 70.00 W.
(D.O.D. (H) 1204A/19 to S.N.O.C.A., (R) Connav, N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A.)

K.M.F.5. Force 'H' LIGHTNING proceed Gibraltar on convoy
Escorts. crossing 6° W.
(2) WAVENEY, TOTLAND, enter Gibraltar on convoy pass-
ing Europa Point.
(3) Gibraltar section, seven ships escorted by
VERITY, NASTURTIUM, HUSSAR, join convoy off Europa point. NASTURTIUM,
HUSSAR, continue to Algiers. VERITY return to Gibraltar on LAFOREY
rejoining.

/(4) WISHART ...

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. *con 15.*K.M.F.5,
Escorts
-Contd.

(4) WISHART, VANOC, U.S.Des. FANNING R/V off Europa point when ARGUS screened by LAFOREY, WISHART, WIVERN, VANOC is to part company and proceed as requisite for flying off entering Gibraltar on completion.

(5) LAFOREY will be sailing to overtake on completion of discharge of stores.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1247A/19 amended 1659A/19 to Escorts of K.M.F.5, ARGUS, (R) Admty. N.C.X.F. S.O. Force H.) Amended 1659A/19.French
Naval
Tankers.*See p. 665*
Have received request from French Admiralty to include French Naval Oil Tanker LOT in convoy to proceed U.S. for loading fuel oil for Dakar. Information requested whether arrangements have been made for loading oil in U.S. If affirmative authority requested include ship in G.U.S.2. Similar requests for later convoys may be expected.
(S.N.O.C.A, 1315Z/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) Cominch.)→ CLUNEPARK,
* CEFALU.** See p. 670*My 1936/18 CLUNEPARK returned to Ponta Delgada without orders, after intercepting signal HORORATA's safe arrival; now despatching her to assist CEFALU to Horta afterwards returning to discharge here. Due position off St. George's midnight 19th. Request you will arrange crew at Flores to be transferred by SS. LIMA.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1520/19 to R.O. Fayal, (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)Your 1936/18 unless position of CEFALU is definitely known CLUNEPARK should return to Ponta Delgada.
(D.T.D. 1603A/19 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, R.O. Fayal, (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

MANXMAN.

Following received from MANXMAN. (Begins) Delayed by weather. Expect arrive a.m. tomorrow Sunday. 0915A/19. (Ends)
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1635A/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran.)

→ HORORATA.

Your 1938/18 temporary repairs can be taken in hand Horta. Some cargo will have to be shifted before full survey can be done. More details will be sent later.

(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1725/19 to Admty. (R), F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.A. Lisbon.

Your 1936/18. Yes Flores has been instructed to transfer all sea-
→ men per CLUNEPARK. Next wireless touch with Flores noon G.M.T. 19th.

(R.O. Fayal, 2240/19 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty.)

Convoy
"Mascot".Convoy "Mascot" arrived Casablanca 1500Z/19.
(C.S.F. W.T.F. 1745Z/19 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.X.F. Admty.)

/CEFALU ...

MOST SECRET

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MOST SECRET. MESSAGE. III.
1329A/19th December.
From V.A. Gibraltar. Date. 19.12.42.
NAVAL CIPHER S by T/P. Recd. 1825.

Addressed A.I.G 63.

IMPORTANT.

(1) M K F 4 Y, SPEY, ROTHER, 041 degs. 57' 016 degs. 09' 003 degs. 10. H.M.S. BOREAS H.M.S. BRILLIANT expected returning Gib.

(2) K M F 5, Fleet units, H.M.S. LAFOREY, H.M.S. LIGHTNING, 3 sloops, 1 cutter, 1 corvette, 035 degs. 50' 009 degs. 04' to Gibraltar 14. Situation 2004A/19th, 3 tugs, MASTADONTE 039 degs. 22' 012 degs. 11' through 040 degs. 01' 013 degs. 01' thence 354 degs. 8.

(4) COMMANDANT DETROYAT, one merchant ship, one tug, 033 degs. 13' 009 degs. 08' 044 degs. 7½.

(5) SOUTHERN GEM, GRYFEVALE, 030 degs. 14' 011 degs. 39' through 032 degs. 01' 010 degs. 30' thence 044 degs. 6.

(6) Tug EMLINE, 036 degs. 52' 016 degs. 42' 273 degs. 10½. *See next page*

(7) H.M.S. ADVENTURE, 036 degs. 32' 009 degs. 08' through 036 degs. 30' 007 degs. 10' to 035 degs. 56' 006 degs. 01' thence Gibraltar 16.

(8) K M S 5, H.M.S. LONDONDERRY, 4 sloops, 6 corvettes, H.M.I.S. BALUCHISTAN, 044 degs. 57' 016 degs. (?24') 182 degs. 6 BALUCHISTAN part company as convenient for Ponta Delgada.

(9) ST. NECTAN, H.M.S. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, 1 corvette, sails from Gibraltar 1900A/20th to Chipiona, H.M.S. ST. NECTAN H.M.S. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE then proceed (?Lisbon) 7 knots.

1329A/19.

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (UT).
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Capt. Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- Duty Captain (2)
- U.S.N. (3)
- D.A/S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2)

- Advance copy Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H) D.T.D.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (3)
- D.T.D. (M)
- D.T.D. (C)
- Admiral Ramsey. (4)
- D.D.O.D. (M)
- D.M.S.

662/B

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.)

M E S S A G E 1402A/19th December.

IN

From V.A. Gibraltar.

Date 19.12.42.
Recd. 1945.

NAVAL CYPHER (S) BY W/T & T/P.

Addressed A.I.G. 64.

IMPORTANT

(1) LOCH OSLAIG escorting MIRROR, 37 42 22 14 277
8. Situation 2002A/19 tug EMINENT, 36 52 16 42 276
10¹/₂.

See previous page.

1402A/19
Advance Copy Ops. O.D.

N.A. Ist S.L.
Capt. Pim.
Ops. (3)
O.D.S.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
O.I.C.

M(2)
Mails.
Movts.
W.D.
D.S.V.P. (2)
D.T.D. (M)
O.D. (5)

D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (C)
C.C.R.T. (2)
D.S.D. (2)

HA

War Diary.

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

CEFALU.

See p. 669

Your 1744/16 (1744/15 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada intended) CEFALU now anchored off Island of San Jorge (Azores).
(N.A. Lisbon, 1821/19 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C., Gib., N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

Vessels ex
U.G.S.3.

Admty. advise unable accept six vessels from U.G.S.3 in K.M.S. convoy from U.K. to Gibraltar P.D. reference your R.4277 and R.4405 P.D. this decision based on lack of additional escort vessels also must consider fifteen ships returned from or did not start with K.M.S.5.
(A.F.H.Q. 1905Z/19 to Agwar.)

U.G.F.3.

N.C.X.Fs. 2003/9 and 1551/14. Request route and estimated P. C. and S. of Convoy U.G.F.3.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 2242A/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F.)

671

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S. convoys
and personnel
returning
to U.K.

Due to the reduction in the scale of W.S.
movement the position regarding capacity for
personnel returning to U.K. will necessarily
continue to be difficult.

2. In order that problem may be co-ordinated
request early report of (a) present accumulation
of homeward bound personnel and (b) anticipated
monthly requirements in first half of 1943.

3. You should as far as possible show separately (a) each
Service (b) urgent civilian personnel whose passage is of
importance to the war effort (c) Allied Service personnel (d)
Merchant Service personnel (e) families. In each category
distinguish as far as possible between cabin passengers and
troop deck.

(D.S.T., 0518A/19 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. India,
P.S.T.O. Middle East, D.S.T.O.W.A., (R) C. in C. E.F.,
C. in C. S.A.)

ARCTIC
EXPLORER.

See p. 671c

My 1450Z/16 (?1430/16 re sailing of ARCTIC
EXPLORER) should read: Expected time of arrival
1300/24th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 0934Z/19 to Admty).

French
Convoys.

French convoy of four merchant ships and two
escorts sighted 05° 52' N., 10° 15' W. Course
302° speed five at 1436Z/18. Ships probably
STE BERGITA, GRAND-QUEVILLY, AISNE, VILLE D'ORAN.
Escort vessels A.75 ANNAMITE, A.64 probably
COMMANDANT BORY.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1045Z/19 to Admty).

DUNEDIN
STAR.

My 1123/12. My 1758/15 and C. in C. Med.,
2153/11 not to all addressees. DUNEDIN STAR. All
passengers and crews now safe. After discussion
with Lloyd's Agent and Ships Officers consider
ship herself must be regarded as total (?loss).

Endeavouring (corrupt group) to interest Commercial firms in
salvage of cargo but in the circumstances obtaining these
has been unsuccessful. (?6) (corrupt group) 18 inch torpedoes
urgently required by C. in C. Med., are stowed in bottom of no.
2 lower hold and will necessitate removal of 40 feet of potatoes
to get at them. All holds are now flooded to 30 feet of water.
Ammunition is similarly inaccessible. Ship is lying on sand
bottom approx. 600 yards from shore and depth of water does not
permit of craft larger than ship's boat (?from) going
alongside.

Sand is silting up rapidly. Do not therefore intend to
attempt salvage of cargo as a naval operation although
Director S.A.N.F., and N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay are endeavouring to
salve what they can with local facilities. It may be possible
to remove 3700 bags of ordinary mail still believed to be above
water.

(2) Further signal will be made regarding mail.

(C. in C. S.A., 1117C/19 to Admty. C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C.
West Africa, N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay).

/ASTURIAS...

671A

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.

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

1025C/19th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From C. in C. South Atlantic.

Date 19.12.42.

Recd. 1547.

NAVAL CYLINDER (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

See following pages.

H.M.S. GIENROY, H.M.S. JANUS, off Cape St. Francis to Simonstown 10 knots.

INCONSTANT, searching about 031 degs. 32' South 035 degs. 38' East.

GENISTA, H.M.S. JASMINE, with L M D 5, (?027 degs.) 40' South 033 degs. 00' East to Durban 7 knots.

H.M.S. NORTHERN CHIEF, escorting H.M.S. UNITY, BANFF PARK, 016 degs. 40' South (?010 degs.) 40' East to Walvis Bay 10 knots.

H.M.S. SHERNE, H.M.S. ST. LOMAN, and Tug BOLD, towing ~~U.S.S.~~ COLUMBINE, 015 degs. 20' South 010 degs. 00' East to Walvis Bay 6½ knots.

KYBER, INTEGRITY, EMPIRE WARLOCK, crane lighter number 3, 015 degs. 20' South 010 degs. 30' East to Walvis Bay 5½ knots.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, H.M.S. FORTUNE, with C F 10, 031 degs. 40' South 017 degs. 40' East to Freetown 12 knots.

(?SONDRA) leaves ^{Durban} conjointly for Lourenco Marques 19th December.

1025C/19

see next page.

As received BRITISH UNITY intended - sup. 775

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (UT).
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.A/S.W.
D.D.I.C. (2).
Duty Captain (2).
I.P. (2).
W.D.
Head of M.
U.S.N.
D.T.D. (3).

C.C.O. (2).
D. of P. (Q).
D.M.S.
C.C.R.T.
D.T.D. (M).

671-3

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.

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

1041/19th Dec.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

C-in-C Sth Atlantic Station

Date 20-12-42

Recd 1058

NAVAL CYIPHER (D old) BY W/T

Addressed C-in-C Eastern Fleet 247, F.O.C. West Africa 578,
D. C-in-C F.F. V.A. Gibraltar 265. F.L.O. Delhi, S.B.N.O.
W. Atlantic.

Weekly statement S.A. Station 15th Dec. Area Q.

Laurengo Marques to Durban. H.M.S. JASMINE, H.M.S. GENISTA.
Durban to Laurengo Marques. SONORA, L 4 B, H.M.S. INCONSTANT. Durban
to Cape. GLENROY, H.M.S. ELONDE. Cape area. H.M.S. ALCANTARA, H.M.S. FORTUNE.
Pointe Noire to Walvis Bay. KIMBER, ST. LOMAN, SPHENE, corrupt group,
tugs INTEGRITY, BOLD, EMPIRE, WARLOCK. *See previous page.*

Durban area. H.M.S. FREESIA. Simonstown. DS. O. 21, H.M.S. NIZAM,
FOXHOUND, P. 552, THYME, ROCKROSE, DAUNTLESS, M.L.'s 380, 381.
Durban. H.M.S. EREBUS, MANCHESTER CITY, RESOURCE, ALBATROSS, HAWKINS,
NAPIER, EXPRESS, CATTERICK, RELIANT, NIGELLA, EMILE BAUDOT.
Cape town. COMMANDANT DUBOIS, MEAD, H.M.S. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, S/M O 19, M.L.'s
382, 383. Port Elizabeth H.M.S. ATHENE, KHETI, STORMWACK.

East London COLUMBIA, SARKA, SATSA, CECILE, MAPLE. ~~...~~
Walvis Bay ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DAWN, NORTHERN DUKE, COVENTRY CITY,
BARBRANE, H.M.S. MAGNOLIA. Saldanha Bay. FERMOOR, SPINDRIFT,
BARCROSS.

1041C/19

V.C.N.S

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

C.N.A.S

A.C.N.A.S

N.A. 1st S.L.

Capt. Pim

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.T.D. (M)

Duty Capt. (2)

U.S.N (3)

D.A/S.W

Hd. of M

D.D.I.C. (2)

I.P. (2)

V.D

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (C)

D.B.D

D.M.S

D.N.A.D

D.A.M

D.D.O.D. (C)

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

CL.

671c

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.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :

"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

11112/19th December

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

IN

From F.O.C. West Africa.

Date 19.12.42.

Reed. 1255.

NAVAL CYPHER (3.M) BY W/T

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

IMPORTANT

H.M.S. PICT escorting from Marshalls to Freetown 8.

H.M.S. LADY ELSA, H.M.S. WELLARD, escorting 004 degs. 45' 010 degs. 20' 126 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

H.M.S. VIVIANA 001 degs. 05' 000 degs. 25' East 151 degs. 10 at 2000/19th.

LE TIGER H.M.S. ^{*}ARCTIC EXPLORER, (7014 degs.) 30' South 004 degs. 35' East (7151 degs.) 10. * See p. 671

BELLWORT 007 degs. 01' South 011 degs. 40' to Pointe Noire 11.

H.M.S. ASTURIAS H.M.S. CYCLAMEN on patrol Equator 019 degs. 07' to 003 degs. 03' South 022 degs. 52' (127 $\frac{1}{2}$). *see next page*

Allied Unit from patrol in Ascension area to Recife (Pernambuco).

11112/19

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

- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (UT).
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
- A.C.N.S. (H).
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- Captain Pim.
- D.O.D. (H) (2).
- D.O.D. (F) (2).
- D.T.D. (M).
- Duty Captain (2).
- U.S.N.
- D.A/S.W.
- Head of M.
- D.D.I.C. (2).
- I.P. (2).
- W.D.
- D.T.D. (3).
- D.T.D. (C).

671D

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.)

M E S S A G E I N 1125Z/19/December

From F.O.C. West Africa. Date 19.12.42.

Recd. 1337.

NAVAL CYPHER M BY W/T.

Addressed Admiralty, C. in C. South Atlantic, N.C.X.F.,
V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D. Washington, S.B.N.O.
Western Atlantic, ComSolantFor. 123.

547. Weekly state 19th December.
Bathurst area H.M.S. ILEX. *See next page*
Cape Verde Is. area ~~HOLCOMBE~~, ~~FREETOWN~~, H.M.S. EDINBURGH
CASTLE, H.M.S. HYDRANGE, ~~H.M.S. P.614~~, PHILOCTETES,
F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU, AD'ESTIENNE D'ORVES. * *See pp 673 8676*
Freetown area H.M.S. BURDOCK.
Lagos (Nigeria) H.M.S. DESPATCH. *See next page*
Point Noire area BELLWORT. *See previous page*
On Patrol H.M.S. *ANSTURIAS, H.M.S. *CYCLAMEN, TRINIDAD, *not identified*
H.M.S. MILFORD, H.M.S. AMARANTHUS, H.M.S. TAMARISK, * *See pp 6710*
Detached ships H.M.S. VINDICTIVE, H.M.S. VELOX, H.M.S.
VANSITTART, H.M.S. VIMY, H.M.S. WIVERN, H.M.S. WOODRUFF, *8672*
H.M.S. VIOLET, H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, H.M.S.
ANTELOPE, H.M.S. PETUNIA, H.M.S. CROCUS, H.M.S. AUBRETIA,
H.M.S. SNOWDROP, H.M.S. ROCKROSE, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER,
F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, CORINTHIAN, SOUTHERN PRIDE,
SOUTHERN GEM, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, ARMERIA, COWSLIP,
PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.

1125Z/19.

Advance copy sent Ops. O.D. O.I.C.

V.C.N.S.	D.P.S.
A.C.N.S. (F)	D.T.D. (M)
N.A. 1st S.L.	D.M.S.
Capt. Pim	D.M.S. Citadel.
Ops. (3)	D. of P. (3)
O.D. 8.	D.N.I. (5)
O.D. (5)	Admiral Blake (2)
M. (2)	Admiral Ramsey (4)
O.I.C.	
Mails.	
Movts.	
I.P. (3)	
D. A/S W.	
W.D.	

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

ASTURIAS, CYCLAMEN. *See p. 671^c*
ASTURIAS and CYCLAMEN leave patrol at (Z) 001° 48'S. 020° 15' W. at 1800Z/21 and return to Freetown through (X) 003° N. 020° W. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1347Z/19 to ASTURIAS, (R) CYCLAMEN, Admty., Cominch, Comsolantfor.)

Movements. Arrivals 19th Dec. U.S. Des. GREENE. *Ensign T. J. J. J.*
(R.O. Pernambuco 1359Z/19 to Admty.)
Arrival 19th Dec. DESPATCH.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1711Z/19 to Admty.)
Sailed 1600Z/19, M.Ls 281 and 279 escorting SS. EGATA Freetown 24th Dec.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1725Z/19 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty. R.N.O. Lagos.)
Arrival 19th Dec. RUMBA M.Ls 244, 296, 271, 278 with T.S. 27.
(S.O.I.) Freetown, 2311Z/19 to Admty.)

ILEX. *See previous page*
7 p. 673
Gambia River entrance E.T.A. 1130Z/20.
(ILEX 1422Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) F.O.C.W.A. Capt. D. Freetown.)

Magnetic Your 12130/13. Approved to approach the Union Mine Sweepers. Authorities as in your para. 2. Gesture is much appreciated and would be gratefully accepted.
2. Presume that vessels lent would be under the same terms as those previously lent; i.e. SOUTHERN

ISLE etc. Please verify.
3. Subject to consent of S.A.N.F. and confirmation as above, as soon as names of any vessels selected are reported by you, Admty. will inform C. in C. Med accordingly.
(D.M.S. 1506A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

Tankers for Gibraltar. Following is a repetition of my 1337/18 (Previously received undecypherable.) (Begins) "Admty. (R) V.A. Gibraltar from F.O.C.W.A.F. A.M. 2102/17 (Tanker Message) onward escort to Gibraltar cannot be provided without unduly depleting my escort forces. Suggest convoy should split in Verdes Area. I could then provide escort for up to six Tankers bound for Gibraltar as far as 25° N. provided V.A. Gibraltar could then take over escort. E.T.A. about 12th Jan." (Ends).
(F.O.C.W.Af., 1613Z/19 to Admty. V.A. Gibraltar.)

PANORAMA Entire crew of PANORAMA have arrived Bathurst.
Survivors. Vessel grounded off Saloum River 17 miles north of Gambia owing to defective compasses. Understand that vessel is now at Eliougne, probably undamaged despite having grounded. Naval personnel are in MATANG with 122 other internees. MATANG probably proceeding to Freetown with all internees. Admty. is requested to inform next of kin.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1645Z/19 to R.A.W.Af., (R) Cmdr. Holbrook, Admty.)

673

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - con 15.MONTE
NURIA.
(Spanish).

S.O.(I) Gib's 1727A/13 (Not received). Report MONTE NURIA (9 knots) left Ceuta for Buenos Aires on 7th December, Ship reported as MONTE NURIA by A/C from Bathurst was sighted in 011.27 N. 022.38 W. at 1510Z/18. Course 200° Speed reported as 15 knots. (F.O.W.Af. 1741Z/19 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Gib. ASTURIAS N.O.I.C. Bathurst. Comsolant.)

Air Cover,
for possible
Convoys from
Freetown
to Cape.

AX.260 19th December.
Possibility of running convoys from Freetown to the Cape under consideration. This is dependent on provision of escorts, which will inevitably be weak. Air cover therefore very important. Coastal route will probably be necessary to enable escorts to refuel but direct route also being considered. Bestway to provide air cover for coastal route would be by flying-boats from Saldanha Bay, Walvis Bay, Mount of Congo, Libreville, Lagos, Freetown. A.O.C. W.A. requested to report on possibility of operating detachments of 3 or 4 flying-boats with or without depot ships at Lagos, Libreville and Mouth of Congo or alternative bases. Also to state minimum base requirements to operate these detachments pending development of more permanent facilities. Also possibility that it might be desirable to be able, to operate aircraft from St.Helena for same purpose. Our information about aircraft possibilities St.Helena is meagre but understand there is a site where airfield might be constructed. Would welcome any information you may have as to possible construction of facilities for operating say one Squadron of 12 I.E.Liberators. U.K.Liaison Mission requested to obtain similar information about Walvis Bay or alternative for flying-boats and to approach South African authorities regarding assistance by S.A.A.F. in providing air cover. As this subject under discussion by Cabinet Committee early replies are desirable. Pass to F.O.C.W.A. and C. in C.S.A. (Air Min 1745Z/19 to A.O.C.W.Af. Derchief Pretoria, (R) Admty) Reply 1710/21.

BUTSER

Your 1636Z/19 (N.T. in W.R.). Have detached H.M.T.BUTSER. She is proceeding forthwith to Robertsport.
(DUNKERY 1905Z/19 to F.O.C.W. Af).

HOLCOMBE, ^{See pp 671 2672} F.O.C.W.A. 1833/18. Both proposals approved.
*ILEX. 2. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT should be ordered into Freetown accordingly.
* ^{See pp 671 2672} J.V.A.Gib. is requested to provide onward escort from vicinity of Canaries to Gib.
→ 4. ASTURIAS, ALMANZORA, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, and STRAAT SOENDA should be included in Convoy M.K.F.6.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F)* F.O.C.W.A. V.A.Gib.(R) B.A.D. C. in C. S. A. N.C.X.F.) *1916A/19 to

674

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Albacores. Your 1812/14 not to C.O.N.A. (Requesting report on how many Albacores can be made serviceable etc) A maximum of 30 Albacores can be made available in four weeks from now. Of these 18 are required as reserves for 821 and 826 Squadrons if these are to continue the vital work which they are carrying out in the "Torch"/"Lightfoot" operations.
(C. in C. Med., 0011B/19 to Admty (R) C.O.N.A. PHOENIX).

Enemy M/V. P.C. and S. of 1 M/V 37.55 N., 10.45 E. 360° 10 knots.
(A/C C/S FFL Duty R. 0340A/19 to Air H.Q. Malta).

Air R/C My 1345A/18 (N.T. in W.R.). It will not be possible to cover Naples owing to other commitments. Usual Marittimo - Cavoli Patrol night of 19/20th.
(V.A. Malta, 0917A/19 to N.C.X.F. (R) C. in C. Med., etc).

Visuals Dec. 19th. 0715 Messina 3 cruisers, 0800 Taranto 3 arrive rendezvous.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1102A/19 to C. in C. Med, etc).
Visuals Dec. 19th. 1435, Taranto, 3 battleships, 1520 Messina, 3 Cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1706A/19 to C. in C. Med.etc).

P.212 Proceed in accordance with my 1920A/17th.
(Capt. S.10., 1155A/19 to P.212, (R) N.C.X.F., Capt. (S) 8, S/Ms on patrol).

CASABIANCA. F.S. CASABIANCA arrived Algiers today Saturday.
(Capt. S.8., 1336A/19 to Submarines on Patrol).
See p. 676

E.A.C. Report. A.232/19th Dec. Operational Summary No. 38 covering period 1800 hours 17th Dec. to 1800/18 Dec. 2 Swordfish made anti shipping patrols from Bone night 16 Dec. No sightings.
3 Swordfish on shipping strike from Bone night 17 Dec. fired at enemy shipping Bizerta Lake. No torpedoes exploded. Pilots consider torpedoes did not run owing to shallowness of water or ships were protected by torpedo nets. Large concentration shipping observed Ferryville. No enemy opposition encountered.
6. Report to 1800 hours 17 Dec. now received. Only 2 Bisleys able to operate owing to ground mist. 1 bombed Bizerta Docks, bursts seen Dock area. 1 failed to locate target and brought bombs back. Night 17/18 Dec. 8 Bisleys operated on Tunis and Bizerta dropping bombs and leaflets. 1 crashed on take-off, 2 failed to return and 3 destroyed on ground by Ju.88 intruder.
(E.A.C. 1530A/19).

674A

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1455Z/19th December IN

FROM: Algiers. DATE: 20.12.42.
RECD: 1820

ADDRESSED: USFOR London.

ROUTINE

No. 2465. NAF-45 Dated 1455Z/19th December 1942.

Interior Addresses: To: AGWAR
For: Combined Chiefs of Staff.
To: USFOR
For: British Chiefs of Staff.
Signed: Eisenhower
For: The State Department.
From: Murphy.

Reference Your R-3684 (FAN 25) dated 28/11.
Our 1496+

1. Stock iron ore at Algerian mines negligible. Corrected quantities at ports 884300 tons of which 205300 tons with phosphorus content below .020 specially desired for making low phosphorus hematite iron in United Kingdom.
2. Low phosphorus stocks at ports are: Port of Bona Ouenza, iron ore 60000 tons. Bougie ores Bou Amrane 60000 and Timezrit 12000. Les Falaises ore Falaises 21000. Algiers ores Rouina A-3500. Zaccar 35000. Port Romain ore Couraya 4800. Port Breira ore Breira 9000. United Kingdom Foreign ore Department have all details analyses. Some time must elapse before shipments resumed from Bona as Cunningham reports loading installations irreparably damaged. Bougie congested only occasional despatches can be expected for some weeks. Les Falaises not a very suitable port at present 21 feet draft and open. Port Romain also unfavourable for shipments.
3. Balance stacks 679000 tons off grade ore higher in phosphorus or containing undesirable elements. Bona ores Ouenza Limey 140000, iron dry 42.23, Silica 8.78, lime 8.98, phos. .016, manganese 1.75. Lime content too high for use in United Kingdom. Bougie

/ore ...

2.

ore Gueldaman 11000. Phillippeville ore El Halia 11000. Djidjelli ore Sidi Marouf 23000. Benisaf ore Keloucha 200000. These will be despatched United Kingdom as tonnage available. Off grade ores which have previously been shipped to United States are:- (A) Benisaf ore Benisaf smalls 100 percent below half inch. United Kingdom have insufficient sifter plant to treat this grade but it may suit Alan Wood or Bethlehem. Analysis Benisaf smalls iron dry 57.25, Silica 5.4. Phos. .047. Manganese .1.15, moisture about 11 percent. (B) Port Kelah ore Seabna manganiferous iron dry 44.73, silica 6.90, phos .068, manganese 7.05. This has normally been shipped United States on account high manganese content.

4. Most iron ore mines are operating in small way but unable increase output and rail transport to ports owing lack of fuel. Meantime existing port stocks being husbanded for ballast purposes.

5. If necessary analyses all ores can be given but this would be long story and probably foregoing explanatory for practical purposes is sufficient.

1455Z/19

+ See IZ Relayed to AGWAR by Sig. Con.

2567 from J.S.M.

Washington

Received in War Reg. 1820/20.

(T.O.O.1601Z/10).

Circulation:-

1st Lord

Brig. Jacob

1st S.L.(2)

Foreign Secretary

D.F.S.L.

War Reg. Admiralty

4th S.L.

C.C. Tels W/O

V.C.N.S.

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D. of P.(2)

D. of P.(Q)

Duty Capt.

Hd. of M.(2)

I.P.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

W.D.

D. of L.D.

Admiral Blake

Admiral Ramsey.

675

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean- 602/18.

E.A.C. Report Contd. Third part of A. 232 19th Dec. 36 B.17s escorted by 16 P.38s attacked Bizerta harbour and shipping at 1140 hours from 23,000 feet. Bombers report repeated hits with 1,000 lb. bombs on target and one direct hit on supposed light cruiser. 15 enemy fighters attacked bombers. 3 destroyed by bombers. 4 P.38s missing, 1 B.17 crash landed - crew safe. 50 E/A seen on El Aouina aerodrome. Flak intense. 5 B.26s and 6 B.25s escorted by 6 P.38s attacked Sousse marshalling yards from 700 to 1500 feet at 1120 hours.
(E.A.C., 1550A/19 to Air Ministry).

Movements 19th Dec. Port Said arrivals, HYACINTH, PRIMULA, FALK. Departures, Yugoslav. T.Bs. KAJMAKALAN, DURMITOR, HYACINTH, PRIMULA, SOUTHERN SEA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1702B/19 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Intelligence Summary. 2000A/18 at 2000A/19. (Air) Strikes. Night 18/19. Dec. Wellingtons attacked Tunis and La Goulette docks. Hits on railway marshalling yards, electric railway depot, and phosphate quay at Tunis, starting fire visible 40 miles away and on oil tanks at La Goulette. 2 Wellingtons bombed Comiso drome starting 3 fires. Albacores bombed an E-boat 15 miles south east of Pantelleria and stationary M/V half a mile south of Monastir without observed results. 1 Albacore bombed Sousse Harbour scoring hits on north side of harbour.
(Commandeth, Malta, 1800Z/19 to Air Min. for Gen. Eisenhower).

Malta Air Report. A.I. 186 /19th Dec. C.S.R. Malta. Night 18/19 December. 2207 hours 40 Ju.88s approached Malta at heights between 6,000 and 14,000 feet, 2 Beaufighters intercepted raiders forcing some to jettison bombs in sea and destroying 1 Ju.88. The enemy made dive bombing attacks in bright moonlight and bombs were dropped at Ta Kali, Hal Far, and Krendi aerodromes causing no serious damage. At Luqa 7 Wellingtons were destroyed and 3 Wellingtons and 1 Baltimore damaged. 1 army officer, 2 soldiers, and 1 airman were injured. No aerodrome was put out of action by enemy. A.A. fired but make no claim. Day 19th Dec. Today 16 Spitfires and 9 Beaufighter sorties have been made in offensive sweeps against Axis transport aircraft and shipping. 2 Beaufighters intercepted 0700 hours 3 He. 111s 103° Malta 100 miles flying south at 100 feet and destroyed 2 of them. 1 Beaufighter was damaged by return fire but crew was unhurt. Another 2 Beaufighters and 4 Spitfires intercepted 1 Ju.88 and 1 flying boat flying south east at 1025 hours 100 miles east of Malta and destroyed both of them for loss of 1 Beaufighter shot down in sea by return fire. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 1850Z/19).

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Captured
Shipping
N. Africa.Request names of merchant shipping brought under allied control as result of occupation of North Africa.
(S.O.(I) Med., 1858B/19 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar,
(R) Admty. (for D.N.I.))Destroyer
Sweep.Intend 2 destroyers of Force K leaving Malta 1545A tomorrow 20th proceeding direct to arrive South of Ras Turgeuness at about 23(245). They will carry out a coastal sweep to North West for about 2 hours and then return direct to Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1913A/19 to C. in C. Med.,
(R) 201 Group, 247 Wing, N.C.X.F., F.O.C. 15th
C.S. Capt. (D) 14th D.F.)

M.F.Vs.

Request date of arrival of M.F.Vs. 2013 and 2017 may be notified.
(D.O.D. (F), 1914A/19 to N.C.X.F.) Reply: 17 December. (N.C.X.F., 1523A/20). *p. 769*

M.T.Bs.

Your 1340/18th. I prefer that these M.T.Bs. proceed Bone when ready.

(2) Should a suitable target appear on East Coast prior to their departure I would of course

welcome their use against it before leaving for Bone.

(3) In general targets in your area appear of unsuitable draft for torpedo attack.

(4) C. in C. Med., pass to C.C.F. V.A. Malta, pass to C.S.15. (N.C.X.F., 2010A/19 to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., C.C.F., C.S.15 F.O.I.S.)

Movements

Algiers arrivals. H.M.C.S. WEYBURN escorting 1 M/V from Oran. French S/M CASABIANCA. *See p. 674*
(Cdre. Algiers, 2014A/19th to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.)

P.54

You may have been sighted at 2145/18th.
(Capt. S.8., 2248A/19 to P.54).

A/S Craft.

Cancel paragraph 6 of A.M. 0235/18th.

2. "Hunts" will join Med., station as follows:

A. DERWENT will reach Eastern Med., shortly in accordance with A.M.1800/28th Nov. not to N.C.X.F.

B. HAYDON and ROCKWOOD left U.K. on 17th Dec. with W.S.25. One of them will continue with convoy to Cape thereafter continuing to Eastern Med. The other will break off in vicinity of Azores, thereafter proceeding as directed in Admty. 2215/27th Nov.

C. The two Greek Hunts MIAOULES and ADRIAS will leave U.K. about middle of January.

D. HOLCOMBE will reach Gib. about 15th Jan. in accordance with Admty. 1916/19th Dec. not to C. in C. Med., thereafter proceeding as directed in Admty. 2155/27th Nov. *See p. 674 4673*

(D.O.D. (F), 2310A/19*to C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F.)

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

677

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Polish Personnel. My 0235/15. Request you arrange for Polish personnel to be called forward to Basra for embarkation as soon as possible.
(2) As they now appear to be too late for transshipment to EMPRESS OF RUSSIA, P.S.T.O. India should arrange earliest possible movement to South Africa for onward conveyance to U.K. (3) Arrangements made should be reported. (4) Agreed.
(D. of S.T. 0050A/19 to D.S.T.O. P. Gulf, (R) P.S.T.O.I.)
Admty. 1752A/16 (repetition of A.M. 0235/15) and P.S.T.O. India (Bombay) 0537Z/18. Impossible for party to join ship indicated unless her sailing date is postponed until approx. 3rd Jan. 1943¹/₂. Request instructions whether party should travel in RAJULA, expected time of sailing 25th Dec. P.A.I.C. request (?reply) by p.m. 20th Dec. in order to ensure embarkation if approved.
(D.S.T.O. P. Gulf, 1335Z/19, to Admty. (R) P.S.T.O.I.)

WORCESTER- Arrived.
SHIRE. (B.O.(I) Bombay, 0442Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

DURBAN. DURBAN leaving Kilindini a.m. Sunday 20th for Bombay (?for docking) and repairs.
(2) Ship will proceed by direct routes and carry out following programme. Seychelles, arriving a.m. leaving p.m. 23rd, Cochin, arriving a.m. leaving p.m. 28th, Bombay, arriving a.m. 30th.
(3) Speed of DURBAN is reduced to 20 knots, maximum speed and endurance to 18(?00) miles at 16 knots.
(C. in C.E.F., 0535Z/19 to F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Seychelles, N.O.I.C. Cochin, (R) DURBAN, C.S.4., Admty.)

M/Vs firing on aircraft. Your 1826 19th Sept. (re: merchants ships in certain areas firing on single aircraft) Air H.Q. Bengal have requested that conditions laid down for ships west of 080° east may be extended to ships on east coast of India. 2. Suggested proposals may be accepted.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 0622Z/19 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Calcutta.)

PLADDA. PLADDA sailed 0800 G.M.T. for Diego Suarez routed through positions : (A) 017° 40' 055° 26' (B) 015° 00' 052° 26' (B) 012° 30' 050° 00' S.O.A. 10 knots.
Holds S.P. 02360 (22) 02383 (16) and one week's extracts of minor war vessels recognition signals.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0819Z/19 to Admty., F.O. Ceylon, S.O.(I) Bombay, C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, S.O. (I) Aden, S.O. (I) Kilindini.)

Protection for My 1407Z/13. One additional Catalina will arrive convoys with Durban by 28th Dec. from Tulear to reinforce S.A. troops. 209 Squadron attachment.
(C. in C.E.F., 0921C/19 to C.in C.S.A., (R) A.H.Q. E.A., 246 Wing, Admty.)

/M.N.B.D.O. ...

678

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

M.N.B.D.O. 1 Ref. further concentrating of M.N.B.D.O. 1 at Bombay. C. in C.E.F. had approved L. and M. units being withdrawn from Addu Atoll, be employed in offensive operations as soon as they can be spared

2. Although it is considered that the work of development at Addu would not be seriously delayed if these units were withdrawn in the fairly near future, there is no doubt that this work would be virtually brought to a standstill if the boat company attached to L. and M. and the landing craft they are operating were withdrawn without relief. The principal difficulty would appear to be relief for the boat company as it is suggested that landing craft might be replaced from India. Consider there is little hope of releasing boat company before June, 1943.

3. Could reliefs for boat company be provided by SAUNDERS? Minimum requirements would be about four officers and 150 men.

4. If no reliefs are available the only alternatives seem to be (A) L. and M. units to remain at Addu until there is no further use for landing craft or (B) to be withdrawn without their boat company.

(F.O. Ceylon, 1020/19 to H.Q.M.E. for Overt., (R) Arminia, C. in C. E.F., Gen. Com, Admty. F.L.O. Delhi.)

Shipping, Your 1913/18. Average sailings for past two months
Bay of from Colombo to Madras and beyond was 58. This
Bengal. appears to be nearly the maximum if present
restriction of ships being spaced 50 miles apart is
to be adhered to but already periodic bunching with
consequent excessive delays occurs at Colombo.

2. As average value of ships and their cargoes is tending to increase, no increase on present numbers with resultant reduced interval between ships is considered acceptable until adequate A/S and fighter cover can be provided for the Shipping Lanes.

(F.O. Ceylon, 1046Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Reply:- Admty 1913/21. [1950]

Movements. Departure 10th Dec. U.S.Des.* JACOB JONES, CESSNOCK.
(F.O.E.A., 1151Z/19 to Admty.)
**not completed till Apr. 1943 (C.13166)
Panic ship of same name sunk 28/2-1942.*

DALGOMA, DALGOMA has developed engine defects, speed reduced
KARAGOLA, to 7 knots. Have ordered her to Karachi. E.T.A.
CARTHAGE. 1200FG/23.

2. Am proceeding with KARAGOLA. Amended E.T.A.
Bombay 1300FG/21. P. C. and S. at 1330Z/19 014°
40' N. 063° 32' E. 060° 02', 14 knots. Weather report.
(CARTHAGE, 1330Z/19 to Com. R.I.N., C. in C. E.F., (R) P.S.T.O.
Bombay, N.O.I.C. Karachi, F.O. Ceylon.)

9th Aus. It has been decided to move 9th Australian Div.
Div. from Middle East to Australia.

2. It is proposed to lift the personnel in one fast
convoy consisting of QUEEN MARY, ILE DE FRANCE,
NIEUW AMSTERDAM and AQUITANIA, leaving Suez about

678A

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.

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

MOST SECRET. "O.T.P." are dictated from G.I. rule 11300/19 December.
IN.

From. G.O.C. in C. East Africa.

DATE. 19.12.42.

Recd. 2340.

CIPHER.

ADDRESSED. The War Office.

IMPORTANT.

089631. I.71922 cipher 19 December.

For M.I.3.

French Somaliland.

Dupont formally took over civil well as military administration 4th December. His first announcement of intention negotiate with Allies probably made prevent further mass defections and his Parlementaire Vincent manager bank Indochina reported refused take proposals to British as thought them certain be rejected. One off. 2 F.O.R's 26 A.O.R's deserted 3rd. December and two air mechanics flew Potez to Diredawa 5th December all mistrusting Dupont's promise negotiate. Forces reorganised on four Battalion basis under Col. Thoiné O.C. Fixed Defences who very pro Petain. Town described as awaiting British entry and chief business-men anxious for agreement. Flies ointment Pouvreau Antoine Ernoux who unwilling negotiate Fighting French, Presumably their instigation Dupont sent personal message loyalty to Brevie and recommended Antoine and Company for "good conduct present crisis". General feeling not yet pro De Gaulle though not hostile to him. Confusion all minds indicated by several anti British elements either resigning office or even coming over to Zeila. Jibuti Treasury in mess with immediate debts 15 million francs and possible 28 million to be met while Vincent refusing obey instructions

head /....

678^B-

- 2 -

head office bank Indochina Marseilles to issue fresh credits. Troops who left Jibuti now going through emotional letdown consequent "breaking oath to Petain" but discipline excellent and proceeded reception camps without incident. Further mass defections unlikely as officers unwilling leave colony defenceless.

Italian Armistice Commission isolated although not under restraint. Latest information indicates colony has eight months food supply. Heavy traffic messages between Jibuti and Vichy which offering threats and rewards alternatively.

Portuguese Colonies. Latest U-Boat activity Mozambique Channel rose peak end November with 5 sinkings in 6 days. This activity accompanied by usual reports which almost impossible confirm of U-Boats sheltering nightly creeks near Inhambane North East of Lourenco Marques. Significant that officer of U-Boat which torpedoed Greek ship 20th November revealed extensive knowledge shipping from Mozambique Ports while interrogating survivors. Portuguese endeavouring remedy situation with coast watchers and tighter control foreigners but agents of Axis Consulates and

(section indecipherable)

jubilation among Portuguese especially Angola. Army expansion plans both colonies going ahead at least on paper and Mozambiques establishment of 12 Native Cacadores Companies now exceeded as 13th identified and two more inconformly reported in existence while new barracks going up in Angola. But morale and stamina of troops low.

Madagascar / ...

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.

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

Madagascar. Events Toulon resulted in immediate requests

many P.W's including entire aviation personnel to join

Allies but vanity certain senior officers notably Col. Metras

former Chief Staff seems main factor their objecting

Frenchmen rallying De Gaulle. Among pro Vichy functionaries

existence secret society "Honneur Francais" reported

directed against "Freemasons and Communists". Closing

Petainist Legion gave general satisfaction.

Ethiopia. Two Platoons 3rd. Bn. Ethiopian Army now withdrawn

from Kenya frontier at request Ethiopian authorities and

reported 15th December they clashed with Shifta on return to

Neghelli. Band 10 Italians with 80 Somalis reported South

West Giggiga probably Col. Francoschini escaped P.W. who attempted

organise Italian irregular band Harar area July at time Rommels

advance and since been hiding in bush. Ethiopian declaration

war Germany Japan interpreted as showing vanishing doubts

about Allied Victory and desire to make demands at time of peace

Relief British success mingled with chagrin that Britain

may now prove intractable in bargaining. Galla in South

West despondent as since departure British Administration they

hoping Italian return. Events caused rise shilling which 16

lire mid November now rising 21. Economic depression South

and West probably result unemployment from closing Italian

enterprises as well as shortage trade goods and heavy market

taxes. This liable encourage banditry. Emperor visited Harar

26th November to 13th December. He now appears to be wooing

Ras Seyum after spell trying to reduce his influence. Evidence

old suspicions Europeans rapidly returning and more

restrictions on foreigners but this not entirely regrettable

if means remaining Italian elements will be controlled.

1130C/19.

678^D-

- 4 -

NOTE BY C.6.(TELS): Repetition of indecipherable
passage has been asked for.
Received in War Registry at 1630/20.

War Office circulation:

C.6.(Tels). To M.I.3. (for action)

M.I.2., 3, 3a, 3b, 10, 17, L.

M.OLL, 5b, 11.

Admiralty (Head of Watch War Registry)

Air Ministry (Head of A.M.C.S.)

1st Lord.
1st S.I.(2)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(UT)
Sec.
N.A.1st S.I.
P.A.S.(S)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.C.(2)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D. of P.(2)
Hd. of M. (2)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.
I.P.(2)
Admiral Blake.

I.I.

679

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - contd.9th Aus.
Div.
-Contd.29th Jan. Date will probably be governed by
readiness of NIEUWAMSTERDAM.
3. Strong escort across Indian Ocean will be
required. Speed through water cannot be less than
18 knots, as this is least speed possible for QUEEN

MARY. Further signal will be made.

4. It is proposed that convoy and escorts will refuel at Addu
Atoll. Rough estimate of requirements is as follows :Convoy 12500 tons oil fuel, 10000 tons water. Escorts 5250 tons
oil fuel, 600 tons water.5. Request following reports : (a) From C. in C.E.F. confirmation
that proposals are generally acceptable and that fuel and water can
be provided at Addu Atoll. (b) From A.C.N.B. information as to
final port of disembarkation, confirmation that onward escort from
Fremantle can be arranged, and proposals for R/V of extra
destroyers to Westward of Fremantle. (c) From C. in C. Med.,
confirmation that he is satisfied that he can make adequate
arrangements for security of these liners during loading and
assembly.6. C. in C. E.F. is requested to make detailed arrangements based
on these reports.

7. D. of S.T. agrees.

(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1537A/19 to C. in C. E.F.
A.C.N.B., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Middle East)
Code name for movement in my 1537/19 is to be "Pamphlet".

(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1558A/19) [Reply: 16342/21 - HUSH]

STIRLING
CASTLE.Your 0412/19. (N.T. in W.R.) STIRLING CASTLE
arrived Bombay in convoy W.S. 24 B. on 17th Dec.
Ship leaves Bombay on 23rd Dec. for Capetown.
(C. in C.S.A., 1715/19 to A.C.N.B.)

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U/B. Intercept at 0027 G.M.T. from S. Juan Puerto Rico Radio. Sub reported 2 miles West Pelican Islet Barbados at 2023 G.M.T. (Port Patrick Radio, 0127/19 to Admty., etc.)

O.N.Convoys 19th Dec. O.N.152 (E) 053° 10' 034° 30' hove to. hove to. O.N.153 049° 45' 029° 35', hove to. (Connav, 0154/19 to All U.S. & Canadian Escort Units at Sea, etc.)

Connav's 0154/19th. Fuel situation will not permit junction with O.N.153. Am returning to St. Johns N.F. P.C. and S. at 1100Z/19th 048° 30' N. 040° 45' W. 263°, 6 knots. Weather report. (ROXBOROUGH, 1000Z/19 to C.T.F.24, Mid Ocean Task Unit 24.1.5, WANDERER, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.) D/F bearings on 10510 k/cs at 1225Z indicate U-Boat may have reported convoy. (D.D.I.C., 1405/19 to Escorts O.N.153, C. in C. W.A., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

4 U.S. Ships My 1430/18th. Connav has now instructed Port Director to route these ships to U.K. in H.X.220. for North Russia. (N.S.H.Q., 0350Z/19th to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., A.C.I.C., B.R.L.O. New York.) Your 1430/18. These ships may be included in H.X.220. 2. They will probably be required to proceed direct to Loch Ewe and should be given relevant instructions for coastal route and approaches. (D.T.D., 1606A/19 to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., etc.)

LINCOLN. LINCOLN delayed by anti-submarine defects sailed St. Johns N.F. 0330/19th. (F.O.N.F., 0359Z/19 to C. Mid Ocean Escort T.U. 24.1.13, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. W.A., etc.)

L.S.Ts. Baltimore, sailed for Norfolk for D/G 26 and ammunition 1230/18, L.S.T.402. Norfolk, arrived 1600/17, L.S.T. 302. (N.S.H.Q., 0550Z/19 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C.)

Movements 1800 G.M.T. 19th December.
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed
~~3-10/19 671, 672, 676~~ HOLCOMBE 15° N. 29° W. 270° 14½
 PHOEBE }
 BRIDGEWATER } 05½° S. 28° W. 250° 10½
 ARMERIA }
 (D.O.D.(F), 1000Z/19 to Opanav, (R) Connaveu.)

/Fast ...

680A

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
0339/19th Dec
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

To N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Date 19-12-42
Repeated B.A.D. Washington

NAV J. CYPHER XD

From Director of Sea Transport.
IMPORTANT

Your 2041/14 and further to my 0409/12 not to B.A.D. Washington. Following are anticipated sailings of troopships ex North America for U.K. except for A.T. Convoys i.e. QUEENS, ANDES, and EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.

2. Ship. Approx. dates of Readiness to sail from New York.

RANGITATA	26/12
BANFORA	28/12
MORETON BAY	31/12
THYSVILLE	End December
CHANTILLY	Early January
TAMAROA	Early January
CAPETOWN CASTLE	Mid January
LARGS BAY	Mid January
HIGHLAND MONARCH	Late January
ATHLONE CASTLE	Early February
STIRLING CASTLE	Early February

ATLANTIS is a hospital ship but is not repetition not now proceeding to North America. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND is being used instead, sailing U.K 30/12 for North America filled to capacity with U.S and Canadian invalids.

- 3. A.M. 1929/42/11 applies regarding inclusion of these ships in H.X. convoys as necessary.
- 4. You and B.A.D Washington will be advised of accommodation available from North America. Allocation thereof will be for arrangement between O.G.S. Ottawa, B.A.S. Washington, N.S.H.Q Ottawa and B.A.D. Washington.
- 5. Most of the signals on this subject have been routed through military channels primarily for convenience sake in economising in signal traffic. They are all made in collaboration with D of S.T. and this is indicated by word "agreed" at the end of the message or by prefix "from D. Movements and D. of S.T". Article 13 of Instructions for S.T.O's applies.
- 6. Presume these messages which should be treated as from D of S.T are passed to you but request confirmation.

/Request.

680^B-

7. Request also confirmation that notification of intended troopship sailings through this channel will be satisfactory to you and Canadian military authorities.

8. Agreed.

0339A/19

Director of Sea Transport
(M.W.T. Ext. 2186)

- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.S
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- 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)
- Ad. Blake
- U.S.N. (3)
- M.D.G

CL.

681

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- Fast Tankers for "Torch" Area. Your 0147/18 (? 0145/18 intended). Tanker positions are numbered and lettered West to East which conforms with established practice for detaching southbound ships and see my 1831/12 para. 2.
2. Check my 1805/13 number 6.PV number 14.PC omit PI.
(D.T.D., 1105A/19 to B.A.D.)
- VICTORIOUS, RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT. Admiralty's 2137A/18, para. 2 (re sailing of VICTORIOUS escorted by RACEHORSE, QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT). Onward route from Bermuda to Hampton Roads will be given by Navy Dept.
(B.A.D., 1405Z/19 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) Admty.)
- MAURETANIA. Your 1148/5. Request E.T.A. San Francisco of MAURETANIA. Port Director and Ministry of War Transport require information to make advance docking arrangements.
(N.S.H.Q., 1405Z/19 to N.Z.N.B., (R) B.A.D., Admty. D. of S.T.)
- L.C.I.(L)s LARIAT. My 1537/18 (re LARIAT and L.C.I.(L)s waiting for favourable weather). L.C.I.(L)s and LARIAT sailed at 0800Z/19.
(B.A.D., 1407Z/19 to S.B.N.O.W.A., (R) N.C.X.F., Admty., V.A. Gibraltar.)
- L.C.I. (L) Convoy routed to Plymouth. Amended my 1920/8 from (G) 030° 02' 027° 01' to new point (U) 041° 15' 021° 30'. (V) 050° 05' 014° 10'. (W) 049° 47' 006° 24'. Cancel position (H). V.A. Gibraltar is requested to issue necessary orders detaching LARIAT.
(Connav, 1516/19 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, V.A.C.N.A., C. in C. Lant, Admty., N.S.H.Q.)
- MARIPOSA. SS. MARIPOSA designated A (corrupt group) 10 carrying troops expected ready to sail Norfolk for Suez, Dec. 20th via Rio de Janeiro for fuel and water. Ship will be routed well clear of Cape of Good Hope and to eastward of Madagascar. U.S. N.A. Rio de Janeiro and U.S.N.O.B. Suez informed.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1456/19 to Cdr. E.S.F., (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Comsolantfor, Com.5, Admty., N.O.B., Bermuda, F.O.C.W.Af., U.S.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, U.S.N.O.B. Suez, C. in C. S.A.)
- U/B Positions. S/M Estimate Dec. 19th and U.S. Submarine Notice. (Cominch, 1539/19, 1540/19, 1610/19, 1611/19, 1612/19.)

/Fuelling ...

War Diary.

19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Fuelling
at Sea
of Escort
Groups.

Following is Comtask 24 despatch 180309 action Connav, repeated Cinclant. (Begins). With presence of seasonal bad weather it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain effectiveness of North Atlantic Escort Groups. One of the measures which offers most immediate help is radical improvement in fuelling at sea. Some improvement noted since my 120345 of Nov. but system markedly hampered by (A) Escort tankers not being designated some convoys through lack of gear or tanker in convoy; (B) Inability of some tankers to use gear properly; (C) Actual delivery rate of fuel unacceptably below hose capacity even when gear properly hooked up. Shortcomings on part of escorts will be taken up with appropriate commands. Strongly recommend following measures be vigorously prosecuted. (Z) ? 19th:- (1) Each and every convoy to have included 1 or more designated "Escort Tankers". (2) Issuance of most suitable available gear to tankers pending availability of gear outlined in Admiralty 1319A/21st. (3) Issuance of suitable printed instructions to tankers. (4) Standard (? method of) facilitating instructions to tankers by sailing authorities. (5) Consideration be given to feasibility of augmenting escort tanker crews by naval personnel to permit more effective handling of gear. (6) Impressing of all concerned with vital importance of fuelling operations to safety of convoy.
(Connav, 1612/19 to C.E.S.F., Admty.)

H.X.217. Arrived Oversay 0300/13. EMPIRE SPENCER torpedoed sunk night 7th/8th. CHARLES L.D. torpedoed sunk night 8th/9th.
Persistent U/B attacks.
Remainder arrived except JAMES MACKAY which lost convoy at commencement and proceeded independently.
(D.T.D., 1710A/19 to Connav, (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C.)

TRURO. When weather permits proceed independently to St. Johns Newfoundland.
(C. Western Local Escort Task Unit 24.18.6, 1740Z/19 to TRURO (2 groups missed), F.O.N.F., C.T.24.)

SKEENA. My P.C. and S. at 1800, 051° 34' 036° 49' S. 250° 7.5 proceeding St. Johns. Weather report.
(SKEENA, 1801Z/19 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, etc.)

N.G.S.1. Your 1817/17 and Connav 1856/17 (N.T. in W.D.) It is assumed that N.G. Special 1, is routed via Aruba and Curacao. 2. North African stock position requires sailing of HAVELOCK convoy from

/(Tanker ...

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - *Let/F.*

- N.G.S. 1. (Contd.) (Tanker message) Trinidad to be advanced and it seems practicable to sail this convoy on 28th Dec. provided N.G. Special 1 is now ordered direct to Trinidad. This change would not prejudice chances of PAN MARYLAND and NORLYS inclusion in H.X.223 for U.K. 3. Request you will seek early concurrence and necessary action from Connav. (D.T.D., 1841A/19 to B.A.D., (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad.) Reply: 1651/20.
- A.T. 32. My 162147. A.T. 32 will sail from Halifax, others from New York. (Cominch, 1855/19 to C.E.S.F., (R) Cinclant, C.T.F.24, Com.3, Admty., C.J.S.W., B.A.D.)
- CHAMPLAIN. Tug CHAMPLAIN ashore near Lawn Bay, Burin Peninsula, Newfoundland. Further signals will follow. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1951/19 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., N.C.S.O. Montreal.)
- GEORGETOWN, (O.N.S.152) Weather deteriorating hourly, am heaving (? to) in position 49.05 45.27 considering it may be impracticable to turn later. Will proceed when weather moderates. Weather report. (GEORGETOWN, 1958Z/19 to C.T.F.24, C.T.U. 24.1.13, LINCOLN, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S. H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.) My 1958Z/19th (? proceeding) course 072° 14 knots. (GEORGETOWN, 2359Z/19 to A.I.G.302, C.T.U. 24.1.13, (R) LINCOLN.)
- WETASKIWIN. My P.C. and S. 2000, 052° 10' N. 038° 40' W. (B) 244°, 7 knots bound St. Johns N.F. Weather report. (WETASKIWIN, 2001Z/19 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)
- SACKVILLE. Proceeding St. Johns N.F. for fuel and parting company with U.S. Ship PLEIADES whose P.C. and S. is 51.33 N. 37.05 W. 195°, 7½ knots to position (F) thence to (H). Weather report. (SACKVILLE, 2005Z/19 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7, A.C.I.C., Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.13.)
- H.X.219. DUSALAWATI Pendant No. 32 has left convoy and is proceeding to St. Johns N.F. with weather damage. (HESPERUS, 2006Z/19 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

/D.W.I. ...

684

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

D.W.I. Tanker Convoys. ATTACKER, BATTLER. Your 2125Z/18. Whilst we have no desire to minimise importance of providing self-contained air escort to trans-Atlantic convoys as soon as possible, it is considered that proposed tanker convoys from D.W.I. to U.K. have a prior claim in this respect since these latter cannot be given shore based air cover throughout the greater part of their voyage and will be specially valuable convoys.

2. Subject to agreement being reached it is probable first D.W.I. - U.K. convoy will leave D.W.I. about mid February. It is intended therefore that ATTACKER should embark and operate 838 and 840 Swordfish Squadrons for this duty and should proceed to work up as soon as she is ready as arranged by you pending settlement of details for tanker convoy.

3. BATTLER should disembark 840 Squadron prior to sailing in H.X.220. She should be prepared to operate her Martlets for A/S patrols during passage.

(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 2010A/19 to B.A.D.)

TIMMINS. E.T.A. 0930Z/20th unless harbour open tonight. Off Cape Spear midnight. Escorting*TRJAN KIRSTEN and ASKOT. DAISY straggled. Have one seaman dislocated shoulder.

(TIMMINS, 2010Z/19 to F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.24, Connav, C.E.S.F.) *not in file.

Tanker Convoy, Trinidad - Gibraltar. 1. Your 1242/17. Para. A. BRITISH DOMINION (Tanker Message) is more suitable for loading required cargo and is to be included vice EMPIRE COLERIDGE.

Para. B.2. GULF DISC is not available.

2. Your 1242/17. You should keep at your disposal all vessels mentioned in my 2222/15 paras. 2 and 3 except ORWELL until you are satisfied that special convoy will leave Trinidad 9 strong.

3. As soon as you are satisfied on this point the surplus tankers should be loaded and sailed in accordance with instructions previously sent.

(D.T.D., 2015A/19 to S.B.N.O. Trinidad, (R) B.R.L.O. Curacao, B.R.L.O. Aruba.)

MONTGOMERY, defects. E.T.A. 1500Z/20th. Unless weather moderates P.C. and S. at 2000Z/19th 043° (50'?) N. 061° (36'?) W. 29°, 5 knots. Boiler hours. Flap poises of main inlet lever and bracket down. Hull leaks. Soillable pipes choked, steam joint leaking.

(MONTGOMERY, 2020Z/19 to C.O.A.C., (R) D. Halifax.)

B.24s. J.S.M.585, 19th Dec. 1942. Following is text of telegram No. 2146 from Algiers (begins):- "In accordance with urgent recommendation from Usfor London have agreed that all A.S.V. equipped B.24s will continue to operate from U.K. bases unless there is some change in submarine situation. This message supersedes our number 1703 1457Z/11". (Not received in W.R.) (Ends). (J.S.M. Washington, 2021Z/19 to War Cabinet Offices London.)

/CALDWELL ...

685

War Diary.19.12.1942.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.CALDWELL,
TENACITY,
WASAGA.

CALDWELL reports P.C.S. 2000/19 49.00 N. 42.00 W. 265°, 6 knots. Insufficient fuel to reach St. Johns, requests assistance. Rescue tug TENACITY escorted by WASAGA sent to assist.
(F.O.N.F., 2046Z/19 to C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., Cominch, C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Completion
of Corvettes.

Numbers and estimated completion dates of 6 T.S. Corvettes and 7 revised S.S. Corvettes allocated to U.K. are as follows:-
(A) T.S. Corvettes. C.N.336 April 43, 337 May 43, 338 May 43, 339 June 43, 340 July 43, 341 August 43.
(B) Revised S.S. Corvettes. C.N.306 April 43, 308 April 43, 309 April 43, 315 May 43, 316 April 43, 317 May 43, 318 May 43.
Repeated to B.A.D.
(B.A.T.M. Ottawa, 2050/19 to Admty.)

BANFORA,
CAPETOWN
CASTLE.

D. of S.T. 0339/19 para. 2.
Request confirmation sailing dates from New York of BANFORA and CAPETOWN CASTLE due New York 27th Dec. and 1st Jan. respectively.
(2) Ref. para. (3) assume BANFORA will sail in H.X. convoy but if CAPETOWN CASTLE 18 - 19 knots is to sail independently Army Authorities request details of life-saving capacity and total number of personnel including crew to be carried. My 1540/5 and 2054/7 re ANDES refer.
(N.S.H.Q., 2050Z/19 to B.A.D., (R) D. of S.T.)

Sub attack
and sighting
summary.

Para. B. P.C.480 attacks propeller and sound contact 35.27 N. 16.24 W. 1917Z/11 November. Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. from Cominch.
Para. C. P.C.480 attacks sound contact 34.51 N. 13.20 W. 1240Z/23 November.
U.S.S. SURPRISE attacks propeller and sound contact 16.38 N. 73.29 W. 1517Z/30 November.
aircraft attacks submerging sub 34.14 N. Tap - 04 W. 1330Z/5.
M/V sights sub 06.35 S. 34.40 W. 1925Z/18.
Harbour Patrol Launch sights sub 13.06 N. 59.40 W. 2023Z/18.
N.S.H.Q. has for information.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2110Z/19 to Admty.)

M.T.Bs.

Baltimore, arrived 2200Z/18, H.M. M.T.B. 334, 336, 337, and* 342, for fuel on passage Trinidad to New York.
(N.S.H.Q., 2145Z/19 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.) * See p. 507

/Attacks ...

686

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Attacks on U/Bs. Admiralty pass* to N.C.X.F. and C. in C. Med. for information. Re Operation "Torch". Am proceeding on assumption Admiralty will assess attacks on U-Boat made by U.S. Ships and planes.

Action reports received by C. in C. E.F. being forwarded Admiralty.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2147/19 to Admty. for information, C. in C. Med., N.C.X.F., C.T.30.)
* Passing action being taken by W.R.

S.C.114. Escorting oiler ROSEWOOD. BRITISH GOVERNOR and BRITISH FREEDOM also sailing and nominated for standby duties, being unable to maintain speed for H.X. convoy.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 2201/19 to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)

SCEBELI, collision. Following has been received from ZIWA (BPBB SCEBELI) 2221 G.M.T. intercept from WSL (begins). S O S. Have made collision with a tanker, position at 2100 G.M.T. 38.33 N. 58.38 W. course 86° speed 13 knots, time of reception 2217 G.M.T. (Ends.) Ship apparently working WSL on 36 metres unheard here sending S O S but heard ship on 500 k/cs at 2243 requesting WSL listen 36 metres, too weak for bearing. WSL controlling.
(Halifax N.S., 2217/19 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals, Port Moresby, 17th, WARREGO. Brisbane, 18th, ROCKHAMPTON, TOWNSVILLE, BUNGAREE. Sydney (N.S.W.), 17th, KAPUNDA from escort duty.

Departures, Port Moresby, 18th, WARREGO, for Townsville. Melbourne, 17th, ACHILLES for Noumea. Brisbane, 17th, U.S. Destroyer*HOPKINS, U.S. Destroyer*GRAYSON for Wellington. Fremantle, 18th, U.S. Seaplane Tender WILLIAM B. PRESTON for Exmouth Gulf. # See next page (A.C.N.B., 0351Z/19 to Admty., etc.)

Arrival, 18th Dec. Brisbane, U.S. Transport TRYON, Dutch Naval stores ship SOEDOE. Townsville, R.A.A.F. store ship WANAKA. U.S. Transport VANDER LIJN, U.S. (? Transport) BONTEKOE, depart Bowen 18th, due Port Alma 24th. U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ depart, Townsville 17th, arrived Port Alma 18th. (A.C.N.B., 1358Z/19 to Connav, Admty.)

Departure, Newcastle, 19th, ABRAHAM GRIJNSSSEN on escort duties. Thursday Is., 19th, WILCANNIA for Darwin. Brisbane, 19th, ROCKHAMPTON, SANDPIPES (? BUNGAREE intended), TOWNSVILLE, for Sydney N.S.W. Sydney N.S.W., 19th, U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD for R/V. # 614

Arrival, Thursday Island, 19th, ISALGOURLIE (KALGOORLIE intended). Cairns, 19th, SWAN. Brisbane, 19th, U.S. Destroyer O'BANNON and U.S. Destroyer SOUTHARD. (A.C.N.B. 1426Z/19 to Admty., etc.)

/Situation ...

19.12.1942.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Situation. Digest Serial No. 331, Dec. 18th.
Convoy 1 light cruiser, 1 large destroyer or light cruiser, 3 destroyers, 2 large merchant vessels with troops on deck observed by air R/C between Hermit and Admiralty Islands morning 18th heading south. Convoy attacked by Fortresses off mouth Sepik River during afternoon, nil hits on shipping. Interception by six Zeros acting as cover. One Zero destroyed, 1 other probable, 2 Fortresses damaged. Convoy again attacked during evening off Karkar Island by strong forces Liberators scoring several direct hits on light cruiser causing three explosions including probably magazine. This vessel last observed off Madang in sinking condition with one destroyer standing by. Remainder of convoy observed anchored off Madang near midnight.

(2) One cruiser, 3 destroyers reported off Wewak same day.
(3) Two destroyers or 1 light cruiser and destroyer also reported entering Finschhafen night 18th/19th and 2 warships anchored off West Coast Willisumez Peninsula.
(4) Seven enemy bombers attacked Dobodura in 3 flights night 17th without effect.
(5) Two destroyers 4 merchant vessels including 1 tanker observed Buin Shortlands area morning 18th where shore batteries reported established.
(6) One destroyer 1 merchant vessel arrived Buka Passage same morning. One destroyer 1 tanker observed East of Passage during afternoon course North.
(7) Vigorous patrol activity continues Buna Government Station Area. Australian troops supported by tanks captured enemy positions Cape Endaiadore morning 18th but strong enemy resistance continues Eastern end new air strip. Our troops continue to close in on remaining enemy pocket Amboga area. 196 Japanese buried west of Gona since Dec. 11th.
(8) Three Bostons attacked Sanana Area and reported nil sightings Kumusi Mambare areas.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 1035Z/19 to Admty., etc.)

U.S. Transports. Brisbane 17th Dec. (?) U.S. Transports PRESIDENT JACKSON, CRESCENT CITY, PRESIDENT ADAMS, PRESIDENT HAYES, 24 Wellington 0530Z/22nd Dec. Knots 14.5. Section 2. A 027° 05' S. 155° 05' E. B 028° 48' S. 161° 20' E. C 036° 55' S. 170° 10' E. D 039° 58' S. 173° 38' E. E 040° 38' S. 174° 07' E. Escorted by U.S. Destroyers HOPKINS, GRAYSON. *see previous page*
(A.C.N.B., 1304Z/19 to Admty., Connav.)

AQUITANIA H.T. AQUITANIA escorted by ADELAIDE and VAN GALEN arrived Fremantle.
(Cdre. Western Australia, 2229Z/19 to A.C.N.B., (R) Admty., N.Z.N.B., Comsowestpac Unit.)

War Diary.

19.12.1942.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Approx. positions.
(D.D.I.C., 1347/19, 1350A/19.)

689

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

VICTORIOUS escorted by 3 Destroyers left the Clyde at 1726A/today for Bermuda and Hampton Roads.

3 Merchant Ships which returned to the Clyde on 18th December from Convoy K.M.S.5 with heavy weather damage were found on arrival to have cased petrol loose in their holds and in some cases as much as nine feet of petrol there. N.O.I.C.Greenock requests than an early order should be issued by Admty calling attention to the danger of such conditions if degaussing circuits are switched on, and asks that the present methods of stowing cased petrol may be re-considered.

About 12 enemy A/C crossed the coast between Flamborough and Hornsea tonight. Two or three of these visited Hull where flares were dropped and some incidents reported, and it is thought possible that some mines may have been dropped in Bridlington Bay and between 17 and 62F Buoys.

North Atlantic.

OS/SL
Convoys.

Arrangements are being made for early resumption of O.S. and S.L.convoys. For safeguarding these convoys and for the safety of ships detached from "Torch" convoys for passage to Freetown the first assential is to establish air cover from the Gibraltar area to Freetown. The suggested arrangements are in A.M. 0146A/20. It is particularly desired to send 4 ships carrying aircraft to Freetown, sailing about December 25th.

South Atlantic.

Shipping
Allocation.

To deal as effectively as possible with the large number of vessels now entering ports in South and East Africa, and to prevent congestion, the Union Govt. have decided, with

/the

690

20.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic - Contd.Shipping
Allocation
Contd.

the concurrence of the U.K.Govt., to set up a Ports Allocation Executive at Capetown. Its constitution and duties are described in an Admty. telegram today.

STAR OF
SCOTLAND.

Survivors of the U.S.sailing ship STAR OF SCOTLAND have been brought to Capetown by the Portuguese SS. JOAO BELO, and report that their ship was sunk by U/Boat on 13th November in 26.30 S. 00.20 E. The Master sailed the lifeboat to Cap Martha, taking 19 days.

Mediterranean.Air
Operations.

4 Marauders mined the approaches to La Goulette Harbour last night.

French
Air Patrols.

N.C.X.F. reported today that French Latecoere float planes will shortly be operating on local A/S patrols in the Oran sector within 50 miles of the African Coast between 02.13 W. and 01.20 E.

Benghazi
Raid.

SEKSERN and HAILSTORM, Minesweeping whalers, were near missed when about 10 enemy A/C raided Benghazi p.m.today.

America & West Indies.Attacks on
O.N.153.

SUNFLOWER reported at 2018Z that O.N.153 had been attacked in 47.20 N. 33.00 W. in a strong gale, and requested immediate support. OTINA, British tanker, 6217 tons, was torpedoed, and at 2110 she reported she was sinking and gave her position as 47.40 N, 33.06 W.

BURLINGTON, minesweeper, reported at 2250Z she was sheltering to leeward of Magdalen Island, that she was very heavily iced, listing badly, and difficult to handle.

CALDWELL, destroyer, in distress from weather damage on the 18th, was in approx. 49.15 N.

/50° W...

War Diary.

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies - Contd.

50° W. at 1500Z, but unable to make much headway against the sea and swell. WANDERER at 2200Z reported she was proceeding to her assistance.

B.5.Group.

WARWICK, BUTTERCUP and COLUMBINE, of B.5.Escort Group, (based at New York from September 1, 1942) were ordered today to leave there at 0600Q for St. Johns N.F. as escort with convoy H.X.220. On arrival at St. Johns they are to report for duty under C.T.F.24. On leaving his command, Commander, Eastern Sea Frontier, expressed appreciation for duty well done.

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of the U.K.

Clyde. My 1325/3rd October.
 Smoke Information was received p.m. 19th December from
 protection Military authorities Glasgow area that the smoke
 scheme. protection scheme on river Clyde has been with-
 drawn as from 17th December. It is further
 (? understood) Haslars are being de-fuelled and
 packed and that personnel have been sent on draft leave.
 In view of (a) the great importance of (? installations)
 (b) the strong reasons which I have advanced from time to time
 for the extension of smoke scheme (c) the depleted anti-
 aircraft gun defences of this area and (d) the heavy con-
 struction and repair programmes in hand here it is submitted
 that immediate consideration may be given to retention of the
 scheme and if possible its extension as envisaged in my 1325/3rd
 October. There is no question that smoke protection was of
 great value in shielding both Admiralty Oil Fuel installations
 and shipyards during May 1941 attacks. Comparison with effects
 of attacks in March when there was no smoke proves this fact.
 There have been no discussions regarding this withdrawal of
 Clydebank (? air screening) here.
 (N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 2305/20 to Admty.)

Movements.

SHARPSHOOTER. Scapa arrival SHARPSHOOTER.
 (A.C.O.S., 0926A/20 to A.C.I.C.)

OBDURATE, Sail at 1600 tomorrow and proceed by standard route
 ORIBI, to Scapa adjusting speed to arrive at 0900/22nd.
 OBEDIENT. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1007/20 to OBDURATE.)
 ORIBI with OBEDIENT proceed passing Switha 0500A/
 22 to R/V with OBDURATE in 000° Dunnet Head 2 at
 0600A/22.
 (2) When met proceed in company to Seidisfjord routed through
 062° 25' N. 004° 55' W., 066° 15' N. 012° 20' W., thence by
 Q.Z.A. 51 and 52.
 (4) On arrival complete and act as ordered by Capt. (D) 17th
 Des. Flotilla.
 (Commodore D, 1341A/20 to ORIBI, OBEDIENT.)

OPPORTUNE, OPPORTUNE, MATCHLESS sailed from Seidisfjord at
 MATCHLESS. 0510/20.
 (A.C.I.C., 1035A/20 to C. in C. H.F., S.O. Force
 R.)

AJAX. After carrying out practices a.m. 21st proceed in
 accordance with C. in C. H.F. 1841A/18.
 (? C.S.1, 1040A/20 to AJAX.)
 C. in C. H.F. 1841/18. Intend sailing passing Hoxa Gate 0930/21
 carrying out firings on passage. E.T.A. 0830/22,
 (AJAX, 1645/20 to C.S.1, N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/RHODODENDRON ...

693

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

RHODODENDRON, Intend sailing RHODODENDRON and HYDERABAD at
HYDERABAD. 1400A today for Loch Ewe to comply with para.
(B) of C. in C. W.A. 1638/3. E.T.A. 1500A/21.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1046A/20.)

Sailed HYDERABAD in accordance with my 1046A/20. E.T.A.
1600A/21. RHODODENDRON delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1646A/20 to N.O.I.C. Loch Ewe.)

BLACKFISH, Sailed STARWORT escorting SHAD and BLACKFISH in
SHAD. accordance with Comsubron's 2115A/18.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1106A/20.) *See next page 4*

LEAMINGTON. Cmdre. Londonderry's 1255/17.

See p. 697
1. LEAMINGTON has been diverted to derelict
ship.
2. Amended orders are as follows: A. Fuel permitting proceed
to Reykjavik forthwith. B. Otherwise abandon search p.m. 20th
and proceed Loch Ewe for fuel; thence at best speed to Reykjavik.
(C. in C. W.A., 1142Z/20.)

Your 1142Z/20. Insufficient fuel remaining to reach
Iceland. Am proceeding (? Loch Ewe), E.T.A. 1000A/21, thence
Hvalfjord.

(LEAMINGTON, 1616A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

LEAMINGTON E.T.A. Loch Ewe 1000A/21. Request you sail
her as soon as possible after fuelling in accordance with my
1142Z/20.

(C. in C. W.A., 1833A/20 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

S/M At 0800A/21. Details.
Positions. (F.O.S., 1151A/20, 1551A/20.)
See Lion Copy. *next page 4 p. 693B.*

W.A. Situation at 2003A/20. Details.
Command. (C. in C. W.A., 1358A/20.)
See Lion Copy. *p. 693 D & E.*

DOLFIJN. Request you will sail DOLFIJN so as to part
company with escort in position 000° Round Island
Scilly Isles 7 miles at 1800/24. Thence by
route "Blue" to 043° N. for onward passage to Gibraltar as
ordered by V.A. Gibraltar.
(F.O.S., 1431A/20 to Capt. S.3.)

VICTORIOUS. My 1036A/19. All times delayed 24 hours.
(VICTORIOUS, 1611A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 1554/18 and 1534/19. Sailed 24 hours late.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1724A/20 to 13 Group.)
Sailed VICTORIOUS, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT and QUICKMATCH passing
through position (a) at 2100A/20 thence in accordance with A.M.
2137A/18. Codeword "Princess". Speed of advance 14 knots to
Bermuda. E.T.A. 1600Z/29 thence S.O.A. 19 knots, E.T.A. Hampton
Roads 1500Z/31.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1726A/20.)

/PORPOISE ...

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.

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

1151A/20th December

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

From F.O.S. Date 20.12.42.

Reed. 1500.

NAVAL CODE (0.1) SECRET BY T/P

Addressed Submarines operating S. of 51 degs. North Repeated Ships and Authorities in Combined Exercises, C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., Captain (S) 5, Captain (S) 3.

Estimated position of submarines at 0800A/21st

(A) BARB 043 degs. 01' North 010 degs. 30' West diving by day to patrol off Vigo.

(B) HERRING on patrol in zone K 505.

(C) GURNARD 044 degs. 11' North 012 degs. 01' West diving by day routed as in my 1547/19th December.

(D) H.M.S. P.615 050 degs. 10' North 011 degs. 36' West diving by day through 050 degs. 10' North 012 degs. 40' West 049 degs. 10' North 013 degs. 50' West due 043 degs. 00' North 013 degs. 50' at 0200 25th.

(E) H.M.S. PORPOISE 049 degs. 50' North 009 degs. 30' West dived by day through 049 degs. 50' North 009 degs. 00' West 180 degs. Bishop Rock 10 miles to R/V 180 degs. Lizard Head 12 miles. H.M.S. PORPOISE is not repetition not to cross 008 degs. West before 2300 21st and is to proceed on surface to R/V during daylight 22nd. Total bombing restrictions arranged.

(F) U.S.S. SHAD and U.S.S. BLACKFISH escorted by H.M.S. STARWORT vicinity Hartland Point due 000 degs. Round Island Scilly Isles 7 miles at 1800 21st thence unescorted diving by day through

*See previous page
p.693B
also p.697*

(i) U.S.S. SHAD 049 degs. 10' North 009 degs. 01' West 049 degs. 10' North 012 degs. 26' West 044 degs. 50' North 012 degs. 26' West thence zone K 502.

30' N *

(ii) BLACKFISH 049 degs. ~~(correct group)~~ North 009 degs. 01' West 049 degs. 30' North 012 degs. 26' West 049 degs. 10' North 012 degs. 54' West 044 degs. 30' North 012 degs. 54' West thence patrol in zone K 501.

These two submarines proceed at 15 knots during night of 21st/22nd then estimated advance 200 miles per 24 hours.

* F.O.S. is sending correction. 1151A/20

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

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|
| A.C.N.S.(H). | D.O.D.(F).(2). | D. of P.(2). | |
| N.A. 1st S.L. | D.D.O.D.(M). | D.A/S.W. | W.D. |
| Captain Pir. | Duty Captain (2). | D.T.D.(M). | I.P.(2). |
| D.O.D.(H) (2). | D.D.I.C.(2). | Head of M. | U.S.N.(3). |

693B

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.

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

1551A/20 December.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE In
From F.O.S. Date 20. 12.42.
Received 1616.

P/L BY T/P

Addressed Admiralty.

354. Positions of submarines at 0800/21 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) P.339., P.223, SOKOL, TORBAY, on patrol in Norwegian waters east of 20 degs east.

(B) H.44, escorted by Z.5. leaves Rothesay 1900/21st due Lough Foyle 0900/22nd.

(C) H.33, escorted by Z.5. leaves Lough Foyle 0900/22nd due Rothesay 2300/22nd.

(D) P.312, and GRAPH, escorted by LORD AUSTIN leave Clyde 1300/21st through Minches and west of Orkneys due Lerwick 0900 23rd speed 11 knots.

(E) P.216, SEALION, and O.14, escorted by NORTHERN PRIDE leave Clyde 1305/21st through Minches and west of Orkneys due Lerwick 1600 23rd speed 9½ knots.

(F) SHAD and BLACKFISH escorted by STARWORT vicinity Hartland Point due R/V in 250 degs Trevose Head 10 miles at 1130 21st for exercise with aircraft then proceed to be in 360 degs round Island Scillies 7 miles at 1800 21st thence dived by day through.

2-10/10
693A9
694

(1) SHAD 49 degs 10' N 09 degs 00' W and 49 degs 10' N 12 degs 26' W.

(2) BLACKFISH 49 degs 30' N 09 degs 01' W and 49 degs 30' N 12 degs 26' W.

These two submarines proceed at 15 knots during night of 21st/22nd then estimated advance 200 miles for 24 hours.

pp. 693 & 693A

(G).....

C. C.
693

-2-

(G) PORPOISE 49 degs 50' N 09 degs 30' W routed through 49 degs 50' N 09 degs 01' W 180 degs Bishop Rock 10 miles to rendezvous in daylight on 22nd December with escort in 180 degs Lizard Head 12 miles. PORPOISE proceeds dived by day on 21st December and on the surface on 22nd December.

See pp. 693A & 694

1551A/20. and 1713A/20.

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

BIW

MOST SECRET

693D

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.)

1358A/20th December

MOST SECRET MESSAGE IN

DATE: 20.12.42.
RECD: 2020

FROM: C. in C. Western Approaches.

Secret Code

ADDRESSED: Admiralty.

Situation at 2003A/20/12.

<u>Section N.E.</u>							
Floating Dock and Tug.	STOKE CITY	57	24	06	59	To Oban	5
S.D.35	LANCASTER WELLS	60	42	05	11	To 59 01 05 20 thence via Minches to Clyde.	16
W.N.74	VALETA	58	05	05	37	To Methil	8
R.U.53	COTILLION ESCORTED	57	16	07	02	Southbound	7
<u>Section S.E.</u>							
Floating Dock and Tug.	STOKE CITY	57	24	06	59	To Oban	5
U.S.S. S/M BLACKFISH	STARWORT	54	00	05	12	To vicinity Trevose Head	14
U.S.S. S/M SHAD.		55	02	05	38	To Liverpool	6
Tug and Tow		54	05	04	58	To Clyde	6
Tug and B.P.T.		53	21	05	14	To Liverpool	6 ^{1/2}
H.X.B.218	MOLDE	55	48	03	30	To 56 15 15 02	6
O.N.155	FAME						
C.T.U.24.1.4.	BURZA						
	EGLANTINE						
	VERVAIN						
	ACANTHUS						
	KINGCUP						
Convoy H.M.84	NORTHERN SKY	52	12	05	18	Northbound	9
	MAID MARION	52	53	05	04	To Milford Haven	8
	DAMSAY						
1 M/V B.B.47	WENSLEYDALE	53	34	05	14	Southbound	15 ^{1/2}
	FOXTROT	54	39	05	24	To Bristol Channel.	8
	KINGSTON BERYL.						
	UNESCORTED					ROSEMARY joins at 0500A/21. Sails Clyde 270° Oversay 6 miles.	22
T.A.31	UNESCORTED					To St. George's Channel	9
KK.7A	UNESCORTED	55	12	05	18	To Loch Ewe	11
		55	17	05	52		
RHODODENDRON							
HYDERABAD							

/Section N.W.

693 E

2.

Section N.W.

LEAMINGTON
NORTHERN SUN
VASCAMA
CAPE PALLISER
1 Tug.
FORESTER
S.C.L.112
C.T.U.
24.6.4.(E)

Searching vicinity of
58 46 12 41

LEARY (U.S.S.)
BABBITT (U.S.S.)
CELANDINE
BRANDON
AMHERST

60 05 11 00 To Hvalfjord 21
59 28 25 14 To Reykjavik 9

Section S.W.

SCIMITAR
SHIKARI
S.C.112
C.T.U.
24.1.14

CHURCHILL
RESTIGOUCHE
SHERBROOKE
COLLINGWOOD
U.S.S. INGHAM
U.S.S. SCHENCK

56 15 17 38 Westbound to 12
S.C.112
To 56 26 08 28 7

O.N.S.154
C.T.U.
24.1.11

ST. LAURENT
BATTLEFORD
CHILLIWAK
SHEDIAC
KENOGAMI
NAPANEE
QUILLIAM
CARNARVON

55 02 11 13 To 52 28 19 58 4

W.S.25

CASTLE
CHESHIRE
ROCKWOOD
BADSWORTH
WOLVERINE
HAYDON

49 53 20 49 To 45 00 24 00 10

K.M.S.5.

LONDONDERRY
4 SLOOPS
6 CORVETTES
BALUCHISTAN

42 36 16 53 To 39 50 17 01 6

M.K.F.4Y

SPEY
ROTHER

45 56 15 50 To 49 18 15 32 10

M.K.S.3Y

KRAKOWIAK
PALOMARES
4 DESTROYERS
1 CORVETTE.

50 54 13 17 To 51 02 12 58 7
thence 180°
Fastnet 10'

1358A/20

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(UT)
N.A.1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.T.D.(M)
N.A. to A.C.N.S.(UT)
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.D.O.D.(M)
D. of P.(2)
D.T.D.(C)
C.C.R.T.

D.M.S.
D.N.I.(4)
Admiral Ramsey (4)
Admiral Blake.

694

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

PORPOISE.

*See pp 693A & C.*R/V with LA NANTAISE in 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 1200/22 for onward escorted surface passage to Portsmouth.
(Capt. S.5, 2301A/20 to PORPOISE.)Operations.Channel
Patrols.Weather permitting tonight **CHASSEURS** 11 (S.O.) and 14 are to patrol south of E.A5 buoy.
2. M.Ls 123 (S.O.) and 247 from Portland patrolling latitude 50° 20' N. between 001° 30' W.

and 002° 05' W.

3. Convoy P.W.266 escorted by ALBRIGHTON and S.G.B.9 leaves Needles 1700.

4. M.G.B. 317 (S.O.) and 312 pass E.A5 1800, thence on course 116° to patrol clear of Chasseur area. They return to C.2 buoy from direction 190° at 0630 and thence to Portsmouth by searched channel. Codeword "Advent".

5. M.L.347 and 9 L.C.P. leave Gate 1900 through positions E.A.5 and 165° Littlehampton 4 miles to Littlehampton returning by inshore route in daylight.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1135A/20.)

2 M.G.Bs patrolling S.E. of E.A5 buoy.

2 **CHASSEURS** patrolling near E.A.5 buoy.

2 M.Ls patrolling S. of Anvil Point.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1616A/20.)

M.Ls 137 and 139 patrolling between D and number 10 buoys.

(V.A. Dover, 1751A/20.)

Operation
V.P.Operation V.P. postponed for further 24 hours.
Boats now sail a.m. 22nd.
(A.C.O.S., 1705/20.)Exercises.BLACKFISH
and SHAD
practices.*See pp 693 &
693A & B.*Your 1501/19 confirmed. If unable to comply due to escort speed, escort will inform.
(Comsubron 50, 0401A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Comsubron's 0400A/20. Speed reduced to 8 knots owing to heavy adverse weather.
(STARWORT, 1919A/20 to F.O.S.) *See p. 677*Breakout
Exercise.
NORFOLK.NORFOLK withdrawn from patrol "White" today, and is carrying out a Breakout exercise on the way back to Hvalfjord.
(V.A.2, 1409A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Trials ...

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

Trials in Liverpool Bay. H.43. D.G.N.D.P. and H.Q.C.C. require co-operation of a S/M in the Liverpool Bay area at a very early date in connection with important trials with A.S. V.X. and M.A.D. respectively. H.43 will be ready to sail from Clyde a.m. 23rd but no escort is available. Requested escort to escort H.43 from Clyde a.m. 23rd to arrive Holyhead p.m. 24th. M.A.D. trials to commence 26th December weather permitting. S/M will require an Asdic fitted escort vessel in close attendance throughout trials. (F.O.S., 2259A/20 to C. in C. W.A.) My 2259/20. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange preliminary details with Capt. (S) 7. H.43 is required to return to Clyde as soon as practicable to continue normal A/S duties. (F.O.S., 2351A/20 to Admty., H.Q.C.C.)

Allied Air Activity.

Skagi to Greenland Patrol. My 2115/17. This patrol will not be flown today owing to weather. (A.C.I.C., 1030A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

Escort for VICTORIOUS. Aircraft A/S escort will not be provided tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A., 2223A/20 to VICTORIOUS.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C. The following has been read from D.A.R. S O S. Translation by O.I.C. German Ju.52 plane in distress in 58° 03' N. 22° 42' E. (North Foreland Radio, 1542/20.)

Humber Area. Between 1925 and 2014 about 12 aircraft crossed Hull attacked. the coast between Flamborough and Hornsea, the majority at Bridlington Bay. All approached at low height and were not, therefore, plotted until well inside searched channel. Outgoing plots were also fragmentary for the same reason. Majority of raiders only penetrated a short distance inland before turning seaward, but two or three visited Hull where flares were dropped and nine incidents have been reported. Flamborough and Bridlington were also illuminated and at the latter place a few objects were dropped just off shore. Under the circumstances the possibility of minelaying in Bridlington Bay and between 17 and 62F buoy cannot be excluded. (F.O.I.C. Humber, 2257A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Bridlington Bay. Possible minelaying on 20th December.
See Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland. Your 1812/20th. Proposal approved. If weather unsuitable for completing southern portion tomorrow return to Hvalfjord.
(A.C.I.C., 2355A/20 to M/S. 15.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Indefinite D/F bearings at 1728Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.
(D.D.I.C., 1921A/20 to Escorts of K.M.S.5.)
Indefinite D/F bearings at 2002Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 2216A/20 to Escorts of O.N.152.)

Technical.

Stowage of Cased Petrol. Three ships SS. EMPIRE HUNTER, EMPIRE SUNBEAM, and NOVELG returned to Clyde on December 18th from Convoy K.M.S.5 with heavy weather damage. All three ships carried cased petrol which was found to be loose in the hold. The cargo was saturated and in some cases there was as much as nine feet of petrol in the hold.
(2) In SS. NOVELG and EMPIRE SUNBEAM degaussing circuits are fitted between decks but current was switched off as reported in my 1914A/11th December.
(3) In view of this very serious occurrence it is considered important an Admiralty order be issued at a very early date calling attention to the danger of such ships if degaussing circuits are switched on and giving Their Lordship's instructions on this matter. My 597/476 of 26th November 1942 refers.
(4) It is requested the present methods of stowing cases of petrol be reconsidered and that the attention of all concerned be drawn to the need of greater care being exercised in this matter.
(5) The dangerous nature of the work involved in these ships in disposing of the petrol and cargoes needs stressing.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1238A/20 to Admty.)

Conversion of Destroyers. Your 2056/16. Consideration has not previously been given to the proposed conversion of A and B class destroyers and consequently drawings and necessary materials are not available for this work to be put in hand in the case of the ships mentioned without unduly delaying dates of completion. 2. The project is now under consideration and if adopted drawings will be prepared and instructions issued by C.A.F.O. for this conversion to be undertaken in A and B class destroyers under similar conditions to those laid down in C.A.F.O. 2473/41 paragraph 1.
(D.O.D.(H), 1923A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

Dinghy. Am over a dinghy in 46° 50' N. 07° 41' W.
(A/C, 0010/20 to 19 Group.)
Have seen pyrotechnic distress signals in 47°
14' N. 07° 14' N.
(A/C 0212/20 to 19 Group.)
Nothing seen. Other A/C circling.
(A/C, 0315/20 to 19 Group.)

SOKRUSHITELNI. Russian Naval Authorities say destroyer
SOKRUSHITELNI swamped while returning from
escorting Q.P.15 and thereafter drifted. Now
presumed lost with 15 of crew.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0810A/20 to Admty.)

ETRUSCAN. My 2157/19 and 1136/20. Vessel returned with
engine defect.
(F.O. Humber, 1315A/20 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

→ VASCAMA. Your 1142Z/20. VASCAMA proceeding Stornoway
with damaged propeller. NORTHERN SUN has orders
to search for derelict to prudent limit of
endurance then return to base. Nothing seen
today of aircraft or other ships.
*(LEAMINGTON, 1616A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
* See p. 693.

→ VARDEFJELL. Keep a good lookout for the stern half of tanker
VARDEFJELL capable of steaming but unmanageable,
last reported 058° 46' N. 012° 40' W. at 1200A/18
drifting N.E. CAPE PALLISER and tugs are in the
vicinity.
(C. in C. W.A., 1703/20 to FORESTER.)

TAWALI. Following received at 1818 G.M.T. from Tiree
Radio. One grade, 114°, distress TAWALI.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1807 G.M.T./20 to N.O.I.C.
Greenock.)
Received from Port Rush Radio. Bearing TAWALI distress was
053°, second class.
(Port Patrick Radio, 1808 G.M.T./20.)

→ Search for derelict. Your 1854A/20. My P.C.S. 2000Z/20, 069° 01' N.
010° 07' W., 150°, 6 knots. Intend searching
area around 058° 45' N. 009° 18' W. and expect
to be in that position at 1200Z/21. CAPE PALLISER
not in company. VASCAMA to Stornoway.
(NORTHERN SUN, 1945Z/20 to C. in C. W.A., (R) CAPE PALLISER.)
R/V at 0900A/21 in 59° 00' N. 10° 59' W. and sweep to the north-
ward. Six aircraft will be searching in an area roughly between
61.30 N. and 57.30 N. and 12.00 W. and 09.30 W.
(C. in C. W.A., 2342A/20 to CAPE PALLISER, NORTHERN SUN.)

/VIMY ...

698

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

VIMY. VIMY is most urgently required for convoy O.N.157 and unless she is available there will be only one destroyer in the group i.e. GARLAND.

2. I am now informed that VIMY needs ballasting. As it is necessary to carry out usual trials after refit propose that to avoid this unacceptable delay work on ballasting should be done by night concurrently with trials by day.

3. Exceptional measures are necessary if VIMY is to catch O.N.157. (C. in C. W.A., 2023A/20 to Admty.)

Shipping and Convoys.

PINK. Recommend you consider proceeding Azores for fuel. (Comtask 24, 0355Z/20 to PINK.)

T.A. 31. Intend sailing passing Clyde Boom 0400Z/21 to pass through position (P) at 0900Z/21, thence in accordance with A.M. 1441/18. Anticipate S.O.A. from (P) 26 knots. "Chop" 0400Z/22. E.T.A. New York 1600Z/26. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1034A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

(QUEEN ELIZABETH)

O.N.S.154. Asdic Type 124 defective. Am returning to Merville E.T.A. 1630Z. (ST. LAURENT, 1041A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Cancel my 1041A/20. Effecting repairs on board. O.N.154 P.C. S. at 1101Z/20, 055° 16' N. 010° 30' W., 244°, 4. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 1130Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.X. 7A. Intend sail convoy pass Clyde boom 1500A/20, via standard Irish Sea route, R/V CLEVELAND and BROCKLESBY in 052° 12' N. 005° 29' W. at 1700A/21. Thence in accordance with Admiralty 1927A/19. S.O.A. 10 knots. Codeword "Peacock". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1124A/20.)

See p. 699

HOLDFAST. Cable ship HOLDFAST is a category 1 vessel and is to be escorted by GLAISDALE to Swansea, proceeding thence to Milford Haven. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1335A/20 to GLAISDALE.)

Your 1705/20. Comply with my 1335/20. On completion overtake W.P. 267. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2021A/20 to GLAISDALE.)

K.M.F. 6. Ready to leave U.K. 25th December. Ships, destinations, and escorts. (D.O.D.(H), 1502A/20.)

See Lion Copy.
Route. (D.O.D.(H), 1600/20.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET

698A

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.

1502A/20 December.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

Date 20.12.42.

To C. in C. W.A. 984.
F.O.I.C. Greenock.
N.C.S.O. Clyde.
F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
N.C.S.O. Mersey.
Repeated N.C.X.F. 970.
V.A. Gib. 747.
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.
C. in C. H.F. 399.
Commodore Londonderry.
LOYAL.

Naval Cypher (A.C.O) and D.O.T.P.

From Admiralty.

Convoy KMF 6. The following ships carrying military personnel and stores will be ready to leave U.K. on 25th December for destinations stated.

(a) From Clyde	Destination Algiers	STRATHAIRD NEA HELLAS
	" Bougie or Bone	BOISSEVAIN
	" Phillippeville	WINDSOR CASTLE
(b) From Liverpool	Destination Oran	ORMONDE
	" Algiers or Oran	ORONTES EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA
	" Bone	DERBYSHIRE STAFFORDSHIRE.

2. Escort will be provided by LOYAL and 44th Escort Group.

3. Speed of slowest ship is 14½ knots.

4. Admiralty will promulgate route.

/5.....

648B

5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide escorts as in paragraph 2 and to arrange sailing of both portions of convoy and escorts to rendezvous off Oversay.

1502A/20.

D.O.D.(H).

- 1st S.L. (2).
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.C.D.(H) (2).
- D.O.D.(F) (2).
- D.T.D.(3).
- D.T.D.(M).
- Head of M. (10).
- D.D.I.C.(2).
- D. of P. (2).
- U.S.N. (5).
- I.P. (2).
- W.D.
- Duty Capt. (2).
- Ad. Blake.
- Ad. Ramsey (4).

TW

MOST SECRET

69813

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

1600/20th Dec

OUT

To C-in-C W.A 987

Date 20-12-42

F.O.I.C. Greenock

N.C.S.O. Clyde

F.O.I.C. Liverpool

N.C.S.O. Mersey.

Repeated N.C.X.F. 975

V.A. Gib 753

H.Q.C.C.

H.Q.F.C

C-in-C H.F. 404

Com. Londonderry

NAVAL CYPHER (ACO) and D O T P.

From Admiralty.

Convoy KMF. 6 - My 1502/20.

Route - Rendezvous in position

S 270 degrees Oversay 6 miles at 0900Z/26.

T 5520 1231

U 5001 1704

V 4503 1725

W 3959 1715

X 3600 1302

Y 3601 0958

2. Speed of advance estimated at 12 knots, is to be adjusted so as to arrive at position Y at 0600Z/1st January 1943.

3. Stragglers route as convoy route lettered D to K. omitting I, with instructions to keep 30 miles to starboard if straggling.

4. Fighter protection. Codeword TICTAC.

1600A/20

D.O.D. (H)

1st S.L. (2)

V.C.N.S

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

A.C.N.S. (UT)

N.A. 1st S.L.

D.O.D. (H) (2)

D.O.D. (F) (2)

D.T.D. (3)

D.T.D. (M)

Hd of M. (10)

D.D.I.C. (2)

D of P. (2)

I.P. (2)

W.D

Duty Capt. (2)

Admiral Blake.

Admiral Ramsey (4)

U.S.N. (3)

699

20.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- K.M.S. 6. Ready to leave U.K. 24th December. Ships, destinations and escorts.
(D.O.D.(H), 1507A/20.) See Lion Copy.
Route. (D.O.D.(H), 1549/20.)
See Lion Copy.
- K.X. 7A. Convoy sailed as in A.M. 1753A/19th December
See p. 698 except DELILIAN replacing ITTERSUM. Commodore is Master of MANCHESTER MERCHANT. Route as in A.M. 1927A/19th December. DELILIAN, HOUSTON CITY and MANCHESTER MERCHANT sailed with D.G. switched off owing to carrying cases of petrol and D.G. coils passing through hold.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1626A/20 to Admty.)
My 1124/20. Sailed. Codeword "Peacock".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1628A/20.)
(1) Authority N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 2115/18. On completion of escort STARWORT is to proceed to vicinity of Scilly Isles to R/V convoy K.X.7A a.m. 23rd. *See pp. 693 & 693A & B. L/50694.*
(2) S.O. of escort *CLEVELAND. * *See below.*
(4) Convoy is estimated to be in position (d) at 0900A/23.
(5) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to give necessary routing instructions to STARWORT.
(6) N.C.X.F. is requested to sail STARWORT to U.K. with first suitable returning convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1842A/20 to STARWORT.)
- M.K.S.3Y. My 1638/18. Delete BRETWALDA.
(D.T.D., 1823A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- K.M.S.5. Your 1358A/20. My P.C.S. 2000A/20th, 041° 01' N. 016° 19' W., 133°, 8½. E.T.A. (? at R/V) 0100Z/24. No reply received to Admiralty 1439/18 to V.A. Gibraltar. BALUCHISTAN detached 042° 16' N. 016° 52' W. at 1000A/20. When may REGINA be expected?
(LONDONDERRY, 1902Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
EMPIRE HUNTER, EMPIRE SUNBEAM and NOVELG returned to Clyde on 18th December with heavy weather damage.
See Technical.
- S.C. 112. SCIMITAR and SHIKARI reinforced escort for S.C.112, report being hove to for 24 hours due to weather. It is anticipated they will join p.m. 21st. Propose retaining SCHENCK and INGRAM till relieved by "Esses".
(C. in C. W.A., 1903Z/20 to C.T.G. 24.6.)
See K.X.7A above.
- NIEUW HOLLAND CLEVELAND and WENSLEYDALE are to exchange duties. CLEVELAND is to relieve WENSLEYDALE as escort to NIEUW HOLLAND to Falmouth. WENSLEYDALE is to signal position and time where relief off Milford

/Haven ...

MOST SECRET

699A

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be deciphered if it is to be disseminated or communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Security.

To: C. in C. W.A. 985. DATE. 19.12.42.
F.O.I.C. Greenock,
F.O.I.C. Liverpool.
N.C.S. Clyde.
N.C.S. Mersey.
Repeated V.A. Gibraltar. 749.
F.O.C. W. Af. 331.
N.C.K.F. 972.
A.F.H.Q.
Commodore Londonderry.
C. in C. Home Fleet. 401.
Cominch.
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.

NAVAL CYPHER (A1) & D. O.T.P.

From. Admiralty.

Convoy K.M.S.6 will be ready to leave U.K. for destinations stated on 24th December.

From Clyde.

- A. For Oran
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| S.S. HAVILDER | S.S. CLAN MURRAY |
| S.S. MACHARDA | S.S. FORT STIKINE |
| U.S. EDWARD RUTLEDGE | U.S. CHARLES H. CRAMP |
| U.S. WILLIAM FLOYD | S.S. EMPIRE CONFIDENCE |
| U.S. MARK TWAIN | S.S. KAIPAKI |
| | S.S. EXILONA. |
- B. For Algiers
- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| S.S. ST. ESSYLT | S.S. ALPHARD |
| S.S. EMPIRE CHIVALRY | S.S. DUKE OF ATHENS |
| S.S. EMPIRE DARWIN | S.S. DELILIAN |
| U.S. CHATTANOOGA CITY | S.S. ARGUS HILL |
| S.S. MANCHESTER PORT | S.S. EMPIRE ROWAN |
| S.S. HOPE CROWN | S.S. EMPIRE HUNTER |
| S.S. PACIFIC GROVE | S.S. EMPIRE GROVE |
| S.S. CLAN MACBEAN. | |
- C. For Algiers and Bougie
- LEVERN BANK
- D. For Bougie
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| S.S. EMPIRE NIGHTINGALE | S.S. NORTON |
| S.S. FORT SENNEVILLE | |
- E. For Phillippeville
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| U.S. WILLIAM WIART | OCEAN MESSENGER |
| FORT M'CLOUGHLIN | FORT BATTLE RIVER |
- F. For Bone
- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| S.S. EMPIRE WORDSWORTH | S.S. LOCHMONAR |
| BENALBANACH | PACIFIC EXP RTER |
| U.S. THOMAS HOOKER | MARY SLESSOR |
| S.S. LYCOMON | THESEUS |
| RECORDER | EMPIRE DRIVER |
| CLAN MACBRAYNE | STAD HAARLEM |
| | EMPIRE MARDRED |

G. /

699⁷³

G. For Gibraltar

2 Admiralty Tankers
EMPIRE TOWER

H. For Gibraltar further destination to be decided

SALACIA

J. For Azores

BASIL

K. For Freetown

BELNR
EMPIRE GALE

EMPIRE CLIVE
WEARWOOD

2. From Liverpool.

For Bone

U.S. JOHN DAVENPORT S.S. CITY OF WORCESTER
U.S. TRISTRAM DALTON S.S. TIBA.

3. All ships have a speed of 8 knots.

4. Main conference will be held at Greenock on 23rd. December.

5. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail Liverpool portion to Oversay R/V.

6. Admiralty will promulgate route.

7. Escort will be provided by 37th Escort Group, PETUNIA and MISS CARNATION.

8. Ships referred to in paragraph 1 (J) and (K) will part company as convenient to proceed to destinations escorted by PETUNIA and one corvette from Freetown and trawlers DRACEY and HARLEM. A.M. 1459/18 refers.

9. F.O.C. W.A.F. is requested to sail corvette referred to in his 1121/9 to Admiralty only to fuel at Ponta Delgada and to R/V as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.

10. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange conference and to sail ships as requisite.

11. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange sailing of esc

- 1st S.L. (2) 1507A/20.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2) D.O.D. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- N.A. 1st S.L.
- D.O.D. (H) (2) Duty Captain. (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2) Admiral Blake.
- D.T.D. (S) Admiral Ramsey. (4)
- D.T.D. (H) U.S.N. (3)
- Hd. of M. (10)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (2)
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.

N.I.

MOST SECRET

6998

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.)
1549/20th Dec.

MOST SECRET

M E S S A G E

OUT

To C-in-C W.A. 986
F.O.I.C. Greenock
N.C.S.O. Clyde.
F.O.I.C. Liverpool
N.C.S.O. Mersey

Date 20-12-42

Repeared V.A. Gib. 752
F.O.C.W. Af. 233
N.C.X.F. 974
Com. Londonderry
C-in-C H.F. 403
H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.F.C.

NAVAL CYPHER (ACO) and D.O.T.P.

From Admiralty.

Convoy KMS 6, A.M 1507/20. Route - Rendezvous in position

L	270 degs Oversay	6 miles at 0900Z/25
M	55 36	1302
N	5301	1759
O	4803	1800
P	3905	1712
Q	3559	1205
R	3601	1000

2. Speed of advance, estimated at 8 knots, is to be adjusted so as to arrive at position R at 2000Z 3rd January 1943.

3. Stragglers route as convoy route lettered A to G with instructions to keep 30 miles to starboard if straggling.

4. Fighter protection. Codeword SPARROW.

1549/20

D.O.D.(H)

1st S.L. (2)
V.C.N.S
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
Head of M. (10)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D of P. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D
Duty Capt. (2)
Admiral Blake
Admiral Ramsey (4)
U.S.N. (3)

War Diary.

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - con't.

NIEUW
HOLLAND.
(Contd.)

Haven is to take place and after relief to proceed into Milford Haven complete with fuel and receive further orders.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2305A/20 to CLEVELAND, WENSLEYDALE.)

KUSNETZ
LESOV.

Your 1613/19. (? Ship) arrived Akureyri vide my 2347/29th Nov. and sailed on 8th Dec. for Loch Ewe.
Nothing is known of KUSNETZ LESOV.
(A.C.I.C., 2348A/20 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

701

20.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Force X.

O.S./S.L. Following from Chiefs of Staff to N.C.X.F.,
Convoys A.O.C. E.A.C. (Africa) F.O.C. West Africa,
resumption, A.O.C. West Africa, (R) A.F.H.Q. North Africa,
Air Cover. F.O.C.N.A., A.O.C. Gibraltar, J.S.M. Washington,
A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command.

It is necessary to make arrangements for early resumption of O.S./S.L. convoys and for safety of ships detached from "Torch" convoys for passage to Freetown. The first essential is to establish air cover from Gibraltar area to Freetown. Suggest arrangements be made on the following lines, agreement of C. in C. Allied Forces being obtained where necessary.

2. A.O.C. Gibraltar in conjunction with F.O.C.N.A. arrange with S.N.O. Casablanca to extend air cover as far south as practicable, using if necessary French airfields or flying boat facilities with French concurrence.

3. A.O.C. W.A. in conjunction with F.O.C. W.A., arrange with G.G. of French West Africa at Dakar for detachment of British flying boats from West Africa to operate from Port Etienne.

4. It is expected that one convoy will be run each way on a 20 days cycle.

5. It is particularly desired to send four ships carrying aircraft to Freetown sailing about 25th in K.M.S.6.

6. F.O.C.N.A. please pass to A.O.C. Gibraltar; F.O.C. W.A., please pass to A.O.C.W.A.

(Sec. to 1st S.L., 0146A/20 to N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.A., (R) F.O.C. N.A., J.S.M. Washington, A.O.C. in C. C. C.)

Situation (1) Agreement on French Shipping signed 18 Dec.
report Ships on list A on charter to Allied C. in C.
No. 36. 260,000 tons. On List B operated by French
for Economic needs of North and West Africa as
approved by Allied C. in C. 210,000 tons.

(2) Reports of submarines of Malta Flotilla operating in W.A. as follows.

(A) P.46 on 14 Dec. off Bizerta observed leading ship of two S.E. bound escorted M/V to be torpedoed and burning. Attack probably by H.212. Later second ship of 6,000 tons hit by one torpedo from P.46 subsequently another torpedo fired and enemy sank. Some hours later leading ship seen to blow up. On 15th Dec. in same position obtained two hits on escorted 4,000 ton M/V result unobserved on account of exceptionally efficient counter attack.

See p. 711 (B) P.228 patrolling off ^{L. Bon} Cagliari reports one probable hit on M/V at 14 Dec. Also two probable hits on M/V and two on destroyer a.m. on 17 Dec. (*WD Note - AVIERE, 21st Dec. 1942*)

(3) Bone. Four M.T.Bs. carried out offensive sweep p.m. 16 Dec. Only encountered minor enemy air activity.

(4) Algiers. EMPIRE CENTAUR, HARMATTAN and OCEAN VANQUISHER all salvaged and berthed. Former two require eventual docking for repairs. Latter feared constructive total loss.

(5) PARTRIDGE on A/S sweep was torpedoed and sunk in position 35.50 N., 01.35 W., at 0817/18. PENN recovered six officers and 167 ratings.

(6) French Naval trawler POITOU torpedoed by German U-boat at 2085 17th Dec. in position 33.23 N., 08.22 W. Two survivors of crew of 22. *not in L.D. 1815*

(N.C.X.F., 1102A/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, V.A. Gibraltar, B.A.D., A.F.H.Q. London).

/M.K.F...

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Force X. - Contd.

M.K.F. and My 1950/19. Information is actually supplied to
M.K.S. Convoys ships by N.C.S.O. Clyde in Envelope A. It is
approach possible N.C.S.Os. in African Ports are with-
routes. drawing these envelopes with outward routeing
orders, owing to wording on outside of envelope.
This wording was necessary when secrecy of
destination was essential but is now obsolete and has been
cancelled. Future A envelopes should therefore be retained
by Masters.
(D.T.D., 1213A/20 to N.C.X.F., (R) V.A. Gibraltar, N.C.S.O.
Clyde).

Landing N.C.X.F. has been informed in sense of your
Craft, 1603/17 para. 2 of the above quoted message is
spare gear. however not strictly correct. Spare gear was
only provided for six months for those craft,
totalling about 100, which it was intended
should remain on the station. Spare gear for
the 400 odd craft that took part in the assault was only
calculated to cover the very early stages as it was hoped that
some 300 of them would be returned to U.K. within a few weeks.
(D.N.C.X.F., 1325A/20 to C.C.O. (R) Admty).

K.M.S.6. Composition and details.
K.X.8. (D.O.D. (H) 1532A/20 to N.C.X.F (R) A.F.H.Q.,
Algiers, V.A. Gibraltar) See Lion Copy.

pp. 695A, B, C.

Tanker Your 1914/19 para.1.
Convoy, (a) Regret this cannot be arranged as all three
"Torch" area. destroyers of VICTORIOUS escort are required
to escort a special tanker convoy of vital
importance from West Indies to "Torch" area.
(b) All destroyer allocations are again under
consideration as a matter of urgency.
(D.O.D. (H), 1711A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

B.A.Ds. 0145/18th December. Request you will
reply.
(D.O.D. (F), 1925A/20 to N.C.X.F. (R) B.A.D., V.A. Gibraltar).

MOST SECRET

702A

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

1532./20 December.
OUT.

To: N.C.X.F. 973.
Repeated A.F.H.O. Algiers.
V.A. Gibraltar. 751.

DATE. 20.12.42.

NAVAL CYPHER (XD)

From. Admiralty.

K.M.S.6 and K.X.8.

There are now 20 miss-musters and returnees from KMS 5 and in addition 4 extra ships are to be included in K.M.S.6 to lift the extra Brigade Group. To include as many as possible of these the following proposals are made:-

- (a) To transfer the 2 Admiralty colliers and the 2 Gibraltar store-ships to K.X.8, which sails from Milford Haven on 30th December.
- (b) Transfer UPMAN (K.103) and WELSH TRADER (J.47) also to K.X.8.

2. The composition of K.M.S.6 will then be:-

For Gibraltar One Admiralty collier with air-craft for Gibraltar.
Two Admiralty Tankers.

For Gibraltar. One M.T. Ship with R.A.F. personnel
thence as for Gibraltar
ordered. 1 Army Tanker.

For Bone. 12 M.T. ships, including 2 ex K.M.S.5.
4 M.T. ships with vehicles only of the 139th Infantry Brigade Group and Coal flatting additional to original programme for discharge where convenient and if time permits.

For Gran. 11 M.T. ships, including one ex K.M.S.5.

For Bougie 3 M.T. ships.

For Phillippeville. 4 M.T. ships including 1 ex K.M.F.5.

For Algiers 15 M.T. ships, including 2 ex
thence Bougie 1 M.T. ship

For Azores and 5 ships
West Africa

3. The composition of K.X. 8 will be: -

For Gibraltar 3 Admiralty colliers, including 1 ex K.M.S.
5 and 2 ex K.M.S.6.

4 Army/....

For Gibraltar

contd.: 4 Army colliers, including 2 ex K.M.S.5.
3 store ships
2 petrol carriers

Four of the above carry aircraft

2 commercial colliers
1 salvage ship

For Oran.

2 M.T. ships, one ex K.M.S.5 and the
other ex K.M.S.6.

For Algiers

1 colliers ex K.M.S.5.

For Algiers and
Bone

1 M.T. ship ex K.M.S.6.

For Spain and
Portugal

10 commercial ships.

4. The above is subject to discussions now
in progress on War Office No. 86996 of 1955/14 to A.F.H.Q.

5. 4 ships ex K.M.S.5 including 3 with fighter
aircraft which are urgently required at Gibraltar are being
sailed with special escort as KX7A today 20th.

1532A/20

D.O.D. (H)

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

1st S.L. (2)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (UT)
N.A. 1st S.L.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
Hd of M. (10)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D of P (2)
D of S.T.
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Duty Capt (2)
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Ramsey (4)
U.S.N. (3)
C.G.O. (2)
Mr. Cross (M.Books)

703

20.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

→ K.M.F. 5.

see p 704
9 710

Sailing HUSSAR and NASTURTIUM escorting Gibraltar section to join K.M.F.5 north 08° 00' 20th thence as additional escort.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 0740/20 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.5, Cdre. Algiers, N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., F.O. Oran.)

MONTE NURIA
(Spanish)

Your 1741/19. Ships noon position on 11th was 34° 14' N. 09° 05' W. Slow speed from Ceuta to this position probably due to bad weather conditions.

2. Position when sighted 1510/18 appears consistent with anticipated whereabouts provided average speed 8½ knots maintained since 11th.

(S.O.(I), Gibraltar, 0955A/20 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival ADVENTURE.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1054A/20 to Admty.)

Arrival ARGUS.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1111A/20 to Admty.)

Arrivals 1130, WISHART, VANOC. 1300, MANXMAN, AVON VALE,

LOOKOUT, FARNDALE, Tug NIMBLE, SALVONIA.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1312A/20 to Admty.)

Arrivals ex K.M.F.5, WAVENEY, TOTLAND.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1726A/20 to Admty.)

H.M. Trawler ST. NECTAN, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE sailed 1715 escorting WILLOWDALE, CAITHNESS, to Guadalquivir and Lisbon respectively. Escorts return Gibraltar with BLAIRESK from Lisbon ELIZABETH MASSEY and MIRIAM from Huelva.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1842A/20 to Admty.)

STURGEON.

Onward route from 135° (? 3 miles) Mozambique (sic) at 1000/22 proceed diving by day through 038° 29' 022° 15' E. at 2000/23 thence on surface at

your discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 59' 003° 01' E. at 0800/24 do not arrive R/V more than half hour early.

(Capt. (S) 8, 1416A/20 to STURGEON, (R) 8th S/M Flotilla, N.C. X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers, S.O. S/M Gibraltar.)

My 1455/18th not to Admty. sailed STURGEON for Algiers.

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1737A/20 to (? Capt. S. 8th), (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Malta, Capt. S.10th, Admty., Cdre. Algiers.)

Enemy A/C.

Intercept de Gibraltar Radio. AAA 2 EPM 5 miles North Cape Spartel unread 1515 ends.

(Valentia Radio, 1434/20 to Naval Wireless Admty., Adm. Devonport.)

/G.U.S.2 ...

MOST SECRET

703A

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: "G.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

~~MOST SECRET~~ MESSAGE 1400A/20th Dec. IN.

From: V.A. Gibraltar. Date 20.12.42.

Recd: 1750.

Naval Cypher S by W/T.

Addressed: North Atlantic Station.

IMPORTANT.

Situation Area X at 1956A/20.

(1) Tug MASTODONTE, 42 17 13 19 through 44 01 13 30 thence 008 degrees 8.

(2) COMMANDANT DETROYAT, one merchant ship, one tug 35 24 06 35 through 35 53 06 01 to Gibraltar 7½.

(3) SOUTHERN GEM, GRYFEVALE, 32 14 10 14 0-13 degs 6.

(4) ST. NECTAN, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, 2 merchant ships, 35 59 05 42 7 knots coastwise to Chipiona where one merchant ship parts company. Thence escort and one merchant ship direct to St. Vincent 9. *See previous page*

(5) H.M.S. ERNE, H.M.S. SANDWICH, one merchant ship, 26 10 15 58 through 29 01 12 30 thence 33 degs 12½.

(6) K M S 5, H.M.S. LONDONDEIRY, 4 sloops, 6 corvettes, H.M.I.S. BALUCHISTAN, 42 39 16 30 1-44 degs 6. *pp. 699 & 708*

(7) G.U.S.2. (0), passing Europa Point 1700A 21st to 35 51 06 02 thence 203 degrees 9.

(8) H.M.S. BOREAS, H.M.S. BRILLIANT, expected returning to Gibraltar from M K F 4 Y.

(9) Portuguese Destroyer DOURO, leaves Ponta Delgada 21st for Lisbon. *See next page.*

- 1st S.L. (2)
- V.C.N.S. (2)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (UT)
- N.O.D. 1st S.L. (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.O.D. (S) (2)
- D.T.D. (M)
- Hd of M (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D of P (2)
- H.F. (2)
- Duty Capt (2)
- Ad: Blake (2)
- Ad: Ramsey (4)
- Advance Copy sent
- Duty Capt. D.O.D. (H)
- D.T.D.
- C.C.R.T. D.M.S.
- D.S/V. D.N.I. (4)
- U.S.N. (3)

MOST SECRET

403B

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

MESSAGE

1406A/20th December
IN

Date 20.12.42
Recd. 1641

From V.A. Gibraltar

Naval Cypher S by W/T

Addressed Ships and Authorities N.A.

IMPORTANT

Situation 2005A 20th Situation Report Y
Tug EMINENT, 37 19 21 50 to Ponta Delgada 10½.

2. LOCH OSKAIG, MIRROR, 38 05 26 06 to Horta 8.
3. Portuguese destroyer DOURO, leave Ponta Delgada 21st for Lisbon. *see previous page.*
4. U G F 3, 33 52 24 38 through 33 50 23 50 thence 090 degs 11½.

1406A/20

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

1st S.I. (2)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(UF)
N.A. 1st S.I.
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)
Hd. of M.(10)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D. of P.(2)
I.P.(2)
W.D.
Duty Capt.(2)
Admiral Blake (2)
Admiral Ramsey (4)
C.C.R.T.
D.S.D.
D.A/S.W.
D.M.S.
U.S.N.(3)
D.N.I.(4)

704

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- G.U.S.2. Waiting convoy R/V with G.U.S. 2 in 33° 56' N. 07° 53' W. at 1600Z/22 thence in accordance with Admty. 19/1204. (S.N.O.C.A., 1615Z/20 to Admty., V.A. Gibraltar, ROCHESTER, (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.C. Oran, C.T.U. 26.71, C.T.F.37, Convoy Cdre.)
- Re sailing of French Naval Tankers to U.S.A. Your 1311/19. Intend sail French Tanker LOF with G.U.S.2. ELORN not ready. (S.N.O. Casablanca Area, 1632Z/20 to N.C.X.F., (R) Admty., Cinclant, Cominch.)
- CEFALU assistance. Your 1520/19th final sentence. Horta agent says LIMA not going Flores this voyage, also that will be quicker if you will approach agent Ponta Delgada for extension of trip to Flores. Request acknowledgement. (R.O. Fayal, 1700C/20 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
- P. 54. Your 1352A/20 all torpedoes expended 17 rounds remain. One 4000 tons merchant ship damaged by gunfire. Am returning to (? Algiers). My P.C.S. 042° 41' 006° 30' E. 205°, 120 miles per day. (P.54, 1800A/20 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) N.C.X.F., V.A. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers.)
- Escorts of K.M.F. 5. Escorts of K.M.F.5, ZOELLA LYKES, and MANCHESTER TRADER arrived. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1905A/20 to Admty., N.C.X.F., Capt. (D) 19, Cdre. of K.M.F. 5.)

see p.703

South Atlantic.

- PRIAM. Your 2110/19. Following is a repetition of PRIAM's 0625/12 (begins). St. Helena W/T from PRIAM. My 0520/12 Dec. Advise port of refuge (Ends). (C. in C. S.A., 0404/20 to Admty.) PRIAM left Azores p.m. 17th routed Freetown for orders. (D.T.D., 1301/20 to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

705

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

ALMANZORA. H.M. Transport ALMANZORA sailed 19th Dec. E.T.A. Freetown 30th. Requirements. Passengers on board on sailing. (S.T.O. Capetown, 0711Z/20 to Admty., etc.)

ATHENE. ATHENE sailed route close inshore S. of A. 12 knots, E.T.A. 1600C/21. (N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, 0914C/20 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., Cdre. i/c Durban, N.L.O. East London.)

STAR OF SCOTLAND (sunk 13th November.) Master and 15 other survivors from U.S. sailing ship STAR OF SCOTLAND arrived Capetown in Portuguese merchant ship JOAO BELO from Assamedes. 2. Ship sunk by gunfire from U-Boat 13th Nov. in 26° 30' S. 00° 20' E. was first boarded by U-Boat who used rubber boat and later removed all available foodstuffs. U-Boat appeared aft 0815Z and finally sank ship at 1530Z.
3. No C.Bs or papers carried.
4. Mate only casualty, drowned.
5. Master sailed lifeboat to Cap Martha taking 19 days.
6. U-Boat's description fits that which sank B/S ROSS in 38° 51' S. 21° 40' E. on 29th Oct. Device on C/T was identical.
7. U-Boat's Captain told Master U-Boat was homeward bound. (S.O.(I), Capetown, 1056C/20 to Admty., B.A.D., (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

LARGS BAY. H.M. Transport LARGS BAY sailed 19th December. E.T.A. Freetown 30th Dec., read in tons, on board on sailing 2900 fuel, 940 water. Requirements Freetown. Passengers on board. (S.T.O. Capetown, 1112Z/20 to Admty. for D. of S.T., D.S.T.O. Freetown, (R) C. in C. S.A., D.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Movements. Arrival Pointe Noire a.m. 20th BELLWORT. (B.N.L.O.W.Af., 1115/20 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.) NORWICH CITY delayed engine defects. Departure 1600/20 STELLA POLARIS coastwise, E.T.A. Capetown 1800/23. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1207C/20 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.) Arrival 19th H.M. M.L.261. Will only leave 21st due to necessity of effecting repairs to exhaust pipes. (R.O. Bissao, 1500/20 to S.O.(I) Freetown, F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., etc.)
Departure from Pointe Noire p.m. 20th BELLWORT, E.T.A. Banana 0600Z/21st. (B.N.L.O. W.Af., 2115C/20 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., etc.)
Departure 19th Dec. F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU escort to CAP

PADARAN. *See next page*
(S.O.(I), Freetown, 2221Z/20 to Admty.)
Arrival (? 1130)Z/20th M.L.302 and 287 escorting SS.

NEWCHANG, 1215Z/20 ILEX.
(?N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1715/20 to R.A.W.A., (corrupt addressee) (R) Admty.)

/MILWAUKEE ...

SECRET

705A

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

1111Z/20th Dec. IN

From:- F.O.C. West Africa.

Date, 20.12.42.
Recd. 1348.

NAVAL CYPHER 3 (M) BY W/T

Addressed:- Ships in Area P of South Atlantic Station, North of 8° N. C. in C. South Atlantic. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.

IMPORTANT.

PORTSDOWN, (?2) motor launch, escorting from Bathurst to Dakar area, thence to Bathurst. One motor launch from Bissao to Bathurst 10. HOLCOMBE, 11 50 20 59 (? 210 or 191) 15 at 2001Z/20. BURDOCK, ST WISTAN, ARRAN, INKPEN, with F.T.T. 5, 10 59 22 15 278 8. DUNKERY, DUNTON, escorting 09 30 15 20 to Freetown 8. COMEDANT DROGOU escorting 08 50 14 55 to Bathurst 9½. *See previous page*

1111Z/20

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

V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Capt. Pim.
Ops (3)
O.D.(5)
O.I.C.(3)
I.P.(3)
D.S.L.9(2)

D.A./S.W.
W.D.
D.D.O.D.(C)(2)
D.M.S.
D.M.S. Citadel.
D.T.D.(4)
D.T.D.(M)
D.T.D.(C)
B.N.L.O. (F.F.)(2)
P.N.L.O.

MOST SECRET

705B

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.

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MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1112C/20th Dec. IN.
From: C. in C.S.A. Date 20.12.42.
Recd: 1712.

Naval Cypher 3M by W/T.

Addressed: Ships in Area Q of South Atlantic Stn.,
Admiralty., Commodore in Charge Durban
N.L.O. Port Elizabeth., N.L.O. East
London., R.A. West Africa.,

IMPORTANT.

H.M.S. JANUS, H.M.S. GLENROY, off Cape
Agulhas to Simonstown 10 knots

H.M.S. EXPRESS, INCONSTANT, with NIEUW
AMSTERDAM, about 029 degs 50' south 034 degs 30'
east to Suez 20.

H.M.S. ^I~~AURELIA~~ escorting ^{BRITISH} H.M.S. UNITY
BANFF PARK, 020 degs (?20') south 012 degs 00'
east to Walvis Bay 10. * *In W. app. Command*

H.M.S. ST LOMAN, H.M.S. SPHENE, Tug BOLD,
towing ~~H.M.S.S.~~ COLUMBINE, 018 degs 00' south 010 degs
00' east to Walvis Bay 6½.

~~KHYBER~~, INTEGRITY, EMPIRE WARLOCK, ~~CRANE~~ Crane
Lighter number 3, 015 degs 40' south 010 degs 20'
east to Walvis Bay 5½.

H.M.S. ALCANTARA, H.M.S. FORTUNE, with
C.F. 10, 027 degs 40' south 014 degs (?45') east
to Freetown 12.

1112C/20
Advance Copy sent Duty Capt. D.O.D.(F)
/ as received D.T.D.

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

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.MILWAUKEE
patrol.U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE left Recife at 1800Z/19th
Dec. to patrol through following position

(A) 006° 50' S. 032° (735') W. at 0300Z/20th.

(B) 007° 40' S. 025° 50' W. at 0700Z/21st.

(C) 003° 25' S. 021° 30' W. at 0800Z/22nd.

(R.A.W.A., 1207Z/20 to ASTURIAS, (R) CYCLAMEN, Admty.)

DELFSHAVEN
sunk 6th
Aug. 1942.Repatriated crew of DELFSHAVEN report ship sunk
by one torpedo assumed from U-Boat unseen internal
explosion late. Sunk in 7° 24' N. 25° 37' W. on
6th August 1942.

(S.O.I. Freetown, 1821Z/20 to Admty.)

Ports
Allocation
Executive,
Capetown.Constitution and duties.
(D.S.T., 1915/20 to M.W.T.Rs.)
See Lion Copy.

SECRET

706A

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SECRET

MESSAGE

1915/20th December

OUT

Date: 20.12.42

To: M.W.T.Rs. Australia (Sydney) Mast 3246
New Zealand (Wellington) Mast 648
India (Bombay) Mast 5946
Persian Gulf (Basra) Mast 1168
Middle East (Cairo) Mast 2723
West Africa (Accra) Mast 122
Argentine (Buenos Aires) Mast 1462
Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) Mast 432
U.S.A. (Sparks New York) Mast 19339
Canada (Huband Montreal) Mast 12527
Trinidad Mast 158
F.O.C.N.A. for M.W.T.R. (Gibraltar)
Mast 232
Commodore for M.W.T.R. (Algiers)
Mast 28.

Repeated: M.W.T.R. S. & E., Africa (Capetown) Mast 6793
B.M.S.M. Washington Mast 4558.

Naval Cypher (X)

From: Director of Sea Transport.

1. In order to deal as effectively as possible with the large number of vessels now entering ports in South and East Africa and to prevent congestion the Union Government have decided with the concurrence of the U.K. Government to set up a Ports Allocation Executive within the constitution and duties described in the following paragraph.
2. (a) Membership representatives of S.A. Railways and Harbour Administration, S.A. Naval Forces, C.-in-C., South Atlantic, Ministry of War Transport and U.S. War Shipping Administration.
(b) Location Capetown.
(c) Object to allocate a vessel to the port which at the time of the ships arrival is in best position to provide either immediately or with minimum of delay the facilities required by the ship and/or cargo, thus eliminating or reducing delay to the ship.
(d) Range all ports and anchorages from Walvis Bay to Mombasa inclusive will be included in the executive sphere of control.
(e) Exclusions vessels in W.S. convoys and Tankers will be excluded from allocation to ports by the executive.

3. For the success of the scheme it is essential that the executive should have early and accurate information regarding all vessels intending to call at ports within the range indicated in 2(d) above including vessels in convoy and Tankers and their expected requirements. Information as to ships movements will be obtained from Naval sources and information as to the occupation of ports will be furnished by the S.A. R. & H. Administration. The following information will be furnished by telegram addressed to the M.W.T.R., South and East Africa, Capetown or P.S.T.O., Capetown by the Ministry of War Transport for vessels leaving the U.K. and by M.W.T.Rs. or S.T.Os. for vessels leaving all other areas of original despatch. M.W.T.Rs. at intermediate ports will telegraph supplementary corrections arising from operations at ports within their areas which have caused any variations in details originally despatched, e.g. cargo loaded or discharged, additional bunkers taken, etc. By arrangement with the U.S. W.S.A. information in respect of American Flag Vessels will be furnished through British M.W.T.Rs. at the ports of departure. All such telegrams should be prefixed Sapex repeat Sapex and should contain information under the following headings which must be adhered to rigidly for all areas.

(A) Information regarding ship:

- (1) Name
- (2) S.S. or M.V.
- (3) Flag
- (4) Owners or operating Line
- (5) Draught - Estimated fore and aft on arrival
- (6) Last reported movement
- (7) Ports of call declared by Master
- (8) Estimated date of arrival at first port of call in South and East Africa.
- (9) Future employment including loading
- (10) Date of expiry fumigation certificate.

(B) Information regarding ship's requirements:

- (1) Orders
- (2) Bunkers - Coal or Oil (Fuel or Diesel); furthest point without rebunkering.
- (3) Special requirements for (a) stores and water
 - (b) repairs
 - (c) crew.

/ (C).....

SECRET

7068

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.)

- 3 -

- (C) Information regarding cargo
- (1) Nature and weight (if over 100 tons) of commodities carried for discharge within port range.
 - (2) Heavy lifts.
 - (3) Vacant space and lifting available on departure stress is laid on the importance of the above information being as accurate as possible and being sent as early as possible.
4. Ports Allocation Executive is expected to start operation January 18th 1943. Information should therefore be furnished for all vessels sailing after receipt of these instructions and so far as practicable in respect of vessels already sailed and expected to arrive in South or East Africa after January 18th.
5. Orders to ships to proceed to ports other than those declared by the Master will be transmitted to him by the executive through Naval channels.
6. Addressed to M.W.T.Rs., Australia, New Zealand, India, Persian Gulf, Middle East, West Africa, Argentina, Brazil, United States, Canada, Trinidad, Gibraltar, North Africa. Pass to Deputy M.W.T.Rs. responsible for ports within above areas and arrange with them method of transmission of required information to M.W.T.R. South and East Africa. Pass to Sea Transport Officers. Pass to W.S.A. senior representative in each area and request his co-operation. Repeated to B.M.S.M., Washington for W.S.A. Repeated M.W.T.R., South and East Africa reference his Mast 7704 and for repetition to C.-in-C., South Atlantic and to C.-in-C., Eastern Fleet. M.W.T.R., South and East Africa to arrange for furnishing of information to executive within range covered by Ports Allocation Executive.
7. Agreed Admiralty and Harriman Mission.
8. Acknowledge.

1915/20
D. of S.T. (Ext. 2293)

A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. to A.C.N.S. (T)
N.A. 1st S.L.
Ops. (3)
O.D. (5)
O.I.C. (2)
D. of S. (3)
D.T.D. (4)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)

D. of S.T. (2)
M. (3)
I.P. (3)
D.A/S.W.
W.D.

707

20.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean -

TAKU

Your 0201/20th (No trace in War Reg) not to C. in C.Med.Capt.(S) 10 acknowledged. Very pleased to hear from you.
(Capt.S.1. 0807/20 to TAKU.(R) C. in C.Med. Capt.(S) 10).

Movements.

Arrival 19th Dec.*DELPHINIUM, BURRA, Greek Destroyer SPETSAL, PROTEA(?GUMBRAE), IMHOFF, ISLAY, ST MONANCE, T.L.C.104, 117, Departure 19th December*DELPHINIUM,*WELSHMAN, Greek Destroyer*IERAX. * *see p. 710*
(S.O.(I) Alex.0931B/20 to Admty,C. in C.Med.)

Air R/C.

Cavoli - Marittimo Blenheim patrol night 20th 21st.
2 My 1507A/19th, Naples will not be covered.
(V. A.Malta 1014A/20 to N.C.X.F.(R) C. in C.Med, F.O.I.S. Cdre.Algiers, S.O. Force"Q")

Visuals December 20th. 0700 Messina - 3 cruisers. 0748, Taranto - 3 Battleships.

(V.A.Malta 1053A/20 to C. in C.Med. N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S. S.O. Force Q, ORION, PAKENHAM, PETARD, Cdre.Algiers,(R) Admty, V.A. Gib, S.O.Force H.)

Visuals Dec.20th. 1105, Messina, 3 cruisers, 1140, Taranto, 3 Battleships.

(V.A.Malta, 1341A/20 to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.S,ORION, PETARD, S.O. Force Q., N.C.X.F. PAKENHAM, (R) Admty, V.A.Gib. S.O. Force H.)

Visuals Dec.20th. 1535, Messina, 3 Cruisers, 1450, Taranto 3 Battleships.

(V.A.Malta, 1716A/20 to ORION, PAKENHAM, C. in C.Med, PETARD, S.O.Force Q, F.O.I.S. N.C. X.F.(R) Admty, V.A. Gib. S.O. Force H.)

MAGER.

not in file

MAGER had near miss, no casualties, ship flooded, trying to salve her.
(N.O.I.C.Benghazi 1022B/20 to NedShip London, W.O.R.M.S.Port Said)

Minesweeping

Weekly minesweeping summary December 20th Channels, anchorage, and dangerous areas in harbour swept daily. D.G.range swept daily except on 19th December. Negative results.
(R.A.Alexandria*Admty (R) C. in C.Med).
*1130B/20 to.

Cositrep No.630.(3) Air.Ref. Cositrep 629 para.8.(Night 18/19 December.) B.24s bombing Sousse Harbour scored hits on commercial and phosphate quays and in harbour area. Liberators attacked later. Further bombs on commercial quay and in town area, when flying debris seen.

/Night.

708

20.12.1942.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cositrep
No. 630.
Contd. Night 18/19th December. Wellingtons bombed and machine gunned M.T. targets near Buerat El Hsun starting six fires. Direct hits on buildings Two enemy formations bombed Tobruk where two fires reported. Dive bomb attack on El Adem caused no damage. Malta Wellingtons attacking Tunis and La Goulette caused violent explosion and large fire in Tunis marshalling yards. Hits on phosphate quay, electric railway depot and fuel depot at Tunis and on oil storage tanks at La Goulette. Malta Wellington also bombed Comiso aerodrome where three fires started. Intruder Beaufighter bombed aerodrome at Trapani. Naval Albacores from Malta bombed small stationary vessel and northbound E-Boat off Tunisian Coast. No hits claimed. One Albacore attacked Sousse Harbour with unobserved results. Forty JU.88s operated against Malta. (C. in C.M.E. 1220B/20).

M.K.S.4. N.O.I.C. Bone is requested to sail M.K.S.4 at 1000A/22nd S. of A. 7 knots, routed through 96,36, 99,92, route, letters C. to O omitting I. Stragglers as convoy route.

2. Ocean route 35.20 N. 10.00 W. 39. 58 N. 15.10.W. 49.20 N. 14. 35 W. 55.00 N. 10.00 W. 55.25 N. 08.35 W. letters P. to T. For stragglers R. to V.

3. Phillippeville section with local escort joins in position 37.14 N. 06.49 E. at 1800A/22nd.

4. Bougie section with local escort joins in 99 at 0500A/23rd.

5. Convoy will anchor in Algiers Bay for night and sail 1000A/24th.

6. Oran section joins in 109 at 1400A/25th.

7. Gib. section joins in 57 at 2300A/26th or as ordered by V.A. Gib Escorts.

(a) Bone to Algiers, ACUTE, ALARM, WILTON.

(b) Algiers to Gib. BADDECK, ALBERNI, QUEBEC, PORT ARTHUR.

(c) Phillippeville to Oran RHYL, STORNOWAY, CLACTON, BUDE.

(d) Oran to Gibraltar 4 ships detailed by V.A. Gib. to R/V in position 109.

(e) Ocean escort LONDONDERRY (S.O.) HASTINGS, LULWORTH, BIDEFORD, REGINA, KITCHENER, CAMROSE, PRESCOTT, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA, WOODSTOCK, *OAK LEA, LANDGUARD. *Not duplicated - Not likely OAK LEA at Sousse.*

9. First two letters of convoy call sign H.A. codeword "Ribband"

10. Fighter priority 1 Bone to Algiers, priority 2 Algiers to Oran + (N.C.X.F. 1225A/20 to N.O.I.C. Bone (R) Admty etc).

URSULA,
P. 219.

(?Intend) sailing URSULA for patrol at 1600A/21st on surface at 8½ knots through 038.01, 004.01 E. at 0100A/22nd thence dived by day to pass 038.19 008.01 E. at 1800/23rd thence as ordered by

Capt. S. 10.

2. Intend to sail P. 219 at 1600A/21st on the surface at 11½ knots through 037.30, 004.59 East at 0200/22nd thence diving by day to patrol vicinity Galita Islands at dawn 23rd. (Capt. S. 8. 1342A/20 to N.C.X.F. Capt. (S) 10. (R) S.O.I.S., S/Ms on Patrol Cdre. Algiers, S.O. Force Q).

709

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- P.54. *See #7041711.* Leave patrol pass 042.41, 006.30 E. at 1800A/22nd and proceed direct R/V escort Algiers in 037.01, 003.02 E. at 0830/25th, proceeding on surface at your discretion on 25th.
(Capt.S.8. 1352A/20 to P.54 (R) N.C.X.F., Cdre. Algiers)
- JERVIS,
NUBIAN. Sailed for operation JERVIS,NUBIAN.
(V.A.Malta 1500A/20 to Admty,C. in C.Med.N.C.X.F.).
- M.F.Vs. Your 1914/19 (M.F.Vs.2013 and 2017) arrived Algiers 17th December.
(N.C.X.F. 1523A/20 to Admty).
- Black Sea. (1) Naval. Russians continue to report increased enemy convoy activity between Tillotson and Odessa, but no (group missing) S/M reported.
(3) Air. Weather conditions greatly improved and A/C active mainly on R/C. Enemy bombed Arhip Osipovka buildings and railway bridge at Sechi, no serious damage.
4. Reported arrival from France 6th (as received, possible alternative 60) German tanks at Kotelnikov December 10th. Enemy withdrawing troops from mountainous region for Stalingrad front.
(L.O.Black Sea.1556C/20 to Admty etc)
- P.42. Sailed.
(V.A.Malta 1610A/20 to Admty etc).
- French Float planes. French Latecoere Float Planes will shortly be operating on local anti-S/M patrol in Oran Sector within 50 miles of the African coast between longitude 002° 13' W. and 001° 20' E.
2. A/C will be issued daily with recognition signals.
3. T.C.A.O. 11 para.5. Insert "L", equal French Float Plane (Latecoere)
(N.C.X.F. 1717A/20, to All British Ships and Authorities concerned in Operation "Torch" V.A.Malta, excluding ships refitting in U.K (R) Admty).
- E.A.C. Report. Part 2 of My A/241. T.O.O. 1730A/20 (Op.Sum. 1800/18 to 1800/19). 7. Canrobert. Further information received operations to 1800 hrs 18th December, 25 Bisleys (not 8 as reported by Opsum No.38) operated. 20 A/C dropped 24000 lbs of bombs on Bizerta Docks and 320000 leaflets Bizerta. Tunis Sfax and Gabes.
(E.A.C.1930/20).
- M.K.F.5. N.O.I.C.Bone is requested to sail M.K.F.5 at 1300A/23.S.of A. 14 to Algiers then 13 knots.
(2) Route 037.14 N. 007.23 E. 037. 00 N. 007.00 E
037. 10 N. 006. 30 E. 036.55 005.00 E. thence route U lettered A to M omitting I.C. to O. for stragglers.
3.Ocean Route.O. 036.20 N. 010.00 W. P.037.40 N. 013.30 W.

/Q...

710

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.K.F.5. (Q) 040.00 N. 016.15 W., (R) 049.18 N. 015.32 W.
Contd. (S) 055.00 N. 010.45.W. (T) 055.25.N. 008.30 W.
Letters P. to V. for stragglers.
4. Escort (a) Bone to Algiers. SCYLLA, POZARICA,
TARTAR, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND.
(b) Algiers to U.K. WESTON, WELLINGTON, FOLKESTONE, GORLESTON.
(c) Algiers to Oran ESKIMO, and TARTAR until relieved by (e).
(d) Algiers to Gibraltar (?HUSSAR), NASTURTIUM. *see p. 703.*
(e) Oran to U.K, TOTLAND, WAVENEY.
(5) Convoy will leave Algiers 1000A/24th.
(6) Oran Section will R/V position 109, 0100A/25th F.O.Oran is
requested to arrange local escort.
(7) Convoy will pass position 57, 1900A/25th where escort from Gib
joins.
(8) First 2 letters of convoy call sign V.Q. codeword "Harper."
(9) Fighter protection priority 1 special Bone to Algiers,
priority 2 West of Algiers.
(10) Stragglers West of 014° W. proceed U.K.
(N.C.X.F. 1845A/20 to N.O.I.C.Bone (R) Admty etc).

DIDO My 2320/19th (N.T. in W.D) Vibration due to
defects. uneven area and (dash) edges of DIDO propeller
SIRIUS. limits her safe speed to (?25) knots. All 3
blades tipped worst to depth 4 inches. Trimming
ship by (?removal of) ammunition and fuel to allow
(?contacting) (?might) effect some improvement but consider it
undesirable to undertake this at Bone. Intend SIRIUS to carry out
trials with A/C a.m./tomorrow Monday.
(SIRIUS 1736A/20 to N.C.X.F. (R) C.S.12. DIDO).

Movements. Algiers arrivals. BICESTER, ZETLAND,
PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE, LUNENBURG with E.T.6.
French trawler GOELAND.
Departures, SCOTTISH, ENCHANTRESS, BRAMHAM, PENTSTEMON, SAMPHIRE,
WEYBURN, LUNENBURG, SUMMERSIDE, SAYONARA, with E.T.6.
(Cdre. Algiers. 1829A/20 to Admty (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.I.S.).
Arrival *WELSHMAN, F.S.LA MOQUEUSE.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 1906B/20 to Admty, C. in C.Med).
20th December, Port Said arrivals, *DELPHINIUM Greek Dest.
*IERAX, CROOME, HURWORTH, BELVOIR, ALDENHAM, H.M.Salvage Steamer
GAMTOOS, Departures DELPHINIUM, Greek Dest. IERAX; FALK.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said. 2116B/20 to Admty, C. in C.Med.(R)
F.O.R.S. and Canal Area. R.A.Alexandria). * *see p. 707*

Malta AI.187 20th December. Night 19th/20th December.
Air No enemy air activity locally. Adverse weather
Report. prevented our night bombers from attacking.
Day 20th December. Today convoy approaching from
East has been protected by 11 Beaufighter sorties and also by 1
Beaufort on A/S patrol. In spite adverse weather conditions
fighter patrols were made by Beaufighters over convoy from 1124
hours when convoys position was 134°. Malta 185 miles and no
attacks have been reported on convoy while under our protection.
Convoys last reported position was at 1520 hrs. 137° Malta 158 miles
course 284° speed 10 knots. In addition 4 Spitfires were
airborne on an offensive sweep East of Malta but no enemy A/C

/ was....

711

20.12.1942.

Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta was seen.
Air Night 19th/20th. 1 torpedo Wellington on armed
Report. shipping R/C carried out block patrol Messina area
Contd. in bad weather but made no sightings.
(A.H.Q. 1834Z/20).

Malta IZ.2718. HE/5914, 20th December, 1942.
Intelligence BIGOT ALIBI. 2000A/19 to 2000A/20.
Summary. Naval. 2 destroyers sailed 1500 hrs on offensive
sweep south west of Malta. Air. 1. Photos
Pantellaria 19th December show 7 F-Boats 4 E/Bs
present. 20th December no photos owing bad weather. Visuals
Taranto and Messina no significant change.
No enemy air activity.
Strikes. Night 19/20 nil owing bad weather. Day 20th Beaufighters
carried out protective patrols over convoy approaching from east.
(Govr. Malta, 1945Z/20 to Air Min. for Gen. Eisenhower).

P.228. You were probably sighted by Italian S/M at 1718A
See p. 701 in position 039.10 009.43.
(S.10. 2141A/20 to P.228).

Situation Western Desert. Benghazi. TRAJANUS damaged by
Report near miss in an air raid 2100/19th December. Ship
No.308. sank later in 25 feet of water. Salvage probable.
2. Regret to report SNAPDRAGON sunk 2029. 19th
December in approx, position 32.18 N. 19.54 E. ERICA has 60
survivors including all Officers. Some wounded landed Benghazi.
*Cause uncertain but probably mine. Details awaited. *(see 1222 B/22)*
3. Tobruk air raid dawn/19th December, no naval damage.
4. Convoy of 4 empty Merchant ships from "Portcullis" has arrived
at Port Said. (V.A. Malta's 1930/17 December refers). My 1258/16th
December para.3. PETARD taken in hand Alexandria for repairs.
(C. in C. Med 2158B/20 to Admty).

*Bomber sunk by A/C. [P. Branch List of losses] See also 19/12/42 p. 652

Enemy Following has been read from A/C using call sign
Unit. CXKC. 1 enemy (type unknown) position 33.53 N.
11.08 E. course 145° speed 15.
(Alex. W/T. 2315A/20 to Whitehall W/T).
Following has been read: One unidentified
ship P.C. and S. 33.50 N. 11.12 E. 180° 15.
(A/C using Callsign CXKC. 2335A/20 to Alex W/T).

P.212. If you were in eastern end of your area consider
you were located at about 1700A/today.
(Capt. S.10. 2253A/20 to P.212).

P.54. If you were in the vicinity of 044.00 N. 008.20 E.
See pp. 704 & 709 at 09(750)A this morning you were sighted by an
Italian Destroyer.
(Capt. S.8. 2306A/20 to P.54).

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies

LÉOPARD. F.S. LÉOPARD sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 0301Z/20 to Admty. etc).
Request you will proceed so as to arrive
Kilindini 24th Dec. to comply with instructions
from F.N.F.L. which have been repeated to me.
2. N.O.I.C. Mauritius is to confirm receipt of
this message by F.S. LÉOPARD.
(C. in C. E.F., 0735Z/20 to F.S. LÉOPARD,
N.O.I.C. Mauritius F.O.I.C.E. Africa. Admty).

ISIS Your 1923/13 to F.O.C.R.I.N. ISIS expected to
sail December 31st for Aden.
(Com. R.I.N., 0531Z/20 to C. in C. Med., (R)
C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

**BRITISH
LOYALTY.** BRITISH LOYALTY has been raised and was towed into
Port Nievre by *ELUNA and BARFOAM under direction
of Lieut. Com. Pounds, Captain of Dockyard, and
was anchored S.W. of dockyard early this morning.
Intend to lift from ship 3,000 tons fuel oil
and 900 tons diesel oil with EASEDALE. Ship will be ready for
docking for examination of hull and machinery and temporary
repairs to make seaworthy on completion of RADFIELD, request
approval. ** not in [unclear]*
(N.O.I.C., Diego Suarez, 0738Z/20 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.
C. in C. E.F., F.O. East Africa and Zanzibar, Cdre. i/c Durban).

**CARTHAGE,
RANCHI,
B.A.36.** P.S.T.O. India 0405/16th and my 1235/12th
(N.T. in W.R.) In view of revised date of
sailing of B.A.36, allocation CARTHAGE as ocean
escort to this convoy is cancelled. RANCHI who
will be ready for sea on 29th Dec. will now
escort B.A.36.
(2) Request you will sail CARTHAGE as convenient to arrive Aden
before Wednesday 30th.
(C. in C. E.F., 0828Z/20 to (?N.O.I.C. Hormuz) (R) F.O. Ceylon,
CARTHAGE, Comdre. i/c Brisbane, N.O.I.C. Christchurch N.Z.)

**GAMBIA,
FROBISHER,
FRITILLARY,
M.C.2.** My 1407/13. Escort for convoy M.C.2.
2. GAMBIA will relieve FROBISHER off Diego
Suarez. After fuelling, FROBISHER will rejoin
the convoy and provide additional ocean escort
to Durban. GAMBIA and FROBISHER are subsequently
required to escort the two portions of C.M.37.
3. FRITILLARY will R/V with convoy off Diego
Suarez and provide A/S escort to Durban after which she is
detached temporarily to your command. My 1414/13 refers.
4. In view of presence of FRITILLARY suggest A/S escort of
2 destroyers will be sufficient and that they need not be sent
further than limit of endurance from Durban.
(C. in C. E.F., 0835/20 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. Com. i/c
Durban).

War Diary.

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Movements

Arrived NORMAN.

(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 1030Z/20 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. F.O.E.A., R.A.(D) E.F. C. in C. S.A. S.O.(I) Kilindini).

Arrival SUTLEJ.

(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 1051Z/20 to Admty. S.Os. (I) Bombay, Colombo, N.O.I.C. Kilindini, SEALION).

Colombo arrivals 20th Dec., 0435Z, D.S.023, 0448Z SONAVATI. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 1208Z/20 to Admty. S.O.(I) Bombay S.O.(I) Aden. S.O.(I) Kilindini).

Arrivals 20th Dec. ROTHERHAM, NEPAL. Departure 20th Dec.

DURBAN.

(F.O.E.A., 1236Z/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, Cdre. R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Durban).

Tanker

BRITISH

SOVEREIGN.

Allocated by D. of S.T. for bulk petrol

Western Desert Service now proceeding Abadan to clean tanks and load spirit. Arrangements are to be made for tanks to be cleaned as rapidly as possible. Request early report whether D.E.M.S. can arm vessel while this is being done. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 1926/20 to D.S.T.O. Basra (R) D. of S.T., C. in C. Med., D.E.M.S. Port Said).

China.

Enemy

Intelligence.

089677 1080 cipher 18 Dec. For D.M.I.

Clague report 4 enemy destroyers and 4 (? transports) arrived Hong Kong 14th Dec. Grading A.1. Americans informed 17th Dec.

(M.A. China, 0525 G.M.T./20 to C. in C. India (R) W.O.)

713^B

I feel sure that any further delay will only lead to additional complications particularly with Fighting French whose remaining active supporters in Jibuti are becoming anxious about their position. If plan is adopted War Office will no doubt send C. in C. urgent instructions regarding (A) draft tripartite agreement if Jibuti decide to negotiate and (B) form and substance of Armistice convention if they resist.

No. T.O.O./20

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(W)
- Nav.Sec.
- Sec.
- N.A.1st S.L.
- P.A.S.(S)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.of P.(2)
- D.C.
- D.D.I.C.(2)
- D.of P.(Q)
- Hd.of M.(2)
- & for Mr.Waldock
- I.P.(2)
- W.D.
- Ad.Blake
- Ad.Bellairs

Received from War Office 0305/21

War Office Circulation

- M.O.11 (for action)
- S.of S.
- C.I.G.S.
- V.C.I.G.S.
- P.U.S.
- P.U.S.(F)
- D.M.O.
- D.D.M.O.(O)
- M.O.1.5.11.
- D.M.I.
- D.D.M.I.(I)
- M.I.3.17a.
- D.F.a.
- F.5.
- For.Secretary (2)
- For.Office (Mr.Stirling)(2)
- Head of War Registry (Admiralty)
- A.M.C.S.Air Min.
- Brig.Jacob.
- Major Morton 10 Downing Street.
- 20 Mil.Mission (Lt.Col.Archdale (2)
- Colonial Office (Lt.Col.Rolleston)
- 20 Military Mission (Mr.K.Rooker)(2)

Note by C.6.Tels.
presumably be 71925.

714

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

JOSEPH
LYKES.

Following from JOSEPH LYKES. Your 2030/19th (N.T. in W.R.). Unable follow instructions, reference positions not on my route orders. (Burnham Radio. 0107/20 to Cominch (R) Admty Ad.Liverpool).

LINCOLN

→ O.N.S.152. *See next page*

Ref.1958/19th from GEORGETOWN. My position course and speed 0100/20th. 29.25, 43.38. (A) 070° 17 knots. Endeavouring join O.N.S.152 before dusk 20th. Weather report (LINCOLN 0130Z/20 to C.T.F.24, C.Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.13. GEORGETOWN (R) Connav Admty, etc)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav serial 19. SCANIA serial 17 now reported sunk by time bombs placed by boarding party. No casualties. Survivors of TEESBANK and EMPIRE HAWK reported picked up. No further information. LOUISE Pan. tug 105 marines rescued off Cap Hatteras. (Connav 0454Z/20 to Comnav. (R) N.O.B. Bermuda S.O.(I) Kingston, (Jamaica) N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.P.S.F. C.C.S.F.)

CITY OF
BOMBAY
(sunk
13th Dec.)

Following from BIBJ = GLXG(CAPE BRETON). Picked up 25 survivors CITY OF BOMBAY. 7 Europeans 18 Lascars. (St.Johns N.F. 0500 G.M.T./20 to Admty).

Following has been read by Simonstown W/T: Picked up another 54 crew CITY OF BOMBAY, 8 Europeans and 46 Lascars. (Cape Breton 1700 G.M.T./20).

AGASSIZ,
O.N.S.152.

Left O.N.S.152 at 1000 proceeding St.Johns N.F. for fuel. E.T.A. 1600/22. P.C. and S. at 2000 050° 40' N. 039° 12' W. 250° 10.5 knots. Weather report. (AGASSIZ. 0901Z/20 to F.O.N.F.)

Movements
Summary.

1800 G.M.T./20th December.

Ship.	Position	Course	Speed.
PHOEBE.) 07½° S. 32½° W.	247°	10½
BRIDGEWATER.			
ARMERIA.			
(D.O.D.(F) 1025Z/20 to Opnav (R) Comnav)			

CHESTERFIELD
* PLAID.

* *not identified.*

My P.C. and S. 1000Z 48.54 N. 36.59 W. 276° 10 knots, if weather remains same CHESTERFIELD will arrive St.Johns N.F. without assistance. U.S.S.PLAID in sight steering 238° speed 10 knots. Weather report.

(CHESTERFIELD 1030Z/20 to C.T.F.24.(R) Connav. Admty, C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7).

/L.C.I(L)s...

715

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

L.C.I(L)s
LARIAT. Norfolk sailed 1200Z/19th for Gibraltar via
Bermuda L.C.I(L)s 98, 100, 164, 165, 166, 167,
168, 239. H.M.R.T.LARIAT.
(N.S.H.Q. 1306Z/20 to Admty (R)B.A.D, S.B.N.O.W.A.
F.O.C.N.A.).

T.U.
24.1.13. Your (?fine) work last (corrupt grp) and arduous
(O.N.S. 152). circumstances much appreciated.
(C.T.24, 1425Z/20 to Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit
24.1.13.(R) C. in C.W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.).

Signals for Personnel from 1st S.L. I have received a request
Connav. from C.N.S. Ottawa that such signals as your
2147/11 re the release of 6 Canadian corvettes
at present lent to C.E.S.F. should be repeated to U.S. and R.C.N
authorities concerned, so that they may be completely in the
picture.
I have replied to the effect that I do not agree that it is
desirable that such signals should be repeated to Connav as
frequently they contain B.A.D's appreciation of Connav's views
and his comments thereon.
In this case, however, I think your 2147/11 might well have been
repeated to C.N.S. Ottawa, and I should be glad if you would bear
this in mind.
(1st S.L. 1440A/20 to B.A.D.).

Personal from 1st S.L. Your 2028/14.
B.A.D's 2147/11 conveys his appreciation of Connav's views and
his comment thereon. I do not agree that it is desirable that
such signals should be repeated to Connav but I agree that in the
circumstances this signal might well have been repeated to you.
(1st S.L. 1441A/20 to C.N.S. Ottawa).

U/B S/M estimate 20th December, and U.S. S/M notice.
Positions. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1515/20, 1516/20, 1552/20,
1553/20, 1554/20.)

U.S.Transports. Departure December 20th U.S.Army Transports
BRIGADIER. GENERAL H.F. RETHERS, and P.C.N. PATH
21st December.
(B.R.O. Georgetown 1540/20 to Admty (R) Navy Dept.
Washington, S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Tankers for My 2222A/15 and 2015A/19. It is essential that
"Torch" Area. tankers loading Curacao and Aruba for HAVELOCK
convoy are (tanker message) sailed for Trinidad
in G.A.T.31 as escort mentioned in my 2222/15
para.5 will not be available.
(D.T.D. 1548A/20 to B.R.L.O.Curacao, B.R.L.O. Aruba, (R) S.B.N.O.
Trinidad).

* O.N.S. 152. U/Boat estimated in your vicinity by D/F has made
U/B. a sighting report of convoy at 1527 and 1534Z/20.
13768 K/Cs.
* *See previous page* (Cominch 1618/20 to C.Mid Ocean Esc.T.U.24.1.13.
(R) C.Mid Ocean Esc. T.U.24.1.15, C.T.F.24.)

/Flying...

716

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies -Contd.

Flying Boats Port Etienne. J.S.N. 592. 20th December. Ref. Admty's 0146Z/20 to N.C.X.F., and R.A.W.A. As this telegram is only repeated to J S.M.Washington, presume you wish us to take no action on this matter, and that the requirement mentioned in para.3. will be dealt with through. Admiral Glassford. (J.S.M. 1623Z/20 to War Cabinet Office).

CALDWELL (weather damage 18th Dec). My position (corrupt Group) 1500Z. 049.15 N. 050° (corrupt group) W.(2 corrupt groups) 215°. Cannot make much headway against sea and swell. Will make P. one's 375 K/Cs on request for D/F bearing. Weather report 4667 7158. (CALDWELL 1637Z/20 to F.O.N.F.(R) WASAGA).
Am coming to your assistance. My P.C. and S. 047.42. 045°(as received - message still incomplete)
(WANDERER 2200Z/20 to CALDWELL (R) St.Johns N.F.).

N.G. Special 1. Your 1841/19. Following is a repetition of my 1600/18.(Not previously received in W.R.) Convoy NG.Special 1 is not stopping between New York and Trinidad and follows usual route throughout. 2. E.T.A. Trinidad 27th December. (B.A.D. 1651Z/20 to Admty (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

ST.CLAIR, DUNDAS. Defects. E.T.A. 1000Z(Date omitted) In company BRANTFORD (Corrupt group) DUNDAS and 4 merchant ships. ST CLAIR has defective by-pass valve between starboard H.P. and I.P. turbine. DUNDAS R D/F not working. (ST.CLAIR, 1715Z/20 to F.O.N.F.).

WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, COLUMBINE. At 0600Q/21 December you will depart New York for St.Johns N.F. as escort with H.X. 220 convoy. Upon arrival at St.Johns N.F. report by dispatch for duty to C.T.F.24.Upon leaving this command appreciation is expressed for duty well done. (C.E.S.F.1729Z/20 to WARWICK, BUTTERCUP, COLUMBINE, (R) Cominch, C.T.F.24, C. in C.W.A., Cinclant, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.90.3).

BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER. At 1700 sailed BUTTERMERE and WASTWATER to Bermuda speed 12 knots E.T.A. 1200Z/23 latest Q.J.B.73. W/T Watch 105 K/Cs 425 B.A.D.1557/8. December. (C.O.A.C. 1811Z/20 to S.B.N.O.(R) Admty, B.A. D. N.S.H.Q.).

U.S. Movements. Arrival 20th December, U.S. Y.P. 610. U.S.Warship YEATON, U.S. Army Transport EL LIBERTADOR. (Harbour Master Barbados. 1830/20 to Admty.(R) S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Sub

717

War Diary.20.12.1942.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub Attack and sighting summary. Para.B. MILFORD and TAMARISK attack S/M on surface 10.57 N. 59.32 W. 2224Z/18. EMPIRE STARLING my 2104/6, U.114 over letter V. Fisherman sights S/M 04.40 S. 36.40 W. about 0800Z/19. Para.D. RADAR, sound and periscope contacts area 30.50 N. 80.30 W. 1151Z/19, 0635 and 1338Z/20. Sound contact 32° N. 80.39 W. 0140Z/20. (Cominch 1923/20 to Admty for O.I.C.(R) N.S.H.Q.)

O.N.153. Attacked. O.N.153 attacked 047.20 N. 033.00 W.(D). Strong (?gale). Request immediate support. (SUNFLOWER 2018Z/20 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24, Admty, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. C.T.G.24.7).

OTINA (O.N.153 torpedoed). Following has been read from OTINA. Position 47.40 N. 33.06 W. torpedoed, ship going slowly, heavy seas. (Lands End Radio 2110/20 to Admty, C. in C.W.A.).

PRIMROSE S.C.113. S. C. 113 not met. (?D/F set) homed. My P.C. and S. at 2030Z/20th - 048.(?42') N. 048.05 W. 020.° 8 knots. Weather report. (PRIMROSE 2030Z/20 to Connav (R) C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q.).

THUNDER. Arrived Meteghan. Motor minesweeper grounded alongside jetty. Senior Group Officer instructed to sail high water a.m. tomorrow. Intend patrolling off Meteghan tonight. (THUNDER 2100Z/20 to N.O.I.C.Shelbourne (R) C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q.).

GALT. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z. 050.00 N. 040.10 W. 253°. 6.5 knots. En route for St.Johns N.F. Weather report. (GALT.2153Z/20 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. C.T.U.24.1.13).

BURLINGTON. Weather damage. BURLINGTON sheltering to leeward of Magdalen Is. Ship very heavily iced, listing badly, and difficult to handle. If weather moderates will make every effort to proceed to assistance of U (group missing) (corrupt group) daybreak which sending signals of distress (?0900)Z/21. (BURLINGTON, 2250Z/20, to N.O.I.C.Sydney C.B.(R) N.O.I.C.Gaspe, GANANOQUE, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q.)

TRAIL, ZAMALESPIN. TRAIL with rescue ship ZAMALESPIN, E.T.A. Halifax 0900Z/21st. Boiler hrs.246. Urgent defects R.D.F. steering compass. Master ZAMALESPIN wishes to inform Furness Agent(s) he has only one injured American to land. ZAMALESPIN requires 200 tons fuel oil and fresh water on arrival.(TRAIL 2250Z/20 to C.O.A.C.,(R) F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. C.T.F.24.).

War Diary.

20.12.1942.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

BELLATRIX. Arrival Auckland U.S.S. BELLATRIX+
(S.O.(I) Wellington 0051Z/20 to Admty).

Situation. December 20th. 1 Large Dest, 3 smaller destroyers
2 large transports observed by Air R/C proceeding
away from Madang area morning 19, last sighted
afternoon 3° 50' S. 147.3 E. course 30° Convoy attacked by
Liberators during morning, nil hits.
Interception by covering force approx. 8 zeros, 3 of which
destroyed, 1 Liberator missing.
2. 1 light cruiser, 1 dest. departed (corrupt group). American
and Australian Troops continue pressure against strongly held
Enemy positions West of C. Peendaiadere (as received) and East of
New Air strip. Heavy Enemy casualties being inflicted by mortar
and artillery fire. Allied patrols remain active Buna Govt.
Station Area. Attack continues towards Sananda* on Soputa
Sanananda track.* (?Sanananda)
4. New reported Japanese Mouth Mambare number less than
250 troops.
5. ?3 Bostons bombed and strafed enemy positions Buna Govt. Stn.
Area morning 19. 6 B.25 dropped bombs Lae Aerodrome early
same morning. 6 Enemy fighters ?again active from Lae Aerodrome.
(G.H.Q. S. W.P.A. 0755Z/20 to Admty etc).

Movements. R.A.F.A. 0129 arrived and departed Townsville 19th
December for Dunk Island, U.S. transport 0127
departed Brisbane 19th due Sydney N.S.W. 21st.
U.S. transport 1991 departed Rockhampton 19th due Gladstone
20th. U.S. transport 1119 arrived Sydney N.S.W. 19th.
(A.C.N.B. 1002Z/20 to Admty, Connav, Washington).
Arrivals 19th, Port Moresby, ARUNTA. Sydney (N.S.W.), Neth.
M/L & M/S ABRAHAM CRIJNSSSEN. Fremantle from (?Campbeltown),
U.S. Seaplane tender HERON. Departures 19th, Port Moresby, ARUNTA
for Cairns. Sydney (N.S. W.), MORESBY and KAPUNDA for Melbourne.
(N.B. Melbourne 1314Z/20 to Admty etc).
(A) B.T. (?124) (B) From (?Auckland) date of arrival 2314Z/
20th.
(C) SS. ISAAC COLE, Townsville, SS. ASPASIA NOMIKOS, Townsville, (?U.S
Cruiser ST. LOUIS), Townsville.
(?D.N.O. Brisbane 2330Z/20 to Admty (R) Connav).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarine Reported.

Estimate at 1200Z/20.
(D.D.I.C. 1343A/20, 1346A/20).